

SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Allen Riley – Fire Chief

Dear Insurance Agent:

I am providing this letter on behalf of the Squaw Valley Fire Department. One of our homeowners has been informed that your agency would no longer insure his/her residential property. I am sure that this was not your individual decision but that of your organization. I understand this decision was made with very little information regarding the community of Squaw Valley and its efforts to mitigate the effects of wildfire. Please take a moment to understand our fire department and the things we do to protect the Squaw Valley community.

The Squaw Valley community is protected by two fire stations. The station at 305 Squaw Valley Road is staffed with permanent employees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The station at 1810 is staffed during busy peak days including weekends and holidays.

Squaw Valley is a glaciated mountain valley flanked on the north and south by lateral moraines and on the west by a large granite cirque. The western part of the valley and most of the southern slopes are cleared ski runs on Squaw Valley Ski Resort property and offer good fuel breaks and access roads. The Valley floor is predominately meadow, including an 18-hole golf course, with a creek that runs the length of the meadow and empties into the Truckee River drainage at the east end of the Valley. The domestic water system rivals that of most large cities, there are 199 fire hydrants throughout the District. The hydrants are supplied by several gravity fed water tanks with a combined capacity of over 2.5 million gallons of water.

The Squaw Valley Fire Department has an Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Public Protection Classification rating of 2/2Y. Fire department ISO ratings are on a scale of 1 through 10. ISO rating of 1 being the best and 10 being no protection.

The Squaw Valley Fire Department performs defensible space inspections for every property in the District annually. Residential properties are inspected for compliance with the State of California Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 for defensible space. Community members are provided resources and guidance to make their homes defensible in case of a wildfire including free dumpsters on "green waste days".

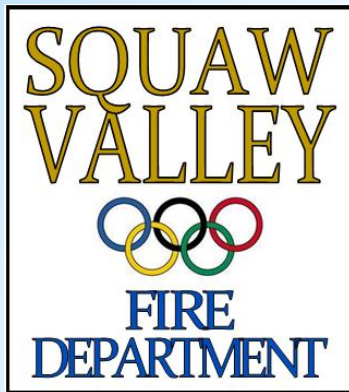
Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Squaw Valley Fire Department's efforts to make its community as safe as possible from a catastrophic wild land fire. I also recommend that you review the document titled ***Your Squaw Valley Fire Department***. It provides insurance companies with more detailed information of our department's commitment to keeping its community safe from a wildfire.

If you have any questions regarding fire department programs, please feel free to contact me directly at 530-583-6111 extension 221.

Respectfully yours,



Allen Riley, Chief
Squaw Valley Fire Department



Your Squaw Valley Fire Department

Squaw Valley Fire Department Mission Statement:

To protect and enhance the safety and well-being of those in our community.



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FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Squaw Valley Fire Department has been serving the Squaw Valley Community since 1960. Our boundaries cover approximately 14 square miles, surrounded by State and Federal lands. The Squaw Valley Fire Department operates under the Squaw Valley Public Service District. The Public Service District is a Special District governed by an elected Board of Directors. The Fire Department is managed by the Fire Chief.

The community of Squaw Valley is home to one of the largest ski resorts in North America and home to the 1960 Winter Olympics. During peak seasons, the population at Squaw Valley can grow to more than 20,000 people. As an all risk fire department, we seek to accomplish our mission by providing fire prevention and suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services. In addition to these services, the Squaw Valley Fire Department provides public education such as First Aid/CPR classes and fire extinguisher training.

The District is protected by two fire stations. Station 21 is located at 305 Squaw Valley Road and Station 22 is located at 1810 Squaw Valley Road. The firefighters at Station 21 staff several types of fire apparatus. Engine 21 responds to structure fires, rescues, vehicle accidents, and medical aids. The engine has a full compliment of firefighting equipment, rescue equipment, vehicle extrication equipment, and advanced life support equipment. The advanced life support equipment includes medications, IV access supplies, intubation equipment and a heart monitor that has the ability to defibrillate. Other apparatus include a second Type I Structural Engine, two (2) Type III Brush Engines, a 2,150-gallon Water Tender, a Light Duty Rescue and a small off-road UTV.

Station 21 is staffed with well trained, dedicated, caring personnel 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Station 22 is staffed on busy peak days and holidays. All personnel are professional firefighters with extensive medical training. Each shift consists of a captain, an engineer, and two firefighter-paramedics. In addition to the shift personnel, the Department is also staffed with six part-time firefighters and a full-time Fire Chief.

GEORGAPHIC OVERVIEW

Squaw Valley is a glacial valley with a large meadow surrounded by a large granite cirque to the west and forested slopes on the north and south. The Valley floor is mostly a large meadow, including an 18-hole golf course, and a large paved parking lot for the ski area on the west end. A creek runs west to east through the meadow and empties into the Truckee River.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

The Squaw Valley community is located in a fire-dependent ecosystem. Forest fires over thousands of years in the Sierra Nevada have shaped the local forest in its structure and composition. Natural fires caused by lightning as well as fires set deliberately by Native Americans for travel, food, and supplies have molded the forest in this region before the settlement era started. These low-intensity and frequent fires occurred generally less than every twenty years and removed accumulated forest fuels. Early accounts from the first settlers spoke about a forest that was predominately an open-growth pine forest with large trees and little or no understory. The general absence of forest fires due to suppression efforts, infrequency of controlled burning, and changes in forest management has allowed the forest to evolve into an unnatural state. We now live in a forest that is overstocked with a larger species of white and red fir and a dense understory of seedlings, brush, and downed woody material.

Despite our efforts to keep our community fire safe, we can not do the job alone. A defensible space is the most important factor in limiting the spread of wildfire in Squaw Valley neighborhoods. Defensible space is beneficial in many ways. It prevents fire from advancing and endangering homes and lives. It improves property value while reducing the risk of loss. It provides a healthier environment for trees and shrubs by minimizing the impacts of competition, insects, and disease. Lastly, it allows firefighters to safely and effectively defend your home from an oncoming fire. To ensure Squaw Valley homeowners are dedicated to the goal of making our community a healthier and safer environment, we remind all homeowners to maintain their property in compliance with Public Resource Code 4291.



INSURANCE SERVICES ORGANIZATION

The Squaw Valley Fire Department is proud to inform its homeowners, business owners, and visitors that we were recently designated with an ISO rating of 2/2Y. This rating puts us in the top 10% in the nation. The ISO rating of a community has a direct effect on the insurance premiums that individuals pay on their homes and commercial buildings (The lower the ISO ratings on a scale of 1 to 10, the better the insurance rates.) Class 1 represents exemplary fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. Virtually all U.S. insurers of homes and business property use ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) in calculating premiums. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal. A Community's PPC depends on:

- Fire Alarm and Communications Systems: telephone systems and lines, staffing, and dispatching systems (10% of the overall rating).
- Fire Department: pumping capabilities, hours of training provided and attended by staff, responses per call, commercial fire pre-planning, number of fire stations, boundaries served, hose, and pump testing (50% of the overall rating).
- Water Supply System: amount of available water available to suppress fires; the distribution system; and the condition of fire hydrants (40% of the overall rating).

We are proud to have achieved a Class 2 rating for our homeowners and businesses. Class 2 is an exemplary ISO rating for a fire department of our size. This rating is a confirmation that the Squaw Valley Fire Department has kept pace with the demands of the community we protect. Everyone who lives and works in Squaw Valley can be confident knowing that their Fire Department is proficient having earned this highly endorsed rating.

For more information about ISO ratings, visit the website www.isomitigation.com.



SQUAW VALLEY'S WATER SYSTEM

The Squaw Valley Public Service District (PSD) provides a water system of exceptional capacity and capability. The PSD is responsible for the operations and maintenance of our water systems. Over the years, Squaw Valley and Tahoe-Truckee areas have grown considerably. Along with this growth, water system technology has continued to improve. The rapidly changing community, improved technology, and a progressive District Board have combined to provide the excellent water system that exists today.

Squaw Valley's water comes from a robust well-system on the valley floor as well as a few mountain springs located on the valley's flanking hillsides.

The District has a total of 199 hydrants, most of which are within 300 feet of each other.

The combination of ample water storage, high water pressure, and the commitment of our Utility Operations Department provides Squaw Valley with an exceptional water system for fire suppression. The water system always meets or exceeds NFPA standards for storage, flow and pressure.

