

40 Years

District News

Fall/Winter 2022

Newsletter of
Pebble Beach
Community
Services District



Fire protection and
emergency medical services

Wastewater collection,
treatment and recycling

Recycled water storage
and distribution

Garbage collection,
disposal, and recycling

Supplemental law
enforcement



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Drones to the rescue!

After four years in the making, PBCSD's new drone program is proving to be a huge asset for firefighting and emergency rescue. The program is part of CALFIRE's statewide drone response.



EYES IN THE SKY District Battalion Chief Josh Silveira (left) and Fire Captain Tommy Headley practice their drone piloting skills.

"The high-quality, live video feed on the drone allows us to assess wildland and structural fires, hazmat sites, electrical wires down, and other situations before sending in responders. This keeps everybody safer," said District Battalion Chief Josh Silveira. "With the speakers and lights on the drone, we can even communicate with persons in distress before responders arrive, day or night." Such was the case during a recent emergency call about two offshore paddle boarders in the water. The two men were able to tell the drone pilot that they had just gotten in the water to cool down. "Thanks to the drone, we could cancel our rescue response, saving staff time and resources," said Josh.

Operators can send a drone to designated GPS coordinates, or have it auto-fly a search grid over the forest or ocean so they can find (Cont. on page 3)

CPR training saves lives in the forest

When a man at The Lodge at Pebble Beach suffered a heart attack in August, staff members there were able to perform immediate, life-saving CPR and administer an automated external defibrillator (AED) to regain a pulse. District paramedics arrived minutes later and provided advanced life support en route to the hospital.

Fire Engineer/Paramedic Jason Ronda checks a trainee's CPR technique.

The Lodge employees were able to provide CPR within the first critical minutes of heart failure, thanks to the skills they learned in a PBCSD training. The victim recovered and resumed his life with full function. Last year alone, the District trained over 300 employees from Pebble Beach Company, Pebble Beach Security, Spyglass Hill Golf Course, The Inn at Spanish Bay, Stevenson School, and PBCSD, greatly increasing the likelihood (Cont. on page 2)



"Aww shucks, don't mention it!"



Fuel reduction wrap-up

The District completed ambitious fuel reduction projects on over 125 acres this year. Many homeowners are feeling more secure with our new fire break that extends for over one continuous mile from the Carmel Hill Fire Station

THANK YOU GOATS! ... for munching 75 acres of dry vegetation this year, ten more than in 2021.

to below Pescadero Canyon—nearly up to the Carmel-by-the-Sea city limits. Workers mowed and masticated flammable vegetation along Highway 68 from Shepherds Knoll down to the Ocean Pines condominiums, and removed 28 dead, hazardous trees along 17-Mile Drive.

The District is meeting with Pebble Beach Company in January to prioritize and plan projects for 2023, with guidance from the Del Monte Forest Conservancy to preserve habitat and native species.



Pebble Beach Community Services District

PBCSD is a multi-purpose local government voted into existence by Del Monte Forest residents on July 1, 1982.

PBCSD administrative office

(831) 373-1274

3101 Forest Lake Road,
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

PBCSD.org

[tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PBCSD)

[tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/PBCSD)

Garbage collection and recycling

GreenWaste Recovery: 920-6707

Free 24-hour sewer service: 373-1274

If water is overflowing into your home it is an emergency. Call us immediately, day or night.

Fire and medical emergencies

call 911

PBCSD Board of Directors

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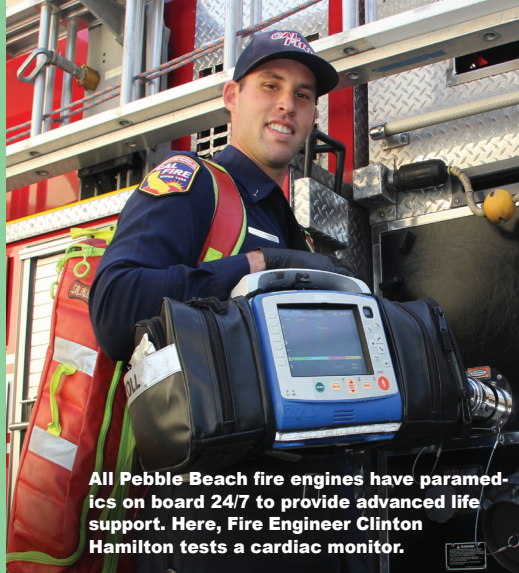
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All Pebble Beach fire engines have paramedics on board 24/7 to provide advanced life support. Here, Fire Engineer Clinton Hamilton tests a cardiac monitor.

CPR saves lives

(Cont. from page 1)

that victims will receive care even before emergency responders arrive. Early CPR from bystanders has been shown to improve survival rates two- to three-fold.

“Our current save rate is well above the national average not only for the population size of Pebble Beach, but also for the demographics of our residents,” said Roger Rinehart, District Emergency Medical Services Program Chief. “During

the last two years, trained bystanders have saved eight individuals in the forest, changing what could have otherwise been tragic outcomes.”

Advanced life support helps beat the odds

Another key to the District’s high success rate is the 24/7 advanced life support provided by paramedics on all our fire engines. PBCSD is one of four fire agencies in the county that provides this high level of care, much more advanced than EMT training. Paramedics are the most highly skilled pre-hospital responders, qualified to provide advanced airway management, intubation, and critical care medication, as well as transmit EKGs to the receiving physician while en route to the hospital.

“We hope to raise our save rate even further in 2023 when we’ll be offering CPR training to Pebble Beach residents using the new American Heart Association curriculum,” said Chief Rinehart. “The more people we train, the better the survival rate will be in our community.”

New fire chief for our region

We congratulate **George Nuñez, Jr.**, on his recent appointment as **Fire Chief of the San Benito-Monterey Unit**. Chief Nuñez will oversee the seven battalions in this large local unit, which includes the Pebble Beach Community Services, Cypress Fire Protection, and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts.

Nuñez is a 25-year veteran of CAL FIRE who brings a wealth of experience in all areas of operation. In 2017, George was promoted to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Battalion Chief for the unit, managing PBCSD’s paramedic program as well as EMS for Aromas-Tri Counties Fire Protection District, City of Soledad Fire Department, and South Monterey County Fire Protection District. In 2019, he was promoted to Assistant Chief for Southern Operations including Gabilan Conservation Camp, Bradley Battalion, and King City Battalion. He has also served as Fire Coordinator for the California Office of Emergency Services, and on committees with the Monterey County EMS and the Monterey County Advanced Life Support Fire Agency.

“It is an incredible honor to be given this opportunity to help safeguard San Benito and Monterey Counties,” said Chief Nuñez. “I look forward to working with the skilled, conscientious CALFIRE and PBCSD staff and Board to further enhance fire and medical services in our communities.”





Local high-schoolers practice clearing throat obstructions at our June Safe Sitter class.

Free upcoming trainings

Safe Sitter This fun class for grade levels six to ten teaches basic childcare skills, personal safety, choking/CPR skills, and first aid for infants and adults. Class is limited to eight participants so reserve your space soon! The one-day training is held monthly on Saturdays beginning in January. We will schedule a time that is best for all participants once classes are full.

Community emergency response team (CERT)

CERT volunteers support professional responders during emergencies and disasters, and assist at public safety events. These specially trained volunteers can save lives and property with skills like CPR, first aid, emergency preparedness, weather spotting, team organizing, and more. New and continuing CERT members can complete FEMA's newly revised, self-paced curriculum online now (visit community.fema.gov and click on the CERT menu), followed by a two-day, hands-on training at the Pebble Beach Fire Station, time to be announced.

For details and to sign up for these trainings, please contact Fire Captain Curtis Rhodes at curtis.rhodes@fire.ca.gov.

Drones *(Cont. from page 1)*

lost hikers or swimmers on-screen. The drone's thermal camera highlights body heat from victims, and hot spots during firefighting. An incident commander can view video in his or her vehicle to determine the most efficient firefighting strategy. Besides emergency response, drones are proving invaluable for prioritizing and checking fuel reduction projects in the forest.

The District now has four fully trained drone pilots in the forest seven days a week. Pilots keep drones in their vehicles so that the nearest drone can be deployed during emergencies. The goal is to get enough pilots trained so that the entire Monterey Peninsula has drone capability around the clock.

"Drones are the wave of the future and we're finding more and more ways to use them," said Chief Silveira. "They are helping us save the lives of victims and responders, and make better informed, safer, and more cost-effective decisions on how we use staff and resources."

Reminder: drones are illegal in Pebble Beach and in many other areas on the Monterey Peninsula. PBCSD drones have a special NOAA exemption with stringent guidelines for operation and training.



Drones can be deployed day or night.



Kudos to Pebble Beach recyclers!

Hundreds of Pebble Beach residents turned out for PBCSD's Big Green recycling event on September 17. A total of 412 vehicles dropped off eight tons of household hazardous waste, 1.2 tons of e-waste, and 250 pounds of pharmaceuticals. ReGen Monterey (formerly Monterey Regional Waste Management District) salvaged 847 pounds of products that will be offered free of charge at their Last Chance Mercantile. We also thank GreenWaste Recovery, Clean Earth Inc., Pebble Beach Company, PBCSD staff (pictured at left) and District fire personnel for helping make this event a success.



Is lace lichen harming my tree?

Folks often surmise that our local lace lichen (*Ramalina menziesii*) is threatening healthy foliage and weakening trees. Not so fast!

Lichen will find already dying branches or areas of thinning leaves and move in to bask in the newfound light. It neither parasitizes nor harms its host trees. In fact, lichen wards off tree infections and invasive insects.

Often mistaken for Spanish moss, lace lichen, the official state lichen of California, is vital to the woodland ecology of Pebble Beach and the Del Monte Forest. Lichen is an important source of nutrition for deer, provides nest material for birds, and accounts for a huge amount of biomass turnover across the forest floor. Not a plant or a parasite, amazing lace lichen is a co-evolved epiphyte: a symbiotic relationship between a fungus, which provides the body structure, and an algae, which provides food via photosynthesis. Lichen have adorned and defended their hosts as long as there have been oaks and fog in coastal California.

District honored for excellence in financial reporting

For the fourth year in a row, PBCSD has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting—the highest form of recognition that can be achieved for government accounting! The award recognizes government entities which demonstrate the highest spirit of full disclosure and transparency. The award was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), which has more than 20,000 members in North America. The GFOA strives to advance excellence in public finance by providing best practice guidance, publications, and training.





Pebble Beach Community Services District
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Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT District Battalion Captain Josh Silveira leads a live fire training to prepare for winter “structural fire season.” The training was staged in October at a building teardown in the Presidio of Monterey.

Prepare for winter in the forest: four tips

It’s time to get ready for storm season! District responders are preparing for extreme weather in many ways: they are readying pumps to clear flood prone areas, assembling equipment to cordon off downed electrical lines, assembling sandbag stations, and equipping their rigs with generators to power essential medical equipment for residents in need. As always, we will keep you informed during emergencies through our CodeRED message system. *Here are a few important reminders:*

1. Limit tree hazards The district removes hazardous trees and branches throughout the year to reduce storm damage. Now is the time to check the trees on your property for dead or hanging limbs. Falling trees and power lines are a real danger in the forest during high winds. Be alert to weather forecasts and run errands before storms hit. Check your tires and windshield wipers, and take extra care driving on our forest’s curvy, unlit roads during wet weather.

2. Check fireplaces/chimneys Keeping warm in winter increases the risk of structural fires. Fireplaces, wood/pellet stoves, chimneys, and flues should be cleaned and inspected before use. Gas log systems, oil-fired heating equipment, and space heaters should also be checked.

3. Refresh your disaster kit Make sure that you can be self-sufficient for three days without water or power. Inventory flashlights, lanterns, batteries, and power banks to prepare for power outages. For checklists and instructions on disaster planning visit ready.gov.

4. Prepare for floods If you live in a low lying area, be sure you have supplies to prevent flooding in your home. The District sandbag station is open 24 hours a day behind the fire station at Forest Lake and Lopez Roads. Call the number below for information and assistance.

If you have questions, please call the PBCSD Fire Prevention Office at 375-9644.



Your sewer relief valve (SRV) protects your home from costly sewage backups. Check your SRV after storms to ensure that branches and debris are not preventing proper operation. For peace of mind, call us at 373-1274 for a free inspection.



Hidden batteries cause fires

There have been over 50 fires so far this year at ReGen Monterey (formerly the Monterey Regional Waste Management District), attributable to discarded batteries.

Dead lithium ion batteries hidden inside rechargeable devices are especially dangerous and prone to combustion. To safeguard workers and protect our community’s recycling center, never put e-waste items like these in your carts:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Smart phones | E-cigarettes |
| Laptops | Cordless tools/appliances |
| Earbuds | Wireless headphones |
| Electric toothbrushes | Digital cameras |
| Stick vacuums | Gaming devices |
| Rechargeable toys | Solar power storage |
| Vape pens | Back-up chargers |

GreenWaste collects five e-waste items free of charge during a bulky item pickup; please call 920-6707 to schedule. Loose batteries should be sealed in a clear plastic bag and placed on top of your blue recycling cart. Please tape the tops of lithium ion, 9-volt, and 6-volt batteries, and call GreenWaste to alert your driver.

GreenWaste Holiday Garbage Schedule

Regular Pickup	Holiday Pickup
Thurs., Nov. 24	Fri., Nov. 25
Fri., Nov. 25	Sat., Nov. 26
Sun., Dec. 25/Sun., Jan. 1: no change	

Two ways to recycle your holiday tree

Note: remove the tree stand and all ornaments, lights, tinsel and decorations. Flocked trees are not accepted.

1. Curbside pick up January 2 to 20 on your regular collection day (no need to schedule). Please cut tree into 3-foot lengths or shorter and place curbside. After January 20 you can still dispose of small trees in your yard waste/organics cart. *For more information, please call GreenWaste Recovery at 920-6707.*

2. Drop-off through January 31 Bring any size tree, no cutting required, to the Pebble Beach Company Corporation Yard located at Lopez and Sunridge Roads.

