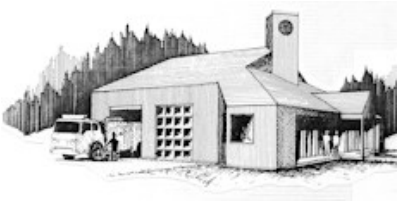
North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighters



November 2026

*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 2026 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 2026 we have been able to once again make the $21,512 annual loan payment for rescue vehicle 4433. Rescue 4433 has been paid for entirely with your donations. One payment to go!



NSC Fire 2026: Top Row: Chief Chuck Breier, Eric Agnew, Steve Smith, Captain Paul Plakos, Captain Phil Martin, Michael Verolini, Nick Morgan, Goldie Pounds, CAL FIRE Captain Red Miller, FAEs Jesse Cuccia & Juan Monreal. Bottom Row: Gregory Miller, Malay Thaker, Skylar Martin, Releana Morgan, Loren Adrian, Richleigh Powers, Assistant Chief Bonnie Plakos, Abel Solis. Not pictured: Tim Olson and CAL FIRE staff Captains Pat Briant and Keith Martinson; FAEs Jeff Meyer, Hector Madrigal, and Arnold Dangaran.

We were able to replace a NFS bay door and all bay door motors tracks and rollers, at a total expense of $46,000. Also, we have now made good on our commitment to the NFS Expansion Project by paying for the first $470,000 of work (see page 3 for the full station expansion update). Besides your mail and website donations, your participation at the 2026 Memorial Day Weekend Picnic allowed us to raise another $9,000. And, your purchase of a VFA Christmas tree generated $4,500 towards providing 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 https://nscvfa.org. Thank you for your continued support.

Gratefully,
North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association



NFS getting its new roof in 2025.

1973 - 2026
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 beginning of 2026 we took delivery of a water tender to replace a 39 year old tender 4490. 4490 is now living on a private ranch. 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. Our new tender cost the district $276,000, while the brand new Type 3 comes at a cost of ~$470,000. 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.

See more details about WT4490 and pictures of its "push-in" ceremony at https://nscfpd.org/water-tender-4490.



Water Tender 4490, in service in May 2026.



Our new Type 3 will be very similar to CAL FIRE's engine 1451, shown above.

North Sonoma Coast District Update

Our District celebrated its 10th anniversary on 4/1/26! CAL FIRE and NSC produced a video celebrating 10 years and our much longer (since the 1970's) partnership, please check it out: https://youtu.be/PAFLmiHUCBk.

2026 has brought a lot of change. This fall we welcome two new District Board members Athena Baker and Gordon Smith. We extend a big Thank-You to two District Board members who competed their terms; Tristan Colson and Jackie Gardener. Also a big Thank-You to our soon-retiring District Administrator, Daymon Doss for all of his wonderful work and guidance; we wish him a healthy and happy retirement. Kim Cottingham was promoted to Administrative Manager and has been a terrific asset, keeping everything running smoothly.

In December 2025, our long-standing Chiefs swapped rolls. Bonnie Plakos who had been Chief since 2015 turned over the Chief reins to then-Assistant Chief Chuck Breier. So now Chuck is Chief and Bonnie is Assistant Chief. They continue to be a terrific leadership team.

2025 and 2026 were the first full years of our increased CAL FIRE staffing, made possible by the passage of Measure H in 2024. This has allowed us more flexibility and better coverage for our community.

The other big news with the District is progress on the NFS Expansion project (see page 3), also made possible by Measure H funds. With successful permit and financing approvals we hope to break ground in the spring of 2027.



Assistant Fire Chief Plakos and Fire Chief Breier at the 2026 VFA picnic.



We respond 24x7, often in the dark and/or the rain, and we are grateful for our partnerships with agencies such as Coast Life Support District and REACH. And, of course, we are always training...

NFS Expansion Project

In our 2025 Newsletter we explained why the expansion of the North Fire Station (NFS) is necessary and what new and expanded facilities are involved. In the last year, Doug Thompson, our architect, has successfully guided the design process through the Entitlement Submittal to the County and the Zoning Administrator Hearing, to the point where, at the time of writing, we have completed the Construction Documents and are preparing the Building Permit Application. Simultaneously, regular design reviews with TSR Design Committee have occurred. We are still on track to break ground in the spring of 2027.

Although the North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association (NSCVFA) owns a site of almost four acres in area where the existing NFS is situated, the drawing below shows how small an area is available for construction due to the mandated setbacks, easements and environmentally sensitive areas. The scenic setback along Highway 1 (the almost horizontal line across the site) requires 1/3 of the site to be free of buildings; a designated ESHA in the middle of the site (the big oblong shape) is out of bounds for construction, and the north east corner of the site contains a PG&E overhead utility easement. Also, there is a maximum limit to the distance allowed between the new barracks and the existing fire station.



As everyone knows, construction at The Sea Ranch is not cheap. Despite the passage of Measure H last year, we still need to borrow a large portion of the construction contract amount. The California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) has recently approved our funding loan application, but all design costs to date have been carried by the NSCVFA...$470K and counting...originating mainly from generous donations received from the community.
See https://tsrvfd.org/nfs-expansion-project/ for more details and news.



Model of entire site after expansion

Vintage Engine Restoration

A small group of volunteers has been continuing to work on restoring a 1937 fire engine that served the community in the 1970's for both the Annapolis and Sea Ranch volunteer fire companies. Progress is slow but steady, the engine has been disassembled, many parts replaced, sandblasted and primed, with painting and reassembly next. We hope it will be able to make its debut appearance in a year or two!



Engine in 1974, as found in 2018, and getting blasted and primed.

Sea Ranch Fire Safe Council

The Sea Ranch Fire Safe Council supports education and safety preparedness in our area by sponsoring events such as the Safety Fair at the Knipp-Stengel Barn and Fire Safety Walks, and by seeking grants for vegetation management projects. The council has some new members and is building their first website. The website is still under construction but should be ready soon, please visit and learn more about it. https://searanchfsc.org/



2026 Fire Safety Fair at the Knipp-Stengel Barn

We Need Volunteer Firefighters!!

Your volunteer fire department needs you! We have not added a new volunteer for three 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, and often inconvenient, but it is also 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://nscfpd.org/join-us/, .

Generator Safety Tips

El Niño is coming and it's time to get prepared for periods of heavy rain, strong winds and coastal storms that bring downed trees and blocked roads, with the potential for extended interruptions to electrical service and increased use of generators. Safety around the use of generators is life saving:

- Never operate a generator inside your home, garage, or enclosed porch.
- Operate generators at least 20 feet away from your home with the exhaust pointing away from doors, windows and vents.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors inside your home.
- Never refuel a running or hot generator.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor rated extension cords.

Remember carbon monoxide has no smell, color or taste. If you experience dizziness, headaches, nausea or weakness while operating a generator get outside to fresh air and immediately call 911.



Mark Your Calendar

for the 2027 Memorial Day Weekend Picnic



Burgers, Hot Dogs, Hot Links, Slaw, Beans, Drinks, Desserts
Kids Games

Sunday, May 30, 2027
At One-Eyed Jack's
Noon—3:00

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 and to reserve your tree!



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

NSC Incident Statistics

- *Numbers of calls: 290 in 2020; 329 in 2021; 351 in 2022; 476 in 2023; 425 in 2024; 339 in 2025, and 277 in 2026 through the end of October.*
- *Types of calls in 2025: 50% medical, 14% hazardous conditions, 5% fire, 10% vehicle accidents, 7% alarms sounding, 2% smoke checks, 2% rescue, and 10% other.*
- *Call locations in 2025: 73% Sea Ranch, 17% Annapolis/ Kashia/Stewarts Point, 9% Timber Cove/Fort Ross, 2% other.*

BE PREPARED for extended power-outs and blocked roads. It may take us some time to clear the roads so make sure you have sufficient supplies to provide food, water, light and heat. Avoid unnecessary driving during storms.

For information about notification systems, evacuation zones and more please visit our website at https://nscfpd.org and look for "Emergency Information".



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Photo credits: Bonnie Plakos, Doug Thompson, Pat Briant