



# STRAWBERRY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Strawberry Volunteer Fire Department

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### **Strawberry Fire Protection District (SFPD) Update - October 2021**

It's been a while since the SFPD newsletter went out to all of you, and even longer since we have been able to have any type of social activity. These events allow us to keep in touch with neighbors and know what's going on within our community. Since we still can't meet in person, here's a brief update on what's been happening with the Strawberry Fire Department.

Strawberry Fire was lucky enough to be awarded 2 grants last year through the California Fire Foundation and the Volunteers Firefighter Assistance Program. Grant awards were used to purchase additional PPE and replace worn or outdated gear. During COVID we needed to make sure our volunteers had additional PPE- if one set was contaminated, they needed another set to use while the other was being decontaminated. We also added an EMT/firefighter to our staff this year, welcome Clay Sensiba, and needed to purchase a complete set of structure turnouts and gear. The grant money also helped to upgrade our radios and pagers and to purchase a LUCAS. For those of you unfamiliar with a LUCAS, that is the machine that performs CPR chest compressions.

The District is currently working with Tri-Dam and Cal-Fire to install a repeater on the Tri-Dam communications tower. This will improve the radio transmissions for emergency personnel. As we are all aware, communications in the Strawberry/Pinecrest area are unreliable. The unreliability issue is not just limited to cellular and internet services. Communications for our firefighting staff between dispatch and other emergency responders has also been a struggle. The District is pleased to have the support of Tri-Dam and Cal-Fire in improving this situation.

Additionally, Strawberry Fire has recently been awarded a grant from USDA, Rural Development, to purchase a generator for the fire station. Keeping the station operational during power outages is critical so we are not delayed in responding to an emergency. This grant will also allow us to purchase JAWS and other lifesaving equipment.

So, as you can see your Fire District Board and Staff have been very busy working to keep our community prepared for emergencies. We will continue to improve our resources and services, but we need help from more community members. Currently we have 2 positions we are looking to fill. The most critical to fill is the vacant board position. In order to continue moving forward and keep our district strong, we need to fill that position as soon as possible. If you have property within the district boundaries, please consider serving.

The District is also looking for someone to fill the position of Board Clerk. This is a paid position, requires some computer knowledge, attendance at the board meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month) and prepare minutes of the meeting for public record. The position requires about 8 hours per month. You do not need to live or own property in the district. If you are interested in either of these positions, please call Dee Martin @ 209-770-5652 or email [deesfpd@gmail.com](mailto:deesfpd@gmail.com).

We hope that you will consider serving in some capacity. It is the responsibility of every property owner to make sure the community stays strong, and we can keep necessary services local.