

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado Unit

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Gossip Spreads Like Wildfire

Camino – Sometime before Thanksgiving a story began circulating around the Diamond Springs, Camino and Pollock Pines area about a rash of burglaries committed by a group of individuals that were wearing CAL FIRE shirts. This rumor has since made its way to the Georgetown Divide and has been embellished, claiming that among other things CAL FIRE employees have verified burglaries committed by individuals in CAL FIRE uniforms. **This is NOT true.** There have been no verified burglaries reported to the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office of anyone wearing a CAL FIRE shirt or uniform anywhere in the county.

"You have probably played the game at one time in your life, it is known by several names, among them "telephone" or "the messenger". It starts with one person whispering a message to another person and down a line of people, and at the end of the line the message only vaguely resembles the original message. Well it seems to have happened to CAL FIRE and the story has grown and spread to the point where we feel we need to clarify a few things" states CAL FIRE Unit Chief Kelly Keenan of the Amador-El Dorado Unit.

CAL FIRE work and emergency response uniforms consist of the following:

- Navy blue work uniform: a navy blue button down shirt with two CAL FIRE patches on either shoulder with a silver or gold name plate on the right front pocket area and a badge above the left front pocket area, navy blue pants, boots, optional navy blue sweatshirt with CAL FIRE embroidered on the left front area or a navy blue jacket with two CAL FIRE patches on either shoulder;
- Or a yellow nomex jacket with yellow nomex pants with CAL FIRE silk-screened above the left front pocket, CAL FIRE patches silk-screen on both shoulders and CAL FIRE silk-screened on the back of the jacket;
- Or traditional bunker/turnout jacket/pants which are a yellow-tan heavy canvas material with yellow/white reflective markings.

In addition, CAL FIRE employees drive marked CAL FIRE vehicles such as pick-up trucks and fire engines when conducting defensible space inspections. They would never be using a personal vehicle when conducting defensible space inspections or responding to an emergency at your home.

CAL FIRE employees conducting defensible space inspections work from the late spring through the fall, they do not do inspections in the winter and usually work in pairs.

To see the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office media release please go to their website at

[https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Sheriff/Press_Releases/12/10/2013 -](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Sheriff/Press_Releases/12/10/2013_-_Updated_Keep_Your_Eyes_Open_and_Help_Us_Catch_the_Burglars.aspx)

[_Updated Keep Your Eyes Open and Help Us Catch the Burglars.aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Sheriff/Press_Releases/12/10/2013_-_Updated_Keep_Your_Eyes_Open_and_Help_Us_Catch_the_Burglars.aspx). If you see anything suspicious report it to the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department at 530-642-4703. If you have questions please contact CAL FIRE headquarters at 530.644.2345.

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