Cost-sharing saves money—and lives

When the player on Pebble Beach Golf Links collapsed on the 16th fairway, First Assistant Golf Professional Chad Maveus knew just what to do. District paramedics arrived in minutes and Chad continued chest compressions while they provided oxygen, IV fluids and drugs. The patient was able to resume his normal life ten days later after receiving heart valve surgery.

Chad acquired his life-saving skills through CPR classes offered by your Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) and our two cooperating partners, the Cypress and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts. Together, the three districts operate as one fire department, contracting with CAL FIRE to provide vital fire and emergency medical services. Unlike a consolidation, our cost-sharing agreements allow each community to retain local control and receive the specific services they need.

The three districts share a six-member Fire Protection and Planning Battalion which consists of one Battalion Chief, two Fire Marshals, two Fire Protection Planners, and one Fire Prevention Specialist II. In addition to providing CPR and automated external defibrillator training, the shared battalion provides emergency planning, large event safety services, planning and building reviews and site inspections, public education, our Reverse 911 public education program.

District wastewater system has stellar record

Our community’s exemplary sanitary sewer system continues to operate at peak efficiency due to the District’s diligent preventative maintenance practices. The District’s ongoing capital sewer pipeline replacement project allocates $600,000 annually to replace approximately one mile of deteriorating clay pipeline with modern, high density polyethylene pipe. In addition, each year the District’s maintenance team systematically clean all 80 miles of main sewer line in the Forest, as well as provide education to property owners, perform construction site inspections, and maintain the District’s eight pump stations—all to minimize the possibility of spills and leakage.

Due to these ongoing efforts, Pebble Beach has not had a major sanitary sewer spill since June 2008.
Top plant pick:
**Try This Firesafe, Drought-Tolerant, Deer-Resistant Plant in Your Yard!**
A native of coastal California, the hardy Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) features attractive, waxy evergreen foliage with modest clusters of pink flowers. The flowers provide nectar for butterflies, and our local California Quail and Spotted Towhees love the plant’s red berries.

This sun-loving coastal native endures heat, wind, and nutrient-deficient soil. It forms a heavy cover at two to four feet high, and can grow up to 30 feet in elevation. Lemonade Berry blends well into mixed hedges and will branch out low over boulders and stumps. You can shape it as a shrub or small tree, or train it as an espalier. Check out a thriving specimen of Lemonade Berry in the center of the District’s Firesafe Garden located at 3101 Forest Lake Road.

---

**Introducing your new Battalion Chief**

We welcome Buddy Bloxham to the District as our new Peninsula Operations Battalion Chief. Chief Bloxham brings 20 years of CAL FIRE experience to the position, including 11 years service as a Fire Incident Management Team member. During his long career, Bloxham provided fire analysis and support for the 270,000-acre Witch Fire in San Diego and the Tea Fire in Santa Barbara, as well as 158 different Shasta County fire events in 2008 alone.

In 2006 Bloxham was promoted to Battalion Chief of Cypress and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts, where he honed the administrative skills that he brings to the Pebble Beach Community Services District. His 13 years experience working with local districts will be invaluable as he tackles a current high-priority project to merge the Geographic Information Systems for our three cooperating districts. This integration will create one seamless database to enhance communication.

“Besides protecting private property, the Forest has many unique challenges such as the threat of wildland fires, maintenance of fire roads, and emergency response for major world-class events,” said Bloxham. “I look forward to using my experience to meet these demands with the support of our skilled personnel.” Buddy and his wife Heather live in Del Rey Oaks.

---

**Ready for anything**

**Firefighters practice car crash rescue**

As a Forest resident it’s nice to know that your local emergency responders have the latest training and tools to meet whatever crisis arises. District firefighters recently completed a “Jaws of Life” Vehicle Extrication Training, one of several conducted annually as part of the hundreds of hours of ongoing instruction our personnel receive each year.

“As vehicle safety standards evolve so does car anatomy,” said Peninsula Operations Battalion Chief Buddy Bloxham. “Steel gets tougher to cut through and what you learned six months ago may not be current today.”

Jaws of Life is a catch-all phrase referring to hydraulic tools that cut, spread, push and pull metal with the force of several tons, allowing rescuers to widen small gaps quickly. In worse-case scenarios rescuers can quickly cut and peel a crushed car from around a crash victim.

“Depending on the damage, we can take the roof off a car in 1-2 minutes,” said Bloxham. “If vehicles are upside down or have gone over a cliff they must be stabilized before using hydraulic tools, and extrication can take 30 minutes or more.” Firefighters also have to know where to find shut-off switches and undeployed air bags in different car models to avoid explosions.

“We are always out in the field practicing, honing our skills for the crucial moments when they are needed the most,” said Bloxham.
Project update

Undergrounding is underway!

The design and environmental review for the District’s first electrical undergrounding project is complete, and the project is proceeding on schedule with installation beginning this summer. Construction of the new conduits and roadway trenches should be completed by fall of this year for the main power lines on Colton Road between Congress and Bird Rock Roads, and for the main lines that run through Forest Lake Reservoir property down to Forest Lake Road. PG&E, AT&T and Comcast will move their overhead utility lines underground over the following nine months, and all power poles in the Phase One project should be removed by Summer 2014.

Design work for Phase II of the project along Forest Lake Road will begin this fall. The District will allocate $1 million annually to fund the main distribution line projects throughout the ten-year construction period. No additional cost will be passed on to District customers. For more information please call Mike Niccum at 647-5604, or visit pbcsd.org.

Cost-sharing (Cont. from front page)

notification system, defensible space inspections (approximately 5,000/year), fire extinguisher classes, hydrant inspections, homeowner association presentations, and much more. Through the battalion’s numerous safety, preparedness and fire prevention programs, grade school kids learn about fire safety in the home, over 200 residents have received Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, high school students receive hard-hitting programs to prevent drinking and driving, and property owners know how to protect their homes from wildfires.

While recently some agencies have consolidated fire departments to address the high cost of public safety, your PBCSD has had cost-sharing agreements for over 20 years. Together with CAL FIRE, we will continue to operate as efficiently as possible, sharing staff, equipment and expertise to deliver the highest quality fire prevention and safety services to Forest residents and visitors.
Protect your home, family and neighbors

Are you ready for fire season?

By now everyone in Pebble Beach has received a fire inspection checklist to prepare for the dry season. Please complete and mail your postage paid self-inspection card as soon as possible, or respond online at pbcsd.org. Fire personnel will soon begin follow-up inspections on most homes in the Forest.

While keeping a clean, green yard is especially crucial before fire season, Public Resources Code 4291 states that all renters and property owners must maintain defensible space year-round. Fires can happen anytime, as the tragic May 1987 Morse fire reminds us. During the incident, 31 Pebble Beach families lost their homes when an illegal campfire created a firestorm that engulfed a neighborhood.

“Overgrown brush close to structures, wood shingle roofs, and pine needle accumulation on roofs were all factors in the homes that were destroyed,” said Fire Prevention Chief Robin Hamelin. “No homes that were completely in compliance with the defensible space code suffered a total loss in the fire.”

Defensible space guidelines create a fire break by removing the continuous ground fuels leading to your home, and by reducing the chance that falling embers will ignite your roof. Besides protecting the lives of your family, neighbors and firefighters, compliance also protects you from negligence charges. If you are not within code and a wildfire originates on your property, you could be held liable for firefighting costs and damages to surrounding homes. If you need advice on firesafe landscaping or meeting your code requirements, please call us at 375-9644 for a free inspection.

District wastewater system (Cont. from front page)

and it has been over a year since we’ve even had a minor spill.

Another key to wastewater system health is our partnership with all property owners in Pebble Beach, who are responsible for maintaining their own lateral line which connects to the District’s main line. We provide free checks for home sewer relief valves, and we’re on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to emergency calls about overflows. If you have questions about your lateral line please call us at 373-1274. Together, we can continue to safeguard the health and safety of our community and the environment.