

CHAPTER 1. RODEO-HERCULES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

1.1. LOCAL PLANNING TEAM

The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Local Planning Team was comprised of the members listed on **Table 1-1**.

Table 1-1. Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Local Planning Team Members

Name	Title	Department
Rebecca Ramirez	Fire Chief	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District
<u>Tammy Thomas</u>	<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	<u>Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District</u>
<u>Darren Johnson</u>	<u>Battalion Chief</u>	<u>Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District</u>

1.2. JURISDICTION PROFILE

The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFPD) is located on the shores of San Pablo Bay, 30 minutes northeast of San Francisco. The District provides fire protection, and emergency medical aid to the unincorporated area of Rodeo and the City of Hercules. The District’s staff consists of up to 23 active personnel. RHFPD is an independent fire district serving an area of approximately 32 square miles. The District contains a major oil refinery (Phillips 66), numerous underground fuel pipelines, two (2) major rail lines and the Interstate 80 (I-80) Freeway.

RHFPD is an all-hazards fire district providing traditional structural fire protection, wildland firefighting, Advance Life Support (ALS) level medical first response (MFR), technical rescue (i.e., auto extrication, high-angle and low-angle rescue, water rescue, and hazardous materials response). The District deploys its apparatus and personnel from two (2) fire stations and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) Class 2 rating. The District also provides code enforcement, fire inspections, plan reviews, fire cause investigations, and public education and prevention programs.

1.2.1. Population

RHFPD provides service to a total population of approximately 35,573. The area includes the City of Hercules with a population 25,920 as of July 1, 2022,¹ and the Town of Rodeo in the unincorporated area of Contra Costa County with a population of 9,653 as of April 1, 2020.²

1.2.2. Brief History

In the early 1920s, Frank Del Monte became the first Fire Chief for the Rodeo Volunteer Fire Department. He was succeeded by Sam Kramer and later by Tom Lewis, whose force possessed, in addition to buckets, a hand-drawn hose cart.

¹ United States Census Bureau. (2022). Quick Facts: City of Hercules. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/herculescitycalifornia/>.

² United States Census Bureau. (2020). Quick Facts: Town of Rodeo. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rodeocdpcalifornia/>.

By 1927, the need for an official, larger firehouse became apparent, and the whole community pitched in to make it possible. Lots were purchased and the notes guaranteed by community members. In April of 1927, the original brick firehouse on Third Street held official dedication ceremonies.

The firehouse was built 10 years later, the importance of the growing Department was well recognized, and in April 1937, the official Rodeo Fire District was formed in Contra Costa County, with a Board of Commissioners to govern it. The first Commissioners were James Guthrie, Jerry Mahonie, and S.J. Claeys.

Although Rodeo had a full-time paid firefighter on duty for some time, in 1946, the Board of Commissioners approved an order to have a firefighter on duty at all times to provide added protection to the community. With the safety of the community always in mind, the Department continually added to its apparatus and firefighting equipment. In 1949, the Department joined with other fire districts in Contra Costa County in a three-way radio communication system.

1.2.3. Governing Body Format

The residents of the RHFPD elect five (5) board members from the community as their governing body. Board members are all elected at large and must reside within the District's boundaries during their entire term. All elections are nonpartisan. Terms are four (4) years in length, and Directors have no term limits.

The Board of Directors selects and appoints the Fire Chief who serves as the chief executive officer of the District. The Fire Chief directs and coordinates the various functions and divisions within the organization, administers the budget, and makes reports and recommendations to the Board. The Fire Chief is an at-will position (under contract) with authority to hire, fire, promote, and transfer all district employees

1.3. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

RHFPD currently maintains two (2) fire stations. Fire Station 75 was originally built in 1937 and remodeled in 1991. Station 76 was built in 1991. Combined, the two (2) stations average 57 years of age.

The maximum fire station staffing capacity of each facility is limited to either three (3) or four (4) personnel. The District has eight (8) apparatus bays and the overall condition of both of its fire stations are rated as "Good." Both stations have sprinkler systems installed.

RHFPD cannot meet the increased call load in the communities served with existing personnel and equipment levels without relying on mutual aid agreements and automatic aid agencies. ~~The District acknowledges the need for a third fire station and additional firefighters to provide emergency services for a growing population, reduce response times, and alleviate staffing shortages at the current stations~~

1.4. CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

Federal regulations require hazard mitigation plans to identify goals for reducing long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards in the planning area (Section 201.6(c)(3)(i)). A critical step in the development of specific hazard mitigation actions and projects is assessing existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources and capabilities to use or modify local tools to reduce losses and vulnerability from profiled hazards.

A capability assessment was conducted for RHFPD and participating jurisdictions' authorities, policies, programs, and resources. Goals and mitigation actions were developed using input from this assessment.

The Local Planning Team assessed the District’s capabilities that can contribute to the reduction of long-term vulnerabilities to hazards. The capabilities include the following categories:

- Planning and Regulatory Capabilities
- Administrative and Technical Capabilities
- Financial Capabilities
- Education and Outreach Capabilities

Additionally, ways to expand on and improve these existing policies and programs to integrate hazard mitigation into the day-to-day activities and programs of the District were considered.

1.4.1. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

These include local ordinances, policies, and laws to manage growth and development (e.g., land use plans, capital improvement plans, transportation plans, emergency preparedness and response plans, building codes, and zoning ordinances). The description section of each Planning and Regulatory Capability includes a paragraph on expansion, implementation, and improvement.

Table 1-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities

The Fire Protection District Law (Health & Safety Code §13800, et seq.)			
The law is the source of statutory authority for more than 380 fire protection districts and serves as a guiding document for governance and allows the district to be formed to plan, mitigate, and provide emergency services to protect its citizens and reduce the impacts of disasters.			
Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: The law will continually be evaluated to address emerging needs to ensure the safety and protection of its residents.			
Updated	1987	Hazards Addressed	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire
District Resolutions and Ordinances			
In compliance with pertinent laws and statutory requirements promulgate and enact local resolutions and/or ordinance as a municipal legislative enactment for the betterment and benefit of the Fire District. The District’s resolutions and ordinances can be accessed via the following link: https://www.rhfd.org/resolutions-ordinances .			
Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: The resolutions and ordinances will be reviewed based on developing trends in identified hazards and mitigation measures that can make them more effective at preventing losses.			
Updated	2023	Hazards Addressed	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire

Strategic Plan			
<p>The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFPD) Strategic Plan was an intentional process by which RHFPD surveyed the industry trends; evidence-based practices; the customer's needs and wants; the current and future available resources, and the current and future capabilities of the District to determine performance gaps. Once these gap were identified, the agency determined organizational objectives, supporting goals and critical tasks necessary to close or eliminate the performance gaps.</p> <p>Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: The Strategic Plan will be reviewed based on developing trends in identified hazards and mitigation measures that can make them more effective at preventing losses.</p>			
Updated	2024	Hazards Addressed	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire
California Fire Code and Local Amendments			
<p>The District adopted the 2022 California Fire Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part, 9 [based on the 2021 International Fire Code published by the International Code Council] The California Fire Code (CFC) contains regulations consistent with nationally recognized and accepted practices for safeguarding life and property from fire and explosion, dangerous conditions arising from the storage, handling, and use of hazardous materials and devices, and hazardous conditions in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises.</p> <p>To ensure new construction and tenant improvements meet or exceed local standards to secure life safety related to building construction features and systems used to prevent ignition and fire spread as well as facilitate occupant escape.</p> <p>Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: The Fire Code must be modified and updated to reflect changes in development.</p>			
Updated	2022	Hazards Addressed	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire
County Climate Action Plan (CAP)			
<p>The Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in December 2015, is the County's strategic approach to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from sources throughout the unincorporated area. The CAP reflects the County's programs and actions to decrease energy use, improve energy efficiency, develop renewable energy, reduce vehicle miles traveled, increase multi-modal travel options, expand green infrastructure, reduce waste, and improve the efficiency of government operations. The lead department is Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development.</p> <p>Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: The CAP will be updated in parallel with the General Plan. While the General Plan will provide the long-term resiliency framework of goals and policies, the CAP will provide strategic implementation programs to show how the County will reduce GHG emissions in support of the State's adopted reduction targets for 2030 and 2050, reducing GHG emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, with consideration of the State's long term goal to reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.</p>			
Updated	2015 (<i>Update is in progress</i>)	Hazards Addressed	Climate Change, Drought, Flood, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Wildfire

Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Plan / Hazardous Material Business Plan			
Addresses the storage, use, and emergency planning for hazardous materials and extremely hazardous substances in the community and businesses. The lead agency is Contra Costa Health Services, Hazardous Materials Program Office, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.			
Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: This Hazard Mitigation Plan will support mitigation measures compatible with the County Hazardous Materials Plan to reduce potential hazardous materials releases.			
Updated	2009	Hazards Addressed	Hazardous Materials Incidents
City of Hercules Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)			
The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), in collaboration with the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District, coordinates their response to major emergencies and disasters. The EOP identifies operational strategies and plans for managing inherently complex and potentially catastrophic events. This Plan is regularly updated by staff and approved by the City Council. The lead department is the City of Hercules Police Department.			
Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: This Hazard Mitigation Plan will be used as an essential tool to update the City EOP. California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) requires that EOPs describe applicable hazards as part of the Plan. The latest Hazard Mitigation Plan hazard descriptions will be included. Mitigation actions that are preparedness and response in nature will be analyzed for applicability for inclusion in the description of EOP processes and procedures.			
Updated	2024 planned update	Hazards Addressed	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire
Alameda and Contra Costa County Regional Wildfire Prevention Plan			
The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) and the Alameda City Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) worked jointly with funding from the Coastal Conservancy to develop a Regional Priority Plan (RPP) for Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The goal of the RPP process was to identify regional natural resource concerns that could be exacerbated by catastrophic wildfire and develop projects or other methods to remedy those issues ahead of the next wildfire event. The planning process started in November 2020 and completed in September 2022. The lead department is Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, in collaboration with Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District.			
Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: This Hazard Mitigation Plan and Regional Wildfire Prevention Plan should be aligned where mitigation actions in this Hazard Mitigation Plan support the goals of the Regional Wildfire Prevention Plan. The wildfire analysis in this Hazard Mitigation Plan can inform updates and revisions to the Wildfire Prevention Plan.			
Updated	2022	Hazards Addressed	Wildfire
Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)			
The Contra Costa County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), updated in 2019, provides an analysis of wildfire hazards and risk in the wildland urban interface (WUI) in Contra Costa County. The Plan follows the standards for CWPPs established by the Federal Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The lead department is Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, in collaboration with Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District.			
Expansion, Implementation, and Improvement: This Hazard Mitigation Plan and County Community Wildfire Protection Plan should be aligned where mitigation actions support the goals of the CWPP. The wildfire analysis in this Hazard Mitigation Plan can inform updates and revisions to the CWPP.			
Updated	2019	Hazards Addressed	Wildfire

Commented [YÁ1]: What year was the City of Hercules EOP last updated?

Commented [RR2R1]: 2024, it is presently being updated.

1.4.2. Administrative and Technical Capabilities

The administrative and technical capabilities include community (i.e., public and private) staff and their skills and tools, which can be used for mitigation planning and implementation. This capability includes

Mitigation Action	Integrate interoperable and reliable communication equipment including portable and mobile radios and all associated equipment to coordinate disaster response.				
Action Number	RH-4	Year Initiated	2024	Prioritization Score	39/40
Goal(s) / Objective(s) Addressed	Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objectives:	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Utility Interruptions, Active Shooter Incidents, Terrorism		
Project Status	New	<i>If Deleted/No Longer Needed, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	High				
Lead Agency / Organization	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	N/A		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Project Duration	Short Term	Estimated Cost	Medium		
Potential Funding Source	Local Budgeted Funds, Local or State Special Taxes, Private/Non-Profit Funds, State Special Funds, HMGP, FMA, FEMA PA	<i>If Other, you must identify a funding source.</i>	N/A		
		Please provide further detail on Potential Funding Source.	N/A		
Implementation Priority	High	Integration Ideas (Optional)			

Mitigation Action	Ensure that all the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District staff who may be assigned the role of Incident Commander at an emergency/disaster incident have received Incident Command System (ICS) training; and ensure that employee training records are securely maintained.				
Action Number	RH-5	Year Initiated	2025	Prioritization Score	38/40
Goal(s) / Objective(s) Addressed	Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objectives:	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Utility Interruptions, Active Shooter Incidents, Terrorism		
Project Status	New	<i>If Deleted/No Longer Needed, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits <i>(Loss Avoided)</i>	Medium				
Lead Agency / Organization	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Supporting Agency / Organization <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A				
Project Duration	Ongoing	Estimated Cost	Medium		
Potential Funding Source	Local Budgeted Funds	<i>If Other, you must identify a funding source.</i>	N/A		
		Please provide further detail on Potential Funding Source.	Local Budget, Staff Time		
Implementation Priority	High	Integration Ideas <i>(Optional)</i>			

Mitigation Action	Ensure that mandated training is provided to employees who require advanced knowledge and application of the Incident Command System (ICS); and ensure that employee training records are securely maintained. These include, but are not limited to, primary and alternate EOC Section Chiefs and senior field personnel, ICS-300, ICS-400, and the FEMA Professional Development Series.				
Action Number	RH-6	Year Initiated	2025	Prioritization Score	38/40
Goal(s) / Objective(s) Addressed	Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objectives:	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Utility Interruptions, Active Shooter Incidents, Terrorism		
Project Status	New	<i>If Deleted/No Longer Needed, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits <i>(Loss Avoided)</i>	Medium				
Lead Agency / Organization	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Supporting Agency / Organization <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions <i>(If applicable)</i>	N/A				
Project Duration	Ongoing	Estimated Cost	Medium		
Potential Funding Source	Local Budgeted Funds	<i>If Other, you must identify a funding source.</i>	N/A		
		Please provide further detail on Potential Funding Source.	Local Budget, Staff Time		
Implementation Priority	High	Integration Ideas <i>(Optional)</i>			

Mitigation Action	Enhance technical equipment for a training room that could serve as a District Operations Center (DOC) or an alternative Emergency Operations Center (EOC).				
Action Number	RH-7	Year Initiated	2025	Prioritization Score	38/40
Goal(s) / Objective(s) Addressed	Goals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objectives:	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Utility Interruptions, Active Shooter Incidents, Terrorism		
Project Status	New	<i>If Deleted/No Longer Needed, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	High				
Lead Agency / Organization	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	City of Hercules Police Department		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Project Duration	Short Term	Estimated Cost	Low		
Potential Funding Source	Local Budgeted Funds, Local or State Special Taxes, Private/Non-Profit Funds, State Special Funds, HMGP, BRIC, FMA, CDBG, FEMA PA	<i>If Other, you must identify a funding source.</i>	N/A		
		Please provide further detail on Potential Funding Source.	N/A		
Implementation Priority	High	Integration Ideas (Optional)			

Mitigation Action	Enhance Fire States for surge capacity, sustainable deployment, apparatus bay doors, kitchen and cooking areas, training room, office capacity, and capacity for housing additional personnel in during large scale events.				
Action Number	RH-8	Year Initiated	2025	Prioritization Score	35/40
Goal(s) / Objective(s) Addressed	Goals: 1, 2, 5 Objectives:	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Utility Interruptions, Active Shooter Incidents, Terrorism		
Project Status	New	<i>If Deleted/No Longer Needed, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	Medium				
Lead Agency / Organization	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	City of Hercules Police Department		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Project Duration	Short Term	Estimated Cost	Medium		
Potential Funding Source	Local Budgeted Funds, Local or State Special Taxes, Private/Non-Profit Funds, State Special Funds, HMGP, BRIC, FMA, CDBG, FEMA PA	<i>If Other, you must identify a funding source.</i>	N/A		
		<i>Please provide further detail on Potential Funding Source.</i>	N/A		
Implementation Priority	High	Integration Ideas (Optional)			

Mitigation Action	Provide cardiac monitors and other essential and lifesaving equipment for first responders to increase the survival rate of victims during emergencies and disasters.				
Action Number	RH-9	Year Initiated	2024	Prioritization Score	40/40
Goal(s) / Objective(s) Addressed	Goals: 1, 5 Objectives:	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Climate Change, Dam and Levee Failure, Drought, Earthquake, Flood, Landslide, Sea Level Rise, Severe Weather, Tsunami, Wildfire, Hazardous Materials Incidents, Utility Interruptions, Active Shooter Incidents, Terrorism		
Project Status	New	<i>If Deleted/No Longer Needed, provide reason.</i>	N/A		
Benefits (Loss Avoided)	High				
Lead Agency / Organization	Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Supporting Agency / Organization (If applicable)	N/A		
Additional Participating Jurisdictions (If applicable)	N/A				
Project Duration	Short Term	Estimated Cost	Medium		
Potential Funding Source	Local Budgeted Funds, Local or State Special Taxes, Private/Non-Profit Funds, State Special Funds, HMGP, BRIC, FMA	<i>If Other, you must identify a funding source.</i>	N/A		
		<i>Please provide further detail on Potential Funding Source.</i>	N/A		
Implementation Priority	High	Integration Ideas (Optional)			