



THE OVERLOOK

September, 2013

Edited By Joanie Wynn



By Steve Wynn

About a year ago, Muir Beach home owners started reporting huge increases in their home fire insurance premiums. As reported in a previous issue of the Overlook, the reason was, without warning, the ISO had changed our rating from a 4 to a 10 -- 10 having the lowest emergency response for structural fires. The main issue was that our primary responding station (Throckmorton) is just beyond the 5 mile limit imposed by the ISO to be considered a "fast response". Additionally, MBVFD was not recognized as a source of fire protection -- at all. Naturally, being the Fire Chief of Muir Beach, this really chapped my hide!

With help from district manager, Leighton Hills, and a few key individuals in the community including David Piel and Ralph Frey, information started pouring in and connections were made. As with any large organization, you get a different story from every person you talk to. Our initial ISO representative said that our rating had not changed, but then, later on, someone else at ISO confirmed that it had been changed. Their advice was to change to an insurance provider that doesn't consider ISO ratings. Still, personally, I just couldn't get over the fact that our fire department didn't rate.

The big breakthrough came when David Piel connected me with Alex R. Shubert from the ISO. Under his direction, I provided written proof of the following to have our rating reviewed and



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reverted back to a 4:

- 1 Muir Beach receives automatic aid from Marin County Fire Department, Southern Marin Fire District, & Stinson Beach Fire District (with dispatch services)
- 2 MBVFD meets the Public Protection Classification minimum criteria of class 9 (which we exceed by a huge margin), qualifying us as a sub-station of Marin County.

Success! One year later, we have come full circle and are back to our rightful standing as a 4. The icing on the cake came when one resident recently told me that he's now saving \$1800 on his fire insurance.

Personally, of course, I felt vindicated that MBVFD is now officially recognized for the readiness and protection it provides to our community. This also means a lot to our volunteers, who train hard to protect their families, friends and neighbors.

MUIR BEACH CARES

By Paul Jeschke

Muir Beach Caring is ready to help neighbors who need assistance during illness or medical recovery.

Since its inception several years ago, Muir Beach Caring has provided assistance to residents who have had surgery and required help with meals, trips over the hill for doctor's visits, prescription pickup and grocery shopping.

A roster of residents willing to help out has been organized by the Elderberries. When a neighbor in need calls the help line, 320-6847 (320-MUIR), the caring coordinator contacts volunteers to take on the task. Sometimes it's as simple as calling or dropping in once or twice to make sure everything is okay.

Elderberry volunteers are planning to update the volunteer list in the near future. In the meantime, new arrivals who'd like to help should call the Muir Beach Caring helpline or email muirbeachelderberries@gmail.com.



T H E O V E R L O O K

PLAN NOW FOR YOUR 911 EMERGENCY

By Steve Wynn

When you call 911, time is of the essence. The easier you make it for emergency personnel, the better and more efficiently they can respond to your crisis. Though no one ever anticipates this type of scenario, it's important to plan for it with these few simple steps:

Have your house number clearly visible – ideally with reflective material or illumination at night.

There have been several times when MBVFD has responded to a call in our community and had difficulty finding the correct house because the house number was hidden or not clearly visible from the road. This is especially problematic at night, with thick fog or during a storm. To add to the difficulty, many of the house numbers in Muir Beach are in a wacky order. So please, take a moment to make sure that your address is clearly posted in front of your house and easily visible from the road.

Have your medical information printed out and readily available.

When emergency medical services arrive, they will want to know the following:

- 1 Any medications you are taking
- 2 Your medical history or any pre-existing conditions (prior heart attacks, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.)
- 3 Any allergies to medication, food or latex (some people are allergic to the latex gloves that health care providers wear. For this reason MBVFD carries two types of gloves)
- 4 Your insurance information
- 5 People to contact in the case of an emergency

Please take the time now to prepare this information when your mind is clear and calm. Place it somewhere handy and let other family members know where this information is kept.



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GET INVOLVED IN THE SAFETY OF YOUR COMMUNITY

By Steve Wynn

Barbara Piotter who heads up our Muir Beach Community Disaster Council is currently looking for volunteers to become involved in the program. There are many ways for you to get involved and contribute to the safety of your community that won't consume a lot of your time. Here are the different committees:

Disaster Council

Neighborhood Liaisons

Search and Rescue

Shelter and Feeding

Medical and First Aid

Dependent Care/Special Needs (children/elderly/infirm)

Animal Rescue

Disaster/Household Resource Database (Tech savvy person)

If you would like to get involved please contact Barbara at 775-8524

Additionally, there is an upcoming CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class in Mill Valley on October 10,12, &19th. The cost is \$45/pp and the website is: www.marincountycert.org Its great information to have personally and will benefit our community as well. Here is a description of the course from the site.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

***On September 15,
Starbuck Drive
neighbors met for
their annual disaster
preparedness
meeting.***

Organized by Anne Jeschke and hosted by Bill and Susy Stewart, the residents of Starbuck met to connect, exchange information and discuss disaster preparedness.

If you're interested in setting up a meeting for your street, please contact Barbara Piotter for more information.



THE OVERLOOK

GREAT TURN OUT FOR BLOOD DRIVE



Photo by: Steve Wynn

In partnership with Blood Centers of the Pacific, Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department sponsored its first blood drive with great success. In addition to donors from Muir Beach, we had a few participants from around Marin County and even a few folks visiting from Bear Valley. Thanks to everyone who came out.



Photo by: Steve Wynn

WATER SAFETY DAY



Photo by: Steve Wynn

We had another great turn out for the second annual Water Safety Day. Despite fog and rain, the kids learned a lot and had a fun day, topped off with hot dogs and s'mores around the campfire. Many thanks to Sophie Conti and Muir Beach firefighter Maurice Conti for making it all happen.



Photo by: Steve Wynn



Photo by: Steve Wynn



T H E O V E R L O O K



Keeping Your Travels Safe

On a recent trip, I hiked through a bamboo forest in Hana, Maui. At the end of the hike, there is a beautiful waterfall with an inviting pool underneath. I noticed scattered boulders of all sizes scattered around the area. It was apparent that the boulders had fallen from the cliffs just above the pool and that swimming was not safe. Still I saw many people who went in.

Sure enough, as I was driving out of town, I stopped to visit the Hana Fire Department and I asked about safety issues at the falls. The Captain told me that, indeed, visitors get hit and killed by falling boulders on a regular basis.

Tragically, a few years ago, a family visiting Muir Beach was hiking along the trail towards Pirate's cove. The boy was unaware of the degrading edge of the cliffs and ventured too close to the edge. The cliff gave way and he fell to his death.

I share these stories because, in wild or natural areas like ours, it is impossible for the authorities to post warnings for every potential threat or danger. Common sense and knowledge play an important part in averting tragedies like these.

A good way to find out the safety concerns of an area is to contact the local fire department. The MBVFD website has safety tips for fire prevention, beach use and hiking, so please take a moment to review them with your family and visitors before venturing out to enjoy our incredible surroundings.
www.muirbeachfire.com/safety.html

And when you travel to other wilderness areas, keep in mind that local fire departments and/or Park Rangers can be a good source of information. Since they respond to accidents, they are most aware of the kinds of dangers that people face in their area.



Photo by: Steve Wynn

PET ALERT

Recently I came across a sick fox in the middle of the road. Upon calling the Marin Humane Society the officer said it looked like distemper. Distemper is contracted through the urine and feces of an infected animal. **Please make sure all your pets have all their shots.** It protects your pet and protects the wildlife.



Photo by: Steve Wynn



THE OVERLOOK



MBVFD 2013 Calls

Jun/2013 to September/8/2013

- 6-25-13 Tree down Muir Woods road
- 6-29-13 Loss of consciousness, Overlook parking lot
- 7-4-13 Car off road, Shoreline and Muir Woods Rd.
- 7-5-13 Illegal bonfire, Big Beach
- 7-8-13 Fall from 2nd story window, MB Community
- 7-8-13 Back and neck injury, Pelican Inn
- 7-9-13 Head-on collision, Hwy 1
- 7-15-13 Assistance moving patient, MB community
- 7-21-13 Bee sting/allergic reaction, Muir Woods
- 7-21-13 Loss of consciousness, Muir Woods
- 7-27-13 False alarm for fire, MB community
- 7-28-13 Motorcycle down, Muir Woods Rd.
- 8-1-13 Truck roll over, Big Beach parking lot
- 8-2-13 Fire alarm, Muir Woods
- 8-4-13 Partial loss of consciousness, Muir Woods
- 8-11-13 Fall/head injury, Muir Woods
- 8-17-13 Leg pain, Green Gulch
- 8-26-13 Vehicle crash into side of hill, Hwy 1

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

**PLACE A MBVFD
STICKER ON YOUR CAR
WINDOW**



To get your free MBVFD sticker contact
Steve Wynn at :
steve@muirbeachfire.com

**STICKER GOES ON THE OUTSIDE OF
WINDOW**



THE OVERLOOK



Calendar of Events

Fire Extinguisher Sale and Re-Charge

Have your extinguisher serviced and re-charged at discount rates or buy a new fire extinguisher.

Even if your extinguisher indicates it is good, it needs to be serviced every 2 years. Contents inside can cake up over time and it is possible for it to fail when you need it most.

Date: October 5

Time: 9:00am to 2:30 pm

Location: MBVFD fire station at the horse stables

\$15 for re-charge

\$40 (flat rate, no tax) for a new 2.5# ABC DC Extinguisher

\$55 (flat rate, no tax) for a new 5# ABC DC Extinguisher

CPR/AED Class

Learn life saving skills from the EMS instructor who trained our Muir Beach firefighters.

CPR/AED techniques are evolving, so stay up to date with the latest information.

This class should be taken every two years in order to stay current.

Date: 11-16-13

Time: 2 to 4 pm

Location: Community Center

Cost: \$25 per person

To sign up, contact Steve Wynn at:

steve@muirbeachfire.com

*Did you know? You can get safety tips, buy MBVFD merchandise, make a donation or
read these stories online at www.muirbeachfire.com*