

Mt. Shasta Vista Fire Co.

13502 Roland Dr., Montague, CA 96064

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Newsletter

December 2007

LOCAL HOMEOWNERS MAY BE ABLE TO RECEIVE A \$2,500 RESIDENTIAL FIRE BLOCKING GEL HOME KIT FOR LESS THAN \$150!!

Mt. Shasta Vista Fire Co. has plans to apply for a 2008 FEMA grant to supply interested home owners, within the district boundaries, with an independent and self sufficient gel system that is not vulnerable to power loss or a water supply.

Fire blocking gel has been used on homes in several recent wildfire situations around the country including the fires in southern California. It has been tested and found to be effective by the U.S. Forest Service and the Office of Emergency Services. In fact, all 122 OES fire trucks in California carry the gel; however, at this time there are no OES trucks stationed in Siskiyou County.

The most intense fire ever recorded in the Black Hills National Forest, So. Dakota happened this past summer. Ninety-two percent of the homes coated with the gel were saved. The gel, coupled with defensible space, can significantly increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire. Some insurance companies are looking at the possibility of reducing rates for those homes with gel protection systems.

The gel is a super-absorbent polymer that holds many times its weight in water and clings well to vertical surfaces and glass. It is also environmentally friendly, not harming vegetation or animals. The homeowner can apply the gel to homes, vehicles, RV's, boats and vegetation several hours prior to an approaching wildfire.

The gel home kit would include:

- 165 gallon Polyethylene water storage tank.
- A Honda WH15 pump 4.0 hp, 42 – 59 psi.
- 150 feet of 1-inch forestry hose.
- 1 four-gallon case of gel (enough to cover 2000 square feet).
- All necessary connections, reducers and adapters.
- Easy to use instruction manual.

Approximate length of gel shelf live is several years with proper care: housed in an enclosed area out of the weather and turned twice or more a year.

The cost to the homeowner would be the 5% matching portion required by FEMA. For those homeowners that are interested in the system but household income falls at or below the federal low-income guidelines, financial help may be available with proof of income.

To determine how many square feet of coverage you may need, asphalt roofs would not need to be covered with gel unless there are over hanging trees.

If there are enough interested homeowners, the grant package will be submitted early 2008. FEMA usually begins awarding grants in June until the funded grant money is depleted.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the below form and return to Chief Mary Cameron before January 31, 2008.

If you have questions regarding the gel kit, call 530-340-2297 or email msvvfc@yahoo.com.

PLEASE RETURN TO: Mt. Shasta Vista Fire Co., Attn: Chief Mary Cameron, 13502 Roland Dr., Montague, CA 96064 by January 31, 2008

YES, I AM INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FEMA GRANT AND I AGREE TO PAY THE 5% FEMA MATCH

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

APPROXIMATE SQUARE FEET OF COVERAGE NEEDED: _____