



HUNTINGTON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

June, 2020

Letter from the Chief

We are looking forward to another wonderful summer at Huntington Lake and have been working hard so that we can be the best we can be when you need us! The Department conducted three days of intensive training (30+ hours) of training the first week of June that included hands-on medical skills, classroom instruction and of course fire suppression, rescue, equipment operation, and OSHA required training. Throughout the winter, your firefighters have continuously taken on-line courses for both fire and medical, so we are current and well trained for any emergency. Two of our newest members have been graduated from the Fresno Fire Academy having completed the 900+ hour course of training.

Please check out the articles in this newsletter. You will notice that 81% of the 911 calls we made last year were for medical aid, making medical calls “mostly what we do!” There are two articles about insurance; the first tells you about our improved ISO protection class rating of which we are very proud and the second is about your “wildland risk score” which will make it harder to get affordable insurance for us that live close to a forest.

We have done well with grants this year, netting over \$40,000 and have done a significant amount of maintenance on our engines 262 and 362. Our “new to us” water tender will be fully equipped and in service this summer, thanks to the generosity of Board member Gary Castro. You may recall that this apparatus has a large pump which qualifies it as both a fire engine and a water tender.

Hope to see you soon at the Lake!

California State Parks Grants

Over the past five years Huntington Lake Fire has received four grants from the California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Division totaling over \$60,000. The funds are provided to support OHV recreation on off highway routes in the Sierra National Forest including four - wheel drive trails in the summer and snow mobile trails in the winter. We use the funding to “monitor” or patrol trails, provide medical assistance to riders, and conduct rescues both big and small. We also have used the funding to purchase both equipment and supplies for off-highway use. Through these grants we have greatly improved our capability and service to the community.

Our first grant in 2014 provided funding for a new four passenger off-road 4 x 4 “T-Rex” (OHV-62) and a trailer to support rescues and monitoring on 4 x 4 trails in the summer. With a 2016 grant we were able to expand our program to snowmobile trails by providing snow tracks and a cab enclosure for the T-Rex. The 2018 grant cycle provided scene lighting for both the T-Rex and our heavy rescue snow-cat (SC-62), winter rescue clothing: boots, pants, jackets, caps, and gloves and safety helmets for both winter and summer.

Last year a large grant provided funding for us to obtain two defibrillators, two complete sets of medical gear and four portable radios for both the T-Rex and the snow-cat.

This year we have applied for a \$21,000 grant for over-the-side rescue gear and eight additional radios.

We can't seem to get this Right!

Our apologies to **Mr. & Mrs. Ron Ciavaglia** of the Spring Creek Tract who have been members of our Firefighter's Club for many years ... due to accounting issues we never seem to get them on the “Club List”!!!

New Tracks for our Snow-Cat!

This winter the Marine Corps has donated four new tracks for our heavy rescue snow cat. Over the past year the Marines have retired their fleet of Hagglunds Snow cats which they have used extensively over the past 30 years at the winter training center on the east side of the Sierra. These tracks retail for just under \$2,000 so it is a savings to the department of nearly \$8,000!



New tracks are on the way for our Snow Cat SN62

- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION**
- **CANCELLED!**

Sadly we have had to cancel the pancake breakfast and auctions this year due to the Covid 19 outbreak. We look forward to an even bigger and better one in 2021!

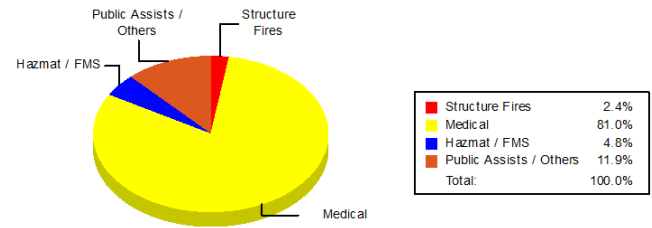
Our newest Firefighters for 2020!

David Acuna
 Scott Armstrong
 Rory Baker
 Peter Cacoza
 Whitney Cotton
 Larry Day
 Austin Gonzales
 Chase Mckinny
 Nolan Mueller
 Nick Papaleo
 Jenine Schulze
 Miles Danelie
 Fer Yang

A Message from the Board of Directors

Your Fire Department Board continues to work to improve the department through its monthly meetings and annual fund raising efforts. The Board's mission is to assure that quality emergency services are always there for the people of Huntington Lake through careful financial oversight and investment, and working with the Chief to make sure that training, staffing and apparatus are in place to fulfill the mission. To find out more check out the minutes of the Board found on the "About Us" page on our web-site. You will find there meeting minutes that date back to 2006!

Number of Incidents / Incident Type



Your "Wildland Risk Score"

ISO ratings –HLVFD is now a 5/5Y !!!

Over the past 20 years getting affordable insurance for your home at Huntington has been getting more difficult. In 1999 Huntington Fire began an aggressive program to improve our capabilities and five years ago we were successful in obtaining our first ever "ISO fire rating" or Public Protection Class rating (PPC). The rating is based on our ability to respond to structure fires (not wildfires). The rating looks at water supply, emergency communications systems, the department's staffing, equipment and training, as well as other factors. The ratings are 1 to 10 (one being the perfect department and 10 being no department at all!) Five years ago we were rated a 6 and last year, after making many improvements we are proud to announce that we have improved to a PPC rating of 5. Obtaining our ISO rating cut insurance cost in half for many of our Huntington neighbors over the past five years.

New Wildland risk score

Due to the increase of wild land fires in California, rating companies have developed new tools that insurance companies use to establish rates and/or to determine if insurance coverage should be provided some wildland settings. The rating agencies provide a wildland "risk" or "hazard" score for every property at Huntington. There is little a home owner or your fire department can do to improve your wildland score because it is based on three factors generally out of our control: Fuels, Slope and Access.

Fuels in the forest around us: grass, bushes, trees, surface fuels, ladder fuels, dead trees, etc.

The slope of the ground: fire pre-heats the fuel up-slope so the fire burns hotter and moves faster on a slope.

Access: Dead end roads make firefighting more difficult

In addition to the Wildland Hazard Score, one company, *FireLine*, provides a "Special Hazard Interface Indicator" for California that considers if a fire in an adjacent area could spread into our area, due to wind, slope, embers, etc. This could be a significant risk in our area.

To find out more visit the two major rating companies web-sites:

FireLine: http://www.iso.com/isoPassportHelp/fireline_reports.htm

CoreLogic: <https://www.corelogic.com/products/wildfire-risk.aspx>

Visit WWW.HLVFD.ORG for current lake & department news!

Covid 19

What you need to know!

The department, along with Cal Fire, has established protocols for our response to Covid related 911 calls. What you need to know:

Fresno County has to date over 3,058 cases and 62 deaths. The Central Valley has 6 times more patients in the hospital due to Covid-19 than on April 1st! Therefore, the virus is still very much with us and continues to spread.

Covid 19 is a respiratory disease resulting in difficulty breathing, among other symptoms. Huntington air has significantly less oxygen and breathing is harder at 7,000. A Covid case can quickly become a life threatening emergency in this "thin air"

Do not come to Huntington if you are sick or have been around people who are or have been ill! Remember symptoms do not show up immediately.

Watch for symptoms (although symptoms may not appear for several days): higher than normal temperature, dry cough, difficulty breathing.

When calling 911 describe your symptoms so the responders can be better prepared to help you.

Everyone in the house should put on a mask before we arrive.

If possible the patient should be moved outside the house

We will put on eye protection, gloves, mask and a gown and try to expose only one firefighter

After we have helped you, we will decontaminate all of our gear before leaving your residence.