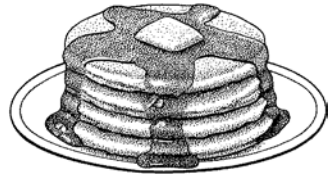


Fire Department News



Graton Fire

Bill Bullard, Deputy Chief
www.gratonfire.com
823-5515



Annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 17

The 30th annual Graton Firefighters Association Pancake Breakfast is a month away. Put it on your calendar now! As you know, the Graton Community has made our breakfast the biggest and best anywhere in Sonoma County. It is our one and only fundraiser to support the volunteers. Every year, over 1,000 people attend the breakfast. We will have Fire Engines, Police Cars, Ambulances and Helicopters on display for the kids as well as other attractions. Thank you to all of the people that have donated raffle prizes in the past; from wine to B&B gift certificates, lawn mowers to jewelry – we had over 200 winners last year. If you have something to donate, an item or service, please call the Graton Firefighters Association at 823-7939 and leave us a message.

Want the inside scoop? Go online to www.gratonfire.org. If you live in our district, look for the Graton Fire flyer in your mailbox soon. The menu includes all you can eat pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple & orange juice, milk, hot chocolate, tea and coffee. The pancake breakfast is from 7am to noon; avoid 9:00 to 10:30, because this is usually the busiest time. Anyone that donates to the Blood Bank on-site that morning will skip the line AND get a free breakfast. T-shirts and sweatshirts will be on sale. Address signs can be made "while-you-eat." Hope to see you there!

Save a Life

Do you know what to do in an emergency? Summer brings the chance for more accidents with kids playing outdoors. Enroll in a CPR or first aid class now. One day of training could save another person's life... what better reward in life could you ask for? Call your local chapter of the Red Cross or American Heart Association.

Firefighter Awards

The Graton Fire Board of Directors said thank you last month to the volunteer firefighters for another year of service with our annual awards dinner at the Union Hotel in Occidental. This is the one time each year, when we can relax (because Forestville Fire Department provided station coverage) and socialize with our spouses and significant others. We often forget the sacrifices our families and friends make so that we can serve the community... this is a night to thank them as well.

It is also time to recognize those individuals that went above and beyond the call of duty. **Jason Nunes** was singled out as **Firefighter of the Year**. After joining the department in 2005, Jason has been a tremendous asset to the department. He consistently responds to emergencies, day and night. Jason can be found managing our fire reports and many other important projects. As an acting engineer, we rely on his help to keep our engines running smoothly. Great job!

Jason Gray received the award for **Most Improved Firefighter**. After completing our academy in 2003, Jason continued with the SRJC Fire Academy and many other fire-related classes. He is an acting engineer and driver for most of the fire engines. He consistently responds to calls, day or night. Congratulations!

This year's recipient for **Most Improved Trainee** goes to **Anthony Bopp**. He has performed admirably after completing their training... always involved and willing to lend a hand. Thank you for your hard work!

Congratulations to all of the recipients and a thank you to all of the volunteers and their families.



Dan Northern, Fire Chief
Forestville Fire Protection Dist.
6554 Mirabel Rd., Forestville
Office: (707) 887-2212
Cell: (707) 536-8991

Firefighters Benefit Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 3

The Forestville Firefighters Association, a non-profit organization, will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast on May 3, 2009 from 8 am to noon at the Forestville Fire Station. In addition to a great breakfast this is your opportunity to meet the Districts paid and volunteer staff. On the Thursday nights leading up to the breakfast you will see the firefighters out selling breakfast tickets in the usual neighborhoods.

Preparing for Wildland Season What Can You Do?

There are two primary goals in reducing the wildfire threat and better protecting your home and property. One is to reduce the exposure and flammability of your home. This can involve one or more steps ranging from installing a fire-resistant roof to simply clearing debris from under decks, keeping your roof and rain gutters free of pine needles and other flammable material, and storing firewood away from the house.

The second goal is to reduce and manage the fuels surrounding your home to be fire-resistant. This ranges from keeping the landscaping low and clean near your home to raking up pine needles and other debris and keeping enough space between trees and plants to slow a fire.

Think and Act in Zones

When preparing your property to withstand a wildfire, it's useful to think in terms of zones. In some cases this may require working with neighbors or other land owners, too. If your neighbors will not or can not cooperate at least clear to your property line.

Zone 1: Home Ignition Zone

The most critical area is your home ignition zone, which includes your home itself and the landscaping within 30 feet. Remember: windblown embers or firebrands can ignite a home while leaving the surrounding vegetation untouched or only charred.

Some tips to better protect this zone include:

Clear pine needles or other woody debris from rain gutters and off the roof.

Clear all vegetation and debris from under decks and touching the foundation.

Be sure all eaves and attic vents are screened with a small, 1/8-inch screen.

Move stacks of firewood away from the structure.

Keep vegetation in this area trimmed low, well-irrigated, and free of dead material and spaced apart to prevent a continuous path of fuel to your home.

Zone 2: Defensible Space Zone

This is the second most critical zone and includes the area from 30 to 100 feet (or to your property line) from your home.

Remove dead and dying grass, shrubs and trees.

Reduce the density of vegetation and ladder fuels by thinning and keeping them free of dead material.

Replace hazardous vegetation with less flammable, irrigated landscaping, including lawn or low growing ground cover and flowering plants.

Remove dense undergrowth and thin out densely-crowded smaller trees.

Experts recommend keeping 10 feet of space between trees and shrubs.

Mature trees should be limbed up 6 to 10 feet above the ground.

While there are many steps that can be taken to enhance the survivability of your home and property when wildfire occurs, it's important to remember that each step you take, no matter how small, can make a large difference.

Every year across our Nation, some homes survive - while many others do not - after a major wildfire. Those that survive almost always do so because their owners had prepared for the eventuality of fire, which is an inescapable force of nature in fire-prone wildland areas.

If you have any questions or would like schedule a consultation with us please call (707) 887-2212.

When Wildfire Strikes

If you wait until there is smoke in the air to take fire-safe steps around your property, it's too late. When a fire occurs near you, be prepared to evacuate.

Gather important and irreplaceable photos, documents, and heirlooms and put them in your car.

Gather pets and put them in your car, too. Park your car facing out of the garage or in the direction you will be leaving.

Put flammable deck or patio furniture inside; move all flammable furniture away from windows.

Close all windows, doors, vents, blinds, and non-flammable window coverings.

If possible shut off all gas or propane utilities.

Leave a porch or outside light on.

Listen to local TV or radio for evacuation news. Local authorities may also notify you by driving through your neighborhood with loudspeakers.

Leave when asked to do so.