

Mt. Shasta Vista Fire Co.

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Newsletter

December 2009

Mt. Shasta Vista Fire responded to 41 incidents in 2009. Nine Fires, 21 Medicals, 10 Traffic Accidents and 1 other.

Earlier this year the Fire Company applied for a grant to fund 10,000 gallon cement water storage tanks at each of the two stations. This grant request was accepted and the work on the tanks will start in early spring 2010. With the lack of water access to fight wildfires, the addition of the tanks will not only improve fire fighter safety but also public safety and help protect the area assets.

The Magnificent Seven Need Your Help!

No, I'm not talking about the movie; I'm talking about the magnificent seven volunteer Fire Fighters/First Responders who serve the community as members of the Mt. Shasta Vista Volunteer Fire Company.

For people in our fire service area, when you see smoke, have a fire, or are in need of emergency medical attention you call 911. When 911 sends your call to CAL FIRE Dispatch, they begin the process of alerting all of our volunteers via their pager system and we are **toned out**. It is extremely important that anyone who calls 911 be able to give an accurate address and complete as possible information so that dispatch can relay to the volunteers what they may be facing and they can respond in the proper personal protective clothing and with the proper vehicles and necessary equipment to deal with the emergency.

When a volunteer's pager goes off, (or as we call it, getting **toned out**), whether they are asleep, cooking dinner, or in the middle of an important event, they drop what they are doing, listen to the dispatched information, suit up in the proper attire and respond to one of our two fire stations, or depending on the

emergency, some may respond directly to the **scene**. We then proceed to notify dispatch that we are **responding to the call** and also alert them when we have arrived at **scene**. We may need to contact dispatch again as we **size up** the scene, and determine that we may need additional resources, or we may need to check on when an ambulance might be arriving.

I am proud that generally, unless someone is out of the response area, we **all** respond to every call. This is essential to provide the immediate and necessary help to deal with whatever situation unfolds. From the time our pager is **toned out** until we arrive at most locations is a mere 12-14 minutes. Quite magnificent based on all that has to be accomplished. We are also fortunate and thankful, to have the Mayten Fire Department provide mutual assistance to us as needed.

Who are your First Responders/Fire Fighters? We are grandparents, employed, retired, working full time, part-time, working day shift, and working night shifts, as well as many other things, but most of all, we are committed to be there when you need our assistance, rain or shine, hot or cold, light or dark, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week! We are there to serve our community.

Wow! The Fire Company must pay us quite well, to have such a dedicated crew, that is on duty to respond to any call for help at all hours. Not at all true, we are not paid, don't get overtime, and don't get raises for doing an excellent job.

WE ARE VOLUNTEERS!

Yes, you read it correctly; we volunteer our time to respond to your call for help!

We also volunteer our time to complete required training and courses covering such subjects as fire fighting, hazardous materials, CPR, and Basic life support training to be qualified as First Responders. In addition to all that, we are constantly being trained on every possible situation that we might encounter, under the direction of Kelly, Training Officer for our department. We train every two weeks for 2 to 3 hours in order to refine our skills so that we can assist you in the best possible way.

We are volunteers, but we are also professional in every aspect of our work, as that is what our community expects and deserves. We train to be ready, and after each call we review that call and examine how we could improve.

Why do we volunteer? For each of us there probably is a different reason. My sense is that we want to help others, want to serve our community, and we want someone to be there to answer the pager and be able to contain and put out a fire, provide medical aid to a victim of a vehicle accident, or get to a medically ill person as fast as possible to be the first and most important step in getting them on to further specialized care. What would happen if you called 911, and there was not a single Firefighter/First Responder to come to your aid?

We need your support in two important ways!

1) We need you to become, or help us recruit, Fire Fighters!

We will train you in all aspects of the duties you will undertake, and we will respect any limitations you may have if you can only assist in certain areas. We currently have volunteers who help lead us in to the scenes we need to be at and are often difficult to find in the middle of the night and some who only assist on medical calls. We work as a team and train as a team to bring you excellent service. There is no cost to the volunteer, as the fire company provides all required gear and pays for all our required classes.

Please contact us at msvvfc@yahoo.com or call us at 530-340-2297 about being a volunteer!

2) Doesn't sound like your "cup of tea"? That's perfectly OK!

Mount Shasta Vista Volunteer Fire Company (MSVVFC) also has a **Fire Auxiliary** that is doing tremendous work to assist the Fire Company. They are dedicated to raising money through flea markets, a recycling program and any way possible to support our fire company. If you are interested in learning more, you can contact them at the numbers listed above. If you are not able to assist there, they are also able to accept donations to the Auxiliary that are tax deductible.

We are volunteers! We are your Fire Fighters and First Responders! We are professionals! So whether it's Mary, Tom, Colleen, Kathy, Kelly, Jeri, or myself (Dan), or **the entire magnificent seven**, that arrive when you call 911, be thankful for their volunteer help, for they are there to help you and the community!

We Fire Fighters/First Responders would like to thank our truly wonderful Chief, Mary Cameron for her leadership, mentoring, and vision that she has brought to this fire company from the very beginning. She has instilled in every one of us the desire to be excellent in what we do.

Sincerely,

Dan Jordan
Assistant Chief 3601