



In Memory of Bill Yuers
President Bodega Volunteer Fire Department

While attending Bill Yuers memorial service I noticed on the lawn outside the window there was a rainbow spinning wheel, spinning freely in the wind, and after listening to all the lives that Bill had touched in such a positive way, I was further reminded of how blessed we were, having Bill involved with our department.

Bill was a rainbow of Life, Loyalty, Laughter, and Love to everyone.

Gary Watts

Chief's Report - January 2007

Once again I am starting my letter off on a sad note. The Bodega Volunteer Fire Department President Bill Yuers has passed away from a fall that occurred at his home on November 30, 2006. Although Bill was our president for only a short time, he has been a member of our small family for years. Bill has been a part of our building committee since its start and along with past president Ernie Marshall was very instrumental in the purchase of the Sauter trailer property and the Bodega Post Office.

I truly enjoyed working with both of these gentlemen. They are already greatly missed. Both had a vision to see a new modern fire station to house all fire equipment for improved response time and a safer community. We must push on and complete this project and make their vision a reality. If you would like to become a part of The Fire Station project or just want to help anyway you can with a donation or the actual construction when the time comes, you can contact me at 874-1217.

In 2006 the firefighters responded to 109 emergency calls in our community and in the neighboring communities, which included everything from Medical Aids to an overturned gasoline tanker in Valley Ford. I would like to thank all the Fire fighters that give their time to make the community a better and safer place.

This year I am happy to say that we have had two new volunteers join our fire department. Josh Perucchi who has lived in Bodega all his life is now working towards a career in the fire service. He has been attending Santa Rosa Jr. College taking the necessary preparation classes so he can start his Fire Fighter I Training this spring. Good Luck Josh!

Also new to our fire department is Tom Bennett. Tom has a military background and is currently employed as a Sonoma County Sheriff. Tom has been volunteering as a fire fighter for about 8 months and has been a great addition. We welcome Tom and his wife Angela and their children, Cody, Casey and Cassidy to our community.

In 2006 we received \$2000 from the Fisherman's Festival Committee to complete our uniforms. We have also applied for two FEMA grants: one for a Thermal Imaging Camera and another for a Type One Engine. Thermal Imaging is a new technology that allows firefighters to see through smoke to locate a victim who may be trapped in a fire, as well as helping firefighters locate and extinguish fires that may not be seen by the naked eye.

If successful on the Type One Engine grant this would replace our 1967 Van Pelt Engine that still works well but is 40 years old. This would provide us with a new engine that would easily last us another 20 plus years. I must thank Assistant Chief Gary Watts and Sonoma County Department Of Emergency Services staff member Theresa Russo for all their hard work on these projects

Our Support Staff has also been busy planning the 2007 Fundraising Events. We have a very small but dedicated group. Along with our normal Fundraising Events we will once again be part of the Seafood Art and Wine Festival held at the Watts Ranch in Bodega.

If you would like to help please contact me at -- 8700@bodegafire.org -- or my wife Linda, at **874-1217**. We actually have quite a bit of fun working together and it makes you feel good doing something for the community. Once again I would like to stress the fact that a Volunteer Fire Department is dependent on the many types of contributions of all of the community members. Thank you for your support.

Capitol Campaign

The campaign funding plan to build your new firehouse is almost complete, thanks to the wonderful support of our committee members, Steve Killey, Abigail Myers Christoph Zbinden, Bill Newman, Algeo Casul and Ron Albini. With the communities support we can provide our firefighters, and community with a building that is so greatly needed. Bodega's new firehouse will enhance our volunteer's ability to continue to serve you, provide as an emergency center for the community, and will last for future generations.

If you are interested in joining, or helping the team please contact Gary at **876-3385**

A little help goes a long way

Training Tower

The New Year is upon us, and it brings new challenges and trainings. Our Training calendar for the year is complete, it includes to name a few, water rescue/safety, hazardous materials, wild land, and medical emergencies. Our Hazmat training has paid off last year when we responded to a 12 hour call involving an 8,000 gallon gasoline tanker on its side. This call involved drilling the tank to remove the fuel before it could be safely up righted. I would like to take this time to thank all the volunteers for their commitment. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Fire Fighter, or a support staff volunteer please contact me, Gary at **876-3385**

Training Officer
Gary Watts

BODEGA FIRE WINTER SAFETY TIPS

AVOID FLOODED AREAS

Avoid flooded areas or those with flowing water. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately if it is safe to do so and seek higher ground. Even though the water might look only inches deep, it could be much deeper and with strong currents. It only takes two feet of water to carry away many cars; six inches of swiftly moving (6 mph) water will sweep a person off their feet. Trucks, both two-wheel as well as four wheel drive, and sports utility vehicles are also susceptible to being swept away by high water. Such vehicles often give motorists a false sense of security, believing the vehicles are safe under any conditions. Large tires actually add to the vehicle's buoyancy, causing it to lose traction that much sooner. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to flood dangers.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIREPLACES AND HEATERS

Have your fireplace chimney and flues inspected every year and clean them if needed. Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn, including bedding, furniture, and clothing, and never drape clothing over a space heater to dry. The risk of CO poisoning increases during the winter, as more people run furnaces and space heaters and use fireplaces. Install a carbon monoxide alarm near bedrooms and on each floor of your home.

STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES

Floods and storms can also knock down power lines. Never go near a downed power line and always assume that they are energized. Killer electrical currents can travel through standing water for more than 100 yards. Contact your utility company and fire department to report downed power lines.

EMERGENCY ONLY CELL PHONE NUMBER

If you can only use a cell phone to report an emergency the following number is better to use than 911 -----
(707) 576-1371.

Bodega Volunteer Fire Department Receives \$177,876 Through FY 2006 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT AWARD FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Goodnews, On Friday morning February 2, Bodega Volunteer Fire Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the use of Vehicle Acquisition.

Your Bodega Volunteer Fire Department after attempting for four years has just been awarded funds for the acquisition of a new Fire Engine. The total project cost is \$ 197,640 our share is \$19764.

This will be a valuable asset to our Fire Department; this vehicle will provide a long term solution to our vehicle needs and enhance our ability to provide service to Bodega and the surrounding communities.

Thank You Gary Watts and other members of the Grant groups for your dedication and determination.

Your donations are always at work, and working for you.

For more information on our Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program award, visit our website at www.bodegafire.org

Events of the Year

February 24	Appreciation Dinner
March 24	Spaghetti Dinner
May 20	Pancake Breakfast
August 19	The Big Event
October 13	Polenta and Stew Dinner
November 23,24	Christmas Crafts Faire