



P.O. Box 634
Albion, CA 95410

July 2019
Volume 1, Issue

In the Line of Fire

WELCOME!

Some evenings (especially the cold, wet, foggy evenings we've had so many of this past winter) responding to an emergency in the middle of the night for our firefighters can seem more like a chore than a calling. But, as one of them told me, "I remind myself that part of saying 'yes' to responding when I signed up as a volunteer firefighter was honoring my commitment to the community." Even when it's cold, wet and foggy outside saying "yes" may not always be easy, but it's often the most fulfilling.

As you'll read in this, the first issue of our newsletter, our firefighters are devoted to their community. We, as a community, need to find ways to say "yes" to our firefighters to do their lifesaving work and provide them with the tools they need to help keep our community safe. During the past year, our Fire Protection District acquired the property on which our Fire Station 810 resides. This allows us - at last - to build a REAL firehouse that will not only house our engines, but provide a comfortable meeting place and a real "town center" for our community.

Our remodeling of Fire Station 810 is planned to occur in three stages. We are funded for the first phase of soil and water studies and for retrofitting the present station to house our new engines, but our more expansive future plans will require many more resources. To put it frankly - we need your financial support. Please consider how important our Fire Department is to our community when it comes to your annual and dedicated giving and say "yes." In applying for external funding, your "yes" vote in the form of giving shows granting agencies that our community is deeply invested in our important work too.

The ways you can say "yes" to our Fire Department can be specific to what resonates most to you as an individual such as establishing a fund for a specific purpose - for example purchasing new apparatus for our firefighters. The Fire Department Auxiliary CRV collection not only helps our department financially, but helps keep our environment clean and green. Or, your way of saying "yes" can be part of a community-wide event such as our Annual Barbeque (this year on July 13) which is an opportunity to remind our Albion-Little River community of the important role our Volunteer Fire Department plays in making this a vibrant, healthy and wonderful place to live.

No matter the level or frequency of your gift, as a friend and supporter of our organization, we could not do this meaningful work without you. I hope you enjoy the articles and find something that truly inspires you to continue to say "yes" to the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District.

With gratitude,

Charles Greenberg, President
Albion-Little River Fire Protection District Board of Directors



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Chief	2
Being Firewise Means Being Prepared	2
Become a Volunteer Firefighter.....	3
Ready to Join our Department?	3
Always Ready	4

CALFIRE SUSPENDS BURN PERMITS IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

CalFIRE recently announced suspension of all burn permits for outdoor residential burning within the State Responsibility Area of Mendocino County as of 12:01AM July 1. CalFIRE is also asking that residents take extra time to ensure they are prepared for wild-fires by maintaining a minimum 100 foot defensible space around each home and being prepared to evacuate if necessary.



FROM THE CHIEF

AFTER SERVING AS A FIREFIGHTER AND OFFICER for many years with the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District (Fire Department), it is an honor to be appointed as the district's Fire Chief. Over the years, our mission has been, and will remain, to protect and enhance the safety and well being of our community. As chief, I see my duty as to create a safer community through awareness, prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.

The Albion-Little River Fire Protection District faces a very unique set of challenges. Staffed 100% by volunteer firefighters, we service a small population spread out over a large rural area. Our emergency call volumes have increased annually and State fire training standards have become much more stringent. During the 2018 fire season, the largest fire in our state history burned within our county - visible from our district. All state resources from our area were committed to these fires leaving just our volunteers (with the help of neighboring county resources) to protect the residents of our district. This unfortunately, has become the new normal.

Our volunteers are passionate people with a strong commitment to our community and to one another. They attend numerous trainings, keep our tools, equipment and apparatus prepared - all while maintaining their own family lives and in many cases, full-time jobs. It's no secret that with new, more strict training requirements and the lack of both job opportunities and housing in this area, that it has become difficult to recruit and retain firefighters. Although our department gets some funding from the county, a majority comes from residents of our district. Community support of our department is paramount if the Albion Little River Fire Protection District is able to stand on its own. With increasing threats each year, it's not a matter of "if", but "when" fire or another natural disaster will strike.

I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming months and hope that you'll consider either joining us as a volunteer or supporting us in other ways. Together we can turn our Fire Department into an anchor and meeting place for our community.

-Michael Rees, Chief

"We have never before seen fires so relentless."



Random debris can quickly become wildfire fuel

BEING FIREWISE MEANS BEING PREPARED

Fire season has become an entirely new experience for those of us who live in rural California. In the past few years we have never before seen fires so relentless. The damage and destruction some of these fires have created, have forever changed both firefighters and homeowners alike.

Managing fuel around our homes and complying with defensible space regulations is more important than ever.

With all the rain that occurred this year, you may need to mow several times to limit the amount of flammable vegetation 100 feet back from buildings. Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches. Clear vegetation from under and around large stationary propane tanks, adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings, and under decks.

Trees in rural neighborhoods and in forests have suffered damage from drought the past few years and they have not produced enough sap or pitch to fight off invaders such as bark beetles. Dead trees fuel hot wildfires that easily spread to other, healthy trees. Trim branches that overhang your home, porch or deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground (depending on their height). Clear all needles and leaves off your roof. Consider adding fire resistant construction materials when remodeling or repairing your home.

But most of all, have a plan in the event you need to evacuate. Know every available escape route and know what you would do and what you would take prior to a need to evacuate.

The Albion-Little River Fire Protection District is here to help you prepare. Give us a call at 707-937-4022 to discuss your fire risk overview, or email us at info@albionfire.com.



The Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department team.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Volunteer firefighting has always been the foundation of American fire service and is a rewarding and valuable way to provide safety and security to our community. Ask anyone who currently serves or who has served - they'll all tell you - it's incredible to be part of the firefighter community. Becoming a volunteer firefighter takes dedication and many hours of training, but if you're willing to put in the time and effort, your rewards will outnumber your investment.

Many people see firefighting from the aspect of responding to fires on big shiny fire engines and rescuing people from burning buildings. The truth is that while those things happen occasionally, the job is more about the preparation for those events than responding to them. Firefighters take care of the tools, equipment, apparatus and the stations. Whether the funding comes from your municipality or by donation, firefighters are stewards of those things the community has entrusted us with to do our job, so we have a responsibility to care for them.

In addition to duty days, firefighters have assigned training sessions, apparatus and station sessions and even fund raising. Many of these activities provide valuable life long skills, but more importantly, all these activities create a strong team bond—important, since their lives are *literally* in their teammates' hands.

It's not all about fighting fires, either. Responding to a fire is just one of the many emergencies our firefighters are called out to answer. Many of the calls received are for medical or rescue emergencies, including water and/or cliff rescues and hazmat responses.

In the last three decades, the number of volunteer firefighters nationwide has fallen by 12 percent according to the NFPA and while at first glance this may not seem like a disastrous figure consider that the number of calls for service has increased by almost 240 percent. In the past, this gap was filled with volunteer firefighters who joined—and often remained for years—within the ranks.

If you've ever considered joining the ranks of the Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department, please let us know. You can send an email to info@albionfire.com or call 707-937-4022.

Our community needs you!

READY TO JOIN OUR DEPARTMENT?

Here are the basic steps:

1. Make sure you're ready to make a commitment. Volunteering as a firefighter should not be taken lightly. It requires quite a bit of training and a strong commitment to serving your community. Read our Operations Manual at <https://www.alrfpd.com/policies/> which describes requirements and duties of a volunteer firefighter.
2. Call us (707) 937-4022 or write info@albionfire.com and let us know you're interested in becoming a volunteer. We'll pair you up with one of our firefighters who can help you make an informed decision as to whether volunteer firefighting is right for you. We'll have you sit in on one of our operations meetings so you can experience what it's like to be part of our team.
3. Fill out our application. You can find it on our website at <https://www.alrfpd.com/district-operations>. Requirements are that you are an adult living within our district and hold a valid California driver's license. We'll do a background check and if your application is accepted, you'll become one of the team.

We hope you'll consider joining us. Our community safety depends on the help of people like

OUR TEAM

The Albion-Little River Fire Protection District's mission is to provide the personnel and resources necessary for protection of life and property in the Albion and Little River communities against threats from structural and wildland fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material releases, and disasters, natural or man-made.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Greenberg, President
Michael Issel, Vice President
Lee I. Welty, Treasurer
Steve Acker, Secretary
Terry Surles

FIREFIGHTERS

Michael Rees, Chief
Andrea Pennebaker(Captain), Ashley Lagodny, Barbara Schneider, Craig Hathaway, Dan Gates, Debbi Wolfe, Jamie Placido, Kenyon Begley (Captain), Laurie Starr, Leslie Hrbacek (Captain), Shaun Lindeblad, Sheila Klopper, Steve Crowningshield, John Crowningshield, Steven Wolfe, Ted Williams,

ALWAYS READY

We can't necessarily stop disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge. Since our firefighters are charged with protecting lives and property from the effects of fire and other emergencies, they are constantly keeping their skill sets honed. Training is the foundation for performing well. Here's what our team has accomplished so far this year:

Leslie Hrbacek received not only her Firefighter I professional certification from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training, but also passed her certification for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Laurie Starr also recently passed her certification for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Kenyon Begley started his first season as firefighter with CalFIRE's Humboldt Trinity Unit. In addition, Kenyon completed the State Fire Training Driver/Operator 1a and 1b for certification as a Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator.

Shaun Lindeblad also completed State Fire Training Driver/Operator 1a and 1b for certification as a Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator.

Ashley Lagodny completed the Mendocino County Chief's Association, Basic Fire Academy.

Michael Rees received his Firefighter II professional certification from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training.

Andrea Pennebaker, Craig Hathaway, and Sheila Klopper all completed the Emergency Medical Technician course through Mendocino College.

Albion-Little River Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 634
Albion, CA 95410

Phone: 707-937-4022
E-mail: info@albionfire.com

Editor:

Wendy Meyer

Contributors:

Charles Greenberg,
Michael Rees, Victor Simon



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE