

THE CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, 2nd Quarter 2015



From the Chief:

As we move into Spring and Summer months, it is time to remind folks of some wildland fire prevention ideas that have been proven over time to keep your home safe. I truly hope we never have to put these ideas to a test but it is always better to be safe than sorry!



Chief Gregg Curry

And we need to remember to have these prevention ideas completed ahead of time and not when a vegetation fire starts and is heading towards your home and property.

You can find these prevention tips and others at our Cal Fire partner's website (www.calfire.ca.gov).

In this letter we will review what we in the business call "defensible space zones".

ZONE 1

Zone 1 extends 30 ft out from your home and other buildings on your property to include decks, etc:

- Remove all dead plants, grass, and weeds (vegetation);
- Remove all dead leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters;
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees;
- Remove dead branches that hang over your roof. And keep branches ten feet from your chimney;
- Relocate exposed woodpiles outside of Zone 1 unless they are completely covered in a fire resistant material;

- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows;
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks;
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs, and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, swing sets, etc.

ZONE 2

Zone 2 extends 30 to 100 feet from buildings and other structures:

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a four inch maximum height;
- Create a horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees;
- Create vertical spacing between grass shrubs and trees;
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of four inches if erosion control is an issue.

BOTH ZONES

Zones 1 and 2: 0-100 feet from buildings and other structures:

- Mow before 10 am, but never when it is windy or excessively dry;
- Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion — especially on steep slopes.

That's about all the room I have for this quarter, but remember to please stay fire safe by following these fire prevention tips and the others found at the Cal Fire website. Please feel free to get a hold of me at cfcchief@cachaguafire.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, Fire Chief Gregg Curry

Meet Cachagua Fire:

What makes one volunteer? Is it a sense of community, or the need to give back? Is it the desire to make something better? No two individuals will answer this question in the same way, but we all have our reasons. This quarter we turn the spotlight on our two newest members, Jeff Drew and Jeff Klein, for their answers and a bit of background on each.



Jeff Klein (left), Jeff Drew (right)

Jeff Klein is our newest and youngest member, having officially joined on his 18th birthday — he will graduate from Carmel High School this spring. Jeff has been very active in sports, playing football and wrestling for all four years, earning many titles along the way as well as the nickname “Huckleberry.” Jeff has lived in Cachagua all his life and, like many of his peers, he enjoys hunting, working out, and spending time with his family, friends, and girlfriend. When asked why he volunteered, Jeff replied that “Captain Lindsey Friday told me

to come down and check out what we do. So I did and I loved it!” Jeff has brought great enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a strong back to Cachagua Fire; we all hope this is the beginning of a very long career.

Jeff Drew grew up in the Cachagua area and at the age of eight became a Cachagua Fire patient when he fell out of a tree and broke his arm. Life took Jeff on many adventures, including time overseas; but the pull of the Valley was great. Some 30 years later, he is a dedicated volunteer in Cachagua, proving things do come around. Jeff remembers that the care his family received from members of Cachagua Fire was definitely a factor in his decision to volunteer, along with the desire to pursue something different and give back to the community. These days, Jeff is a heavy equipment operator with a wife and son. He enjoys gardening, hiking, and camping and spending time with his family.

First Quarter Emergencies:

Cachagua Fire was busy in the first quarter of 2015. We responded to 26 calls (3 fires, 16 medicals, 2 hazardous conditions, and 5 other calls). You can read more details about most of our calls by visiting our [Facebook](#) page. We typically highlight the calls for the week and sometimes provide photos from the incidents.

CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Emergencies: Dial 911