



JANUARY 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER

www.fairviewfiredistrict.org

ABOUT THE FFPD

The Fairview Fire Protection District (FFPD) is your independent special fire district in Alameda County organized under the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code. A five member elected Board of Directors governs the District. Our mission is to provide the best fire protection service and emergency response throughout the Fairview and Five Canyons communities.

Services include fire prevention through code enforcement, education, and fire suppression efforts. The District also provides emergency medical services with paramedics on responding fire engines. FFPD has contracted with the City of Hayward Fire Department since 1993 to provide services within the boundaries of the Fairview Fire Protection District. Under the contract, the City of Hayward oversees weed abatement enforcement to reduce fuel for wildfires.

We operate out of a staffed fire station located at: 25862 Five Canyons Parkway, Castro Valley, 94552. The Hayward Fire Department staffs and provides services to the Fairview District located at the 24912 Second Street Fire Station. Each station is staffed with a Fire Captain and at least two firefighters who are also paramedics 24/7 to provide the best and fastest emergency response.



25862 FIVE CANYONS PKWY
CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94552
(510) 583-4940

FAIRVIEW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

The District hosted an open house at our Fairview Fire Station 8 at 25862 Five Canyons Parkway September 19, 2018 from 3-7 PM.

Activities included:

- Fire Station and fire engine tours
- Directors able to meet many constituents
- Children learned & practiced personal fire safety in the Fire Safety Trailer
- Free pencils, coloring books, badges and helmets were given out
- Fresh tacos & Fajitas for all

This was a successful community event with over 180 attendees. Be sure to mark your calendars for the **Open House September 19, 2019 from 3-7PM.**



CODE RED - MASS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM – SIGN UP!

The Fairview Fire District in partnership with the City of Hayward uses a high-speed communication system to contact individuals or groups using multiple communication lines (cellular, landlines, etc.). When you sign up, you will be automatically alerted by this free program. *(Please be sure to go to our website at fairviewfiredistrict.org to read more and learn about Alameda County's new AC ALERT system and subscribe to both).*



2018 STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A 5-Member Board serves the district and is committed to implementing the Strategic Plan. See this year's accomplishments below:

- Fully funded the District's capital replacement fund so equipment, facilities, and vehicles can be updated/replaced in a timely manner.
- Adopted a reserve policy and fully funded operating and emergency reserves.
- Held an open house with 180 guests.
- Held one community education session on Personal Emergency Preparedness.
- Painted Old Fire Station on Fairview Ave.
- Created and mailed an annual newsletter.
- Provided several rounds of free chipping service to residents.
- Executed a new 5-year contract for service with HFD.
- Redesigned bi-monthly reports from the Hayward Fire Chief on performance metrics.
- Continued process to achieve benchmarks required to achieve CSDA Certificate of Transparency.
- Mailed annual weed abatement courtesy notices to educate residents on fire prevention.
- Implemented 3Di program to more effectively manage weed abatement with Portal for residents to see status of their parcel.
- Implemented programs to respond to all objectives required in LAFCo Provisional Sphere of Influence, thus removing the Provisional aspect of LAFCo determination.
- Began process to develop/update Strategic Plan for the next 5 years 2019-2023.
- Distributed free N-95 masks to residents during the heavy smoke conditions caused by the Camp Fire in the Paradise area in November.
- Held one free CPR class for residents.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

If you did not check your smoke detectors March 10, when you changed your clocks for Daylight Savings time, **DO IT NOW.**

- For detectors with non-replaceable batteries replace entire unit every 10 years.
- Those with replaceable batteries need a new battery annually.



WEED ABATEMENT

As the fire season approaches, please take a look at the "Weed Abatement" section on our website www.fairviewfiredistrict.org to learn about Weed Abatement and log into the new Weed Abatement Inspection Portal to access your properties inspection results after the annual weed abatement surveys are conducted in late MAY.

CPR AND PEP INTEREST

We would like to hear from residents who are interested in learning or updating CPR skills and Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP). Classes will be scheduled at the Fairview Fire Station located at 25862 Five Canyons Parkway. If you are interested, send your contact information and number of students by using this link www.fairviewfiredistrict.org/contact, we will contact you when we have enough interest to schedule a class of 7-10 students in the Spring.



BATTALION CHIEF CHRIS FITZGERALD IS BACK TO WORK AFTER MAJOR INJURIES



By the time he heard it coming, Battalion Chief Chris Fitzgerald had time only to turn his head, fix his eyes on the car bearing down on him, and let the instinct of a Marine-turned- firefighter take over.

"I jumped and tucked, and waited for the lights to go out," Fitzgerald said, recalling the exact instant before being struck. At the time, Fitzgerald had just finished positioning rigs on the 1100 block of E Street, between 1st and 2nd streets, where Hayward Fire Station 1 companies under his command were responding to a potential apartment-house fire.

As Fitzgerald remembers it, there was the initial impact, then the second one as he hit and put a hole through the windshield, then the third as he landed in a heap on the pavement, his left leg shattered below the knee, his left elbow dislocated and protruding through flesh.

The driver, arrested after bringing her vehicle to a halt, was intoxicated. She had accelerated right through Fitzgerald without braking. Five days later, Fitzgerald would leave the hospital after two surgeries—one to piece back together his left leg with rods, plates and screws, and the other to repair left arm. Then, he got busy rehabbing.

In the meantime, Hayward firefighters helped pick up slack for him and Pamela on the home front. They delivered meals. They helped with the driving to appointments and getting the Fitzgerald children, Ty, Lexie and Jack, now ages 18, 15 and 10, where they needed to be.

Incredibly, just six months after the incident, Fitzgerald returned to work. He said he returned at least as fit and strong as he had been before, which is saying something. Fire stations are notoriously fun-loving environments. It was testament to the seriousness of the matter that, when Fitzgerald returned to work that first day at Station 1, no gags were played. No dead-pan silent treatment. "They were glad I was back," he said. "I was okay. They all have kids and understood." Then, he added and confided, "It felt good to get back, but I was kind of nervous. What if there was a fire and...." his voice trailing off. As he was about to finish the thought, the Station 1 alarm tone sounded. "That's me," he said, grabbing his mobile phone to read the dispatch. Fitzgerald was up and out the door. The bay doors of the station swung open. And the truck and engine companies, and their battalion chief, were on their way.

-By Chuck Finnie

NO COST RESIDENTIAL CHIPPER SERVICE AND RESIDENTIAL DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



This year in partnership and administered through the Hayward Fire Department there will be a **No Cost Residential Chipper Service** and **Residential Defensible Space Assistance Program**. Both programs are made possible by a grant applied for by the Hayward Fire Department and funded by the U.S. Forest Service. The FFPD in past years has provided matching funds to this program so that more Fairview & Five Canyons applicants receive this service. The chipping program is for all residents in Fairview, Five Canyons, and the Hayward hills. The Residential Defensible Space Assistance Program is intended to assist low income

property owners in complying with the District's Weed Abatement Ordinance and to create defensible space in preparation for the upcoming fire season. The Program will prioritize assisting seniors and disabled property owners who meet low income requirements. When the program is ready to accept applications, property owners and residents will be notified via FFPD's website, informational mailing, email, Facebook and NextDoor social media sites.



This program is funded by a grant from the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council