

Cyndie Martel

From: Blanche Virk <blanchevirk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:59 PM
To: CouncilAll
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ross Emergency Services

January 6, 2026

Dear Ross Town Council Members,

Although anecdotal, I would like to weigh in with personal experiences on emergency response time.

Often when I'm on Sir Francis Drake (SFD) a firetruck or ambulance is on call. Most of the time drivers pull to the right quickly; however, when traffic is heavy, it is difficult for drivers to get out of the way to let them through.

During the King Tide flooding last Saturday afternoon, SFD traffic was at a standstill. We were gridlocked. (It took 2 hours and 15 minutes to go a distance that usually takes 20 minutes.)

A car length behind me, the sirens on the firetruck blasted in the left lane. I had great difficulty finding a right lane space to pull into. Drivers were not letting me pull over! I had to pull up in front of about 10 cars trying to get in between each of them. I rarely use my horn, but I had to use it to find someone willing to let me in. After I finally pulled over, I looked back to see if the firetruck could continue on its mission; however, the car that had been behind me was still in his way and also trying to move over. I realize this was an unusual circumstance; however, just the thought of the firemen not being able to do their job was very stressful. My heart ached at the thought of the person who might be having a heart attack or the fire that was growing.

While I am among those who see the advantages of sharing emergency resources, our population is growing. There are too many times when sending an ambulance or firetruck on SFD Boulevard is just too great of a risk.

I feel too few trucks and ambulances are spread over too great of an area.

We were able to build a first-class post office and school; we need to find a way to have a firehouse and perhaps add an ambulance so that ours doesn't have such a large area to service.

Thank you for reading this and for working on a solution.

Blanche Virk
40-year Ross resident
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