August 2020



# PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Fire and Life Safety Newsletter



Beginning June 2020 the Pioneer Fire Protection District will be releasing a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the public to help educate on specific safety topics related to the month ahead.

The goal of this newsletter is to educate the public on accurate and up to date fire and life education topics in an all in one format.

## CONTACT OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT (530) 620-4444

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing order in place, our office and stations will remain closed to the public until further notice unless you are experiencing an emergency.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL**

## **IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH!**

Pioneer Union School district and Indian Diggings School might have students present on campus as you are driving by, please remember to drive slowly and cautiously.

#### **Know How to Drive in School Zones**

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way



<u>To learn more about driving safety in a school zone, visit the National Safety Council's website at https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/seasonal-safety/back-to-school/drivers</u>

## **BACK TO SCHOOL**

## SHARE THE ROAD WITH SCHOOL BUSSES

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

- Never pass a bus from behind or from either direction if you're on an undivided road
  if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks



<u>To learn more about driving safety in a school zone, visit the National Safety Council's website at https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/seasonal-safety/back-to-school/drivers</u>

## DO NOT DRIVE DISTRACTED

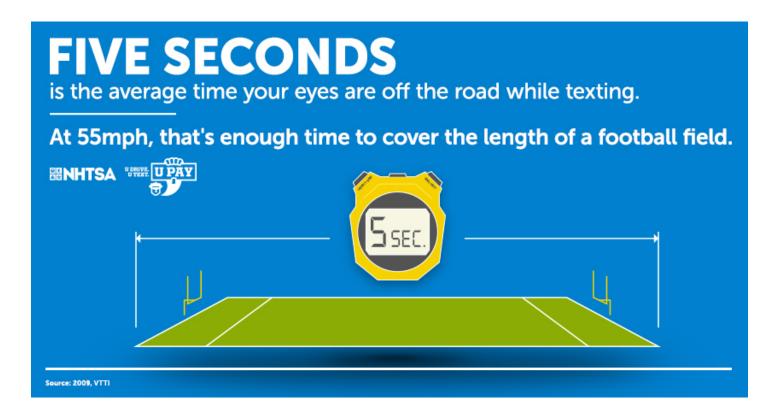
## DISTRACTED DRIVING KILLS

Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 2,841 lives in 2018 alone.

Among those killed:1,730 drivers, 605 passengers, 400 pedestrians and 77 bicyclists. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America's roads safe.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed. You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

- If you must send or receive a text, pull over to a safe location and park your car first.
- If you have passengers, appoint a "designated texter" to handle all your texting.
- If you can't resist the temptation to look at it, keep your phone in the trunk.



<u>To learn more about driving safety, visit the NHTSA's website at https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/distracted-driving</u>

## 7 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR KIDS

#### 1.Car Seat Safety

The best way to keep your child safe in the car is to use the right car seat in the right way.

- Buy the right car seat.
- Install your car seat correctly.
- Make sure the seat is the right fit.
- Know when to change your car seat.

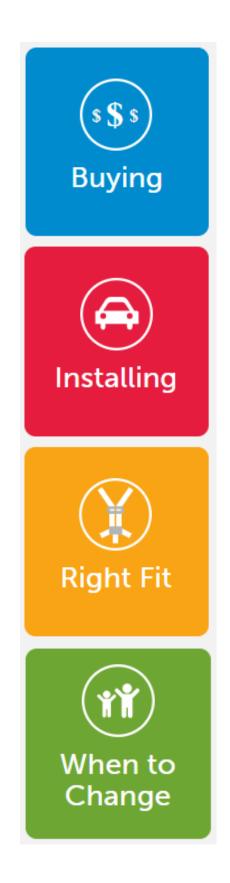
#### 2.Booster Seat Safety

Children seated in a booster seat in the back seat of the car are 45% less likely to be injured in a crash than children using a seat belt alone.

A booster seat provides a step between a car seat with a harness and a seat belt alone. Make sure your child has outgrown the weight or height limits allowed in the forward-facing car seat.

When your child is seated in the booster seat, make sure the lap and shoulder belts fit.

Do not place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back. Be sure you ask about booster use if your child is in a carpool.



## 7 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR KIDS

#### 3.Seat Belt Safety

Do you use your seat belt on every ride? Buckling up on every ride is the single most important thing a family can do to stay safe in the car.

More than half of teens (ages 13-19) and adults (ages 20-44) who died in crashes in 2015 were not wearing a seat belt. (NHTSA)

Find out if your child is ready for the seat belt alone by doing the Safety Belt Fit Test:

- Check knees and feet. Your child's knees should bend at the edge of the seat when her back and bottom are against the vehicle seat back.
   Her feet should touch the floor for comfort and stability.
- Check the lap belt. The vehicle lap belt must fit snugly across the hips or upper thighs.
- Check the shoulder belt. The shoulder belt must fit across the shoulder and chest, NOT across the face or neck.

10,421 child lives were saved by child safety seats or seat belts between 1975 and 2013.

## 7 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR KIDS



#### 4. Heatstroke Awareness and Prevention

On average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle. In more than half of these deaths, the caregiver forgot the child was in the car.

A car can heat up 19 degrees in just 10 minutes. And cracking a window doesn't help.

- <u>Avoid heatstroke</u>-related injury and death by never leaving a child alone in a car, not even for a minute.
- <u>Create reminders.</u> Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's car seat when it's empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat.
- <u>Take action</u>. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations

## 7 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR KIDS



#### 5.Driveway Safety

Many tragedies happen in driveways or parking lots when drivers are unaware that children are near vehicles Tragically, these drivers are often family members or friends of the injured child. But these situations are easily prevented by following a few simple tips.

- We know you're often in a hurry, but before you get in the car, take a few seconds to walk all the way around your parked car to check for children.
- Designate a safe spot for children to wait when nearby vehicles are about to move and make sure the drivers can see them.
- Accompany little kids when they get in and out of a vehicle. Hold their hand while walking near moving vehicles, in driveways, parking lots or on sidewalks.

## 7 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR KIDS

#### **6.Trunk Entrapment Prevention**

A car trunk may seem like a fun playground to kids, but it is a dangerous place. You can protect your child, and your neighbor's children, by learning these tips to prevent trunk entrapment.

- Lock your vehicle and keep keys out of a child's reach
- If your child is missing, immediately check swimming pools, vehicles, and trucks and then get help.
- Teach kids that trunks are for transporting cargo and are not safe places to play.



Always lock your vehicle, including the trunk, when not in use.



#### 7.Getting Ready to Drive

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers. Mile for mile, teenagers are three times more likely to be involved in a crash compared with other drivers. Compared with other age groups, teens have the lowest rate of seat belt use. Only 51% of high school students reported always wearing a seat belt when riding with someone else.

Help start the conversation and set guidelines at http://countdown2drive.org/

## **BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS**

Bicycling is one of the best ways to get exercise, see the sights and reduce your carbon footprint. However, bicyclists face a host of hazards. They often must share the road with vehicles, and injuries can happen even on a designated path.

According to the National Safety Council, the number of deaths from bicycle incidents increased 29% over an eight-year period, from 793 in 2010 to 1,024 in 2017, according to Injury Facts®. Of the 1,024 bicyclist deaths in 2017, 679 involved motor vehicles. With about 80 million bicyclists sharing the road with motorized vehicles, it is vital bicyclists – and drivers – take some safety precautions.

#### **Check Your Equipment**



- Always inspect your bike prior to riding.
- The seat should be adjusted to the proper height and locked in place.
- Make certain all parts are secure and working properly.
- Check that the tires are inflated properly.
- Make sure the bike is equipped with reflectors on the rear, front, pedals and spokes.
- A horn or bell, a rear-view mirror and a bright headlight also are recommended.

Plan to be Seen



- Make certain drivers can see you.
- Wear neon, fluorescent or other bright clothing
- Whenever possible, ride during the day
- If you must ride at night, wear reflective clothing and use flashing lights

To learn more visit https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/bicycles#:~:text=The%20number%20of%20deaths%20from,2017%2C%20679%20involved%20motor%20vehicles.

## **BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS**

#### Wear a Helmet



## Does your helmet fit properly?

Take the Helmet Fit Test





Eyes: Put the helmet on your head. Look up. You should see the bottom rim of the helmet.





Ears: Make sure the straps form a 'V' under your ears when buckled. The straps should be a little tight but comfortable.





Mouth: Open your mouth as wide as you can. Does the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten the straps.

Now you're ready to roll!

## fit the helmet:

Follow these guidelines from NHTSA to properly

#### EYES check:

Position the helmet on your head. Look up and you should see the bottom rim of the helmet. The rim should be one to two finger-widths above the evebrows.

#### EARS check:

**Make sure the** straps of the helmet form a "V" under your ears when buckled. The strap should be snug but comfortable.

#### MOUTH check:

Open your mouth as wide as you can. Do you feel the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten those straps and make sure the buckle is flat against your skin.

#### Follow These Rules of the Road



- Get acquainted with traffic laws; bicyclists must follow the same rules as motorists.
- Ride single-file in the direction of traffic.
- Remain alert, keep your head up and look around; watch for opening car doors and other hazards.
- Usehand signals when turning and use extra care at intersections.
- Never hitch onto cars.
- Before entering traffic, stop and look left, right, left again and over your shoulder.

To learn more visit https://www.nhtsa.gov/bicycle-safety/learn-bike-safely

## ATV SAFETY TIPS

ATVs can be unstable and hard to control, particularly at high speeds. Rollovers and collisions happen often, and some of these are fatal. Injuries from riding ATVs are common too and can mean an emergency-room visit. As a result, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) discourages kids and teens ages 16 or younger from driving or riding on ATVs.

# Anyone who does ride an ATV should follow these tips before and during riding:

- Kids age 16 and younger should not ride an ATV.
- Take a safety training course to learn how to operate an ATV safely, and only ride an ATV that's right for your size and age.
- Always wear an approved helmet and eye protection.
- Wear long pants, long sleeves, gloves, and over-the-ankle boots to help prevent scrapes and cuts.
- Only ride during daylight hours.
- Always ride at a safe speed on a designated ATV trail.
- Know basic first aid to treat minor injuries, and be able to get help in an emergency.



To learn more information on ATV safety tips, visit Kids Health's website at https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/atv-

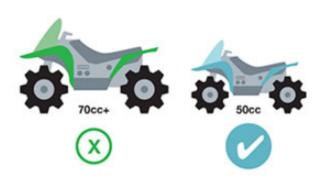
safety.html#:~:text=Safety%20Guidelines,should%20not%20ride%20an%20ATV.&text=Take%20a%20sa fety%20training%20course,approved%20helmet%20and%20eye%20protection.

## ATV SAFETY TIPS

## <u>It's important tonever do the</u> <u>following while riding an ATV:</u>

- Never ride on a three-wheel ATV.
- Never ride while drinking alcohol or using drugs.
- Never ride on paved surfaces or public roads (except to cross them).
- Never exceed the number of passengers recommended by the manufacturer.
- Never let kids and teens drive an ATV with a passenger.





ATVs are not toys. **NEVER** let kids drive or ride adult ATVs. Engines 70cc and up are too fast for kids younger than 12 years old.



NEVER drive ATVs on paved roads. ATVs are made for dirt roads and are hard to control on pavement.



NEVER allow more than 1 rider on a single ATV.

ATV riding will always be risky — and because they're fun, many kids and teens will want to try them.

There are no guarantees that kids won't get hurt, even with precautions and protective laws in place.

To learn more information on ATV safety tips, visit Kids Health's website at https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/atv-

safety.html#:~:text=Safety%20Guidelines,should%20not%20ride%20an%20ATV.&text=Take%20a%20sa fety%20training%20course,approved%20helmet%20and%20eye%20protection.

## **HOME ESCAPE PLAN**

#### Do You Have A Home Escape Plan?



Everyone needs to have a home escape plan in place to ensure that your entire family knows what to do in the event of a house fire.

#### **Escape Planning Tips**

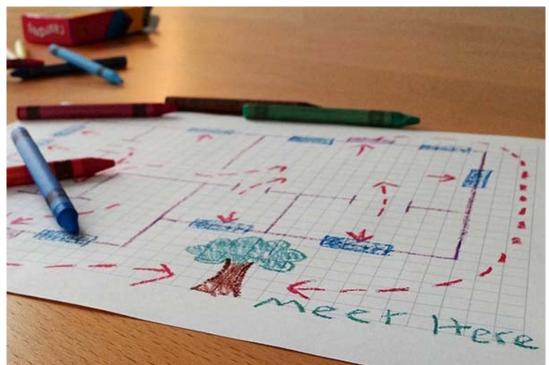
- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped.

To learn more information on creating your home escape plan, visit the NFPA's webstie at https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning

## **HOME ESCAPE PLAN**

#### Make a Plan for Everything

- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency
- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Emergency release devices won't compromise your security but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one. This is especially important when children are permitted to attend "sleepovers" at friends' homes.
  - Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately.
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.



To learn more information on creating your home escape plan, visit the NFPA's webstie at https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning

## **HOME ESCAPE PLAN**

#### Practice!

- Practice your home fire escape plan **twice a year**, making the drill as realistic as possible. Practice at night and during the day.
- Make arrangements in your plan for anyone in your home who has a disability.
- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping.
- If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a safety ladder in an emergency. Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest the one with the least amount of smoke and heat but be prepared to escape under toxic smoke if necessary. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to your exit.
- Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.
- In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your home or apartment building. To prepare for an emergency like this, practice "sealing yourself in for safety" as part of your home fire escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to seal the door cracks and cover air vents to keep smoke from coming in. If possible, open your windows at the top and bottom so fresh air can get in. Call the fire department to report your exact location. Wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located



To learn more information on creating your home escape plan, visit the NFPA's webstie at https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning

## **FUEL LOAD INFORMATION**

## SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL

According to Cal Fire's Brian Newman, AEU, California has experienced an unusually high number of early-season heatwaves already this season. There have been some cool spells and even some late-season precipitation interspersed between these heatwaves, but the overall effect has been to produce well above average temperatures overall across nearly the entire state this spring. We've already had a higher number of Red Flag Warnings for the unit than normal for the time of year. The fires that occurred in the unit over the last month have been primarily wind driven, with containment hampered by the very thick grass crop. These fires are spotting short tomid-range, even in the grass, due to the overgrowth. The brush and live fuels (trees and new growth brush) are starting to contribute more to fire growth, and we will see an exponential increase in this as we progress through July. We have also seen a number of lightning caused fires in the timber of the west slope and the Tahoe basin.

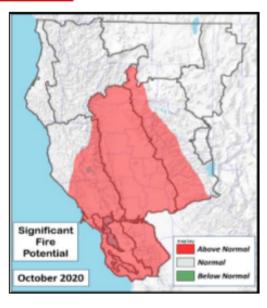
## LONG TERM OUTLOOK

July through October is anticipated to be warmer and drier, with above normal significant fire potential in most areas. Lightning poses a bigger threat of large fires July and August along with N-NE/Offshore wind events become a bigger threat of large fires beginning mid Sept. In general, any lightning above 3000 ft will pose a threat of large fires due to very dry fuels.

## SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL







## HAVE YOUR EVACUATION PLAN IN PLACE!

To learn how to create an evacuation plan, visit ready.gov's website at https://www.ready.gov/evacuation

## **PLAN FOR YOUR PETS**

# DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE FOR YOUR PETS?

Remember, during a disaster what's good for you is good for your pet, so get them ready today. If you leave your pets behind, they may be lost, injured or worse. Never leave a pet chained outdoors. Plan options include:

#### Prepare your pets by:

- Creating a buddy system in case you're not home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your animals.
- Identify shelters. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets.
- Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area where you may be seeking temporary shelter in case your pet needs medical care. Add the contact information to your emergency kit.
- Have your pet microchipped and make sure that you not only keep your address and phone number up-todate, but that you also include contact info for an emergency contactoutside of your immediate area.
- Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get advice and information.
- If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet.
- Find out where pet boarding facilities are located.
- Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current.
- If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger!



To learn more information on ATV safety tips, visit Kids Health's website at https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/atv-

safety.html#:~:text=Safety%20Guidelines,should%20not%20ride%20an%20ATV.&text=Take%20a%20sa fety%20training%20course,approved%20helmet%20and%20eye%20protection.

## **PLAN FOR YOUR PETS**

## LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY PLANNING

If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.

#### Prepare your large animals by:

- Ensure all animals have some form of identification. Evacuate animals whenever possible.
- Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers.
- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside.



To learn more about pet emergency preparedness, vist ready.gov at https://www.ready.gov/pets

## PFPD / AFPD JOINT STAFFING INFORMATION

## **FAQS FROM THE CHIEF**

Both districts looked into utilizing current stations in the area, Pioneer Station 34 (Mt. Aukum at Omo Ranch) is not available for use and does not provide state and federal standards for daily living (no office, restrooms or living space), upgrading cost at this time is expensive and cost that we cannot afford. Current requests to possibly share or utilize station 30 (River Pines Cal Fire station), have not been responded to by Cal Fire Administration. Station 123 Fiddletown has the facilities to utilize during the day. It borders a portion of Pioneers south county district and is only 5-7 minutes away from our E16 area border and 2.5 to 3 minutes away from our Coyoteville and Tyler Road areas (Pioneers district).

#### When does station 123 move up and cover Pioneer?

When Pioneer receives a call in Grizzly Flats, Leoni Meadows, Omo Ranch and Happy Valley areas our paid staff unit (St. 38) is normally tied up and unavailable to respond for a minimum of 1 to 1 ½ hour in most situations. Fiddletown will immediately move up and cover station 38 (unless tied up on a call) this allows us to maintain coverage in our district (allowing the district to have efficient response time to second call incidents), normally we have to wait for units from Placerville, Diamond Springs and Pollock Pines area if they are available or if our volunteers are available to respond from home. If it appears the paid staff engine (St. 38) is going to be dedicated to any incident for more than 30 minutes (such as a MVA, cardiac arrest, severe trauma patient, fire call or any such type of incident or moved up to cover Pleasant Valley station 19) the station 123 unit will move up and Pioneers District for calls.

#### Where does station 123 respond (calls)?

St. 123 will respond as a primary unit for service in Mt. Aukum Coyoteville (St. 34), and Omo Ranch (St. 37) areas west and south to the county line. Types of incidents they would respond to, include in areas listed above: Motor vehicle accidents (MVA), car fires, structure fires, vegetation fires, cardiac arrest, severe trauma, water, special rescues and other type of events St. 123 will respond as a second or third unit in the areas of Fairplay, Somerset & Outingdale (St. 38) and Fiddletown, River Pines (St. 123) and a portion of Plymouth (St. 122). Types of calls or incidents they would respond to, included in all areas above: Motor vehicle accidents (MVA), car fires, structure fires, vegetation fires, cardiac arrest, severe trauma, water, special rescues and special request St. 123 will respond to the same type of calls in Fiddletown (St. 123) the same as listed above as well as a secondary unit response to areas of Plymouth (St. 122) By staffing 123 it frees up engine/St. 38 from responding to auto aid or mutual aid into Fiddletown and Plymouth allowing St. 38 to stay available in Pioneers district core area.



Please feel free to contact us at admin@pioneerfire.org

## PFPD / AFPD JOINT STAFFING INFORMATION

Who provides the Uniforms, Training and Protective Clothing?

Each agency provides their staff and personnel with their district's uniforms, protective gear/clothing and the training is a collaborative effort between both agencies and ongoing. This is why you can see one person wearing a Pioneer Fire Protection District uniform and the other a Amador County Fire Protection District uniform on calls and at perspective stations.

Why do we see 2 Pioneer Fire Protection District personnel on the Amador apparatus and no Amador Personnel?

Pioneer and Amador have agreed to fund one position each. In the event that one district can't fill its coverage obligation, the other district can fill the open spot. In the event that two personnel are working from the same district, then the other district will reimburse for the position they could not cover.

Are you just going to staff St. 123 on the weekends?

No, we are starting with our high peak days and times for staffing and plan to reevaluate in two months.





Please feel free to contact us at admin@pioneerfire.org