

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOVATO FIRE DISTRICT
&
MARIN COUNTY FIRE**



COMBINE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAUS

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The Novato Fire District and the Marin County Fire Department announce a functional consolidation of their fire prevention bureaus for a one-year trial period. The consolidation creates a larger regional fire prevention bureau serving the North Bay communities of the Marin County Fire Department and the Novato Fire District.

The combined fire prevention bureau features enhanced fire prevention and risk reduction capabilities. These improved capabilities include construction and fire sprinkler plan checks, public information and education, fire investigation, construction and compliance inspection services, local ordinance, code, and standards development and wildland urban interface risk reduction services.

Marin County Fire Chief Ken Massucco said, "There are many community advantages in the regionalization of fire prevention. Both of our fire prevention bureaus have complimentary needs that are filled by the other agency. The community should see service improvements with the fire and wildland code standardization, consistency, staff availability, and added public education capabilities. This plan also furthers the Marin County Board of Supervisor's desire to standardize government requirements county-wide."

This regional bureau will increase both agencies' ability to reduce community risk while at the same time reducing costs. Novato Fire Chief Marc Revere stated, "Marin County Fire has been a great partner with the Novato Fire District. We have worked closely on many important community safety projects and it made sense to pursue this opportunity. We have been actively exploring opportunities to save the community's money, reduce or eliminate duplicate services while being creative on enhancing critical services. We are excited to see the success of this consolidation."

An initial annual cost savings projection of \$20,000 to \$30,000 is expected with the elimination of outside engineering and GIS consultants. Other cost savings will result from the elimination of duplicate services and personnel savings. Additional revenue enhancements will occur through

permit fee collections, cost recovery for services, and contracting fire prevention and fire marshal services to other fire agencies in the North Bay region.

The communities will see the benefits of fire and wildland code standardization in design, permit and field inspections, increased staff availability and improved public education. Community customers will have more offices to choose from when they drop off construction plans or need to speak with a fire prevention bureau professional. The bureau now includes two fire marshals, one forester, one fire inspector, one public educator, one contract fire inspector and one administrative support professional. The new bureau serves a combined population of 90,000 residents.

The combined offices are located at both the Novato Fire District Headquarters at 95 Rowland Way in Novato and at the Marin County Fire Woodacre Headquarters at 33 Castle Rock Road in Woodacre. Fire Marshals Scott Alber and Bill Tyler can be reached at (415) 878-2690 or (415) 499-6717.

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