

Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department

Tax ID #61-1730953, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable non-profit organization

www.asvfd.org

FALL NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2016

The fall color in our mountain communities has been wonderful, and we've had a touch of snow at upper elevations. As we look forward to the holiday season, we want to express our thanks for your very generous financial support and to update you on the Fire Department activities that you have helped to make possible.

Reminders: Proper Disposal of Ashes and Fire Hydrant Snow Clearance:

First, since the days are becoming shorter and the nights cooler, we want to remind you to take care and have fireplaces inspected/serviced and exercise proper disposal of fireplace ashes. Please remember to **TREAT ALL ASHES AND COALS AS HOT**. Store ashes and partially burned pieces of wood in a **covered metal container** for several days before disposal so that you are assured the material is cold and that there are no embers. **Do not use a combustible container**, and do not place combustible items in the container.

Please convey this information to family and friends who may use your home. Please see our web site for a notice you can print and post in your home.

Naturally, we are hoping for a winter with lots of snow. If you see snow covering a fire hydrant, your help to clear it would be greatly appreciated.

ASVFVD Training

Our full and part time volunteers remained active through the summer, with training and assistance from the Chief of the Bishop Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Training events are conducted at least every two weeks. When the snow flies, our volunteers will be working again on an avalanche response plan that we expect to coordinate with other response agencies, including the Inyo County Sheriff.

Other local VFDs have been generous in sharing surplus equipment with the ASFVFD. The Big Pine VFD has loaned the ASFVFD a limited number of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs), which are now required to fight car and dumpster fires. We expect to receive additional firefighting hose and some other equipment through the Bishop VFD. However, we have many additional equipment needs, both for personal protection for our volunteers, first aid, fire fighting, and for our engine. We are investigating grants to support needed purchases. These grants are highly competitive, given the needs of many VFDs. **So, once again, we need to ask for your generous financial support to continue.**

Caretaker apartment status:

Significant progress has been made to complete the caretaker apartment, and, with your help, we expect to complete it by the end of this year. Active recruitment of an experienced individual with firefighting/emergency medical response expertise will then begin. If you know a good candidate, please let us know!

Finances

Your response to our prior requests for financial support has been extraordinary; we cannot do this without you and we are **extremely** grateful. In addition to **ongoing** costs for rent, utilities, insurance and vehicle maintenance, we need your **continued** support to fund the significant costs associated with personal protective clothing and equipment for our volunteers, additional equipment needed to outfit the engine properly, and the completion of the caretaker apartment modification. While we hope to receive grant support, we need to expect an extended time period for receipt of any awarded funds. ***This makes your ongoing generosity critical to our success.*** When asked how often your contributions should be, our hope is for all community members to contribute at least once a year and if you can, twice a year, particularly when we are undertaking a capital project like the caretaker quarters.

Please Support Our Efforts: It is important for all residents/property owners to understand that *we are completely independent* from and *do not receive any financial support from taxes or fees from any other organization or public agency.* We have attached a supporting membership donor stub and enclosed an envelope to simplify the donation process. Checks can be made out to the ASFVFD and mailed to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. We offer our most sincere thanks in advance.

We'd like to express those thanks publicly; if you are willing to be identified as a contributor, please initial the "yes" blank on the donation form. Otherwise, please initial the "no" blank.

Volunteers Still Needed: We still need volunteer firefighters, particularly in the South Fork area. We also need volunteers engaged in fundraising activities, grant solicitations, web page design and in building/equipment maintenance and repair. If you have ideas for fundraisers or especially if you are willing to help to set-up/oversee such an event, please email us at asfra@asfra.net. If you have other skills you would like to offer, again, please email us. We also welcome your comments and recommendations.

With our sincere thanks, the ASFVFD Board of Directors: Secretary, Joanne Schneider, Past Treasurer and now Member-at-Large, Mike Johnston, Vice President, Michael McBeth, President, Roy Harthorn, & Past President, Joe Hart.

***** detach here *****

Donations: Checks can be made out to the **Aspendell South Fork Volunteer Fire Department** and sent to us at 111 Columbine Drive, Bishop, CA 93514. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you!!!

\$75 ___ **\$100** ___ **\$200** ___ **\$500** ___ **Other \$** _____ **Caretaker Apt. Project \$** _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Aspendell – South Fork Address: _____

I am willing to be listed as a contributor to the ASFVFD in mailings to the community: **Yes** _____ **No** _____

(the amount of your contribution will not be identified) (initial either yes or no)