

Frequently asked questions regarding annexations:

How much would my property tax be affected if it is annexed into the fire district?

Each property owner, as listed by the Pima County Tax Assessor's Office has been mailed an estimate of the tax implications, along with a petition and information letters from Rural Metro and Northwest Fire. If you have not received your packet or have misplaced it and would like another copy, please contact our administrative office at (520) 887-1010.

By law, the maximum allowable fire district tax rate is \$3.25 per \$100 of secondary assessed value. The Northwest Fire District tax rate for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 is \$2.4646, well below that ceiling.

The following tax calculation example is provided for illustrative purposes.

Pima County Assessed Full Cash Value of Home: \$150,000

Pima County Secondary Assessment (10%): \$15,000

Fire Tax Rate: \$2.4646 per \$100 Secondary Assessment

Total Annual Fire District Cost: \$369.69

Taxes paid to the Fire District are also tax deductible.

In addition, check with your insurance company, Northwest Fire is an accredited agency and the ISO ratings may also have a beneficial impact for your homeowner's policy. An additional rebate program has been approved for homes that have installed fire sprinklers and other fire protection systems. (see attached resolution)

When would my tax be due to the District?

For any new annexations, taxes would be assessed through the Pima County Tax Assessor's Office in the year following the annexation completion and are paid to Pima County, who then handles the distributions for school taxes, fire districts, etc. If these annexations are completed, the 2012 tax year would be the first time you would note any changes to your property tax statement—they are not assessed retroactively. Your fire service coverage, however, would begin as soon as the annexation is approved.

If the annexation efforts fail, will Northwest Fire still respond to our properties in the event of a fire or medical event?

If you fall within the Town of Marana, but outside of the Northwest Fire District, the agreement with the Town officials is that Northwest Fire will respond and bill the property owners for Out of District responses. For the unincorporated areas in Pima County, we are operating under a Governing Board resolution that has defined a "No Response" policy for out of district calls to areas with no fire protection. This is to allow the district to maintain service levels to the tax-payers of the fire district.

Rural Metro will also no longer respond as of July 1, 2011. For medical calls, Southwest Ambulance will be the sole responding agency, the NWFD ALS fire units will not be able to respond to initiate care.

In the event of a 9-1-1 call for a house fire, the resident may be advised of the lack of fire service by the 9-1-1 call-taker, then depending on jurisdiction a deputy may respond for crowd control, an ambulance may respond to assist with injuries and ambulance transportation to a hospital, but no fire response will be sent from either Northwest Fire or Rural Metro.

Will you be offering contracted services to “out of district” residents?

We do currently have a few contract holders, but the District does not have the administrative infrastructure to maintain a business-contract model for services.

Do residents have any other options for fire service besides annexing into the Northwest Fire District?

Yes, some residents who lie adjacent to other fire districts such as Golder Ranch or Mountain Vista can contact those districts to inquire about annexation, if this effort is unsuccessful. Under Arizona statutes however, the annexation area must be adjacent to the current fire district boundary and not create any islands surrounded by the district. Residents could also choose to form their own fire district or could form a volunteer fire department. Residents also make a choice through no action at all, by not signing the annexation petition and not pursuing other alternatives the choice indicated is to have **NO FIRE SERVICE**. That is a legitimate choice that comes with its own perils, and it can affect the ability to sell or develop the property at a later date in addition to possible effects on homeowner’s insurance renewals and premiums.

What happens if I sign the petition, but too many of my neighbors refuse?

Unfortunately, if the needed signatures are not gathered, the annexation will not be approved by the county. At that point in time, those who lie adjacent to our boundaries, who have indicated support, may be offered the opportunity to annex, so long as the land area adheres to the state statutes governing annexation-- *the area must be adjacent to our current boundary and the annexation of that parcel or parcels cannot cause the district to surround non-annexed land portions, in other words create an island*. There may be situations where residents may be able to negotiate with a resistant neighbor in order to incorporate the isolated area into the annexation process. Ultimately, though, large portions of the areas will have no fire service.

On my property tax statement, I see the notation - " FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE 0.0430" – Does this mean that I am a district resident?

No, the Fire District Assistance Tax (FDAT) is taxed statewide to all property owners and distributed by the various County Treasurers according to a state formula. It is not an indication of being part of a recognized fire district.

The Northwest Fire District property tax information appears on the Pima County Tax Assessor website as follows:

"50214 NORTHWEST VOL FIRE DEPT SECONDARY 2.4646"

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Untitled Page - Windows Internet Explorer" with the URL <http://www.asr.pima.gov/links/HistoricalRate.aspx?parcel=226350060&taxa=0624&year=2010&taxyear=2012>. The page content includes a "New Search" section with a "TaxArea: 0624" field and a "Get Area" button. Below this is a "Select a tax year:" dropdown menu with years from 2010 to 1991. The main content is a table of taxing authorities for the tax year 2010.

Code	Authority Name	Primary	Secondary
00000	PIMA COUNTY PRIMARY	3.6697	
50000	PIMA COUNTY BONDS SECONDARY		0.7500
00006	MARANA UNIFIED DISTRICT 6 PRIMARY	3.036	
50006	MARANA UNIFIED DISTRICT 6 SECONDARY		1.6635
50099	JOINT TECHNICAL EDUCATION DISTRICTS		0.0500
00150	PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT PRIMARY	0.9755	
50150	PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SECONDARY		0.1093
00154	TOWN OF MARANA PRIMARY		
50154	TOWN OF MARANA SECONDARY		
50214	NORTHWEST VOL FIRE DEPT SECONDARY		2.4646
50830	CORTARO-MARANA IRRIGATION DIST SCND		66.0000
00986	STATE OF ARIZONA PRIMARY		
50987	CENTRAL AZ WATER CONS DIST SECONDARY		0.1000
50989	PIMA COUNTY FLOOD DISTRICT SECONDARY		0.2635
50990	PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT SECNDRY		0.3100
50991	FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE		0.0430
Total Rate: 13.4351		7.6812	5.7539
State Aid to Education Rate: 1.191			