

Fire Line

Fall 2007

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

Homes Burn. Do You have a Fire Escape Plan?

Now is the Time to Plan and Practice Your Home Fire Escape

Many people and families follow a series of items on a schedule or a to-do list to keep things running smoothly. Sound familiar? There is one item that should be marked *Must Do Now!* That item is to plan and practice a home fire escape. Unlike many things that can get postponed for a day or two with little consequence, planning and practicing your home fire escape simply is not one of them.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, there were 381,000 home fires that occurred in the United States in 2005, and 3,030 people died in those fires. That's one person every three hours. Does preparing for escape still sound like something that can be put off for another day?

It's time for you and your family to get ready for the very real possibility that a fire can occur in your home. Being prepared to escape from your home quickly is extremely important.

This year, October 7-13 is Fire Prevention Week, and this year's theme is "Practice Your Escape Plan." What better time to remind San Ramon Valley residents that the time is NOW to make a fire escape plan and practice it?

For more information visit:

www.firepreventionweek.org

www.sparky.org

www.srvfire.ca.gov

or contact the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Fire Prevention Division at (925) 838-6611.



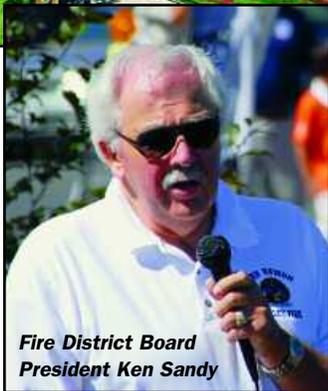
According to the National Fire Protection Association, there were 381,000 home fires in the United States in 2005, and 3,030 people died in those fires.

What You Need To Do Right Now

- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home and have one inside each sleeping room and outside of each sleeping area.
- Test smoke detectors at least once a month.
- Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.
- Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household.
- Determine if anyone in your family may not awaken to the sound of the smoke detector and plan to wake them.
- Practice using the plan, at least twice a year. If everyone knows that everyone else is ready to exit quickly, no one will lose precious time trying to help someone who doesn't need help.

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

FIRE TRUCK PARK Opens in San Ramon



*Fire District Board
President Ken Sandy*

On August 18th, Fire Truck Park in San Ramon opened with beautiful weather and a large, enthusiastic crowd. Over 1,000 residents attended the opening ceremonies at which Fire District Board President Ken Sandy and San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson released a ceremonial red ribbon from atop two out-stretched aerial ladders marking the official park opening.

Children swarmed the fire department themed play structures, participated in hula-hoop contests, had their faces painted, laughed with Scooter the Clown and played parachute games on the large lawn. The smiling

crowd also enjoyed fresh-popped Kettle Corn and frozen Jamba Juice smoothies while collecting opening day souvenirs.

A fire safety theme has been incorporated into many design elements of the park including the playground equipment, artwork, and landscaping. Fire Truck Park has several interesting art features and public art pieces. Most notable is the seat wall that separates the sand area from the play structures. The side of the wall that faces the sandbox contains sixty unique tiles that were created by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District firefighters, staff and their families. Other art pieces in the park include a bronze fireman statue and a fire hose sculpture.

Fire Truck Park is located at Arlington Way and Halifax Way in the Windemere community of San Ramon.

New! Senior Smoke Detector Program

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is proud to announce a new smoke detector program aimed at seniors in our community. The San Ramon Valley Presbyterian Church's "Building Bridges" Project, in conjunction with the District's Fire Prevention Division, is striving to help seniors maintain their smoke detectors.

October 20, 2007 was chosen as the day for teams from "Building Bridges" to visit the homes of seniors to change batteries in existing smoke detectors and replace smoke detectors that are over 10 years old. This service is free to the community.

If you, or someone you know, needs batteries in a smoke detector changed or a smoke detector replaced, "Building Bridges" is a program that can help. If you are in time for this year's event and would like to participate, call (925) 543-7772 or email info@srpc.org. The program will be held annually, so if you missed it this year, watch for advance news of the program next year.

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

Check your smoke detector once a month and change your batteries twice a year. The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District would like to remind all our residents to change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time on November 4th.

For more information, visit our website at www.srvfire.ca.gov.

Joyce Castro

Joyce Castro
Fire Prevention
Specialist

San Ramon Valley
Fire Protection
District



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*Photos throughout newsletter
by Lucas Hirst*

The Value of Mutual Aid



Have you ever been listening to a newscast and heard a reporter say “1,000 firefighters are now on the fire line” or something similar and wondered where all those firefighters come from? In many cases local San Ramon Valley firefighters are included in those numbers. In a sophisticated and well-coordinated mutual aid system the Fire District, along with other fire agencies up and down the State, provide the apparatus and personnel to battle California’s largest fires. Since it would be impossible for any one agency to afford the resources required to fight occasional fires of this magnitude, cooperative agreements which provide immediate assistance in the time of need are crucial.

The mutual aid system strives to guarantee that when an incident is beyond the capability of local resources, additional help is immediately available. It also provides backup protection for times when there are more calls for service than local resources available. With this in mind, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is a strong advocate and active participant in this model statewide mutual aid system.

District Firefighters Helped Battle Fires Up and Down the State

In July of this year, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District sent two wildland fire engines, each with four firefighters, along with two Chief

Officers and a Safety Officer to the Zaca Fire located 15 miles northeast of Buellton, in Santa Barbara County. In August, the District sent three wildland fire engines to the Tar Fire located nine miles southwest of Avenal, in Fresno County. And in early September, two wildland fire engines, a Division



Supervisor, and an Incident Dispatcher were sent to the 47,000 acre Lick Fire in Henry Coe State Park, east of Gilroy. Also in September the District sent a Safety Officer to the Stevens Fire near Colfax.

The “mutual” benefit of mutual aid cannot be overstated and the Fire District has received its share of assistance this year as well. In July, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District units responded to several fires where CAL FIRE air attack resources assisted District crews. (CAL FIRE is the new name for a familiar agency – the CDF, i.e. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.)

These joint firefighting efforts included a 12-acre fire in Magee Ranch that threatened homes on Leaffield Road, and a 70-acre fire on the Brown Ranch in Collier Canyon. In the photo above, you can see a CAL FIRE aircraft making a retardant drop on a 25-acre vegetation fire on Morgan Territory Road. In September, CAL FIRE aircraft made retardant drops in support of Fire District ground forces protecting homes

around a 10-acre grass fire on Johnston Road near Camino Tassajara.

CAL FIRE also assisted the Fire District on the ground with fire engines and hand crews on several incidents this year, including a 6-acre vegetation fire on Ashbourne Circle in San Ramon and on a 2-acre fire on the Remington Loop fire trail in Danville.

Partnering with Neighboring Agencies

In addition to the statewide mutual aid agreement, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District also employs a wide range of mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire agencies. Anytime a significant fire or other emergency occurs within the local communities that

require more resources than this District can immediately provide, additional emergency response units can be requested from Alameda County, Contra Costa County, East Bay Regional Parks and beyond, if necessary.

Fire District personnel also hold several key positions on the East Bay Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT is deployed to provide high-level command and staff support for positions such as Logistics and Operations on large, complex incidents in Alameda and Contra Costa County. In July, five Fire District IMT members were dispatched to a vegetation fire on the Holland Tract in Knightson and three IMT members assisted on a 20-acre vegetation fire in Crockett. On both of these incidents the Fire District also provided a staffed communication support unit.

This method of providing fire and medical services during large scale emergency events has been a long-standing and successful approach to providing needed resources in a cost effective manner.



Are You Part of It?

If you have not signed up for a Community Emergency Preparedness

Class, now is the time! The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (serving the communities of Alamo, Blackhawk, Danville, Diablo, San Ramon, Southern Morgan Territory, and Tassajara Valley) in partnership with the City of San Ramon, the Town of Danville, and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District has been offering the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program for over one year. CERT provides education regarding disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area while training citizens in basic emergency response. Participants develop skills in areas such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The goal is to train a large cross section of the community on how to care for themselves, families, and co-workers for 5-7 days after a disaster. In the past year, more than 300 people have been trained in the San Ramon Valley. You could be part of this new and exciting program. Our website provides more information, including a schedule of classes (www.srvfire.ca.gov/volunteers/cert.htm) The 2008 schedule will be posted in November of this year.

CERT Disaster Drill

On May 5, 2007, CERT members held their first Disaster Drill in the San Ramon Valley. Over 100 community volun-

teers and staff from the Town of Danville, the SRVFPD, the City of San Ramon and the SRV Unified School District participated in the event at the Iron Horse Middle School. The drill emphasized the use of the emergency Incident Command System (ICS), disaster medical operations and updating response skills. Adult and student volunteers were made-up to simulate disaster victims and CERT members reacted to and treated them in accordance with their training. It was a successful event as the community moved forward to becoming more prepared for and resistant to natural and man-made disasters.

San Ramon Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair

On September 15th, a collaborative effort took place between the SRVFPD, the SRV Unified School District, the City of San Ramon, the Town of Danville and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The second annual San Ramon Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair brought thousands of people together to get prepared. There were free emergency prep classes, mobile pet licensing and shots, plus microchipping of pets. 72-hour emergency kits were handed out free to the first 300 people in attendance. Personnel and equipment at the display included fire trucks, ambulances, search and rescue crews, and a safety house to tour. If you were able to attend this exciting event, you know how valuable the information, training and displays were. The event will be held annually to bring agencies and citizens together to get prepared. If you could not attend this year's event, we hope to see you in the future.

Fire District Introduces



New service helps residents provide vital information to the Fire District during emergencies.

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District has recently implemented a new service designed to enhance the way residents can provide information to our dispatch center during emergencies. Calling 9-1-1 and communicating effectively during an emergency can be challenging. The new service, called SMART911, enables 9-1-1 callers to automatically provide pre-prepared medical and personal information to Fire District dispatchers in an organized and thorough manner.

Users subscribe to the SMART911 service via the Internet and enter information about their home and family that they want the Fire District to have on file for use when they dial 9-1-1. Typically, information includes medical histories, special need occupants, property access issues, and emergency contact names and numbers. When a SMART911 subscriber calls 9-1-1 their previously entered information is automatically made available to Fire District dispatchers. Our emergency communications center staff can then use the information to inform and assist responding personnel.

SMART911 is a private company working in partnership with the Fire District. Participation in the SMART911 program is voluntary and optional. Subscribers individually decide what information to include in their household profile. Subscriber information is maintained in a secure manner to protect the privacy of residents using the service. There is a nominal fee for the service starting at \$2.20 per month. For additional information or to register for the service, go to www.smart911.com.

Local Heroes Receive Awards

On Friday, June 8th, Fire District paramedics were dispatched to a possible swimming pool drowning in the Blackhawk community. When the crews arrived they learned that an 18-year old lifeguard named Kim LeDuc had pulled an unconscious and unresponsive six-year old child from the pool and had immediately begun rescue breathing. The rescued child fully recovered and our crew, lead by Captain Sean Grayson, credited Kim with saving the life of the young child. For her heroic efforts, Fire Chief Craig Bowen and Board President Ken Sandy awarded Kim with the District's Life-Saving Medal at a ceremony on June 20th.



Kim LeDuc Received Life-Saving Medal.



The Fire District award can lead to other State and National recognition. Michael Venezia, an Alamo resident who received a District Life-Saving Medal for pulling an unconscious driver from a burning vehicle, was recently awarded a Carnegie Medal for "extraordinary civilian heroism".

The Fire District also recognizes its employees with two special awards: the Medal of Bravery and the Medal of Valor. The Medal of Bravery is second only to the Medal of Valor and is presented to a member of the Fire District for an act which exhibited disregard for personal safety in an effort to save another. This is considered for employees acting above and beyond the call of duty and within safe operating policies and procedures of the Fire District. The Medal of Valor is awarded to employees who have, under especially hazardous conditions, courageously risked their own life to attempt to save another. The intent of this medal is to award the truly outstanding performances under times of

duress. Employees receiving this award are also nominated for the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award.

On September 26, 2007 the Fire District proudly awarded the Medal of Valor to Fire Captain Steve Cochran and retired firefighter Fred Chapa for a valiant rescue of a badly burned six-year old boy from a tragic house fire. Since this incident occurred more than ten years ago, which was prior to the Fire District formally recognizing such feats, Chief Bowen decided to honor these two men now.



Retired Firefighter Fred Chapa and Fire Captain Steve Cochran Received Medals of Valor.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR CELL PHONE USERS

Use these numbers, NOT 911, when calling from cell phones.

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

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
911 is correct

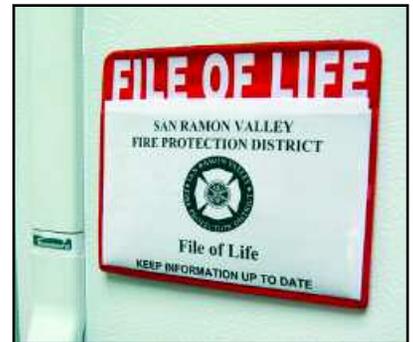
"File of Life" Can Save Lives

The File of Life program is designed to provide firefighters and paramedics with a quick medical overview when a person in need may be unable to provide critical medical information themselves. This program is particularly valuable for seniors who might be forgetful or for anyone with serious medical conditions.

File of Life program materials consist of an information card, which individuals complete, containing an abbreviated medical history (known allergies, health problems, current medications, recent surgery) plus insurance and emergency contact information. The card fits into the provided red plastic File of Life pocket, which is held with a magnet to the outside of the refrigerator in the

home. Also provided is a smaller pocket information card. This compact red plastic pocket card, approximately the size of a business card, can easily be carried in a wallet or purse. There is also included a reflective sticker to be placed on the front door of a home, which alerts emergency personnel to the existence of a File of Life inside the residence. Instructions and an informative brochure complete the kit.

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District fully supports the File of Life program and makes all program materials available to residents at no charge. To receive a File of Life kit simply visit our Administrative Offices at 1500 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon or call us at (925) 838-6600.



October 7-13, 2007 is National Fire Prevention Week: Let's Make Fire Safety a Year-Long Practice in our Homes and Communities

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San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District
1500 Bollinger Canyon Road
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Emergencies DIAL 911

Emergencies from cell phones (925) 838-6691

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

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

Phone Numbers

www.srvfire.ca.gov

Fire Chief Craig A. Bowen
Asst. Chief, Operations Richard Price
Asst. Chief, Support Services Steven J. Hart
Administrative Services Director Robert Leele
Division Chief, Fire Marshal Rick D. Terry
Division Chief, Training Derek K. Krause
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Board of Directors

San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District as a public service to the residents of our District.

Fire Line

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