



October 2008

*D3 Dispatch*

Volume 4 No. 3

For this month's Dispatch, we wanted to remind residents of District 3 of the seriousness of dry conditions and the potential for devastating consequences from a fire of any magnitude. There are specific areas in which you may wish to volunteer your services. At the bottom, we will provide informational resources to help protect you, your family and your home should a disaster occur.

Once again, please give us your feedback on our efforts to continue providing you with effective representation and good service. Let your neighbors know about the *D3 Dispatch*. Sign up here and click on "Subscribe to this page."

### Where There's Smoke....

"We are really not prepared for a major wildfire," said Marin County Fire Department Forester, Kent Julin.

Marin's fire season begins in August and concludes in November or when the fall rains begin. The severity is measured by fuel moisture, predictive weather patterns, the marine layer and rain itself. Your efforts to reduce risk in your home and on your grounds are essential.

### Given this state of urgency, what are the conditions in District 3 for a major fire?

**Undeveloped land that is overgrown.** We can see much of this throughout the District and it is coupled with an anxious feeling that the land may not be maintained to prevent fires.

**Hills, slopes, ridges and canyons are choked with trees, thick brush and homes.** Marin Open Space, Fire and the Municipal Water District (MMWD) are aggressively building fuel breaks, removing overgrown vegetation and conducting controlled burns. Concerns:

There is too much real estate to manage and they lack necessary financial resources to stay ahead of the problem. Private home owners are critical to reducing the threat of fire.

**Less rain than in previous years.** It's a toss of the coin together with a La Niña, El Niño or the effects of global warming whether we get rain earlier or later than normal.

**Fuels have been accumulating for almost a century in some areas of Marin and District 3.** We had major fires in 1882 (65,000 acres), 1923 (40,000 acres from Novato to Alpine Lake), 1929 in Mill Valley, 1945 (20,000 acres of watershed) and 1995 (Inverness Vision Fire). Bottom line: Unless it is removed or cut back, it keeps growing.

**Roads are narrow and impassable.** Local officials are in constant communication with neighborhoods and watch groups to assist in keeping roads cleared and to have a plan in place to clear roads during a fire.

With this in mind, I'll be working closely with all our cities, towns and community services districts to raise funds and develop programs to increase our vegetation management efforts. Southern Marin CERT and GET READY programs are also key factors in getting residents prepared for the inevitable fires.

### Fire stations and phone numbers:

**Belvedere** - 1679 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon (415) 435-7200

**Rich Pearce...**[www.tiburonfire.org/](http://www.tiburonfire.org/)

**Marin City** - 850 Drake Ave., Marin City (415) 499-6167

**Ken Massucco...**[www.marincountyfire.org](http://www.marincountyfire.org)

**Mill Valley** - 26 Corte Madera Ave. & 1 Hamilton Dr., Mill Valley (415) 389-4130

**Bob Ritter...**[www.cityofmillvalley.org](http://www.cityofmillvalley.org)

**Strawberry** - 308 Reed Blvd., Mill Valley (415) 388-8182

**Jim Irving...**<http://www.xmrfire.org/som/operations.aspx>

**Sausalito** - 300 Spencer Ave., Sausalito (415) 388-8182

**Jim Irving...**

**Tam Valley** - 309 Poplar Ave. Mill Valley (415) 388-8182

**Jim Irving...**

**Tiburon** - 1679 Tiburon Blvd. & 4301 Paradise Dr., Tiburon (415) 435-7200

**Rich Pearce...**[www.tiburonfire.org/](http://www.tiburonfire.org/)

### Other services:

**Emergency Medical Services.** EMS personnel are either a Paramedic (advanced life support) or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who are trained in the use of the automatic external defibrillator (AED).

**Fire Suppression.** These crews perform fire suppression operations, medical/rescue services, and other hazard mitigation activities, which allow SMFD personnel to carry out the primary mission of protecting the lives and property of our citizens.

**Hazardous Materials Response.** Hazardous Materials First Responders training gives firefighters the knowledge to protect the public and themselves at a Hazardous Materials release. The District has been proactive in the areas of Homeland Security and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

[Marin County Urban Search and Rescue Team](#) is capable of performing confined space rescue, water rescue, physical search and rescue operations in collapsed structures and stabilization of damaged structures

**Southern Marin Dive Team.** SMDT is a resource available for water rescue and dive emergencies in the Southern Marin service area and is designed to respond to water emergencies where the probability of victim survival is likely.

**Fire Prevention and Vegetation Management.**

[Community Emergency Response Training.](#) CERT Teams are groups of amateur emergency workers. CERT personnel receive basic training from emergency response professionals and work in the initial aftermath of a disaster to augment official emergency services. CERT is scheduling training sessions right now...Please consider attending them!

### Protect my family:

Please visit [www.getreadysouthernmarin.org](http://www.getreadysouthernmarin.org) and learn what it takes to

- \* Safeguard [your home](#) ... A Survival Guide
- \* Gather necessary home supplies before an emergency
- \* Protect your car
- \* Create a mini-survival kit

## WANT TO GET STARTED?

1) Take a moment to download [Homeowner's Guide to FireSafe Practices in Marin County](#)

**2) *Learn more!*** Attend the **Fire Safety meeting** co-sponsored by Supervisor McGlashan and the Gateway Planning Committee, the Marinview Homeowners Preparedness Committee and Southern Marin Fire on:

Monday, November 17th  
7:00 p.m.  
Tamalpais Valley Community Center  
203 Marin Avenue.

### ***Update!* Muir Woods Shuttle:**

We congratulate everyone who left his or her car at home and rode the Muir Woods Shuttle. Ridership figures show a 2008 yearly increase of 3%. That's 34,534 riders who took the shuttle this year and 14,130 cars that stayed in the garage. *Fantastic!*

*Let us know what you think. We will continue to update you on the issues in this dispatch and future topics.*