

THE FIREHOUSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2006

THE NEW FIRE STATION

In September of 2005 the GFPD officially moved into the new Station 1 in Geyserville. In the year since, we have gone through some unplanned events (bridge collapse) which changed the way we had to operate. During the five months that we have operated normally we have seen an increase in volunteer response, as a direct result of having a station where volunteers can spend their time. The GFPD has already hosted three regional classes that were made available for GFPD firefighters as well as firefighters from other agencies. The GFPD has hosted two open houses, the GVFA has hosted a pancake breakfast and the Geyserville



serville Kiwanis has hosted it's Halloween party in the apparatus bay. The donations continue to come in, and we thank all that have donated to the Station's Capital Campaign. Some may ask, why are donations still needed if the station is built? The answer is simple, we still have a large outstanding loan that the GFPD and the GVFA would like to pay off early. By paying the loan off early we

will save hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long run. The station is a great addition to the community and everybody should be proud of it. Once again the GFPD and the GVFA would like to thank everybody in the community for their support- without it the station could not have been built.

FACTS ABOUT THE GFPD:

- *Protects over 200 Square miles*
- *Responds to over 500 emergencies a year.*
- *40 Volunteers*
- *3 Stations*
- *9 Emergency Vehicle*
- *50 Mutual Aid Calls a year*
- *Thousands of hours of training a year.*

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

The GFPD needs you! The District, which has no paid firefighters, has been serving the community for over fifty years with volunteers. In order to keep that great tradition alive we constantly need new and eager members of the community who are willing to help their

neighbors. We are especially in need of volunteers in the Alexander Valley. No experience is necessary and all required training is provided by the GFPD. Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a big commitment that should not be taken lightly. People who are

interested in the District are encouraged to contact Station 1 at 857-3535 or visit our web site at geyserville-fire.com for more information about becoming a volunteer firefighter.

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GEYSERVILLE SENDS ENGINE TO THE KLAMATH

On July 31st Geyserville Fire was called along with four other departments in Sonoma County to provide a wildland engine to assist the United States Forest Service with a fire in the Klamath National Forest. During the crew's two week stay they constructed hand line, cleared brush, put in hose lays and assisted with a two-day firing operation. While the crews were at the incident a con-



tract helicopter, Helitanker 790, crashed into the Klamath River killing the pilot and co-pilot. This crash occurred about one hour after and about 100 yards from where this picture

was taken. While the crews were there, a lightning storm rolled in. The storm brought around 200 lightning ground strikes in the Happy Camp District. Once the rain stopped the crews responded to four initial attack fires with the Happy Camp District of the Klamath National Forest. The crew members had a good time, nobody was hurt and they learned a lot about different types of fire suppression tactics.

RESCUE ENGINE 6181

In March of 2004 Geyserville Fire took delivery of a new Rescue Engine. The cost, \$280,000, was paid

for by donations from you, the community. 6181 is stationed at the Station 1 in Geyserville. Since it was put into service 6181, has responded to over 500 incidents throughout the District as well as mutual aid to Healdsburg and Cloverdale. It

even covered Santa Rosa Station 3 for five hours while they were committed on multiple structure fires in Santa Rosa. The Engine is an all-risk engine, capable of handling all types of emergencies. It carries medical equipment, rope rescue equipment, water rescue equipment, vehicle extrication equipment, and equipment to fight structure fires and wildland fires in the summer.



SAVE THESE DATES

May 19th 2007 Open House at the Fire House. Come see the station, equipment and meet the firefighters.

July 28th 2007 The GVFA's Dinner Dance. Dinner, Dancing, and a lots of fun!

October 28th 2007 the annual fall colors and pancake breakfast at the Fire House



SAFETY TIPS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Change your Smoke Detector Batteries on Daylight Savings Time.

Cooking Fires are the leading cause of Fire during the Thanksgiving Holidays. Here are some helpful Holliday tips:

- Don't leave cooking food unattended
- If a grease fire starts don't use water to put it out. Try covering the pot with a lid.
- Don't Drink and Drive

Christmas Time safety tips:

- Don't buy trees that are already losing their needles
- Keep your tree watered
- Don't try and burn your tree in your fireplace or stove
- Maintain your holiday lights
- Don't overload electrical outlets
- Use only nonflammable decorations
- Don't put wrapping paper in the fire place

- Don't leave candles unattended
- In case of an emergency call 911
- On a Cell Phone in Case of a medical emergency or Fire in Sonoma County call 565-2121

Toys-for-Tots

The New Fire House is now a Toys-for-Tots drop off. Stop by between 1 P.M. and 5 P.M. Monday through Friday and drop off a new unwrapped toy in our lobby.

GFPD'S RESPONSE TO THE NEWYEARS STORM

On January 1st 2006 members of the public notified Geyserville Fire of possible damage to the Geyserville Bridge. The Fire Department immediately closed the bridge and notified Cal-Trans and CHP.



Prior to that the Fire Department responded to ten storm related emergencies, one of which required a boat. All thirty-one members of the Fire Department participated in one way or another with storm related emergencies. All members were later recognized by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for their actions. Once the flood waters resided the Fire Department's work was just beginning. The challenge was simple: How do you protect a community that the Fire Department couldn't get to?

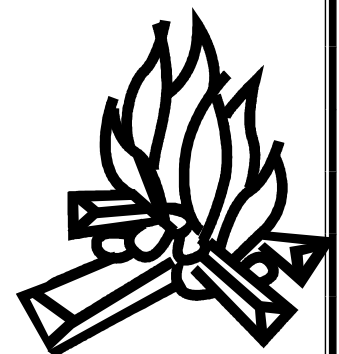
Two days after the bridge closed the Fire Department began staffing Station 2. With the assistance of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Fire Department was able to staff Station 2 on a twenty-four hour basis until the bridge was reopened on August 17th 2006. The Fire Department worked closely with FEMA, California OES and Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services in order to provide the community with adequate fire protection and emergency medical services.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

With summer and fire season winding down burn permits are starting to be issued. The GFPD does not issue burn permits. All burn permits are issued through other agencies, mostly through the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District. The NSCAPCD's phone number

is (707) 433-5911. Their office is located at 150 Matheson Street in Healdsburg. While there are many different types of permits, too numerous to talk about here, the NSCAPCD will be able to answer all of your questions or point you in the right direction. Remember that you

must have a burn permit, it must be a permissible burn day and you must call in to report your control burn. Both the burn hotline and the burn reporting line are on your burn permit. Always have clearance around your burn pile and don't leave the fire unattended.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
GEYSERVILLEFIRE.COM

WE ARE YOUR FIRE
DEPARTMENT!

This newsletter is a collaboration between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. It is published bi-annually in November and May. Is intended to provide information to the community about news and events as it relates to the Geyserville Fire Department. If you are receiving this newsletter then our records show one of the following: You live within the Fire District boundaries, you own property with the District boundaries or you have donated money to the GVFA. If you think that you have received this newsletter in error or would like to be removed from our mailing list please contact the Headquarters Station at 857-3535.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This being our inaugural newsletter we have not received any questions to answer. The GFPD and the GVFA would like to thank you for reading our newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and educate you about what

we are doing. The GFPD and the GVFA would hope that you would have questions about what you have read. If you have any questions about the GFPD or the GVFA please write us at Post Office Box 217 in Geyserville

or email us at jstewart@geyservillefire.com. Names will be not printed unless specifically requested. Please feel free to ask questions about Geyserville Fire or the fire service in general.



Make Sure that your address is visible from the Road.
We can't help you if we can't find you.