

Cypress Fire Protection District

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Dedicated to Cooperative Fire Protection.

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS AND LIVESTOCK

By Lisa Hoefler, Director of Operations, SPCA for Monterey County

Pet ownership requires a great deal of knowledge, time, patience and love. Many animal owners may not always consider the need to plan for their pets in the event of a disaster. A little planning and awareness before a disaster occurs can prevent tragedies afterwards.

The SPCA for Monterey County will be there for you to evacuate and shelter pets during a disaster, but preparedness goes a long way to avoid unnecessary stress and emergencies. Keep your pet's vaccinations current and always keep a collar and tags on your pets. Microchip your pets. Many pets are never returned due to lack of ID. Include your pets and livestock in your evacuation drills so they are relaxed about travel and confinement. If you use automatic waterers for livestock, identify alternative sources of water in case of a power outage. Prepare a "grab-and-go" kit with essentials, and plan an evacuation route.

When you receive a warning of a pending disaster or evacuation, ensure your pets are wearing collars and tags, bring them inside so you can locate them quickly, and locate your preparedness supplies. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately. Any situation that is dangerous for you is also dangerous for your pets. Take your animals with you.

After a disaster, examine your property to ensure fencing is intact and remove dangerous debris. Watch for personality changes or changes in behavior. Consult your veterinarian or the SPCA if any behavior problems persist.

For additional information, to schedule a disaster preparedness presentation, or obtain a copy of our Disaster Preparedness Checklist, call the SPCA for Monterey County at (831) 373-2631 or visit our website at www.SPCAmc.org.



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Cypress Fire Protection District News

Winter 2016

Soberanes Fire

Central and southern California were seriously vulnerable to catastrophic wildland fires, due to years of drought, but amazingly, the first half of 2016 saw little fire activity. That was all about to change on the morning of July 22nd when firefighters responded to a vegetation fire in Garrapata State Park.

The fire was located in the rugged back country, almost 2 miles from Highway 1. Its location and terrain not only prevented firefighters from making a quick, effective attack on the fire which had burned 9 acres overnight, but the dry vegetation, favorable topography, and increasing winds served to rapidly spread the fire. By the end of the first day, the fire had grown to 774 acres.

The following day, Saturday, high winds increased the size of the fire to 6,642 acres and pushed it southeast into Palo Colorado Canyon where it eventually consumed 57 homes and 11 out buildings. Areas of Carmel Highlands were ordered to evacuate on Monday - ahead of the fast moving fire.

On July 26, 2016, Robert Oliver Reagan III was fighting the fire in rugged, steep terrain near Big Sur when his dozer rolled over, causing fatal injuries. While on assignment on July 30th, Kern County Engine 21 burned, but there were no injuries. By the end of July, the fire had grown to 37,796 acres with little containment, and several areas of the county were under evacuation orders. The

firefighters' rhythm of work that carried them through the shift each day was giving way to fatigue, but fire officials expected containment of the fire by August 31st.

A snapshot of mid-August showed the fire at 53,900 acres with 40% containment. Committed to the fire were 426 fire engines, 61 dozers, 117 hand crews, 18 helicopters, 6 air tankers, and a total of 5,636 firefighters.

The cause of the fire had also been released - an illegal campfire, abandoned by hikers.

In the last half of August, firing operations continued to work well, but the siphoning of resources by other fires in the state caused fire officials to announce that the expected containment date was extended to September 30th. By August 31st the fire had burned 94,169 acres and was 60% contained.

September saw a continued reduction of equipment and personnel, but the plan to hold the fire in the Carmel and Ventana River drainages was working. Fire officials extended the containment date to October 15th. At the end of September, the fire had burned 132,069 acres and was 92% contained.

On October 13, 2016, after 84 days of fighting the Soberanes fire, officials declared the 132,127 acre fire officially 100% contained. It would be the third largest fire in Monterey county history and, at over \$250 million, the most expensive fire in the nation.



Photographer unknown.

Ocean Rescue Water Craft

A new jet ski is now available from the Pebble Beach Fire Station for ocean rescue, and is a valuable resource on the local Monterey coastline, known for its ruggedness, high surf and powerful rip tides.

The Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District has operated an Inflatable Rescue Boat, or IRB, from Point Lobos State Park at Whalers Cove since the early 1990's. Slowly over time, the Ocean Rescue program grew with the addition of improved equipment and a larger, faster IRB. In January 2016, the Cypress Fire Protection District and Pebble Beach Community Services District joined with Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District to dramatically improve ocean rescue capabilities. They developed a program to certify rescue swimmers so they could enter the water during rescue operations, and equipped fire engines and trucks with rescue paddle boards. The recent acquisition of a jet ski, officially designated as a Rescue Water Craft, or RWC, is the final component in their multi-tiered response program.

The Rescue Water Craft is a two person Yamaha jet-ski that can travel up to 75 miles per hour, respond in high surf conditions, and navigate shallow water and near rugged rocks and cliffs. The RWC is maintained and stored at the Pebble Beach Fire Station, and launched from Stillwater Cove. When dispatched to an emergency, two firefighters from an engine respond on it, one of whom will be a certified rescue swimmer. Ocean rescues are not limited to daytime operations either, as both the RWC and IRB are fully capable of conducting rescues at night. The addition of the RWC at the Pebble Beach Fire Station provides increased staffing, greater rescue capabilities, and faster response times in ocean operations.

The Ocean Rescue Program responded to 19 incidents in the past twelve months, of which 8 resulted in actual water rescues.

The Pebble Beach Community Services District, Cypress Fire Protection District and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District partner with CAL FIRE in cooperative agreements to provide fire protection and public safety services.



YAHAMA VXR

Engine Type

4 cylinder

4 stroke

High output

Electronic fuel

Injection

Displacement

1812 cc

Pump Type

155 mm High-pressure

New Chief in Battalion 2

Battalion Chief Nate Armstrong was selected in May to be the new head of Battalion 2, which is comprised of the Pebble Beach Community Services District, Cypress Fire Protection District, and the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District. Chief Armstrong replaces Battalion Chief Jude Acosta, who transferred to CAL FIRE Tuolumne Calaveras Unit.

Nate began his fire service career with the U.S. Forest Service and a local government (County) fire department, where he rose to the rank of Fire Apparatus Engineer. In 2007, he came to work for CAL FIRE on the Monterey Peninsula when the Districts expanded their emergency medical care to Advanced Life Support services.

In 2010, Nate promoted to Fire Captain and worked several assignments, including wildland fire suppression, Emergency Command Center, and Paramedic Supervisor for the Districts. He was promoted to Battalion Chief in 2015, overseeing Emergency Medical Services for the Districts.

Nate said, "I'm very happy to be back in Battalion 2. My plan is to further develop the ocean rescue program and refine other operations. No major changes are anticipated at this time." His office is located at the Carmel Highlands Fire Station.



Signs of Stroke in Men and Women

- Sudden **numbness** or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden **confusion**, trouble speaking, or difficulty understanding speech.
- Sudden **trouble seeing** in one or both eyes.
- Sudden **trouble walking**, dizziness, loss of balance, or lack of coordination.
- Sudden **severe headache** with no known cause.

If you think someone may be having a stroke, act **FAST** and do the following simple test:

F—Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A—Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S—Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

T—Time: If you observe any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.