

THE CACHAGUA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, 4th Quarter 2016



From the Chief:

Summer is over and we are now into what I hope will be a wet fall and spring. The District dodged a serious bullet during the Soberanes Fire. We lost no structures and suffered no personnel casualties. Personnel and equipment from the District made enormous contributions to the firefighting efforts of the state and federal resources. As a result, we were able to earn some badly needed compensation to help with the ongoing requirements within the District. District residents did incur fire suppression damage as out-of-area firefighting forces worked hard to protect our area. It is easy to second-guess their efforts after the fact but the alternative could have been much worse. The fire burned during almost ideal conditions from the firefighting perspective: temperatures remained moderate and winds were acceptable. It is not hard to imagine different conditions that would have produced dramatically different outcomes. If you need to file a claim for any fire suppression damage done to your property, please let me know and I will give you the contact information you need.



Chief Gregg Curry

This is a good time to bring up an issue your District and its volunteers have had for a long time concerning the location and size of our firehouse. We need more space to house the current inventory of vehicles and would be better located on the other side of Cachagua Creek. Please refer to the information, below, that bet-

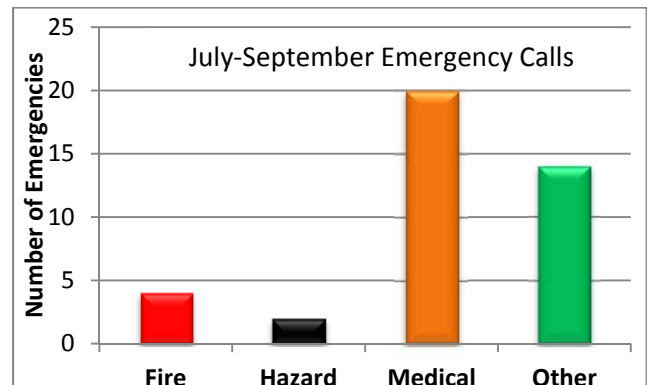
ter explains this important challenge. We welcome any and all comments and suggestions, however you would like to send them.

Thanks to all of you who marked your properties in the last few months. The strike teams patrolling our area commented on the above average number of "marked house addresses" compared to other rural communities. I know we all want our privacy and prefer to be left alone, but when the flames are approaching it is best if the strike teams can find your property quickly, especially with the limited cell phone coverage we have in the District. If your property remains unmarked, please put up a sign with your address number as soon as you can.

Sincerely, Gregg I. Curry, Fire Chief

2016 Third Quarter (July-September)

The third quarter of 2016 was a busy time for medical calls. Most of the "Other" calls were associated with the Soberanes Fire.



CACHAGUA FIRE NEEDS A PERMANENT HOME

Background: Since 1976, the Cachagua Volunteer Fire Department has made its home in an inadequate building within Prince's Camp on Nason Road. The location is centrally located to where the majority of emergencies originate within the Cachagua Fire District. The firehouse serves a number of needs, including housing our apparatus (Engines 7712, 7731, Patrol 7751, and Rescue 7761), the storage of medical and fire equipment, and a location to conduct our mandatory weekly training sessions.

The Challenge: Back in the 1970s, when we had less equipment, the firehouse served its purpose. Times have changed. We have outgrown the building such that we can barely squeeze the current vehicles into the building. In fact, we must move most of our apparatus outside to conduct our weekly meetings. Our utility vehicle is stored in a container shed outside of the main firehouse. The principal structure is old and in need of repair. We do not have a proper working restroom. The land occupied by the firehouse is not owned by Cachagua Fire and so the long-term viability of remaining on this site is always in question if the landlord decides to not renew our lease.

The Solution: We would like to build a new firehouse on a piece of land that Cachagua Fire would own. The new firehouse should be large enough to accommodate all of our critical equipment, provide a meeting room for training without having to move the equipment outside, house a fully functioning restroom, contain a public meeting room, and provide other basic conveniences like running water and heat. We are now looking at alternatives to help ensure we can continue to provide the quick response you deserve. We welcome any thoughts or suggestion from the community on how we might achieve our goal of finding a new site and building a new firehouse at that location.



Cachagua Fire volunteers train each week in an outdated and undersized firehouse.



Vehicles need to be moved out of the firehouse in order to allow room for training. Storage is at a premium and equipment is stored on the floor alongside emergency vehicles.



The Cachagua Fire Firehouse sits among mobile homes and trailers within Prince's Camp on land not owned by Cachagua Fire. Because the firehouse is at capacity, a temporary storage unit is used to store extra gear, including our 6-wheel offroad utility vehicle (Utility 7791) used for back-country rescues and fires in inaccessible locations.