The Valley Center Fire Protection District (VCFPD) provides structural fire protection and advanced life support-level (ALS) emergency medical services (EMS) within approximately 85 square miles in the unincorporated community of Valley Center. The VCFPD was formed in 1982 to provide public governance and access to public funds to a volunteer fire protection organization. As a post-Proposition 13 agency, the District was not entitled to a share of property tax revenue; nonetheless, the Board of Supervisors voluntarily transferred an increment of county property tax revenue to the new agency. District voters subsequently approved special assessments to fund increased levels of service; assessments fund approximately 75 percent of district operating costs.

VCFPD stations were staffed by a combination of volunteers and district career personnel until the late 1990s when the District contracted with CAL FIRE to oversee district operations. CAL FIRE provides full-time staffing, which is supplemented by reserve firefighters. VCFPD also funds an Amador contract to extend the service season in a CAL FIRE station on Vesper Road. CAL FIRE services in VCFPD are subsidized with County Fire Enhancement Program funds.

LAFCO approved a sphere-of-influence for the Valley Center FPD in 1984 that is smaller than the district boundary in acknowledgement that some district territory is within the sphere for the City of Escondido.