

Fire Line

Spring 2008

News from Your Emergency Service Provider

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District



Serving Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, Diablo, San Ramon, Southern Morgan Territory, and Tassajara Valley

Protect Your Home & Community from Wildfire

Spring is upon us and that means fire season is just around the corner. With the images of the fires last summer still present in our mind, it is imperative that we look at our own community and begin to take steps to reduce the fire hazard in the San Ramon Valley.



As our hillsides turn a golden brown, the risk of wildfire exists not only for property owners, but for our community as a whole. Wildfires often begin unnoticed, and can spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and homes. At right are a few simple things you can do to prevent wildfires and promote fire safety in our community.

It is the responsibility of each property owner to ensure their property is fire safe and complies with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District's Exterior Hazard Abatement Standards.

For a copy of the District's Standards, please visit our website at www.srvfire.ca.gov or call 925-838-6600. **LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE.**

Fire Prevention TO DO List

- Install smoke detectors in each level of your home, and check them monthly.
- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it. Plant fire-resistant shrubs and trees. For example, hardwood trees are less flammable than pine, evergreen, eucalyptus or fir trees. For more information on fire-resistant landscaping visit www.firesafecouncil.org/education/landscaping
- Use fire resistant or non-combustible materials on the roof and exterior of all buildings.
- Clear all flammable vegetation such as dry grass over 4 inches in length or dry weeds from around your home (100 ft. safety zone).
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Ask the power company to clear branches away from power lines.
- Place fireplace and grill ashes in a metal bucket with a tight fitting lid. Place the bucket outside and away from combustibles. Soak the ashes in water for at least two days, then properly dispose of them.
- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings and ignition sources.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away from your home.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Keep matches and lighters out of their reach.
- Plan escape routes away from your home – by car and by foot.
- Make sure fire vehicles can get to your home; clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your address.

In the spirit of our tradition, we strive for excellence, respectfully serving all with pride, honor and compassion.

2-1-1

People know to call 9-1-1 for emergencies,

4-1-1 for directory assistance, and 5-1-1 for traffic information. Now you can dial 2-1-1 to find out about all kinds of health and social services that exist in our communities.

Every day someone in the San Ramon Valley needs essential health services information – from finding an after-school program to securing adequate care for a child or an aging parent. Faced with a dramatic increase in the number of agencies and help-lines, people often don't know where to turn. In many cases, people end up going without these necessary services because they do not know where to start. 2-1-1 helps people find and give help.

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. Whether you need help or want to help, 2-1-1 Contra Costa is the place to start. Just by dialing 2-1-1 from any local prefix, you can access information for approximately 2,500 health and social services available to area residents.

2-1-1 is a national, toll-free, three-digit phone number. Calls are answered live 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by trained information and referral specialists. In Contra Costa County, 2-1-1 service is provided by the Contra Costa Crisis Center.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Protection from Wildfires	1
2-1-1	2
Hazard House	2
Construction Projects	3
CERT	4
Fire Weather Flags	4
Get Prepared	5
Emergency Numbers	5
100 Club	5
CPR & AED	6

Photos throughout newsletter
by Lucas Hirst

New High-tech Hazard House® Purchased with Grant Money



Kelly Beloit, Community Relations Manager of Fireman's Fund presents grant check to Board Member Ken Sandy, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, among children age 14 and under, an estimated 2,800 are injured and 850 killed each year in residential fires nationwide.

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is working to reduce fire injuries in our valley by adding a new high-tech tool to our fire safety education program thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

The grant is part of a nationwide program called Fireman's Fund Heritage® which is funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire agencies.

San Ramon Valley Fire has used this money to purchase a new Sparky's® Hazard House®. Standing roughly four feet high and seven feet wide, it is a four-story house that simulates various dangers found inside the home, including fire and kitchen and slip hazards. There are various special effects that help to illustrate the dangers in the home; these effects include simulated smoke, electrical fire sounds, hot doors, lighted exit ways, beeping smoke alarms and much more.

The Hazard House is a wonderful, interactive teaching tool for children and adults in our community. The house has become the focus of our third grade curriculum and will travel to each school in the District. In addition to the school programs, the Hazard House will be utilized for senior education and preparedness programs for adults with special needs. Over 3000 adults and children will have the opportunity to experience the Hazard House presentation each year. This new educational tool makes learning fun and easy while it effectively raises awareness about common household hazards.

San Ramon Valley Fire Board of Directors accepted the generous donation from Fireman's Fund at the November Board meeting. The check was presented by Kelly Beloit, Community Relations Manager with Fireman's Fund. During the presentation Ms. Beloit stated, "Education is a key component to reducing fire injuries and we're hopeful this new, interactive device will make a difference." The District is excited to have this new teaching tool and looks forward to utilizing it for years to come.

District Breaks Ground on Two Construction Projects

Station 31 Apparatus Storage and Sound Wall

Fire Station 31 at 800 San Ramon Valley Boulevard has served the Town of Danville, areas of Alamo, and northern portions of San Ramon since 1971. Station 31's current daily staffing is 2 Fire Companies (3 Firefighters per company), 1 Ambulance Company (2 Firefighter/Paramedics), 3 Dispatchers and 1 Battalion Chief. In 1991, this station underwent a major remodel to address upgrades pertaining to seismic building standards. Once again the building and station property is receiving a needed upgrade enabling the facility to be a valuable resource for the future.

Early in 2008, the District broke ground on a highly anticipated project to construct a building for the District's Communication Support Vehicle, which was placed in service in 2004. This vehicle serves as a back-up to the Dispatch center if needed. The apparatus storage building will also contain a reserve fire engine and a command vehicle. The apparatus storage building is slated to be complete by July 1, 2008.

In addition to the apparatus storage building, the District is constructing a Sound wall at Station 31. Twenty-four hour noise and debris has been an ongoing issue at this Station. Sound in the apparatus room was measured at 77 decibels. To put this in perspective, a measurement of 75-80 decibels is considered medium factory noise. The constant noise is due to heavy trucks and cars traveling on Highway 680, which is just 20 feet away from the Station. Currently, very little buffer is provided, making it difficult to communicate effectively when working outside. The Sound wall will not only absorb most of the noise, but will also serve as a retaining wall for erosion.



Participating in the ground-breaking ceremony for Station 36 were (left to right): Administrative Services Director Robert Leete, Fire Chief Craig Bowen, Board Member Roxanne Lindsay, Board President Thomas M. Bonghi, Board Member Jennifer Price, Board Member Ken Sandy, Alan Altura of Altura, Nelson & Co., Assistant Chief Steve Hart.

The builder for this project is Aztec Consultants of San Ramon.

Station 36 Alamo Creek

Construction is underway for the relocation of Fire Station 36. The new station is being built at 2001 Lusitano Street, at the eastern end of Blackhawk, adjacent to Camino Tassajara Road. As mentioned in previous Fire Line articles, the new Station 36, designed by ATI Architect and Engineers, incorporates a Spanish Revival-California Heritage style that will blend in with the surrounding neighborhood.

The Station is a single-story, 7,000 square foot building which will support 1 Fire

Company (Captain, Engineer and Firefighter/Paramedic). The Station will also have two large apparatus bays with the ability to expand in the future, if necessary. Not only will this Station include the highest level of modern technology, design and function, it is also being built utilizing energy efficient systems and "green building" components.

The main benefit of this Fire Station relocation will be to improve response times to the more populated areas of the Station 36 response zone. The current Station will be reconstructed to support a District fleet mechanic shop and corporation yard.



The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is proud to announce that our CERT graduates are now sworn in as Disaster Service Workers. In February over 100 CERT graduates were sworn in as Disaster Service Workers.

The swearing in supports the CERT training and assures participants certain protections in carrying out their duties. This is a significant step in validating the CERT program and all the hard work done by the participants. Along with being sworn in, the graduates all participated in a confidential background check, furthering the safety and protection of everyone involved in this very beneficial program.

For CERT Graduates:

Our goal is to have another District-wide drill in the Fall of 2008. This drill will focus on refreshing skills and keeping participants updated on CERT in the Valley. Currently, work is being performed on a communication plan for the CERT program and the District plans to host communication training as well. As further validation of the CERT program, the District will soon begin issuing ID badges to all CERT graduates.

If you have participated in the CERT training and have not been sworn in please contact cert@srvfire.ca.gov.

Watch for Fire Weather Flags



New Public Awareness Program

During extreme fire weather, Firefighters will raise red triangle-shaped fire weather flags at all District fire stations and facilities in the San Ramon Valley. Flying of these flags is intended to alert citizens that extreme fire conditions are present. High temperatures, low humidity and strong winds combine to create conditions that are

conducive for wildland fire ignition and propagation. When weather conditions like these reach critical levels we all need to take extra precautions.

It is hoped that the flags will bring a heightened awareness and lead to the curtailment of activities and behaviors that increase the chances of igniting a vegetation fire.

These fire weather flags were created by the Diablo Firesafe Council and are part of an effort to make homes and communities safer from wildland fire. For more information on what to do when these conditions are present, you can download an informative brochure at www.diablofiresafe.org/pdf/redflag.pdf

SENIOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 31, 2008 • 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

San Ramon Senior Center

9300 Alcosta Boulevard (corner of Stagecoach and Alcosta)

2008 CERT SCHEDULE

It's time to get PREPARED. Sign up for a class today.

Listed below are the next three classes. To view the rest of the schedule, log onto www.srvfire.ca.gov/volunteers/cert.htm.

CERT Class #18 – Weekend Class (Blackhawk Residents)

April 18 Intro / Earthquake Prep / Terrorism
April 19 Suppression / Medical / Psychology
April 20 Search & Rescue / Incident Command System / Drill

CERT Class #19 – Evening Class

May 15 Intro / Earthquake Prep
May 22 Terrorism / Suppression
May 29 Medical
June 5 Light Search and Rescue
June 12 Psychology / Incident Command System
June 19 Drill

CERT Class #20 – Weekend Class

August 29 Intro / Earthquake Prep / Terrorism
August 30 Suppression / Medical / Psychology
August 31 Search & Rescue / Incident Command System / Drill

Get Prepared San Ramon Valley

2008 is a great year to learn how to prepare yourself and your family

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is proud to announce three new classes that are FREE to the community. Classes are held at the District's Administration office at 1500 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. To register email Kim French at kfrench@srvfire.ca.gov, or call Joyce Castro at 925-838-6688.

Community Fire Extinguisher Training

Portable fire extinguishers can save lives and property by putting out and containing small fires. Residents of the San Ramon Valley are invited to participate in one of these free hands-on fire extinguisher training classes. Students will learn the PASS system and have the opportunity to put out a real fire. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited to the first 20 participants.

Session 1

Saturday, June 7
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Session 2

Saturday, June 7
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Session 3

Saturday, September 13
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Session 4

Saturday, September 13
11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP)

We live in earthquake country. There is nothing we can do to stop an earthquake, but we can get prepared. Join fellow community members at one of these free classes geared to help you and your family prepare before an earthquake, survive during the quake and recover quickly after the disaster. Students will learn hazard mitigation, utility control, duck-cover-hold, and tips for creating emergency kits. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited to the first 30 participants.

Session 1

Wednesday, April 30
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Session 2

Wednesday, July 30
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

New Parent Class

Babies don't come with directions. Prepare to keep your baby safe and happy with this basic new parent class. Each class will be led by trained fire personnel who will walk participants through Basic Infant CPR, First Aid, Car Safety and Home Safety. This FREE class should be on every new parent's "To Do List". Pre-registration is required and class size is limited to the first 20 participants.

Session 1

Saturday, August 16
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR CELL PHONE USERS

Use These Numbers, NOT 911, When calling from Cell Phones in the local area.

FIRE

**San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
(925) 838-6691**

AMBULANCE

**San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
(925) 838-6691**

SHERIFF

**Contra Costa Sheriff
(925) 646-2441**

POLICE

**Danville Police
(925) 820-2144
San Ramon Police
(925) 228-8282**

**CHP/CALIFORNIA STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
911 is correct**

The 100 Club of Contra Costa County

In 1950, a concerned citizen in Michigan, William Packer, was worried for an expectant wife of a police officer who was killed in the line-of-duty. He contacted 100 of his friends and asked for donations to provide funds for the fallen police officer's family. This was the beginning of a valuable club that has expanded to 125 One Hundred Clubs throughout the United States.

The purpose of The One Hundred Club "is to help provide for the spouses and dependents of police and firefighters who lose their lives in the line-of-duty."

The One Hundred Club of Contra Costa County was formed in 1984 by a group of citizens concerned about the

welfare of families of peace officers and firefighters killed as a result of and while in the line-of-duty in Contra Costa County.

When a line-of-duty death occurs, \$15,000 is presented to the family of any public safety officer's within 48 hours after his or her death. The Club continues to assist the surviving spouse and to help care for any children until they attain the age of eighteen or until remarriage of the spouse. In addition, scholarships are offered when appropriate.

Membership dues and other contributions finance the Club. For membership or other information, contact Roxanne Lindsay (925) 352-7704, or Don Theile (925) 837-3344.

CPR and AED Awareness Update: Every Second Counts

Four years ago, in the month of March, representatives from the Fire District, Police Departments, San Ramon Regional Medical Center, the business sector and citizens living in the San Ramon Valley met to discuss a new program to improve Public Safety and the quality of life in our community. It was the first meeting of the **San Ramon Valley Public Access Defibrillation Community Partnership**, called the PAD Committee for short. The primary purpose of this committee has been to increase public awareness of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and to increase public access to these life-saving devices.

In the United States, there are at least 300,000 victims of sudden cardiac arrest every year. A staggering 95% of these Americans will die because not enough people are trained in CPR and even fewer have access to an AED. It doesn't have to be that way. Four years ago there were fewer than a dozen AEDs in the San Ramon Valley. We now have more than 150 of them – in many public places, police vehicles, churches, the school district and an increasing number of businesses.

Will the time saved by using an AED really make a difference?
Evidence has shown that a person's

chance of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest decreases by 10% with each passing minute. The importance of including AED awareness and access in the disaster preparedness efforts for our community has been recognized by the Citizens Corps Council. The Council recently approved including the PAD program as an official sub-committee.

The United States Congress has also recognized the need to increase public access to AEDs and the importance for all Americans to learn CPR. Last December, the legislation designated the first week in June as the "National CPR and AED Awareness Week." It is a simple fact – the more we can do to educate our community on how to do CPR and operate AEDs, the more lives we can save. It is time to take the next step. Every second counts.

For more information on the Public Access Defibrillation Community Partnership contact Andy Swartzell at the Fire District: (925) 838-6618 or e-mail: aswartzell@srvfire.ca.gov

Fire Line

Published semi-annually by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District as a public service to the residents of our District.

Board of Directors

Thomas M. Bongj • Nick Dickson • Roxanne W. Lindsay
Jennifer G. Price • Kenneth W. Sandy

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Asst. Chief, Support Services	Steven J. Hart
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Division Chief, Fire Marshal	Rick D. Terry
Division Chief, Training	Derek K. Krause
Special Ops. Battalion Chief	Mike Picard
Newsletter Coordinator	Susan F. Brooks

www.srvfire.ca.gov

Phone Numbers

Business Office **(925) 838-6600**
CPR Class Information
Fire Prevention
New Construction
Permits & Inspections
Weed Abatement

Dispatch (Non-emergency) **(925) 838-6640**
Street Information

Emergencies from cell phones **(925) 838-6691**

Emergencies DIAL 911



San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
1500 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583

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Let's Make Fire Safety a Year-Long Practice in our Homes and Communities