

# STATION 51



**3510 Harris Grade Road  
Vandenberg Village**

Santa Barbara County Fire Department Station 51 is located at 3510 Harris Grade Road near Lompoc.

Engine 51's response area is State Hwy. 1 at San Antonio Creek on the West to Las Cruces Grade on State Hwy. 1 on the East to Drum Canyon at State Hwy 246 on the South to the Pacific Ocean on the North.

Station 51's response area is North by State Hwy. 1 at San Antonio Creek. In the South at State Hwy. 1 and the convergence of Ytisas and El Jaro Creeks. In the East at State Hwy 246 and Drum Canyon and the West by the Pacific Ocean.



Station 51's apparatus include

- Type 1 Engine
- Type 3 Engine
- Type 1 Reserve Engine

## Staffing

Station 51 is a dedicated Advanced Life Support station. It is staffed by one Captain, two Engineers and two Firefighter/Paramedics.

## History

For a generation that number was synonymous with the fire service. Through the 1970's TV show Emergency! the exciting and dangerous world of the Firefighter/Paramedic was brought into the homes of America. To this day, many men and women have said they joined the fire service because of that TV program.

Santa Barbara County's Station 51 is busy, and has a Paramedic Engine Company and a Rescue Ambulance that respond in the shadow of US Space Command's Vandenberg Air Force Base. Several launch towers can be seen in the distance from the station. The crew of 51's have a large response area including popular Jalama Beach, State Highways 1 and 246, the community of Vandenberg Village, and areas surrounding the City of Lompoc. Additionally, both the Engine and R/A respond with the Lompoc City Fire Department for Mutual-Aid calls.

It was turbulent times in the fall of 1961 with regards to the establishment of a County Fire Station near Lompoc Valley. The argument at the time was since the new station was to be located between Vandenberg Village and the new sub-division homes those residents should bear the brunt of the cost. However, then Fire Warden Wadliegh stated County firefighters would be vacating the existing Lompoc City Fire Station and the primary function of the new County station was to provide protection of the watershed in the area and therefore the obligation was a county-wide issue. Though there was still dissension among the County Board of Supervisors the issue was finally resolved and money was allocated from the County's capital outlay fund.

On October 3, 1961 the City of Lompoc formally requested that the County move out of the Lompoc City Fire Station because space was needed for additional firefighters and equipment that the City wanted to add to its force. The building process began in 1962 when the County purchased 18 acres for \$4,000.00. Plans were completed for a new fire station and 12 dwelling units for married firefighters and their families. Firefighter had a 132 hour work week in 1963 (working 24 hours 5 days a week).

The fire station and living units were completed in November of 1963. On Jan 5, 1964 a captain and 10 firefighters moved into their new quarters. With the eventual change in the work schedule of the firefighters the living units were no longer needed and were given to the County Sheriff in January of 1978.

At that time, a new station was needed, and in October of 2008, the new 51's was opened not far from the original station. The new quarters are located at 3510 Harris Grade Road.