

HUNTINGTON LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Special points of interest:

- *Our new Structure Engine has arrived!*
- *Plan to be at the Pancake Breakfast*
- *Let's recognize all who provide "Fair Share" support*
- *Easy ordering of HLVFD Logo wear*

Letter from the Chief—Tom Zinn

Summer is rapidly approaching (can you believe how fast the weather has changed?) and it is time to begin preparing for the active summer season. First the really good news: Our new Structure engine has arrived! This new engine will significantly improve our ability to respond to fires and medical emergencies in and around the structures on the lake. First of all, its water tank holds water, and a lot more of it! Secondly, with a shorter wheelbase than our current unit, we can much more easily maneuver into the tracts. This means faster response when time is critical. You will see our new engine (red with white trim) around the lake. Unless we have our lights and

sirens on, go ahead and stop us to ask questions.

Next up is preparation: As you go into your residences this year, look around at the growth (or death) of the trees. Each year the trees grow and intrude incrementally into the travel space on the roads. Make sure that your roads provide a clear **eleven feet three inches height** and **10 feet width** for our emergency vehicles to get in. Next, look at broken, dead or dying trees. The USFS and the CDF are being very reasonable about working with all of us to clear "hazardous trees" (defined as trees that show characteristics of falling onto structures or roads). We would like to avoid situations

where tree limbs fall through the roof of a structure (such as happened this winter in one of the occupied cabins at Lakeshore!)

And finally, as a last resort, make sure the phone in your residence has the 911 emergency note clearly posted for whomever calls in an emergency. Location, address, your name and contact phone number are critical. Hopefully, with the all of our efforts we will all have a safe and fun summer.

This will be my last note to you all. I am retiring from the Clovis FD and have agreed with my wife to also retire from the HLVFD. I will always remain an advisor and friend but I feel now is the time to give up my "job" as Fire Chief. My very best to you all.

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Community Event - Mark Your Calendars!!!!

The annual Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Huntington Lake Association to benefit the Fire Department will be held this year on July 2. This is the only real lake-wide community event held each year. It is a lot

of fun. Come meet many of your neighbors from around the lake. Meet our firefighters and the HLVFD Board of directors. Pick up our gifts of thanks for the contributions (above and beyond the basic fees that you

all are assessed) that many of you have made. Pick up the Fire Department garments that you may purchase (see more information below).

A message from the Board of Directors

Your new Board of Directors has been busy during the winter months talking with members of the community and looking for new and different ways to provide the service you want and be able to pay for it. Several good ideas have been presented and one in particular we

are moving on. Specifically, many owners have asked why we cannot combine the "assessment" part of the Fire Department support (this is billed today through HLA for Cabins or through the owners' association for the Condos and private residences.) with the "Annual Ap-

peal" amount (\$100 minimum) that the Department seeks directly. Done correctly, this could make the full \$140 per residence unit tax deductible. We have presented an approach to achieve this to the Tract Presidents and we will work with them this summer to



We heard you! We now have Logo wear for sale.

Board of Directors (cont.)

create a feasible approach for use starting next year. This would be a true “win-win” because the owners would get full tax deductibility for the amount, only one check would be needed and the Department would have a predictable revenue stream that could be shown to third parties (such as the companies that finance our vehicle purchases). Let us assure you, though, this approach does NOT increase the amount we are requesting for the Department. Since 1999 we have been quoting the same amount, a \$40+ assessment and a \$100 annual gift per unit. Thanks to all of your generosity during capital campaigns, the unfunded liabilities we had just a few years ago have been addressed and our new engines are in service. Stabilizing this last piece of the financial picture, our annual operating funds, will be addressed if we can get

this billing approach worked out.

A second issue that we are working on is a mechanism to allow all users of the services of the Department to pay their fair share. Today, our area of service covers the campgrounds, Grouse Creek and Tamarack Estates. A significant number of our medical calls (medical calls make up about 90% of all our calls) are into the campgrounds in the summer. Today, the campers provide no direct support of the department. The contractor (California Land Management) is not required as part of its contract with the Forest Service to support the Fire Department.

During 2005, for the first time, however, CLM did pay its business owner assessment from

the Fire department. Grouse Creek and Tamarack Estates owners provide little support. We will be engaging personnel from all of these areas this summer to determine how best to bring them into the community that is providing Fair Share Support to the department.

Finally, due to the continued diligence of our Secretary-Treasurer, Phyllis Thomas, we have significantly increased the investment yield on monies held between the time we receive them from the community until we expend them. This is one of the many things we are working on within the management of the department to assure that we get the greatest end benefit to our community from the resources we do have.

Community Feedback

Logo-Wear – nearly every member of the Board has been approached aggressively by fellow community members asking that we make HLVFD logo garments available. We have heard you. We are providing an order form in this Newsletter for you to place your order. Garments ordered this way will be available to you at the Pancake Breakfast where we will collect payment.

Annual Appeal – many people stressed that they are quite willing to provide their \$100 per cabin (over the \$40 HLA Assessment) to make up their Fair Share, but we did not provide an easy way to do it. Attached to this Newsletter is a pre-addressed envelope. Write out your check (\$100 is requested and we could certainly use and appreciate additional support.) and put it in this envelope along with your order form for logo wear and your take on our priorities. Add a stamp and mail it.

Get your Fire Extinguisher serviced at the Pancake Breakfast!!

We have arranged with Jorgensen & Co. from Fresno to have representatives present with service equipment during the Pancake Breakfast on July 2 to service your fire Extinguishers. This is the same company that does the extinguishers in the condos and in our Fire House. They will be on site ready to service the fire extinguishers that each of you should have in your cabins. You can bring your extinguisher by as you go into breakfast and pick it up later in the day. They will do this for only \$10 per extinguisher versus the normal fee of \$14.95. If you have purchased the very small (2 pound capacity) units, these are not economically serviceable. Additionally, Jorgensen recommends 5 pound units for cabins as the minimum size. (cont)



(Fire Extinguisher—cont)

If you need to purchase a new unit, a 5 pound, fire marshall certified, unit will also be available from the Jorgensen people for \$45 (which includes tax). This is about as convenient as we can make it to assure that your personal fire protection is fully ready!

Fair Share Support Recognition

This year we will be providing all of you who give their “Fair Share” a decal for your car that recognizes your support. An example follows. Please thank your neighbors who display this decal!



Please help us understand what is important for you!

Second Request: Please give us your priorities

In our last newsletter, we requested your input about priorities for our future improvement. We got a pitifully small response. This is not intended to be a deep analytical effort on your part. Instead, we just want you to give us your personal, immediate reaction to where we should spend our time in addition to continuing to provide the high quality fire and medical response we deliver today. We obviously cannot do everything. Just think about what your reaction would be if we announced that we were going to work on only three of the things on the list. Which three would you say are the most important? That is what we wanted to know. To refresh your memory the list was:

- Provide response for on/in water emergencies
- Faster response to vehicle accidents on Hwy 168 from Tamarack ridge to the Lake
- Improve winter response (e.g., snowmobile accidents, broken arms and legs from sliding, etc.)
- Provide faster response to the Hospital (currently transportation response time is about 45 minutes for the ambulance to arrive at the Lake)
- Improve response to off-road emergencies (hikers, jeep trail accidents, horse/pack animal incidents).

Just put your priority number next to the items above, tear it out and send it back with your check.



Garment Order Form

T-Shirt – Cream colored short sleeved with HLVFD logo on front left chest and Fire Service Cross on back

Sweatshirt – Dark Blue Crew neck with HLVFD logo on front left chest and Fire Service Cross on Back

Cap – Black cap with Company 62 Logo on front in White Letters. One Size fits all (adjustable)

Item	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Unit Price	Extended Price
T-Shirt						\$ 26.00	
Sweatshirt						\$ 30.00	
Cap						\$ 20.00	

Your Name: (please print) _____

Phone Number for Questions about your order: (_____) _____

Lower your Fire Insurance Premium!

We recognize that being able to get fire insurance at an affordable price is important to all cabin and property owners. We have been working on this as we go through our review with the Insurance Safety Organization (ISO), the group that provides the assessment framework for setting insurance rates. One key evaluation parameter is the amount of water that can be delivered at a sustained pressure for 2 hours. We have found that we could get the best rating in this category if we were able to efficiently pump water from the lake into the tracts. To do this would require a permanent pipe into the lake in each tract leading up to an accessible point where we could attach a portable pump that delivers a lot of water into the tract. We are continuing to finalize the details, but are very optimistic that this can be done at a reasonable price (and we have tentative Forest Service OK to go ahead!). See us at the Tract meetings for more information on what your tract will need to do to achieve this.