



SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

Community Firewire Newsletter

Second Quarter 2026

Chief's Corner



As we move into the heart of the 2026 wildland fire season, our department is fully prepared to respond wherever we are needed. Months of year-round training, fuels reduction efforts, equipment readiness, and coordinated planning have ensured our personnel are ready to meet the challenges

of another demanding fire season. That preparation has already been put into action, with our firefighters deploying to incidents throughout California and on out-of-state assignments to assist our neighboring communities through the mutual aid system. We are incredibly proud of the professionalism, dedication, and expertise our personnel continue to demonstrate while protecting lives, property, and natural resources in the State and our local area.

As the fire season continues, we are grateful for your continued partnership and support. It is an honor to serve this community, and we remain committed to protecting those who live, work, and visit our district.

– Chief Akre

Sonoma Valley Fire News

New Apparatus on Order

The Sonoma Valley Fire District is currently replacing four aging apparatus: two Type 1 fire engines, one Type 3 wildland engine, and one Type 6 wildland engine. All four apparatus are in various stages of construction, with deliveries expected to begin next month and continue through the end of next year.

The replacements are being funded through the District's scheduled apparatus replacement program and Measure H funds. These new apparatus will replace aging equipment, improve reliability, and provide our crews with the modern resources necessary to deliver the highest level of service to our community.

The apparatus have also been specifically designed to meet the unique needs of the Sonoma Valley, including narrow roadways, limited access, and challenging terrain. The lessons learned from the major wildfires of the past decade have helped guide these configurations to ensure our equipment can effectively operate in the areas we protect.

The new apparatus will be strategically assigned to Stations 1 (City of Sonoma), 3 (Agua Caliente), and 5 (Glen Ellen), strengthening the District's overall emergency response capabilities.

Employee Spotlight



Captain Derner was recently reassigned to the Training Officer position, where he will lead field operations training and oversee the monthly training activities for volunteers. Chris has been a full-time employee since 2015, promoting from Engineer to Engine Captain in 2020. Captain Derner has shown great initiative and knowledge in ways to advance our training program to provide the best up to date training to our crews. Welcome to your new post.

2026 April - June Call Volume

Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our community.

Medical- 918

Fire- 17

Public Assist- 421

False Alarms- 94

Total Calls- 1,513

(- 1% over 1Q)

In The News

Kenwood Station 6 Remodel Project Moving Forward

The Sonoma Valley Fire District (SVFD) is moving forward with a major remodel and modernization of the Kenwood Fire Station, supported in part by a \$1 million federal Community Project Funding (CPF) grant secured through the office of Representative Mike Thompson. Originally designed to support a primarily volunteer fire department, the station was not built to accommodate full-time staffing, sleeping quarters, or expanded living facilities. Since the consolidation of the Kenwood Fire Protection District into the Sonoma Valley Fire District, the station now houses three full-time Firefighter/Paramedics around the clock.

Funding for the project comes from several sources, including reserve funds previously saved by the Kenwood Fire District, \$8.5 million in municipal bond financing, Measure H sales tax revenues, and the awarded federal grant.

The upgraded station will include: four dorm rooms, a kitchen and living area, new bathrooms and showers, an exercise room, three new apparatus bays facing Highway 12 for improved ingress and egress and significant code and operational upgrades to meet Essential Services standards. The station's existing community room and kitchen will remain unchanged and continue serving as a voting location, meeting space, and venue for community events.

The project was designed by locally based architectural firm COAR Design Group of Santa Rosa, which specializes in fire station design. Most recently, the construction builder was awarded to Swinerton Construction after a competitive process. Construction should begin in January of 2027 with a completion date of January 2028.



Training

Total Training Hours

- April 2026- June 2026- 2,372 hours

Training Highlights

- Company evolutions-hose
- Wildland readiness
 - Pack Test
 - Taskbook skills
 - Training burn



Fire Prevention

New 'Zone 0' Wildfire Safety Rules

California is creating a new set of rules for the first five feet around your home, called "Zone 0." This is the area where flying embers are most likely to start a fire during a wildfire. On August 19, 2026, the state's Board of Forestry and Fire Protection approved a final set of these rules. They are not law yet. Before they become official, they still need to go through the state's Office of Administrative Law. Once the rules are in effect, existing homes will have time to comply, up to five years for some requirements. New construction will need to meet the standards right away.

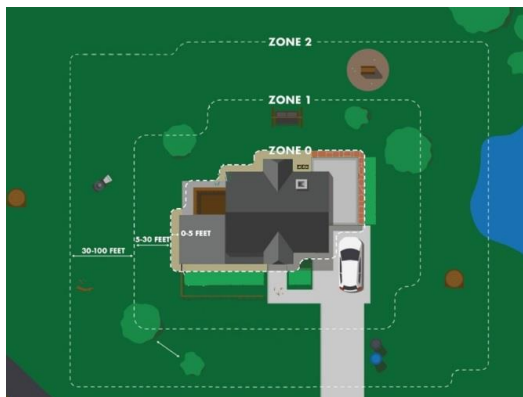
These rules apply to homes located in:

- **State Responsibility Areas (SRA)**
- **Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)**

Much of the Sonoma Valley Fire District's service area falls within these zones. Zone 0 is the first five feet around your home, deck, and any attached structures. More information can be found on our website, sonomavalleyfire.org and the CA Board of Forestry.

Once the rules are officially adopted:

- **New construction** must comply immediately.
- **Existing homes** get a phased timeline:
 - **Within 3 years:** Clear combustible materials from around the home, clean gutters, remove dead vegetation, and adjust landscaping to meet the rules.
 - **Within 5 years:** Create the non-combustible safety zone under eaves, replace combustible gates, and update sheds or fencing attached to the home.



Meet Your Crew

C Shift- Glen Ellen Station 5

Captain Ryan McCracken grew up in Sonoma and started as a volunteer in 2002. Ryan was promoted to Captain in October 2023 and currently oversees our CPR and AED programs for both our agency and the public at large. He lives in Sonoma with his wife and two children. He enjoys spending time with them on his days off.

Engineer Marty Amon began his career on SVFD Medic 303 in 2002. He was then hired full time with the Glen Ellen Fire Department in 2006. Upon the consolidation with Glen Ellen, he rejoined the Sonoma Valley Fire District in 2017. He enjoys working on the old Glen Ellen Fire Departments 1931 Dodge fire engine and working cars/motors at his shop located at the Sonoma Raceway.

Firefighter/Paramedic Delton Rebentisch was born and raised in West County. He currently resides in Guerneville with his wife Janelle and two children, Tyler and Weston. On his off time he enjoys spending time playing sports with his kids and outdoor adventures like camping and fishing. He began his fire service career with Cazadero Fire in 2018 and joined Sonoma Valley Fire as a volunteer while attending paramedic school in 2022. After paramedic school, he was hired with the Petaluma Fire Department where he spent two and a half years prior lateraling back to Sonoma Valley Fire in 2025.



FF Delton



Cpt. Ryan

Eng. Marty

Firehouse Favorites: Recipes Straight from the Crew



Recipe



TITLE: Shrimp w/ Fettuccini By: FF Varian Etemovic-Bartolini

PREP TIME: 10 min. | COOK TIME: 30 minutes | SERVINGS: 4-6

INGREDIENTS:

2 pkg. Fettuccini noodles
4 Cloves garlic; minced
5 shallots; minced
3 sticks butter
1.5 lbs. shrimp cleaned
Red pepper flakes
Parsley for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

Cook fettuccini per instructions. Add butter and garlic to sauté pan. Heat on medium 2-3 minutes. Add shrimp and cook till done. Strain noodles and add to bowl. Pour cooked shrimp and butter over noodles. Add pepper flakes to taste. Garnish with parsley.

History: Sonoma Valley Fire

On February 1, 2002, the City of Sonoma and Valley of the Moon Fire Protection District entered into a Joint Powers Agreement creating a public entity known as the Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue Authority. The purpose of the Authority was to eliminate duplication of equipment, personnel and resources, control costs, and provide higher levels of fire and rescue services to both communities.

On December 19, 2011, the City of Sonoma signed a contract for fire and emergency medical services with the Valley of the Moon Fire Protection District to further eliminate duplication of administrative services. The Fire District served as the employer of both employee groups.

In July of 2020, the SVFRA was formed into the Sonoma Valley Fire District with consolidations of the Glen Ellen and Mayacamas Fire District's. Today, under a contract for services with the City of Sonoma and Measure H funds, the Sonoma Valley Fire District serves the residents of the City of Sonoma.



Upcoming Events

October 11: Glen Ellen Village Fair

October 18: SVFD Open House- Station 1

Thank you!

As we close out another quarter, we want to take a moment to sincerely thank our community and Board of Directors for your continued support. The trust, encouragement, and partnership we receive from those we serve are what make it possible for us to continue moving forward and strengthening the services we provide.

We recognize that serving this community is both a privilege and a responsibility. Our commitment remains strong: to be prepared, professional, responsive, and compassionate whenever our community needs us. We will continue investing in our personnel, training, equipment, and programs to ensure we are prepared to meet the challenges of today while planning for the needs of tomorrow.

Whether through volunteering, attending community events, supporting department programs, or simply expressing your appreciation, every contribution makes a difference.

As we look ahead to the next quarter, we remain committed to earning your trust each and every day and to providing the highest level of fire, rescue, emergency medical, and community services possible. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you, and for being an important part of our Fire Department family.



Sonoma Valley Fire District

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