



SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Community Firewire Newsletter

Second Quarter 2025

Chief's Corner



As we bring you the second edition of our quarterly newsletter, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the positive response and engagement we received following our inaugural issue. It's a true honor to continue this journey of communication and connection with all of you.

Over the past few months, our team has remained steadfast in its mission to serve with professionalism, compassion, and excellence. In this issue, we're excited to share updates on recent emergency responses, progress on ongoing initiatives, and highlights from community events and training sessions. You'll also find important safety reminders as we head into the warmer months, along with resources to help you and your loved ones stay prepared.

We're dedicated to building a fire district that reflects the strength, resilience, and spirit of this incredible community.

Thank you for being a vital part of that effort. Stay safe and stay informed. Sincerely, Steve Akre- Fire Chief

Sonoma Valley Fire News

Celebrating Our Team: Badge Pinning Ceremony

We were proud to host a memorable badge pinning ceremony, honoring 44 members of the Sonoma Valley Fire District who have either joined our agency or earned promotions over the past three years. With over 300 attendees, the event was a powerful celebration of dedication, growth, and the outstanding service of our team. Bringing everyone together for this milestone was a significant undertaking for our agency—and a true reflection of the pride we have in our people and the exciting progress we're making.



Pump Testing



Each year, in accordance with NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards, our personnel conduct pump testing on all fire apparatus to ensure they meet performance specifications.

2025 January - March Call Volume

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

Medical- 861

Fire- 44

Public Assist- 384

False Alarms- 44

Total Calls- 1,350

Training

Total Training Hours

- January 2025- March 2025- 2,167

Training Highlights

- Swiftwater Rescue
- New hire academy
- Roof Ventilation
- Active Attacker
- Community Fire Extinguisher



Ladder Truck Training

SVFD recently completed ladder truck training alongside our mutual aid partners from Petaluma Fire and Rancho Adobe Fire District at the old Cattlemen's restaurant in Petaluma. This hands-



on training in a real building environment is invaluable—it sharpens our skills and ensures we're ready when the moment comes to put them into action.



New Hire Firefighter Academy

SVFD recently wrapped up a four-week new hire academy, proudly welcoming two new members to our department. Pictured on the outside Aramis (L) and Shane (R), our newest recruits, alongside a new Petaluma firefighter in the middle through collaborative efforts. This photo was taken on their final day of training outside our live burn trailer.

In The News

Consolidation Efforts

Since October 2022, the Sonoma Valley Fire District has proudly provided staffing and fire prevention services to the Kenwood Fire District under a cooperative contract. From the beginning of this partnership, one of our top priorities has been to deliver Advanced Life Support (ALS) to the Kenwood community. We've ensured that, every day, at least one paramedic is assigned to the engine, ready to provide immediate, life-saving care when needed. Throughout the contract, the Kenwood Fire District Board of Directors has been actively working toward full consolidation with the Sonoma Valley Fire District. The final step in this process was approval from LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission), which was recently granted—officially paving the way forward. Full consolidation is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2025, marking a significant milestone in regional fire and emergency services collaboration.



Homeless By Names List Participation

For the past two years, the Sonoma Valley Fire District has actively participated in bi-weekly meetings with various organizations across the Valley to address the issue of homelessness. In collaboration with external stakeholders, we've been working to develop innovative and compassionate strategies to support unhoused individuals within our community.

In The News

Hand-Only CPR: For Middle Schoolers

The Sonoma Valley Fire District held its first hands-only CPR training for Sonoma Valley Unified School District students on April 1, teaching seventh and eighth graders from Altimira and Adele Harrison middle schools. Led by Captain Ryan McCracken, who also works on establishing community AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) in the Valley, the program promotes hands-only CPR—an effective method using chest compressions without mouth-to-mouth breaths that encourages more bystanders to act in emergencies. According to the American Heart Association, immediate bystander CPR can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim’s chance of survival, yet fewer than 40% of people who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital receive it. Over four days, 750 students were trained. The fire district also offers free hands-only CPR training to the community.



What is a Firewise community?

A Firewise Community is a neighborhood that works together to reduce wildfire risk through actions like clearing brush and creating defensible space. The Sonoma Valley Fire District offers free support, including risk assessments, education, and help with the Firewise USA® application. Being Firewise can also demonstrate reduced risk to insurance providers, which may help with homeowner coverage or premiums. Protect your home and strengthen your neighborhood—contact SVFD’s Wildfire Prevention Division to get started.

Fire Prevention

May is **Wildfire Awareness Month**, and it's the perfect time to take action in preparing your home, property, and family for the wildfire season ahead.

Here in Sonoma Valley, we know all too well the importance of readiness. With warmer, drier months approaching, our Fire Prevention team is encouraging everyone to take simple but effective steps to reduce risk and stay safe:

- Create Defensible Space:** Clear leaves, dead vegetation, and other flammable materials from at least 100 feet around your home.
- Harden Your Home:** Seal gaps, install ember-resistant vents, and use non-combustible materials where possible.
- Prepare an Emergency Plan:** Know your evacuation routes, have a communication plan, and prepare a go-bag with essential supplies.
- Stay Informed:** Sign up for emergency alerts and monitor fire weather conditions.

The more prepared we are as individuals, the safer we are as a community. If you have questions or would like a defensible space inspection, our Fire Prevention team is here to help.

Let's work together to make this wildfire season a safe one.



Education: Pile Burning Procedures

Our Vegetation Management Division recently hosted a controlled pile burning techniques course for residents in the Diamond A area, providing hands-on training in safe burning practices and the proper methods for reducing hazardous fuels.



Firehouse Favorites: Recipes Straight from the Crew



Recipe

TITLE: Salmon- Herb, honey & walnut

By: Capt. Semenero

PREP TIME: 30 min.

COOK TIME: 10-15 min.

SERVINGS: 6

INGREDIENTS:

1 ½ lbs. Salmon (4oz.ea.)
2 Tbsp stone mustard
2 Tbsp honey
2 tsp finely chopped basil
2 garlic cloves, minced
½ c finely chopped walnuts
6 c baby arugula
2 Tbsp olive oil
2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
Salt & pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400. Place salmon on tin foil sprayed with non-stick cooking spray placed baking sheet & season with S &P. Stir together the mustard, honey, herbs, and garlic and spread over the salmon.
2. Sprinkle with walnuts and bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until salmon flakes easily with a fork. Toss the arugula with oil and vinegar. Arrange the greens on 6 plates and top each serving with a salmon fillet.

History: Sonoma Valley Fire District Station 3

SVFD Station 3 was formerly Valley of the Moon Fire District's Station 1 prior to consolidation with the old Sonoma Valley Fire & rescue Authority. Located at the corner of Highway 12 and Agua Caliente Road, the station was built in 1985 after relocating from its previous site—now home to Voltair Electric—at Highway 12 and Central Ave. Today, Station 3 houses a full-time engine company, an advanced life support ambulance, a shift battalion chief, and several reserve apparatus.



Upcoming Events

April: Hands-Only CPR trainings– Sonoma Station

May 11th : Mother's Day Breakfast- Glen Ellen Station

June 15th : Father's Day Breakfast- Kenwood Station

July 4th : Sonoma's Fourth of July Celebration & Parade

Thank you!

The Sonoma Valley Fire District extends our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible community for your continued support. All our stations crews were treated by Costas Tacos for a lunch treat this past month. Thank you again to Costas Tacos for filling up the crews.



*Thank
you*



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