



**Napa County  
Grand Jury**

**2007-2008**

**Final Report on  
Napa County Municipal  
Fire Departments**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letter to Presiding Judges	
2. Letter to the Citizens of Napa County	
3. Napa County Municipal Fire Departments	1
a) Summary	1
b) Background	2
c) Methodology	2
d) Discussion	2
City of Napa Fire Department	3
American Canyon Fire District	8
City of St. Helena Fire Department	12
City of Calistoga Fire Department	17
4. Consolidation of Districts	21
5. Findings	21
6. Recommendations	22
7. Request for Response	23
8. Commendations	23
9. Glossary	24



**NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY**  
**P.O. BOX 5397**  
**NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94581**

January 4, 2008

The Honorable Francisca P. Tisher  
The Honorable Raymond A. Guadagni  
Presiding Judges 2007/2008  
Superior Court of the State Of California  
County of Napa  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Judges Tisher and Guadagni,

Pursuant to Section 933(a) of the California Penal Code, the 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury submits to you its Final Report on the Napa County Municipal Fire Departments. Our investigation of the Municipal Fire Departments in Napa County was conducted in a manner consistent with the California Penal Code, this Court's Charge, and the historic role of the Grand Jury – to protect the interests of the citizens of Napa County.

This is the first in a series of final reports we will be issuing before our term ends. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Grand Jury which this report reflects. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Foreperson  
2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury



## **NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY**

**P.O. BOX 5397**

**NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94581**

To the Citizens of Napa County:

The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury is engaged in several comprehensive investigations of various governmental agencies in Napa County in exercise of its duty under California law. We will issue a series of final reports on these investigations between now and the end of our term, June 30, 2008.

The first report, issued with this letter, is the result of our investigation of the Municipal Fire Departments in Napa County. As you will see from this report, the citizens of our County can be very proud of our Municipal Fire Departments. The Grand Jury's overriding view of these four Fire Departments is one of commendation for the work and dedication of our fire personnel at all levels. Whether a fire, a flood, an earthquake, a medical or other emergency, these fire personnel are giving their best and in many situations, risking their lives. We cannot emphasize enough our admiration and gratitude for their professionalism, courage, and hard work on behalf of the citizens of Napa County.

As we note in this report, however, there are some matters which the Cities need to address with a sense of urgency. For example, there is a major need for a new fire station in Browns Valley. The current response time to Browns Valley for fire and medical is unacceptable. A few minutes can make the difference between life and death or damage to a room versus loss of a structure. Thus, we believe it is imperative that this need and others noted in the report be addressed now.

Napa County Counsel has reviewed this final report on the Municipal Fire Departments in Napa County and the Presiding Judge of the Napa County Superior Court has certified that the report complies with Title 4 of the California Penal Code. The report has also been accepted and filed as a public document by the County Clerk.

Copies of this report are available for your review in the Napa City Library and online by following the link to Grand Jury at <http://www.napacourt.com/>

It is our pleasure and honor to serve you during the 2007-2008 Grand Jury tenure. We hope you find our first report informative and reassuring.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jurors

# **NAPA COUNTY MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

## **SUMMARY**

The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury, as a function of its charge to provide the residents of Napa County with information regarding the Cities' and County's governmental agencies, conducted an investigation of Napa County's Municipal Fire Departments. This decision was made not only in the interest of public safety and disaster preparedness but also due to the fact that there has not been an in-depth evaluation of these agencies for a number of years. The investigation conducted by this Grand Jury found that although each Fire Department, and in fact each individual station, differs in unique ways, each provides excellent fire and medical call protection for its coverage area.

During this investigation, evidence was presented which clearly supports the construction of a fifth Napa station in the Browns Valley area on property already owned by the City of Napa. In addition, this Grand Jury found that Napa Station #1 has outgrown its space and requires expansion to meet the needs of a growing community. We also found that the elimination of firefighter positions has compromised public safety and disaster preparedness. Interviews with firefighters disclosed the need for updating some equipment to improve communications. During the investigation, this Grand Jury learned that most fire facilities participate in the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program and that an infant was safely surrendered at a Napa fire station. We discovered that the City of American Canyon does not have an Emergency Plan specific to the city but is operating under the Napa County Emergency Plan. In addition, the St. Helena Fire Department uses a different lock-and-key system than other fire protection agencies in Napa County.

The interviews at each municipal fire department included a question regarding the possibility of consolidating all of the Napa County fire protection agencies under one administrator. Comments from the firefighters interviewed regarding this issue are included in this report. As an adjunct to this investigation, it became apparent that communications channels between the Napa Communications Center and the Municipal Fire Departments call for improvement. That issue is being addressed in a separate report. The findings and recommendations based on the information gathered by the 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury are presented in this report.

## **BACKGROUND**

Covering an area of 788 square miles, Napa County has a population of 133,522 according to Census Bureau estimations for 2006. Tourism in the Napa Valley has increased over the past 20 years relative to the wine industry, thus creating increased traffic on the highways and in cities. This places an increased demand on public safety services surpassing the daily needs generated by the County's population.

The cities of American Canyon, Napa, St. Helena, and Calistoga all are located within Napa County. According to estimations made by the Census Bureau for 2006, American Canyon has a population of 15,919, Napa 74,966, St. Helena 5,904, and Calistoga 5,214. With the exception of American Canyon, all cities have Municipal Fire Departments. American Canyon is classified as a Municipal Fire District.

Incorporated in 1992, American Canyon is a city with large, recently constructed shopping malls and new hotels. Within the past seven years there has been an increase in business and housing development in the American Canyon area and, according to information taken from the American Canyon Website and the Census Bureau, population has increased by 62.9%.

New housing developments, resorts and hotels are being constructed in Napa. The Cities of St. Helena and Calistoga have become tourist destinations with the construction of new wineries, resorts, restaurants, and private residences. This growth has increased the concern for, and the focus on, public safety in the Napa Valley. It was with disaster preparedness and public safety in mind that the 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury made the decision to investigate the function of the Municipal Fire Departments.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Municipal Fire Departments investigated by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury include the Napa Fire Department, American Canyon Fire District, St. Helena Fire Department and Calistoga Fire Department. During this investigation, members of the Grand Jury inspected each Station's physical facility; met with the Fire Chiefs, the Unit Commanders and other Department personnel at each station; reviewed the communications systems in place at each station as well as at the Napa Communications Center; observed the equipment available at each station; reviewed and discussed the policies, procedures, and job descriptions of each Fire Department; and assessed the needs and overall morale at each location. This Grand Jury also reviewed the National Fire Protection Association's standards for career fire departments.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Napa Fire Department has four fire stations: Stations #1 (built in 1962) and #2 (built in 1950) are the oldest facilities in Napa. Stations #3 (built in 1987) and #4 (built in 2004) are the most recently constructed. American Canyon Fire Department, St. Helena Fire Department, and Calistoga Fire Department each have one station. The newly constructed American Canyon Fire District physical facility was completed in September 2007 and officially opened on November 20, 2007. The St. Helena physical facility was completed

in 1998. Built between 1967 and 1969, Calistoga Fire Department has one of the oldest physical facilities and is scheduled to begin a remodeling and retrofitting project to be completed in 2009.

This report is presented in four segments representing each of the departments investigated.

## **CITY OF NAPA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Interview Participants**

- Napa Fire Department Chief
- 4 Napa Fire Department Captains
- 3 Napa Fire Department firefighters/paramedics

### **Documents Reviewed**

- The City Emergency Organization Plan
- City of Napa Fire Department Budget, 2007-2008
- *Living With Fire in Napa County* – A guide for the Homeowner
- *Firewise Information* produced for the community of Napa
- *Guide to Earthquake Preparedness*
- *Citizens Guide to Flooding and Flood Recovery*
- *Safely Surrender Your Baby* Pamphlet (English and Spanish)
- Minutes, Napa City Council Meeting, September 18, 2007
- *The Napa Valley Register*, September 18, 2007: *A Browns Valley Station May Solve County's Fire Problem*
- National Fire Protection Association: *Standards for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, NFPA 1710, 2001 Edition*
- CITYGATE ASSOCIATES LLC draft report: *Fire & Emergency Services Report*

### **Physical Facilities Inspected**

- Station # 1 -- 930 Seminary Street, built in 1962
- Station # 2 – 1501 Park Street, built in 1950, seismic retrofit 2000
- Station #3 -- 2000 Trower Avenue, built in 1987
- Station #4 -- 251 Gasser Drive, built in 2004, paid for by the Fire and Paramedic Development Fee
- Napa Communications Center – 1539 1<sup>st</sup> Street

### **Appointment of Fire Chief**

The Napa Fire Department Fire Chief is appointed by the Napa City Council and is responsible to the City Manager.

### **Napa Fire Department Personnel**

- Fire Chief

- 2 Division Chiefs (24/7)
- 3 Battalion Chiefs (24/7 one per shift)
- 18 Captains (one per rolling vehicle per shift)
- Firefighters (career officers)
- Volunteer firefighters (reserve officers)
- Assignments: 1 Battalion Chief, 5 line Captains at all times  
1 Captain for each rolling vehicle

The Napa Fire Department, serving the public safety needs of a population of 74,966, currently staffs 59 sworn firefighters. This figure includes command personnel. Staffing includes at least four paramedic units per shift. All firefighters are either paramedics or emergency medical technicians. There is a residency requirement that all firefighters must live within 1½ hours of their station. According to all of the personnel interviewed the morale within the Napa Fire Department is excellent. There is a strong sense of teamwork as well as community service in all of the stations. Several firefighters mentioned their appreciation of the Fire Chief, noting that he is well respected having come through the ranks of the Department and that he provides excellent leadership.

All Napa Fire Department personnel stated that they would like to have at least one more firefighter per shift. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, four firefighting personnel are recommended on each engine. This enables two firefighters to remain on the outside of a burning structure while two firefighters enter the structure. This recommendation protects the firefighters and provides for public safety as well. Napa Fire Department staffs each engine with three firefighters. However, at least three engines and an aerial truck respond to a fire call. This assures that there can be up to 12 firefighting personnel on the site of a burning structure.

The area covered by the Napa Fire Department is 18 square miles within the City of Napa. A mutual aid agreement with Cal Fire provides second alarm coverage. All of the personnel interviewed agreed that the mutual aid agreement was a great benefit to the Napa Fire Department and to the Napa community. In general the response time to fire and medical calls, with the exception of those in the Browns Valley, is three to five minutes. The response to calls in Browns Valley is eight to ten minutes, possibly longer depending on the location of the incident and traffic encountered while responding. The National Fire Protection Association recommends a response time of four to eight minutes.

### **Volunteer Firefighters**

Napa Fire Department has a reserve officer program. These officers receive the same training as career officers in fighting vegetation and wildland fires. This training is conducted at the Recruit Training Academy and consists of nine to ten days, 10 hours a day. These volunteers receive \$10 an hour for participating in this training. They are expected to respond to the command center in the event of a significant incident. They have their own personal firefighting apparel and equipment and are paid \$10 per call. Volunteer firefighters must live in the City of Napa.



### **Personnel and Equipment Housed at Station #1**

- 2 Division Chiefs
- 3 Battalion Chiefs, 1 per shift
- 18 Personnel, 6 per shift: (2 Captains, 4 firefighters)
  
- 1 Type I engine (structure)
- 1 Command vehicle
- 1 Aerial ladder truck
- 1 Air/Light utility vehicle
- 1 Patrol unit
- 1 Reserve type I engine (structure)

### **Personnel and Equipment Housed at Station #2**

- 9 Personnel, 3 per shift (1 Captain, 2 firefighters)
  
- 1 Type I engine (structure)
- 1 Towing vehicle used for HazMat trailer
- 1 Swift water rescue boat
- 1 Office of Emergency Services Engine 252 (Green)
- Training tower for fire fighter training and testing of equipment

### **Personnel and Equipment Housed at Station #3**

- 9 Personnel, 3 per shift (1 Captain, 2 firefighters)
  
- 1 Type I engine (structure)
- 1 Reserve type I engine (structure)
- 1 Hazardous materials Trailer
- 1 Patrol unit

### **Equipment and Personnel Housed at Station #4**

- 9 Personnel, 3 per shift (1 Captain, 2 firefighters)
  
- 1 Type I engine (structure)
- 1 Reserve type I engine (structure)
- 1 Patrol unit (used for wildland fires)
- 1 Swift water Rescue Boat

### **Equipment Maintenance**

According to all of the personnel interviewed, all equipment in use by the Napa Fire Department is in excellent condition and is serviced according to a predetermined schedule by certified mechanics at the Napa City maintenance yard. Napa Fire Department has established a vehicle replacement fund and all equipment is monitored and replaced when outdated. A breathing apparatus specialist maintains the breathing equipment.

## **Budget**

The Napa Fire Department budget for 2007-2008 is 11.5 million dollars. Included in this allocation is 3 million dollars for emergency or disaster situations. Due to financial constraints experienced by the City of Napa, the Department cut firefighter positions in the 2007-2008 budget negotiations. Some of these positions have been reinstated.

Other sources of funding include Homeland Security, which provided \$300,000 for the upgrade of the Napa Communications Center. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services provided funding in the amount of 1.3 million dollars for the Bioterrorism Working Group and Hazardous Materials training. Other grants provided for a new Jaws of Life, new breathing apparatus, the repair of Station #2's roof damaged in the 2000 earthquake and the seismic retrofit of this Station.

## **Communications System**

All response vehicles have a computer system for instant communication with the Napa Communications Center. This equipment was installed in 2006. All personnel interviewed appreciate this system and reported that most of the initial problems encountered in learning its use have been addressed and resolved. However, some reported that information formerly received via radio headphones is sometimes missed on the computer screen due to the rapidity of the screen change. This raises a concern since the person monitoring the screen is also responsible for helping the driver scan for traffic. This could result in a dangerous situation if the person helping the driver scan for traffic has his attention diverted to the computer screen. The Grand Jury recognizes that this is a relatively new communications system and anticipates that a way will be found to eliminate this potentially dangerous situation.

Napa Fire Department has a multiple channel radio communications system. It consists of both Red and Blue Tactical channels, MedNet (ambulance), interface with Cal Fire, Cal Core (helicopter) and the California Highway Patrol and local police departments. All radio channels are available on all operating vehicles. However, some of the personnel interviewed believe that portable radios and helmet microphones with new technology could provide better service.

## **Disaster Training**

Disaster training is conducted through the Disaster Education Task Force. The training utilizes the Standardized Emergency Management (SEMS) and National Incident Management Systems (NIMS), training levels 100 through 800. This training is ongoing and includes not only all firefighting personnel but also all city employees.

The CITYGATE draft report presented to the Napa City Council on September 18, 2007 recommended the hiring of an additional Disaster Management Trainer. This was recommended due to the number of personnel being trained in disaster management and the complexity of the material. The Napa Fire Department Chief believes that at this time a half-time Disaster Management Training position would be sufficient. This position could be expanded when the workload justifies a full-time position, subject to the

availability of funding. It is the opinion of some Napa Fire Department personnel that continuous training of all firefighters in urban search and rescue techniques would improve firefighters ability to respond to a disaster calling for this type of response.

### **Disaster Plan Activation**

The Unit Commander, usually a Battalion Chief, can activate Napa Fire Department's Disaster Plan in response to a significant incident. Upon activation, the plan calls for a unified command of the incident. Other area departments and Cal Fire also support Napa Fire Department response through a mutual aid agreement.

In the case of an emergency/disaster situation, Napa Fire Department has the equipment and personnel to establish three branch command stations located at Silverado Middle School on the east side of the Napa River; Redwood Middle School located on the west side of Highway 29; and at Station #1 located in downtown Napa.

### **Contingencies in Event of Disruption of the Water Supply**

Napa Fire Department has access to gravity feed tanks with emergency supplies of water. Water supplies are available at the Jamison Canyon Water Treatment Plant and at the Conn Dam Treatment Plant. Some engines carry 500 gallons of water. Water can also be pumped from the Napa River to refill the engine water tanks and the water tenders. Pumps for this purpose are located on the engines.

### **Mutual Aid Agreements**

Napa Fire Department has an automatic mutual aid agreement with Cal Fire for a second alarm response. In a disaster or emergency situation mutual aid is available from other municipal departments. There is no mutual aid agreement with Napa State Hospital which has its own fire department and equipment. The City of Napa is unique in that there are pocket areas of Napa County within the geographical area of the City. Cal Fire is responsible for these areas. Napa Fire Department is the first responder to these areas.

### **Safely Surrendered Baby Law Program**

Napa Fire Department is a participant in the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program. This California State law (SB1368) allows a person to surrender their baby, 72 hours old or younger, at any fire station or hospital without being identified or punished. This law was enacted to prevent the abandonment and death of an infant by offering parents or a person having lawful custody, a safe alternative to abandoning their infant. Under this program fire department personnel may not ask any questions of the person who is surrendering the infant except to attempt to ascertain medical information pertinent to the pregnancy and delivery of the child. The surrendering person cannot be apprehended. As a participant in this program, Napa Fire Department personnel would receive the infant and, if possible, provide an informational brochure describing the program to the person surrendering the infant which informs them of the 14 day time frame wherein they can change their mind and request to have the infant returned to them. Following receipt of the infant at the fire station, it would be given a physical examination at Queen of the Valley Health Center, then would be turned over to the Napa County Child Welfare Service for placement in a foster home and eventual adoption. As of January 2007, 182

newborns were safely surrendered in California while another 146 infants were found alive following their illegal abandonment. Three years ago a baby was dropped off at Station #4, located in the South Marketplace area of Napa.

### **Browns Valley**

The Napa Fire Department Fire Chief states that at this time it takes between 8-10 minutes to respond to a call in the Browns Valley area. This is double the desired response time. Additionally, the CITYGATE ASSOCIATES LLC draft report *Fire and Emergency Services Report* states, “much of the Browns Valley area is beyond the desirable suburban 4-minute travel time of the nearest two City fire stations”. One firefighter suggested it was possible that, depending on the location in Browns Valley and the amount of traffic on the roads, it could take more than 10 minutes to respond to a call there. The Napa Fire Chief believes that this response time is unacceptable and that a station located in this area is necessary to alleviate this problem. To this end the construction company involved in the Hussey Development in Browns Valley has agreed to pay a fire development fee of \$281 per single-family residence. The Fire Chief would like to keep the development fee, which is currently being used to pay for Station #4, to pay for the construction of this new station. In 6 years the debt on Station #4 will be paid.

At this time the Napa Fire Department and Cal Fire are involved in discussions regarding the establishment of a fire station to be located on Browns Valley Road near Westwood Park. This involves the possibility of Napa Fire Department and Cal Fire sharing the cost of this station by moving the Edgerly Island Volunteer Fire Station currently located in the Carneros area to Browns Valley. This action could improve the response time since many of the Edgerly Island volunteers live in the Browns Valley area. The City of Napa owns a land parcel in Browns Valley of sufficient size for this purpose.

### **Station #1**

Station #1 is small, crowded and outdated. When there is a full complement of staff all beds are occupied. The former classroom now serves as the exercise room, so educational classes must be held at the City’s old National Guard Armory. There is also a lack of office space at this station. According to the Fire Chief, there are plans to add another story to the existing building to accommodate administrative and other functions. He would like to have his office in Station #1 instead of in the City’s administration building where it is currently located.

## **AMERICAN CANYON FIRE DISTRICT**

### **Interview Participants**

- American Canyon Fire Chief (Retired)
- American Canyon Fire Chief
- American Canyon Assistant Fire Chief

### **Documents Reviewed**

- American Canyon Fire District Budget, 2007-2008

- American Canyon Fire District Organizational Flow Chart
- Chief 11 Kenwood Radio List
- GPH Commander Bendix King Radio Frequencies Chart
- American Canyon Fire District Monthly Report July 2007, August 2007
- Memo of Emergency Water Supply
- *The Napa Valley Register* 10/7/07
- National Fire Protection Association *Standards for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, NFPA 1710, 2001 Edition*

**Physical Facility Inspected**

119 Donaldson Avenue East  
 American Canyon, CA 94503

Construction of the new American Canyon Fire District Public Safety facility was completed in September 2007 and officially opened on November 20, 2007. The American Canyon Fire District plans to retain the old James Road facility, which is 50 years old and was seismically retrofitted for earthquake safety in 1992. This building will not be an active firefighting facility.

**Appointment of Chief**

American Canyon is a Fire District and has responsibilities beyond the City limits. The City Council acts as the Fire District Board of Directors. The Board of Directors appoints the American Canyon Fire District Fire Chief. The Fire Chief reports to the Board. The Fire Chief of 15 years has recently retired and a new Fire Chief has been promoted from Assistant Chief. A new Assistant Chief has been hired from outside the area. At least three senior members of the department will be retiring before the end of the year 2007.

**American Canyon Fire District Personnel**

- Fire Chief
- Assistant Fire Chief
- “A” Shift: 1 Captain  
                   1 Engineer  
                   3 Firefighters
- “B” Shift: 1 Captain  
                   1 Engineer  
                   4 Firefighters
- “C” Shift: 2 Captains  
                   3 Firefighters
- Reserve Firefighters available as needed

One Administrative Assistant supports the firefighter personnel. Firefighter assignments are one to two Fire Captains per shift, 48 hours on, 96 hours off; five to six firefighters

per shift, 48 hours on, 96 hours off. A plan is in place to increase to six captains, two per shift. This change would allow for two responding vehicles with three firefighter personnel per vehicle. At the same time, there is a plan to consolidate the firefighter and engineer positions. There also is a plan to increase shift personnel to six firefighters per shift in 2009. Long-range plans call for a second fire facility to be constructed in an area west of Highway 29 in American Canyon.

The American Canyon Fire District covers seven square miles and serves a population of over 15,000. American Canyon is a rapidly growing area and the population is predicted to increase as more housing developments are completed. American Canyon Fire District has a total of 15 firefighters. All firefighters are either paramedics or emergency medical technicians. There is a residency requirement for firefighters to live within 50 miles and be available for callbacks. 20 firefighters are designated as volunteer reserve. They are paid according to the percentage of training completed and the percentage of call response. All are residents of American Canyon. Automatic aid response from Vallejo and Napa provides eight more firefighting personnel and additional equipment in response to an emergency incident.

### **Equipment**

- 2 Type I engines (structure)
- 2 Type III engines (wildland)
- 1 Aerial truck (“Quint”)
- 1 Water tender (2000 gal)
- 1 Type I heavy rescue Urban Search and Rescue Trailer
- 2 Swift water rescue boats with diving team (launch from Fish and Game Department at Green Valley Road)
- 1 Reserve engine (structure)
- Fork Lift

### **Equipment Maintenance**

Two certified firefighters and a certified mechanic perform equipment maintenance. Firefighters maintain all other equipment including hoses and breathing equipment.

### **Budget**

The American Canyon Fire District budget for the year 2007-2008 is 5.1 million dollars. As a Fire District, 70% of the budget is derived from property taxes. Unused funds are carried forward and retained if unused. A one-time new construction fee generates additional tax revenue. There are 200 building permits remaining to be assigned in American Canyon. Nine permits were issued as of September 2007. Because American Canyon voted a referendum to override Proposition 13, property is taxed per square footage and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) determines an increase in the tax revenue. Other sources of funding include outside grants. One grant from Homeland Security paid for the Type I heavy rescue Urban Search and Rescue Trailer. Funding was also received from the Napa Interagency Rescue Team. American Canyon Fire District also received a \$100,000 communication grant. All equipment is paid for with the exception of two engines which will be paid for by the end of the year 2007.

### **Paramedic Program**

The American Canyon City Council recently approved the use of the American Canyon Fire District's facility on James Road as the site of Napa Valley College's first paramedic program. This program is projected to start in 2008 and will be open to 20 students. According to Napa Valley College emergency medical technician instructor and the Dean of Napa Valley College Health Occupations Department, this program will meet the need of the community for more paramedics. The American Canyon Fire Chief believes that this program will offer young people in Napa County a new career opportunity. He stated that the American Canyon Fire District now has two paramedics as members of his 17 member fire district staff and that it is important to increase that number. The program is funded by a \$400,000 grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office. This grant is for two years and American Canyon Fire District will not charge Napa Valley College rent for the space occupied by this program. Paramedic students enrolled in the program will receive credits from the Napa Valley College registered nursing program. The fire facility on James Road will continue to be utilized as a training facility for fire rescue classes for the District and other agencies.

### **Communications Systems**

All 911 emergency calls are routed through the Napa Communication Center to the Cal Fire dispatch center located in St. Helena. Fire calls are then routed back to American Canyon Fire Department in a timely manner. However, there can be a significant and unacceptable delay in the dispatch of medical calls. The American Canyon Fire District Fire Chief reports that the relay of emergency medical information may be delayed and sometimes results in incorrect information. Response time to fire calls is usually three minutes. The new physical facility has space designed to permit an Incident Command System to be immediately activated in an emergency.

American Canyon Fire District has a dual band communication system with the City of Vallejo and has multiple channels including tactical channels. Radio communication is not considered to be a problem. There is, however, a problem with the communication with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) due to the radio band frequency used by it.

### **Disaster Plan Activation**

Any public service officer can activate the disaster plan; this is usually the highest-ranking American Canyon Fire District employee.

### **Disaster Training**

Disaster training utilizes the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Included in this training are the National Incident Management Systems level 100, 700, and 800 exercises; Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT); Emergency Operations Center training; water rescue; and terrorist training. The American Canyon Fire District also trains citizens for the American Canyon Citizens Emergency Neighborhood Teams (ACCENT), a team that volunteers to assist in an emergency situation. American Canyon Fire District is a California State Certified Training Center.

### **Contingencies in Event of Disruption of the Water Supply**

American Canyon Fire District has the capability of activating additional water supplies from three holding tanks which hold 200,000, 2 million, and 2.5 million gallons respectively. Another tank with the capacity to hold 2.5 million gallons is proposed. There is a 14" main line from Napa and an 8" main line from Vallejo, which is available if necessary. American Canyon Fire District also receives water from the North Bay Aqueduct System. The American Canyon Fire District has the ability to isolate and contain breaks because of redundancy in the water system. In addition, American Canyon Fire District maintains over one mile of 4" and 5" hose for emergency situations. American Canyon Fire District also has the capability of pumping water from the Napa River or from San Pablo Bay.

### **Mutual Aid**

American Canyon Fire District has agreements with the City of Napa, the City of Vallejo and Cal Fire for the provision of assistance when necessary. It also has agreements with Solano County. Cal Fire covers the Napa Airport with American Canyon Fire District assisting with foam suppression capabilities.

### **Safely Surrendered Baby Law Program**

The American Canyon Fire District has never had a baby surrendered at their facility. When the Department was located on James Road they actively promoted the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program. The Fire Chief states that now that the Department is in the new public safety facility, which they share with the American Canyon Police Department, a new plan must be developed to eliminate the intimidation factor caused by the proximity of the police. The Department has all of the pamphlets and educational materials and also the identity bracelets necessary for the program. The Fire Chief plans to discuss with the Police Chief how they can best meet the needs of the community by providing a safe place for a baby to be surrendered at their new facility.

## **CITY OF ST. HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Interview Participants**

- St. Helena Fire Chief
- 3 Volunteer Firefighters

### **Documents Reviewed**

- City of St. Helena Fire Department Budget, 2007-2008
- St. Helena Fire Department Mission Statement
- St. Helena Fire Department Personnel Manual
- St. Helena Fire Department Website
- National Fire Protection Association *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, NFPA 1710, 2001 Edition*



### **Physical Facility Inspected**

1480 Main Street  
St. Helena, CA 94574

Following a 1989 investigation by St. Helena's *Infrastructure Task Force*, the St. Helena Fire Department received a 86% community vote favoring funding in the amount of 2.2 million dollars for construction of a new fire station facility. Construction was completed in 1998. The facility was built to sustain an 8.0 earthquake and was designed to serve as a public facility with the capability of being self-contained for a time period of 96 hours. The building contains 15,000 square feet with four double deep apparatus bays.

### **Appointment of Fire Chief**

The Fire Chief of the St. Helena Fire Department is an *Employee at Will* of the St. Helena City Council and reports to the City Manager. The Fire Chief is elected every 3 years by a majority vote of the firefighters who put forward the name of the person/persons to be voted upon. Following the election, the vote must be ratified by the City Council.

### **St. Helena Fire Department Personnel**

The St. Helena Fire Department Fire Chief position is a part time position and is the only salaried firefighter position. The Assistant Fire Chief is a volunteer firefighter. The Administrative Assistant to the Chief is a St. Helena City employee who is salaried for a 32-hour workweek and is responsible for incident reports, filing and other administrative support.

Currently there are 28 volunteer firefighters. The St. Helena Fire Department has a budget to support 30 firefighters and candidates can apply for a position at any time. Every firefighter is a line fighter. All firefighters receive extensive training and a minimum of firefighter I certification. Engineers receive two weeks training at the Truck Academy in San Bernardino, CA. Volunteers are required to live within the area and be able to respond within a 5-minute period of time. In order to apply for a position as a firefighter one must be a citizen of St. Helena for 6 months prior to submitting an application. There is no response duty roster and all firefighters are expected to be "on call" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, on weekends firefighters are asked to be available on a rotating basis. Any firefighter who will be out of the area for over 24 hours is required to sign out. As volunteers, firefighters may respond only if there has been no alcohol ingested prior to answering a fire call. St. Helena Fire Department firefighters are paid \$14 per call response. This stipend is subject to annual review.

With a population of 5,904 residents and an influx of tourists on weekends and holidays, St. Helena Fire Department responds to approximately 760 calls per year and approximately 60 calls per month. 70% of these calls are for medical assistance. In general 15 volunteers respond to fire calls. In order to be considered to be an active member of the Department, firefighters must respond to 25% of the emergency calls each month. Engines are staffed with four personnel when answering calls. The remaining volunteers staff the facility in the event that another emergency call is received while the

first engine is responding to a call. The response time from receiving the dispatch call from Cal Fire to arrival at an incident averages four minutes.

The firefighters believe that the morale of the Department is good. They also believe that there is opportunity for advancement, and that the leadership is excellent. They state that the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief have different leadership styles that complement each other. Recently the “chain of command” for the Department was clarified and strengthened. The firefighters state that because of their professionalism the community of St. Helena and other fire departments are respectful of their Department. All members of the Department meet weekly for dinner at the station prior to their regular training sessions, fostering the “family” atmosphere.

Because of the cost of housing in the St. Helena area, the St. Helena Fire Department Volunteer Association formed an Limited Liability Company (LLC) and purchased a rental complex that houses 5 firefighters and their families. Rent for these units is \$850 per month, well below the average amount charged for a rental unit in St. Helena. Volunteer firefighters perform all the maintenance on these units.

### **Equipment**

- 1 Type I engine (structure)
- 1 Type II engine (wildland, structure)
- 1 Type III engine (wildland)
- 1 Type I water Tender (2000 gallons)
- 1 Type I aerial Truck with 85’ Bucket (2000 gallons/minute)
- 3 Utility vehicles (Command)
- 2 One ton pickups
- 1 #2 Office of Emergency Services Urban Search and Rescue Vehicle
- 1 Rescue trailer

Included in the equipment inventory are the retired 1917 Schneer engine, a restored engine which was the first motorized engine purchased by the St. Helena Fire Department; and the retired 1941 White engine, a restored engine which was the second motorized engine purchased by the St. Helena Fire Department.

### **Maintenance of Vehicles**

Cal Fire at their St. Helena headquarters performs maintenance of the vehicles. All engines are pressure tested according to Occupational Safety and Health Agency guidelines. The firefighters maintain all other equipment.

### **Budget**

The St. Helena Fire Department Chief states that the annual budget of \$447,000 is adequate and includes emergency funds. Other sources of funding include Homeland Security, which provided \$200,000 for training in trench rescue/confined space/urban search and rescue; a Heritage Grant, which provided money for the Search and Rescue trailer; and anonymous donors who provided money to supply the trailer. The Volunteer Firefighter Association provided \$25,000 in grant money, which was matched by the

State of California. In addition, the Volunteer Firefighter Association periodically contributes funds as needed for use at the Department's discretion.

Fund raising is an important aspect of the St. Helena Fire Department. Each year the Department hosts a "Lobster Feed" and silent auction for 500 people. With tickets priced at \$100 each, this is the primary fund raising activity. Among the items offered in the silent auction are dinners at the station house cooked by the firefighters. In addition an annual appeal letter is sent to each resident of St. Helena requesting a donation to the Department. According to the firefighters, the residents are very responsive and "a lot of money" is raised this way. All of the contributed funds are utilized for the needs of the Department. In 2007 these funds are being used to assist with the purchase of Truck 17 and the replacement of the Rescue 17 vehicle.

### **Communications System**

The Chief and volunteers are alerted to emergency calls by individual pagers and by a fire siren. There are two sirens located in St. Helena, one near the Fire Station, the other on the southern edge of the City of St. Helena. The fire sirens can be heard throughout the entire City.

The St. Helena Police Department receives all 911 emergency calls from the City of St. Helena and the area covered by the St. Helena Fire Department. These calls are then routed to the Napa Communication Center where medical calls are transferred to Cal Fire for dispatch of the St. Helena Fire Department and Piner's Ambulance Service while medically trained personnel advise the caller. Fire calls are routed through the Napa Communication Center to the Cal Fire dispatch unit. These fire calls are then dispatched to the St. Helena Fire Department from Cal Fire. The St. Helena Police Department also alerts the Fire Department that a call has been received. St. Helena Fire Department can also communicate with MedNet, Cal Fire, other Police Departments, Napa County Sheriff, Solano, Sonoma, and other nearby cities and counties through a UHF channel. Amateur short-wave radio operators provide a back up system, which can be used in a disaster. The St. Helena Fire Department Fire Chief states that there are always communication issues, however, poor reception is not a problem.

### **Disaster Training**

The St. Helena Fire Department is trained in the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), levels 100 to 800, and provides training for the City employees and St. Helena Unified School District personnel. Members of the St. Helena Fire Department are certified by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services as a Medium Rescue Team. This certification qualifies them as a "search and rescue" team. Regular training sessions are held each Thursday evening for all firefighting personnel. A disaster-training event is planned for the first of the year 2008. Both the City and the St. Helena Unified School District will take part in this exercise.

### **Disaster Plan Activation**

The St. Helena Fire Department Fire Chief is responsible for insuring that one Chief Officer or Captain is available for emergency response at all times. Upon notification of a disaster the contact for disaster plan activation would be one of these Officers. The St. Helena Fire Department facility serves as the Emergency Operations Center for the City of St. Helena.

### **Contingencies in Event of Disruption of the Water Supply**

St. Helena Fire Department has the capability of moving large amounts of water via a shuttle process with the engines and the water tender. The City of St. Helena maintains two deep groundwater wells, which are located east of St. Helena in the Stonebridge area near the Napa River. Other sources of water are:

- Bell Canyon Reservoir
- Conn Dam
- Cal Fire station
- Local swimming pools
- Local irrigation ponds
- The Napa River

### **Mutual Aid Agreements**

St. Helena Fire Department has a master mutual aid contract. Mutual aid agreements include those with other municipal fire departments and automatic aid from Cal Fire. St. Helena Fire Department would provide mutual aid to St. Helena Hospital and to Angwin.

### **Safely Surrendered Baby Law Program**

St. Helena Fire Department has not had a baby surrendered at the station. However, Department personnel delivered a baby during the 1995 flood when the Napa River cut off access to St. Helena Hospital and the fire facility was serving as an emergency center. Since this Department does not have personnel available 24 hours a day, a telephone with direct access to the Napa Communication Center is located near the front door of the station so that if a baby was to be left there, a 911 call could easily be made and the baby recovered quickly by the St. Helena Police Department which is located less than half a block away. Information regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law Program is available in the station office.

### **Locks and Keys**

Rapid Entry Systems are used by firefighters throughout the United States to provide access to normally locked areas such as buildings (outside normal working hours), gated communities, etc. The basic system consists of a small lock box mounted on the building, or adjacent to the community gate, containing the facility access keys, access cards, elevator keys, etc. The lock box key is carried by firefighters. One of the oldest and largest providers of the rapid entry systems is the *Knox Company* of Phoenix, Arizona. For this reason, rapid entry systems are commonly referred to as “Knox locks”. Rapid entry systems in Napa County use a common key system with the exception of the City of St. Helena which has its own unique key. St. Helena firefighters are provided with two “Knox” keys, one for St. Helena and one for the rest of the county. However,

other county firefighters are unlikely to have a St. Helena key. Therefore, firefighters responding to a St. Helena emergency under mutual aid agreements may not be able to gain access to a facility without resorting to forced entry. Forced entry delays the response, results in unnecessary property damage and can result in injury to firefighters. The citizens of St. Helena and their property are at added risk due to this unique key system.

## **CITY OF CALISTOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Interview Participants**

- Calistoga Fire Chief
- 1 Full-time Firefighter
- 1 Part-time Firefighter

### **Documents Reviewed**

- City of Calistoga:
  - Calistoga Fire Department Budget, 2007-2008
  - Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual
  - Personnel File Check List
  - Employee Acknowledgement Form
  - Policy and Guidelines City Internet Access and Usage
  - Policy and Guidelines City Electronic Mail Access and Usage
  - Policy and Guidelines Vehicle Usage Policy
  - Employee Eligibility Verification
  - Employee's Benefit Packet
- Health Program Handbook
- Location of emergency water supplies
- National Fire Protection Association *Standards for the Organization and Deployment of Fire suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, NFPA 1710, 2001 Edition*

### **Physical Facility Inspected**

1113 Washington,  
Calistoga, CA, 94515

The current fire station was constructed in the 1960's. It has not undergone any seismic retrofitting since that time. Recently the Calistoga Fire Department received a \$600,000 grant to seismically retrofit the existing physical facility. There also are plans to build a 960 square foot addition onto the existing building providing a larger engine bay, dormitory rooms, and updated facilities. Developer fees paid to the city and a donation of \$80,000 to \$100,000 from the Calistoga Firefighter's Association will finance the construction project. The remodel and retrofit of the facility will take place in 2009. The United States Geological Survey has installed a seismograph at this facility which

activates by an earthquake, automatically opening the engine bay doors. This system is tested once a year. A fire siren alerts for fire calls. This siren is tested each day at noon.

### **Appointment of Chief**

The Calistoga City Council appointed the Calistoga Fire Department Fire Chief to his position in March 2007. He also served as the Interim Chief following the December 2006, retirement of the former Fire Chief and also served as the Assistant Fire Chief prior to his appointment to the position of Chief. The Fire Chief reports to the Calistoga City Manager.

### **Calistoga Fire Department Personnel**

Paid personnel at the Calistoga Fire Department include the Fire Chief and two full time firefighters who are acting Captains. There are 10 volunteer firefighters who share engineer duty when responding to emergency calls. Some of the volunteer firefighters are in paid half-time positions. All personnel are emergency medical technicians. The Calistoga City Council has approved an additional full time position, which will be filled on January 1, 2008. Volunteers are "paid call" responders and receive an average stipend of \$12 an hour. This stipend is subject to an annual review and a cost of living adjustment. Firefighters are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is a duty roster calendar for assignments. Volunteer firefighters receive the same training as full time, salaried personnel. The Calistoga Fire Department Fire Chief reports that this system works well with the exception of the summer months when some of the volunteers work full-time for Cal Fire. Firefighters must live within a five-minute response area. More volunteers are available during the nightshifts than during the day shifts due to employment schedules. Under normal circumstances five firefighters respond to calls with the engines carrying two to three firefighters. Calistoga Fire Department answered 862 calls in the year 2006 and as of December 1, 2007 had answered 800 calls. 75% of the emergency calls are medical. Call response time within the City is between two and three minutes. Outside of the City response time can be up to 6 minutes. Automatic aid from Cal Fire increases the number of firefighters responding to an incident, and St. Helena Fire Department also responds when needed.

The City of Calistoga covers a 2.5 square mile area. In addition, the Calistoga Fire Department is responsible for a 95 square mile area reaching into Sonoma County at Knight's Valley. The population of Calistoga is 5,214 and increases to 10,000 or more during weekend and holidays when tourists visit the resorts and spas located in and around the city. Three large mobile home parks for seniors (over age 55) are located within the City limits, as is the Napa County Fairgrounds. It was reported that around 50% of the medical calls originate in the mobile home parks. Many activities, including automobile races, are held at the Fair Grounds creating situations leading to more calls.

Some of the firefighters would like to see more full-time personnel. They state that the goal of the Fire Chief is to eventually have at least six full-time personnel so that there are more staffing options. They also report that the morale at the Calistoga Fire Department is good and that all personnel take their responsibilities seriously and are committed to the Department.

## **Equipment**

- 3 Type I engines (structure)
- 2 Type III engines (wildland)
- 1 Water tender (1200 gal capacity)
- 1 Patrol truck (100 gal capacity water/foam)
- 1 Command vehicle (Chief)

On Order to replace existing engines:

- 1 Type I engine (structure)
- 1 Type III engine (wild land)
- 1 Water tender (3000 gal capacity)

Future purchase:

- 1 Aerial truck (paid for from developer's fees)

## **Equipment Maintenance**

The equipment maintenance is conducted by a commercial truck maintenance facility in Windsor, California. Cal Fire at their St. Helena location maintains the wildfire engines. To comply with annual certification, the fire fighting equipment is serviced by the Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Company which hydrostatically tests air bottles and breathing equipment. Cascade Fire Equipment in Oregon services and repairs firefighters' personal equipment. Firefighters perform the routine daily maintenance on the engines.

## **Budget**

Calistoga Fire Department Fire Chief reports that the \$733,000 annual budget is adequate to cover the department needs and provide funding for disaster management. Other sources of funding include a grant to pay for the diesel exhaust extraction system. The Calistoga Firefighters Association is providing funding for a portion of the future remodel.

## **Communications Systems**

Cal Fire is responsible for dispatching emergency calls. 911 emergency calls are received by the Calistoga Police Department and routed to the Napa Communications Center. Fire calls are routed to Cal Fire and from there are dispatched to the Calistoga Fire Department. In addition, the Calistoga Police Department alerts the Calistoga Fire Department that a call has been received. Medical aid calls, which comprise the majority of the calls received, are routed from the Calistoga Police Department to Napa Communication Center, which dispatches the call to Piner's Ambulance Service and Cal Fire. Cal Fire then dispatches the call to Calistoga Fire Department. Calistoga Fire Department Fire Chief reports that there is the possibility that there can be significant and unacceptable delays in the dispatch of medical aid calls from Napa Communications Center through the Cal Fire dispatch to the Calistoga Fire Department.

Ambulances are located in the City of Calistoga during the 8 am to 8 pm period. From 8 pm to 8 am there is one ambulance, located at the Big Tree Road Cal Fire facility,

available for the entire upper Napa Valley area. If necessary an ambulance can be called from Angwin, however, it is a Basic Life Support unit, not an Advanced Life Support unit. It is also possible for an Advanced Life Support unit to be called from Yountville if the ambulances located in the upper Napa Valley are occupied. The Piner Ambulance Service contract is up for bid in February 2008.

Calistoga Fire Department has access to 400 radio channels including all tactical channels, Cal Core (helicopter), and Cal Fire. They do not have direct access to the California Highway Patrol channel, but can contact them through Cal Core. They also have communication channels with Sonoma and other counties and have a frequency with which to contact the local school system as well as Calistoga Police Department. The Calistoga Fire Department Chief reports that there is a one-mile area of poor radio reception on Mount St. Helena but that Cal Fire frequencies can access that area.

### **Disaster Training**

Disaster training is conducted once or twice a year through planned drills in conjunction with the Napa County Office of Emergency Services. An earthquake was the subject of a recent drill. All Calistoga Fire Department full time employees are certified in Standardized Emergency Medical Systems (SEMS) and National Incident Management Systems (NIMS), level 800, with the exception of one new hire who has not yet been certified. Volunteer fire fighters are certified to the 100 to 200 levels of Standardized Emergency Management Systems and National Incident Management Systems (SEMS/NIMS).

### **Disaster Plan Activation**

The Fire Chief or Police Chief or any officer of either Calistoga Fire Department or Calistoga Police Department, may activate the disaster plan. A city employee or firefighter also can activate the disaster plan.

### **Contingencies in the Event of Disruption of the Water Supply**

The City maintains 3 reserve water tanks and has approved plans to build a 1 million gallon tank at another location. Other water supplies can be obtained by pumping devices that can be used in lakes, pools, or the City's Kimble Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant. Calistoga Fire Department has two pumps, one pumping 80 gallons per minute, the other 600 gallons per minute. There are four specific sites that contain adequate water for pumping:

- Hyde Street
- Sage Canyon
- Kimble Reservoir Water Treatment Plant (reclaimed water)
- A private winery location

The water pipeline from the North Bay Aqueduct is also available in an emergency. Calistoga Fire Department maintains a list of private pools located in Calistoga which also can be utilized in an emergency.



### **Mutual Aid Agreements**

Automatic mutual aid agreements exist between Calistoga Fire Department and the following agencies:

- St. Helena Fire Department
- Cal Fire
- Knight's Valley Fire Department
- Sonoma County
- Mountain Fire Department (located on Petrified Forest Road)

### **Safely Surrendered Baby Law Program**

As the Calistoga Fire Department is not staffed 24 hours a day, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law Program is not actively promoted and no pamphlets are available at the facility.

### **Consolidation of Districts**

There was agreement from all firefighting personnel interviewed that there could be an advantage in consolidating all fire preparedness districts and departments, that it might be a fiscal as well as a staffing advantage and that a regional approach to training and service would benefit the general population of Napa County. This action could be beneficial if the County could find a way to take over the services provided by Cal Fire and consolidate the County districts and municipal departments under one administrator, each department retaining its Chief and staff. A suggestion was also made that all Napa County medical response calls be consolidated into one service area throughout the County.

Drawbacks seen in this concept include finding support for consolidation, the funding necessary for making this plan functional and appointing the right person to administer what would be a completely new fire preparedness operation. An open application process for the administrator's position is seen as necessary. Some of the personnel interviewed believe that the State of California's regulations, rules and contracts would present a problem should this consolidation be considered, and that the sense of pride which each community feels for their "own" firefighters would be lost.

## **FINDINGS**

The 2007-2008 Grand Jury finds:

1. That a response time of eight to ten minutes to an incident in the Browns Valley area is unsatisfactory.
2. That Station #1, built in 1962, needs more space for administrative offices.
3. That a half-time Disaster Management position is necessary for the Napa Fire Department disaster-training program to insure public safety.
4. That Napa Fire Department firefighter positions eliminated in the 2007-2008 budget negotiations have created a shortage of personnel, which places both the firefighters and the Napa population at risk.
5. That the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program has saved the lives of many infants, one in Napa, and can save the lives of many more.

6. That the City of American Canyon, currently operating under the Napa County Emergency Plan, has not established or adopted a disaster response plan specific to American Canyon.
7. That the City of St. Helena and the St. Helena Fire Department has a different lock and key system than other fire protection agencies in Napa County creating a risk factor for the citizens of the area covered by the St. Helena Fire Department.
8. That while the National Fire Protection Association 1710 recommends each engine responding to a fire call be staffed with four firefighting personnel, Napa Fire Department, American Canyon Fire District, and Calistoga Fire Department frequently respond with three firefighting personnel on each engine.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 2007-2008 Grand Jury recommends:

1. That the Napa City Council vote to approve the construction of a fifth fire station to be located in Browns Valley; and with the Board of Supervisors, establish a plan to relocate the Edgerly Island station to Browns Valley. The establishment of this fire station is considered by this Grand Jury to be a priority issue.
2. That the Napa City Council approve the enlargement of Station #1.
3. That a half-time Disaster Management Trainer position be placed in the Napa Fire Department 2008-2009 budget.
4. That the Napa Fire Department positions eliminated in 2007 be restored and the number of firefighters per shift increased.
5. That all Municipal Fire Departments continue to actively provide information about the Safely Surrendered Baby Law program to the public, including all middle and high schools in Napa County, as a part of their public education programs and that the Calistoga Fire Department investigate a method of offering this program to the residents of Calistoga.
6. That the American Canyon City Council adopt an emergency plan specific to the City of American Canyon and the American Canyon Fire District.
7. That the St. Helena Fire Department provides their “Knox” keys to all other Napa County fire protection agencies for immediate use and embarks on a short term (1-2 year) project to re-key all St. Helena area “Knox” locks to the County standard.
8. That all Municipal Fire Departments conform to the recommendation of the National Fire Protection Association regarding the number of firefighting personnel on engines responding to a fire call.

## **REQUEST FOR RESPONSE**

1. The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury requests that the Napa City Council, the Napa City Manager, and the Napa Fire Department Fire Chief respond to Findings and Recommendations 1 through 5, and 8.
2. The 2007-2008 Napa Grand Jury requests that the Napa County Board of Supervisors and the Napa County Fire Chief respond to Finding and Recommendation 1.
3. The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury requests that the American Canyon City Council (American Canyon Fire District Board) and the American Canyon Fire District Fire Chief respond to Findings and Recommendations 5, 6 and 8.
4. The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury requests that the St. Helena City Council, the St. Helena City Manager, and the St. Helena Fire Department Fire Chief respond to Findings and Recommendations 5, and 7.
5. The 2007-2008 Napa County Grand Jury requests that the Calistoga City Council, the Calistoga City Manager, and the Calistoga Fire Chief respond to Findings and Recommendations 5 and 8.

## **COMMENDATION**

The Municipal Fire Departments of Napa County are to be commended for their exemplary service to the citizens of the Cities of Napa, American Canyon, St. Helena, and Calistoga; for the professionalism of its fire fighters; and for the enthusiasm and dedication exhibited at all levels of the organizations.

The Napa Fire Department is to be commended for its proactive approach to provide a fifth fire station in the Browns Valley area.

The American Canyon Fire District is to be commended for the vision to establish a paramedic program in their former physical facility thereby assisting 20 students to become paramedics.

The St. Helena Firefighters Association is to be commended for their foresight in forming a Limited Liability Company for the purchase and maintenance of affordable housing for firefighting personnel; and fund development efforts that enable the purchase of new equipment.

The Calistoga Firefighters Association is to be commended for providing funds for the construction of additional space to the Calistoga Fire Department physical facility.

## **GLOSSARY**

**ACCENT**---American Canyon Citizens' Emergency Neighborhood Teams

**Advanced Life Support**---Highest level of pre-hospital care, normally administered by paramedics

**Automatic aid**---A system whereby two or more agencies are automatically dispatched simultaneously to predetermined types of emergencies.

**Basic Life Support**---The lowest level of pre-hospital care, normally administered by First Responder or Emergency Medical Technician

**Battalion Chief**---Mid-level management position

**Cal Core**---California Highway Patrol helicopter radio channel

**Cal Fire**---California State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**CHP**---California Highway Patrol

**Captain**---Firefighter in charge of an engine and its crew

**Consumer Price Index**---An index number measuring the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households.

**Dispatch**---A system whereby 911 operators/dispatchers relay patient symptoms and help the calling party with first-aid treatment according to predetermined protocols, thus providing care at the earliest possible moment.

**Emergency Medical Technician**---A member of the emergency medical services team, trained and certified to provide advanced first aid.

**Firefighter**---Entry-level firefighting position

**Haz-Mat**---Emergency services term used to refer to incidents involving hazardous materials.

**Incident Command System**---A management system designed to maintain and assure optimal deployment of resources at an emergency scene.

**LLC**---Limited Liability Company

**MedNet**---Medical information network

**Mutual Aid** ---A reciprocal aid agreement between two or more agencies, defining what resources each will provide the other to respond to certain predetermined emergencies.

**NFPA**---National Fire Protection Association

**NFPA 1710**---National Fire Protection Association standards of suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and specialized operations for the career (paid) fire departments

**NIMS**---National Incident Management System

**Paramedic**---A member of the emergency services team, trained and certified to provide the highest level of pre-hospital care.

**Quint**---Quintuple combination pumper. Serves dual purpose of engine and ladder truck.

**Rescue Unit**---A fire department vehicle designed to carry equipment related specifically to rescue: scene lighting, air bags, and other equipment used for incidents such as extrication of victims in crushed vehicles, ground collapse, ground cave-ins, etc.

**Response time**---Amount of time between when a call is dispatched and the emergency responders arrive on the scene.

**SEMS**---Standardized Emergency Management System

**Type I Engine**---Fire engine equipped primarily for urban firefighting (structure).

**Type III Engine**---Fire engine equipped primarily for wildland fires

**UHF**---Ultra High Frequency radio channel

