

EMPLOYEE FOCUS

September 2021

A Publication of the Employee Communication Committee
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Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Award of Distinction Buck McLelland



On Saturday, July 17 the Tamarack Fire, which started as a lightning strike over Independence Day, rapidly grew toward Markleeville and Woodfords. Buck McLelland, Pump Station Operator, was keeping a close eye on the situation. When the mandatory evacuation order was issued for his home in Woodfords, he immediately called Water Reuse Operations Manager Jim Hilton to alert him of the threat and encourage him to evacuate Diamond Valley Ranch. In the midst of evacuating his own home, Buck promised to keep an eye on District facilities. As he patrolled Diamond Valley Ranch that evening, he observed the fire encroaching upon the District's shop facilities. Buck requested a 20 man strike team and began fighting the fire himself. Upon arrival, the strike team joined Buck in carving out a fireline around the shop and wetting down the surrounding vegetation. As flames drew near, Buck and the strike team were forced to evacuate.

The next day Buck returned to find over 600 acres of the District's forested property surrounding Indian Creek Reservoir and Harvey Place Reservoir decimated, but the fireline he and the strike team installed held, and the shop remained unharmed.

Buck's professional firefighting background and knowledge of the Diamond Valley Ranch property was integral to saving millions of dollars' worth of District facilities, and his dedication to the District will never be forgotten.

Today, I am presenting the first ever Award of Distinction to Buck McLelland, for going above and beyond the call of duty to protect District facilities. Thank you for all that you do for the District and our community.



HR Happenings

by Liz Kauffman

(No report this month—be safe everyone!)

Milestones

Birthdays

Larry Lynch	September 1
Jared Aschenbach	September 2
Ivo Bergsohn	September 8
Dana Lincoln	September 8
Mike Maro	September 8
Jason Paul	September 10
Herbert Aguirre	September 11
Bren Borley	September 13
Hector Vasquez	September 13
Brian Chernago	September 18
Jon Rohrbaugh	September 18
Tommy Smith	September 22
Perris Verduzco	September 26
Nicholas Poohachoff	September 27

Anniversaries

Juan Marquez	8 years
Melonie Guttry	8 years
Paul Hughes	13 years
Jason Chatham	16 years
Colin Daniel	17 years
Jeremy Rutherfordale	18 years

Dates and Events

- 9/2 — Board of Directors Meeting
- 9/6 — Labor Day District Holiday
- 9/12 — Grandparents Day
- 9/16 — Board of Directors Meeting
- 9/21 — International Peace Day
- 9/21 — Autumnal Equinox
- 9/28 — National Good Neighbor Day

September is National Preparedness Month.

National Preparedness Month

submitted by Susan Rasmussen

September is National Preparedness Month, and this year's theme is "Prepared, not scared." It is suggested that you make a plan today.

Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find. Begin by doing the following:

- Put together a plan by discussing these four questions with your family or friends to start your emergency plan: 1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? 2. What is my shelter plan? 3. What is my evacuation route? 4. What is my family/household communication plan?
- Consider specific needs in your household. As you prepare your plan, tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities which can include care of children and pets, medical needs including prescriptions and equipment, dietary needs, different ages of household members, and responsibilities for assisting others.
- Fill out a family emergency plan which samples can easily be downloaded on the Internet.
- Practice your plan with your family.

For more information and available downloads, go to: <https://www.ready.gov/>

Why NOT to save files to your Desktop (local computer)

I know, I know. Your desktop/my documents/pictures (local computer) is the easiest place on your computer to save pictures, documents, files, whatever. It's so convenient to just stick that file there where you know you can find it again, but they are not safe in these locations.

Don't do it! Here's why:

1. Files stored on the desktop slow down the computer's overall operation. Not drastically, but some.
2. Your desktop will eventually run out of visible space. Then what? (Some of you reading this may be out of desktop space already!)
3. Most importantly, the files on your desktop at this minute, are **not backed up**. If they are important enough to be quickly accessible, they should be backed up. If your computer crashes or is even potentially infected with a virus (like if you open a potentially harmful email), all these files will be lost.

District Policy

File Location – All mission critical data shall be stored on District servers. Storing data on PC's

does not allow the IT Department to back up and replicate data to guard against PC failure. In the event of a PC failure, any mission critical data on these machines will likely be lost.

Help Desk Request

An email sent to the Help-Desk takes approximately 15 minutes to arrive in the Help-Desk queue. If your request is **urgent** and needs to be addressed sooner, please call IT directly after placing the help-desk request.

When sending a Help-Desk please do not include IT staff individually. When requesting assistance from IT staff, request should be sent directly to the Help-Desk. This allows us provide coverage and to track work orders and the time spent on them.

The simplest way to submit a Help-Desk ticket is to send an email to: Help Desk. In the email please provide details of your requests. If you are receiving an error message, send a copy of the message. Detailed Help Desk Instruction can be found on the Mainline under the Documentation link at the top of the page and selecting Help Desk or by clicking [here](#).

