



Gallagher and Colorado's Fire & EMS Districts

Chief Ken Watkins

Grand Junction Fire Dept & Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District

2018 Club 20 Spring Conference

Why is This a Crisis Now?

Not because of poor financial management by the FDs

- **Front Range housing values have increased significantly**
- **10% RAR reduction in 2017**
- **Potential drop to 6.11% = another 15% reduction**
- **Revenue Sources for Fire Protection Districts extremely limited by Title 32**
- **23% revenue reduction in 4 years**

More Emergency Calls But Fewer Firefighters

- 250/375 FDs in Colorado are Fire protection Districts = hardest hit
- Emergency calls up between 30-50% over past 4 years
- Catastrophic on rural districts
- Reductions in paramedics, EMTs and firefighters
- Fewer ambulances and fire engines
- Higher employee and volunteer turnover
- Longer response times
- Fewer fire engines for wildland & wildland/urban interface fires
- **There is no up side for our citizens**

What is the Ask?

2018 legislation extending the current assessment cycle one time from two to four years to maintain the RAR at 7.2% for four years



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