



Smoke Signals

SMOKE SIGNALS is published monthly for Volunteers, Staff and Friends of IVFD.
681 Caves Hwy, Cave Junction, OR 97523
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Firefighters, Johnson, Kisiela and Latva, took 8902 down to Santa Rosa, California last month as part of the Wildland Task Force. We have received many thank-yous from the area that are shown throughout this newsletter.

November
2017

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Chief's Message

By Dennis Hoke: Fire Chief, Paramedic, EFO dennishoke@ivfire.com



Getting away from the constant sounds of tones and paperwork in the office is great for rejuvenating the brain. It gives me time to think and read. While on a long flight to New Orleans, I was able to catch up on some articles in the trade journals. So, here is another edition of random thoughts by Hoke prompted by other authors work.

Our crews are home from three deployments. Great job Joe, Dan, Holly, Neil and Jobe. You represented IVFD well. The community and I are proud of what you did at Napa CA, Eagle Creek and the Chetco Bar fires. I saw a lot of thank-yous from within Oregon and California for the work you did. And a special thanks to the rest of IVFD members who filled in the gaps while our teams were deployed. Watching the news footage of the fires in

California reminded me of an article in Fire- Rescue magazine called the Roaring Lion. This was the name of the devastating fire in Montana. Not much coverage on this fire. I love the name though. The name represents what happened in California and potentially what could happen in the Illinois Valley. The Montana "Roaring Lion Fire" completely engulfed a populated canyon in under 50 minutes. The residents had zero discretionary time to evacuate. No level One, Two or Three notices. This fire went over 8500 acres with 14 homes lost along with 50+ out buildings. We dodged the bullet this year with the Chetco Bar fire. Could a fire like the Roaring Lion or the fires in CA hit the Illinois Valley? Of course. The question is are we ready? More importantly, are you ready? Do you have a plan for your family? We learned a lot with the structural triage we accomplished. What astounds



me is the two cat parks plan of action. One had a plan but needs 48 hours. The other has no plan and is not defensible. How many of us are in the same boat? Fire, flood, earthquake or snow-mageddon, we are in a disaster prone area. If you don't have a plan, please contact one of the CERT team members and they can help. On a side note, I have discussed this with my wife. She assures me that we have enough pie filling in a disaster. Nothing else, just pie filling. So if you're in need of pie filling when the big one hits... got you covered!

The selection is done for the new firefighter/EMT's. It has been an interesting process. I believe we made the right decision and it was difficult. We had to find not only the best qualified but the best fit to our organization. In my career I have interviewed hundreds of firefighter candidates. A firefighter is one of the most coveted jobs to have. There is never a lack of candidates. What amazed me during this selection process is the lack of resume and cover letter preparation. In any job application, you have 15 seconds for the reviewer to make a decision on your packet. This has to be right. This may be the only opportunity to sell yourself. Some other pointers for those applying for any job, if you have a report time for an assessment or interview, don't be late. This is a sure way not to move on in the process. If there are instructions, follow them. Doesn't matter if you agree with the instructions, just follow them. In our profession following instructions can be a matter of life and death. If

you can't follow a simple non-emergency instruction, how will a candidate perform on the fireground? If you need some coaching on application preparation, I will gladly help you. Congratulations to our new career Firefighter /EMT's Norman, Miller, Petetit and Peterson.

One of the resounding themes I keep seeing over and over is firefighter cancer and physical fitness. We are losing firefighters to cancer at an alarming rate. IVFD has taken great strides to provide you with state of the art turn outs, Nomex hoods and SCBA's. Want to prevent cancer? Use the gear and wash it. I am guilty of not following these simple rules. On a recent car fire our duty crew was on move up to Grants Pass and of course we were toned to a car fire. I made the right decision, followed policy and put my SCBA's on. (Yes, old guys can still pack up and fight fire!). The point is our profession requires fitness to do our job. If you want to be a professional firefighter, eat right, stay in shape and use your PPE. Most of us want to live a long life well after our fire service careers. We have the ability to prevent or at least minimize the effects of cancer and cardiovascular disease. It all hinges on your decisions.

Until next time.... Let's be safe out there.

Dennis





Training and Safety

By Jeff Gavlik: Deputy Chief

The fire service is a para-military form of organization for the obvious reasons. Like the military, life and death are one step or action away when critical tasks are being performed. There is no time to debate or question orders during these times or people get killed or injured. Emergency services is very similar in that during critical emergency situations, orders need to be followed and carried out if the safety of crews and outcome is to be a positive one. This is not to say that a firefighter is to blindly perform without any questions asked, moreover, it is intended to prevent needless debate over what or how something is to be done. There is always many ways of doing things and unless you are asked to perform something completely unsafe, the firefighter is expected to carry out the orders given in a professional and expedient manner. The debate or exchange of ideas for better ways of doing things can and should be saved for the after-incident review or during training opportunities.

What about the non-emergency side of emergency services like inspecting and cleaning the fire trucks or fire house and public activities. Is it ok to disagree with a senior firefighter or officer in a non-life threatening situation? The answer is yes and no. We should all be approachable and willing to talk to one another about any issues we may have, however, respect and professionalism is still paramount. Do not start a disagreement publicly in front of others. If you have a concern about something, talk to your senior firefighter or officer privately so as to give them the respect and honor they deserve. You will have a greater chance of success in resolving the issue at hand if you treat those overseeing you professionally than if you openly and publicly berate or degrade their decisions and actions. A good rule to live by is to praise publicly and criticize in private.

You have heard it said that it takes years to build up a good reputation and only seconds to break it down. This stands true for our department's image to the community we serve also. Don't do anything that would tarnish the public's viewpoint. We have collectively worked hard to be a positive impact within our community and the neighbors that we serve and it only takes a moment to break that down. Don't be that moment! Work hard, be courteous, act professional and be respectful in everything you do and people will no-

...tice! Everyday, people form opinions both good and bad, it's human nature, don't give them the occasion to form a bad one. Do what is right because it is the right thing to do and good things will follow.

On a different note, with fire season coming to a close, I would like to thank all of you for your dedication, sacrifice and steadfastness to keep our valley safe during this wildland season. Several of you picked up the challenge to staff the airport crash rescue and strike team deployments to help others in need. Thank you! It is because of you that we were able to meet the needs of our community and the people we serve. Keep up the good work!



Dear Illinois Valley Fire Department,
Thank you so much for helping with the fire disasters in Sonoma County. Every thing helps. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Delaney Johnson
ASB CLASS@PHS

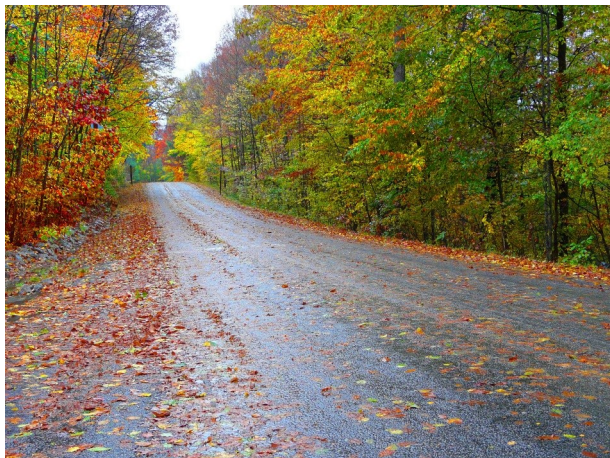




Logistics

By Kris Sherman;
Division Chief Logistics

As fall weather and road conditions change with the season, the following driving safety tips will help keep you safe as you enjoy the cool crisp air and the beautiful colors of the autumn leaves.



The Dangers of Leaves on the Roads

When leaves accumulate on the roadway and become wet, they can get extremely slippery, making the driving conditions similar to driving on ice. If the temperature drops below freezing, the wet leaves will freeze and turn into dangerous icy leaves on the roadway. Besides reducing the car's traction, causing skidding and the possibility of losing control of the vehicle, leaves often cover the painted road markings, making it difficult to know the locations of the lanes.

- Slow down if you are driving on a road covered with leaves, especially when driving around turns.
- Allow yourself plenty of room to stop in an emergency. Keep a greater distance between you and the car in front of you.
- Leaves make it difficult to see potholes and bumps in the road.
- Keep your windshield leaf free to avoid wet leaves getting stuck under the windshield wiper blades.

Changing Weather Conditions

In many areas, autumn is a damp, wet season. There are many rainy or foggy days and nights. As the temperatures drop, frost often coats the ground at night.

- When driving in fog, set your headlight to low beam. This setting aims the beam of light down toward the roadway.
- In the fall as temperatures drop, frost often forms on the roadway, causing hazardous driving conditions. Drive slowly and break gently at overpasses and bridges as these areas frost over more quickly than other roadway surfaces.
- Be aware of areas where black ice forms on the roadway.

Adjust for Fewer Hours of Daylight

In the fall there are fewer hours of daylight. In the earlier darkness it is common to see children outside playing or riding their bicycles. People are walking their dogs, jogging or taking late afternoon or evening walks. In the fading light of dusk it is more difficult to see the children and pedestrians.

- Watch out for children at their bus stops in the morning and as they return home in the afternoon.
- Always drive defensively.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Keep your headlights cleaned and in proper working order, making sure they are aligned.
- Replace your windshield wiper blades if they show any signs of wear.
- Keep an emergency car safety kit in your vehicle.

Additional Fall Safety Driving Tips

- Always keep a pair of sunglasses in your vehicle. Fall sunrises and sunsets can be very brilliant. The bright sun often creates a large amount of glare, making it difficult to see other vehicles, the roadway or the road's shoulder. Wearing sunglasses during these times reduces the danger.
- If you live in an area where there are deer, they are more apt to run into the roadway especially at dawn and dusk since the fall is an active breeding time. If you see a deer cross the roadway, proceed very slowly as they often travel in groups.

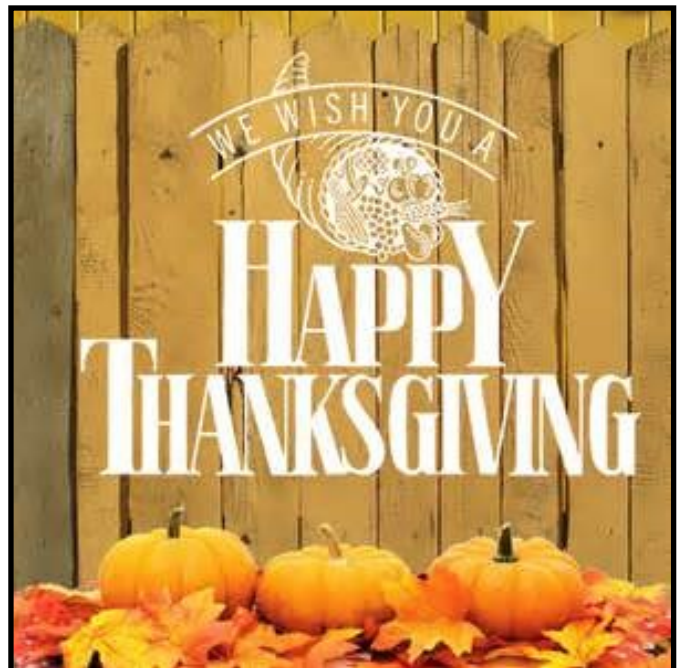


To the amazing people at Illinois Valley:

**SONOMA
STRONG
SONOMA
PROUD**

Thank you for your service. You will always be one of us. On behalf of the town of Sonoma, CA.

~DENISE





We had a good turn out at Station 1 for Halloween!

Dear Illinois Valley Fire Department
 thank you for saving lives, in
 Sonoma. You guys were so brave,
 I really appreciate it so much.

Sincerely, Jaime 5th grader at Bellevue Elementary

THANKS
 So much
 -Peter
 WILLY

OAKLAND CA 94666
 PM
 21 OCT
 2017

Thanks for coming to our
 rescue! Santa gave us so
 grateful for the teamwork of so
 many agencies in containing &
 extinguishing
 the fire in our
 area. what a
 blessing! keep
 up the good work!
 -Diana
 @ Jaime

Thank you so
 much for coming
 here to keep
 us and our city
 safe!
 -Diana

Illinois valley
 Fire Dept.
 681 caves Hwy
 Caves Junction, OR
 97523

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Thank you, Jaime for
 the amazing drawing!



Operations & Prevention

By Kamron Ismaili; Division Chief Operations and Prevention

House Pride

Firefighters are an extremely proud bunch. In most cases, they are proud of their profession (yes, even a volunteer can consider it a profession) and what they do. However, firefighters should also recognize that there is a lot to be proud of “in house.” Our people, our accomplishments, our traditions, and our heritage all can contribute to what I like to call house pride. The Professional Volunteer Fire Department should promote house pride at every opportunity.

It's easy for firefighters to get wrapped up in the problems of the day. The clubroom politics can sometimes be distracting and overshadow all the good being accomplished in our firehouses. Take a step back and look at what has been accomplished within your department. Look at the equipment, the rigs and the firehouse; all you see took lots of work, effort, dedication, and commitment. The turnout gear you wear? Many meetings were held and studies done to decide what kind to purchase. That new thermal imaging camera (TIC)? In addition to the time and effort spent studying which TIC is best for the department, members may have had to navigate mounds of paperwork to secure a grant or identify a source of funding for the purchase.

Or, quite possibly, they arranged for a fundraiser of some type. The newest rig in your fleet? Hundreds of hours were put into that project. The fresh coat of paint in the hallway? If it wasn't done by a member on his own time, somebody still had to arrange for that project to be completed.

Accomplishing all these tasks and doing all the busy work at our local firehouses is most often done by our members after they have already worked their eight-, 10-, or 12-hour paycheck-earning job, or after they coached that little league game or helped their kids with their homework. Yes, after doing so many other things, it's off to the firehouse to meet with the committee or to get done what needs to be done. The point is that firefighters should all be proud of the work and effort put forth by members over the years that moved the department forward.

However old your department is, look back at your history. Show appreciation for the people who brought

you to where you are today. Sure, many are long gone, but they should never be forgotten. Dig out those old photos, dust them off, and get them up on the wall. Impress upon the new members that they are now part of this proud tradition. Show them the photos and explain who these people are. In addition to honoring and remembering those who helped shape the department, this also contributes to house pride. Your members will feel better about the department knowing they are part of a long-standing tradition. When they walk through the hallways of the firehouse, these photos serve as gentle reminders that many others served before them and contributed to the department's success over the years.



At every opportunity, extoll the virtues of being a firefighter. Be sure our members understand the responsibility that comes with that esteemed title. That responsibility equates to serving with honor, integrity, and behaving appropriately on and off duty. Along with that responsibility should be a sense of pride. Wearing the badge of a firefighter should elicit pride from all of us. We have every right to be proud of the great fire service to which we belong. It is forged with hard work, dedication, selfless service, and sacrifice. Impress all of this upon your membership.

Firefighter pride should be a bridge to department pride. Build pride in your department by highlighting all of its great accomplishments through the years. As I said, the people should be on the wall; celebrate their accomplishments and highlight your department's unique characteristics by focusing on those things of which your department is extremely proud. Every department has certain things—a tool, a rig, the first to try or do something, a unique annual tradition—of which it is proud. Celebrate it! Teach it! Pass it on!

But, remember to teach our members to be proud and humble yet never arrogant.

Some departments actually develop and present an annual training drill focusing on their department history and heritage. What a great way to teach new members what it means to be a firefighter! It also serves as a great reminder for the senior members because, from time to time, it's important to point out to all members why they should be proud of the title "firefighter" and to be equally proud to be a Illinois Valley Fire District firefighter.

Sometimes, members get discouraged and upset about negative things going on in the firehouse, and it hurts house pride. I always like to point out to our members, especially our newer ones, that there are life lessons that can be learned from the way issues are resolved and disagreements worked out within departments. Let's understand and agree that disagreements and opposite points of view are inevitable in any organization. But, if there is a clearly defined process for handling them, issues can be resolved in a non-confrontational manner. Sure, a decision has to be made or a course of action has to be decided on. In most cases, democracy will prevail, and not everybody will get what they wanted. But, if the process allowed for all concerned members to have some input and differing views were allowed to be discussed, there can be less controversy and less of the so-called "dirty politics." Members will be less likely to feel victimized. They may be disappointed and even upset, but if they have been provided a fair opportunity to participate in the discussion, they should at least be able to walk away knowing they were provided with the chance to express their point of view. Life lessons can definitely be gleaned from the many boardroom discussions that lead to successful conflict resolutions.

Continue building that house pride by sharing your members' personal success stories. If a member has recently been promoted in his paid job, congratulate him at the monthly business meeting or in the department newsletter. If a younger member accomplishes something at school, share it. Publicize members' birth announcements, weddings, and other happy events. At the same time, support members in time of sorrow or grief. It's amazing how petty politics and differences can be cast aside—even forgotten about—when a member is having a difficult time and the department bands together in support. It speaks volumes for fire service brotherhood when members show up at the wakes and funerals of not just current members but past members as well. Like most departments, we try to attend the wakes when a former member passes away. Often times, the member was last active dec-

ades before, and many may not even have known him. But, by paying our respects, we are teaching the new generation of firefighters the meaning of fire service brotherhood and the importance of honoring those who served before. In most cases, the family of the deceased is forever grateful. In all cases, everybody is left with a greater sense of fire service pride.

Keep track of and recognize your members' service milestones. I used to congratulate members at the monthly business meeting when they reached a major anniversary date such as 20 years of active service. I would also highlight their accomplishments in our department newsletter. I never realized how much this came to mean to the members until I inadvertently missed one member's anniversary date. That firefighter let others know he was hurt that I missed it (he was afraid to point it out to me for fear of that large ego).

Most departments do some type of service recognition at their installation banquets, which is great. We added a twist: instead of just mentioning the member and how many years of service he had, we added a short bio of the offices he had held along with other noteworthy accomplishments during their career. Again, I never knew how much that meant to people until one year when the wife of one longtime member told me how appreciative she was that we mentioned this information while calling him up to the podium to be recognized. She correctly pointed out that many newer members had no idea of all the contributions and years of dedicated service put in by her husband. By taking a minute to highlight his career, hopefully we contributed to this member's house pride. His wife certainly was a little prouder of the department in which her husband had been serving faithfully for so many years.

You can also build pride by recognizing and congratulating members as they complete fire and emergency medical services training courses. Obtaining an emergency medical technician certificate or firefighter certification means many hours of long work. A nice pat on the back and a "well done" in the company newsletter or at the monthly meeting is certainly well deserved. We designed a little promotion ceremony when elevating a newer member from the ranks of nonstructural exterior firefighter to an interior or a structural firefighter as well as for when a member came off probation. None of these ceremonies need to be long or drawn out, but they can easily be done in a simple but meaningful manner, and they certainly make a lasting impression.

Embrace social media to help promote house pride. Publicize fire service milestones, personal success stories, and their important firehouse events; don't just

hold it all in house. Let the community know. In addition, highlight department operations, community interactions, and fire service camaraderie. Post a photo of the probie getting sworn in or a story about a member's career as he approaches his service anniversary date. Show a video clip of members training hard or discussing a successful operation. Social media is an incredibly powerful tool and can immediately impact a firefighter and fire department's reputation. Used often and correctly, it can also enhance house pride.

One important thing to remember is to always be fair and not taint house pride by purposely ignoring certain people or their accomplishments. The recognition must be shared equally among all members. The old saying, "What you do for one, you must do for all" certainly applies here.

Developing a company logo, apparatus insignias, and catchy mottos certainly can contribute to house pride. Some departments like to design a kitchen table with the logo carved into it or display their logo throughout the firehouse and on the rigs and incorporate it on jackets, T-shirts, and other uniform accessories. If done tastefully, this is a great idea to help boost department pride.

There is so much to be proud of by being part of the great fire service. The Professional Volunteer Fire Department works hard every day to develop, promote, and celebrate house pride and to make our fire halls or fire stations a firehouse!

By Thomas A. Merrill
(The Professional Volunteer Fire Department)

October 26, 2017

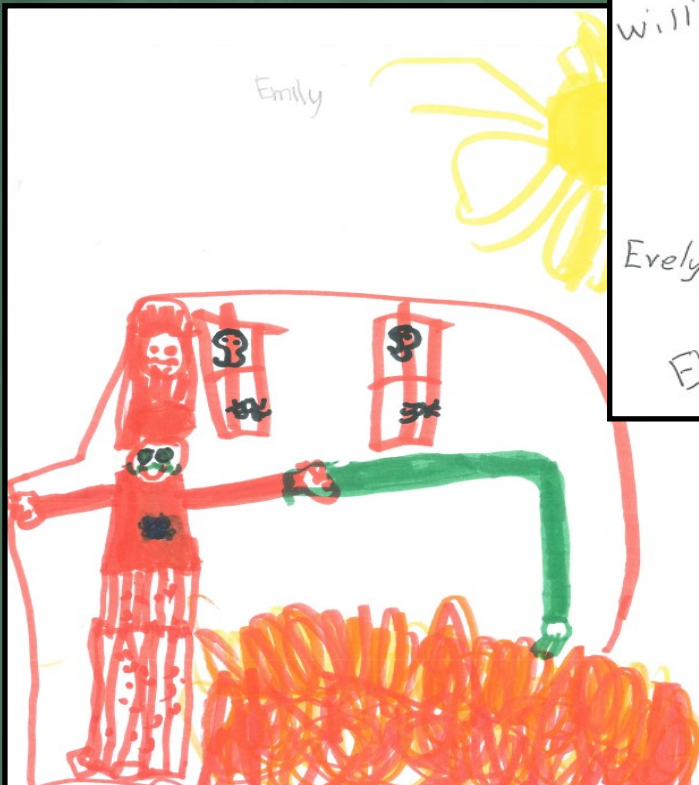
Dear First Responders,

Thank you for not giving up on putting out the fires in Santa Rosa! Thank you for protecting us from the fire and saving lives. We appreciate you for being brave. You warned us about the fire and saved some people's houses. Thank you for doing your best by saving animals and trees. Thank you for coming to California to help us put out the fires!

Sincerely,
Ms. Pollock's Second Grade
Bennett Valley USD

Connor Templin
William
Bernadette
Christian Olivarez
Shaila Raven
Samuel
Jonathan Ponce
Karen
Lily Holm
Paula Anzures Lorez
Atticus Nyhan
Emily Beatty
Allison Vega
Josephine Drees
Evelyn Robinson
Liam Petrik
James Detrick
Elloria
Brian
Henry Vincent

Thank you to
Ms. Pollock and
her Second Grade
Class!



Thank you, Emily for your
wonderful picture!

Through the Lenses

Of: Dale Sandberg, Jason Bayless, and Ned Booth—IVFD Media Department

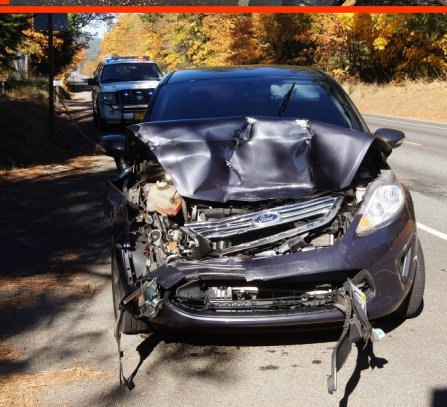
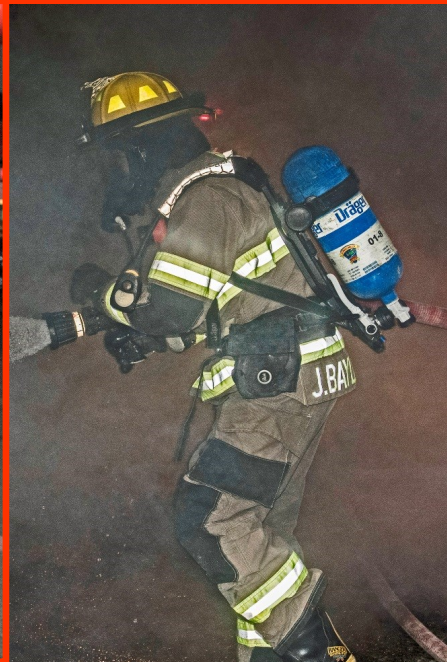




SMOKE SIGNALS is a monthly newsletter published by the Illinois Valley Fire District for volunteers, staff and friends.
To get a copy please stop by our administration office at 681 Caves Hwy.



ILLINOIS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SMOKE SIGNALS, NOVEMBER 2017



The Firehouse Cook



By Pramada Kisiela:

Cheese Biscuits

These are quick, easy and filling. They don't have to be the traditional round shape; years ago I decided to make biscuits square or diamond shape to avoid having to re-roll the dough many times, as that toughens the biscuits, and I always like to save time as well. These taste best with sharp cheese. Some recipes add herbs for extra flavor. This recipe made 15 square (and one funny looking) biscuits.



Pre-heat oven to 400 - 425 but ovens vary, so use your best judgment!

In a bowl whisk together:

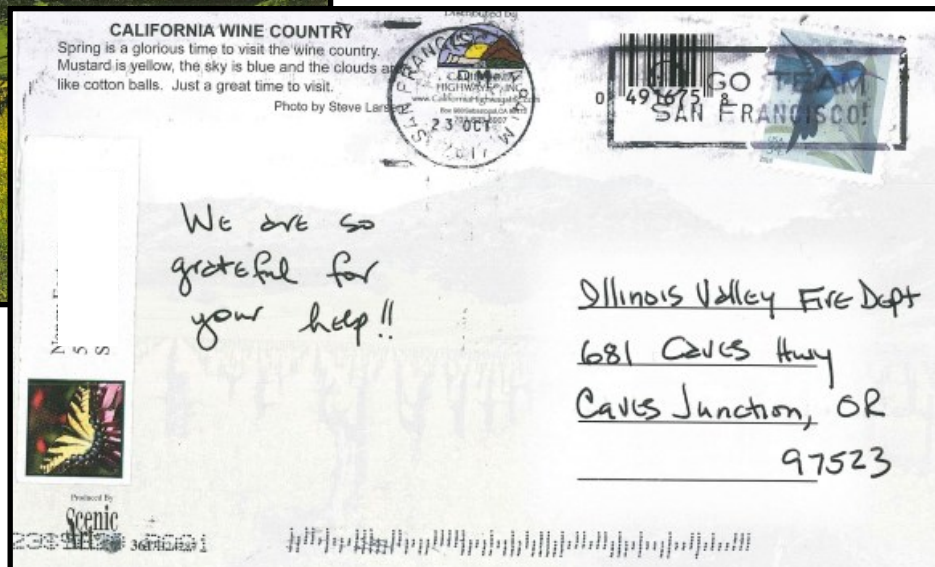
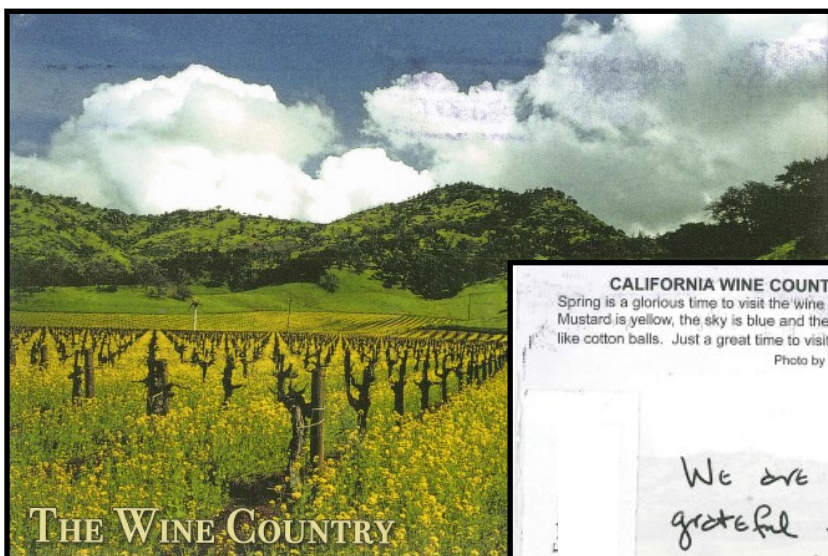
- 3 c. flour
- 1 t. salt
- 4 t. baking powder
- 1 t. sugar

Chop 1 stick cold butter into pieces and work into the dry ingredients with a pastry cutter, fork or your fingers, until it is like meal.

Add:

- 3/4-1 c. grated sharp cheese
- 1 c. milk

Stir gently with a fork until a ball forms. I had to add a bit more milk because it was dry. Add a bit of flour if too sticky. Place on a floured board or counter and knead gently a few times, then roll into general rectangle shape no more than 1/2 inch thick. Cut into desired shapes and place on baking pan; recipes always say to use ungreased pan for biscuits but to make sure they didn't stick I buttered the pan. Bake until tops are golden brown and they are done inside. To keep warm put in a bun warmer lined with a clean kitchen towel.



10-19-17

Dear Illinois Valley First Responders,
 Just a BIG thank you for all the help you gave to Santa Rosa during the horrific wildfire. We appreciate your efforts. The fire was very close to us, but we are safe and home thanks to you.

Kathy and Charles Ash
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To the Illinois Valley Fire Department:
 We are so grateful for all of your help responding to the wildfires in California. We appreciate all of your courage and self-sacrifice - including being so far away from your home and family.

Your kindness and valor will never be forgotten.

Santa Rosa, CA.

Gratitude
 can transform common days into
thanksgivings,
 turn routine jobs into
joy, and change
ordinary
 opportunities
 into blessings.

William Arthur Ward



Thank you to the **HEROES** of the 2017 California Wildfires - each one is "an outstanding person facing extraordinary circumstances and acting with courage, honor, and self-sacrifice."
 (source unknown)

Bless you for your service and dedication!

Phawnda Moore &
 Ron Greenwood
 Rocklin, CA

SACRAMENTO CA 957
 21 OCT 2017 PM 3 L
 POSTCARD

Illinois Valley
 FIRE DEPARTMENT
 681 CAVES HWY
 CAVES JUNCTION, OR
 97523

**Being told
 you're appreciated
 is one of the
 simplest and most
 uplifting things
 you can hear.**

FB/Sue Fitzmaurice, Author



Administration

By Jamie Paul, Executive Administrator



November Birthdays

Christina O'Brien 11
 Kyle Lane 28

Anniversary Dates

Celebrating Years of Service..

Nancy Clark Since 2013
 Jay Webb Since 2015

Joys and Concerns:

I want to thank all the volunteers who have ran to the call of others in need this year. With the deployments this year our members have had to go all over the state (and out of the state) to help others. While they have been gone those here at home have stepped up and made sure our own District has stayed safe.

THANK YOU !!!

Risk takin'
 people rescuin'
 ladder climbin'
 fire engine ridin'
 hose almin'
 life savin'
BLAZE extinguishin'
 axe swingin'
 pressure handlin'
 alarm respondin'
 America's *hottest* occupation
FIREFIGHTER

Remember This Thanksgiving
 Someplace a Volunteer Firefighter
 Will leave his family at the dinner table
 And put his life on the line
For a Total Stranger
 Support Your Local Fire Department
 And Give Thanks For Them



November 5th
 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back!!

November Observances & Fun Facts	
November 2017 is Observed as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Diabetes Month Lung Cancer Awareness Month National Adoption Month National Native American Heritage
Nov. Birthstone	Topaz and Citrine
Fruit & Veggies for the Month of November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apples Plantains Mustard Greens Swiss Chard Cranberry Collard Greens Kale Broccoli Rabe
November Flower	Chrysanthemum
Nov. Astrological Sign	Scorpio (till 21st) & Sagittarius (22nd--)
Proclamations and Notable November Observances	Nov 26: Small Business Saturday

October 2017 December 2017

Temperature Graph November 2017

— Avg HI — Avg LO - - - Forecast HI - - - Forecast LO

10 Tips *Cret Ahead of the Winter Freeze*
 It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
- Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote build-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- Our fireplace screen is **metal or heat-temperated glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
- Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
- We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. (You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)
- We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)