



# NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## 2022 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

PROTECTING WINE COUNTRY FOR OVER 100 YEARS

20975 Geyserville Avenue • Post Office Box 217 • Geyserville, CA 95441

(707) 857- 4373

### WHO WE ARE

The Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District wants to be known for specializing in rural fire and emergency prevention and response. We know we cannot be everywhere at once such as during the early stages of an emergency or during a large wildfire. It is very important we do everything we can in preparedness and prevention to ensure we are ready for any emergency. The fire district continues to commit more time to prevention and preparedness than emergency response. We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership.

### Strategic Plan

The fire district plans to update its strategic plan to be an action orientated document providing guidance for where the fire district desires to be in the future with fire stations, fire prevention, vegetation management, and community preparedness. The process will include 2-3 district board meetings focused on financing, assessing needs, and exploring service delivery models. Following this, there will be a series of community meetings throughout the fire district where the community can provide input. The goal is to have the strategic plan completed by July 1, 2023.



### 2022 Accomplishments

Completed North East Geyserville Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Fire District acknowledged by CAL FIRE on its inaugural Fire Risk Reduction Community List. (<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-community-list/>)

Walling Road and West Soda Rock Lane communities obtained Firewise USA recognition.

Completed a CalVTP environmental review document in partnership with Sonoma Land Trust to perform vegetation management on two preserves in the Knights Valley.

Chief Marshall Turbeville was awarded the International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

Hosted an AmeriCorps Fuel Management Team to increase the amount of vegetation management treated. We have also been awarded a similar team for 2023.

Obtained grant funding for grazing, fuel breaks, and environmental review.

Obtained our third CAL FIRE Fire Prevention grant that funded the purchase of a D1K3 masticator/mulcher that we plan to use for fuel break construction and maintenance.



# New Positions

We added personnel to our staff.

**Internship Firefighter** - This increases daily staffing at the Geyserville Fire Station. The internship firefighter is someone who has received firefighter training but is looking to gain experience towards their fire fighter certification.

**Seasonal Firefighter** - During the summer and fall months, this position increases our staffing during our busiest time of the year and allows us to send more firefighters to wildfires and other emergencies.

**Fire Prevention Officer** - This position focuses on preventing an emergency by conducting defensible space inspections and building inspections at businesses and schools.

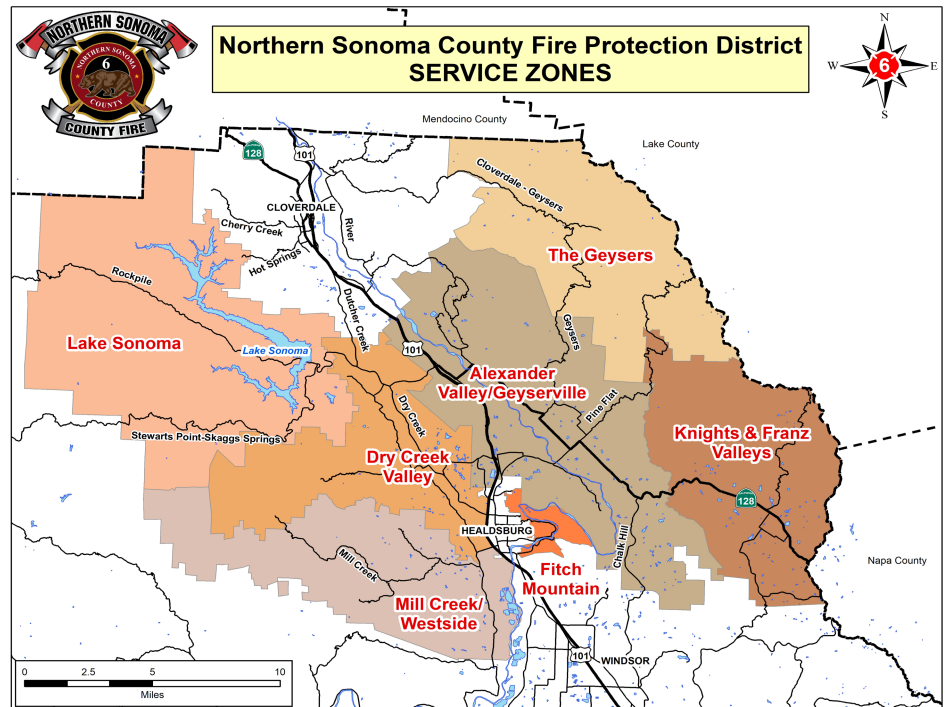
**Community Outreach Specialist** - This position supports COPE (Communities Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) Northern Sonoma County, the fire district, and Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association. We are also very fortunate to have someone who is bilingual and able to translate documents into Spanish.

**Full Time Fuel Crew Employees** - We have hired 5 full time employees to provide year round staffing for the fuels crew, augmented with part time employees whom are primarily students.

We believe that spending more time on prevention and preparedness is just as, if not more than, important than what we do during or after an emergency.

Ideally we are able to prevent the emergency from happening and will have a greater impact on the outcome by reducing losses by giving people information before they need it during an emergency.

# Service Zone Map



The Service Zone map is the geographic area of the current Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District and areas being annexed. The service zones are identified for the fire district to deliver customized fire and emergency services to each zone. Each service zone is unique for first arriving firefighters, response times, fire prevention and vegetation management needs (inspections versus prescribed burning versus both). The fire district prides itself on specializing in rural fire and emergency services and these zones will allow flexibility and responsiveness to our community's needs while not applying a "one size fits call" approach.

## The Vegetation Management "Fuels Crew"

The Fuels Crew has completed over 15,000 hours of vegetation management in 2022 ranging from shaded fuel breaks to partnering with residents for community work days. Wildfires continue to be the biggest risk to our fire district and we are committed to reducing the intensity and ember production of future wildfires. Vegetation management along roads and in strategic locations compliments defensible space, structural hardening, evacuation planning, and wildfire response.





**We cannot do what we do without your continued support.** The fire district is funded by a small percentage of your property taxes totaling approximately \$1.2 million. The remainder of our operations are funded by grants and donations to the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association.



### Helping Other Areas of the State

The fire district responded “mutual aid” to assist other areas of the State as they have responded to help us in 2017, 2019, and 2020. We also maintain our response capabilities when we send our firefighters out of the area. In 2022, we responded to the following major wildfires:

- Oak Fire near Mariposa
- McKinney Fire near Yreka
- Six River Complex near Willow Creek
- Mosquito Fire between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe

### Prescribed Burning

The fire district has continued to implement prescribed burning for vegetation management, fire fighter training, and workforce development. We have partnered with various agencies to conduct “low intensity” burning to consume logs, grass, and leaves. Several burns, during the winter months, focused on our chaparral species which tend to burn more intensely and can be safely burned during the winter months.



### Annexation

The fire district is nearing completion of the annexation process for The Geysers, Fitch Mountain, southern Dry Creek Valley, and Mill Creek Road area. This process started over 5 years ago and the fire district has remained committed to specializing in rural fire and emergency services. The strategic plan and utilization of service zones will allow us to be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve



The Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters'  
Association

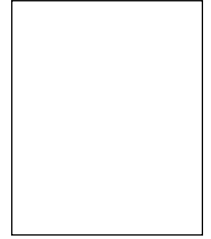
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This newsletter is a collaboration between the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District and the Geyserville Volunteer Firefighters' Association (GVFA). It is published annually in the Fall. It is intended to provide information to the community about news and events as it relates to the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District. If you are receiving this newsletter then our records show one of the following: You live within the fire district, you own property within the fire district, you are a registered voter, 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

## **Our Stations and Addresses**

Geyserville Fire Station, 20975 Geyserville Ave, Geyserville, CA

Alexander Valley Fire Station, 6571 Highway 128, Healdsburg, CA

Dry Creek Valley Fire Station, 3697 Dry Creek Rd, Geyserville, CA

Franz and Knights Valley Fire Station, 16850 Spencer Ln, Calistoga, CA

## **Save Our Dates**

Blood Drive – January 31, 2023

Fire and Emergency Expo- May 6, 2023

Wine Country to the Rescue – July 15,  
2023

Pancake Breakfast – October 29, 2023

