

HUNTINGTON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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SUMMER 2015

MAY, 2015



Letter from the Chief

Welcome back to Huntington!

Summer 2015 is almost here! Your Fire Department is working very hard to prepare for summer at the Lake. We have made several improvements that are significant milestones for us.

ISO Rating Granted to HLVFD:

The ISO rating seemed an impossible goal a few years ago! The hard work, however, of our HLVFD volunteers has resulted in a remarkable improvement in our firefighting capability. We can now boast of a Fire Protection Class of 6/6y. This rating should significantly reduce the premiums paid for fire insurance and directly help those in the community that have had their insurance cancelled. A complete explanation of the ISO rating and its implications are detailed in this issue.

“New” Water Tender:

One of the requirements for the ISO rating was the ability to bring much more water to the scene of a fire where no “rated” fire hydrants exist. We were able to purchase a used water truck and convert it to fire service. Our “new” 3600 gallon tender will be stationed at Rancheria where it will be available for instant response to large fires. This additional water tender enters service along with our current WT62 which brings 2100 gallons to the fire scene.

Rated Fire Hydrants:

We have established performance

requirements for operating, maintaining, testing and record keeping for fire hydrants throughout our response area. It is our goal to work with Tracts to install rated hydrants where ever possible. You can check our website for a chart of all the current rated hydrants in our response area, including location, maximum pressure and flow capability.

Intensive Training “Retreat”

HLVFD will conduct a three day comprehensive training for our firefighters in June which will augment our regular Saturday and Wednesday training in order to offer both additional training and alternative training times for our busy volunteers. Our goal is to maintain Firefighter I and II status as well medical certification for all our responders. This could be a very busy year for fires in the mountains. **We encourage you to be VERY CAREFUL with fire.** We continue to depend on your donations to make all this work! It is highly likely that the Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction will not be held this year due to the water shortage. The Annual Appeal may be our only source of funding for the Fire Department.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SILENT AUCTION

**JULY 5TH 2015
CANCELLED**

The Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction have enjoyed tremendous support from the Huntington Lake and surrounding communities. Every year the HLA volunteers have served up a fabulous Pancake Breakfast and our Fire Department volunteer firefighters have been out in force demonstrating our fabulous equipment. The Silent Auction has grown tremendously over the last five years resulting in significant donations from all of our favorite Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake and Prather businesses and many

of our cabin and condo families. Unfortunately, the drought is taking an increasingly harsh toll on all of us. With great regret, we must cancel the HLVFD Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction this year due to the severe water shortage. With a little help from the “rain and snow gods”, we will be back next year. **The Annual Appeal will be largely the only source of funding for HLVFD.**

Fire Danger 2015

*A note from Phillip MacAskill
Special Uses Permit Administrator
Sierra National Forest*

For yet another year the drought will very noticeably affect recreation opportunities and fire danger on the Sierra National Forest. It is likely that we will see fire restrictions on the Sierra implemented earlier than last summer. The last several months, our Fire Prevention Staff have been reporting plant moisture contents of extraordinarily low values. Living vegetation has far less moisture than normal and many trees have been stressed to their limit and beyond. Grasses and flowers have been plentiful this spring due to warm and sunny days coupled with perfectly timed rain showers. Those grasses and flowers are already dying back which is producing an abundance of carrier fuels. These factors have placed the central Sierra Mountains at an exceptionally high risk of wildfire.

It is imperative that cabin owners, campers, hikers, equestrians, OHV enthusiasts, and all other recreational users check the current conditions and restrictions before heading to the Forest this camping season. Everyone must be vigilant and cautious when tending to a legal campfire, backyard burn, or working on outdoor projects. Burn Permits and Campfire Permits are currently available at the United States Forest Service Office in Prather. The opportunity to safely and legally burn outdoors will be limited so please plan accordingly.



Mark your Calendars for Sunday, July 4th!

Not only is that date our country's birthday, it is also the date of the annual Huntington Lake Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Huntington Lake Association to benefit the Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department. As always, the Pancake Breakfast will be held at Lakeshore Resort and will begin at 7:00 a.m. It will be ending at 11:00 a.m. so make sure you arrive in plenty of time. We are ever grateful to Lakeshore for hosting this event. And there will of course be some very cool Fire Department clothing items on sale.

The Pancake Breakfast is our target date to make sure that your fire prevention checklist has been completed: (1) Property cleared of fire fuels; (2) Batteries in the smoke detectors working; (3) Fire extinguishers fully charged and within the validity period; and (4) chimney cleaned within the last five years.

A memorial service for Bob Leach will be held July 4th following the pancake breakfast. Please visit our website for details.

Introducing a Silent Auction at the July 4th Pancake Breakfast!

ANOTHER REASON TO SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, July 4th, our famous Huntington Lake Pancake Breakfast will also include the HLVFD's first ever SILENT AUCTION! Why didn't we think of this before? A number of items donated by our favorite locals at Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake will be offered.

You will not want to miss these—there will be dinners for two, beautiful cabin style table lamps, a watercolor painting, an original photograph by a local, kayak rentals and the cutest carved bear you can imagine. Lots of things of great interest to Huntington Lake folks will be auctioned, along with a couple of additional very unique and special items.

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 all in mid June for your review. It's a WIN-WIN for us all: You will have an opportunity to find some

Exceptional, local, high quality items, and all the proceeds will go to help the HLVFD continue to maintain its reputation as the best VFD in the STATE!

A Message from the Board of Directors

Even in this difficult economic climate, the Department's finances remain solid and will remain so as long as the members of the Huntington Lake community continue to provide the support we need. The transition from having the Huntington Lake Association collect on the Department's behalf to our direct appeal has been largely successful.

We also want to make sure that we are notified of all Association and Tract Meetings so Department representatives can attend and answer any questions you may have. Please let us know the time and place of your meeting by e-mail at Chief@hlvfd.org or leave a message at the firehouse—(559) 893-2347.