

THE CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, 3rd Quarter 2016



From the Chief:

I hope this finds everyone enjoying the summer. Thanks for your cooperation regarding fireworks during the holiday. Usually I hear a few random



Chief Gregg Curry

explosions in the afternoon and evening but didn't hear anything this year. So far the weather has been cooler than normal yet the fire danger is always there. Please continue to work on your properties to make them defensible in the event we have another wildfire like we had in September. But as you probably have realized, the work of Cachagua Fire is much more than fire. You might recall from the last newsletter that 60% of our calls in 2015 were medical responses. During the first quarter of this year, 12 of the 18 responses were for medical emergencies. With this in mind, I would like to ask you to consider the following thoughts about domestic pets, livestock, and the actual road to your house. Meanwhile I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer.

Corral those Critters!

"Flashing lights. Sirens. Other noises. Many strange people coming to the house at the same time. Something is wrong with our owner. What should we do?" These are only some of the possible thoughts running through your pets' minds during an emergency call. Because we care about the welfare of your pets as well as you, if it is at all possible, please confine your pets as soon as you call for help. We don't want anything to happen to them when we leave doors open for ease of access and we certainly do not

wish to get bitten or scratched by a frightened cat or dog. Also, please let us know as soon as we arrive if your animal is a service animal as we recognize your need for their presence and quite possibly their ability to help us help you.

As for livestock, we do not follow the rule of the west and immediately close gates when we enter a property in an emergency situation. Closing gates slows response time unless we have enough personnel to assign gate monitors. We will close all gates when we leave. Again, it will be most helpful if someone can contain the animals as soon as the emergency call is placed. However, we realize this may not be possible so it would be most helpful if you let the emergency operator know that livestock may be loose on the property. We definitely do not want to jeopardize the safety of responders or your animals!

The Long and Winding Road

I would say this is a good description of many a driveway or access road in the District! Many of us choose to live where we do because we value privacy and solitude. Unfortunately, this can delay our response to you as we decide which of the three roads behind your gate actually leads to where you are. In this case, simple directional markers are what are needed. Additionally, the ambulance crew can be new to the area and, in the summer, it is not unusual for the Cal Fire engine stationed at Tularcitos to be from out of the area. It is, therefore, a good idea to be able to give detailed verbal directions to your location from the closest main road, e.g. Tassajara, Cachagua, etc. especially for those responders who have never been there. GPS maps are great, but they have their faults. Google Maps was going to send

the Direct TV repairman to Parrot Ranch Road when the customer lived off Tassajara past the Zen Stand! Of course, a clearly visible posted number is always welcome. The better your property is marked, the more likely we will find it quickly during an emergency, particularly when it is at night. We appreciate any help we can get so we can find you, especially when every minute counts.

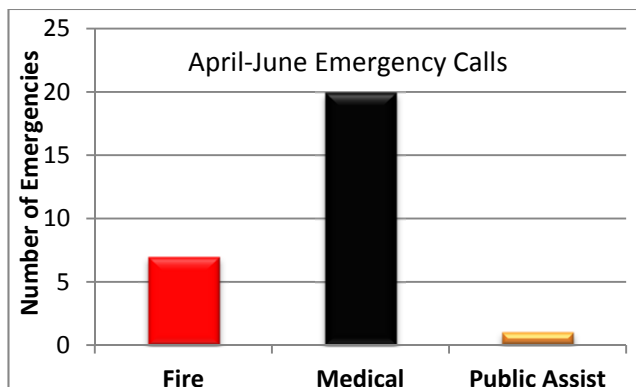
Sincerely, Gregg I. Curry, Fire Chief



California Highway Patrol helicopter H70 successfully extracted the three lost hikers and transported them to the staging area to be reunited with family members.

2016 Second Quarter (April-June)

The second quarter of 2016 saw a 55% increase in the number of incidents over the first quarter. We had a total of 28 calls, over two thirds of which were for medicals. One of the larger incidents involved a rescue for three lost hikers (a father and his two young sons) above the Los Padres dam (pictured below).



Battalion Chief del Valle directs the rescue operations at the Los Padres dam on June 12th, 2016.

Thank You

Cachagua Fire would like to thank Bill Carmichael of Big Block Realty for his generous \$2,500 donation. The Community Giving Initiative provides 20% of commission sales to local non-profits. With this donation, Cachagua Fire will be purchasing new pagers, headlamps, and other safety equipment.



Pictured from left to right: Firefighter Jesse Reimer, Captain John Goss, Firefighter Heather Curry, Administrative Assistant Felicia Fisher, and realtor Bill Carmichael.

CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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