

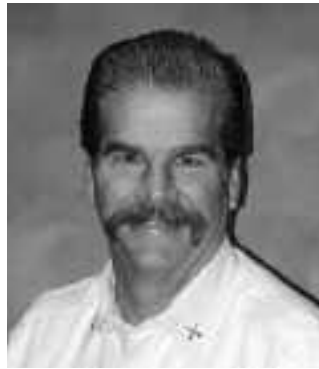
# Fire Line



*News from Your Emergency Service Provider*

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

## Key Leadership Changes in the District



**Retiring Chiefs (left to right): Chris Suter, Mike Sylvia, and Bert Byers**

Many years ago, during a firehouse conversation about traditions in the fire service, one Firefighter made an interesting statement regarding this Fire District. The statement was, "San Ramon Valley Fire's most obvious tradition is change." Given the experiences of the past three decades, that simple statement has proven to be very accurate. Through a combination of maintaining a respect for the past accomplishments that have built this Fire District, as well as a vision for taking the Fire District forward as a first-class organization providing excellent service to its citizens, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District has successfully adhered to its mission statement, which declares, *"In the Spirit of Our Tradition, We Strive for Excellence, Respectfully Serving All With Pride, Honor, and Compassion."*

Presently, an internal leadership transition is occurring within the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District with three key leaders retiring at the end of 2006. The challenge to fill their positions with experienced, knowledgeable professionals provided the Fire District with the opportunity to inter-

view many qualified candidates. We are very excited about the new additions to the Fire District's leadership team that will occur, and we are very confident that they will be instrumental in taking the organization forward and in continuing to fulfill the established strategic and business plan that guides the Fire District's direction. The leadership transition will be seamless, and the communities being served by this organization will continue to receive the highest quality of services that can be provided. However, the current change in leadership is worthy of acknowledgement both to recognize the contributions the three key leaders have made throughout their careers, and also to introduce the new leaders that have now become part of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

In November and December of this year, Deputy Fire Chief Chris Suter, Assistant Chief of Operations Mike Sylvia, and Battalion Chief Bert Byers will be retiring from the Fire District. While the retirement of these key players will be a loss to the organization, we are ensuring a smooth transition into the future by implementing a well

designed transition plan which includes organizational realignment and the hiring of two very experienced leaders. It is with deep gratitude and whole-hearted appreciation that we acknowledge and thank Deputy Chief Chris Suter, Assistant Chief of Operations Mike Sylvia, and Battalion Chief Bert Byers for the tremendous contributions they have made to the Fire District and its communities throughout their very dedicated careers.

Deputy Chief Chris Suter became a Volunteer Firefighter upon graduating from high school and was hired at the San Ramon Fire Protection District on January 1, 1976. During his tenure with the District, he has contributed extensively to the development of the critical services upon which we all depend. In addition to being a skilled Firefighter, Engineer (driver), Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Deputy Fire Chief, Chris Suter has developed a unique set of skills that have ranged from being able to operate tractors and fire apparatus, to having a level of expertise in computers, radio systems,

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and computer assisted dispatch systems that no other member of the Fire District has possessed. Deputy Chief Suter has been instrumental in initiating and implementing a program involving a communications team of volunteers that staff a Command/Communication Vehicle, which is available for emergency response throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Although he is retiring from his role as a Chief Officer, he will remain a vital part of this organization and the surrounding communities, as he enters into a new phase of his career as the Fire District's Communications Volunteer Coordinator.

**Assistant Chief of Operations Mike Sylvia** is also retiring from the Fire District this December after over 30 years of dedicated service. He too was hired by the Fire District in January of 1976, upon graduating from high school. Over the past three decades, Assistant Chief Sylvia has been involved in every aspect of the organization from training, to operational deployment, to overseeing the development and purchasing of most of the District's firefighting and medical emergency response vehicles. Mike Sylvia has been an accomplished Firefighter,

Fire Engineer (driver), Captain, Battalion Chief, and Assistant Chief in charge of the emergency operations of the Fire District. In Assistant Chief Sylvia's most recent leadership position, he has been responsible for emergency medical services, fire suppression operations, the hazardous material response team, the rescue division and its rescue team, and the District's training division. Throughout his career, he has maintained strong respect for tradition and the processes employed by the organization, yet has contributed significantly to the progression of the Fire District by implementing new approaches to the types of emergency apparatus (fire vehicles) used, methods of responding to emergencies, and a new vision for future deployment of emergency crews that has become a significant part of the District's multi-year business plan.

**Battalion Chief Bert Byers** is retiring from the Fire District in November. Battalion Chief Byers has also been a vitally important and effective leader in this organization. He came to the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District in May of 1990 after having a successful 14 year career with the Concord Police Department. Battalion Chief Byers'

experience as a police field and training officer, combined with his education, which includes a master's degree in public administration, have provided this organization with the qualities of experience, knowledge, and leadership, which have proven to be tremendously valuable. During Bert Byers' time as a Firefighter, Captain, and Battalion Chief, he has consistently exhibited the highest levels of commitment, setting a positive leadership example for his crews and effectively building relationships and teamwork. He has also contributed extensively in the development of many Fire District performance standards, policies and procedures, and various programs, such as the Fire District's Wellness/Fitness program. Battalion Chief Byers has the genuine desire to see people realize their full potential, and he has been very instrumental in enabling personnel within the Fire District to achieve that potential.

Deputy Chief Chris Suter, Assistant Chief of Operations Mike Sylvia, and Battalion Chief Bert Byers can be very proud of their contributions, accomplishments, and dedicated service to the Fire District and to the communities it serves. We have all benefited from their efforts while they have been active members of this Fire District. We will also continue to benefit from the programs they have put in place as they transition to the next phase of their lives as retired members of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. Even now, as they prepare for this next phase, it has been very impressive to witness the in-depth approach and personal interest they are taking to prepare the new leaders to take over the responsibilities. The new leaders have already begun the transition into their new roles, and, as you will see on the next page, they are very qualified and will be more than capable of leading the Fire District into a successful future.

## Renovations at Historic School



The stable and restrooms at the Tassajara One Room School (which is owned by the District) were recently renovated. Thank you to **Shapell Homes**, particularly **Steve Savage** and **Tim Wright**, who were instrumental in managing the site work. This historical site in the Tassajara Valley is visited and enjoyed each year by nearly 2000 third grade students in the Valley during the One Room School Program which is sponsored by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, supported by the Historical Society.

Craig Bowen  
Fire Chief

# New Management Team Members

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is proud to announce the appointment of **Richard Price** to the position of Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, effective in December, 2006. Prior to joining the District, Assistant Chief Price served as the Senior Battalion Chief in San Mateo County for 18 years. Assistant Chief Price has 27 years experience in the fire service and is well-qualified to lead our suppression, rescue, and medical personnel.

Assistant Chief Price has an impressive track record of community service and commitment to professional excellence. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Hayward, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Fellowship Program. He is also a certified Chief Officer through the State Fire Marshal's Office and holds a California teaching credential. A key focus of his tenure will be to assist in the professional development of future District leaders.

Assistant Chief Price and his wife have been residents of Danville for sixteen years and have a four year old daughter. Living within the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District has enabled Assistant Chief Price to orient himself to the District by visiting many of the fire stations and participating in meetings, hoping to meet all of the District staff prior to officially beginning his employment at the District.

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is also proud to announce the appointment of **Robert Leete** to the position of Human Resources Director, effective August 7, 2006. With over 30 years of Human Resources experience in both the public and private sectors, Human Resources Director Leete will be a very valuable addition to the District. He has a Degree from California State University,



**Welcome to Richard Price (left) and Bob Leete (right)**

East Bay, and has pursued graduate studies in Public Administration at Golden Gate University.

Human Resources Director Leete is a California native who was born in Palo Alto and raised in San Carlos. He has been a local area resident since 1978 and lives in Pleasanton with his wife, daughter, and son.

As the District's Human Resources Director, Mr. Leete's responsibilities will include such elements of District business as: recruitment/selection, employer/employee relations, employee benefits, performance management and employee development, compliance, and strategic planning.

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## Safety Classes Offered by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

Keeping the residents of our community safe is of utmost concern to all the members of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. In order to increase safety awareness, fire prevention, and citizen preparedness, the District offers a number of different classes. If you, or an organization you belong to, are interested in scheduling one of these classes, please contact the Fire Prevention Division (925) 838-6611.

### CLASSES OFFERED

- Fire Extinguisher Training.....as requested
- CPR.....4th Saturday of each month (contact the Training Division, 925-838-6621)
- First Aid Overviews (no certification card given).....as requested
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention.....as requested
- Business Fire Safety.....as requested
- Residential Fire Safety.....as requested
- Baby Sitter Safety.....as requested
- New Parent Safety.....as requested
- Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention.....as requested
- Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP).....  
First Tuesday evening each month
- Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).....  
Thursday evenings, starting every six weeks

### PEP Class

First Tuesday of every month 6-9pm at the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

### CERT Class #7

- 10/26/06 — Orientation/  
Earthquake Lecture
- 11/02/06 — Suppression/Hazmat
- 11/09/06 — Medical
- 11/16/06 — Light Search and Rescue
- 11/30/06 — Incident Command System/  
Terrorism
- 12/07/06 — Drill

## Emergencies Aren't Scheduled ... Preparation is Key

Earthquakes are a fact of life throughout California, and the threat of a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault is a source of much concern to people living in the Bay Area. Scientists estimate the probability of a major earthquake (7.0 or greater) on the Hayward Fault to be greater than 67 percent in the next 20-30 years. A major earthquake such as this will affect all elements of our community and will produce devastating results. Transportation, communication, and utilities may be restricted. Conditions could leave some citizens and neighborhoods cut off from basic resources and professional emergency assistance for at least 5 days or longer.

### Are You Ready?

- Do you have a 7-day supply of food and water stored at home? At Work?
- Do you have a family reunification plan for after a disaster?
- Have you searched your home and office for potential hazards?
- Do you have access to your medications and other critical personal items?
- Have you prepared for survival of your pets?

*Every person can prepare to cope with disaster by learning basic emergency preparedness and response skills. The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District offers 2 classes, CERT and PEP, to assist you, your family, and neighbors in preparing for a major emergency event.*



### Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The goal of the CERT program is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area. Classes meet in the evenings, once a week, for 6 weeks. Some weekends are also available.

#### This 20 Hour Course Is Designed To Teach:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Operations: Triage and Treating Life Threatening Injuries
- Disaster Medical Operations: Assessment, Treatment, and Hygiene
- Light Search and Rescue
- Team Organization
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism and CERT
- Final Exercise

For more information regarding CERT:  
Call the Fire Prevention Division (925) 838-6611, or  
Visit our website, [www.srvfire.ca.gov](http://www.srvfire.ca.gov)

### Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP)

Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) is available to all individuals, families, and groups and taught at your location. Residents will learn the importance of personal and family disaster preparedness and how to survive after a major emergency. The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District provides the training materials and instructors, you provide the interest and enthusiasm.

#### This 2-3 Hour Class Will Cover:

What To Do Before, During, & After A Major Emergency:








- Hazard Mitigation
- Utility Control
- Personal and Family Emergency Supplies
- Shelter in Place

For more information regarding PEP:  
Call the Fire Prevention Division (925) 838-6611, or  
Visit our website, [www.srvfire.ca.gov](http://www.srvfire.ca.gov)










# Halloween Safety Tips

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween. Use good common sense when trick-or-treating, and follow the safety tips listed below.

## SAFE TRICK-OR-TREATING

-  Make sure young children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager when they go door-to-door.
-  If you can't accompany your children, instruct them to trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood and on well-lighted streets.
-  If children are going to be out after dark, make sure they carry a flashlight.
-  Teach your children to use the sidewalks if they can. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street facing cars.
-  Know which friends your children will be with and which route they are taking.
-  Leave your porch light on so children will know it's OK to visit your home.
-  Instruct children never to eat anything until they are home and the treats have been carefully examined. Cut and wash fruit before eating. Throw away anything unwrapped. Check the wrappers of commercial treats for evidence of tampering. Call the police if there are any suspicious treats.

## COSTUME SAFETY

-  Look for the label "Flame Resistant".
-  Avoid costumes with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.
-  Choose costumes that are light and bright enough to be visible to motorists.
-  Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping.
-  Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes. High heels are not a good idea.
-  Hats and scarves should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.
-  A natural mask of cosmetics is better than a loose-fitting mask that might restrict breathing or obscure vision.
-  Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be of soft and flexible material.
-  Decorate costumes and treat bags with reflective tape.

## DO YOU HAVE THE CORRECT EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS?

Approximately 10 years ago the Fire District Emergency Number was changed to (925) 838-6691. Up until this time, in order to insure that everyone could reach this agency in the event of an emergency, the old number (925) 837-4211 has continued to work.

Unfortunately, the number retention service that has been used to retain the old number is no longer available. As a result, if you dial the old number, you will get a recording referring you to 838-6691. Please be sure to remove any of the old Fire District stickers that may remain on legacy telephone equipment and check programming of any speed dial equipment. If you need assistance or have questions please contact the Fire District Dispatch Center at (925) 838-6640.

**CELL PHONE USERS:  
PROGRAM THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

**DO NOT use 911 when calling from cell phones.**

<p><b>FIRE</b> San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District <b>(925) 838-6691</b></p> <p><b>AMBULANCE</b> San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District <b>(925) 838-6691</b></p>	<p><b>SHERIFF</b> Contra Costa Sheriff <b>(925) 646-2441</b></p> <p><b>POLICE</b> Danville Police <b>(925) 820-2144</b> San Ramon Police <b>(925) 228-8282</b></p> <p><b>STATE HIGHWAY PATROL</b> <b>(707) 551-4100</b></p>
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## Annual Senior Pancake Breakfast



On May 20th, 2006, the Fire District honored its seniors by hosting the annual senior pancake breakfast at the San Ramon Senior Center...

...and a fun-filled event it was. Firefighters volunteered their time and cooking skills to prepare a phenomenal meal for all those in attendance. Each year this event is a success, and we would like to thank all of those who participated. A special thanks goes out to **Rich Perry** who coordinates the event and energizes everyone who participates. Also, a very special thanks to our sponsor, **Safeway**, for donating the funds to purchase all of the items needed to make a great tasting breakfast.

## *Donated Buildings are Used for Training*

Do you have a structure that you no longer want? Are you planning to demolish a building in order to build something new?

Consider contributing the structure to the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (a qualified charitable organization) for use in training employees in fire suppression methods and tactics. For more information call 925-838-6620.

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



### Helpful Information from Your Local Fire District

## Fire Line

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

### Board of Directors

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Jennifer G. Price • Kenneth W. Sandy

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Division Chief, Fire Marshal	Rick D. Terry
Division Chief, Training	Derek K. Krause
Human Resources Director	Robert J. Leete
Newsletter Coordinator	Susan F. Brooks

### Phone Numbers

Business Office	<b>(925) 838-6600</b>
CPR Class Information	
Fire Prevention	
New Construction	
Permits & Inspections	
Weed Abatement	
Dispatch (Non-emergency)	<b>(925) 838-6640</b>
Street Information	

[www.srvfire.ca.gov](http://www.srvfire.ca.gov)

**Emergencies DIAL 911**