

# FPD Advantages and Disadvantages

## Advantages

1. **Fixed boundaries.** Less worries about another fire protection association, fire protection district, or municipal fire department encroaching on your territory, or taking away your members.
2. **Fixed income.** Although we are aware that some fire protection districts (FPDs) continue to rely on the sale of memberships, most have a fixed property tax to fund the operation of the FPD. This permits more attention to be paid to fighting fires, and less to fundraising.
3. **Dependable income.** You know what your income will be next year, and the year after that. You can more securely plan for long-term commitments (like the lease-purchase of a fire truck).
4. **Fewer lawsuit worries.** Because a FPD is a type of government, there is slightly more protection against frivolous litigation.
5. **Greater support.** While all fire protection associations and municipal fire departments are willing to help one another, the existence of the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts (MAFPD) ensures that members receive a steady flow of information about ways that FPDs can help one another.
  - o **Legal Advice.** If you become a member of the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts, our staff attorney by phone without any charge to you (lengthy or complex matters may require a charge).
7. **Lobbying.** Through membership in the MAFPD, you participate in the "Missouri Fire Service Alliance" which maintains a lobbyist in Jefferson City trying to influence legislation. The next time you say "there ought to be a law" there will be someone to help you try to get what you need.
8. **Additional Training.** We offer popular training and education for Board members not available elsewhere in Missouri. Through a partnership with the University of Missouri's Fire and Rescue Institute, statutorily required "Certified Fire District Board Training" is offered in several locations throughout the state.

## Disadvantages

(Actually we think these are really advantages. because you increase public participation this way. But we're trying to be fair.)

1. **More formality.** Because an FPD is a type of government, there are more rules to follow.
2. **Elections.** You may have to hold an election in April of every other year. This is an expense that is not required of a fire protection association.