



Volunteer In (fire) Prevention



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**CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
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CDF Fresno-Kings VIP
"Welcome Aboard" to:
Joe Calvillo, Steve Derenia,
Susan Garcia, Darlene Nunes

Fresno-Kings Unit 4300

Defensible Space works... Public Education works....

Homes Saved during MMU Quartz fire because residents listened and used fire resistive plants...defensible space (4291) requirements...100 foot clearance...

by **Karen Guillemain**
CDF FRESNO-KINGS UNIT
Fire Prevention Specialist

More than 700 firefighters, six air tankers, six helicopters, and 24 hand crews fought in one of the worst fires in Central California so far in 2005 to save homes in Coarsegold.

Firefighters did an awesome job in stopping this fire that was spotting over 300 feet in front of the line. All firefighting tools were utilized to contain the blaze including hand tools and bulldozers.

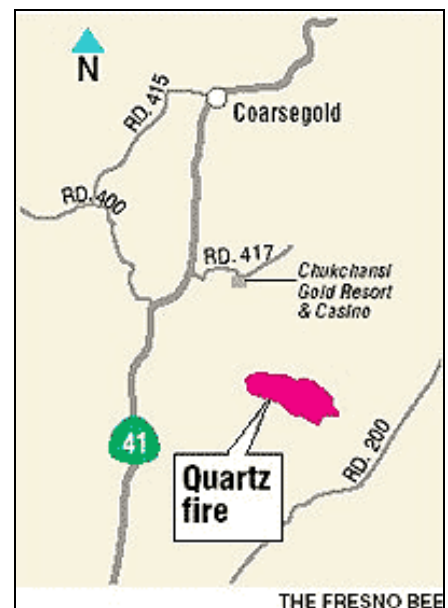
But it is the residents that deserve just as much praise as the heroic efforts of those who fought the fire.

In the final analysis, many homes were saved because of two words:

"Defensible Space"

Public education, like that done by the CDF volunteers in our VIP program, makes a very big difference when the flames are close and your home is threatened!

While assigned on an incident, you must submit a Daily Activity Log (ICS-214). Start yours immediately when you are mobilized and keep it up-to-date.



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**** NEW RULE ****

Effective N-O-W

All VIP's must have on file a current STD 261 (vehicle authorization form) for finance to process your travel expense claim for mileage!

This form must be turned in **ANNUALLY** to stay current.

Please complete the one I sent you and mail it to me, drop it off for me, or just send it by carrier pigeon!

Compliance is not an option!

I am including another copy for those of you who have lost, ate or maybe even ??? the other one.

If you have a question, don't assume this doesn't apply to you. **CONTACT ME** if you have any questions!

It's A Joint Effort



Public Education and Defensible Space

When a fire threatens the place where you live, you need everything on your side. While CDF and other professional firefighters fought bravely to save homes, they were assisted by techniques that are proven to save lives and structures.

VIP Public Education Rocks!

VIP Members Provide Assistance at "Quartz" Fire in Madera County

Special thanks and appreciation is extended to Steve Derenia and Keri Van Patten for their valuable assistance at the Quartz Fire Information Unit.

A JOB WELL DONE!

Travel Expense Claims

Please send in your claims on a **monthly basis** for processing.

Provide me with an activity sheet and I can complete the TEC for you. PLEASE sign the enclosed TEC, and include your address, social security and vehicle license number.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, AND IT **MUST BE LEGIBLE** for me to use!!!!

SMOKEY Says:

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE!



Radio Operators Wanted

CDF Fresno-Kings is looking for licensed radio operators interested in volunteering in our VIP Emergency Communications Group.

Prospective applicants criteria:

- Possess a **valid** and **current** Radio Operator's License issued by the Federal Communications License;
- Be a minimum of eighteen (18) years old;
- Attend meetings regularly;
- Be an active contributor at events, training and activations;
- Be available for "call outs" on an "as needed" basis;
- Own a mobile and handheld radio.
- Have a sincere desire to provide a public service; and
- Pass a background investigation/check conducted by CDF HeadQuarters, Sacramento.

Contact Karen Guillemín for details.

Can you spare one day per month or more during the school year to provide a tour to area children?

The State of California has one of the largest park systems in the entire nation. The current budget crisis has also affected California State Parks, who is "feeling the pinch" just like every other department. Unfortunately, their funding reduction has just impacted us too.

State Parks supplied the tour guides for our Fire Resistant Landscape Demonstration Garden at the visitor center at Millerton Lake. We have averaged 4000 school children per year on these tours and hundreds of adults also. This is a major loss to the stakeholders of our community, but a golden opportunity to the VIP members of CDF Fresno-Kings.

Would you be interested in becoming a tour guide at the Garden? The tours are usually given 2 days per week. In addition to free training, you will receive mileage and meal costs.

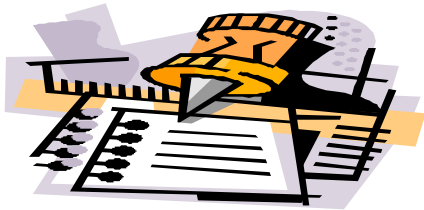
If enough VIP members "step up" to this opportunity, we could use a "team" approach, which is always more interesting. The current scheduling could be accommodated with little or no inconvenience and CDF could still provide a very worthwhile contribution to the community. These garden tours are not only very interesting, but extremely beneficial.

Call me for more information or questions.



< <http://www.parks.ca.gov> >

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Fire Resistive Landscape Demonstration Garden

@ Millerton Lake SRA
< Call for Details >

DARE Camp/ Career Day
now being called ESSP camp
YMCA facility at Lake Sequoia
Thursday, Aug 4
1145-1530 Hours

SMOKEY BEAR APPEARANCE Vintage Garden Assisted Living

Senior Citizen Center
540 S. Peach, Fresno, CA
Tue, Aug 9 - or - Fri, Aug 12
1200-1330 Hours
Minimum of 2 VIP's

SMOKEY BEAR APPEARANCE
Grizzlies Stadium Softball Game
Fresno PD vs Fresno Fire
Sun Sep 11, 2005 @ 1645 Hours
Benefit for Make a Wish Foundation

Campfire Program

Island Park Campground
@ Pine Flat Lake
Saturday, Aug 20
1900-2000 hours

Crafts & Art in the Park

@ Squaw Valley
Saturday, Oct 1
0900-1600 Hours

Fresno Fair

Jr. Exhibit Hall
Dates TBA
< usually first 2 weeks of Oct >
Daily: 0830-1700 Hours
< shifts are available >

Karen G's Korner

Can You HELP?

This year has certainly resulted in more outbreaks of fires than we are accustomed. Fire education has always been at the forefront of the VIP Program, and is one of the primary reasons for sustaining the program.

When a fire starts and my name is called, I may only have minutes before I rush out the door and leave behind all of the projects and paperwork. I may be called to assist on a "local" fire, or it may be that I have to travel out of area and be gone for several days or even weeks.

If you need to contact me, I can always be reached by my cell (or at least, as long as my cell is able to get a connection!), but I may not be able to provide you with a timely answer to a question or a concern.

Become Proactive

I am hoping those of you reading this will take a more proactive role and anticipate how this summer is likely to develop. While no one wishes for another fire to start, there is a strong possibility that one (or more) will, and one (or more) of those fires may get out of control.

There are several opportunities available that require a specific type of person, and these are not the type of opportunities that I

assign easily because many other people are depending on the person that accepts the position. Having dependable VIP's ensures our programs keep on track, and that means more to me that you will ever know.

Are you up to it? If you are not sure, are you at least interested to investigate this opportunity?

Volunteers are one of the most valuable additions to our CDF Fresno-Kings Unit because they provide assistance in areas that would otherwise go neglected.

Contact me today for additional details or answers to questions.

Thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do. I depend heavily on our VIP members to sustain the educational programs offered by CDF Fresno-Kings.

