

Local Firefighters Volunteer To Help In So Cal

By Cathy Tyson

As huge fires raged in Southern California, a number of our local firefighters were there in the thick of it. According to Moraga Orinda Fire District Battalion Chief Bryan Collins, workers are polled to see if they want to go. A total of ten people were there last week, filling various positions, Captain, engineer, firefighter and paramedic.

“Typically the expectation is they could be there up to a week. We rotate crews when they hit a 7 day period,” explains Collins. Staffers are prepared with a personal day kit that might include socks, t-shirts and toiletries.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District sent one Type 3 Engine, the type used to fight wildland fires, and one Type 1 Engine, a typical fire

pumper. Fear not, our local stations continue to be fully staffed, as there are minimum daily staffing requirements.

Firefighters get paid their regular salary for workdays that they would normally be working, but on days they would normally be off, they receive overtime. Be-

cause California has a Mutual Aid System throughout the state, the Fire District is reimbursed for overtime. “Otherwise, we’d go bankrupt,” says Collins.

Calls to Contra Cost Fire Protection District which serves Lafayette were not immediately returned.



L-R: Layne Cooley, Fire Fighter/Paramedic; Daryle Balad, Capt/Paramedic; Steve Huebner, Firefighter/Paramedic at Station 45 in Orinda

Photo Andy Scheck



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