

Clarksburg Fire Protection District

January 2024

Our Mission: *To provide fire protection for all properties, structures and citizens of the Clarksburg Fire Protection District and; to participate in mutually beneficial mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire districts as well as County, State, and Federal agencies and; to provide first response services in the event of accident or medical emergency within the District.*

New Firefighters

The Clarksburg Fire Protection District is proud to announce that Hunter Erway, Harpreet Gill, Dustin Houser, Matt Taylor, Kendra Updegraff, Cory Wallace, and Tyler Whitted have been appointed probationary firefighters. Following recruitment, testing and initial hiring, each probationary firefighter goes through a year of intensive training before being "pinned" with their badge. Training includes all aspects of firefighting including, but not limited to, basic life support, first aid, professional driving, personal safety, personal protective equipment (PPE), structure firefighting, wildland firefighting, vehicle extrication, rope rescue techniques, the incident command system (ICS), equipment familiarization, as well as District Policy.

What's so "Special" about the Clarksburg Fire Protection District?

Many of our residents are unaware that fire protection in the Clarksburg area is provided by a *Special District*, not a Fire Department. Our Fire District is organized under a California State Law that allows citizens to form Districts for the purpose of providing specific services within defined boundaries. The Clarksburg Fire Protection District was formed in 1946 for the purpose of providing fire protection for the Clarksburg Township and the surrounding agricultural area.

Since that time, the mission of the District has expanded to include response to a variety of other emergencies, providing public assistance, and providing mutual aid to other jurisdictions.

The Clarksburg Fire District is governed by a 5-person Board appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Fire Commissioners serve without compensation. They meet on the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. The meetings are held at the Clarksburg Fire Station, 52902 Clarksburg Avenue. Each Regular Meeting includes a time for public comment, which is both important and welcomed.

District Website

www.clarksburgfire.specialdistrict.org
Since 2020, the Clarksburg Fire Protection District has maintained an internet website where the community can find District related information regarding: the governing board, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, district budget, district history, burn information, the Flood Evacuation Plan, etc. The website is monitored by the District. In the event you have any questions or suggestions regarding the website, please feel free to ask them by way of "contact us" on the website menu. Your question or suggestion will receive a timely reply. In addition, there are a number of "links" that provide the user access to related web sites.

Grants and Allocations Continue to Enhance Fire Protection in Clarksburg

During the past twenty years, the Clarksburg Fire Protection District has maintained a proactive approach to allocation and grant funding. During this period, the District has received over \$ 800,000 in allocations and grant funding from the State of California, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Cal Fire. These funds have played a major roll in both our level of service and firefighter safety. The District and Firefighters' Association extend thanks to all who have been involved in this effort. A hearty thanks is extended to all the local residents who have assisted in this effort. Thanks to Katherine Neto who wrote our first successful Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant application in 2004. Thanks to Kevin Rogers who annually writes our CalFire *Volunteer Firefighter Sustainability* (VFC) grant application. In recent years; Dominic Dimare, Senator Bill Dodd, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguliar-Curry have been especially helpful in helping the District "stretch your tax dollars".

The Clarksburg Firefighters' Association publishes this newsletter and the enclosed calendar at Association expense. Please direct any questions or comments to the Clarksburg Firefighter's Association, P.O. Box 513, Clarksburg, CA 95612
www.clarksburgfire.specialdistrict.org
Telephone (916) 744-1700

Fire Call Statistics

As you already know, your Fire District serves the community by responding to a number of different emergency situations. During the calendar year of 2023, your Fire District has responded to 254 incidents. Listed by general category, this included 35 fires, 89 emergency medical service calls, 32 motor vehicle accidents, 5 incidents of illegal burning, 37 public service requests, 17 requests for mutual aid to other districts and departments, 8 fire alarm activations, 10 good intent calls and 21 incidents not defined by any of the aforementioned categories.

Rural Yard Burns can pose a serious threat to safety

On a number of occasions during 2023, our engines have been dispatched, *Code 3* (red lights and sirens), unnecessarily to yard burns which posed no threat to life or property. Please, in the interest of public safety, telephone **(530) 666-8920** to check the Air Resources Board *Burn Status* for that particular day and to report that you will be conducting a rural yard burn. This will prevent the needless emergency operation of Fire District equipment.

Maintain a "Defensible Space"

The Governing Board and Firefighters of your District encourage all residents to maintain a *defensible space* around their homes and businesses. The immediate 30 feet around any structure should be "*low, lean and green*". This area need not be devoid of vegetation but rather occupied by naturally fire resistive plants that are spaced, pruned, and irrigated to reduce the spread of fire.

In addition to vegetation, the storage of firewood, fuel, construction materials, and other combustible materials within this area is hazardous because these materials may promote the spread of fire to your structure.

Cal Fire has recently added an additional 70 feet to re-define a *defensible space* as 100 feet around a structure. It is recommended that this additional 70 feet be defined as a "reduced fuel zone" with fuel and vegetation separated vertically and horizontally. This is accomplished by thinning, pruning and the removal of deadwood debris.

Visible Address Numbers remain important to Emergency Responders

When a 911 emergency call is received, the Yolo County Dispatch Center directs emergency services to the residence or business address as assigned by the countywide grid system. These numbers can sometimes be confusing due to the winding roads, sloughs, levees, and other geographic features of our District. It is imperative that each residence and business has the address posted in such a manner as it can be viewed from the street by emergency responders approaching from either direction. For specific recommendations on address posting, contact the Fire District via the website or the business telephone number (916) 744-1700.

Dedicated Telephone Numbers continue to assist residents

For checking the "burn status" on any particular day and calling in **rural yard burns**, dial **(530) 666-8920**

Reporting rural yard burns will prevent the mistaken dispatch of the Fire District

equipment to your rural yard burn.

In the event your burn gets out of control or threatens buildings, dial 911 immediately and report the emergency.

For calling in **any emergency from a cell phone in Yolo County dial: (530) 666-6612.**

When the nature of an emergency is other than highway related, this number will most likely dispatch "local assistance" faster. Nevertheless, when you utilize the (530) 666-6612 number, you must tell the dispatcher your name, your telephone number and your exact location. This information is not displayed for the dispatcher.

In addition, this dedicated number could be of extreme benefit in the event of a "land line" telephone outage or to safely report a fire from outside your residence or business.

Although some change is possible in the future, 911 calls from cell phones are now directed to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Dispatch Centers.

See the calendar enclosed in this mailing for other important numbers.

District Replaces Aging Apparatus

The Clarksburg Fire Protection District is currently served by two water tenders, 29 and 39 years old respectively. Both the National Fire Protection Association and the State of California recommend a 20-year service life for fire apparatus. Thanks to two Legislative Allocations, the District has recently placed orders to replace the two aging Water Tenders. These purchases will greatly improve both firefighter safety and the level of service provided by the District.