

Fire Line

Spring 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

Are You Ready For "The Big One"?

Are you ready for the next earthquake? Did the 4.2 shaker on March 1, 2007 jolt you enough to get prepared? On the basis of research conducted since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and other scientists conclude that there is a 62% probability of at least one magnitude 6.7 or greater quake, capable of causing widespread damage, striking the San Francisco Bay region before 2032. This emphasizes the urgency for all of us in the San Ramon Valley to get prepared and learn to respond.

Instead of Reacting...Let's Prepare to RESPOND

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 is providing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program. CERT educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains citizens in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The idea is to train people in neighborhoods, schools and at

work to take care of themselves and their families and/or co-workers for 7-10 days.

We are proud to announce that we started our 6th CERT class March 22, 2007. There are already over 200 citizens who are trained and ready to respond in the San Ramon Valley. Whether you want to be better prepared for small emergencies or get ready for the inevitable big one, CERT is the program for you. The CERT training is 20 hours, consisting of hands-on training and concluding with a practice exercise. The next series of classes starts Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire District Administration Building. Please visit our website at www.srvfire.ca.gov for additional information.

If you can't spend 20 hours in a CERT class, please consider taking a Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) class. This class is approximately 3 hours and is offered the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Fire District Administration Building. The PEP class is

designed to teach people to take care of themselves, their family, and home before, during, and after a disaster. We can also bring the PEP presentation to your organization or business on special request. Either way, CERT and PEP classes allow you to become prepared and not become a victim.

The choice is up to YOU

Do you keep pretending it will never happen and then react to the situation, or will you take the time for yourself, your family, friends and loved ones to learn to RESPOND to a variety of different emergencies. The answer is clear...let's learn to respond together.

To sign up for CERT please contact Danielle Bell at dbell@srvfire.ca.gov
To sign up for PEP contact Kimberly French at kfrench@srvfire.ca.gov

Partnering to Prepare

CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

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

New Tiller Trucks



Photo by Lucas Hirst

Chances are good that you may recently have crossed paths with one of the District's three new tiller ladder trucks. At fifty-seven feet long and twelve feet high they are quite hard to miss. The District took delivery of the trucks in December, 2006. Presently, personnel are training on the trucks and completing the final outfitting. The tractor-drawn trucks were built by American LaFrance / LTI of Pennsylvania. Designed to last twenty-five years, they are significant new assets for the communities we serve.

These trucks replace three existing trucks that were purchased between 1981 and 1985. The new trucks have superior capabilities including a longer aerial ladder (100') with wider steps and higher handrails for safer rescues and a pre-plumbed waterway mounted below the rungs. Tiller trucks also have far more compartment space for firefighting equipment, auto extrication and rescue tools, and other emergency gear. They carry additional ground ladders and provide better emergency scene lighting. The trucks also have a fire pump and water tank for greater versatility.

The new ladder trucks are "tillers." A tiller truck has two steering wheels and two drivers – one in the front and one in the back. Rear trailer steering allows a very long truck to be nearly as maneuverable as an ordinary SUV. This significant capability makes tiller trucks particularly well suited to the District's diverse street network and challenging traffic.

The three new trucks are located at Station 31 in Danville, Station 34 in San Ramon, and Station 35 in Blackhawk.

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Did you know that this year's "Toys for Tots" program was the most successful campaign ever in our area? The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District helped the United States Marine Corps collect over 55,000 toys. These toys were then distributed to disadvantaged children. Thank you to all who helped with this very meaningful program.

New Fire Station To Be Built

FIRE STATION 36, TASSAJARA VALLEY

The new Fire Station 36 will be located at 4700 Camino Tassajara, in the Tassajara Valley, adjacent to Lusitano Street & Damani Court. This area will also be the home of the Alamo Creek soccer fields and a senior housing project. The main benefit of this fire station relocation will be to improve response times to the population in the new development of Tassajara Valley. Occupying this new fire station will be one fire company comprised of a Captain, Engineer and Firefighter/ Paramedic.

Through a competitive process, the District chose a Blackhawk firm, ATI Architects and Engineers, to design this new station. This is the first fire station project in the District since Station 30 was built in the Dougherty Valley in 2001, and the first time that the District has worked with ATI Architect and Engineers. ATI has designed a Spanish Revival California Heritage style building that compliments the neighborhood very well. The simple forms and understated accents, like the stucco walls, tile roof and wrought iron details, match many of the homes in the development. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, 2007, with completion scheduled on or about September, 2008. A San Ramon firm, Aztec Consultants, will be the construction management consultant assisting District staff with this project.

District staff worked with District Firefighters who made up an eight member Fire Station Design Committee. They researched and developed many of the features that will be incorporated into this station.

The new station will be approximately 7,600 square feet with two large apparatus bays. The plans provide for the ability to expand the building in the future, if it becomes necessary. The new station will incorporate energy efficient systems, high levels of insulation, high efficiency mechanical systems, and other

“green building” components.

Once the new station is completed, the current Station 36, which is located at 6100 Camino Tassajara, will be used by the District as a mechanic shop, an occasional training site, and a corporation yard.



Do You Know The Signs of a Stroke?

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain is blocked by a clot, or a blood vessel bursts. The blockage or rupture prevents part of the brain from getting the oxygen and nutrients it needs. Within minutes, the cells in that part of the brain will die and permanent disability or death can occur. The warning signs for a person having a stroke may be obvious in some cases, but stroke symptoms may be subtle or last only a few minutes.

In the box to the right are some of the warning signs that indicate someone is having a stroke. The American Stroke Association urges all of us to become aware of these symptoms.

If you, or someone with you, has one or more of these stroke symptoms, immediately call 911 or the emergency medical dispatch number.

Denial is a common and unfortunate occurrence in stroke victims. Don't delay! New advances in the treatment of stroke are time critical. In some cases, there are drugs that can be given to dissolve the clot in the blocked blood vessel, but some of these drugs must be given within three hours of the onset of stroke symptoms.

We hope that neither you nor those around you ever have a stroke. But if one does occur, you can help, and perhaps save a life, by recognizing the Stroke Warning Signs and acting quickly.

To learn more about Stroke Awareness visit the American Heart Association online at: www.americanheart.org or the American Stroke Association at: www.strokeassociation.org



Stroke Warning Signs

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, difficulty speaking, or understanding.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Summertime Fire Prevention Tips

Dry grass, dead trees, and overgrown vegetation can fuel a fire. As we head into the hot summer months, we urge everyone to check their property for potential fire hazards, AND ELIMINATE THEM.

- ❖ Clear all flammable vegetation from around your home, particularly any dead grasses or plants.
- ❖ Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- ❖ Remove any piles of debris.

If you are making renovations to your home or putting in new landscaping, consider fire safety as part of your design and planning process.

- ❖ Select materials that can help contain fire rather than fuel it. Use fire resistant or non-combustible materials on the roof and exterior structure of all buildings.
- ❖ Plant fire resistant shrubs and trees. For example, hardwood trees are less flammable than pine, evergreen, eucalyptus, or fir trees.

PLANNING IS IMPERATIVE to Accomplishment of Life-Saving Services

In much the same way as successful businesses operate in the private sector, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District performs its life-saving services through good planning and the achievement of measurable objectives. The District uses annual goal setting and fiscal management to address its short term projects and aligns these short term projects with the long range planning goals that are identified in the organization's Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Business Plan.

Incorporated in these plans is the District's mission statement, which broadly describes the organizational approach to service delivery. The mission statement reads: *"IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR TRADITION, WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, RESPECTFULLY SERVING ALL WITH PRIDE, HONOR AND COM-PASSION."* This statement is bolstered by four foundational goal statements that identify and define the key areas to which all District plans adhere. The four major goal areas: Service, Fiscal Management, Culture, and Organizational Efficiency, read as follows.

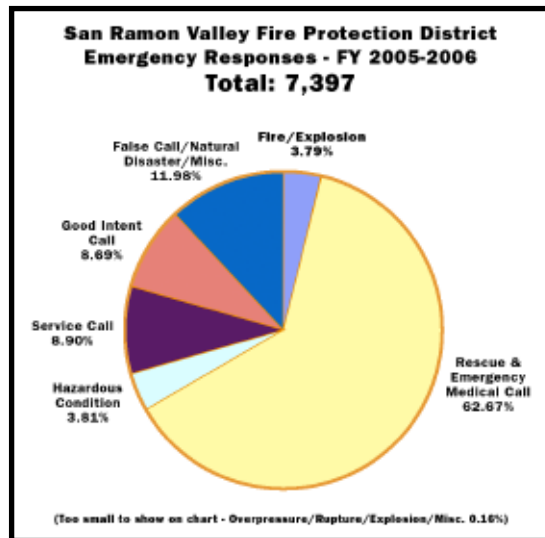
SERVICE – Provide the highest level of emergency and non-emergency services to the community in an effort to protect life, the environment, and property.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT – Provide sound and responsible fiscal management.

CULTURE – Develop and maintain a culture where all individuals feel valued, have a sense of ownership, and are motivated to continuously improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

ORGANIZATION EFFICIENCY – Ensure organizational efficiency and effectiveness in all decisions, processes, and communications.

In-depth information is detailed in the District's Strategic Plan, which was established in 2002. This Plan contains specific descriptions of measurable objectives, explaining what is to be accomplished. Carefully worded strategy statements accompany each objective describing how the objective will be met. Beyond these basic structural statements, the Strategic Plan contains task lists that serve to detail who is responsible for specific duties and by what date tasks are to be addressed and accomplished.



As has been the District's practice for the past four decades, a tactical Business Plan is also a significant resource by which the organization operates. Currently, the District utilizes a Multi-Year Business Plan that is updated annually. This Plan is a dynamic document in that it is adjusted to reflect accomplishments and changes, and is extended at the end of each budget process by adding another year of planning information. The Plan includes financial forecasts, expected expenditures, and desired goals. This Plan provides for continued enhancements that will enable the District to provide the highest quality of services as the San Ramon Valley area continues to expand and grow.



The Business Plan is flexible and evolving and speaks to the need of addressing specific organizational challenges and key initiatives such as:

- Managing Change
- Funding, Financial Forecasting, and Investment Strategies
- Government Accounting Requirements
- Anticipated Retirement and Recruitment Needs
- Diversity in the Workplace
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710
- Negotiation of Contracts
- Leadership Development and Succession Planning
- Fire Prevention's Divisional Plan Elements
- Disaster Preparedness, Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Technology, Radio, and Computer Aided Dispatch Needs
- Facility Maintenance Needs and Station Location Analysis
- Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Response Methods
- Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Response Methods
- Training Requirements
- Volunteers and Reserve Programs
- Capital Projects and Vehicle Replacement Plans

If reviewing the actual Business Plan is of interest, it can be accessed via the internet at the following address: www.srvfire.ca.gov/businessplan.pdf


Craig Bowen
Fire Chief



NEW "Fire Truck Park" to Open This August



In case you haven't heard, children will soon have a delightful new playground at "Fire Truck Park" in the Dougherty Valley. It is scheduled to open sometime this August. To learn the date for the official opening of this fun new park, visit our website at www.srvfire.ca.gov. We will post the date as soon as it is known.

Fire Line

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

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San Ramon, CA 94583



**Filled with helpful information
from Your Local Fire District**