

Fire Line

Summer 2010

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

Wildfire Action Planning for our Community

Ready, Set, Go!

It is not a question of "if" but "when" the next major wildfire will occur in our area. The **Ready, Set, Go** program is designed to educate you on everything you need to know to keep your family and property safe this fire season. The program teaches about defensible space, fire-safe construction, fire-resistant landscaping, disaster supply kits and what to take with you if you need to evacuate.

Ready, Set, Go encourages homeowners to start by creating 100 feet of defensible space around their homes. This area is the space firefighters need to get between your home and an oncoming fire. Make sure this area is well maintained or landscaped. Take action to cut native grasses to less than three inches and remove tree limbs that are within five feet of the ground. Move combustibles such as firewood or dry pine needles away from your home.

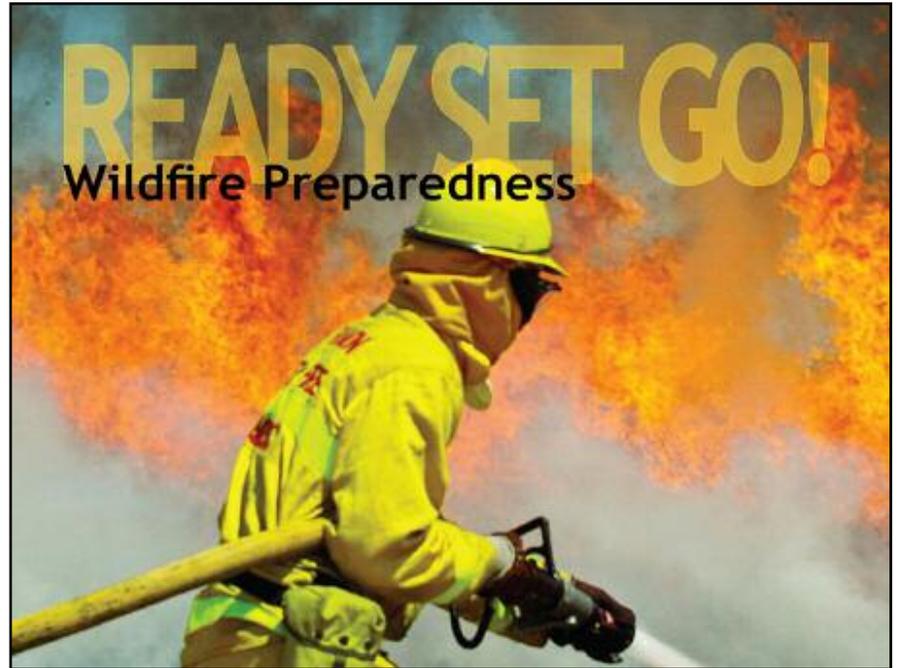
Your roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Ensure your roof and gutters are clear of pine needles, leaves and other debris. If you have a wood shake roof, consider replacing it with a non-combustible roof made to withstand heat and embers.

Confirm that your house numbers are clearly visible and your driveway or private road is maintained so emergency vehicles can access your home quickly.

Learn more - these tips along with many others are included in the **Ready, Set, Go** guide that can be found on the District's website at www.firedepartment.org/abatement. You can also set up a **Ready, Set, Go** workshop for your neighborhood group or homeowners association.

San Ramon Valley firefighters are Ready for fire season, now you and your family can be Ready too! Check out the new **Ready, Set, Go** program today.

Richard Price, Fire Chief



Inside This Issue

ABC's of Pool Safety	2
Excellence in Financial Reporting ..	2
CPR Turns 50	3
Fire Line Going Green	3
Class Schedule	4
New Ambulances	4
District Accreditation	5
Emergency Numbers	5
Website Receives Attention	5
4th of July Fireworks	6

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

Learn Your ABC's of Pool Safety

Drowning is the nation's number one killer of children under the age of five. It is the second leading cause of death from unintentional injuries for children between one and fourteen years of age. A majority of these accidents occur in residential swimming pools and spas. Preventing these tragedies is as simple as learning your ABC's.

Adult Supervision

- Assign an adult to supervise children in and around the swimming pool and spa. This is needed whether there is one adult or numerous adults present.
- Maintain constant eye-to-eye supervision with children in and around the swimming pool and spa.
- Remove children from the swimming pool and spa area when anything occurs that will distract you, even for a short time, like for a telephone call or use of restroom.
- Give the adult supervisor an item such as a whistle or a bracelet to reinforce which adult is in charge of the children in the pool area.
- Floaties or other inflatable flotation devices are not life jackets and should never be substituted for adult supervision.
- Maintain a clear view (no trees, bushes or other obstacles) from the home to the swimming pool and spa.
- Ensure any adult responsible for children in the pool area knows the emergency services telephone number and your address in the event emergency personnel are needed.

Barriers

- Have a fence enclosure that isolates your swimming pool and spa from the home, play areas, front and side yards, as well as neighboring yards.
- Make sure all gates are self-closing and self-latching.
- All chairs, tables, large toys or other objects that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable

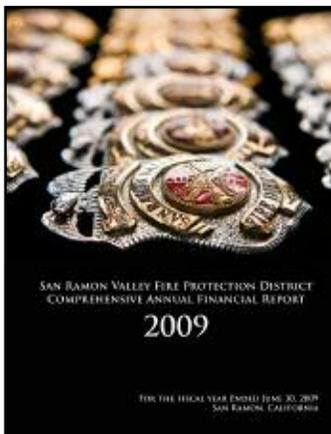
the child to climb over the fence should be removed or kept inside the fenced area.

- Multiple layers of barriers isolating the pool and spa from children should be installed. In addition to a fence, one or more of the following safety features can provide additional protection:
 - Approved swimming pool and spa safety cover,
 - Approved swimming pool and spa alarm,
 - Alarms on doors leading to the pool and spa.
- Lock all doors and windows leading to the swimming pool and spa area.
- Doors providing access to the swimming pool and spa should be self-closing and self-latching with a release mechanism high enough to be out of a child's reach.

Classes

- Learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District offers low cost classes the fourth Saturday of each month. For more information and to sign up for a class visit www.firedepartment.org/cpr.
- Purchase an at-home *CPR Anytime* training kit through the American Heart Association.
- Contact your local public pool for information on swimming lessons.

Remember, children drown without a sound....Learn your ABC's of pool safety today.

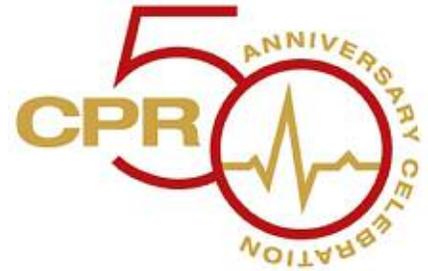


District Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ended June 30, 2009 was awarded the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. This is the ninth consecutive year the District has achieved this honor.

The District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available on the District's website under "Key Documents."

CPR Turns 50... Spread the News



The year 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most significant lifesaving techniques ever developed: **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation or simply "CPR."**

Before the 1960's, a cardiac arrest was virtually 100% fatal unless it happened in the Emergency Room. Since the advent of CPR the number of deaths due to heart attack has declined by more than half. Still, Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) claims up to 1,000 lives per day. SCA strikes people of all ages and all degrees of fitness. SCA often occurs without warning.

Most cardiac arrests occur outside the hospital, at home or work. In these settings, it is the general public that holds the key to improving a person's chance of survival from SCA. "The chain of survival starts with someone recognizing the problem, calling 911 and starting CPR," said Andy Swartzell, EMS Coordinator of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

The chances of surviving a SCA are nearly doubled when CPR is started prior to arrival of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. If CPR is started quickly, it extends the window in which other treatments can be effective. A review of SCA statistics in our community revealed that CPR was started in only 12% of the calls before the paramedics arrival. This is less than the national average of 15%. We can do better than this.

A committee has been formed to increase awareness around this very important issue. The HeartSafe Community Committee

has representatives from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, San Ramon Valley Unified School District, local police departments, the County Emergency Medical Services Agency, San Ramon Regional Medical Center, and the American Heart Association. The mission of the committee is to

Chances of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest are nearly doubled by early CPR



The San Ramon Valley HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

insure that all elements of the Chain of Survival are in place throughout the San Ramon Valley:

1. **Early Access** - Someone who witnesses the SCA recognizes that it is an emergency and calls 911.
2. **Early CPR** - Someone starts CPR quickly.
3. **Early Defibrillation** - Someone uses an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
4. **Early Advanced Care** - Professional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel provide advanced life support.

A goal of the committee is to have the San Ramon Valley recognized by the County and the American Heart Association as a HeartSafe Community. A HeartSafe Community is a community where all elements of the Chain of Survival are in place and there is a focus on improving the cardiovascular health of the citizens so that anyone suffering a cardiovascular emergency (heart attack, stroke, sudden cardiac arrest) will have the best possible chance for survival. To help achieve this goal, the HeartSafe Committee encourages residents to become trained in CPR and

the use of an AED. More importantly, by working together to strengthen the "chain of survival" many more lives in our community can be saved.

The 50th anniversary of CPR is a reminder of the importance of learning this lifesaving technique and an opportunity to increase the number of people trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Placing AEDs in public places and encouraging residents to become trained in CPR are two vital weapons in the fight against Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

For more information on the HeartSafe Community Committee and low cost CPR classes sponsored by San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District visit www.firedepartment.org/cpr.

You can also find a list of other agencies hosting CPR/AED classes by visiting www.cchealth.org/groups/ems.

Fire Line is Going Green:

To save on printing and mailing costs, and to reduce paper use, our next Fire Line newsletter will only be distributed digitally on the District's website at firedepartment.org/fireline. On the website you can also subscribe to District announcements to make sure you never miss a new newsletter.

Upcoming Class Schedule

Get ready San Ramon Valley. Check out our free or low cost community classes being offered this summer and fall. All classes are held at the District's Office located at 1500 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. For more information on our community classes, please visit:

www.firedepartment.org/community

CPR Training

CPR saves lives. Basic, infant, child and adult CPR training is offered every 4th Saturday of the month from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Early sign-up is recommended as there is a limit of 8 students per class. The fee is \$25 per student and includes instruction, student manuals and a certificate of course completion.

To sign up for training email Renee Vetter at rvetter@srvfire.ca.gov or call (925) 838-6620.

Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP)

We live in earthquake country. There is nothing we can do to prevent an earthquake, but we can be prepared. Students will learn hazard mitigation, utility control, duck-cover-hold and tips for creating emergency kits. Pre-registration is required.

Session 1

Wednesday, August 11
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Session 2

Wednesday, November 10
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Community Fire Extinguisher Training

Portable Fire Extinguishers can save lives and property by containing or extinguishing small fires. Students will learn the PASS system and have the opportunity to put out a real fire. Pre-registration is required.

Session 1

Saturday, June 19
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Session 2

Saturday, June 19
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Session 3

Saturday, September 18
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Session 4

Saturday, September 18
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

New Parent and Grandparent Class

Parents and grandparents are the most important people in a child's life and the most influential factor in childhood safety. Each class will be led by trained fire personnel who will walk participants through basic infant CPR, first aid, car safety and home safety. Pre-registration is required.

Session 1

Saturday, July 17
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Session 2

Saturday, October 16
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

To sign-up for PEP, Fire Extinguisher or New Parent Classes, email Joyce Castro at jcastro@srvfire.ca.gov or call (925) 838-6688.

District Takes Delivery of Two New Transport Ambulances



In March 2010, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District placed two new ambulances in service to provide improved emergency medical care and transport to our citizens. The new ambulances are in service at Fire Station 31 in Danville and Station 34 in San Ramon, replacing ambulances that have reached the end of their useful service life. The new ambulances can be recognized by the custom artwork and lettering which was done by District firefighters who are also our in-house artists. These ambulances are equipped with many new safety features and design improvements to provide our patients with state-of-the-art care and transportation.

Safety Features:

- Crash tested for front and side impact to 30 "G's."
- Attendant's seat in patient compartment is equipped with a 3-point seat belt and a child safety seat.
- Patient area layout has been improved to allow the paramedics to access the control panel, cell phone and other equipment from the attendant's seat.
- Ultraviolet disinfecting systems are installed in the patient area and HVAC system to disinfect and filter for the MRSA, VRE, TB, staph and common flu viruses.
- Grab rails have an anti-microbial coating.
- A camera installed in the patient area can be viewed by the driver during transport to monitor patient care.
- The cab and patient area can be separated by a door which is a new State of California regulation.

Design Improvements:

- GMC chassis provides more power, better steering, increased cab space and a smoother ride.
- Exterior compartments have been redesigned to store equipment that was formerly kept in the interior.
- Body construction is all aluminum so there is no wood sub-floor to deteriorate. This results in a quieter patient area during transport for the life of the vehicle.
- Vehicle has a multiplexed electrical system which is easier for mechanics to diagnose and repair.

These are just some of the new technologies and improvements of the new transport ambulances which will enhance the District's continuous effort to provide a superior quality of care for the communities it serves.

District Accreditation

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is currently pursuing international accreditation. Fire service accreditation is administered by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and requires an embedded culture of quality throughout an organization. Accreditation is a significant undertaking and has required the combined best efforts of all members of the District. The District's Accreditation Manager expects this multi-year endeavor to be achieved in August, 2010. Accreditation necessitates the development and adoption of several key documents including a Strategic Plan, Self-Assessment Manual and a Standards of Cover deployment analysis. These documents are available for public review and comment on the District's website.

Accreditation is a comprehensive assessment and evaluation model for fire and emergency service organizations. The accreditation process helps to determine community risks and fire safety needs, evaluates the performance of the agency, and provides a method for continuous improvement. The accreditation and certification bodies change requirements over time, requiring accredited agencies to continue to evolve and improve.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International is governed by an 11-member Commission representing a cross-section of the fire service industry, including fire departments, city and county management, code councils, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the National Fire Protection Association. The full Commission meets bi-annually to review all agencies applying for accredited status. Less than one percent of all fire departments achieve accreditation. At right are a few of the reasons the District has committed to this pursuit.



CFAI Peer Assessment Team announces accreditation recommendation at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors on May 14, 2010.

- Conducting a comprehensive assessment and identifying areas where we can improve is a responsible course of action. Having a detailed evaluation for our use provides a basis for good decision making.
- Reassures the citizens we serve and ultimately protects their interest and investment in District services.
- Provides a transparent external review of the services we provide to the community.
- Assists us in maintaining our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating; creates the environment to pursue a rating improvement to ensure the lowest fire insurance rates possible in the communities we protect.
- Determines the District's strengths, weaknesses, limitations and opportunities for improved service.
- Provides a method to analyze the services provided by the District and how best to deliver those services.

For more information on accreditation and its role in providing the best service possible to our community, please contact Fire Chief Richard Price at 925-838-6600.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR LOCAL 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

WEBSITE RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

In April, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District's website, firedepartment.org, received the prestigious honor of being nominated for best government website by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. Firedepartment.org was among five government sites worldwide to receive this nomination. The other sites in the category were websites for the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Air Force, and two NASA sites. Hailed as the "Internet's highest honor" by the New York Times, the Webby is the leading international award honoring excellence on the Internet. The Webby has been awarded to such notable organizations as Amazon, eBay, Yahoo! and Google. Firedepartment.org, which launched April 1, 2009, is the result of a broad community-based design effort which sought to understand what information and services were valued on the District's website.



Stay connected with your Fire District, follow us on Twitter and Facebook.



4th of July Fireworks – Let the Pros Put on the Show!



Nothing kicks off the summer season like the 4th of July holiday. It is an enjoyable time that includes all the things we love such as warm weather, good friends, great food, and of course, fireworks.

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District would like to remind residents that the possession or use of any fireworks is **illegal in Contra Costa County**. It is also illegal to purchase “Safe & Sane” fireworks from a neighboring town, such as Dublin, and

bring them into our County. Anyone found in possession of fireworks or found using them can be fined up to \$1,000 and/or receive a jail term of up to one year.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that approximately 8,800 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year for injuries associated with fireworks. Many people don't know that the tip of a seemingly innocent sparkler burns at more than 1,200 degrees, where as wood burns at only 575 degrees and glass melts at 900 degrees. A sparkler can easily start a fire and cause third-degree burns to the child or adult handling it.

The District encourages residents to attend public fireworks displays, and leave the show to the professionals. There are many options in our area for professional fireworks shows. The cities of San Ramon, Livermore and Martinez all host dazzling 4th of July events.

The 4th of July is a wonderful American tradition; remember to celebrate safely and legally.

To report the sale or use of illegal fireworks or explosives, contact your local Police Department.

Fire Line

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

Board of Directors

Nick Dickson • Thomas J. Linari • Roxanne W. Lindsay
Jennifer G. Price • Matthew J. Stamey

Fire Chief	Richard Price
Asst. Chief, Operations	Bryan Collins
Asst. Chief, Support Services	Steven J. Hart
Administrative Services Director	Robert Leete
Fire Marshal	Christina Jamison
District Clerk/Newsletter Coordinator	Susan F. Brooks

www.firedepartment.org

Phone Numbers

ADMINISTRATION	925-838-6600
Business Office	CPR Class Information
Fire Prevention	New Construction
Permits & Inspections	Weed Abatement
Dispatch (Non-emergency)	925-838-6640
Emergencies from cell phones	925-838-6691

Emergencies.....DIAL 911