



## RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 1 SHELTER COVE, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

*Electric, Water, Sewer, Fire Protection, Search & Rescue,  
Airport, Golf Links, Recreation*

### **JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER**

#### **BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS**

At the December 17th, 2020, board meeting the Board of Directors re-elected Michael Schad as President and Susan Fox as Vice President for the 2021 calendar year.

#### **UTILITY EMERGENCY NUMBER**

If you are experiencing an after-hours utility emergency, please call the District's on-call pager at 707-223-1225. This is the fastest way to alert the on-call District utility staff for response.

#### **Floodlight Use:**

Floodlights can destroy your neighbors' privacy, views and starlit skies, so please be a good neighbor and angle them down or shield the top of them so light stays within your property boundary.

#### **Pedestrians Walking the Airport Loop:**

Please face traffic when walking the loop on Lower Pacific and Upper Pacific Drives. California Vehicle Code 21956 requires pedestrians to walk against oncoming traffic when there are no sidewalks. Please allow traffic to pass you without requiring them having to move into the oncoming lane.

#### **Backflow Prevention Device:**

The District would like to remind customers to refrain from leaving open water hoses in standing water such as buckets. Without a backflow prevention device, contaminated water could potentially flow back into our water system if the system becomes de-pressurized.

#### **Holiday Announcement:**

The District offices will close on Monday, January 18th, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day.

**COMMENTS:** We encourage your comments, so please use your bill stub to provide feedback regarding matters within the District's control.

#### **HIGH SURF ADVISORY**

Large breaking waves generated by winter southerly storms are forecasted for the next few weeks. Heavy surf and sneaker waves can knock you down and cause serious injury and even worse, you can be swept out to sea. Strong rip currents off of Black Sands Beach are life threatening and swimming at any time of year is not recommended.

#### **Sheriff Response:**

Our new resident deputy, Tom Allman, has requested that people call 911 if they need the assistance of the Sheriff's Department instead of using his cell phone number.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

#### **Reducing Shelter Cove's Fire Hazards:**

Now is the time to do your part as property owners to reduce fire hazards by keeping your property clear of brush and heavy tree growth. Before burning cleared vegetation please obtain the proper burn permits, keep your burn piles small with plenty of water at hand, never leave fires unattended and make sure the fire is dead out before you leave for the day. Let's make a big effort to engage with friends and neighbors to collaborate and help each other clear fire hazards away from homes.

If you are planning to engage in wildfire hazard reduction activities on your property this year, please document your activity on a Firewise Volunteer Hourly Worksheet Form so it can go towards Shelter Cove getting re-certified as a Firewise Community in 2021. A copy of the form is available on our website on the Fire Department Page at <http://www.sheltercove-ca.gov/fire-department-page.html> or at the District office. At a minimum, Shelter Cove is required to invest the equivalent of one volunteer hour in wildfire reduction activities for each dwelling unit (650). Examples of volunteer activities can be found at: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Get-started/FirewiseTimeExpenseInvestmentExamples.aspx?a=en>



# Shelter Cove Fire Department

Resort Improvement District #1

**Nick Pape, Fire Chief**  
9126 Shelter Cove Road  
Whitethorn, CA 95589  
Office: (707) 986-7507

To the community of Shelter Cove,

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 I had the honor of accepting the full-time position of Fire Chief for the community of Shelter Cove. Even though a full-time fire chief position may be a new and exciting position for me, I am no stranger to the community of Shelter Cove and the Shelter Cove Fire Department. In fact, since 2018 I have been serving Shelter Cove as the Interim Fire Chief, picking up where our amazing former Chief, Sal Gurreri left off. Before moving to Shelter Cove full-time in 2010, I started my professional fire career in Sacramento when I was just 18. I went through a year-long Fire and EMT Academy and never looked back. This will be my tenth year as a Shelter Cove Volunteer Firefighter, and I have loved every minute of it. During the last 8 years I have been fortunate to be able to serve my community and make a living fighting fire and running medical rescues across the state as a Firefighter for Cal Fire. During that time, I served the people of California on both a fire engine and on an elite helitack crew where I saw firsthand from ground and the air the damaging effects of wildfires in California. One thing that always worried me was leaving for the summer and not being here to help protect the community I love during fire season when it needed me the most. Thanks to RID#1 Board, GM Robbins, SCFD personnel and the community of Shelter Cove I can use my knowledge, training, and experience to help protect and prepare us for wildfires year-round.

Enough about me. I want to talk about what gets me excited as a Fire Chief and resident of Shelter Cove, and what is the current state of the Shelter Cove Fire Department. There has never been a better time to be a part of the Shelter Cove Fire team or to live in our district. When I took over as Fire Chief in 2018 I promised the Firefighters I serve that as long as they keep showing up to help their community I would make sure they had anything and everything they needed to safely and efficiently answer any call type that came across their radios. Thanks to the property tax increase voted in by the community, the Shelter Cove Fire Department now has the financial stability to make that a possibility. In the last 2 years SCFD has replaced or is in the process of replacing all our outdated equipment. We have also paid for 6 firefighters to attend College of the Redwoods for EMT and Fire Academies as well as offered EMS training to our surrounding departments making the drive into town safer for our residents. We currently have the only tsunami and wildfire notification system in Northern California as well as the only volunteer fire department with 24/7 fire engine staffing and current advance life support capabilities in the county. Over the last 5 years the RID#1 and the Shelter Cove Fire Department have put almost a million dollars directly into wildfire safety, fuels reduction and into new firefighting engines and equipment to battle wildfires and keep the community safe.

It is truly an honor to be able to serve as the Fire Chief for Shelter Cove. I can't promise that no one will ever be hurt again or that there will never be another fire in the district. However, I can promise that if, God forbid, you or your family need to dial 911, the department that shows up will be a well trained, well equipped, modern fire department. The community members of Shelter Cove will never have to choose between life in our beautiful part of the state or access to reliable emergency care.

Stay Safe.

Nick Pape  
Fire Chief SCFD