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# Livermore Fire Protection District Newsletter

## Wildfires Are Not Over Until They are Gone Over

By Patrick Haas

Although fighting a wildfire can be a dangerous and arduous challenge, the hard work does not stop after a wildfire is contained.

It is more common than not that a wildfire re-ignites from cryptic or buried hot spots that remain after the initial firefighting attack. Any pack rat nest, accumulation of pine needles, timber litter, logs, etc. can act as potential sources of re-ignition. Hidden or difficult-to-detect residual heat sources and smoldering fuels can be transformed into a wildfire when temperatures and winds rise and humidity's drop.

Cold trailing is a task conducted to verify that a wildfire will not restart. This requires firefighters to literally go over the entire burn scar inch by inch, largely using their bare hands to detect hotspots. Specialized handheld and aircraft-mounted infrared thermal imaging cameras can be used to locate hot spots, but do not obviate the need for boots and hands-on-the-ground detection and

verification. All hot spots and sources of potential reignition must be mitigated. As necessary, additional 24, 48, and 72-hour checks are conducted to verify that the wildfire is fully controlled and extinguished. The decisions



to classify a wildfire contained, controlled, and closed are the responsibility of the Incident Commander. These are challenging decisions to make and must be based on diligent field reconnaissance data and extensive real-world fire experience. Closing out a wildfire incident is another example of the hard work conducted by wildland firefighters

## Supporting LFPD In So Many Ways

In addition to direct donations (there is now a donate button on the LFPD webpage), you can show your support for LFPD through your King Soopers loyalty card. This card, at not cost to you, can be linked to the Livermore Fire Protection District Foundation by going to <http://www.kingsoopers.com> At the bottom of that page (under COM-

MUNITY), click King Soopers Community Rewards and search for Livermore Fire Protection District Foundation or DS770 and click enroll. New users will need to create an account that will link your purchase history with the Foundation account. Every swipe (or phone number) you do gives money (no additional charge to you) to the LFPD Foundation. Thank you!

The AmazonSmile Charity program is another way to donate to our non-profit auxiliary (LFPD Foundation). When you shop <https://smile.amazon.com>, 0.5% of your eligible purchases (at no charge to you) will go directly to the Foundation. To set this up you just need to go to the website or activate AmazonSmile in your Amazon Shopping app. Please remember to select Livermore Fire Protection District Foundation as your charitable organization to assure that your gift is directed to LFPD and shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (same prices as amazon.com).

Thank you all for your support and interest in helping us serve the community!

## Chief's Message: The Progression of Fighting Wild Fires

By Jim Herrington

It is beginning to feel as though fall is here, with cooler temperatures and shorter days.

As we all breathe a sigh of relief that the 100 degree days are (hopefully!) over, please remember that there is now no end to the wildfire season. Fires occur in every month. So, a little information on LFPD and fires is important to discuss.

LFPD members have been working very hard and July was the busiest month in our existence as we responded to 23 calls including 5 multi day wildfires, 2 structure fires where we provided mutual aid, plus 2 smoke reports. When a fire occurs, we must return after the fire is controlled, often for many days, until we determine the fire is "out". A good rain always helps.

Livermore Fire Protection District is 325 square miles. We have divided the district response areas into five "station areas". These areas were determined by factors including population density, access, desired response times, and call load in the area. We only have two physical stations for now. Eventually we would like to expand to 5 stations so that we reduce response times. Virginia Dale, Red Mountain Road, and the Cherokee Park and County Rd 59 are our current targets for stations. We need volunteers in these areas and we will need funding for stations and equipment to realize these goals.

We are responsibly using the tax money we receive.



Through the diligent and dedicated work of our volunteers, we expand our tax income by writing and receiving grants. In this way we have purchased fire apparatus, buildings, and firefighting and EMS equipment. Many of these costs would exceed our entire annual income so grants are very important to us. In November Livermore Fire will have a measure on the ballot to increase the property tax mil levy. Please consider voting on this issue.

What we need in the near future: Enclosed double axel bumper pull trailer. This is for incident support equipment for those incidents which require a command post with additional equipment so that we can supply a long-term incident's needs.

(Hose, tools, equipment, fuel, food) Storage space: We need a mostly rodent proof building to store equipment. About 1000 square feet would be nice. We are out of room at our Station 1.

Members: Need to be able to attend at least 12 calls/ year (preferable 30+/ year). Reasonably physically fit. Attend 2 training days per month or 36 hours/ year. Training in EMS, Fire, Wildfire, Structure fire, Vehicle accidents, Extrication, Hazardous Materials awareness are provided through the department. Our goal is to keep members safe through training and not engaging in activities that members are not qualified to engage in.

EVERYBODY GOES HOME SAFE!

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