



North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighters



November 2025

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 2025 Update

For over 50 years your volunteer firefighters have been serving and protecting your community. First as the Sea Ranch and Annapolis Fire Companies, and since 2016 together as the North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District, covering 172 sq miles of the northwest corner of Sonoma County for fire, medical, and hazardous condition needs.

The North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association (NSCVFA) supports the Fire Department by raising funds to maintain the North Fire Station (NFS) on Highway 1, and providing your 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 the VFA to provide financial support to the fire department and our community. With your support, in 2025 we have been able to once again make the \$21,512 annual loan payment for our newest rescue vehicle Rescue 4433 (only 3 payments to go).

Also in 2025 we were able to replace the NFS roof and replace associated siding at a total expense of \$60,000, and to make payments of \$150,000 of our \$250,000 initial commitment to the NFS station expansion project (see page 3 for the full station expansion story). Besides your mail and website donations, your participation at the 2025 Memorial Day Weekend Picnic allowed us to raise another \$10,000. Also, your purchase of a VFA Christmas tree generated \$5,500 to provide continued education and career development for Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS) and CLSD employees.

Donations to the NSCVFA are tax 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 <http://nscvfa.org>. Thank you for your continued support.

Gratefully,
North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association



NSC Fire 2025: Top Row: Loren Adrian, Goldie Pounds, Captain Phil Martin, Captain Red Miller. Bottom Row: Chief Bonnie Plakos, Captain Paul Plakos, Captain Pat Briant, Michael Verolini, Juan Monreal, Gregory Miller, Tim Olson, Abel Solis, Assistant Chief Chuck Breier, Malay Thaker, Skylar Martin. Not pictured: Releana Breier, Nick Morgan; Support members Eric Agnew, David Goheen, Richleigh Powers.



NFS getting its new roof.



1973 - 2025
PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY
FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Maintaining Our Fleet

Your fire department may be larger than you think. We have three fire stations and a metal shed (with roll-up door, concrete floor, power) that house our apparatus. In all we have 12 pieces of apparatus; 5 fire engines of various sizes/types, 1 rescue vehicle, 2 water tenders, 2 chief vehicles (one with water and a pump), 1 utility truck, and 1 side-by-side. All of this equipment matches the needs of our 172 sq mile rural community; some areas with hydrants and most without.

These pieces of equipment do age-out, need replacement, and are ordered years in advance of delivery. Towards the very end of 2025 we will take delivery of a water tender to replace our 39 year old tender 4490. In addition, we should take delivery in 2027 of a new Type 3 fire engine to replace 4471 which will turn 26 years old by then.

Apparatus is not cheap. The new tender will cost the district \$276,000, while the brand new Type 3 comes at a cost of \$448,000. The Fire District Board takes all of these costs into account and the apparatus will be paid for from a well thought-out replacement fund.

North Sonoma Coast District Update

It has been a busy year for the District. In the summer two long-time board members needed to step away and we welcomed new members Jon Bode and Judith Coley, who joined Jim Nybakken, Tristan Colson and Jackie Gardener on the Board.

As you probably remember Measure H passed in March 2024, and our portion of the increased Sonoma County sales tax is approximately \$1.5 million annually. As planned we began receiving those funds starting in October 2024. Measure H funds can only be used for very specific purposes, in particular increasing/improving service (not just maintaining). Our Measure H funds are going towards 3 purposes:

- We increased our CAL FIRE staffing from 5 to 9 full time staff as of 1/1/25. This allows us to have a minimum of 3 career responders on duty at all times rather than 2 (3 is the minimum standard for an engine company). It takes 9 people working rotating 72-hour shifts to maintain the 3-person coverage (yes, the 9 also covers vacation, overtime, etc.). This has been quite an improvement, allowing CAL FIRE more flexibility and better coverage for our community.
- In October 2024, the District hired a full-time District Administrator, Daymon Doss, who together with our part-time Administrative Assistant Kim Cottingham has been a huge benefit to the District. The addition of paid staff has allowed the District to both remove most of the administrative burden from volunteers and support additional projects that could not be supported by volunteers alone.
- The balance of Measure H funds will flow towards initial costs and supporting debt related to the NFS Expansion Project, and have also allowed us to proceed with the NFS station expansion in earnest. We now know that we have the funds to secure loans for the required components of this project. See page 3 for NFS station expansion detail.



Our new tender is still under construction but it will look very much like this one, above.



Our new Type 3 will be just like CAL FIRE's engine 1451, shown above.



Training with our neighbor agencies is an important part of preparedness. The photos above are from a multi-agency "Multiple-Casualty Incident" drill, simulating a school bus accident with many injuries. North Sonoma Coast, Timber Cove, South Coast, Coast Life Support District, Horicon School (and a lot of kids!) participated to make it a meaningful training (and we had fun too).

NFS Expansion Project

2025 is the year that the NFS Expansion Project progressed from wishful planning to an almost sure thing. Since 1986 we have wanted to "complete" the station. While it may "look" finished, there weren't enough resources available back then to build the other necessary component for a fully-functional fire station: residential quarters for firefighters to live in to provide 24×7 response. With the addition of funding from Sonoma County's 2024 ballot Measure H, the dream is becoming reality.

So, why do we need to expand/complete the station? Much has happened since 1986 and the current space available is no longer sufficient. We have more (necessary) equipment, and we have some paid administrative staff. We need to:

- Build a barracks with living space to support 24×7 response
- Increase the apparatus/equipment area to accommodate vehicles and/or equipment and separate work/clothing storage and dressing areas from the apparatus bay (for the health and safety of our responders)
- Provide working space for our paid administrative staff
- Expand and improve our training space



Model of new barracks building



Overall site model

A team including local architect Doug Thompson, project manager and VFA President Eric Agnew, our Fire Chiefs, admin staff, and VFA Board have been hard at work on the Design Development phase of the project and have achieved the following milestones:

- Conceptual Design was completed and reviewed with all stakeholders including TSR Design Committee, Sonoma County, Cal Fire, NSCFPD and TSR Residents in a Forum.
- Peer review by an experienced, independent fire station architect, and an anticipated cost estimate by a professional estimator, have been performed.
- Septic sewer system, civil engineering design, geotechnical and arborist surveys and reports have been completed.
- Structural and mechanical consultants have been engaged.
- Initial construction costs have been confirmed by an experienced local contractor.
- Financing options have been studied and decided upon and a legal opinion on contracting legalities has been received.
- By the time you read this update the Entitlement Submittal will have been transmitted to Sonoma County for review and approval.

All costs to date have been paid by the NSCVFA from your donations and proceeds from the Memorial Day Picnic. The VFA Board has already allocated \$250k for this purpose and anticipates allocating another \$250k over the next year. Donations have proven to be the main reason that we have been able to move ahead with this project; and donations will go a long way towards filling the gap between what we are able to borrow (and pay back with Measure H funds) and the actual cost of construction. So, Thank You Community for making our own live-in, upgraded fire station a reality!

Barring any unforeseen issues, we hope to break ground in the spring of 2027. The Entitlement Submittal will be followed by the Construction Documents phase and then the Building Permit Submittal. We have a lot of work to do – some mundane and some exciting – like deciding on the exterior cladding of the Barracks and Training Center. A non-combustible fire station is a goal and can be a model for other projects. See <https://tsrvfd.org/nfs-expansion-project/>



You Can Become a Volunteer Firefighter

Your volunteer fire department needs you! Our roster has not changed for two years; some of our long-time volunteers may start aging out. We need new recruits to be able to effectively respond to emergencies in our community, side by side with our CAL FIRE crew.

Becoming a firefighter is fun, challenging, often inconvenient, and very rewarding. We are always looking for motivated volunteers who are willing to help their friends and neighbors in times of need. Our members come from many backgrounds and careers. Prior experience in emergency services is not required—our CAL FIRE team will train you. Talk to any of our volunteers, call 707-785-2648 and talk to a CAL FIRE captain, or please visit <https://www.northsonomacoastfpd.org/join-us/>, .

NSC Incident Statistics

- *Numbers of calls: 290 in 2020; 329 in 2021; 351 in 2022; 476 in 2023; 425 in 2024; 261 in 2025 through the end of October.*
- *Types of calls in 2024: 43% medical, 21% hazardous conditions, 7% fire, 11% vehicle accidents, 4% alarms sounding, 2% smoke checks, 3% rescue, and 9% other.*
- *Call locations in 2024: 70% Sea Ranch, 17% Annapolis/Kashia/Stewarts Point, 10% Timber Cove/Fort Ross, 3% other.*

Mark your calendar for the 2026 Memorial Day Weekend Picnic



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

**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026
AT ONE-EYED JACK'S
NOON—3:00**

Spotlight On Annapolis

Besides Assistant Chief Breier we have two other volunteer fire fighters in Annapolis who can be first on scene in type 6 engine 4457 while the rest of the fire department and ambulance crews are enroute. Releana Breier and Nick Morgan are terrific assets to our program, besides bringing down the average age of our volunteers significantly! In 2025, Releana took our local EMT class and secured her EMT credential. Congratulations Releana!



North Sonoma Coast Fire Christmas Tree Sale



Please visit <https://tsrvfd.org/christmas-tree-sale/> for up-to-date information on this year's Christmas Tree Sale



The VFD trains regularly every other week, plus some additional special all-day or weekend trainings.

Stay Informed, Be Prepared!

We have had a welcome break from significant local fires since 2020, but the winter storms of 2023 and 2024 brought us an entirely different type of disaster. Please maintain readiness for extended power outages, high winds, and blocked roads. Have emergency supplies. Sign up for all available notification systems. 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 Emergency Information”.

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Photo credits: Craig Tooley, Bonnie Plakos, Doug Thompson