



Special points of interest:

- Calls last quarter: 399
- Inspections last quarter: 601
- Station Tours: 2
- Classroom visits: 7

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From the Chief: “Welcome to Fire Wire!”

I can't begin to tell you how exciting it is to be writing this article for the District's first edition of Fire Wire. This newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis and sent to all current and retired employees. Although much of the emphasis for the newsletter is to provide another mode of communication for employees, I am encouraged as this will also be an excellent way for families to stay in touch with activities within the District. Please feel free to submit items of interest to myself (Pavone@rsf-fire.org) or Julie Taber (Taber@rsf-fire.org).

2006 has brought a major transformation to the District with the addition of three Shift Battalion Chiefs and one Battalion Chief-Training Officer. The result was the promotion of four new Battalion Chiefs: Fred Cox, Mike Gibbs, Gary Snavely, and Jim Sturtevant;

four Captains: Troy Elliott, Chris Galindo, Mike Shore, and Jim Tenger; four engineers: Ray Ligtenberg, Dave McQuead, Brian



Above: Congratulations to RSF's latest promotes.

Below: The newest members of the team, Firefighter/Paramedics Tanner Worley, Nick Chapin, and Trever Krueger



Slattery, and Aaron Wos; and three new Firefighter/Paramedics: Nick Chapin, Trevor Krueger, and Tanner Worley. The District is

currently hiring two additional Firefighter/Paramedics that will be starting a mini-academy in the middle of April.

The first quarter of 2006 has been very busy with promotions, new station assignments, recruit academies, and new employees. We are also continuing to work on some significant projects for the District, including relocation and/or construction of RSF3, the Administration building remodel, and Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

My hope is that everyone enjoys our first edition of Fire Wire. The value of the newsletter will be enhanced as we get all of our members to contribute interesting and timely information. Please feel free to contact myself or Julie with suggestions and comments.



Fire Chief Nick Pavone

Administration Annotations

In each edition of Fire Wire, we will share with you the responsibilities performed by members of the administrative staff. For this edition, let us begin with

the operating budget.

Pursuant to the Health and Safety Code 13890, on or before June 30 of each year, a district board shall adopt a preliminary budget,

which shall conform to the accounting and budgeting procedures for special districts. The operating

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“Stay the Course”

You have heard the saying around here, “Fire Prevention is your friend...stay the course.” The following are just a few examples of why Fire Prevention is your friend:

- We enforce 100 foot fuel modification zones around structures, which provide firefighters with safety zones so they can safely protect structures and fight fire.
- Plan reviews for all new landscaping help verify the proper type and placement of plants to



A home within our district demonstrating proper vegetation management and fire-resistive construction

reduce the spread of fire into a structure and provide firefighter safety.

- Fire prevention specialists inspect parcels and structures yearly to ensure they comply with hazard (weeds) abatement for proper vegetation clearance including along access roadways and next to structures and open spaces
- Fire sprinklers not only save property and lives, they also keep fires small, reducing the need to enter a burning building and the

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Who Are the Future Leaders of This District?

Have any of you asked yourself that question lately? Have you even given it any thought? Who are the future leaders of this District? The answer is *YOU* – you and the employees around you are the future of this District.

If you have not given it any thought, you really should. In the coming years, our district’s leadership will be hit hard by retirements. This is not just a Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District problem, but a concern of the fire service in general. There are going to be a lot of retirements in the fire service in the near future. 3% at 50 is taking its toll on the fire service. Have you prepared yourself for the next promotion process? It is never too early to start preparing for advancement within the ranks.

What can you do to help prepare for advancement? First, look at the District’s SOG (Standard Operating Guidelines) 200.01 Promotional Requirements and discover what is

required for you to meet the requirements of the next position.

Second, start now to meet those requirements. Do not wait for a more convenient time. More often than not, there really is not a more convenient time to take Fire Science classes, Fire Officer Classes, Chief Officer Classes or the dreaded General Education classes or take the Driver Operator test, as those that have already been promoted will tell you. In fact, they will probably all tell you that the longer you wait, the harder it gets.

Finally, get extra experience. Actively participate in the one of district’s many committees. Work overtime in Fire Prevention, if you have the time. You will learn so much in a short period while working in prevention. You can also get involved in outside activities like USAR, MMST, Swift Water Rescue Teams, San Diego County Fire Chiefs Training Officers Section, Haz Mat Section, EMS Section, Fire

Prevention Section, Operations Section or any other fire service related activity. The experiences you gain from these different activities will not only help you in the testing process, it will help you everyday in your career.



Future leaders hone their skills through continued training.

Remember, *YOU* are the future of this District. You have a lot to offer and should be ready when the time comes.

Public Relations Perspective

This quarter has definitely been a busy one for Public Relations. Station tours, visits to preschools, and birthday parties at the stations



Firefighter/Paramedic Tanner Worley demonstrates how he gets dressed for a fire for the preschoolers at Maranatha

have become popular in the last few months. Then there were the badge

ceremonies and Fire Prevention Week Pizza Parties, not to mention writing assignments, updates to the website, and educational classes.

Thank you to all who have



E2613 hangs out with the fourth graders at the Nativity School during a pizza party celebrating their participation in our annual Fire Prevention Week



Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Brandow helps a Maranatha Preschooler practice her firefighting skills.

helped out with any and all of the above this quarter. If you were not called upon this quarter, don't worry. There will be many more opportunities yet this year.

Administration *(Continued from page 1)*

budget for FY 06 is \$8,929,200, in which \$6,856,500 is the personnel cost alone. In January, each member of the District was asked to notify his or her manager of items that should be included in the budget for FY 07 year. The management team held their first budget meeting March 30. Each team member presented the submitted requests

and consensus was achieved for inclusion in the budget. Our next meeting scheduled for April 18 provides another opportunity to discuss contractual services, material and supplies, capital and program expenses.

The preparation involves revenue projections, expenditure analysis, and in some cases educated

guessing. Numerous hours are involved by every participant to ensure that we present our best plan for the new fiscal year. The Board of Directors is scheduled to review and adopt the FY 07 preliminary budget at their meeting scheduled for June 14, 2006.

“Stay the Course” *(Continued from page 2)*

- potential of firefighter injury.
- Prevention reviews new street names and numbers, making certain that engine companies can find the location of the emergency in a timely manner.
- Building plans are reviewed to make sure they comply with the Fire Code and Wildland Urban Interface Code for access and

turn-around, including width, surface, grade, gates, entrances, and much more.

The above list is just the beginning of the fire prevention reviews. With this said, last year Fire Prevention assessed about one million dollars in fire mitigation fees which will be used for the purchase of capital assets, such as, fire

apparatus, command vehicles and equipment necessary due to growth. Remember that fire prevention can not be accomplished without the cultivated relationships based on trust, respect and camaraderie of all members of this great Fire Department and public.

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Acknowledgements

This section is intended to identify individuals that participated in projects, programs or other activities that required extra effort or time that had a positive impact on the District. This section is rather large this edition as it encompasses more than the first quarter of the year.

Connie Balignasay – Annual RSF and JPA audit

Sara Blackburn – Christmas Party

Dina Bussey – Annual RSF and JPA audit

Fred Cox – Values Committee interviews, Reorganization Committee

Randy Darland – Paint-RSF3

Tom Ferguson – Coordination of RSF3 interior painting and finishing

Chris Galindo – Inventory and purchase of narcotics for advanced life support skills, RSFI laundry room project, Entry level testing, Values Committee interviews

Terry Gibson – Reorganization Committee

Cliff Hunter – Reorganization Committee

Ray Ligtenberg – Disassembly of radios and equipment for surplus vehicles

Craig McVey – Medical supplies inventory/purchasing, Explorer Program research and development

Chris Mertz – Hurricane Katrina - USAR Task Force, CERT Program Manager

Tony Michel – Promotional Testing

Phil Pieper – Knox Key secure fabrication and installation

Karlena Rannals – Holiday luncheon, Annual RSF and JPA audit

Mark Richards – Temporary BC position and promotional testing, Reorganization Committee

Mike Scott – Reorganization Committee

Mike Shore – I.D. cards

Brian Slattery – RSFI laundry room project, Values Committee interviews

Julie Taber – Christmas Party, Holiday Luncheon, Fire Prevention Week, Website

Jim Tenger – Entry level testing

Aaron Wos – Inventory and purchasing of personal protective clothing and uniforms, car seat program

Further Acknowledgements

The District also acknowledges the contribution and service of employees who have accepted a position with other departments. **Deputy Don Butz**, Fire Chief, Viejas Fire Department and **Tim Wood**, Firefighter/Paramedic, City of Escondido.

Dr. Rodney E Phillips, Director, February 1988 – July 2002, passed away September 24, 2005. He served his community by sharing his vast array of knowledge with commitment and passion along with his jokes.

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting –

Wednesday, April 19

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Station 1 Board Room

CERT Training – Wednesdays and

Saturdays, April 19-May 13

See website (www.rsffire.org) for more details

Annual Appreciation Dinner –

Friday, April 21

The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe

RSVP – Karlena Rannals by April 14

RSFFPD Board of Directors Meeting –

Wednesday, May 10

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Station 1 Board Room

Memorial Day – Monday, May 29, 2006

Admin Office closed.

Open Enrollment – June 1-20

Open Enrollment will commence June 1-20, 2006 for a July 1st effective date. This is your opportunity to change plan designs, add dependents - such as to the dental plan, etc. See Karlena for appropriate change forms.