

District News

Fall/Winter 2019

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

READY FOR AN EMERGENCY
Summer camp staff at Stevenson School received First Aid and CPR/AED training from District Fire Captain Jennifer Valdez and retired Captain David Jones (shown here). The District provides the classes for over 250 community members each year, in addition to fire safety and Safe Sitter trainings.



Ready for storm season

Water rescue program saves lives

A man and woman escaped a deadly situation this August thanks to the PBCSD/CAL FIRE Ocean Water Rescue Program. The couple had walked far out on the rocks during low tide to fish off the Pebble Beach Golf Links, and then became trapped by high water and surf.

“It could’ve been pretty disastrous the way the waves were coming in,” said Fire Captain Keith Tsudama, manager of the program. “The tide can come up very fast, and people find themselves stranded on wash rocks.”

Time is of the essence in our cold ocean waters, where victims quickly become hypothermic. Thankfully, PBCSD’s rescue watercraft (RWC—a modified jet ski) was ready and waiting at the Stillwater Cove pier. PBCSD Engineer Paramedic Andrew Askew piloted the RWC, while Captain Tsudama and his crew launched an inflatable rescue boat (Zodiac) from Point Lobos. “It’s a coordinated effort with the different watercraft,” said Captain Tsudama. “You have to time the waves and find secure entry points onto the rocks to haul victims onboard.” Both people were returned safely to shore without injury. Four days later, *(Cont. on page 3)*

District rescue swimmers and watercraft operators perform training drills from Stillwater Cove.



Hometown pride

District is twice-honored

Be proud Pebble Beach residents! The California Special District Association has once again honored PBCSD with their Transparency Certificate of Excellence. The award recognizes our high level of accountability in operations and governance, taking into account budget accessibility, financial policies and reports, audits, ethics training, and community outreach, among other evaluations.

“The entire District staff is to be commended for their dedication to transparent government, which empowers public education and oversight,” said Mike Niccum, PBCSD General Manager. This is the District’s second consecutive transparency award. The certificate is awarded for a two-year period.

In addition, the District received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the highest form of recognition for governmental financial reporting. With more than 20,000 members in North America, the GFOA’s mission is to advance excellence in public finance by providing best practice guidance, publications, and training.

Top plant pick:

TRY THIS FIRESAFE, DEER-RESISTANT NATIVE PLANT IN YOUR YARD!

Yes Virginia, there is a dogwood that's native to Pebble Beach! First recorded locally in 1902, Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea ssp. sericea*) occurs in shaded woodlands near creeks. It

also grows well alongside our homes, or in a quiet garden corner as a hedge, best with dappled sun. "Our very own

dogwood" is firesafe, easy to maintain—and it's a beauty! Clusters of tiny flowers attract butterflies and bees, and give way to attractive white berries highly prized by songbirds.

Non-native plants degrade the environment, and reduce habitat and food sources for indigenous wildlife. Visit the District's firesafe garden at 3101 Forest Lake Road to view many low-maintenance native flowers, ground covers, shrubs, and trees that safeguard your home and support local ecosystems.



Red Osier Dogwood flowers and berries

Photo © Spju

Fire fuel reduction update

PBCSD has made great progress in its multi-year project to reduce flammable vegetation and fire risk within Pebble Beach. Crews have finished fuel reduction work on all five entrance gates, as well as along main evacuation and access routes. Much of the fuel is deadwood from our aging, drought weakened Monterey Pines that fell during last winter's storms. We have also cleared vegetation on the fire roads along Indian Village to Stevenson Road, and Haul Road to Los Altos Drive.

Besides employing CAL FIRE crews and contractors, we also brought in 320 goats to browse in the forest, an environmentally friendly method we've been using for the past 20 years. These firefighting heroes eat flammable dry vegetation, and are especially valuable in hard to access areas such as steep canyons filled with poison oak. It took longer than usual for the goats to chew through project areas due to the thick undergrowth from last winter's high rainfall.

The District meets regularly to evaluate progress and prioritize projects with our fire prevention partners and advisers: CAL FIRE, Del Monte Forest Conservancy, Pebble Beach Company, and the foresters and naturalists on the Open Space Advisory Committee. Our shared goal is to reduce overall fire risk to the community while providing good stewardship to support a healthy forest ecosystem.



YAY! WE'RE BACK IN PEBBLE BEACH! Goats leap off their trailer to chow down on flammable undergrowth in the Del Monte Forest. They mowed through 100 acres during their three-month stay.



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

tinyurl.com/PBCSD-Twitter

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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Meet your new Fire Prevention Chief

Meet **Mark Mondragon**, PBCSD's new Fire Prevention and Planning Battalion Chief. Mark oversees the fire marshal, fire inspector, fuel reduction, and disaster planning for Pebble Beach and the Carmel Highlands and Cypress Fire Districts. He was born in Monterey and came up through the ranks, serving as a volunteer firefighter with Carmel Highlands Fire District, and then with CAL FIRE for 25 years. As a local, Mark is uniquely qualified to serve in the Del Monte Forest. He has many years of experience staffing woodland engines and helping write the fire codes that protect homes. He also sits on the Wildland-Urban Interface Committee of the State Fire Marshal Office.

"All the District's fire prevention programs are in full swing," said Mark. "It's easy to see all the fuel reduction work when you drive around. Vegetation management is vital here in the forest, where urban and wildland intertwine."

Mark has fought many major fire events, including the Soberanes and Basin Complex Fires. He was a Fire Captain at Tularcitos Fire Station in Cachagua for seven years, and most recently served as Fire Marshal Battalion Chief for San Mateo County.

"It feels great to be back in my home community," said Mark. "I look forward to continuing the District's partnership with Pebble Beach residents, helping them keep their homes and property firesafe, inside and out."

Undergrounding Phase 2: it's a wrap!

Phase 2 of PBCSD's long-term Undergrounding Overhead Utility Program was completed on time in June, including the removal of all overhead utility lines and poles in the construction area. Currently, PG&E, AT&T, and Comcast are working independently on their undergrounding designs for Phase 3, which will be submitted to the District in early spring 2020. The District will then oversee the merging of the three separate designs into one streamlined joint utility trench.

Phase 3 construction begins next year

Phase 3 will underground the one-mile middle section that remains between the first two completed phases to create 5.5 miles of continuous underground main utility lines. We anticipate putting the project out to bid in the summer of 2020, with construction starting soon after. Approximately half of the Phase 3 work area runs along Forest Lake Road from the intersection of Hawkins Way south to the Peter Hay Golf Course, with the remainder taking place on two smaller sections along Drake and Ondulado Roads.

"The experience gained in coordinating the first two project phases has standardized procedures which should help speed progress of Phase 3," said District Engineer Nick Becker.

The ultimate goal of the long-term, five-phase project is to underground all 11 miles of primary electrical and communication lines in the forest to reduce the occurrence of systemwide outages from storms and falling trees. The highly complex project is one of the first of its kind to coordinate the installation of three different utilities at the same time. It is serving as a model for other communities who are exploring undergrounding as a way to ensure reliability and enhance fire safety.



PG&E overhead cable, fuses, and insulators await sorting after their removal from utility poles in Pebble Beach.

**Prevent fires:
put batteries on top
of the bin—not inside!**



BE A FIVE-STAR RECYCLER!

Batteries are hazardous waste and must be processed separately from other recycling—do not put them in your recycling or garbage cart (it is illegal to throw batteries in the trash). GreenWaste Recovery drivers periodically compact collected recycling as they drive their routes. Crushed batteries have ignited paper and other flammables, causing truck fires. After trucks unload, batteries can also get damaged in automated equipment at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District. They have had to extinguish nearly 50 fires this year.

GreenWaste accepts all household batteries, including button cell. Seal them in a clear plastic bag and place on top of your recycling cart. Tape the tops of lithium ion, 9-volt, and 6-volt batteries. Car batteries must be scheduled for pickup; for details please call GreenWaste at 920-6707.



Ocean rescue responders and California Highway Patrol pilots practiced hoist lifting victims to safety off Carmel River State Beach during a joint training in March.

Water rescue *(Cont. from page 1)*

two more people fishing were rescued in the same circumstances off 17-Mile Drive.

The program also includes rescue swimmers who can enter the water directly from shore. After saving the victim, they can wait beyond the surf zone for boat pickup. Swimmers can also get towed on a board behind a RWC to make immediate contact with a victim in rough water.

Sharing staff and resources benefits all

The Ocean Water Rescue Program is a cooperative effort between PBCSD and the Carmel Highlands and Cypress Fire Districts, and includes frequent cross-training with the Coast Guard, Monterey Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, and State Parks. The program has been in operation for 15 years, but PBCSD's addition of rescue swimmers and the RWC approximately four years ago has dramatically improved response time. Now a responder can enter the water within eight minutes of an emergency call being received.

"Our coastline is a natural draw for surfers, divers, kayakers, swimmers, tidepoolers, fishermen, and tourists, but many do not have a good understanding of ocean dynamics," said Captain Tsudama. "Having three modes of rescue gives us more options for success based on the victim's location and ocean conditions."





Pebble Beach Community Services District
3101 Forest Lake Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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STAY INSIDE DURING STORMS

Firefighters assess a downed tree blocking the road in January. During February, fierce storms felled nearly 800 trees in the forest, along with power lines.

them at PBCSD.org. Have backup cell phone chargers ready for power outages.

3. If you have limited mobility or do not drive, provide your current contact information for the District's Emergency Assistance List. During a storm, fire, or other emergency we will phone you and provide assistance if needed. Visit PBCSD.org or call 373-1274 to enroll or update.

4. If you depend on an electrical medical device or refrigerated medication, you may need a portable generator for power outages. Read all safety guidelines before operation. Run generators outside only, ensuring that exhaust cannot enter vents or windows. Store fuel outside in approved containers.

5. If you have an electric gate, leave it open during storms so if power goes out emergency responders can enter without damaging property. Also, if it's difficult to open your garage door without the automatic door lift you might want to leave your car outside.

6. Refresh your disaster preparedness kit to ensure you can be self-sufficient for three days without water or power. Include one gallon of water minimum per day for each person, non-perishable food, flashlights/lanterns, extra batteries, battery operated radio, pet supplies, and other essentials. Visit ready.gov for checklists and instructions on disaster planning.

7. Sandbags for flood-prone properties will be available for pickup at the fire station at Forest Lake and Lopez Roads. If you need assistance, please call the number below.

We're here for you—please feel free to call the District Fire Station at 375-4204 for more information.

Prepare for Winter storms: 7 tips

1. Falling trees and power lines make it dangerous to drive or walk in the forest during high winds and storms. Follow weather forecasts and run errands before storms hit.

2. Listen for emergency updates on PBCSD's 1620 AM emergency radio. We will also contact affected neighborhoods through our CodeRED phone message system. If your phone or email changes, update



TUNE TO 1620 AM DURING EMERGENCIES
Keep a battery operated radio on hand to get District updates during power outages. Set a tuning button in your car to 1620 AM. You can also stream emergency radio on your phone or computer at PBCSD.org.



Why you shouldn't overfill your carts

Wind can easily flip open lids and scatter trash. Litter also escapes when automated trucks empty overflowing containers, or when wildlife investigates food odors. Water accumulates inside carts during storms. Wet paper and cardboard cannot be recycled and can compromise an entire recycling load.

Solutions:

- Use the Material Overages Stickers you receive at the beginning of each year for free pickup of bagged garbage and yard waste. If you run out of stickers, you can buy more.
- Pickup of extra recycling is free. Bag or bundle it, and call us so we can alert the driver.
- If you frequently run out of room in your recycling, garbage, or yard trimmings cart, upsize to a larger size or get an additional container. *Questions? Please call GreenWaste Recovery at 920-6707.*

GreenWaste Holiday Garbage Schedule



Regular Pick-up	Holiday Pick-up
Thurs., Nov. 28	Fri., Nov. 29
Fri., Nov. 29	Sat., Nov. 30
Wed., Dec. 25	Thurs., Dec. 26
Thurs., Dec. 26	Fri., Dec. 27
Fri., Dec. 27	Sat., Dec. 28

— 2020 —

Wed., Jan. 1	Thurs., Jan. 2
Thurs., Jan. 2	Fri., Jan. 3
Fri., Jan. 3	Sat., Jan. 4

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 24 on your regular collection day (no need to schedule).** Please cut tree into 6-foot lengths or shorter and place curbside. After January 24 you can still dispose of small trees in your yard waste 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.