

# HUNTINGTON LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUMMER 2012

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JUNE, 2012

## Letter from the Chief—Brother Chris



### Special points of interest:

- Dowville Engine
- New Fire Engine
- Pancake Breakfast
- Calling 911
- Fire Prevention
- Silent Auction

### In this issue:

Letter from the Chief	1
Are you prepared?	1
Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction	2
Apparatus Replacement	2
Message from Board	2

### Welcome back to Huntington!

This year we are excited about the improved service that we can provide to you! Last year we told you about the new engine that will arrive in June. While we had planned to replace our E262 (Ford 550) a couple of years from now, a very generous donor stepped forward to advance the purchase and also provided sufficient funding to allow us to keep our old type III engine. This gift fulfills a long standing dream of establishing a fire station and engine company at the west end of the lake. We learned last week that Laurie Kahn will host the station on her leased property and Glenn Johnson has offered to coordinate the effort to find volunteers to staff the engine. Please consider offering your service to your neighbors if you vacation in the Dowville area. We envision this engine company as a first responder engine providing basic first aid, communications and coordination until advance care arrives.

Your fire department has been aggressive in writing grants for additional assistance this year. The effort has netted three significant grants. Fresno County has granted us \$2,250 to outfit our new engine with hoses, nozzles, and other equipment. Nuveen Foundation granted us \$2,500 for personal protective clothing, helmets, etc. and FEMA granted us \$32,000 to re-power our fire boat!

While the fire boat, donated to us by the navy and the Blue and Gold Fleet in San Francisco, was intended to provide medical rescue service to the scout camps, it has become a powerful tool in establishing lower insurance rates for our cabin owners. The new motor and outdrive will more than triple our speed, cutting our response time to fires and medical aids dramatically! Of course medical ambulance services to those in need at the camps that have no road access is primary, getting a fireboat hydrant line with unlimited water to a fire anywhere on the lake is a major asset!

I am continually impressed with the people of Huntington Lake ... A little while ago at a meeting with the northern California fire chief's I was asked to give a presentation about how our little department has achieved so much. After listing the improvements we have made in the last 14 years, my simple thesis statement was ... it is the generous people of Huntington Lake that makes the difference! Every volunteer department has hard working, well trained, dedicated firefighters ... few departments have virtually every member of the community voluntary donating their time, their talent and/or their treasure to help others in need ... you do ... and I and all the members of the department as well as our dedicated board are proud to serve you!

Brother Chris  
Fire Chief

!

### Fire season is upon us—are you prepared?

We enjoy the beauty of the environment, but face very real dangers. Every year some homes survive while others do not after a major wild-fire. Those that do not almost always do so because their owners had been prepared. With snowpack below normal, the fire hazard risk level is high.

### *If it is predictable—it is preventable!*

In 2011, there were 10,249 wildfires due to lightning and 63,877 by human error as reported by the National Interagency Fire Center.

### ARE YOU PREPARED?

Tips for your consideration:

- Clear a 30-100 foot safety area
- Rake needles, leaves, & dead vegetation
- Clear 10 feet around propane tanks and barbeques
- Stack firewood 100 feet away and uphill from cabins
- Inspect your chimney
- Install fire detectors at each level of cabin
- Review you homeowners insurance policy to review/update the contents list
- Make entrance to cabin accessible to large vehicles & well marked with name/address
- Ensure family members have knowledge of gas, water and electric shut offs.
- Have a fire extinguisher handy (ABC type)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION WHEN CALLING 911

In order to facilitate a fast response from 911 you need to supply the appropriate information.

Please post this information at every cabin/condo to ensure the correct information.

Example:

123456 Huntington Vista Road  
Huckleberry tract lot #23



---

**Pancake Breakfast &  
Silent Auction  
July 8th, Lakeshore Resort**

ANOTHER REASON TO SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday July 8th, our famous **Huntington Lake Pancake Breakfast** will again include the HLVFD's third ever **Silent Auction!** Last year we auctioned off over 70 items donated by our favorite locals in Huntington and Shaver Lake. We expect to have more great items from Fresno retailers as well.

You will not want to miss the Auction—there will be another wonderful carved bear, a handmade quilt, original photographs by locals, watercolor paintings, two cabin lamps, kayak rentals, dinners for two, fabulous wine, and much, much more. Keep your eye out for our Silent Auction flyer: a list of items, along with all the details for the Auction, will be mailed to you in mid June for your review. It will again be a WIN-WIN for all of us. You will have an opportunity to buy some exceptional, local, high quality items, and all the proceeds will go to help the HLVFD continue to maintain its reputation as one of THE BEST VFD's in the STATE!

In light of the continued difficult economy, we are deeply grateful for what we have received from the community. Your support helps the HLVFD provide an increasing level of service, which can lower the community's insurance rates. The Pancake Breakfast has long been a centerpiece of our fundraising efforts and the addition of the Silent Auction has given us a big boost. We encourage all members of the Huntington Lake community to attend. The pancakes are great, and there will be terrific items to bid on. Department hats, t-shirts, and sweatshirts will also be on sale. So come enjoy the pancakes and trimmings! We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday July, 8th at Lakeshore resort. As always, the department will be attending the annual tract meetings to receive your input and answer questions. You can also visit our website at [www.hlvfd.org](http://www.hlvfd.org) for information about the department and its activities.

---

**A Message from the Board...**

As in the past, the Board continues adding to the departments capabilities to be of service to the residents of our community. The most recent sign of progress is the FEMA grant to upgrade the fireboat, as described in the Chief's message.

As we have told you in the past, for the most part, such grants are to be utilized for capital acquisitions and not for operating funds. Please read our annual appeal letter carefully and respond as generously as you can and as soon as you can.