

Forestville: 887-2212
Graton: 823-5515
Occidental: 874-3800
Sebastopol: 823-8061

Fire Dept. Calls - AUGUST
Type of Call: Responses:

FORESTVILLE	
Medical Aids	15
Public Utility Calls	10
Wild land Fires	3
Mutual Aid Fires	12
Public Assist Calls	1
Hazmat	1
Vehicle Accidents	6
Smoke Checks	6
Vehicle Fire	1
TOTAL ALARMS	55

The firefighters put in 1,137.80 personnel hours on these alarms and attended 2 training drills with 78 training hours put in.

GRATON	
Assist/Service Call	2
Auto/Mutual Aid	3
Fire Alarm	2
Hazardous Condition	2
Investigation	1
Medical Aid	12
Traffic Collision	5
Vegetation Fire	2
Total	30

OCCIDENTAL	
Debris Fires	0
Hazardous Conditions	1
Medical Aids	7
Mutual Aid Requests	6
Public Assist Calls	0
Smoke Checks/Fire Investigations	0
Structure Fires	0
Vegetation Fires	0
Vehicle Accidents	1
Other	1
TOTAL	16

Help Us Help You

It's not just the fire department that needs your home to be clearly identifiable. In addition to law enforcement, think how often the UPS, FedEx, and US Post Office drivers are trying to find the right house.

The **Graton Firefighters Association** sells address signs as a fundraiser for **\$15 each**. We use a green road sign with white, reflective 4-inch letters - it can be made horizontally or vertically.

Order forms are available 24/7 next to the front door of the firehouse. Just slip the completed form under the door and we will call when it's done.

Questions? Call **823-7939**.

Fire Department News



Graton Fire

Bill Bullard, Deputy Chief
 www.gratonfire.com
 823-5515

Backyard Burning – not just yet...

While we have started to see rain, the County Fire Marshal has not lifted the ban on burning. We anticipate it will be permitted soon, please call the firehouse, 823-5515, before you burn. Remember, you always need a permit to burn; they are available outside the front door of the firehouse.

Safe Halloween Candy and Spaghetti Dinner – Graton Fire Station

The volunteer firefighters will be giving away candy at the Fire Station at the corner of Ross and Graton Roads. Enjoy the free spaghetti dinner cooked by your favorite firefighters. Fire engines will be on display as well. After leaving the fire house for more candy-make sure to escort your children, bring a flashlight, wear reflective clothing, use light sticks, and inspect their candy before they eat it.



Kitchen Fire Safety Did you know that more fires start in the kitchen than any other room in the house? Cooking is the #1 cause of house fires nationwide and account for over 95,000 house fires and 300 fatalities a year. Here are some tips to prevent kitchen fires:

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended - keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Never place or store combustible items on the range or in the oven. Food containers, cutting boards, and plastic cooking utensils all can burn if the stove is left on. Keep curtains, towels, potholders, and other combustible materials away from flames and hot surfaces.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Turn pot handles in to prevent food

- spills and burns.
- Clean cooking areas frequently. Built-up grease can catch fire.
- Mount a K-fire extinguisher (specifically designed for kitchen fires) at eye level near the exit to your kitchen and away from the stove. While not as effective, an A-B-C dry chemical fire extinguisher is a good all-around choice.
- Keep a container of baking soda handy to extinguish small kitchen fires (never use flour - flour is flammable!)
- Do you have a gas stove or other gas appliances? If so, consider installing a carbon monoxide (CO) detector in your home.

Fighting Kitchen Fires

- In the event of a kitchen fire, call the fire department immediately! Do not attempt to fight a kitchen fire unless someone has called 9-1-1!
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until the pan is completely cool and don't peek to make sure the fire is out!
- Never pour water on a grease fire and avoid discharging a fire extinguisher directly onto a pan fire as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually making the fire worse.
- Never attempt to carry a pan of burning food outside.
- For a fire in an oven or broiler, keep the oven door shut and turn off the heat to smother the fire.
- For a fire in a microwave oven, keep the door closed and unplug the oven. Make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again.
- Report all fires to the fire department even if you think they're out!

Chimney Safety

The fall/winter season is fast approaching and we will soon see smoke plumes rising from chimneys. Each year, Graton Fire responds to 5-10 chimney fires that could have been prevented.

Do you know the last time yours was cleaned? When I moved last year, we had no idea when it was cleaned last, how often they had fires, what type of wood (or other things) were burned, and the general condition.

Looking up the flue isn't enough; have a trained professional take care of it. The cost to have your chimney cleaned and inspected is minimal. Should a chimney fire start, the firefighters would have to open up the ceiling and the roof to access the fire and determine its extent ... This would not be cheap to repair, not to mention the inconvenience of a hole in your roof in the winter. In addition, remove any attic insulation that is in contact with the flue... another fire danger.



Forestville Fire

Gary Duignan, Fire Chief
 887-2212

YES on Measure G

- You should have received your sample election ballot by now for the November 6, 2007 election. On this ballot, is the Forestville Fire District Measure G. If approved by you, the voters of the fire district, it will allow your department to spend funds it now receives for equipment and staffing. Your YES vote will not raise taxes. Support your local firefighters. YES ON G

Burn Permits - A reminder that the back yard burning season has not opened yet. The burn season will start when we get 2 + inches of rain. Before you burn, you must have a valid permit issued by the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution District and you must register your burn with the dispatch center. A permit is not needed from the fire district until May 1, 2008. To reduce smoke, cover your burn pile before it rains.

Toys for Tots - It's not too early to think about the annual Toys for Tots toy drive. Christmas will be here sooner than you think and we need to give out the toys by December 10th.

Watch Out for Goblins! - Another holiday is coming up this month, Halloween. If you are out driving, be extra careful. Look for adults and children along the road. Some costumes are dark in color and hard to see. Another thing, please drive slow especially in neighborhoods where kids are walking. If you are going out trick or treating, always walk off the side of the road. Don't run across the road without looking in all directions. Have a flashlight so motorists can see you easily. The safest costume is on that is light colored and has reflective strips on it. If you decorate your home, make sure you don't place any candles or other flame producing devices near combustibles or where a child's costume could come into contact with the flames.

Time to Change Clocks - Daylight savings time begins November 4th, 2007. Besides re-setting your clocks back 1 hour, you should also check your smoke detector battery and test it. If you don't have a smoke detector you can obtain a free one at the fire station.