



## DRY CREEK-LOKOYA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation Tax ID #68-0383597



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Editor

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Larry Russell  
Fire Chief

Thank you all for supporting your local Fire Department. Our goal is to continue to support our neighbors. We are more than just a responding agency; we help and support our local organizations. We recently attended the Enchanted Hills walk. We are looking forward to assisting Tony Fletcher and his organization.

I am always amazed at how many people volunteer their time with helping the local community.

*Thank You*

Please contact us if you wish to become a Volunteer Firefighter or work on one of our subcommittees.

[www.drycreek.org](http://www.drycreek.org)

[www.mtveederfiresafe.org](http://www.mtveederfiresafe.org)

[www.homewinemakersclassic.org](http://www.homewinemakersclassic.org)



Working with Napa County Road Department we have been painting the road numbers. Our goal is to completely repaint the entire area. We plan to continue in the years to come.

### Introducing Ken Van Oeveren Volunteer Fire Captain

Ken has been a Volunteer Firefighter with the Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department since April 19<sup>th</sup> 2004 and has lived on Mount Veeder since 2002. Ken comes to us with a broad background in Fire Service and Quality Control. Ken went to High School in Marin and afterwards the College of Marin.

During those early years Ken was an ambulance driver and a paid firefighter while attending college. Ken is a Vietnam Veteran who had served honorably in the Navy as a Damage Control man. After the war Ken worked in a nuclear fuel fabrication facility and later at a nuclear power plant. While working there he went back to school and received a Bachelors Degree in Quality Engineering and later a Masters Degree and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. More recently he was the Quality Assurance Manager for hosting software for multiple utilities around the world.

Ken retired this year and spends his time volunteering with the fire department and helping out his neighbors. Ken was promoted to Captain in 2011. Ken also has the highest response numbers than anybody else in the fire department. He is the current Chair of the Dry Creek-Lokoya Board of Directors and has been involved with the Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council.

Ken lives with his three cats and two parrots and is a professional photographer. He also does some consulting on the side.



Ken Van Oeveren  
Fire Captain



## Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council



### SHADED FUEL BREAKS ARE HOT TOPIC WITH MT. VEEDER FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

By Roger Archey

Over 25 residents of the Mt. Veeder/Dry Creek community, including members of the CAL FIRE/Napa County Fire Department and County Supervisor Mark Luce, were on hand Saturday, July 28, to tour a demonstration section of a newly created shaded fuel break on Old Ridge Road, adjacent to Lagier Meredith Winery. The project was developed and managed by the Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council and funded in part by a grant from the Napa Communities Firewise Foundation and the Napa County Board of Supervisors.

The event highlighted the importance of shaded fuel breaks as part of an integrated fire suppression strategy for our neighborhood. It also cleared up the misconception that shaded fuel breaks were ugly and required clear-cutting and the total removal of all vegetation.

Mt. Veeder Fire Safe Council Chair Gary Green emphasized the real danger wildfire poses to the community and encouraged the audience to become physically and financially involved in the solution.

Green went on to say that when completed, the three-mile long project would become part of a network of shaded fuel breaks protecting the community. These shaded fuel breaks will assist firefighters in gaining control of wildfires by slowing fire spread and intensity. Removing fire fuels is key.

These shaded fuel breaks also provide an important safety area for firefighters and improve the effectiveness of aerial fire retardant drops.

For additional information about the Old Ridge Road Shaded Fuel Break Project, other Mt. Veeder Fire Safe projects, or to join the Fire Safe group, contact [www.mtveederfiresafe.org](http://www.mtveederfiresafe.org).





## Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council



### NEED WOOD? GOT TIME? THE SIGNS THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Winter is rapidly approaching! Don't be caught with your fire wood supply down. The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council has mixed soft and hard firewood available. We are asking for a donation of \$200 plus tax per cord of wood. Please contact Gary Green at [ggreenmvfsc@gmail.com](mailto:ggreenmvfsc@gmail.com) for more information. We are also planning for another Chain Saw Safety Class. Check the website for more information <http://www.mtveederfiresafe.org/>. The first **Chain Saw Safety Class** on September 29 was a huge hit with only one spot not taken. Participants learned a lot of safe techniques and enjoyed the class.



Davey Tree Service instructor Laszlo Bencsik and participant Pamela Thornell

The Mount Veeder Fire Safe Council (MVFSC) is still looking for neighbors to assist the MVFSC Committee with our projects and activities. Please go to <http://www.mtveederfiresafe.org/> and use the "Contact Us" button. We meet the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 AM.

We have increased our information signs to a total of six! These 4'x8' signs carry different messages depending upon the time of year. Please take note of these important messages as we strive to keep our beautiful rural area fire free!

## Join our all-volunteer Fire Department

For those who wish provide additional service to our community and join our volunteer fire department, the procedure is simple. An application must be submitted to the volunteer fire department, go to <http://drycreek.org/> for the for application. The candidate will have to pass a physical and background check and then undergo a training program. Firefighters may also have additional training and become certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Dry Creek-Lokoya volunteer firefighters include the young, as well as veterans; they may be from any profession such as accountants, insurance sales people, computer technicians, mechanics, stay-at-home parents and the self-employed. They may be career firefighters with other cities, paramedics and emergency medical personnel. They are your neighbors. In some cases, the Fire Department is a family tradition that includes fathers, sons, and, even, husband and wife teams. Some firefighters are also allowed by their employers to respond from their workplace.

### Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must be able to read and write the English language proficiently.
- Must pass physical.
- Must be living within responding distance from station but not necessarily in the service area such as in the city limits.
- Must attend two drills a month; there is criteria for excused and unexcused drill absences.
- Must attend recruit training through a College or from Napa County.



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