



## DRY CREEK-LOKOYA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation Tax ID #68-0383597

[www.drycreek-lokoyna.com](http://www.drycreek-lokoyna.com)

### CHIEF 16's CORNER

Well, we survived the summer of 2018 but not our neighbors to the north. We thought we had the worst fires in California in 2017 but 2018 topped that list. As our neighbors move forward with rebuilding or with moving, my thoughts are with all those still affected by the 2017 fires. I have visited some new houses going up to replace those that were lost. Great to see! I have also visited those neighbors that have decided to leave the hills and find another location.

Mother nature is beginning to see a rebirth as many trees are budding with new life! And the grasses are back in full force making the burned areas look greener and lusher.

Our winter, so far, has been a real duddy! Lots of local flooding with mudslides, both large and small, road dropping 4-5 feet and many stranded neighbors. As a reminder, if you are in need of emergency services, dial 911 and your local Dry Creek-Lokoya volunteers will be dispatched along with the staff from the career stations. This is important because your local firefighters are always working to see how we can work around our local disasters.

When Wall Rd. dropped 4-5 feet, I found a way to bypass the road closure to service the ten residences that were stranded above the road drop by using a driveway and then an old fire road. This information was passed along to the career staff of NCFD (Napa County Fire Department). Thankfully Dry Creek Rd. remained open, flooded at times, to act as a way around, first the Hwy. 29 closure at Yountville and then the Redwood Rd. closure due to the huge mudslide in the 3500 block. I need to give kudos to our Napa County Public Works as they were extremely busy dealing with all of the road issues in our area. Redwood Rd. was reopened within two days and Wall Rd. within the week! Wall Rd. is down to one lane but emergency apparatus can easily access the area again.

I'd also like to share some great news. Our current E216, a 1990 Beck fire engine and the oldest in the NCFD fleet, is being replaced with a new engine (see photo below).



## CHIEF 16'S CORNER

(continued)

The new Engine 216 can hold a crew of four and their gear much more efficiently than the old, single bench E216, and will act as a wildland fire engine and a structure fire engine. It will be located at the main firehouse at 5900 Dry Creek Rd.

Speaking of structure fires, unfortunately we have had two structure fires this winter. In the past I have spoken about the need of the property owner to maintain an access road that fire apparatus can use to approach your house, especially if your driveway is one of our long, rural, winding driveways. Without a good driveway, especially in the winter with our heavy rains, the response will be delayed and the results may be to no ones liking. And if structure fires happen during the summer fire season, this could make things even worse. so, please maintain your driveways.

No matter how good your driveway is, without proper notification a timely response is more difficult and the likely hood of saving a structure diminishes with time.

Some other great news is the new firefighters that DCL has received lately. with many of our seasoned firefighters finding other jobs or retiring we have many openings for new recruits (hint, hint!). As of today's date, Kyle Healy joined us last year and is now in the NCFD Volunteer Fire Academy.



Also joining us last year as firefighters are Robert Perman, Andy Montanez, and Cory Hancock. New recruits joining us this month are Grant Ingalls and Narender Singh with John Cant and Dylan Brusstar finishing up their application paperwork. Also, our new drivers, Davis Pratt (P16) and Nick D'Adamo (E216).

I'd also like to introduce our new Training Officer, Dave Robertson. Dave comes to us as a retiree from Alameda City Fire Dept. His knowledge and expertise has greatly added to our trainings.

When I joined DCL in 1978, we had over 35 members of the department due to everyone in DCL was living "on the hill." This included the very first women volunteer firefighters in California. Obviously, as these members retired, moved away, or passed on, DCL has suffered with low membership. With our newest members we will be back to 17 members. This is great news for the department and for our neighbors! However, we still have room for more of our local neighbors to join us! If you have the second and third Saturdays free to train, please go to our website at [www.drycreek-lokoya.com](http://www.drycreek-lokoya.com) and scroll down to "More Information." This will take you to the NCFD website and the application.

Let's prepare now for the summer by cleaning around your property the required 100', making sure you have a dedicated water supply for firefighting, and a plan for evacuating if required. See our website for more!



Volunteer Chief Gary Green

## **ANNUAL COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**

### **BREAKFAST MEETING**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 8:00-10:30**

*As a reminder, please join us for this neighborhood meeting where you can meet your neighbors, have a great pancake breakfast, hear important information from guest speakers, and plan for a Safe Fire Season! The Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department and the Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council will serve **pancakes from 8:00-9:00**. Shortly following there will be presentations by other organizations including:*

*Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department/ Company*

*Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council*

*CalFire/Napa County Fire Department*

*Home Winemakers Classic*

*Bring the entire family for pictures with the fire engines, the firefighters, and free fire hats for the kids! Literature and other important information will be available during the event for you to take home and put to good use. So, please join us at anytime between 8:00 and 10:30 at the main Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department, 5900 Dry Creek Rd.*

### **The Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council Continues to Focus on Fire Prevention Projects**

Joseh Nordlinger, MVFSC Chair

Living in an area as spectacular and beautiful as the Lower Mayacamas range comes with risks, rewards and most importantly responsibilities. The risk mitigation work to reduce the destruction from wildland fires is ongoing and the Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council (MVFSC) is actively engaged in leading those efforts. MVFSC is doing work for Mt. Veeder, for the Mayacamas Fire Safe Council, and even providing leadership for Napa County as well. Our work focuses on fuel reduction as well as community outreach and education and we have been busy securing funds to deliver on these important priorities for our community.

MVFSC has raised funding from both Cal Fire and the California Fire Safe Council for Shaded Fuel Breaks (SFB). Projects include a SFB along the Legacy Fire Road running the ridge top from Trinity Rd. to Bald Mountain. Another project is a SFB along a Legacy Fire Road along Mt. Veeder Peak Ridge Road from Cavedale Rd. to the Lokoya Rd. loop. Additionally we have funds to build SFB's that will provide two additional access routes from Dry Creek Rd. and Mt. Veeder Rd. to the Old Ridge Road. Finally, we have funds to develop the Shaded fuel breaks along the Limited access roads at Oakville Ridge Rd. and Oakville Grade Road.

Additionally, the MVFSC has secured two grants to support our community outreach and education efforts in the Mt. Veeder and Mayacamas responsibility areas. This initiative will include gathering detailed information to improve our fire response maps as well as contact information which will help our outreach and education efforts. Please be on the look-out for Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council representatives who will be reaching out to gather information about access roads, fuel loads, and water supplies for properties in the area. This information will be used to substantially improve our fire contingency maps. We will also be working to organize upcoming community meetings to educate our area residents about construction techniques, and fire risk mitigation strategies.

In addition to available grants for fuel reduction and education the MVFSC is also researching sources of funds to reduce fuels loads and improve forest health for individual property owners who want to band together jointly to do fuel reduction on multi-parcel projects in our area. These grants are often complex and tedious to pursue so we are attempting to develop the templates and tools to be able to expedite the application process for members of our community and minimize or eliminate the out of pocket expenses associated with these initiatives.

We look forward to partnering with you to not only deliver on fuel reduction projects but also improve access to the important resources needed to increase our safety and protect the beautiful area we all are fortunate to live in.

## MEET YOUR FIREFIGHTERS!



### THE ROBERT HAGGARD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE GOES TO FIREFIGHTER BRANDON DOLAN

Volunteer fire chief Robert Haggard was well known to the community and to his firefighters as a no nonsense, honest, and upstanding citizen. After a long illness, Chief Haggard passed away. In his memory, we have established this award that is given annually to the firefighter that most exemplifies the traits of former Chief Robert Haggard. The 2018 award went to Firefighter Brandon Dolan. Brandon exemplifies the traits of Chief Haggard and was instrumental in helping to save property at the top of Redwood Rd. during the siege of 2017.

A well deserved award!

### DCL'S NAPA COUNTY FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, FIREFIGHTER CORY HANCOCK

The Napa County Fire Department asks each of the nine volunteer departments to select an individual that supports NCFD and the local fire company as well. This year, Recruit Cory Hancock was selected to represent the Dry Creek-Lokoya firefighters. While Cory is currently a recruit firefighter, his work and dedication to DCL has been above excellent! Cory will shortly be a full-fledged firefighter. Congratulations Cory!



## Join our all-volunteer Fire Department

For those who wish provide additional service to our community and join our volunteer fire department, the procedure is simple. An application must be submitted to the volunteer fire department, go to [www.drycreek-lokoya.com](http://www.drycreek-lokoya.com) to download the application or contact the Chief Green at [chief16@me.com](mailto:chief16@me.com). The candidate will have to pass a physical and background check and then undergo a training program, all paid for by Napa County Fire Department. Firefighters may also have additional training and become certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's).

Dry Creek-Lokoya volunteer firefighters include the young, as well as veterans; they may be from any profession such as accountants, insurance sales people, computer technicians, mechanics, stay-at-home parents, and the self-employed. They may be career firefighters with other cities, paramedics and emergency medical personnel. We train the second and third Saturday of each month.

We are your neighbors. In some cases, the Fire Department is a family tradition that includes fathers, sons, and, even, husband and wife teams. Some firefighters are also allowed by their employers to respond from their workplace.

So, why not consider joining us today?