



# CAL FIRE V.I.P. NEWSLETTER



4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011

20112011

December 12,

Hi all and welcome to the first edition of the Cal Fire V.I.P. Newsletter. I hope to publish quarterly to keep all of you as well informed as possible.

## **Training.**

I still do not have a firm date for the new Red Flag training. I can tell you this, we have been offering the Wildland Fire Safety training in the past. We looked at the program and determined that there was a lot of things in that program that was not needed for Red Flag and somethings not covered that were needed. So Roxanne is developing a whole new program just for us. I have seen some of it and it will be excellent, I assure you. We are still looking at the spring of 2012.

## **Red Flag Patrol**

Mark your calendars for July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 for the scheduled holiday Red Flag patrol dates.

## **Radio Coverage**

It became apparent that because of the divergent routes we cover, we need to use two different frequencies depending on the route.

## **New System**

As those of you who have worked the last two Red Flag patrols at Monte Vista know we have incorporated a new system for deploying teams and organization of the Red Flag program. It was determined that we needed to bring our program on line with other organization like R.A.C.E.S. and Cal Fire regular operations. **Now here is your opportunity to let us know what you think. What did we do well or not. Do you have any suggestions?** Send your comments to [n6sub@arrl.net](mailto:n6sub@arrl.net) and I will make sure your opinions are shared with the rest of the Command Staff.

*Eric T. Crosser*

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**Remember to visit the Cal Fire/VIP Website for up to date info**

<http://www.lakesidearc.org/calfirevip/VIP.php>

# *A Message from our VIP Red Flag Patrol Branch Director*

Hello to all of our VIP Red Flag patrol members. First, I want to thank all of you, old and new members of the VIP Red Flag patrol for your support of this very important and vital part of CAL FIRE job of protecting our beautiful back country. Many of you have been with this program for many years and I thank you for your dedication and hope you will be with us for many more years. Welcome to the very first CAL FIRE News letter edited by Eric Crosser, N6SUB, the Co-VIP Red Flag Branch Director

It is our goal to keep all of you informed of the latest news and events that are going on at CAL FIRE. Plus there will be other information that we think will be of interest to you, the members of the Director. VIP Red Flag patrol. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy NEW Year to all.

**Rich Beisigl**  
**N6NKJ**  
**VIP Red Flag Patrol Branch Director**



## **How fires get their names**

Every year in California thousands of wildfires start throughout the state. In most cases, the dispatch center sending the initial resources to a wildland fire will designate a name for the fire, but the first on scene engine or fire official can also name the incident. **Fires are usually named for the area in which they start** – a geographical location, local landmark, street, lake, mountain, peak, etc. Quickly naming the fire provides responding fire resources with an additional locator, and allows fire

officials to track and prioritize incidents by name. For example during the Southern California Fire Siege of 2003, the largest wildland fire in California history, the Cedar Fire in San Diego County, was named after the Cedar Creek Falls area where it started. The destructive Old Fire, which burned during the same time period in San Bernardino County, was named after the road along which it started - Old Waterman Canyon Road

# CAL FIRE Christmas tree safety tips

## Fire Safe Christmas Trees

Christmas tree fires cause approximately 200 house fires each year in this country. There are very simple steps you can take to prevent this type of fire from happening to you.

**Highlights for a fire safe holiday: Bear in mind that by following a few simple fire safety tips, you can prevent a possible Christmas tree fire and boost survival rates dramatically in the event you do have a house fire.**

1. When you are ready to put up your tree, make a fresh cut at the base of the tree (a minimum of two inches) and place the tree into a bucket of water or a clean tree stand immediately.
2. Keep the tree away from all heat sources and water the tree daily.
3. When you are decorating the tree, make sure the light strings are in good condition. Throw away any light strings that are damaged or frayed.

4. Don't leave the tree lights "on" when you are away from home or when you have gone to sleep.
5. Never overload your electrical outlets.
6. Consider purchasing a tree pretreated with a fire retardant or treat your tree with an approved fire retardant (for a list of approved fire retardants, visit the Office of the State Fire Marshall's website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/pdf/flameretardant/chemical/ChemicalList.pdf>).
7. Working smoke alarms in your home reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly 50%. Test the smoke alarm monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
8. 82% of fire deaths occur in the home. Practice your families exit drill and make sure everyone knows where your meeting place is. If you do not have an exit drill, create one now. Do not forget to review this fire exit drill with house guests

Cut and paste this link to view an important Cal Fire Video on youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/v/SazZBTqEnv0&hl&HD=1>

