

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROTECTING WINE COUNTRY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

VOLUME XII, ISSUE I NOVEMBER 2016

20975 GEYSERVILLE AVENUE • POST OFFICE BOX 217 • GEYSERVILLE, CA 95441 • (707) 857-4373

OUR VISION

We aspire to make our department indispensable and vital to the community we serve.

OUR MISSION

To serve, lead and support the community by providing the highest level of emergency services for the protection and preservation of life, property, and our beautiful natural environment.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

2014 – 516 calls for service

2015 – 523 calls for service

2016 – 520 (projected calls for service)

DID YOU KNOW?

We installed solar panels at our Station #1 in Geyserville?

We have reduced the washing of our fire apparatus to conserve water?



2016 SAWMILL FIRE

We responded to the devastating 2015 Lake County wildland fires. This year's most significant incident has been the September 25 "Sawmill" wildland fire in The Geysers. We responded with two wildland fire engines and a water tender while maintaining staffing at Station #1 in Geyserville. Most other agencies in Sonoma and Lake counties also responded and the Sawmill Fire serves as an example of how agencies provide mutual aid to one another.



PLEASE CONTACT US

Our goal is that you know at least one fire fighter by name.

FACTS ABOUT US

Protects over 200 Square miles

Responds to over 500 emergencies a year

Station 1: 20975 Geyserville Avenue

Station 2: 6571 Highway 128

Station 3: 3970 Dry Creek Road

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HOW WE ARE FUNDED

The Geyserville Fire Protection District, as a government agency, is funded by a small portion of your property taxes. This amount was \$801,446 for the 15/16 fiscal year. The District also receives a tremendous amount of support from the non-profit Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. The Association is composed of the District's fire fighters. Together, the District and Association have been able, over the years, to fund and construct a new fire station in Geyserville, purchase fire apparatus, and provide station staffing. We do not have a benefit assessment tax (parcel tax) or bill for services. We strive to use the provided funding as efficiently as possible.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT



We took delivery of our breathing support unit that was partially funded by the 2014 Wine County to the Rescue Event. This unit provides us the capability to refill air tanks at the scene of an emergency for sustained tactical operations and carries supplies such as water



and food along with shade structures to support emergency personnel. We also received air packs that were funded by the 2015 Wine Country to the Rescue Event. Air packs are used to supply fire fighters with breathable air while being in toxic air environments. All local fire agencies now have the same brand and similar model of air units to support interagency operability.

THE GOAL OF REGIONALIZED FIRE PROTECTION

The Geyserville Fire Protection District works closely with surrounding fire agencies, including the Cloverdale Fire Protection District, Healdsburg City Fire Department, Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company, and CAL FIRE. Over the past three years, we have attempted to annex The Geysers and two other adjacent areas. Annexation has proved difficult when negotiating with Sonoma County to receive the portion of property taxes allocated for fire protection. Since our original annexation plans, the Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company has expressed interest in becoming part of the Geyserville Fire Protection District.

We are currently working alongside our Supervisor, James Gore, on a proposal to form a sustainable regionalized fire agency which may expand our current boundaries to possibly include Knights Valley, the lower Dry Creek Valley, and Fitch Mountain area. This proposal will identify the desire for additional fire stations to reduce response times and meet the demands of the future as our area becomes more populated, tourism and visitors increase, and volunteer fire fighters are not always immediately available to assist with emergencies. We hope to be able to reallocate property tax money that is sent outside of our area back to our local area to provide fire and emergency services. This will allow us to capitalize on the benefits of local control while enjoying economies of scale such as common standard operation procedures, fire prevention, shared management services, and training.

THE ROLE OF SONOMA COUNTY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services (County Fire) administers volunteer fire companies outside of areas covered by cities and Fire Protection Districts in the County, including the Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company. County Fire also performs plan review and inspections for new construction, regulates hazardous materials, and performs emergency planning in the unincorporated areas of the county. County Fire also contracts with Geyserville to respond to The Geysers and with Healdsburg City to respond to the lower Dry Creek Valley, including Mill Creek Road and Fitch Mountain. The Geyserville Fire Protection District is independent from County Fire.

BURN PERMIT

The first stop for your burn permit is the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District in Healdsburg. Their telephone number is (707) 433-5911. Depending upon whether or not there is a fire department imposed "Burn Suspension" in place, you will then need to contact us or CAL FIRE depending upon the location of where you plan to burn. Please burn safely and be considerate of where your smoke is traveling.

WHO ARE YOUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS?

The Geyserville Fire Protection District historically has had an active group of volunteer fire fighters whom either lived or worked within the District and either responded directly to an emergency or reported to a station to staff fire apparatus. Over the past ten years, this group has decreased and currently more than half do not live or work in the District. Instead they commit to assist with staffing the Geyserville fire station for a minimum of 48 (unpaid) hours per month. They are not as readily available to respond to emergencies. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us.

BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR ASHES

This is the time of year when we start using fireplaces. In addition to ensuring your chimney is clean, be careful when disposing of your ashes. They need to be cool to the touch before being disposed. This can take several days. We have seen garbage can fires and vegetation fires start from the improper disposal of ashes.

TOY DRIVE

Once again, Geyserville Fire is teaming up with the Geyserville Christian Church to make sure every child in Geyserville has a gift for the holidays. Please drop off new, unwrapped gifts at Station 1. All the toys donated to your fire department stay local.

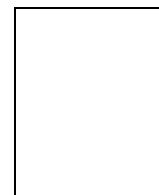
BLOOD DRIVE

Every year, fire departments hold a friendly competition called the Bucket Brigade to see who can attract the most blood donors. This year, Geyserville Fire will be hosting the blood drive on January 13, 2017 from 2—7 p.m. As always, dinner and drinks will be served to all who attend.

The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association
PO Box 1042
Geyserville CA 95441

The Geyserville Fire Protection District
PO Box 217
Geyserville CA 95441

GVFA
PO Box 1042
Geyserville CA



UPCOMING EVENTS:

BLOOD DRIVE
JANUARY 13, 2017
2:00 - 7:00 P.M.

WINE COUNTRY TO THE RESCUE
JULY 15, 2017

FALL COLORS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 29, 2017

This newsletter is a collaboration between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. It is published bi-annually in Fall and Spring. It 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 within 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 us at (707) 857 - 4373 (GFPD).

