

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



330 S. MAIN STREET

FALLBROOK, CA 92028-2938

PHONE: (760) 723-2005; FACSIMILE: (760) 723-2072

CITIZEN COMPLAINT

The North County Fire Protection District is Responsible for protecting lives and property within the jurisdiction it serves. District employees are among the most professional firefighting and medical personnel available who serve with pride. However, as with any organization, deviation from ideal performance may occur. For this reason the District has defined procedures for assisting citizens who wish to voice a grievance against its operation, policies, or any employee's conduct.

Every citizen has the right to file a complaint against the District or any of its individual members. When a complaint is received, it is forwarded to the Fire Chief of the District. The Fire Chief is responsible to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted. All investigations are conducted objectively and are aimed at maintaining public confidence and District integrity. Upon completion of an investigation, the findings and conclusions are directed to the Fire Chief for impartial review. After review the citizen will normally be informed of the final disposition to the extent allowed by law.

This process is designed to provide for the protection of the Public from inappropriate actions on the part of the District employees, the protection of District personnel from false allegations and the protection of the District from public censure because of the misconduct or appearance thereof by a few of its members. It may be necessary to have the complainant available for a personal interview so that the investigators may examine any relevant physical evidence, gather all pertinent information and interview any potential witnesses.

Fill out the reverse side of this form. Please provide all information requested. The information that you provide will be handled as confidential during the investigation. You may attach additional pages if necessary. Please read the information on the lower portion of the complaint form and sign. A parent or guardian's signature is required on any complaint filed by a person under the age of 18. You may file a complaint anonymously; however, the statement of an anonymous complainant cannot be used as evidence. We appreciate your taking the time to assist us in keeping open lines of communication with members of our community and hope that we will be able to assist you. Should there arise any questions or problems, we encourage you to contact the Fire Chief at (760) 723-2012.

Penal Code Section 148.5 states: "Every person who reports to any peace officer listed in Section 530.1 or 830.2, district attorney or deputy district attorney that a felony or misdemeanor has been committed, knowing such report to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Civil Code Section 47.5: "Notwithstanding Section 47, a peace officer may bring an action for defamation against an individual, who has filed a complaint with that officer's employing agency alleging misconduct, criminal conduct or incompetence, if that complaint is false, the complaint was made with knowledge that it was false and that it was made with spite, hatred or ill will. Knowledge that the complaint was false may be proved by showing that the complainant had no reasonable grounds to believe the statement was true and that the complainant exhibited a reckless disregard for ascertaining the truth.

I am making this complaint of my own free will and have read the above statements:

Complainant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____
[for minors under age 18]:

Date/Time Complaint Filed: _____ Received by: _____

