

THE FIREHOUSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

VOLUME VII, ISSUE II NOVEMBER 2011

BLOOD DRIVE

Can you believe it's already time to gear up for the 6th Annual Bucket Brigade? With the support of over forty departments the event has grown from 650 donors the first season to over 1800 last season! Geyserville Fire is proud to be a part of the Bucket Brigade again this year. Thanks to the overwhelming support of this community, Geyserville was able to rank third in the competition with 163 donors. The fire department with the most donors takes home the Bucket Brigade trophy— help us bring it home this year! The blood drive will be from 2:30 pm to 8 pm on January 6, 2012 in Station No. 1 located at 20975 Geyserville Avenue. Appointments are encouraged. To make an appointment, go to www.bloodheroes.com & click on the "Donate Blood" tab and enter sponsor code: GFPD. Remember to bring photo ID and drink plenty of water!



Blood Drive January 6, 2012
Station No. 1
20975 Geyserville Ave.

FACTS ABOUT THE GFPD:

- Protects over 200 Square miles
- Responds to over 500 emergencies a year.
- 35 Volunteers
- 4 Full-Time Paid Firefighters
- 1 Part-Time Paid Fire Chief
- 3 Stations
- 9 Emergency Vehicles
- 50 Mutual Aid Calls a year
- Thousands of hours of training a year.

NEW RESCUE ENGINE UPDATE



Remember our "new" engine 6180? Purchased this year and put in service on April 14th, the engine has already responded to 81 calls for service, totaling more than 53 hours of use, not including training. Congratulations 6180! You are now officially broken in.

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INCREASED STAFFING LEVELS

Geyserville Fire is proud to announce that starting in August, the Geyserville Fire Protection District began 24-hour staffing of Station No. 1 with two paid firefighters. Before August, the District was staffed with one paid firefighter accompanied by unpaid interns and volunteers. Now there is always at least one full-time paid firefighter and one volunteer working a paid shift on duty at all times. The new staffing schedule allows volunteers

to work paid shifts beside full-time paid firefighters. Many of these volunteers have put in many years of experience without reimbursement and are now given the opportunity to work paid shifts. Meanwhile, the program gives new volunteers an opportunity to sharpen their skills and prepare for a career in the fire service. The primary purpose of the increased staffing levels is to take away the need to wait for a second firefighter before

responding to an emergency. Previously, there was no certainty of when a second person would show up to help staff the fire engine. Now, when the fire department is dispatched to an emergency, at least one engine can respond immediately with two or more firefighters, followed by additional apparatus as volunteers arrive at the station. In other words, we can get to you quicker!

DAM BURN

Have you ever wondered why the Warm Springs Dam at Lake Sonoma is black this time of year? In September, the fire departments of Geyserville, Cloverdale, Healdsburg, and Windsor, together with Cal Fire, burned the face of the dam. The primary purpose of the controlled burn is to remove the grass on the face of the dam so the

US Army Corps of Engineers can perform their yearly inspection of the dam surface. In addition, the burn provides a unique opportunity for the fire departments to practice fire suppression techniques with live fire. Firefighters practice cutting line (scraping away the vegetation to expose bare earth), mobile attack (spraying water from a mov-

ing engine), and firing out (lighting fire to control fire). The burning of the dam also allows the fire departments and the US Army Corps of Engineers to work together and experience the command system utilized at large incidents. The dam burn takes place every year in the late summer or early fall, as burning conditions allow.

CARBON MONOXIDE

As of July 1 2011, new legislation requires homeowners to install carbon monoxide detectors in every California home. "Carbon monoxide is a silent killer, each year claiming the lives of an average of 480 people and sending more than 20,000 people to emergency rooms across the nation," said Acting State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by heaters, fireplaces, furnaces and many types of appli-

ances and cooking devices.

The best way for homeowners to stay protected from CO is to have a carbon monoxide detector installed on every floor and outside each sleeping area. A recent study found that nearly nine in ten California households did not have a CO detector. "Having a CO detector is a small investment that really can help save your life and the lives of your family," Hoover said.

Though previous laws required only newly constructed homes to have CO alarms, the state's new Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Senate Bill 183) requires owners of all existing single-family homes with an attached garage or a fossil fuel source to install CO alarm devices within the home by July 1. Owners of multi-family leased or rental dwellings, such as apartment buildings, have until Jan. 1, 2013 to comply with the law.

Reminder: We just had daylight savings...

so now is the time to change the batteries in your Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors

LOCAL TOY DRIVE

After several successful years of toy collection for the Toys for Tots Program, we have decided to try something new- keeping the toys you donate within Geyserville. This year, all gifts will go to local families. Toys are distributed during the month of December through the Geyserville Christian Church. The sooner you can get your donations in, the better, but

we'll accept toys right up until Christmas! If you are wondering what to donate, you may want to



keep in mind that the hardest children to buy for are teenagers, especially boys, but gifts for all ages are appreciated. Please drop off new toys at the Geyserville Fire Station #1 at 20975 Geyserville Avenue. For more information, call the Firehouse at 857-3535. Thank you for helping us to serve your community!

CAN WE FIND YOU?

Can we find your driveway? Can we find your house? Can we open your electric gate? These are all questions you should ask yourself before it is too late. While we know that you don't really want to have the fire department respond to your house, you should be ready

just in case. Driveways should have the address visible at the street from both directions (we have three stations so we might be coming from a different way than you are expecting). Houses should have the address visible from the street or from longer driveways. If

you have an electronic gate, please make sure that it is equipped with a Knox key override so that we can open it in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions please call us at 707-857-3535.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT CONTINUES

Although the Geyserville Fire Protection District is no longer an all-volunteer fire department, volunteers are still a vital part of the program, and new volunteers are needed now as much as ever. The Department's paid staff consists of four full-time firefighters and one part-time fire chief, along with the recent addition of volunteers working paid stipend shifts. Our small paid staff is not enough to effectively cover over 200 square miles of area and run equipment from three



Volunteers needed in Alexander Valley to serve Station No. 2

fire stations without the help of volunteers. Over thirty volunteer firefighters supplement the paid staff, including two battalion chiefs, captains and lieutenants. The Department is constantly accepting applications for new volunteers, and all are encouraged to apply, especially those who live or work in the Alexander Valley area, where we currently have very few volunteers. Please call Station No. 1 or visit our website to apply today!

SAVE THESE DATES

Toy Drive
Now until December 24th

Bucket Brigade
Blood Drive
January 6th 2012

Open House
May 12th 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
GEYSERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association
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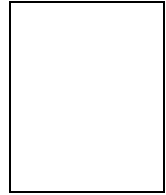
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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
GEYSERVILLEFIRE.COM

WE ARE YOUR FIRE
DEPARTMENT!

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This newsletter is a collaboration between the Geyserville Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. It is published bi-annually in May and November. 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 have comments, suggestions or comments regarding this newsletter, or feel you have received this newsletter in error and would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Station No.1 at 857-3535.

Want to find our more about the Geyserville Fire Department?
Check us out online at www.geyservillefire.com.

We have also joined the Social Network community and we are on Facebook.
Become a Fan of the Geyserville Fire Protection District

