



SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Community Firewire Newsletter

Third Quarter 2025

Chief's Corner



As we bring you the third edition of our quarterly newsletter, I want to thank you once again for your continued support and engagement. Your interest and involvement fuel our commitment to serve with integrity, dedication, and care. It remains a

privilege to stay connected through this platform and keep you informed about the important work happening across our fire district.

Over the past several months, our team has remained focused on serving with professionalism, compassion, and excellence. We've responded to a wide range of emergencies, supported preparedness efforts across the Valley, and taken part in training that strengthens our readiness and resilience. In this issue, you'll find updates on key projects, highlights from recent community outreach and events, and important seasonal safety reminders as we head deeper into the fire season. Thank you for being a vital part of that effort. Stay safe and stay informed. Sincerely, Steve Akre- Fire Chief

Sonoma Valley Fire News

Merger with Kenwood Fire Protection District

We're proud to officially welcome the Kenwood community into the Sonoma Valley Fire District. As of July 1, 2025, the consolidation between our two agencies is complete.

In recent years, Kenwood Fire District faced growing challenges in maintaining staffing. In response, they partnered with Sonoma Valley Fire in September 2022 to provide 24/7 coverage with full-time firefighters and paramedics at Station 6.

After careful consideration, the Kenwood Fire Board determined that full annexation was the best path forward. The Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved the transition on February 5, 2025, formally dissolving the Kenwood Fire District and transferring its service area to Sonoma Valley Fire.

We remain committed to delivering the same high level of professional service to Kenwood as we do throughout our district.



2025 April - June Call Volume



Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our community.

Medical- 924

Fire- 38

Public Assist- 457

False Alarms- 58

Total Calls- 1,477

(+ 10% over 2Q)

Training

Total Training Hours

- April 2025- June 2025- 1,887

Training Highlights

- Wildland Training
- Prescribed Burns
- Airport Exercise
- Master streams
- Driver Training



Wildland Training

Wildland training burns are a critical part of preparing firefighters—especially new personnel—for real-world wildfire response. These controlled burns are carefully planned, supervised fire operations conducted under specific conditions to simulate the behavior of a wildfire. Their goal is to create a safe, hands-on environment for firefighters to learn, practice, and refine key tactics and strategies used on the fireline.



Airport Training Exercise

Although the Sonoma County Airport is some distance from our location, our crews recently took part in the Triennial training exercise designed to prepare for potential commercial airliner incidents at the airport. While we may be called upon to assist in such situations, the training also helps us stay prepared for similar emergencies that could occur closer to home at Sonoma Skypark or Sonoma Valley Airport. During the exercise, our crews gained valuable experience in multi-agency coordination, the Incident Command System, and medical group operations.

In The News

Successful Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast in Glen Ellen

The aroma of sizzling pancakes and the warmth of community spirit filled the air on Mother's Day morning as the Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters hosted their annual Pancake Breakfast at the Glen Ellen Fire Station. The event was a tremendous success, drawing families, neighbors, and visitors from across Sonoma Valley for a delicious meal and a chance to support local heroes.

This beloved tradition brought in one of the largest crowds to date, with hundreds of attendees turning out to enjoy fluffy pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice—all served with a smile by the dedicated volunteers who keep our community safe year-round. Kids enjoyed climbing aboard fire trucks and meeting firefighters, while parents and grandparents shared laughter and stories over breakfast.

The Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out and supported the event. Your generosity and presence help ensure the department remains strong, well-equipped, and ready to serve. Events like these not only raise vital funds but also strengthen the connection between the fire service and the community it protects.

Thank you again for making this year's Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast at the Glen Ellen station a truly memorable and meaningful occasion. We'll see you next year!



In The News

Sonoma Fourth of July Celebration

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Sonoma's Fourth of July festivities. Whether you spent your day enjoying the vibrant festival and parade on the historic Plaza or gathered in the evening for the spectacular fireworks show at Vallejo's Home, your presence helped make the day truly special. It was wonderful to see our community come together in such high spirits—families, friends, and neighbors all enjoying the sunshine, music, food, and patriotic pride. The smiles, laughter, and sense of togetherness reminded us what Independence Day is all about: celebrating our freedom, our community, and the shared values that bring us closer.

We're grateful for everyone who helped make the day a success—from the parade entrants and volunteers to the food vendors and, most importantly, all of you who joined in the celebration. Thank you for helping make this year's Fourth of July one to remember!



Photo credits: William Murray

Fire Prevention

The Importance of Prescribed Burning: Fuel reduction

Prescribed burning—also known as controlled burning—is a powerful tool used by fire professionals to reduce wildfire risk and support healthy ecosystems. Unlike wildfires, these planned burns are conducted under specific weather and fuel conditions to safely achieve land management goals.

One of the primary benefits of prescribed fire is **fuel reduction**. Over time, forests and grasslands accumulate dry brush, dead trees, and other flammable materials. Without regular burning, this fuel builds up and increases the risk of high-intensity wildfires. Controlled burns remove this excess vegetation, lowering the chances of destructive, fast-moving fires in the future.

Beyond fire prevention, prescribed burns play a vital role in **restoring ecological balance**. Many native plants and animals have evolved with fire and depend on it for survival. Fire helps stimulate new plant growth, recycles nutrients into the soil, and maintains open habitats for species like deer, birds, and pollinators.

Prescribed burns also help **control invasive species**, improve **water quality** by reducing erosion, and maintain **biodiversity** by supporting a variety of plant and animal life.

When planned carefully and carried out by trained professionals, prescribed fire is a safe and effective way to manage land. It's not just about preventing catastrophic wildfires—it's about working with nature to keep landscapes resilient, productive, and thriving.

Our Regional Vegetation Coordinator successfully planned and carried out a 20-acre prescribed burn in the Montini Preserve. This effort helps reduce future fire intensity while supporting the health and resilience of the local ecosystem.



Firehouse Favorites: Recipes Straight from the Crew



TITLE: Red Pasta Sauce w/ meatballs By: Engineer Molesworth

PREP TIME: 15 min.

COOK TIME: 35 min.

SERVINGS: 6

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
4 medium carrots, diced
8 garlic cloves, minced
2 lbs spicy Italian sausage
2 (28oz) can crushed tomatoes
2 (15oz) can tomato sauce
1 (6oz) can tomato paste
2 tsp italian seasoning
Pinch crushed red pepper
½ cup red wine

DIRECTIONS:

Heat the oil. Sauté the onion, celery and carrots until soft and translucent (5-7 minutes). Add garlic and cook for 1 more minute. Brown the meat. Add red wine to deglaze pan. Add tomato paste, stir and cook for 2 minutes to deepen the flavor. Stir in the crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce, and spices (seasoning and red pepper flakes, salt and pepper). Simmer uncovered for 20–30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Taste and adjust seasonings. Add a splash or so, of pasta water if it gets too thick.

History: Sonoma Valley Fire District Station 1

SVFD Station 1 was formerly the old PG&E office/yard prior to the City of Sonoma acquiring the property to move the old fire station from Patten Street to its new location on Second Street West. The station was built in 2001. Today, Station 1 houses a full-time engine company, an advanced life support ambulance, a water tender, several reserve apparatus, maintenance shop and administrative staff.



Upcoming Events

October: Fire Station open House– Sonoma Station

November: Hands Only CPR Class

Thank you!

Thank you to our amazing community for your continued support of the fire department. Your generosity, encouragement, and appreciation mean so much to us. It's an honor to serve such a caring and connected community. We truly appreciate you standing with us!



Made By: Engineer
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