



# SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Community Firewire Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2025

## Chief's Corner



With the close of the year, we are pleased to share the fourth edition of our quarterly newsletter. I want to extend my gratitude for the strong connection we share with our community. Your support and engagement inspire our department to uphold the

highest standards of service and care. This newsletter is one way we strive to keep you updated on the important work being done throughout the district.

Over the past several months, our crews have responded to a wide variety of emergencies here at home while also assisting across California through the state's mutual aid system. Our firefighters have joined with other agencies in the wildfire arena, bringing help to communities in need and gaining valuable experience that strengthens our own preparedness. In addition, our personnel continue to dedicate time to training, prevention efforts, and community outreach, all of which ensure we remain ready to serve with professionalism and compassion. Thank you for standing with us. Sincerely, Steve Akre- Fire Chief

# Sonoma Valley Fire News

## President-Elect of the California Fire Chiefs Association

The District is excited to share that Fire Chief Steve Akre has been elected as the President-Elect of CalChiefs. This three-year leadership role is a significant honor that reflects not only Chief Akre's dedication, but the collective strength and reputation of our great organization throughout the State.



## New Advanced Life Support Ambulance

We're proud to place into service our new advanced life support ambulance Medic 301 based out of our downtown Sonoma Station 1. This state of the art ambulance comes with the latest technology including a self-loading gurney which helps our employees load and unload patients into the back of the ambulance. This purchase was made possible from our budgeted vehicle replacement fund.



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## 2025 July - September Call Volume

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

Medical- 940

Fire- 42

Public Assist- 245

False Alarms- 235

Total Calls- 1,462

(- 1% over 3Q)

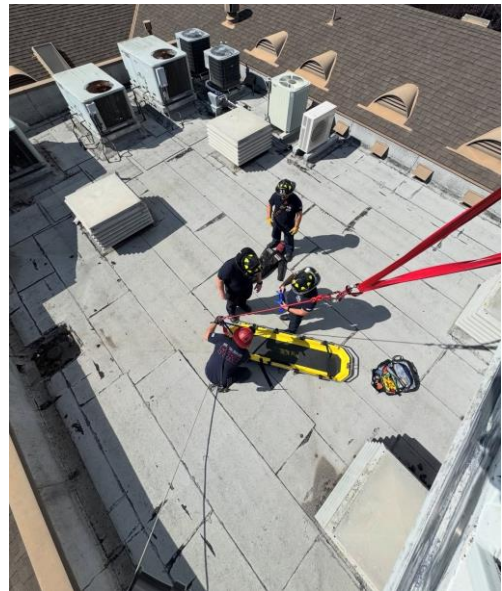
# Training

## Total Training Hours

- July 2025- September 2025- 2,014

## Training Highlights

- Rope Rescue
- Aerial Rescue Operations
- New cardiac monitors
- Extrication tool demo
- New hire firefighter academy



# In The News

## October Fire Prevention Week

The month of October kicked off fire prevention week with this year's theme **Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home**. The fire district crews pay a visit to over ten schools within the Valley and present fire safety topics to over 400 children. This year we had a little help from our new friend Freddie the fire truck.



## New Hire Academy

We would like to welcome aboard two new full-time members to our agency. Both were lateral transfers from neighboring agencies. Delton Rebentisch came to us from Petaluma Fire and Gavin Pearson came from Gold Ridge Fire.



## Breast Cancer Awareness

You will see our crews in PINK this month for Breast Cancer Awareness. Together we can make a difference!



# In The News

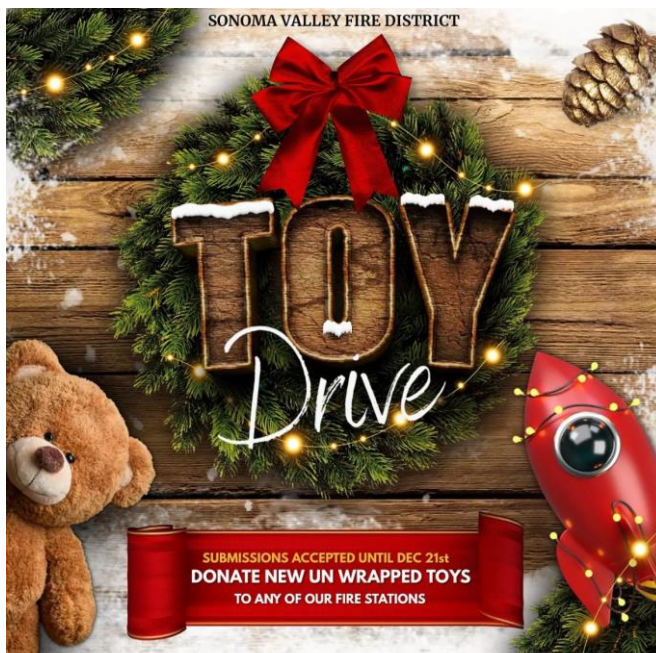
## Employee Spotlight!

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our Part-time Firefighter James Spencer for his dedication and hard work for spending time building "ventilation dollhouses". They are small-scale, training props used by firefighters to demonstrate the principles of fire behavior and ventilation in a safe, controlled environment.

These "dollhouses" show how factors like openings (windows, doors), air flow, and wind influence the fire's growth, spread, and potential for flashovers and backdrafts, helping firefighters learn to control and predict dangerous fire conditions.



## December Starts the Toy Drive



# Meet Your Crew

## Kenwood Station 6- 'C' Shift

Ryan McCracken is a Captain/Paramedic. He has been with the department for 23 years and heads up our CPR/AED program for both the department and community members. Ryan also serves as the departments Volunteer Coordinator for the Fourth of July event and most recently managed the implementation of our new cardiac monitors. Ryan grew up here in the Sonoma Valley and is married and has two kids. On his days off, he enjoys coaching both baseball and softball and also spending time with his family. He has been fortunate enough to see the many changes within our fire department and is excited to see what's next!

Shamus Lyons grew up in Santa Rosa and was hired as a Firefighter/EMT, where he's been proudly serving for the past two years. He's currently working toward becoming a paramedic through the Napa Valley College Medic program. While playing baseball at UC Riverside, he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees. When he's not on duty or hitting the books, you'll probably find him out hiking or spending time on the lake.

Mike Pierson is an Engineer/Paramedic who has served with Sonoma Valley Fire for over seven years. He grew up in Sonoma County and volunteered with Forestville Fire for 13 years. Mike holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, an Associate's degree in Fire Science, and during college he played Division I football and worked as an Ocean Rescue Lifeguard. He oversees the department's Extrication and Rescue programs, assists with grants and fundraising, and has served as an Acting Captain in recent years. Outside of work, Mike enjoys spending time with his family, pursuing real estate as a Realtor, and is currently working toward his MBA.



Left to Right: Ryan, Shamus, Mike

# Fire Prevention

## New Employee- Freddie the Fire Truck

**Freddie the Fire Truck™** is an exciting tool for teaching fire safety. A fully animated fire truck robot, Freddie moves, speaks, listens, plays MP3s and sounds his siren, all by remote control. He can wink, blink, and move his eyes and with his smiling mouth he presents a positive and friendly image to young and old alike. He can be used with great success in school classrooms, assemblies, station tours, shopping mall exhibits, state and local fairs, and any other setting where your safety education program is represented.

Shaped like a fire truck, Freddie is the ideal symbol for your department in the community. He's just the right size for teaching children. He can communicate with them at their eye level and is perfect for hugs and kisses from small friends. He's agile enough to maneuver easily in school classrooms and other restricted areas. With his headlights, taillights and flashing warning lights he is highly visible. We are excited to have Freddie join our fire family.

Freddie was made possible thanks to the [Sonoma Volunteer Firefighters Association](#), who fully funded his purchase. The Association raises money throughout the year to support your local fire department, and we encourage you to join us at our community fundraising events such as the Fourth of July Celebration, Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, our Annual Open House, and the Glen Ellen Village Fair. Their ongoing commitment to giving back ensures that the Sonoma Valley Fire District can continue to expand fire prevention education and introduce innovative tools like Freddie to better serve our community.



# Firehouse Favorites: Recipes Straight from the Crew



## Recipe



TITLE: Pad Kra Pao By: Firefighter Buchanan

PREP TIME: 10 min. | COOK TIME: 20 min. | SERVINGS: 3

### INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp vegetable oil  
2 shallots, thinly sliced  
2-3 Thai chilies, sliced  
5 garlic cloves, sliced  
1 lb ground chicken or pork  
1 tsp sugar  
1 tbsp fish sauce  
1 tbsp light soy sauce  
1 tsp dark soy sauce  
¼ cup water or chicken broth  
1 cup basil leaves, packed  
1 egg, fried sunny-side up

### DIRECTIONS:

Heat the oil. Sauté the shallots and garlic for 2 minutes. Add chilies and cook 1 more minute.  
Add ground meat, breaking it up into small bits. Let it brown and crisp.  
Stir in sugar, fish sauce and soy sauces. Deglaze with water or broth, cooking until liquid reduces.  
Toss in basil leaves and stir-fry until wilted.  
Top with crispy fried egg and serve hot over rice.

## History: Sonoma Valley Fire District Station 2

Currently located at 877 Center Street in El Verano, this station houses a full-time a full-time engine company and an advanced life support ambulance. It also has a ladder truck and a Type 3 fire engine that is crossed staffed with the crews. This station is currently over 50 years old and the District has acquired property at 19154 and 19220 Arnold Drive with the goal of constructing a new fire station and joint training/community meeting facility.



# Upcoming Events

**October 5: Fire Station Open House– Sonoma Station**

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**November 12: Hands Only CPR Class- English and Spanish- Sonoma Station 1**

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**December: Toy Drive begins**

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**December 6: Santa comes to The Plaza on the fire engine**

## Thank you!

As the holiday season approaches, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful community. Your generosity, encouragement, and support shine even brighter during this special time of year. It is truly an honor to serve such a caring and connected community, and we are deeply thankful to have you standing with us. Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, joyful, and peaceful holiday season!



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