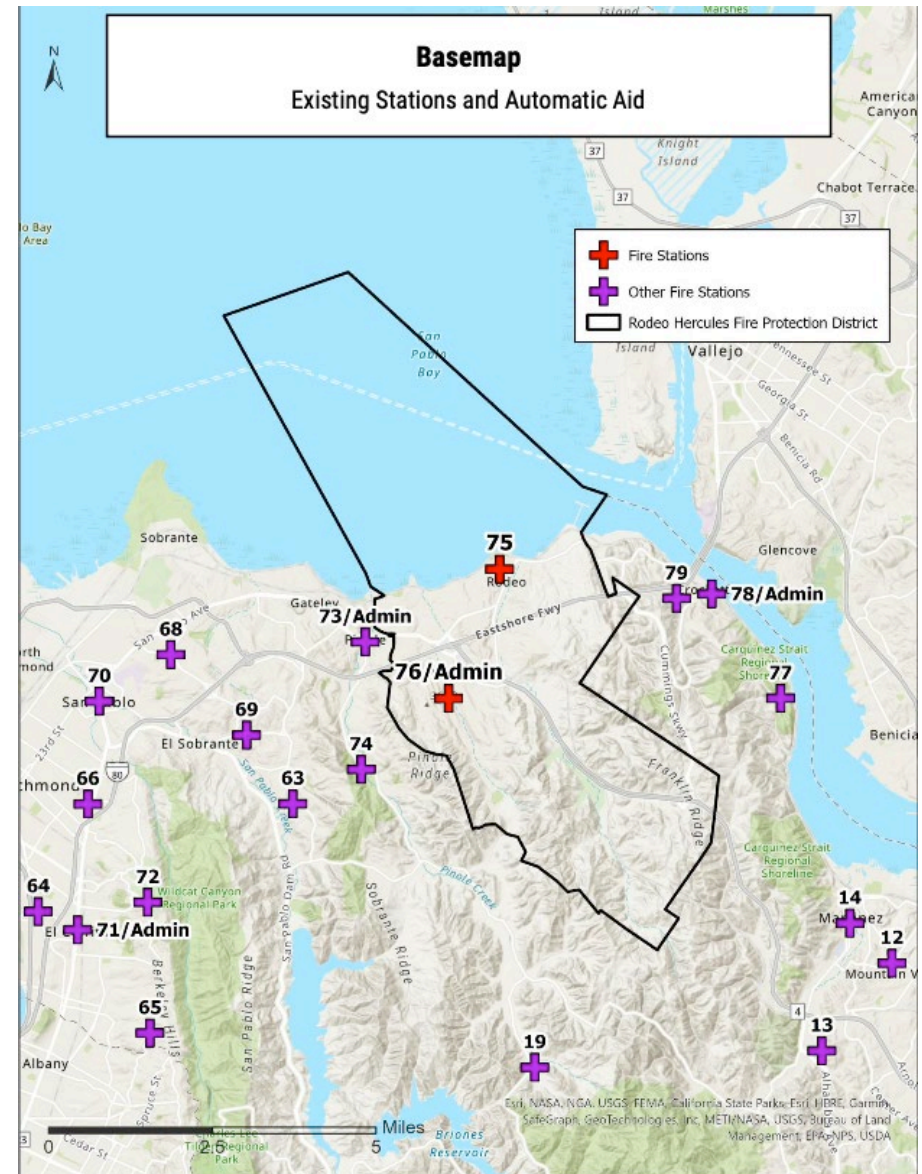


Rodeo-Hercules Fire District – Annexation Review

Town Hall

June 18, 2024

6 p.m.



Micheal Despain

M.A., EFO, CFO, MIFireE

- ▶ 39 years of Fire/EMS experience.
- ▶ 16 years as a consultant for Fire/EMS agencies
- ▶ Former Fire Chief - Clovis Fire Dept.(CA). & Lincoln Fire Dept. (NE)
- ▶ Former Interim Fire Chief –
 - ▶ Fresno Fire Dept., Rocklin Fire Dept., Piedmont Fire Dept.(CA).
- ▶ Served as a subject matter expert for the National Fire Academy and Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) on self-assessment/deployment curriculum
- ▶ Assisted in the development of numerous strategic plans/efficiency studies for agencies throughout the U.S. since 2003.
 - ▶ CPSE - Standard of Cover Manual – 6th Ed.
 - ▶ CPSE - Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Manual 9th Ed.
 - ▶ CPSE - 21st Century Fire & Emergency Services – Whitepaper - 2021



Why
Are We
Here



5 Year Fund Balance Forecast







Inflation



Market forces (recruitment vs pay & benefits)



Regulations have harder impacts on smaller fire agencies



Rural fire protection is more expensive on a per capita basis



The RFHD Board has made multiple attempts to solve this through consolidation/annexation/contract for services



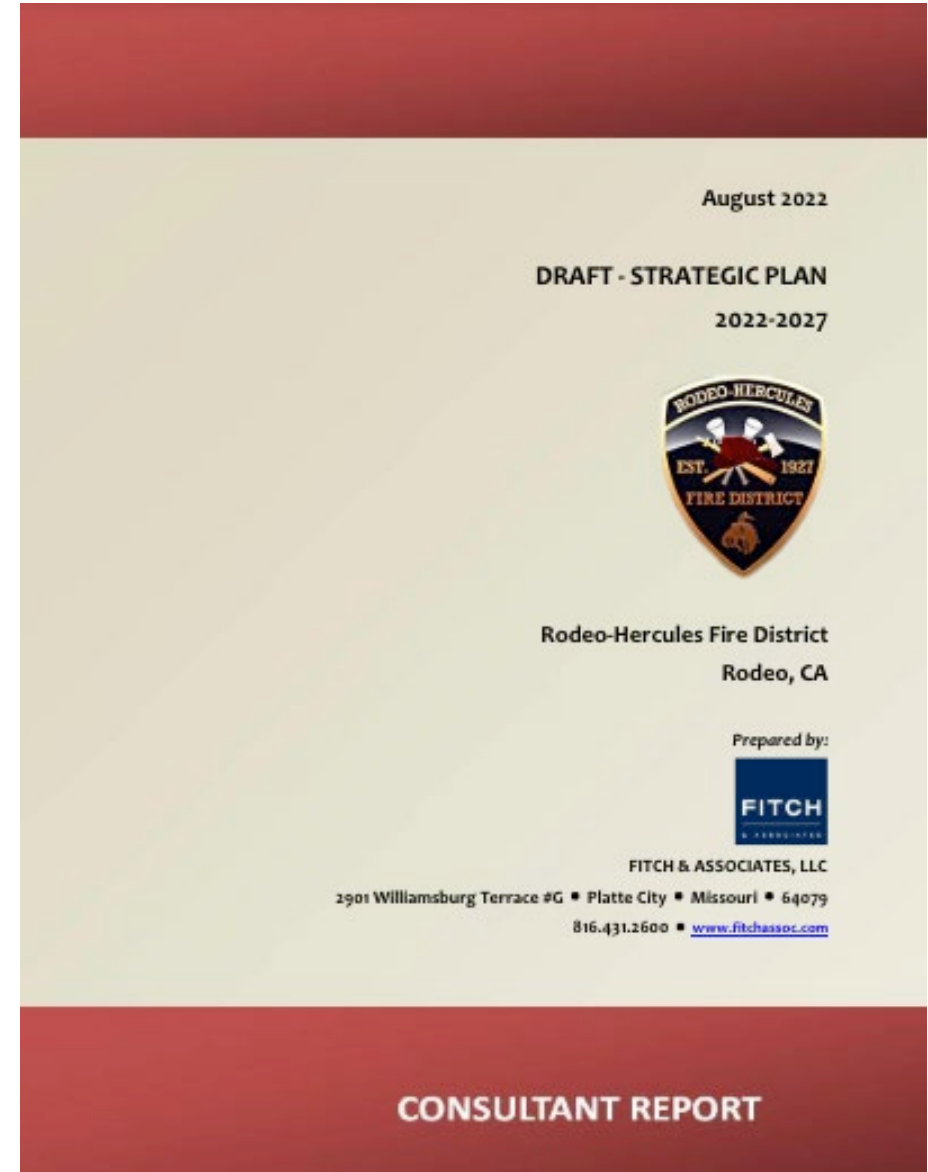
This is the third attempt in 8 years

- Fire Administrative Services Agreement - 2016
- Annexation into ConFire - 2021
- Failed contract for service RFP - 2024



Strategic Plan 2022-2027

- Need to improve fire prevention inspection and reporting processes
- Provide liability reduction training to all employees and board members
- Develop a Standards of Cover (SOC) document
- Develop a two-year training plan
- Update succession planning/professional development policies
- Develop a system to review/update policies every three years
- Explore the value of mobile fire mechanic service
- Develop a community engagement plan
- Identify cost efficient measures to maintain or improve ISO protection class
- Provide fire safety education to all elementary schools and develop a junior safety group
- Partner with the high school to provide students community service opportunities at the fire stations
- Partner with local community colleges to provide fire trainee opportunities
- Develop a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) cadre
- **Explore a contract for service or consolidation with a larger fire agency**





Long-Term Sustainability Analysis

- ConFire subsidizes the RHFD with over \$1 million in services annually

- Battalion Coverage (\$1,000,000)
- Extended Operational Support (\$5,000)
- Fire Investigation (\$20,000)
- Water Rescue (\$40,000)
- Technical Rescue (trench, high/low angle, confined space, etc.) (\$35,000)
- Hazardous Materials Technician/Specialist response (\$40,000)
- Critical Incident Debriefing (\$5,000)
- Majority of Operational Standard Operating Guidelines (\$10,000)

Total: \$1,155,000

- Firefighter training and use of ConFire training grounds (required to maintain ISO)
- Grant writing (large regional grants)
- Emergency management/planning services
- Backfilling District Coverage
- Operational Area Coordination (e.g. Strike Team deployment, out of county response)

Unknown \$\$ Value

*Does not count start-up capital costs or initial training



Long-Term Sustainability Analysis

Recommended investments for RHFD to come into regulatory compliance and meet minimal industry standards:

- Outsource fire prevention inspections, plan-check, vegetation management services (\$130,000) – In progress
- Contract with ConFire for extended operational support (\$5,000 or cost recovery)
- Add (1) 40-hour Training Officer (\$460,000 - \$500,000)
- Reassign 56-hour Battalion Chief to 40-hour Deputy Fire Chief (\$48,000 - \$60,000)
- Contract with ConFire to provide 24/7/365 emergency response BC coverage (\$500,000)
- Hire part-time administrative assistance (\$36,000)
- Contract out for special services (investigation, Haz Mat, Water Rescue, etc.) (\$175,000 - \$240,000)
- **Total: \$ 1.3 to \$1.5 million** (does not count start up cost, vehicles, office space, etc.)

WHERE

DO WE GO

FROM
HERE





Annexation

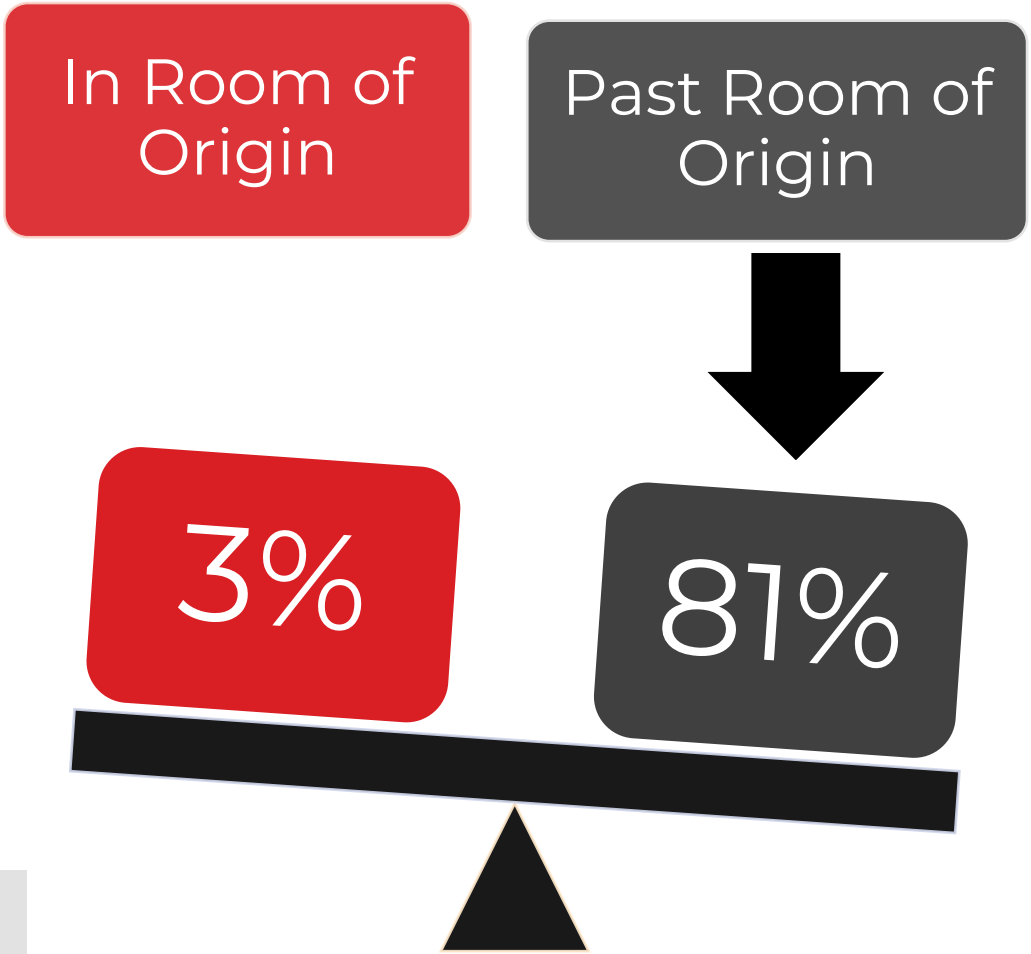
Retain RHFD - Status Quo =
Reduce services

Retain RHFD - Increase
Taxes to maintain services

Status Quo – Cut Services	Option A – Retain RHFD, Secure Additional Funding	Option B – Contract for Service	Option C – Annexation
Current funding is unsustainable	Identify additional supplemental funding	Attempted a Request for Proposal process in March 2024 with no respondents.	Merge RHFD into ConFire, dissolve RHFD.

<p>Status Quo – Cut Services</p>	<p>Option A – Retain RHFD, Secure Additional Funding</p>	<p>Option C – Annexation</p>
<p>Current funding is unsustainable</p> <p>Transition out of paramedic/ALS medical service?</p> <p>Develop a plan to close a fire station FY 2026/2027</p> <p>Higher property insurance rates, especially for the zone served by the station closed</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>	<p>Identify additional supplemental funding</p>	<p>Merge RHFD into ConFire, dissolve RHFD.</p>

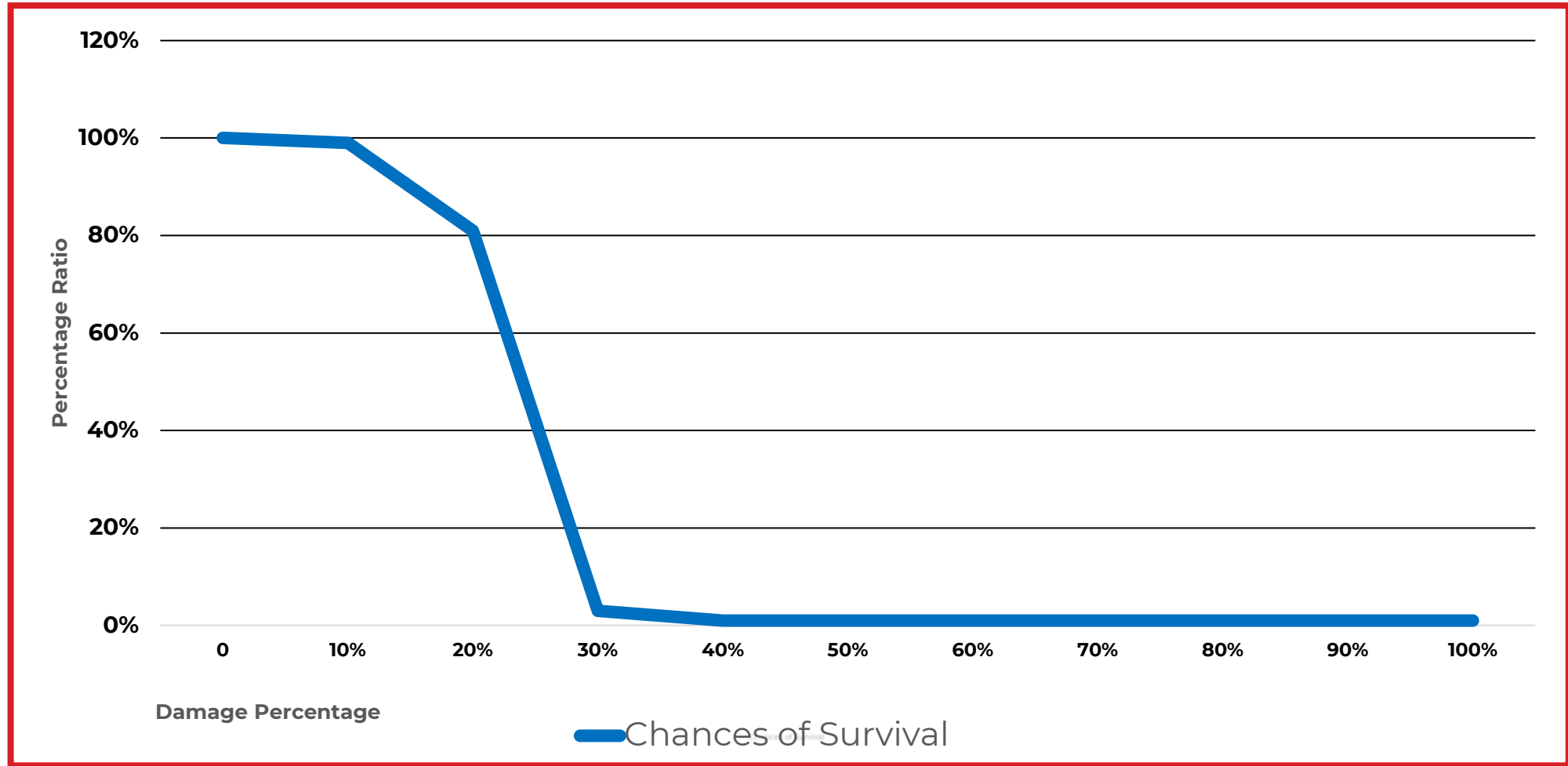
Chances of Injury or Death in a Home Fire



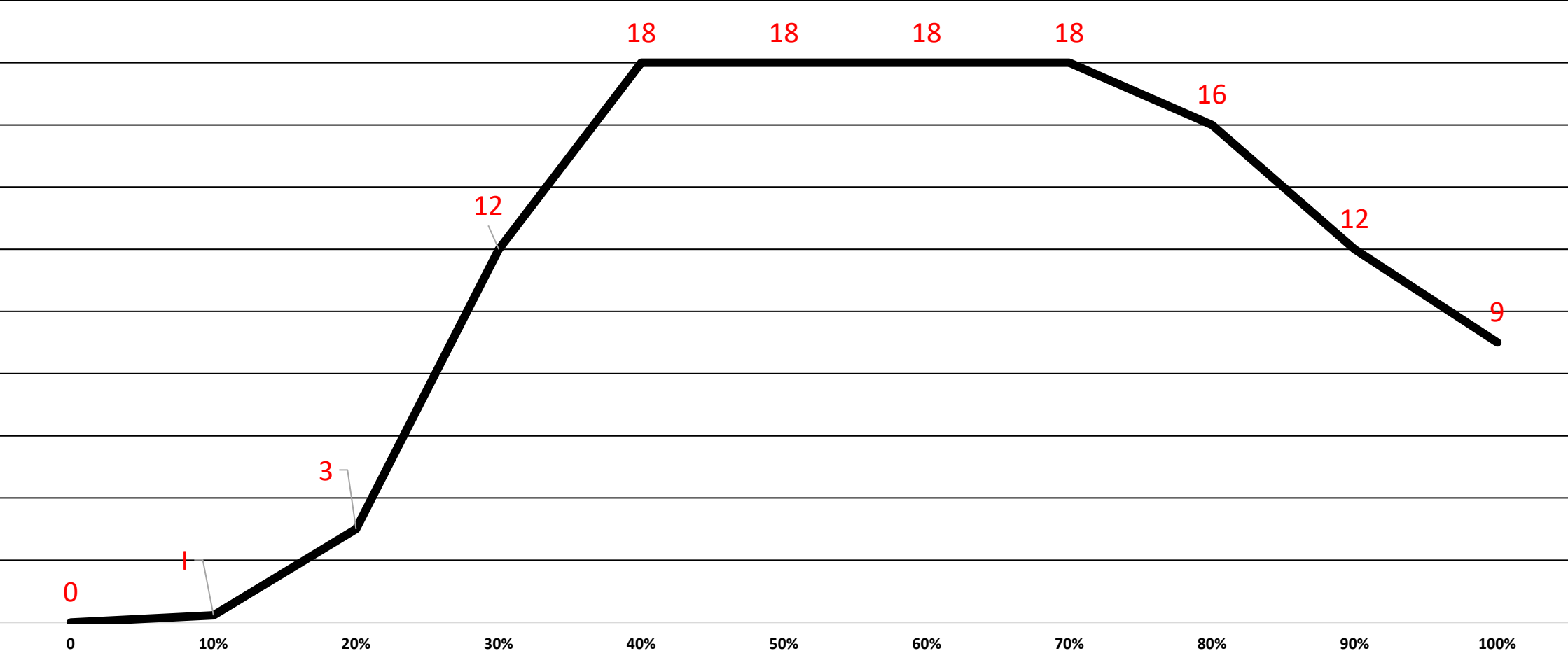
NFPA Study:
2,600 fatalities and 13,000 injuries



Fire Impact - Survival



Fire Impact – Months Displaced

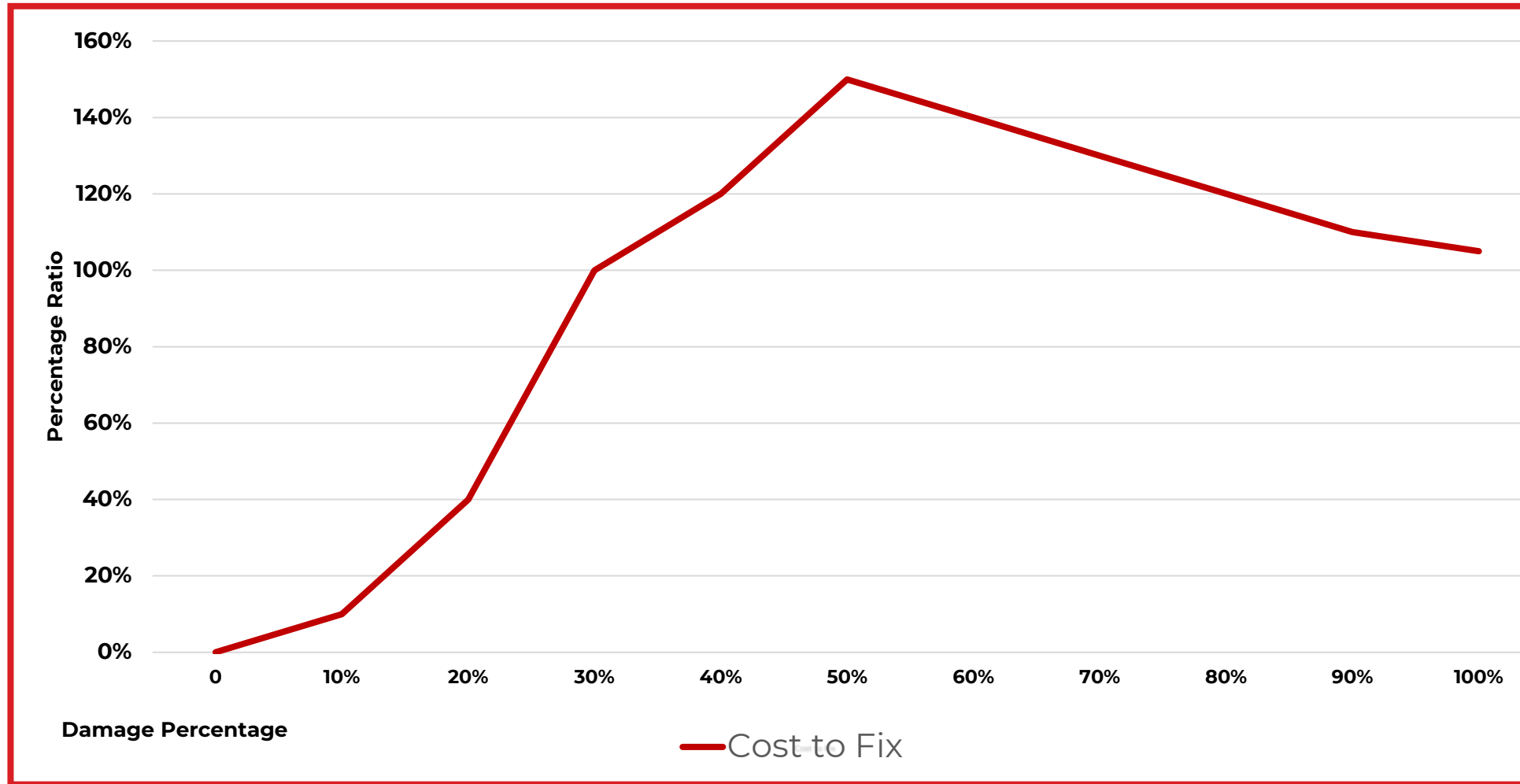


Damage Percentage

— Months Displaced



Fire Impact - Cost to Repair

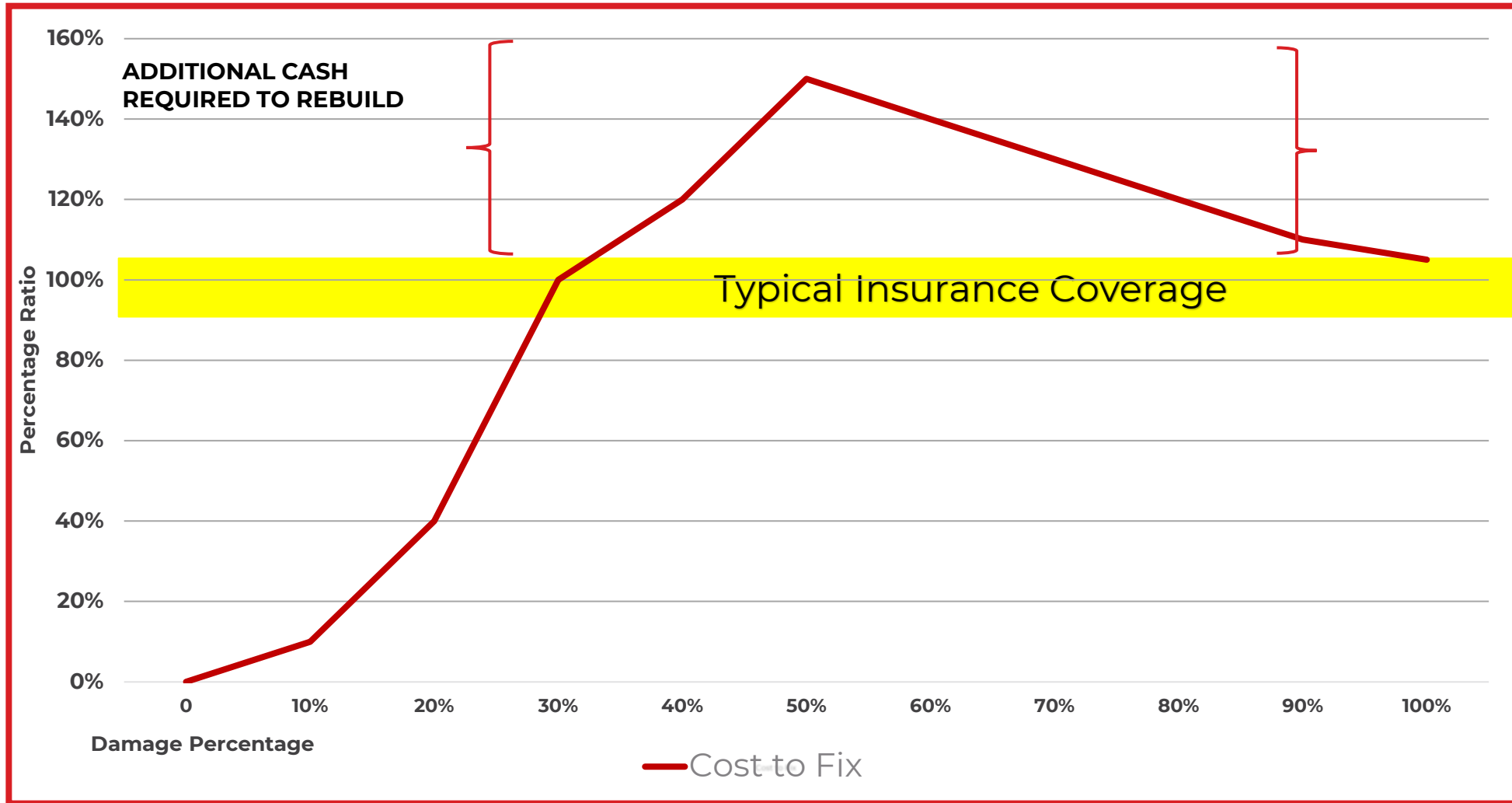


Typical Homeowners Insurance

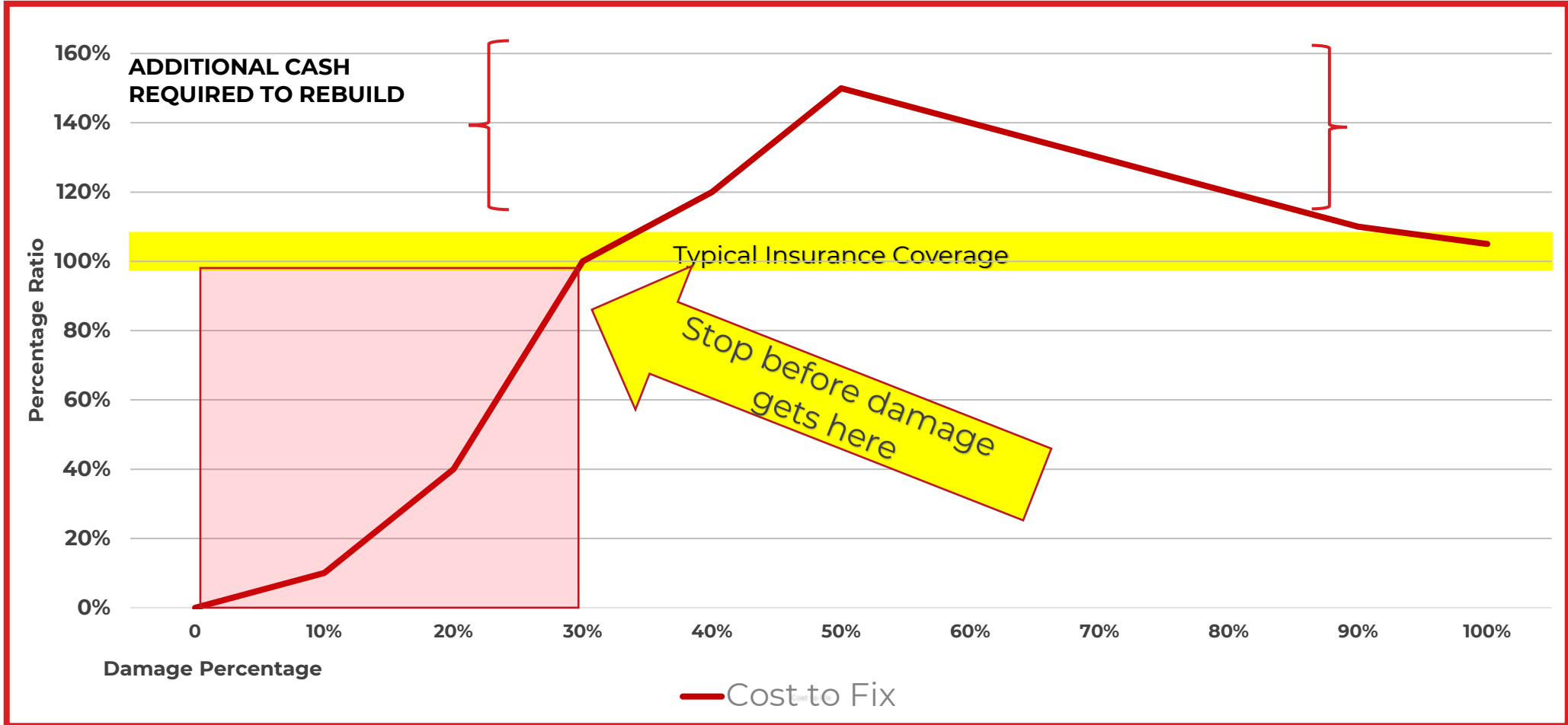
- Policy Coverage = \$1,000,000
- Debris Removal = (\$ 50,000)
- Code Upgrade = \$ 100,000 (10% of Policy Coverage)
- **Grand Total of Coverage = \$1,050,000**

- Replacement Cost (2,000 sq ft x's \$600) = (\$1,200,000)
- **Cash Needed to Rebuild = \$150,000 + any deductible**

Fire Damage



Fire Damage



How Much Would Being Displaced for a Year Cost You?



Original mortgage payment



Moving costs



The insurance deductible and any under-coverage costs



Work and school commutes



New cost of a rental and insurance



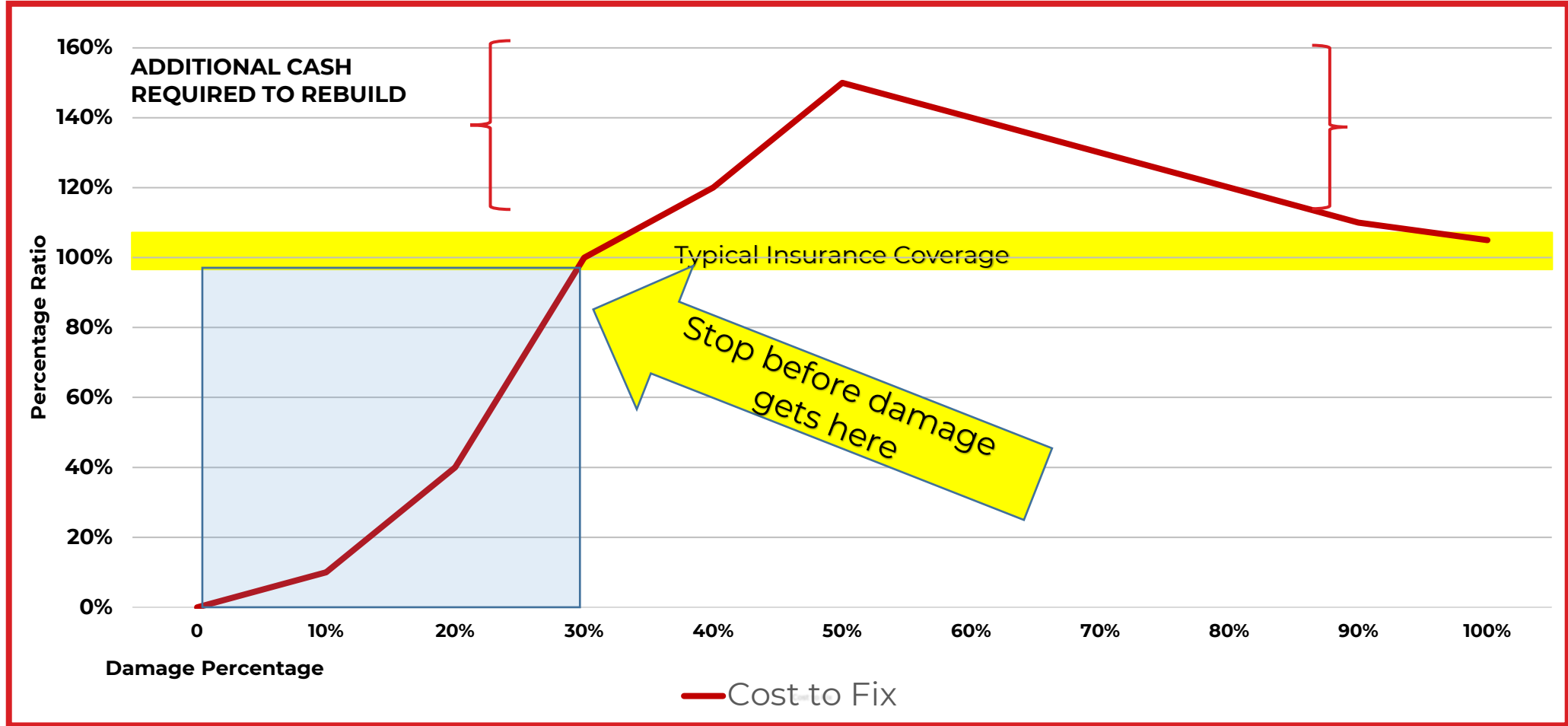
Lost financial records, taxes, ownership documents, etc.



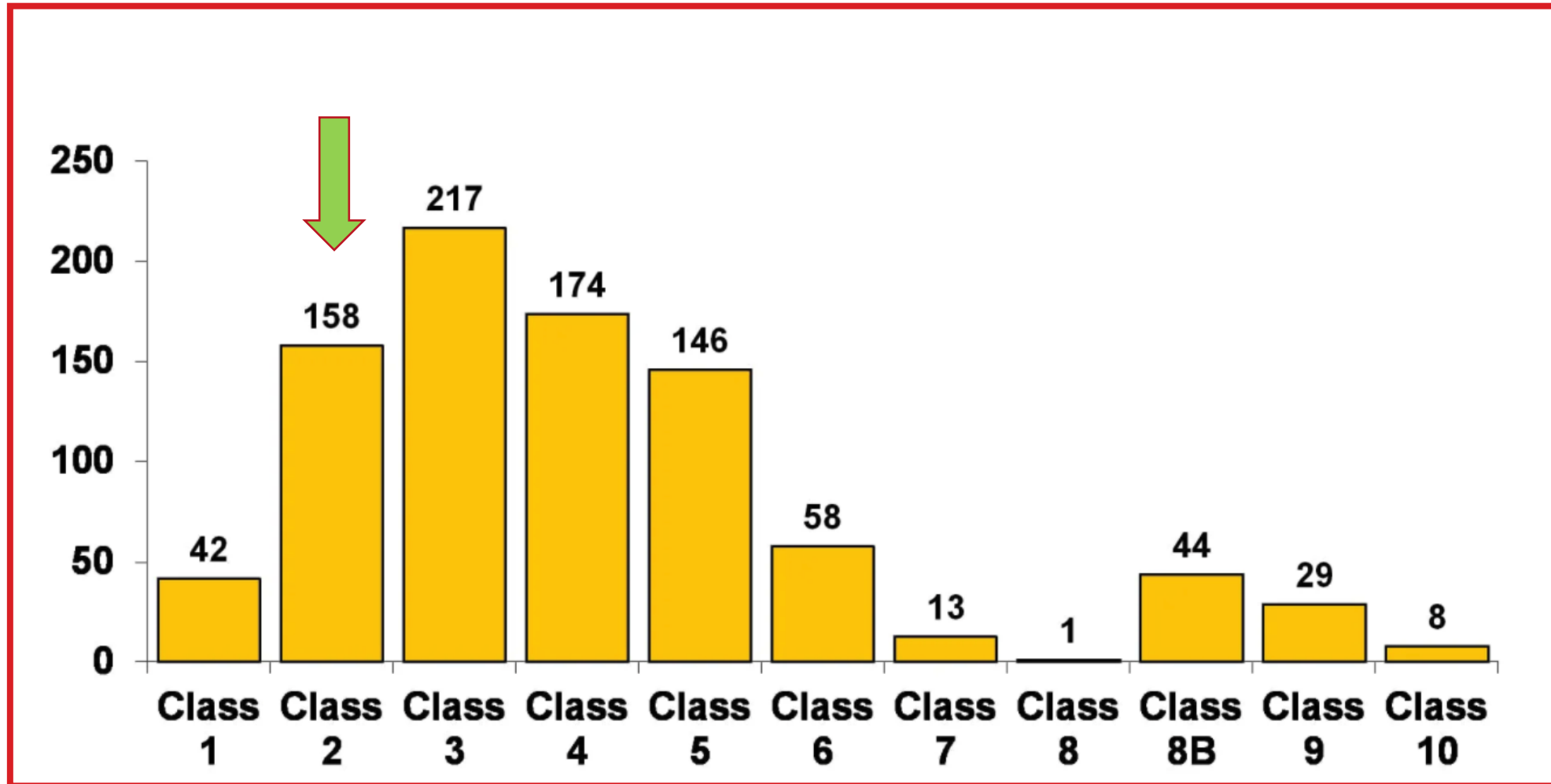


The Fire Department as a Property Insurance Policy

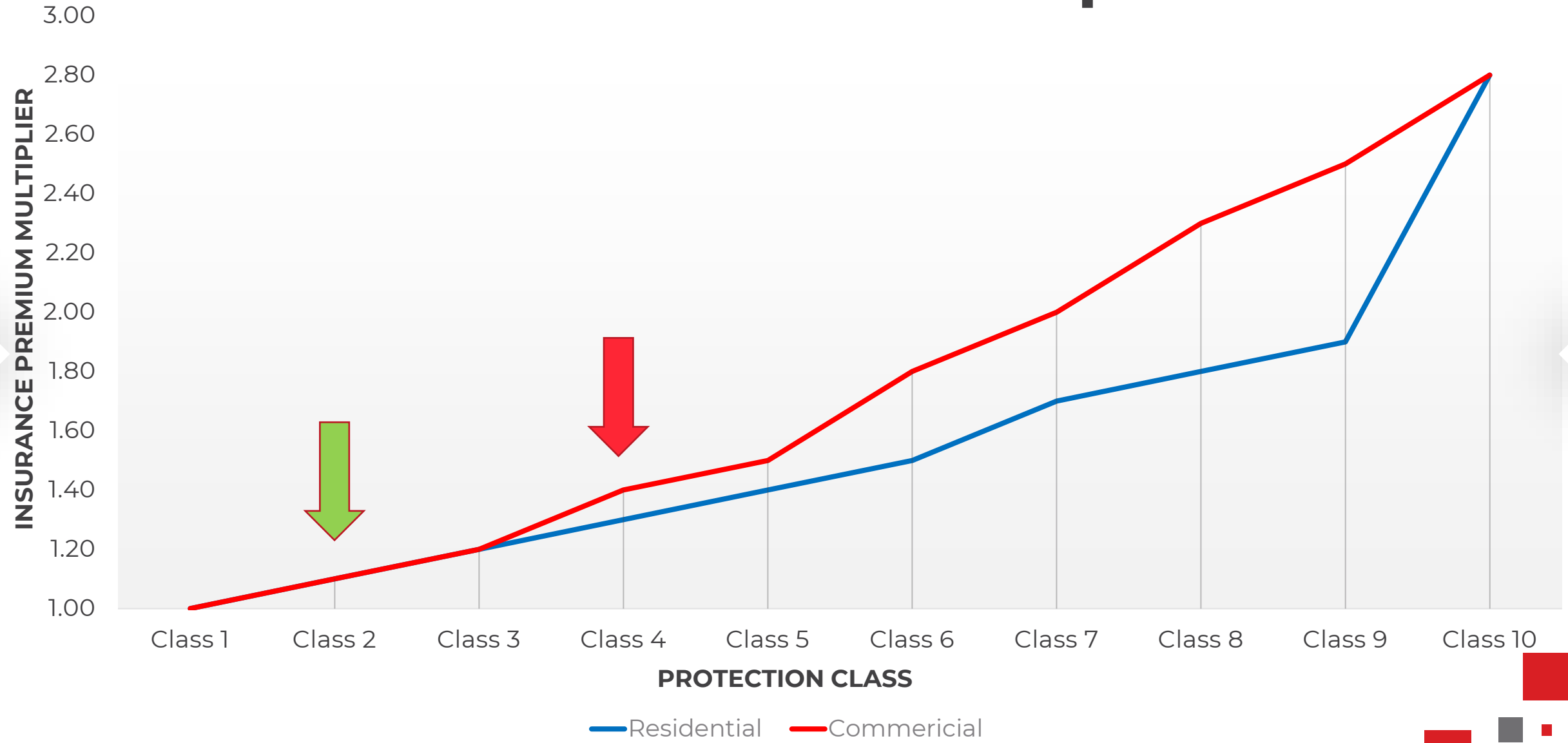
Fire Damage

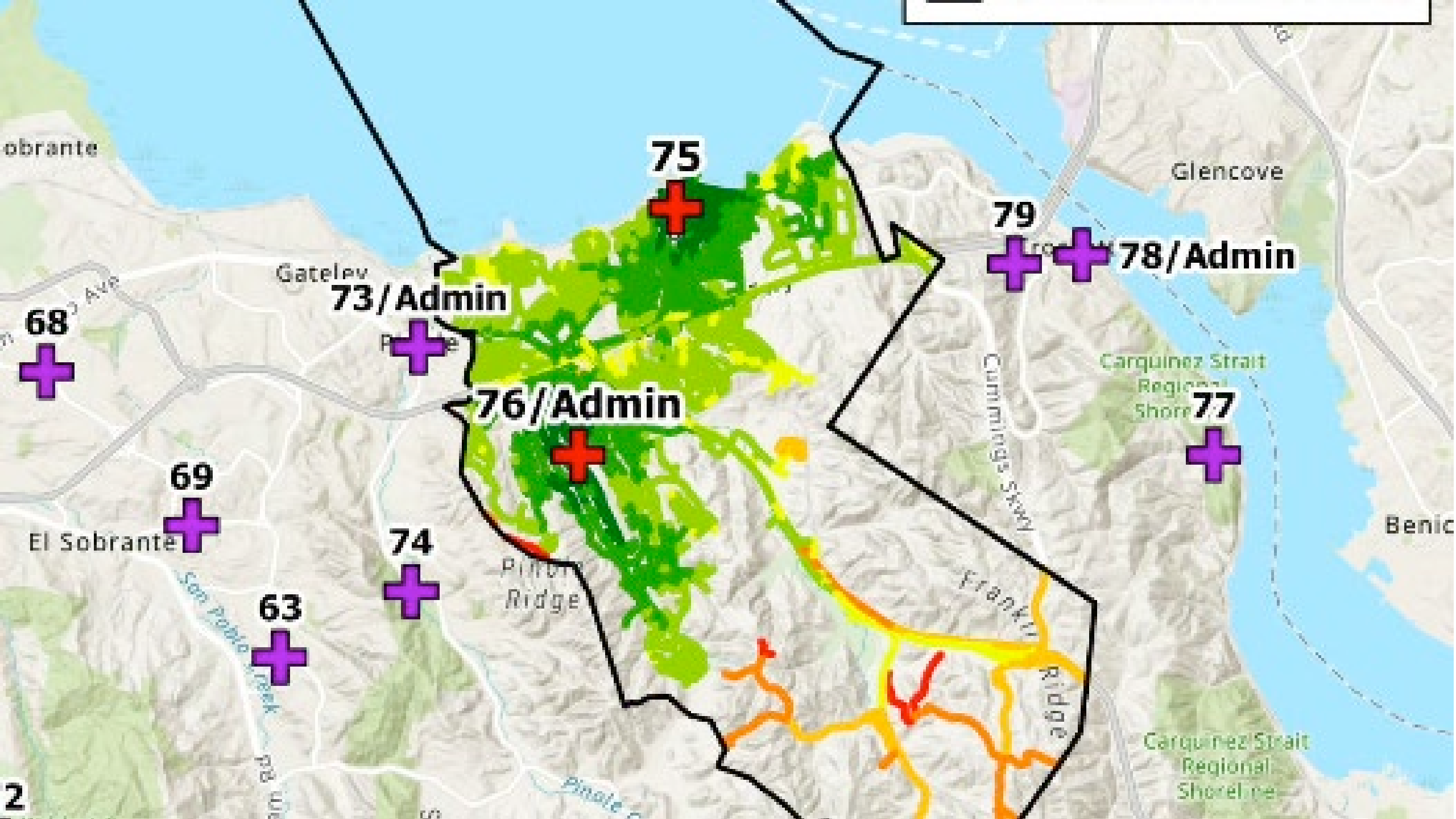


Protection Grades across California



Insurance Premium Paid per Class

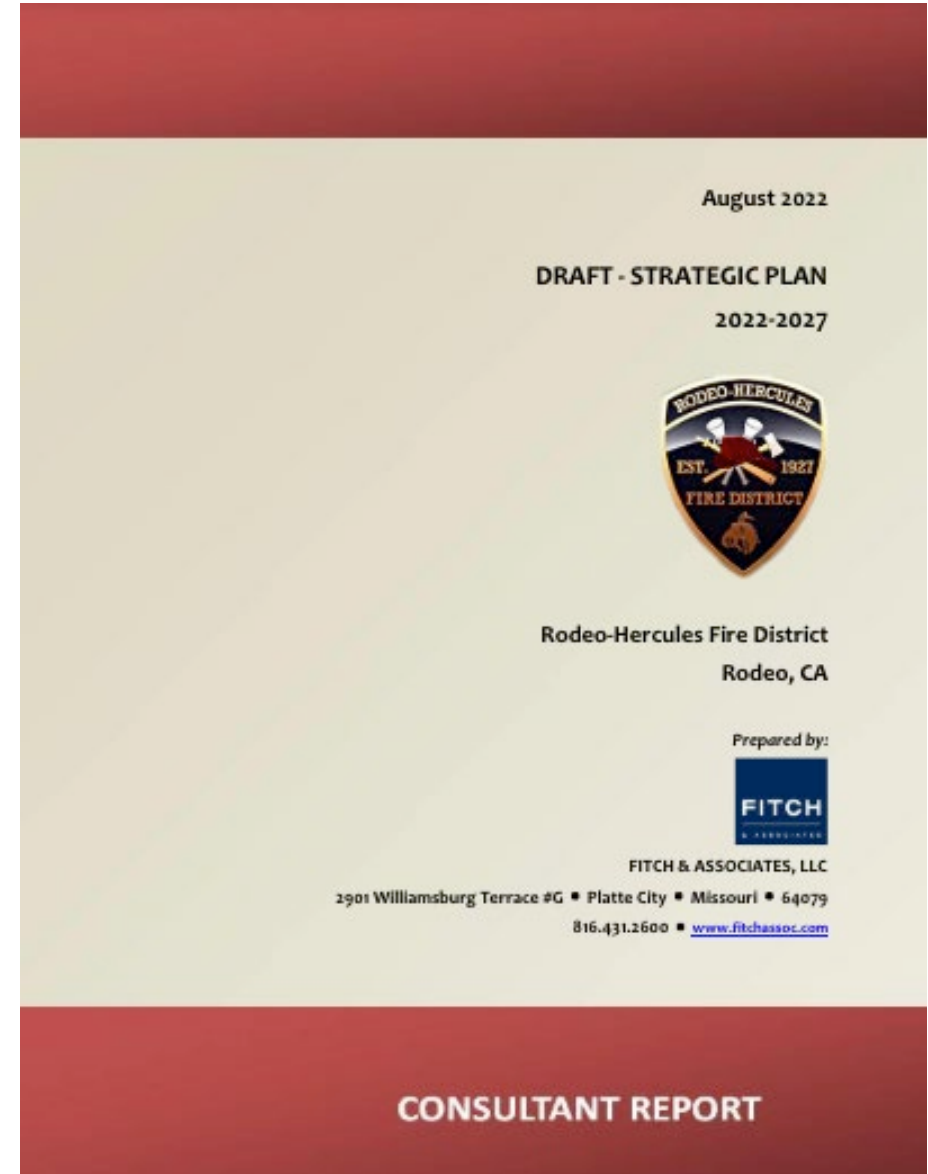




Status Quo – Cut Services	Option A – Retain RHFD, Secure Additional Funding	Option C – Annexation
<p>Current funding is unsustainable</p> <p>Transition out of paramedic/ALS medical service?</p> <p>Develop a plan to close a fire station FY 2026/2027</p> <p>Higher property insurance rates, especially for the zone served by the station closed</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>	<p>Identify additional supplemental funding</p>	<p>Merge RHFD into ConFire, dissolve RHFD.</p>

Strategic Plan 2022-2027

- Community Survey Results



Should the District keep both fire stations open at all times?

If still true, Status Quo is NOT a viable option

Are you willing to pay additional tax to maintain funding (necessary) to maintain both stations?

If still true, Option A (increase taxes) becomes more viable

Status Quo – Cut Services	Option A – Retain RHFD, Secure Additional Funding	Option C – Annexation
<p>Current funding is unsustainable</p> <p>Transition out of paramedic/ALS medical service?</p> <p>Develop a plan to close a fire station FY 2026/2027</p> <p>Higher property insurance rates, especially for the zone served by the station closed</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>	<p>Identify additional supplemental funding</p> <p>Service levels slightly improve to minimum standards</p> <p>No impact on property insurance rates</p> <p>Higher tax rate of approximately 15% to 20%</p>	<p>Merge RHFD into ConFire, dissolve RHFD.</p>

Status Quo – Cut Services	Option A – Retain RHFD, Secure Additional Funding	Option C – Annexation
<p>Current funding is unsustainable</p> <p>Transition out of paramedic/ALS medical service?</p> <p>Develop a plan to close a fire station FY 2026/2027</p> <p>Higher property insurance rates, especially for the zone served by the station closed</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>	<p>Identify additional supplemental funding</p> <p>Service levels slightly improve to minimum standards</p> <p>No impact on property insurance rates</p> <p>Higher tax rate of approximately 15% to 20%</p>	<p>Merge RHFD into ConFire, dissolve RHFD.</p> <p>Service levels significantly improve</p> <p>No impact on property insurance rates (possible lower rates after next ISO review)</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

Con Fire is a Special District

Independent Funding

Over 600 members

Mission Focused - Community Oriented

Leading All-Hazards Fire, Rescue, EMS Agency

Service • Leadership • Teamwork • Safety and Preparedness • Professionalism • Integrity



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

**Continuous Investment in
Facilities
Apparatus
Equipment
Our Members**

**A sustainable and responsible
Fire and EMS
partner in West County**

Service • Leadership • Teamwork • Safety and Preparedness • Professionalism • Integrity

Education Programs	CCCFPD	RHFPD
Annual fire prevention report distributed	Yes	Yes
Babysitting safety classes	No	No
Bilingual info available	Focused	No
Calling 9-1-1	Yes	Yes
Carbon Monoxide Alarm installations	Yes	No
CPR courses, BP checks	Yes	Yes
Curriculum used in schools	Yes	Yes
Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH)	Yes	During School Program only
Eldercare and safety	Yes	No
Fire brigade training	No	No
Fire extinguisher use	Yes	No
Fire safety	Yes	No
Injury prevention	Yes	No
Juvenile fire-starter program	Yes	No
Publications available to the public	Yes	Yes
Smoke alarm installations	Yes	Yes
Wildland interface education offered	Yes	No
Firewise Community Implementation Program	Yes	No
Fire Safe Council Coordinator	Yes	No
Community Evacuation Drills	Yes	No
Unsheltered Safety Program	Yes	No

Code Enforcement Activity	CCCFPD	RHFPD
Consulted on new construction	Yes	Yes
Fees for inspections or reviews	Yes	Yes
Hydrant flow records maintained	Partial	No
Key-box entry program	Yes	Yes
Perform occupancy inspections	Yes	Yes
Perform plan reviews	Yes	Yes
Sign-off on new construction	Yes	Yes
Special risk inspections	Yes	Yes
Company Inspections (pre-plan)	No	No
International Code Council Certified Inspectors	Yes	Yes (CSG)
Exterior Hazard Control and Weed Abatement	Yes	No (Pending)
Defensible Space	Yes	No
Property Liens for Hazard Abatement	Yes	Yes
Integration with CORE Teams and Homeless Services	Yes	No

Training Competencies	CCCFPD	RHFPD
Incident Command System	ICS Series	ICS Series (Partial)
Accountability Procedures	Yes	Yes
Training SOGs	Yes	(Partial/Outdated)
Recruit Academy	Yes	No
Specialized Rescue Training	Yes	Yes
HazMat Certifications (ERF)	Technician & Specialist	First Responder Operations
Vehicle Extrication Training	Yes	Yes
Focused Engineer Academy	Yes	No
Focused Captain Academy	Yes	No
Wildland Certifications	S190/130	S190/130
Communications & Dispatch	Yes	Yes
Truck Company Operations	Yes	No
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Yes	No
Fire Boat Operations	Yes	No

Facilities & Resources	CCCFPD	RHFPD
Adequate training ground space	Yes	No
Training building/tower	Yes - three sites	Yes – (Not ISO compliant)
Burn room at the training building	Yes	No
Live fire props	Yes	No
Fire Control Instructors	Yes	No
Driver's course	Yes	No
Dedicated Urban Search & Rescue Training Site	Yes	No
SCBA obstacle course/CFS	Yes	No
Adequate classroom facility	Yes	Yes
Computers & simulations	Yes	Yes
EMS props & mannequins	Yes	Yes
Paramedic School Collaboration	Yes	No
Internal EMS Continuous Quality Care Nurse	Yes – (2)	Yes - Contractor

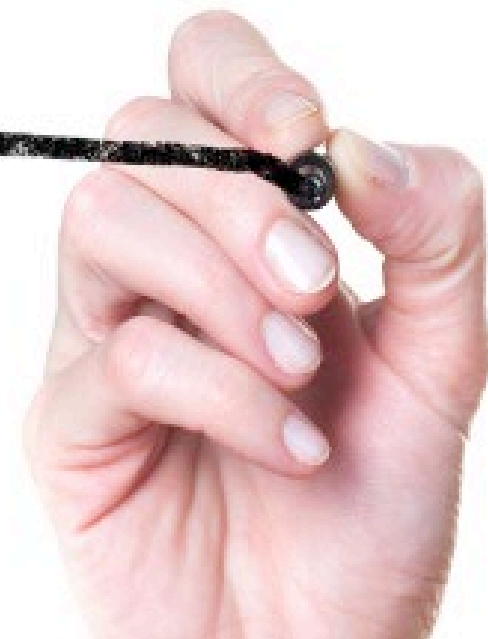
RHFD Options Scoring Matrix		Option A (Local)	Option C (Annex)
High = 10, Moderate = 5, Low = 3			
H	Life Safety for Community (Rescue from Fire/Cardiac Survival)	8.5	9.0
H	Health and Safety of Firefighters	8.0	9.0
H	Mitigate Liability to District (Legal/Regulation/Financial)	0.0	10.0
H	Economic Impact to Community (Business/Jobs/Insurance Premiums)	7.5	9.0
H	Impact to Environment	7.5	9.0
H	Proactive Vegetation Management/Weed Abatement	7.5	9.0
H	Fiscal Sustainability/Impact to Taxpayers	5.0	9.0
M	Professional Development Opportunities for Employees	3.0	5.0
M	Access to Special Teams (water rescue/technical rescue)	2.0	5.0
M	Extended Operations Support (Incident Management Team)	1.0	5.0
M	Public Education and Outreach	3.0	5.0
M	Public Access to Headquarters	5.0	4.0
M	Public Access to Elected Board Members	5.0	3.0
M	Emergency Preparedness Program (CWPP, LHMP, Firewise, Storm Ready Community, etc.)	2.0	5.0
L	Impact on property insurance rates for fire	2.0	3.0
L	Public Access to Board Meetings	3.0	2.0
L	Ability to attract Diversity within the Applicant Pool	1.0	3.0
L	Maintain or improve ISO Rating	1.0	3.0
Total		72.0	107.0
Total Possible		117.0	117.0

Results:

Option A (RHFD) = 62%

Option C (ConFire) = 91%

SUMMARY



Status Quo – Cut Services Not Scored	Option A – Retain RHFD, Secure Additional Funding Score = 62%	Option C – Annexation Score = 91%
<p>Current funding is unsustainable</p> <p>Transition out of paramedic/ALS medical service?</p> <p>Develop a plan to close a fire station FY 2026/2027</p> <p>Higher property insurance rates, especially for the zone served by the station closed</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>	<p>Identify additional supplemental funding</p> <p>Service levels slightly improve to minimum standards</p> <p>No impact on property insurance rates</p> <p>Higher tax rate of approximately 15% to 20%</p>	<p>Merge RHFD into ConFire, dissolve RHFD.</p> <p>Service levels significantly improve</p> <p>No impact on property insurance rates (possible lower rates after next ISO review)</p> <p>No additional taxes</p>



FAQs

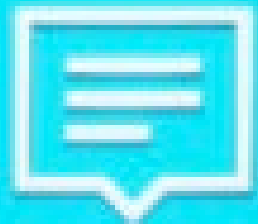
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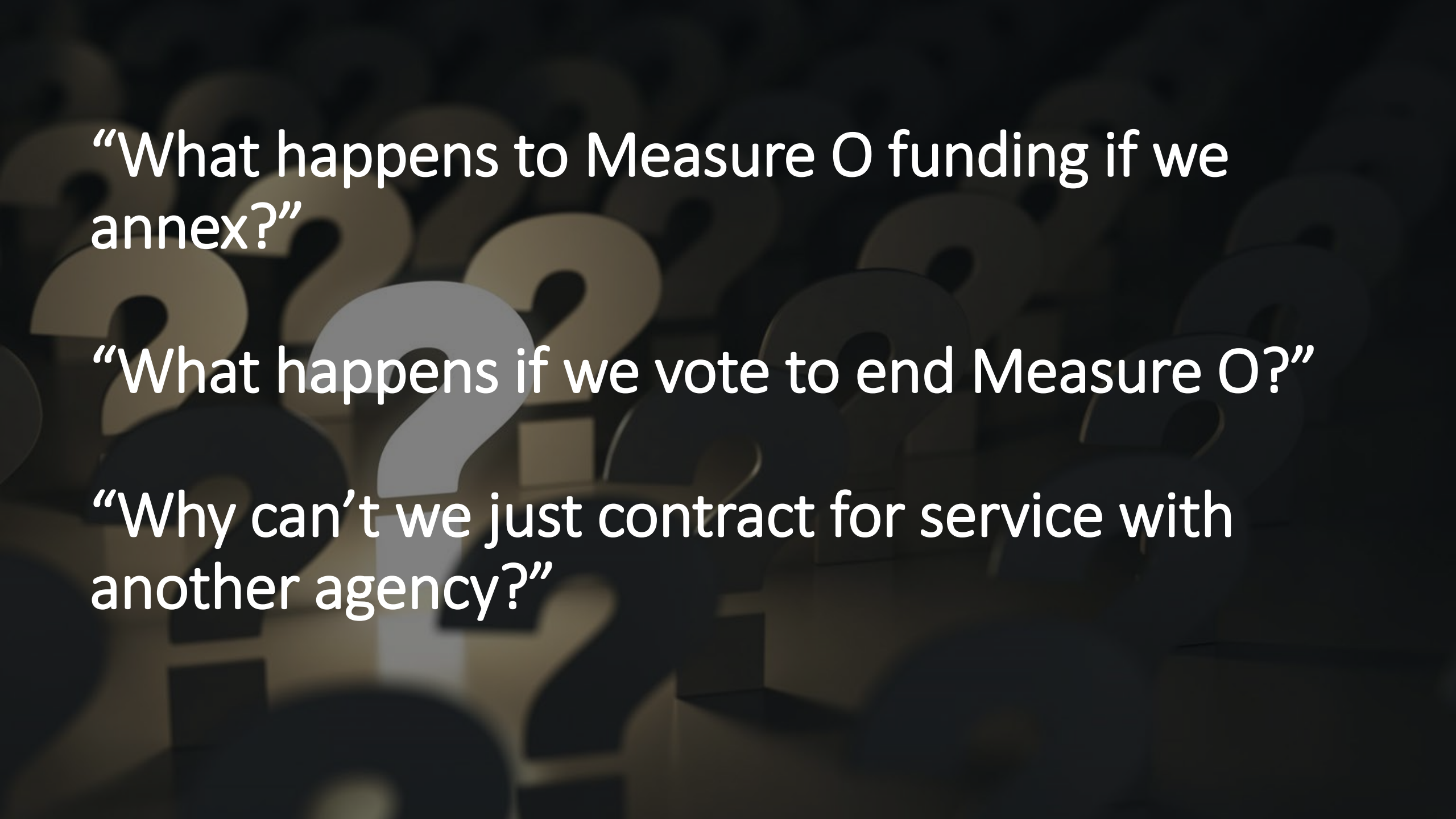
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The background is dark with a pattern of question marks in various shades of gray and brown. A large, light gray question mark is centered in the middle of the page.

“What happens to Measure O funding if we annex?”

“What happens if we vote to end Measure O?”

“Why can’t we just contract for service with another agency?”

“Why did Pinole get extra money from Measure X?”

“Why is RHFD not getting extra firefighters from ConFire if we annex?”

“What happens to our RHFD firefighters if we annex?”

“What will our service look like for the average property owner after annexation?”

“If we annex into ConFire, don’t we lose Local Control?”

“What is NOT a benefit of annexation for the current RHFD residents?”

1. Take the Survey



2. Attend, or provide your feedback before, the RHFD Special Meeting on July 10, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Survey





Questions?



Contact Info

info@rhfd.org