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CLEAR CREEK COUNTY, TOWNS, ASKING FOR FEEDBACK ON CLEAR CREEK FIRE AUTHORITY

Clear Creek County and its municipalities are inviting residents and businesses to share their feedback to help shape the future of the Clear Creek Fire Authority (CCFA). Residents served by the CCFA—including those in Empire, Georgetown, Idaho Springs, Silver Plume and unincorporated Clear Creek County—will receive an update on the organization along with a survey by mail. Local businesses are also encouraged to participate.

Residents near Evergreen will not receive the mailer, as they are served by Evergreen Fire/Rescue. The mailer with information and a link to the survey [can be found here](#). **The survey is open until Dec. 6th.**

The update provides information and background about the CCFA, along with challenges being faced by it. Because of this, Clear Creek County and the municipalities are working collaboratively to identify ways to address the Authority's funding needs. As a part of this, the jurisdictions [have met frequently over the past year](#) to discuss the budget and staffing challenges for the Fire Authority. Some of those challenges include:

- Operating on a smaller tax base with lower budgets for its population and service area compared to similar fire agencies.
- Declining tax revenue primarily from the reduction in operations at Henderson Mine, causing the Authority to use its emergency reserve to maintain current service levels.
- Responding to more service calls/emergencies, including along I-70. Emergency calls have increased significantly over the past decade, including a 37 percent increase from 2019 to 2022.
- Managing personnel, due to the fact that the CCFA can no longer depend on volunteer firefighters and must transition to more paid (full-time) firefighters to ensure proper staffing and coverage levels.

Meeting the community's Fire Authority needs may require additional funding. The information mailed to residents includes potential funding options, such as sales and property taxes, currently under consideration. Feedback from the survey, along with other public input will be used to help shape future funding decisions. Resident participation is vital to this process.

On the next page is a photo you are welcome to use in your publications.

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