

September 6, 2014

Santa Cruz County Fire Department Advisory Commission
6059 Highway 9
Felton Ca, 95018

RE: Increasing the number of County Fire Volunteers

Members of the FDAC,

As you are aware, the number of volunteers serving County Fire has stagnated well below the 100 member goal noted in the SAFER Grant application. The four-year half-million dollar SAFER Grant is set to expire 2015. (Safer = Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response)

Residents served by County Fire, CSA 48 are underserved due to the low number of County Fire Volunteers.

In the Santa Cruz County Fire model, every volunteer is enrolled on a track to become a full-fledged firefighter. Some of the stated reasons residents do not become volunteer firefighters include: too much to learn, inflexibility in training schedule, high physical ability requirement, extensive ongoing training requirements and the large time commitment required..

Fighting fires is just one of the tasks of a Local Fire Agency. The majority of County Fire's calls are for medical aid - from illness, injury, vehicle accident, etc.

Given some flexibility, the most addressable staffing need is for additional volunteer medical aid responders. In a medical emergency, seconds truly count. County Fire's cover area is too large for medical assistance to be reliably delivered in a timely fashion from just the existing fire stations.

Butte County Fire, which includes Cal Fire personnel and volunteers, has effectively expanded the volunteer pool by creating a class of fire and medical responders with limited duties, reduced training requirements and reduced physical ability requirements, thereby overcoming major recruitment impediments. The Butte County program recognizes the fact that an individual does not need to have all the training and skills of a journeyman firefighter to perform CPR for a heart attack victim or direct traffic and roll hose at a fire scene. By responding directly from home or work, these volunteers can reduce the response time for medical aid calls.

Please consider modifying Santa Cruz County Fire operations by implementing a program similar to Butte County's that incorporates Support Responders and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Responders.

The cost of adding Support and EMS responders should be less than adding an equal number of traditional Volunteer Firefighters. Increasing County Fire's ranks to the prior goal of 100, with Support and EMS Responders, will increase the level of service at a lower cost than envisioned in the SAFER Grant application.

Enclosed is a brief summary of the Butte County program. More details are available online at: www.joinBCFD.org

Prior to bringing the Butte County program to your attention we sought comments from the Bonny Doon community - MANY people supported the idea and expressed a willingness to train and participate as Support and EMS volunteers.

We would be delighted to discuss further the possibility of implementing features of the Butte County program with you.

Sincerely,

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CC:

Board of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County
Chief, Cal Fire San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit
Santa Cruz County Fire Department Advisory Commission

WANNA BE A FIREFIGHTER?



Don't quit
your
day job!



**Butte County Fire Department
needs everyday heroes to become
volunteer first responders and
firefighters in your community**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Butte County Fire is a combination career and volunteer fire department
- Volunteers comprise 73% of firefighters in the United States
- Of the total estimated 1,078,300 firefighters across the country, 784,700 are volunteers
- Services contributed by Volunteer Firefighters save localities across the country an estimated \$36.8 billion per year according to the National Association of Firefighters

CAL FIRE/BCFD - 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville 95965

WHO WE ARE

Butte County Fire Department (BCFD) is an all risk fire agency that responds to over 15,000 requests for service per calendar year. These include rescues, residential and commercial structure fires, vegetation fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials spills, public assists, and other miscellaneous public service requests. BCFD is a combination career and volunteer fire department. The 300 career firefighters are augmented by 17 community based Butte County Fire Department volunteer fire companies made up of over 160 volunteer firefighters.

LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

- Time Commitment: Significant in the first year, moderate thereafter
- Monetary: minimal
- Physical: Physical requirements vary with desired level of qualification
- Health: Must be in good health (Health questionnaire may be reviewed by a medical professional)
- Clean criminal record (FBI/DOJ LiveScan required)
- Must have valid California driver's license, own a vehicle, possess automotive insurance meeting minimum specified liability limits, and have a clean DMV record
- Live in the community you are applying in
- Must maintain required mandatory training requirements

THE PROCESS

- Attend orientation in early October at the Cal Fire/BCFD Training Office to receive your application.
- After your application is approved, choose which qualification level is right for you.

Four different qualification levels for volunteer responders exist within BCFD

- **Support Responder** - Performs support functions only. Attend Support Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days).
- **Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Responder** - Performs support functions and responds to EMS calls. Attend Support Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days) and EMS Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days).
- **Firefighter** - No restrictions, responds to all emergencies. Attend Support Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days), EMS Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days) and Firefighter Modules (Wildland & Structure) (72 hours or 9 weekend days).
- **Operator** - Operates specific fire apparatus and holds other volunteer qualifications (Support, EMS or Firefighter Responder). Attend Support Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days), EMS Module (32 hours or 4 weekend days) and Firefighter Modules (Wildland & Structure) (72 hours or 9 weekend days).



**Ready to join the team? Call (530) 538-6837 ext. 138
or go to www.joinBCFD.org**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION POSITION ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS DUTIES STATEMENT PO-199 (04/01)	Working Title of Position Support Responder Division and/or Subdivision		
INSTRUCTIONS: The Director is required by Government Code Section 19818.12 to report (or to record) "...material changes in the duties of any position in his or her jurisdiction". The Position Essential Functions Duties Statement is used for this purpose. Enter identifying information and effective date at the right. Enter brief description of each of the important duties and responsibilities of the position below. Group related duties in numbered paragraphs and indicate the percentage of total time occupied. Indicate the "essential functions" of the position by placing an asterisk (*) in front of those individual duties you determine to be essential to the job. Discuss the duties with the employee assigned to the position. Both the employee and supervisor sign the document where indicated. The supervisor retains the original document and provides a copy to the employee.	Location of Headquarters Class Title of Position Position Number Effective Date		
Percentage of Time Required	Effective on the date indicated, the employee assigned to the position identified above performs the following duties and responsibilities.		
100%	<p>The Support Responder works under the direction of the Volunteer Captain and/or Volunteer Lieutenant.</p> <p>General duties and responsibilities –</p> <p>As a Support Responder, He/She will assist the Butte County Fire Department with a variety of duties in support of the volunteer fire company.</p> <p>Specific duties –</p> <p>He/She will perform limited support duties including: prevention and education programs, fundraising activities, company administrative assignments, station maintenance and assist with structure fire rehab, structure fire incident accountability and traffic control.</p> <p>Performs general housekeeping duties as required.</p> <p>Maintains competency in all required skills and certifications.</p> <p>*These are the essential functions for this position. Essential functions are those functions that the individual who holds the position must be able to perform unaided or with the assistance of a reasonable accommodation.</p>		
Job qualifications and/or conditions of employment:			
"We have discussed this document in its entirety and understand the duties of this position."			
Employee Signature _____	Date _____	Supervisor Signature _____	Date _____
Personnel use only		<input type="checkbox"/> Posted to Directory Initials and date	

Attachment 8.37

BCFD Support Responder Duty Statement (Rev. 10/05/11)

Applicable Standards and Reference Materials

The applicable state and federal laws and regulations for the minimum training requirements outlined in this manual are located in attachment 8.46, Minimum Training Requirements. The minimum training requirement also reference Department Policy, NFPA and IFSTA Essentials 5th Edition.

5.6 Support Responder

As a Support Responder, you will assist the department with a variety of duties including: prevention and education programs, fundraising activities, company administrative assignments, station maintenance and assist with structure fire rehab, structure fire incident accountability and traffic control.

Not all support members are capable of completing all of the above duties. Each support responder should be evaluated so they are not utilized beyond their capabilities.

- Support Responders do not need to be fit tested
- Appropriate PPE will be issued after successful completion of the Support Module
- Support Responders cannot respond to emergency incidents on fire apparatus

Training Requirements:

History / Organizational Structure	Lecture
Station Orientation	Lecture
Firefighter Safety	Lecture
Accountability Policy	Lecture
Private Vehicle Operations	Lecture
Radio Use / Communications	Lecture
Seatbelts, Chock Blocks, Backing Signals	Lecture
Volunteer SOP Manual Orientation, Levels of Response & Training Requirements	Lecture
Fire Line Hazards (3 Stripes Your Out)	Lecture
Traffic Control	Lecture
Rules of Conduct	Lecture
IIPP Program	Lecture
Heat Injury Prevention Policy	Lecture
Hearing Protection	Lecture
EEO	Lecture
Swift Water Awareness	Lecture
ICS-100 (must turn in certification)	Self-Paced
NIMS-700 (must turn in certification)	Self-Paced
HazMat FRO (16 hour)	Lecture
Confined Space Awareness	Lecture

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION POSITION ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS DUTIES STATEMENT PO-199 (04/01)		Working Title of Position EMS Responder	
		Division and/or Subdivision	
INSTRUCTIONS: The Director is required by Government Code Section 19818.12 to report (or to record) "...material changes in the duties of any position in his or her jurisdiction". The Position Essential Functions Duties Statement is used for this purpose. Enter identifying information and effective date at the right. Enter brief description of each of the important duties and responsibilities of the position below. Group related duties in numbered paragraphs and indicate the percentage of total time occupied. Indicate the "essential functions" of the position by placing an asterisk (*) in front of those individual duties you determine to be essential to the job. Discuss the duties with the employee assigned to the position. Both the employee and supervisor sign the document where indicated. The supervisor retains the original document and provides a copy to the employee.		Location of Headquarters	
		Class Title of Position	
		Position Number	
		Effective Date	
Percentage of Time Required	Effective on the date indicated, the employee assigned to the position identified above performs the following duties and responsibilities.		
100%	<p>The EMS Responder works under the direction of the Volunteer Captain and/or Volunteer Lieutenant.</p> <p>General duties and responsibilities --</p> <p>An EMS responder will respond to medical calls and perform support responder duties.</p> <p>Specific duties --</p> <p>He/She will respond as an EMS responder to medical aid calls from your residence in your personnel vehicle. EMS responders can respond to traffic collisions and perform medical care to patients out of the vehicle only. EMS responders will also perform support responder duties.</p> <p>He/She will perform limited support duties including: prevention and education programs, fundraising activities, company administrative assignments, station maintenance and assist with structure fire rehab, structure fire incident accountability and traffic control.</p> <p>Performs general housekeeping duties as required.</p> <p>Maintains competency in all required skills and certifications.</p> <p>*These are the essential functions for this position. Essential functions are those functions that the individual who holds the position must be able to perform unaided or with the assistance of a reasonable accommodation.</p>		
Job qualifications and/or conditions of employment:			
"We have discussed this document in its entirety and understand the duties of this position."			
Employee Signature	Date	Supervisor Signature	Date
Personnel use only	<input type="checkbox"/> Posted to Directory	Initials and date	

Attachment 8.38

BCFD EMS Responder Duty Statement (Rev. 10/05/11)

5.7 EMS (Emergency Medical Service) Responder

As an EMS responder you will respond to medical aid calls from your residence in your personnel vehicle. EMS responders can respond to traffic collisions and perform medical care to patients out of the vehicle only. EMS responders will also perform support responder duties.

Not all EMS members are capable of completing all of the above duties. Each EMS responder should be evaluated so they are not utilized beyond their capabilities.

- EMS Responders do not need to be fit tested
- EMS Responders do not have to complete the Support Module prior to attending this course **but cannot respond to any calls until the Support Module has been completed**
- EMS Responders cannot respond to emergency incidents on fire apparatus
- Appropriate PPE will only be issued after successful completion of the Support Module

Training Requirements:

Support Responder qualified	Completed Support Module
Public Safety First Aid Module, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6	Lecture and Practical
Communicable Disease	Lecture
Public Safety First Aid Module 4 CPR / AED (8 hours)	Lecture and Practical
Documentation / Patient Care Reports	Lecture
SIDS	Lecture
Child / Elder Abuse	Lecture
Hepatitis B Inoculation Options	Lecture
CAL FIRE Burn Policy	Lecture
P100 Mask Fit Testing	Practical

Butte County Fire Department

Physical and Mental Stress Statement Support and EMS Responder

A description of the physical and mental stresses a volunteer Support and EMS Responder may be subjected is given below. Your judgment as to the volunteer's capacity to perform the required job duties is needed. In your conclusion, take into account the long range outlook for continued performance and the employee's ability to safely perform these duties without significant increased risk of injury to self or others due to medical condition.

The support and EMS responder is assigned to either an urban or rural area and must have endurance to respond and perform a variety of duties including: prevention and education programs, fundraising activities, company administrative assignments, station maintenance, assist with structure fire rehab, structure fire incident accountability and traffic control. In addition, the EMS responder will also respond to medical aid calls and perform CPR as needed.

The support and EMS responder must have hearing adequacy within speech frequencies (uncorrected), full use of hands and feet, the necessary strength and agility required for extensive bending, stooping and squatting. He or she must be able to move objects up to 50 pound.

Duties involve field work requiring physical performances involving average ability.

Name of Volunteer Responder: _____

Volunteer Company assigned to: _____

Physician's Recommendations and Comments:

- Not Release to full duty
 Release to full duty – give effective date:

Date

Signature of Physician

Name of Physician