



North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighters



November 2022

Holiday greetings from North Sonoma Coast Fire, the combined team of volunteer firefighters and CAL FIRE staff who respond to local emergencies. We want to keep our community informed of our activity and needs, and to thank all of you. We love what we do, and we could not do it without your continued support. Donations to the NSCVFA are deductible as provided for in IRS section 170. The NSCVFA is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) DBA of the TSRVFD EIN# 94-2197071. Checks may be made out to NSCVFA. Thank you for your support!

Volunteer Firefighter Association 2022 Update

The North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association (NSCVFA) supports the North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Fire Department by raising funds to maintain the North Fire Station on Highway 1, and provide our volunteer firefighters with much needed gear, vehicles and equipment.

Your generous donations via mail or our website, and attendance at the Memorial Day Weekend Picnic, allow us to provide financial support to the North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Fire Department and our community. With your support we have now been able to



North Sonoma Coast Fire 2022: Top Row: Captain Paul Plakos, Abel Solis, Malay Thaker, Dagan Holmes, Steve Smith. Bottom Row: CAL FIRE FAE Ben Smutney, Goldie Pounds, Dan Peterson, Assistant Chief Chuck Breier, Captain Chris Aitchison, Michael Verolini, Gregory Miller, Phil Kaufman, Phil Martin, Peter Gifford, Chief Bonnie Plakos, CAL FIRE Captain Red Miller. Not pictured: Skylar Martin, Loren Adrian, Releana Breier; Nick Morgan; Support members Eric Agnew, David Goheen, Shelley Spear, Randy Burke, Richleigh Powers.

make the first six year's payments (total \$128,000!) on the department's newest Rescue vehicle. The VFA intends to continue to pay off the entire cost of \$215,000. And with your purchase of a VFA Christmas tree we are able to provide \$6,000 towards continued education and career development for RCMS employees each year.

The community got together in 2022 for our annual Memorial Day Weekend Picnic! A wonderful volunteer effort. It took many people to make this happen. Some baked brownies, lemon bars or cupcakes, some made cole slaw or provided delicious fruit. Others greeted picnic goers, provided or collected tickets, and grilled or worked the various serving lines. And of course the many volunteers who ran the kid's games. Oh, let's not forget Smokey Bear! Your attendance raised \$14,000 for the VFA.

The Volunteer Firefighters Association has committed to pay \$140,000 for a much needed new Assistant Chief response vehicle for your Fire District. This vehicle will have the ability to quick-attack with a few hundred gallons of water and a pump. However, this rig will most likely not be in place until 2024 due to the long manufacturing time-line. The VFA has also committed \$25,000 of your donations to outfit the new Type-6 vehicle to arrive in 2023. Those committed amounts are only possible because of your donations.

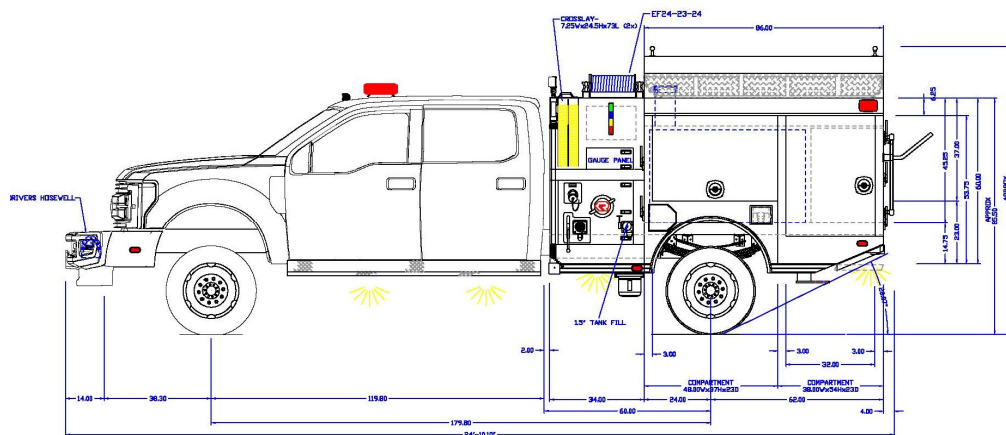
Donations to the NSCVFA are deductible as provided for in IRS section 170. The NSCVFA is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) DBA of the TSRVFD EIN# 94-2197071. Checks may be made out to NSCVFA, or PayPal via our website NSCVFA.org. Thank you for your continued support!

Gratefully,

North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association

Maintaining our Apparatus Fleet

Keeping our vehicle fleet up to date and in-service is one of the most important aspects of maintaining operational readiness for the department. Without reliable wheels to move personnel, water and equipment to emergency incidents we cannot be effective so we work hard to replace apparatus when needed and before it fails. In 2022, plans were completed and orders placed for three vehicles to arrive in the coming years.

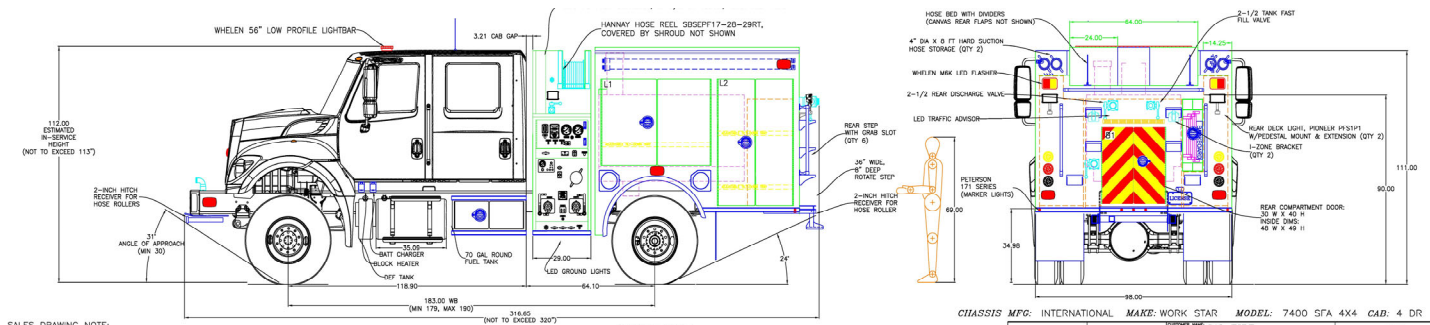


Schematic of the Type 6 "mini-pumper" engine being built by Rosenbauer, for delivery in the Summer of 2023.

First, in the summer of 2023 we will take delivery of a new Type 6 "mini-pumper" truck. This is a vehicle smaller (though not small) than the big Type 1 or 3 engines, built on a Ford F550 truck chassis. Our Type 6 will combine firefighting and rescue capability, carrying both firefighting tools and much of the gear needed for tasks such as performing rope rescues or extricating victims from vehicles. It is being built by Rosenbauer in South Dakota, and is a customized design intended to specifically meet the needs of response on the coast and our rural areas. The cost is \$355,451. This truck will replace Rescue 4432, a 21-year-old vehicle that has rescue but not firefighting capability. So, we will increase by one the count of vehicles that can help with firefighting efforts and Rescue 4432 will be retired.

Next we have placed an order for a new "Type 3" engine, built by Boise Mobile Equipment (BME). In this case we are not customizing the engine at all but are ordering an engine identical to the ones being produced for CAL FIRE. By "tagging on" to CAL FIRE's already-negotiated contract with BME we were able to save some expense, although the price is still a steep \$447,762. As you can see, these vehicles are expensive! Building a customized engine of the same size and capability would likely price out in the high \$500,000's. A "Type 3" engine is the standard wildland firefighting engine type in the state; most of the CAL FIRE engines that you see on the road are Type 3's. With the current issues of supply chain, the estimated delivery of the engine is not until fall of 2024...though we would not be surprised if this stretched into 2025. This engine is slated to replace Engine 4471 which will be 23 years old by then. We will be sad to see E4471 go; it was custom-designed for us by Chief Dan Levin and has been a most ideal vehicle for our response area. However, even though our vehicles do not accumulate that many road miles, the years of rough roads and coastal air take their toll and they need to be replaced as repairs become more frequent and costly.

Our last vehicle update in the pipeline is a plan to replace 4401, the Assistant Chief's vehicle and rescue truck. 4401 was built in 1996 and while still going strong it is time to plan a successor. The replacement will be a Ford F350 chassis with custom gear boxes built on. We will move the "skid pump" that we added to 4401 last year to the new truck so it will continue to have firefighting capability. All that has happened on this so far is to put in an order with Ford for the chassis when Ford briefly allowed orders to be placed in October. When the order is actually filled is unknown; it could be in a year, or much longer; we were just glad to be able to get in line. We expect the total cost of the vehicle and its "upfitting" to be around \$140,000. When this truck does become a reality it will be paid for in its entirety by the Volunteer Firefighter Association, meaning, by your donations. As always we thank you for your support, and want you to know that we put all donations to very good use!



Schematic of the Type 3 "Model 34" engine to be built by BME and in service, hopefully, in the fall of 2024.



Training is essential to maintaining readiness. In 2022 besides our usual training regimen we were able to host or participate in several multi-agency training exercises, better preparing all responders on the coast to work together seamlessly. NSCFPD hosted multi-agency training on low-angle rope rescue, wildland firefighting skills, and hazardous materials response.

What's Next for the North Station?

In last year's newsletter we talked about our plans to expand the 36 year-old North Station to add two engine bays to the north end of the existing building and to construct a new, detached structure with firefighter residential capacity, district offices and a training facility. In 2022 the NSC Volunteer Firefighter Association board allocated some of your donation funds to begin the permitting process which will ultimately bring architect, Don Jacob's plans for the station to reality – depending upon our ability to raise funds, of course. As everyone knows, construction planning is a slow process, and that is true for us too. We were initially required to determine if we need to perform an Archaeological/Cultural Survey of our 4 acre site. The NWIC of Sonoma State University responded in the affirmative, and the survey has recently been completed with no apparent deal-breakers to date. At the same time we contracted for the required Biological/Environmental Survey, and the first phase of that survey has been completed. An additional phase is due in the Spring of 2023. Now we are about to get started on the more labor and equipment-intensive Geological and Topographical Studies. All small steps, but very important in the planning and permitting process.



North Fire Station, ready for this year's delivery of Christmas Trees.



North Sonoma Coast Fire
Christmas Tree Sale



Please visit <http://nscvfa.org> for up-to-date information on this year's Christmas Tree Sale and to reserve your tree!

Meet Assistant Chief Breier



Last December we were happy to welcome Chuck Breier as our Assistant Chief. Chief Breier joined the department in 2017 and brings to the department excellent leadership and emergency response skills (along with the handy talent of being a vehicle mechanic). Chuck's family ties in the District go back to 1946; Chuck and wife Shanna have been

living in Annapolis and raising their family here for 21 years. His daughter has also recently joined the department as a firefighter! Chief Breier's familiarity with the terrain and the community in the 162 square miles of our District outside of TSR is especially valuable; he can always help responders get to hard-to-find locations, or sort out confusing or inaccurate dispatches. We are grateful to have Chief Breier on our team!

The rest of the Company Officer staff of the Volunteer Fire Department consists of Fire Chief Bonnie Plakos and Fire Captains Chris Aitchison, Paul Plakos, and Phil Martin.

Stay Informed, Be Prepared!

We had a welcome break from fires and floods in 2023 but no doubt we will face serious wind events and other situations in the coming years. Please maintain readiness! Take advantage of the damp winter/spring to prepare your home to be defensible against wildfire. For information about notification systems, evacuation zones and more please visit our website at <http://nscfpd.org> and look for the "Emergency Information" link.

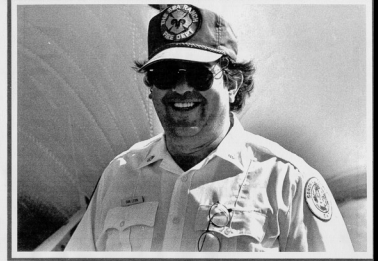
Mark your calendar for the 2023 Memorial Day Weekend Picnic



**Burgers, Hot Dogs, Hot
Links, Slaw, Beans,
Drinks, Desserts
Kids Games
Smokey Bear!**

**SUNDAY MAY 28, 2023
AT ONE-EYED JACK'S
NOON—3:00**

In Memoriam Chief Dan Levin 1951 - 2022



In 2022 we said goodbye to long-time Sea Ranch VFD Chief Dan Levin. Chief Levin will be greatly missed by all who knew him as he was a pillar of the fire and emergency medical services on the North Sonoma Coast for over three decades. Chief Levin joined The Sea Ranch Volunteer Fire Department on July 8, 1977 and became Fire Chief in 1983, serving proudly until he retired in 2010. Chief Levin's commitment to the community he served, as well as his family and friends was unmatched. Chief Levin was also an innovator. In 1986 he helped bring enhanced emergency medical services to the Sonoma and Mendocino Coastline when he helped create the Coast Life Support District. During his tenure he helped design and build the now North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District North Station as well as the ambulance quarters for CLSD in Gualala.

RIP Chief.

NSC Statistics

- *Numbers of calls: 318 in 2019; 290 in 2020; 329 in 2021; in 2022 293 calls through the end of October.*
- *Types of calls in 2021: 60% medical, 8% hazardous conditions, 9% fire, 9% vehicle accidents, 5% alarms sounding, 2% smoke checks, 2% rescue, and 5% other.*
- *Call locations in 2021: 68% Sea Ranch, 20% Annapolis/Kashia/Stewarts Point, 9% Timber Cove/Fort Ross, 3% other.*
- *The VFD currently has 17 active firefighters/EMTs, 2 trainees and 5 support members. Ten of the active members or trainees are EMTs.*
- *NSC maintains 4 fire engines, 2 water tenders, 3 rescue squads, 1 utility truck, and 1 Chief's truck. Apparatus respond from 2 stations on Sea Ranch and 2 stations in Annapolis.*
- *The age range of our members/trainees is from 19 to 78 with an average age of 58.*

Become a Volunteer Firefighter!

We are always looking for motivated volunteers who don't mind being awakened in the middle of the night to help their friends and neighbors. Our members come from many backgrounds and careers. Prior experience in emergency services is not required—we'll train you. Please see <http://nscfpd.org>, or call 707-785-2648 for information.

North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District <http://nscfpd.org>
PO Box 386, The Sea Ranch, CA 95497
(707) 785-2648 email: info@northsonomacoastfpd.org

North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association
PO Box 65, The Sea Ranch, CA 95497
(707) 785-2970 email: info@tsrvfd.org <http://nscvfa.org>

Photo credits: Paul Plakos, Red Miller and Bonnie Plakos