

Central Calaveras Fire & Rescue Protection District

Fire Chief
Jeffrey Stone

19927 Jesus Maria Road, Mokelumne Hill, CA 95245

Office: (209) 754-4330 Fax: (209) 754-3906

www.centralcalaverasfire.org



Fire Chiefs Report November 2011

On October 24th, Firefighter Debbie Grant and I assisted West Point Fire and Calaveras County OES with the final exercise for the North Calaveras CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) class. The members of the CERT team are participated in a mock disaster exercise involving a mass casualty incident at the West Point Veterans Hall. The CERT team would be an excellent resource if a large scale disaster affected our community.

On October 19th Firefighter Lee Williams and I taught a First Aid class for the Sheep Ranch volunteer fire company (social organization). In addition to members of the Sheep Ranch community, there was an interest from individuals in Mountain Ranch for training of this type. Firefighter Williams is going to assist me in setting up and offering these classes on a regular basis to the community.

Apparatus

E121 – Engine 121 is at Valley Power in West Sacramento finishing routine maintenance / warranty repairs, including the annual pump test and brake check.

E123 – Engine 123 is in service. It continues to be used and checked daily. The throttle handle on the back of the pump has broken – however the Engine remains in service. When the work is finished on E121, E123 will go back to West Coast Frame for repair. This is anticipated to be an easy fix.

E122 – Engine 122 is in service and is currently assigned to Station 4 in Glencoe.

E125 – Engine 125 is in service at Station 5. No recent inquiries on the sale of E125 have been received. It is currently listed for sale at \$9999.

P124 – Patrol 124 is in service and currently stationed at Station 2 (Swiss Ranch).

U121 – Utility 121 is in service and currently stationed at Station 3 in Mountain Ranch.

WT121 – Water Tender 121 is in service at Station 1.

C120 – Chief 120 command vehicle is in service.

Resident Firefighter: Ryan Bota starts tomorrow as a new Resident Firefighter. Ryan is a volunteer firefighter with Foothill Fire who is taking Fire Science classes at San Joaquin Delta College. Resident Firefighter Cody Stephens is returning to a regular assignment and Resident Firefighter Luke Joranstaad is remaining. Resident Firefighter Jeremy Proctor is remaining as a Resident Firefighter and will cover assignments when vacancies occur.

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West Point Fire: The West Point parcel tax for fire protection passed by a strong majority (82%). I have asked Chief Carroll and Chief Cavalli to ask each of their respective boards to appoint a committee for the purpose of meeting and discussing ways that Central Fire, West Point Fire, and Mokelumne Hill could share resources and provide more-cost effective communities. Our Board should also appoint a committee for that purpose.

Facilities:

The crews have done clean up and brush removal at the Water Tank sites in Mountain Ranch, Baker Riley Rd. and on Worden Rd. We have a large brush pile on Worden Rd that needs to be burned. We will do this after Monday once open burning commences and a special permit is no longer needed from CalFire. We will also do some training at this point and do some hose lays up to the tank so we can make sure that the tanks are full.

Station 4: Most of the surplus property has been removed from Station 4. The old standby generator has been sold – the buyer has paid for the generator and we are working out arrangements for it to be picked up. Director Soria assisted with a trip to the dump and the recycling center. The gutter was repaired with the assistance of San Andreas Fire and their Truck Company. We had a very good training session with an orientation on working on the ladder truck and our firefighters had an opportunity to climb and work on the ladder.

Fire Chief's Meeting:

The Fire Chief's Association is supporting the Calaveras County Resource Connection Toys for Tots program. Toys for children ages 1-11 and coats for older children will be collected at fire stations countywide on December 3rd and 10th. We will be collecting at Stations 1 (Jesus Maria) and 3 (Mountain Ranch) on those days. December 10th is also the Mountain Ranch Christmas Parade, so I hope to have a strong showing of Central Fire volunteers on that day.

The Mokelumne Hill Firefighter's Association is also offering the reflective address signs. In addition to the standard green signs, they also are offering people a blue sign to signify that some medical condition exists and red signs to indicate that a significant hazard exists at that location.

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Fire Chiefs Report October 2011

Incident Activity:

Central Fire responded to 26 incidents in September. October has started off very busy, however, with 18 incidents so far, including 4 vehicle accidents and 2 structure fires in the District.

Apparatus

E121 – Engine 121 is in service at Station 1. It is being scheduled for routine service, including some work that will be covered by warranty such as adjusting the door and fixing the fuel gauge. Approval is needed from HME and International and our HME point of contact, George Goolsby is going to assist with transporting the apparatus to/from Sacramento.

E123 – Engine 123 is in service. It has been used daily. There was one small water leak identified but it was easily rectified by tightening a connection and has not reoccurred. Engine 123 is going to remain at Station 1 while E121 goes in for service and will continue to be used and inspected daily.

E122 – Engine 122 is in service and is currently assigned to Station 4 in Glencoe.

E125 – Engine 125 is properly registered and all of the documents necessary to show that it belongs to Central Fire have been received and filed. It is in service at Station 5. No recent inquiries on the sale of E125 have been received. It is currently listed for sale at \$9999.

P124 – Patrol 124 is in service and currently stationed at Station 2 (Swiss Ranch). U121 – Utility 121 is in service and currently stationed at Station 3 in Mountain Ranch.

WT121 – Water Tender 121 is in service at Station 1.

C120 – Chief 120 command vehicle is in service.

Rescue Vehicles: Both rescue vehicles have been sold. One was sold for \$2000 and the other for \$2500.

On September 23rd, Firefighters Luke Joranstaad and Eugene McBride represented Central Fire in Patrol 124 in the funeral procession for Toulume County Firefighter Jordan Reyes, who was killed in an off duty motorcycle accident.

On September 26th I taught a structural search and rescue class for the North Calaveras CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) and on October 3rd I taught a basic incident Command System class. Many of the members of the CERT team are also certified Red Cross Disaster Assistance team members and we would rely on this group of trained citizens to assist in establishing emergency shelters in West Point, Wilseyville, Railroad Flat and Mountain Ranch if needed.

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On October 12th Firefighter Lee Williams and myself taught a CPR class for the Sheep Ranch volunteer fire company (social organization). Next week we are teaching a first aid class. Tim Laddish, who requested and organized these classes has volunteered to be a Water Tender driver and is going to start the application and training process next week. Two other volunteer firefighters are in the application process and one other community member has offered to volunteer in a firefighter support capacity. I expect the County Training Officer's Association to announce the dates for the 2012 Volunteer Firefighter Academy next week and we should have at least two firefighters to enroll and 3 water tender operators who will need to attend some sessions for required training.

Facilities:

The duty crews have resumed weekly inspections and cleaning of the stations.

The 8kw standby generator at Station 1 for the office / crew quarters is permitted, installed and functioning.

The booster pump for the water tanks at Station 1 is not working. Initially the problem was believed to be electrical as the initial problem was the breaker being tripped when used. This occurred just a few days after generator was installed. Gasper electric (who installed the generator) came out and determined that the problem was unrelated to the generator installation. The start capacitor was also changed and ruled out as the problem. Gasper electric removed the motor and started the process of finding a replacement. I retrieved the motor from Gasper electric today and I am going to get a second opinion / quote from Pumpco.

AFG Grants:

We applied for two FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grants. One grant, for \$90,000, is for Structural firefighting PPE such as turnout pants and coats, helmets, boots, etc. If we were awarded this grant we would be able to purchase 30 sets of turnouts for our firefighters that would be compliant with the latest NFPA standards. If received, Central Fire would have to match 5% or \$4500.

The second grant applied for was for the purchase of a Type 2 engine to replace Engine 122 and E125. The replacement engine would comply with the latest NFPA safety standards. The amount requested was \$350,000 and Central Fire would have to match 5% or \$17,000.

Fire Chief's Meeting:

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The Accountability Boards being purchased by the Fire Chief's Association are no longer available in the configuration that was desired by the Chief's Association. It is unknown when these will be available. Central Fire will continue to use their own Accountability System.

CalFire downstaffing: CalFire is starting the downstaffing process. On October 15th, the fixed wing aircraft will be off and on October 17th all of the 2 engine stations will be reduced to 1 engine.

Foothill Fire Chief Mike Siligo announced that he is retiring in April.

Foothill Fire is switching to 24 hour paid staffing on November 1st. They will have one paid firefighter on duty 24 hours a day.

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Fire Chiefs Report July 2011

Training: One Volunteer Firefighter completed the Emergency Medical Technician class in Murphys and successfully passed the National Registry exam. One Resident Firefighter completed the registration process for Mountain Valley EMS and is now authorized to practice as an EMT. Two Volunteer Firefighters are signed up for the Emergency Medical Technician class starting in October. This is the first class being taught under the new curriculum that adds an additional 40 hours of training.

A new training schedule started in July. Training will now be conducted one full Saturday every other month. Firefighters are also required to complete certain additional training annually. The options for completing this training include in-house training sessions, online and DVD classes that are available at the fire station as well as attending State Fire Marshall classes taught and hosted by other agencies.

Wildland Fire Season: CalFire is at full staffing for the fire season. There has not been a lot of activity due to the weather conditions. We had a small vegetation fire on the 4th of July. The cause was determined to be the property owner welding too close to combustible vegetation.

State Assembly Bill X1 29: Part of the new California State Budget includes a fire fee of \$150 per structure annually on State Responsibility Area land. The claim is that this fee is not a tax because rural residents rely on the state for fire protection. The bill requires the Board of Equalization to establish a program by Sept. 1 to collect the new fees. The Bill also requires follow-up legislation that corrects the bill and incorporates suggestions from a working group of state and local officials. The Bill faces several legal challenges and it is unclear what exactly will happen.

Water Tender: Central Fire's Water Tender is back in service. We are still waiting for the title from the County.

Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council: The County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the included Glencoe / Rich Gulch Wildfire Protection Plan was approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

West Point Fire: West Point Fire was recently notified that the California 3rd District Appellate Court had ruled against them and they could no longer collect their parcel benefit assessment. West Point conducted the required community hearings and is going to attempt to enact a special parcel tax to be voted on during the November election. If they fail to pass this tax with the required 2/3 majority, they will no longer be able to fund paid staff. This will impact Central Fire by likely increasing response times when we request mutual aid from West Point and could result in more frequent requests by West Point for aid from us.

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Apparatus: Our new Engine 123 is currently at the Fouts Bros. authorized repair facility in West Sacramento getting some minor warranty covered maintenance work done. It will be in service and ready for the fire season when it returns. C120 (Chevy Suburban) is out of service. A new battery was installed, however it still runs poorly. The vehicle will be taken to our local mechanic and assessed.

Mask Fit Testing: Our Mask Fit Testing system for ensuring that our firefighters SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) masks fit correctly and protect them in hazardous environments has been upgraded and installed on a computer that will support the newer software program. Myself and Captain Gonzalez have completed the training on how to administer the required annual testing and have been able to complete the annual testing on all but one Central Calaveras Firefighter. The remaining firefighter will complete the testing when he returns to shift from vacation.

Identification and Incident Qualification Cards: All Central Calaveras Fire members have been issued an identification card that has the mandated incident qualification information. The cards were created in-house, which kept the cost to approximately \$1.50 per card. The cards have to be updated at least annually and more frequently when firefighters attain additional qualifications.

Accountability System: Our Personnel Accountability System has been updated and placed back into service. The County Fire Chief's Association is working on a Countywide system that all of the County Fire District's can use. Our system is compatible with the system that the Fire Chief's Association intends to use.

Fire Fighter's Association: On July 6th, the members of Central Calaveras Fire created a Fire Fighter's Association to support the firefighting efforts of the Fire District. Membership is open to all members of the Fire District as well as members of the public who reside in the District's response area. A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted. These are the documents necessary to start the process of becoming a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization. The Association has already started several fund raisers (selling the reflective green address signs, Estate and Rummage sale on July 16th and 17th at Station 3 in Mountain Ranch). The community has already started supporting the Association with donations for the Rummage sale.


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