



BURNING ISSUES

WWW.TAHOEFIRE.COM SPRING 2008

Fire Chief's Corner: *Budget Time is Upon Us!*

The Board of Trustees, at the March meeting, passed the tentative budget. The preliminary revenue numbers from the State Department of Taxation revealed a flat revenue growth rate in CTX (Sales Tax) and a small increase in ad-valorem.

As many State and local governmental entities continue to deal with the "Unintended Consequences" of SB 489, the Fire District continues to move in the direction of providing the most economical and efficient public safety services possible. We continue to manage our expenditures, which must match revenues, along with a philosophy to fund our long-term liabilities. Service delivery, dependent upon staffing levels, is our immediate concern as our budget is affected by the current economic downturn the Country is experiencing.

Retiring Firefighters

The Fire District continues to lose long-term employees to retirement. Recent firefighters to retire are Engineer Chuck Pratt, Chief Kevin Hanna, Firefighter Mark Danihels, and Engineer Brad Dorton. We also have a pending retirement notification from Engineer Mike Warne due to retire in May.

These firefighters combine for over 130 years of service to the community. Their dedication, desire, and commitment will be missed.

2 New Firefighters/Paramedics Join Tahoe Douglas Fire protection District.

I am excited to announce the addition of two Firefighter Paramedics and one Fuels Management Supervisor hired in March. The three, FF/P Jordon Brandon Oakes, FF/P Brian Zabel, and FMS Keegan Schafer join an existing staff of fifty-one personnel. The two FF/P positions are replacement personnel for pending retirements in May. Fuels Management Supervisor Keegan Schafer's position is a new position within the fire district and is expected to be funded short-term with federal grants the district is expected to receive for fuel reduction projects.

FF/P Oakes is from the Sacramento area and FF/P Zabel and FMS Schafer are local products. All three have experience in their respective fields.

The District continues to experience, what most in the public safety sector are experiencing, is the attrition of our workforce. I anticipate the fire district will continue to lose to injury and/or retirement over forty- percent of our personnel in the next five years. This is one of the major challenges facing the district near term. *Continued on P3*

Fuels Management Update

LARGER FUELS CREW TO HIT THE STREETS IN 2008

Fuels Management has expanded dramatically from previous years. The continued demand for chipping and fuels reduction services has resulted in the expansion of the Fuels Crew from six to twenty members. Increasing the number of personnel will allow the crew to split into smaller groups to tackle numerous small projects or combine to treat large scale fuel breaks in our communities.

Heading up the new crew will be Keegan Schafer, the new Crew Supervisor. Keegan comes to the District with seven years experience with the North Lake Tahoe Fire District. The District is proud to welcome Keegan and all of our other new Fuels Reduction employees.



Dry weather got you thinking about spring yard cleanup?

The Fire District will have two programs this spring to help you clean up your yard and create defensible space.

- **Compost Your Combustibles: May 24th - June 22nd Heavenly Boulder Parking Lot**
- **Curbside Chipping Services: May through October. Call 588-3591 extension 227 to schedule.**

ARE YOU READY?



How fast could you get out? What would you take? Do you know where your important papers and photographs are?

These are questions that you should have the answers to. Many times residents have five minutes notice or less when being evacuated. What seems easy now may not be so easy under the tremendous pressure of evacuating during an emergency.

In fact, evacuation planning needs to start long before the actual emergency occurs. The time to plan is **NOW**. The steps below can help you prepare now to make a safe and orderly evacuation later.

- Before a fire or other emergency forces evacuation, make a list:
 - Medications. Put together enough medications for 1 to 2 weeks
 - Valuable papers, important photos, essential phone numbers, insurance documents, checkbook
 - Pet's food and medications
 - Several clean changes of clothing
 - Cell phones & laptop computers
 - Valuable personal items

- If evacuation seems possible:
 - Find your checklist, gather important items
 - Park your car in the driveway, facing out, while loading, keep your keys with you at all times
 - Keep pets nearby and in the house
 - Wear long pants, long sleeves, sturdy shoes and a bandanna
 - Move propane BBQ's, firewood, and other combustibles away from house
 - Leave lights on, windows closed, doors unlocked, garden hoses hooked up and stretched out
 - Listen to local radio for information
 - Leave promptly when directed, follow all evacuation orders

IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED

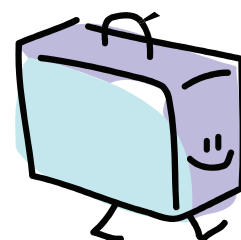
In your vehicle:

- Stay inside, stay calm
- Park in an area with little or no vegetation, away from power lines
- Close all windows and vents
- Lie on the floor, cover up
- CALL 911 with your location

In your house:

- Stay inside, no matter how hot it gets, keep together, away from exterior walls
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water
- Keep doors and windows closed but unlocked
- CALL 911 with your location

Go outside only after the fire has passed, and only if safe, to check eaves, decks, and roof for fire.



Fire District Completes Strategic Planning Process!

We are excited to have finished the eleventh edition of our Strategic Plan, which is available for review at fire station #3 in Round Hill. The adoption of the plan will occur at the March board meeting. Anyone wishing to review a copy of the plan please contact me and we will get you a copy. After adoption, the fire district will publish the final plan on our web page at <http://www.tahoefire.com/fireservice.html>

This Plan is intended to show how we are adapting to the changing future of the fire service and how we provide our services. Funding challenges will be addressed to reflect revenues and expenditures, as far out as is reasonable in an effort to maintain a consistent level of service we are committed to offer. The question we face today is service versus dollars; prioritizing of goals and objectives will direct our mission and planning will provide us time to implement future tough solutions.

This Strategic Plan begins with fiscal year 2008/09 and continues over the next four fiscal years after that. The Fire District's resources are classified in one of three categories; Physical (stations and apparatus), Human Resources, and Financial Resources. This Strategic Plan is intended to be a tool or a guide to outline a direction we as an organization are headed. Like any Plan, Mission, Vision and Values will be impacted by undetermined or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control requiring us to adapt and overcome as we proceed into the future. Together as an organization, we can accomplish what we set our minds to accomplish.

Guy LeFever, Fire Chief

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District

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The chipping program is set to continue this year to help you meet defensible space guidelines. The crew should be in service early in May so watch www.tahoefire.com for updates.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT—**The Fire District's Board of Trustees**

Your Fire District is governed by a five person Board of Trustees elected by the general public, serving staggered four year terms. The Board meets regularly at 4:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month, at the Round Hill Fire Station 193 Elks Point Rd. Current Trustees are:

Bob Cook: Bob has lived in Zephyr Cove for 37 years. He retired from UPS in 2001 and describes himself as a full time volunteer for Douglas County. He has been married for 37 years and has two beautiful granddaughters.

Steve Seibel: Steve recently retired after moving to Tahoe in 1976 to work at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course and Edgewood Water Company. He has been married to his wife Cheri for 39 years and has two sons, Chris and Jeff.

Pat Atherton: Pat has lived in Tahoe for 32 years, serving on the District's Board for 15 years. He looks forward to an aggressive program to fight the threat of wildfire in our community. He encourages the public's participation.

Roy Clason: Roy is a US Naval Academy graduate and a retired United and Pan Am pilot. He has lived in Zephyr Cove since 1978 and been a Trustee since 2002. His hobbies are antique cars, motorcycles, and the game of bridge.

Frank Forvilly: Frank has lived in Zephyr Cove for 39 years. Retired from the Douglas County School District, he has also managed the Round Hill Pines Beach for 34 years. He and his wife Suzan have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Days

This years HHW Disposal Days will be: June 21, September 27
And October 11

Household Hazardous Wastes will be accepted from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Round Hill Fire Station on Elks Point Rd. Acceptable wastes include: oil based paint, batteries, motor oil, flammable liquids, antifreeze, pesticides, and lawn chemicals. NO medical wastes, radioactive, explosives, unknown or unidentifiable substances. All containers must be labeled and non-leaking. Residential, household wastes only, no commercial or business waste. Remember— latex paint, when dried, can be put in the trash. Call us for suggestions.

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Don't forget, we're on the internet at:
www.tahoefire.com

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT
P.O. Box 919
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
Phone: 775-588-3591

Questions about Defensible Space?

To schedule a Defensible Space Evaluation: Call the Fire District Defensible Space Office at 588-3591 ext 227 **or** call the South Shore Nevada Fire Safe Council Office at 1-877-LT NVFSC (586-8372) **or** call your Fire Safe Chapter representative below:

Cave Rock	North Swanson	588-5874	Chimney Rock	Bob McDowell	588-2723
Elk Point HOA	Peter Roth	588-9237	Glenbrook	Charlene Meenan	749-5159
Hidden Woods	Cary Sarnoff	586-8165	Kingsbury South	Gil Ferdon	588-3968
Lake Village	Art Warrell	588-4840	Logan Creek	Susan Flannigan	775-230-1477
Round Hill	Glen Smith	588-1550	Skyland	Ann Grant	588-0641
Upper Kingsbury	Sam Strong	586-9063	Zephyr	Mike Gayer	588-6302
Marla Bay	Linda Lisbakken	588-1205			

Financial Incentive Available for Defensible Space and more....

There are several programs available to assist residents with their defensible space efforts.

First is a program to **reimburse residents for 50% of the cost of fuels reduction, up to a maximum of \$1000.00.** This program begins with a defensible space inspection by one of the Fire District's inspectors. After the inspection, the resident calls the Nevada Fire Safe Council at 1-877-586-8372. While grant funds are still available, the resident will be issued a reimbursement number. When the defensible space work is complete, the Fire Safe Chapter inspector will verify compliance and a refund will be issued. This money is being made available through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Second is a **roof replacement grant.** Any property owner planning to replace a wood shake roof with non-combustible materials should call the Fire District at 775-588-3591 ext 227. An application is made, and after replacing the roof, the owner is eligible for eight hours of fuels reduction work by a three person crew with a chipper (an \$850.00 value). Certain restrictions apply, so be sure to call first.

Third is additional grant revenue that been awarded to the Fire Safe Chapters in Chimney Rock, Skyland, Round Hill, and Kingsbury South.

Tree Marking After much cooperation between the Basin's Fire Chiefs and TRPA, the Fire District will begin marking trees for removal to satisfy defensible space requirements. Call 775-588-3591 ext 227 to request an inspection or more info.