

THE CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, 2nd Quarter 2016



From the Chief:

Greetings and Happy New Year. I know it is a little late but this is our first newsletter since the beginning of 2016. We published our last newsletter a



Chief Gregg Curry

little early in December in order to have some safety thoughts for the Christmas season. Now we are moving into the spring and summer months after having had a wonderful rain year to date with more to come.

The end of the rainy season should help remind us of some wildland fire prevention ideas that have been proven over time to assist us in keeping our homes safe if another vegetation fire were to occur here in our district.

The memories of the Tassajara Fire last fall are still strong in our minds, especially for those who lost their homes. I truly hope we never have to put these ideas to the test again but it is something we have to be prepared to do. And equally important, we need to remember to have these prevention ideas completed ahead of time and not when a vegetation fire starts and is heading toward our home and property.

We can expect higher than average growth in grasses and shrubs after the spring rains. Keeping them under control will be critical to creating our safe space. You can also find these prevention tips and others at the website of our partners at Cal Fire, www.calfire.ca.gov.

In preparation for fire season, I would like to review what we call *defensible space zones* and

what measures we should take to make the zones safe.

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: 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 1 and 2

- Mow before 10 am, but never when it is windy or excessively dry;

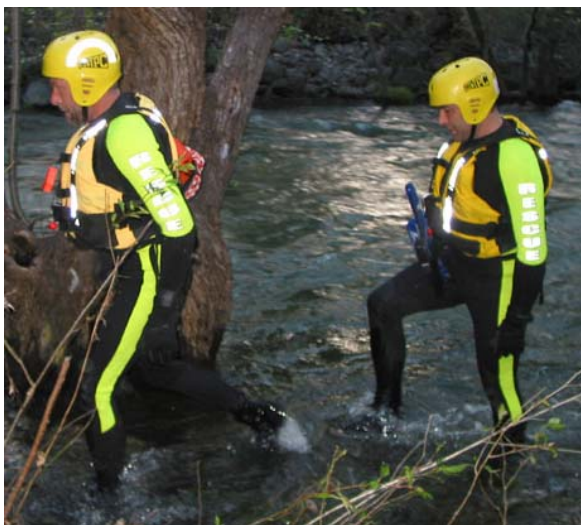
- Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near water ways to bare soil. Vegetation removal can cause soil erosion-especially on steep slopes;

Remember that fires need fuel to burn and spread. If we can minimize or eliminate that fuel around our homes, we have a much better chance of the structure surviving a wildland fire. Please look at the Cal Fire website for more information. Also remember to call 9-1-1 for any emergency that may occur. Your Cachagua Fire Department is there for you. Finally, please feel free to contact me at cfcchief@cachaguafire.com for any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely, Gregg I. Curry, Fire Chief

Veteran Volunteers Retire

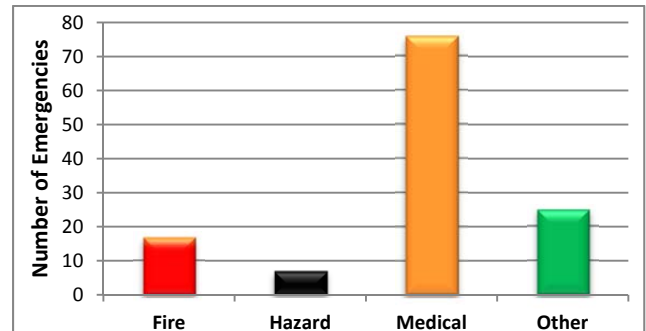
After 15 long years of service, Captain Derek Bonsper and Engineer Dane Bonsper have decided to hang up their turnouts for the last time. We salute these brothers for their hard work, dedication, and lives saved over so many years. Thank you!



Dane (left) and Derek Bonsper engaged in a swift water training exercise.

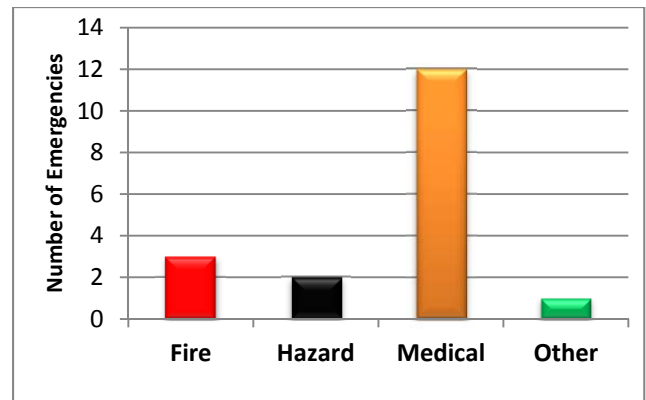
2015 Year In Review:

Cachagua Fire responded to a total of 125 calls in 2015. Despite the size and overall devastation caused by the Tassajara Fire, it represented only one of the 17 fires to which Cachagua Fire responded last year. By far, the majority of calls were for medicals.



2016 First Quarter (January-March)

So far this year there have been 18 incidents. The largest incident occurred on February 19th, when a structure fire occurred at Prince's Camp.



Thank You

Cachagua Fire would like to thank all of the donors who sent food, supplies, and monetary donations to Cachagua Fire and the community following the Tassajara Fire.

CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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