

Mini-Muster is a hit with children in NYP

by Fire Prevention Assistant Barbara Easter

After spending years in elementary schools teaching fire prevention, the Volunteers in Prevention from the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit, along with the Loomis Fire Department and their women's auxiliary, decided to give the kids an opportunity to put what they'd been taught into practice, via a mini-muster.

During Loomis Community Day in May, third graders from several schools took part in the "mini-muster", a scaled down version of how firefighters work. A qualification muster had been held at each school to find the fastest team to represent that school in the mini-muster. Events included "Follow The Hose", a timed exercise during which children crawl, blindfolded, along a fire hose to a door and then have to feel the door for heat before opening it. This reinforced the fire safety principles of staying low in smoke, and checking for



VIP Patti Tahalmer helps a youngster during the "Follow the Hose" event

fire before swinging a door open.

The obstacle course included some of the same principles but went quite a few steps further. A child would start off by lying on a cot, when a smoke detector sounded, the child was supposed to roll off the cot, crawl to the door, feel for heat with the back of their hand, then crawl to window and climb out. From there they would stop, drop, and roll across a gym mat, get up, walk a plank over a pool of water, and step through two sets of tires before dashing for the

finish line which was also their "meeting place".

The children also competed in a relay race which had them getting into and out of fire fighting gear, and a bucket brigade. Even though the kids probably didn't realize that they were recreating fire history during the bucket brigade, which was the last event of the day, it was a favorite among all the kids.

Winners received gold, silver, and bronze olympic style medals with fire insignias on them. The rest of the team received certificates, and each school was given a wall plaque.

The mini-muster was a great way for the kids to have fun, and learn at the same time. If you would like information on how to put together a Firefighters Mini-Muster for Children contact the NYP Fire Prevention Unit at (916) 823-4904.

Mather's last open house

On Sunday, June 28, Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento hosted its final open house to the public. The base is slated for closure and its future use is still being debated. CDF has leased hanger space at Mather since February 1992 and keeps 13 O-2a and 17 S-2 aircraft at the base. So when Mather had an open house for aircraft, CDF was asked to participate. Air Operations Officer III Dave Wardall, CDF fixed wing program manager, and Fire Captain Frank Orr, hazardous materials instructor at the CDF Academy, were CDF's representatives at a display of an S-2 and an O-2. For landlubbers there was also a four-wheel drive model 5 engine with a hydrostatic pump.

The CDF aircraft and engine shared the tarmac with a venerable B-52, a highflying U-2, the B-1B bomber, and the exotic F-117 stealth fighter. Dave and Frank's special guest was Sage Stark, son of chief tanker pilot Roger Stark who was killed in June.

The finale of the event was an air show featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. Dave was prepared to do a drop on the crowd but there had been rain earlier in the day and everyone was sufficiently soaked. Attendance at the event was estimated at over 100,000 persons.

Giant sequoia's for today and tomorrow

by Forester III Gary Brittner

The giant sequoia (sometimes called Sierra redwood) is recognized around the world. The tree is of particular interest to scientists because of its enormity, age, and the fact that the only place it can be found is within about 75 groves located in the Sierra Nevada mountains. You don't have to be a scientist to appreciate the mammoth sequoia. Because of its size and beauty, many members of our society have strong emotional attachments to the tree.

The giant sequoia was the focus of a recent three-day symposium sponsored by CDF, along with several other agencies and conservation groups. "Giant Sequoias: Their place in the Ecosystem and Society", featured a blend of panel discussions and field trips to native sequoia stands. Speakers focused on the science of preserving the sequoia, and also the emotional and aesthetic value the trees possess. Director Wilson, Deputy Director Ken Delfino, and the heads of participating agencies were all on hand for presentations and panel discussions during the symposium. Trips out to the field included Mountain Home, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, and



Forest Manager Dave Dulitz discuss giant sequoias on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.

Sequoia National Forest.

CDF's Dave Dulitz was one featured speaker and gave a thorough presentation on CDF's management of the Sequoia's on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. Mountain Home, northeast of Porterville, has one of the finest giant sequoia groves, about 3,000 acres, and boasts the "Genesis Tree", which is ranked as the seventh largest tree in the world. Demonstrations and experiments at Mountain Home have revealed important information about the giant sequoia. Those touring the forest hiked through beautiful scenery to areas displaying a variety of techniques for managing the trees, including prescribed burning and selective harvesting.

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CDF is committed to following the management plan approved by the Board of Forestry. It stresses recreation and calls for continued demonstration and experimentation to ensure the sequoia's survival for future generations. Symposiums such as this not only

provide more knowledge for scientists, but also educate the public on the importance of preservation. Of course reading about the sequoias is one thing, but if you ever get the chance, be sure to visit a grove and see for yourself how magnificent these trees are.

President visits giant sequoias

President Bush helicoptered into Tulare County on July 14 to sign a proclamation that will help protect giant sequoia groves. The President signed the proclamation in front of a 220 foot, 2,000-year-old giant sequoia located in the Freeman Grove of the Sequoia National Forest.



The 2,000-year-old tree in the background has been named the George Bush Tree.

CDF Director Wilson,

along with Resources Agency Secretary Douglas Wheeler, Region IV Chief Jim Owen, and Tulare Ranger Unit Chief Ed Wristen, were among the 400 invited guests that witnessed the signing.

The proclamation provides additional protection from mining and timber harvesting. All the sequoia groves in

California will be identified and the boundaries mapped. President Bush wants the groves to be managed "to assure the perpetuation of the groves for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." Bush also said that the groves would not be managed for timber production.

Harassment:

Something different for everyone

Studies have consistently shown that behavior a man might consider innocent or even flattering - a risqué comment, an arm around the shoulders - might be perceived by a woman as threatening or offensive. A recent court decision has held that the proper standard for evaluating whether a female has been sexually harassed is to look at the conduct in question through the "eyes of a reasonable woman". The decision rejected the gender neutral standard of a "reasonable person", finding that it

tends to be male-biased and ignores the experience of women.

The best way then to prevent sexual harassment is COMMUNICATION. As intimidating, hostile, or offensive behavior is not the same for everyone, we all need to let it be known when boundaries are overstepped. And, men need to think about the women in their own lives - wives, daughters, sisters, mothers: What if they were putting up with suggestive remarks or touches? Would you consider it harassment?

(FUTURE - continued from front cover) two primary efforts of the department; initial attack on the fire protection side, and timber harvest review on the resource management side. The team expects to look at ways that management of both can be improved. Additionally, an overview of the department's current organizational structure should lead to suggestions on what areas could use a closer look.

The team was chosen for their varied

backgrounds and will use the 90-days for a general department overview. Chief Ewing of the Strategic and Resources Planning Unit added that this initial project will lead to ongoing review of the department's operations and policies. This will allow CDF to deal more effectively with the major issues facing it.

Watch the Communique' for the results.

Kudos

To the following CDFers who have achieved 25 years of state service:

Region II Chief Gary Buzzini of Region II Headquarters

Fire Captain Wallace Reavis of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit.

Fire Captain James Markus of the Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit.

State Forest Ranger I Donnie Adams of the Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit.

State Forest Ranger II Bob Irby of Sacramento Headquarters.

Fire Captain Paul Bertagna of the Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit.

State Forest Ranger II Reno DiTullio of the San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit.

Fire Captain Harold Kindig of Region IV Headquarters.

Fire Captain Burl Kuska of the San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit.

State Forest Ranger I D. Michael Boron of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Ranger Unit.

Fire Captain Leo Whitlock of the Lassen-Modoc Ranger Unit.

Fire Captain Howard Riggs of the Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit.

Fire Captain William Martinez of the Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit.

To **Fire Captain/Training Officer Mike Medico** of the San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit who recently received three certificates simultaneously: An associate science degree in fire science and technology; associate arts degree in law enforcement; and a State Fire Marshal Fire Officer certificate. Another example of CDF personnel's commitment to personal and professional achievement.

To **Fire Captain Stephen Green** of the Tulare Ranger Unit who has been awarded an employee suggestion merit award for recommending that CDF adopt a policy of long sleeve cotton T-shirts being worn under Nomex. This extra layer of clothing will reduce/prevent burns to the arms. Good job Stephen!

To **Battalion Chief Bill Sager** of the Butte Ranger Unit. He was presented the Outstanding Research Award by the National Fire Academy for his paper, "EXAMINING A COMMITMENT TO FIRE PREVENTION - A STUDY OF THE CORRELATION BETWEEN FIRE PREVENTION ATTITUDES AND TRAINING AND ORIENTATION IN PREVENTION." Chief Sager travelled to the academy in

(KUDOS - continued on back page)