

# FIRE & DISASTER WATCH

## Campo Fire & Rescue News



BY LT. ROBERT HUME  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
CAMPO FIRE & RESCUE

Spring time has arrived here in the deep east county. With all the rain we have had comes the growth of light and flashy fuels in the fields around our community. We'd like to remind you that defensible spaces are critical as we move into the drier time of year. Take the time now as we dry out and vegetation fires and high winds come back to being a real issue, to clear out that defensible space from your home and structures.

Also with springtime comes daylight savings time when we adjust our clocks forward. Campo Fire/Rescue wants to remind you to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors batteries. Newer

units will typically "chirp" at you when their battery is running low on power. Some units may not "chirp" if the battery loses power quickly and goes dead. Test your units by pushing and holding (as per the unit's instruction manual) the test button for the alarm to sound off. If you're not sure, error on the side of safety and change out the batteries in your detectors. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives every year. They can only do that if you make sure they have good batteries in them!!

Our department is going through some organizational changes that will be highlighted in next month's article. Some of our members have attended training events this last month. Captain Jose Lemus and Engineer Jacob Giamanco attended the 32 hour "Officer in Charge" training put on by CalFire training unit at their Spring Valley (Monta Vista) San Diego unit headquarters. With Captain Lemus completing this training, all of our command staff personnel now carry this certification.

A Rapid Intervention Course (RIC) was also conducted by CalFire training unit. Members completing this training are: PFF (probationary firefighter) Dominguez,

Gilbert, Tran and Ureno. Good jobs guys!! With these four completing the RIC training, 90% of our firefighters have completed this two day training. As I related in my January 2010 article, RIC is all about rescuing a down firefighter. These events, although rare, require a lot of focus and attention by firefighters on scene of an emergency. Setting up RIC teams at structure fires are a critical element of fire attack inside structures. It is/was great training.

I (your correspondent) also attended a training session sponsored by Julian/Cuyamaca Fire Protection District March 6 & 7, 2010. The course, Initial Incident Attack Commander, was a good, intense course for commanding the initial attack of a wildland fire incident. Course curriculum is by the National Interagency Fire Training and National Wildfire Coordination Group. The San Diego County Fire Authority basic firefighter academy # 8 is in progress at their Spring Valley headquarters location. I (your correspondent) am participating as a guest instructor at the invitation of the CalFire Training Captain Darin Howell. This latest academy of 47 trainees is a good group of perspective SDCFA firefighters. 90% are already

EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) certified. Campo Fire/Rescue has two new members in this fire academy.

Turning back towards issues at our fire station, we are still waiting to hear from San Diego County DPLU (Department of Land Use) for a start date for the station expansion construction. The start date keeps getting pushed back. We hope to have the station expansion done prior to the fall fire season and the Santa Ana winds.

The news regarding the existing station upgrade, our congressional representative Bob Filner has informed me that he has added a line item in the 2011 federal budget for \$200,000 dedicated for upgrades to our existing station, built in the 1940's. All of Representative Filner's budget items can be viewed on his web site. This will have to survive the House of Representatives mark up and then budgetary review by the U.S. Senate. We would like to ask and urge the community to call, write or e-mail Representative Filner's office and both of our US Senators (Senator Feinstein & Senator Boxer) and voice your support for this initiative. The more they hear from all of us in

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## Campo Fire Stats



MONTH TOTAL: 21  
MISSED: 0

Campo: 18  
Campo Res: 0  
Lake Morena: 1  
Boulevard: 0  
Pine Valley: 0  
Potrero: 2  
Out of area: 0

YEAR TO DATE: 50  
CALLS / 59 DAYS

LAST YEARS YEAR TO  
DATE: 48 CALLS / 59  
DAYS

YEAR TO DATE  
MISSED: 3 CALLS

DAYS DARK: 3

Medical - 15  
Structure Fires - 0  
Others - 1  
Traffic Accidents - 5  
Vegetation Fires - 0

## CERT Training Planned

SHAKE, RATTLE &  
ROLL!

EARTHQUAKE  
SIMULATION  
EXERCISE

CERT Julian / Cuyamaca (Community Emergency Response Team) program is hosting an all-day county-wide disaster simulation exercise open to all CERT members. The main topic of the exercise is "Earthquake Preparedness - Understanding Earthquakes." In addition, five training stations will be set up to address the following:  
- Disaster Preparedness  
- Fire Safety  
- Medical Operations  
- Light Search and Rescue

Communications

**JOIN US FOR THE  
FUN - LIVE MUSIC &  
RAFFLES!**

April 17, 2010  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Julian High School

All San Diego County  
CERT Members  
FREE

RESERVATIONS  
REQUIRED:

Email: CERTjulian@hotmail.com to reserve your space now! CERT Members please remember to dress appropriately and bring your CERT gear. Box lunches to be provided free to all participants.

FIRE STATIONS IN THE BACK COUNTRY ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR CALL OUT REPORTS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE BACK COUNTRY MESSENGER.

PLEASE EMAIL TO EDITOR@BACKCOUNTRYMESSENGER.COM AND TYPE THE WORD MESSENGER AS THE SUBJECT TO BYPASS OUR SPAM MAIL.

## Boulevard Fire Report

**THE BOULEVARD  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY SERVICE  
AREA III  
PO BOX 1273  
BOULEVARD, CA. 91905**

BY FRANKIE THIBODEAU

Hello neighbors, this is the first article we have submitted to the Messenger in quite awhile, hopefully we will be able to send them out with every edition in the future.

A lot of good things are happening with our department now. The Board of Supervisors are giving us \$156,000 to upgrade and improve our station, as well as the modular in back. These monies come from our fire mitigation fees and we are awaiting the County to hire the Contractors to do the job. The Fire Board voted on January 25th 2010 for the improvements.

**WE WILL ALSO  
BE PREPARING  
BREAKFAST EVERY  
2ND SATURDAY  
FROM NOW ON TO  
SUPPORT THE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT.**

The Menu will not change, it is: Sausage, Eggs, Hash-browns, Biscuits, Gravy and Pancakes. You may

have any or all on your plate. Coffee and Juice, no extra charge.

DONATION OF \$5.00 FOR ADULTS AND \$3.50 FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER.

Breakfast is prepared by the COOK SHACK VOLUNTEERS

We hope to see many of you there on the 13th of March from 8 AM until Noon. Come out and support YOUR Volunteer Fire Department.

Our Station has been manned by a solid stream of Volunteers from all over the County. We have 14 volunteers now and will be up to 20 by the end of Spring. The Station looks better now than it has for some years. These newcomers have worked wonders at the station, stripped and re-waxed the floors, fixing all the broken things that needed repairs, cleaned the kitchen to where you are afraid you may mess something up by just walking in.

**A HUGE HAND  
FOR THESE NEW  
VOLUNTEERS - JOB  
WELL DONE**

Sand bags are also available

to the community, first come, first served, there will be 1000 and you have to fill the bags yourselves. With the rains coming again, you may want to protect your property in certain places.

**TELEPHONE  
DIRECTORY UPDATE:**

We used the same printing company that printed the telephone directory the last 2 times. However, this time it has been a complete disaster with this company. Michael's Printing has lied to us over and over about getting our books done. Promised delivery 3-4 times and did not show up. He made mistakes in the book that should not have been made, yellow pages are white and white pages are yellow. He came or sent an employee with an invoice for payment to the Fire Station, where Judy, the Chair of the Board, left it for him with directions not to pay the invoice until the person giving the check spoke with me (Frankie) first. That did not happen. However, we still do not have the complete order. He owes us 300 more directories. I went into his office the week after he promised to deliver them on the Saturday before and he did not have them printed, even though he stated he

had. As I was standing there, he began printing the books and I was supposed to wait until he printed, cut and bound all those books. Be patient, we will get the others!

**CALLS HANDLED BY  
OUR VOLUNTEERS  
FOR THE FIRST TWO  
MONTHS OF THE  
YEAR.**

In January, there was one (1) Structure fire, four (4) Traffic collisions, eight (8) Medical Aids, one (1) Public Service for a total of fourteen (14) calls.

February, there was one (1) Structure fire, two (2) Traffic collisions and nineteen (19) Medical Aids, and one (1) other fire call. Total for both months is thirty seven (37).

**OTHER NEWS**

If you would like to be a volunteer for our (COOK SHACK MAMA'S) we need servers and people to set up and get the Coffee and Juice made, to make sure we are ready for the community supporters.

Please call Sandy 766-0066 or Frankie Thibodeau 766-9105

## Spring Cleanup

Now is the time to prepare for those dry summer months. In a few short weeks the grass and brush will be dry enough to become an inferno. CAL FIRE urges homeowners to follow a few simple fire safe practices. These practices are mandated by law, including a mandatory 100 foot clearance of flammable vegetation

around structures. Clean leaves and needles from the roof, eaves and rain gutters. Trim tree limbs within 10 feet of the chimney, and dead limbs hanging over the house and garage. Cover the chimney outlet with a spark arrestor of one half-inch mesh screen. Don't risk your home, be fire safe, not sorry!

## Home Fire Safety

Is your home a fire waiting to happen? CAL FIRE advises you to make your home fire safe today. Remove trash, check for overloaded circuits and frayed wires. You would be surprised how quickly a fire hazard can develop without anyone noticing.

Boxes and clothing piled next to the furnace/heater, water heater or clothes dryer should be removed. Never empty ashtrays at night, set them aside until morning. Don't give fire a place to start. Be fire safe, not sorry!