



*Happy Valentine's
Day!* 

February 2012

ENCODE

***Placitas Volunteer Fire Brigade, District 4,
Sandoval County Fire Department***



Chief's Report

Humberto Macias, Dist. 4 Chief



First, I would like to welcome aboard Bill Herman, Alicia Pacheco, and Ryan Hammer as our newest responding members. If you see them on scene or around the station, please welcome them.

The equipment is steadily coming in for Tender 43. My goal is to have it in service by the middle of February. Please remember that if you live near station 43, you should utilize the Engine and Brush truck from that station. Also, I would like to see us improve our relationship with all the career staff. We have two new medics who are stationed at 43: Cress Lee and Christie DeBerg. If you would like to spend the day running call with them, they are open to your company and getting to know you.

Later in the month we will have our annual awards banquet. It will be held at Sandia Casino on February 26 at 3:30pm. I hope everyone can come and enjoy food and door prizes, and we will give out our EMT, Rookie, Responder, and Firefighter of the Year Awards. I will be sending out invitations later this month.

Thank you all for what you do and for your continued support.

Fire Report

George Dahl, Asst. Chief, Fire



George is out of the country again (Nepal, this time!), so there will be no fire report this month

EMS Report

Steve Snider, Asst. Chief, EMS



Hi folks. It's been another busy month, and I appreciate the great response you've made to all our calls. Thank you!

We had a good turnout at Dr. Froman's case review session on January 18th. It's always good to get feedback on our performance. It appears that we've done a great job of report-writing! But understand that there's always room for improvement. Please remember to give a HIPAA form to our patients or the family, and document this in your reports. Also, document the patient's condition at the time we turn over care to the transport agency. An example would be: "Patient's condition was unchanged at time of transfer," or "Patient's condition was improving and vitals were stable at time of transfer."

Our annual awards banquet is scheduled for Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 3:30 PM at Sandia Casino. I know we're going to have a

good time! Please remember to give Tom Hansen any great stories you may have about weird, funny, or crazy calls that we've had since our last banquet. Don't forget any "memorable" antics that your fellow responders are guilty of! This is our time to celebrate our contributions and also have some fun!

That's the latest & greatest. See you at the next call.....Steve

Fire Training

George Dahl, Fire Training



No report for this month.

EMS Training

Paige Brown, EMS Training



Hi Everyone! Because our normal training date for February falls on Valentine's Day, I have made an executive decision to move the date to Feb. 21 at 7 PM. We will be covering Acute Myocardial Infarctions and our interventions in the prehospital setting. This is an important subject, as many of our Placitas residents are in the age group where AMIs are a little more common. So, please try to attend this training. Hope to see you there! Paige

Safety Report

Bud Lolli, Dist. 4 Safety Director



Hi everyone. The weather has gotten warmer and more clear, but we have had some windy days. Let's see what February will bring. Maybe we'll get some rain, but hopefully not a reoccurrence of last year's below zero temperatures!

The February Safety Meeting will be held Saturday, February 11th at 10:00 AM, with Rig Checks to follow at 11:30 AM at station 41. Hope to see you all at both. We have been having a great turnout so far—let's keep it up!. Our safety is of utmost importance.

The topic for the Safety meeting for February will be Pipeline Safety Emergency Response by guest speaker, James Stanovcak, from New Mexico Gas Company. James said it might take up to an hour and a half; thus the 11:30 start time for Rig Checks. He will be making a safety presentation including a gas explosion demonstration. **Please be sure to come, as it is a very important topic for all our members, including our EMS responders.** We have numerous pipelines throughout our community carrying various types of fuels.

If you hear of or see any unsafe scenes, please make me aware so that we can have a discussion about the incident and make any necessary improvements for continued safety. If you have any thing you need to discuss or have anyone you know who would be willing to come and present a class on any Safety issue, please bring their name up at the Safety Meeting. Please be safe and **Buckle Up** at all times when you drive any fire or rescue apparatus and also your personal vehicle. Be aware of your surroundings at all times—it could save your life.

Have a great and safe month, and see you on the road. Bud

Announcements and Reminders



Don't forget about our Annual Awards Banquet on Feb. 26, 2012 at Sandia Casino at 3:30 pm. Great food, good company, and a lot of fun!

At the banquet, Sandra (Gragert) Macias will be taking pictures of members for our new and improved bulletin board on the wall at the entrance of Station 41. Please wear your uniform, if possible! Sandra is working on her BA in Graphic Arts, Art, and Photography. So if you've ever seen any of her pictures, you know she'll do a great job!

Kudos and Congratulations!



Just a general thanks to all of you for your continued efforts in support of our community.

February Birthdays



*Happy Birthday
to You!*



Bud Lolli
Lee Couch

Feb. 22
Feb. 26

The Lighter Side of PVFB



Here are a few contributed by Tom Hansen.

Church Ladies With typewriters.

They're back! Thank goodness for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the bloopers) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Please place your donation in the envelope, along with the deceased person you want remembered..

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Everyone, please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

And finally, a few facts you may or may not have known about fire.

1. The ancient Greeks started fire with concentrated sunlight. A parabolic mirror that focuses solar rays (similar to what the ancients used) is still used today to ignite the Olympic torch. (*Or by little boys to burn ants on the sidewalk!*)

2. Every 52 years, when their calendar completed a cycle, the Aztecs would extinguish every flame in the empire. The high priest would then start a new fire on the ripped-open chest of a sacrificial victim. Fires fed from this flame would be distributed throughout the land. (*Yikes!!*)

3. The 1666 Great Fire of London destroyed 60 percent of the city, but also ended an outbreak of bubonic plague that had killed more than 65,000 people the previous year. The fire fried the rats and fleas that carried *Yersinia pestis*, the plague-causing bacterium. (*Hmmm...a "controlled" burn perhaps??*)

4. The Black Dragon Fire of 1987, the largest wildfire in modern times, burned some 20 million acres across China and the Soviet Union, an area about the size of South Carolina. (*Started by Chinese firework displays???*)

5. The Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin was the second deadliest blaze in United States history, taking 1200 lives—four times as many as the Great Chicago Fire. Both conflagrations broke out on the same day: October 8, 1871. (*Wow! How did Mrs. O'Leary's cow get from Chicago to Wisconsin so fast??*)