



# Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire Department

New Volunteer Information Packet and Application

# Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire Department

## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in joining our team of volunteers at the Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire Department. We are a dedicated group of individuals who strive to keep our community safe and help our neighbors to the best of our ability. We take pride in our department and provide the upmost professionalism in our service to others. This department relies on its members to be dedicated, self-disciplined, motivated, and highly competent at all times. You will find that our members selflessly sacrifice their time to serve our community including not only 911 calls, but many hours of training. We would like to take this time to go over a few items with you to be sure that volunteer firefighting is something you feel not only called to do but called to do with certainty and commitment.

As a volunteer firefighter, you will be challenged, provided with exciting opportunities, knowledge, and experiences that you are likely to never forget. This may be something you continue to do as a volunteer, or it may open doors into a career in the fire service. Pride and tradition are of much importance in the fire department, and we hope to instill in you the same pride we feel working together as a team.

Due to the physical nature of firefighting, you are encouraged to check with your personal physician to see if this is an appropriate program for you. You are welcome to attend and observe any of our training events with prior approval. We also encourage you to ask questions and talk to some of our members to get an idea of what you will be doing in the future. After your application has been completed and received, reference phone calls, background checks, and fingerprinting may also be included in your hiring process.

All new members are considered “auxiliary members” until they have completed fire academy and are voted in by our firefighters to the full firefighter member status. During this time, you will be probationary and may be terminated at any time without reason. It is in the best interest of your volunteer career and the interest of the department, that you are professional during this period. You may also receive an evaluation of performance and aptitude at any time.

## History

Greenhorn Creek relied on the Quincy Fire Department in the 1960s. In the early 1970s, a contractor working on the roads provided a 1942 Chevrolet water truck to the ranch. The truck (still in use by the guest ranch) was a World War II Army truck converted after the war to the current configuration. The truck was able to draft water from the pond and was used for dust control and for firefighting if needed. In 1980, Ralph Wilburn purchased a larger water truck for the ranch use and in 1988 we obtained our first real fire engine. At that time, the fire engine was stored in Mr. Orenstein’s garage.

In 1989, construction began on the Fire Station, and in 1990 the Volunteer Fire Department was formalized. Greenhorn obtained various fire trucks over the years, including a 1943 Chevrolet obtained from Long Valley Fire Department. The 1943 was retired in 2006 when it was replaced with Greenhorn’s first new fire engine. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided a \$225,000 grant to purchase the new engine, and fire department funds paid for the remaining \$25,000.

## Funding

The Fire Department is funded through a voter-approved assessment as well as a portion of the CSD’s share of Plumas County property taxes. The special tax for firefighting was approved in 1990 in the amount of \$50 per improved parcel, \$35 per unimproved parcel, and \$50 per acre for non-residential property (for example, the Guest Ranch). This assessment was changed again in 1998 to \$80 per improved parcel, and \$50 per unimproved parcel. The special tax is collected on the Plumas County property tax bill. As you will find, this amount is not a sustainable amount to keep our fire department running.

## **Response Area**

The Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire Department's response area is the communities of Greenhorn, Spring Garden, and Highway 70 from the Spring Garden Overhead to Lee Summit. However, the fire protection district only includes the Greenhorn community (excluding Harrison Rd.). We also have an automatic aid agreement with Long Valley Fire Department which means that they respond to our calls and we respond to their calls automatically. This allows both departments to handle calls anywhere from the Spring Garden Overhead to Two Rivers (between Cromberg and Graeagle) to cover both department's response areas.

## **Response Types**

Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire Department is what is referred to as an "All Risk" department. We respond to medical aids, structure fires, wildland fires, smoke checks, traffic collisions, propane leaks, medical aids, public assists, and many more. This requires many hours of training to become safe and proficient at every task we are called to perform.

## **Volunteer Requirements**

Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. All volunteers are required to meet certain standards and training certifications to be on the department. This includes a structure fire academy, basic 32 wildland classes, incident command system certifications, healthcare provider CPR, and at least a medical license at the level of Emergency Medical Responder (EMR). These requirements are to be met within two years of becoming a member of the fire department. These are the bare minimum requirements to be on the department, however regular trainings, weekend classes, and other certifications may be required over time, including those that will fulfill grant funding requirements.

## **Weekly Trainings**

Trainings are held each Tuesday night at 6pm. These are usually held at Quincy Fire in conjunction with their department members. The first Tuesday of the month is held at the Greenhorn Creek Fire station. A minimum of 50% attendance is required, though 100% attendance is preferred. This is to ensure that you are receiving the training you need to complete a task at scene while also doing it safely for yourself, your partners, and the patient/victim. We understand that life gets in the way, so under approval of the Fire Chief, some attendance issues may be approved with prior notice.

Again, thank you for your interest in joining the Greenhorn Creek Volunteer Fire Department. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [tyson@greenhorncreekcsd.com](mailto:tyson@greenhorncreekcsd.com) or call me at (714) 606-9575.

Sincerely,



Tyson Rael  
Fire Chief