

### 3.4.2 Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department

**Table 3-17. Contact Information**

Contact:	Shawn Worth, Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 2143 Trinidad, CA 95570
Site Address	446/460 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Westhaven, CA 95570
Phone Number:	(707)677-0388 / (707)832-6575
Email	westhavenfire@gmail.com
Website	facebook.com/Westhaven-Volunteer-Fire-Dept-163005183719165/
Types of Services:	Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services
Population Served:	857 (2010 Census)
Size of Response Area:	13 square miles
Number of Staff	12 Volunteer, 24 Auxiliary

#### Department Operations

Westhaven is located along Highway 101 approximately eight miles north of McKinleyville and approximately 3.5 miles south of Trinidad. Founded in 1950, the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization supported solely by donations, grants, and an annual bake sale. Westhaven VFD has a primary response area of 13 square miles (8,464 acres) that includes 450 homes from Crannell and Clam Beach to the Trinidad city limits. The department has automatic and mutual aid agreements with other departments from Arcata to Orick. See Figure 1 for the Department's response area and Table 3-17 for details of the Company's responses and volunteers.

#### Community Demographics

There are approximately 413 housing units and 857 people in the Westhaven CDP, based on the 2010 Census. The Westhaven CSD provides drinking water to approximately 233 connections. There is no wastewater service provider within the community. The nearest wastewater system is located in McKinleyville approximately seven miles south of Westhaven, well beyond the feasible distance for service extension.

The Westhaven CDP is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the Humboldt County Housing Element . A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city Sphere of Influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The Westhaven-Moonstone CDP has an estimated MHI of \$50,536 and qualifies as a DUC. Given the area's status as an identified legacy community and a DUC, should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, this disadvantaged community may be considered further.

### Infrastructure and Services

In 2015 the Department also received a new ISO rating of 5/5X, greatly improved from the prior 10 rating. Based on an ISO audit, the Westhaven VFD is currently a class 5 in all response areas of the Department that are within 1,000 feet of a hydrant. The PPC for areas in which the Department has to supply water (categorized as more than 1,000 feet from a hydrant) is currently a class 5X.

All Westhaven VFD apparatus and equipment is funded through grants and donations. In 2015, Measure Z funded 12 SCBAs and several sets of turnouts for the Department. Apparatus used include an E8411 1963 Crown Fire Coach (1000 gpm/750gal), an A8444 1986 F350 E One(250 gpm/250 gal), an E8455 1975 Van Pelt (300 gpm/2500 gal) water tender, and a Rescue 8477 2001 Expedition 4x4.

The Westhaven VFD has identified that their fire station is not adequate to meet the needs of the department or modern-sized fire apparatus. The Westhaven VFD has begun an effort to secure funds to construct a 2-bay addition to the station. Such an addition would further improve service to the community.

### Finances and Organization

Westhaven VFD's response area is located entirely within the boundaries of CSA #4. The Westhaven VFD is not affiliated with a special district and must depend solely on revenue generated from community donations, fundraisers, and grants. Westhaven VFD plays an important role in providing local response and coverage to CSA #4. The location of the Westhaven Fire Station and efforts to improve volunteer response capabilities has resulted in a reduced ISO rating for Westhaven Fire that serves to keep homeowners insurance premiums to a minimum.

The formation of a new Fire Protection District, or adding fire protection as an authorized service to an existing district (such as Westhaven CSD), would need to be accompanied by an adequate funding source, such as a special tax or assessment. Considering property owners within Westhaven are already funding services provided by CSA #4, it may be difficult to get community support for an additional tax or assessment.

Additional research should be conducted to determine whether a formal contract commonly referred to "assistance by hire" can be established between CSA #4 and Westhaven VFD to help reimburse costs and provide for more equitable and consistent funding. Such an agreement could provide for annual standby fees as well as minimum response fees for each incident response.

Table 3-18. Westhaven Volunteer Fire Company Numbers (2010-2015)

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Incident Responses</b>						
Veg. Fires	2	0	4	11	7	6
Struct. Fires	5	0	7	6	2	12
Other Fires	16	17	11	15	19	25
Veh. Acc.	13	1	14	9	4	14
Medicals	49	33	53	57	80	89
Haz/Menace	7	3	10	7	10	6
Public Assists	-	-	-	3	8	-
Others	7	2	3	0	3	1
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>% Medical</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>% Fire Response</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>						
Incident	825	-	1,251	1,301	1,480	1,480
Training	1600	-	1,320	1,122	1,100	1,100
Maintenance	225	-	167	134	95	95
Fundraising	500	-	2,472	2,603	2,500	2,762
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,210</b>	<b>5,160</b>	<b>5,175</b>	<b>5,437</b>
<b>Personnel</b>						
Volunteer	15	15	12	11	13	12
Auxiliary	25	25	25	22	20	24
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>

Source: Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association Annual Reports 2010-2015