



## **Irish Beach Fire, Accidents & Medical Emergencies**

**Irish Beach is served by the Redwood Coast Fire Department (RCFD).** The District encompasses the area along the coast between just north of Irish Beach and Iverson Road (south of Bowling Ball Beach) on the south and stretches inland some 10 to 16 miles. There are two major fire stations – one in Manchester and one in Point Arena. The district also maintains one rescue vehicle here in Irish Beach. You'll find response times here to be very similar to those found in bigger cities.

RCFD is led by a paid fire chief, the rest of the approximately twenty-four firefighters (one is a paramedic and five are EMTs) are volunteers. Under the fire chief are the assistant fire chief, a battalion commander and three captains. One of these captains and three volunteer firefighters live in Irish Beach. Do not let the term “volunteer” concern you. All the volunteer firefighters have mandatory training every other week covering such topics as structure fires, wildland fires, cliff rescues and medical emergencies. All have completed first responder courses and a few have higher medical certifications. Additionally, many have had significant advanced fire training and participate in advanced training exercises.

**The district is also served by CAL FIRE.** CAL FIRE maintains a crew of four in Point Arena from approximately late May thru early October. During these months, CAL FIRE is dispatched with RCFD for all emergencies. During the rest of the year CAL FIRE from either Fort Bragg or Boonville will be dispatched only for major fires.

**Ambulance service is provided by Coast Life Support District (CLSD) located in Gualala.** CLSD is a governmental district that encompasses an area in both Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. It covers approximately 60 miles of coastline and includes five fire districts RCFD, South Coast Fire District (SCFD), North Sonoma Fire District (Annapolis and The Sea Ranch), Timber Cove Fire Department and Fort Ross Fire Department – the latter three are located in Sonoma County. CLSD is staffed by a full-time paramedic and an EMT in an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance and by a backup Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance staffed with two EMTs. In the winter when Highway One has the potential to flood and become impassable at the Garcia Flats, CLSD has agreed to place a staffed BLS ambulance in Manchester to ensure ambulance availability.

Depending on the nature of the medical emergency, an air ambulance is also dispatched (weather permitting). The air ambulance service is provided by Reach Air Medical Services, a subsidiary of AirMedCare Network with access to 240 air ambulances located across 32 states. It is highly recommended you become a member of Reach. You can find information by going to <http://reachair.com/>.

**Irish Beach is also served by Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS),** its primary facility is in Gualala with a smaller facility in Point Arena. Residents may use RCMS staff for primary care providers, dental services, mental health services as well as for urgent care. RCMS hours are 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday in Gualala and 9 am to 5 pm in Point Arena. For appointments in Gualala call 707-884-4005. For appointments in Point Arena call 707-882-2189. On-call urgent care services are available Saturdays, Sundays and major Holidays from 8 am to 6 pm, call 707-884-4005. After-hours calls to RCMS's Gualala Health Center are transferred to TeamHealth, a call-in medical advice service. When the RCMS Gualala Health Center is closed, you may call 707-884-4005 to be connected to this line.



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### How it works:

**For any accident, medical emergency, or fire - call 911** (do NOT call a neighbor volunteer firefighter, the local fire house, CLSD or CAL FIRE – this just wastes time). If possible, use a land line, if none is available use a cell phone. Your 911 call will go to the dispatch center which is “Howard Forest” located just south of Willits. Stay on the line until the dispatcher advises you to hang up. Make sure you provide a valid address or location, if on the road (road name and mileage marker if known) and the best possible description of the emergency. Based on the information provided, the dispatcher will activate RCFD via a paged message as well as text messages on all volunteers’ phones. For all vehicle and medical emergencies, CLSD will also be dispatched.

**Depending on the severity of the incident (such as heart attack, stroke, major burn, broken femur, potential spinal injury), REACH will also be dispatched.** Generally, the air ambulance arrives on scene within 20 or 30 minutes of being dispatched. There are many landing zones within Irish Beach and if need be the air ambulance will transport the patient to either Ukiah or Santa Rosa. Should the medical emergency not require air transport, CLSD’s ALS ambulance will transports the patient to the nearest hospital located Ft Bragg or to RCMS urgent services in Gualala. Patients may also be taken to one of several hospitals in Santa Rosa or Ukiah. Depending on the severity of the emergency, the ALS ambulance may hand off patient care and transport to the BLS ambulance. This is done to keep the ALS ambulance available in the area should another emergency occur.

**For large structure or vegetation fires**, in addition to automatically dispatched CAL FIRE in summer, RCFD will request mutual aid from SCFD. As stated above all volunteer firefighters are trained in both structure and vegetation/forest fires.