



# CAL FIRE V.I.P. NEWSLETTER



1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012

March 19, 2012

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

## **The Obvious**

Well let's discuss high gas prices and volunteering for Red Flag patrol. Roxanne and the Team are not insensitive to the situation. One purposed plan of action would be to have patrols make one circuit of your route, find the best vantage point to observe and good radio comms and stick there instead of patrolling continuously.

## **Training.**

Currently the new Red Flag training program should debut in May 19, 2012, in the RACES meeting room off of Overland Dr.

## **Red Flag Patrol**

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

## **VIP - Red Flag Presentation.**

Rich and I went to the March S.A.N.D.R.A. meeting. We were well received and the assembled members asked excellent question. We had a good time and hopefully explained the program well. It was a great opportunity to spread the word of what the Red Flag VIP program is all about. It also gave us the chance to thank S.A.N.D.R.A. for the use of the 146.265 machine.

## **New System – (Re-print)**

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*

Co- Red Flag Patrol Branch Director

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, and welcome to the second CAL FIRE Newsletter. The newsletter is to try and keep you informed of what is going on at CAL FIRE.

First, all of us in the VIP Red Flag Patrol, want to welcome Thomas (Thom) Porter, the new chief at Monte Vista, who took over from chief Howard Windsor in January of 2012.

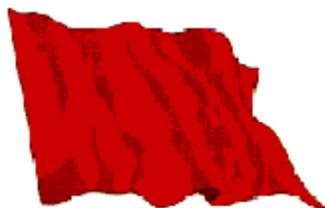
As Eric has said, the price of gas has gone through the roof, and this could harm the Red Flag Patrol program if people are not willing to go on patrol. That is why we may change the way our patrols are done.

Roxanne's staff met with her on Friday, March 16, to go over the new Red Flag Patrol training one more time before it is presented to you, our Red Flag patrol members, we think the new program will be better suited for what you, our members do. The old Wildland fire safety training is for

firefighters, law enforcement, and others who will be out on or near where the fire(s) are, and had very little to do with what you do on patrols. There is some elements of the wildland fire training in the new Red Flag Patrol, but other than that, it is a brand new training program. The date for the training is May 19, 2012, in the RACES meeting room off of Overland Drive near HRO. Remember, we limit this training to sixty people, so contact Steve Early for A.R.E.S, Don Dodson for the Amateur radio club of El Cajon and REACT, Gerry Sandford for RACES and Jim Cammarano for REMCOM; or you can contact Eric Crosser, N6SUB at [wolpertinger1@msn.com](mailto:wolpertinger1@msn.com).

I do not say "thank you" to all of you VIP'S; Very Important People who come out every time there is a need for a patrol, so from Roxanne, Eric, Paul, Danny and me Rich, THANK YOU.

Until next time 73"3 and 88's.  
Rich, N6NKJ



## HOT TOPICS

# CAL FIRE: A Leader in Flood Response



Though **CAL FIRE** is most often highlighted in its role as a wildland fire fighting agency, the Department's forces answer the call more than 300,000 times for other emergencies each year. During the 1990s **CAL FIRE** was called upon several times to respond to serious flooding in the State.

In 1997, rains devastated California by swelling rivers and lakes, collapsing levees, and forcing entire communities to evacuate. At the request of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), **CAL FIRE** committed over 2500 personnel to help sandbag public and private property, remove flood and storm debris, and help save lives. Over 150 hand crews were deployed, which was more than 75 percent of **CAL FIRE's** total crew capability for the State. In addition, **CAL FIRE** sent three Incident Management Teams, four mobile kitchen units, and four mobile communication centers to hard hit areas of California.

As a direct result of **CAL FIRE's** efforts lives and property were saved, prompting landowners and public officials alike to express extreme gratitude to the Department. Almost on a nightly basis, **CAL FIRE** crews were seen assisting flood victims on local news. This coverage represented just a few of the hundreds of acts performed by **CAL FIRE** employees across the State, sometimes at the risk of loss of life.

In 1998, **CAL FIRE**, along with many other emergency response personnel statewide, once again battled water and mud as Mother Nature dumped heavy rains throughout the State. **CAL FIRE** played a major role in the operations of a mobilization center in Northern California. The multi-jurisdictional center relied on the Department to provide everything from food to showers, fuel to mechanics, equipment to sleeping bags, and mobile communications to finance administration.

**CAL FIRE** has long been recognized for its ability for rapid emergency deployment, effective large incident logistical support, and incident management leadership.

**CAL FIRE** offers a few simple tips to help you and your family prepare in case of a flood:

## Flood Safety Tips

### BEFORE A FLOOD

**Prepare an Emergency Kit** - Stock up on non-perishable food, bottled water, flashlights, batteries and a first aid kit.

**Secure Your Valuables** - Make sure to keep cash, credit/debit cards, passports and anything else you consider valuable handy.

**Establish a Meeting Place** - Locate a meeting place that takes you to higher ground where you and your family members can easily locate each other.

### DURING A FLOOD

**Find Higher Ground** - If you are stuck in a flood, find higher ground.

**Do not Attempt to Drive** - Even if the streets aren't completely flooded, you could become stuck in the middle of flood waters and make it harder for emergency personnel to rescue you.

**Listen to Your Local Officials** - Pay close attention to police officers, firefighters and other designated flood response personnel. They will help direct you to safety during a flood.

### CAL FIRE FLOOD RESPONSE VIDEO

CAL FIRE is most often highlighted in its role as a wildland fire fighting agency, but CAL FIRE is also a leader in flood response.

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_protection/fire\\_protection\\_floodResponse.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_floodResponse.php)

Here is another great website. <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/index.aspx> you don't have to be in an rural area to utilize some of these ideas.

**Reminder:** When you leave your home for Cal Fire, note your mileage for compensation.

**REMEMBER YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE ON PATROL, TO BE FIRE AWARE**



**Did you change the batteries in all your smoke detectors when you changed your clocks for Daylight Savings Time??**

**Roughly 70% of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. (NFPA statistic - 2005)**

