



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2020

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In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent social distancing policies, the Apple Valley Fire District would like to communicate to the public the adjustments in which we will be operating.

1. Emergency response will not change. Our stations are fully staffed and able to respond to any emergencies that the community might face. Our first responders will be instituting enhanced personal protective equipment and procedures such as:
  - Maintaining six feet of distance for initial assessment, when possible.
  - Donning enhanced PPE on calls of suspected respiratory infection or flu- like symptoms.
  - Placing mask on patient, when possible.
  - An Isolation and Quarantine Contingency Plan has been established for the safety of Fire Department personnel.
  
2. The Community Risk Reduction Division will also have altered protocols:
  - The Fire District has canceled all public education events which includes, but is not limited to:
    - fire station tours, career fairs, and safety assemblies.
    - This also includes all CPR and First Aid classes offered by the Fire District.
  - Until further notice no annual business inspections will be conducted, unless the Fire District is notified of an imminent life safety threat.
  - CRRD will continue to accept plans for review
  - Inspections will be limited to:
    - Certificate of Occupancy,
    - tenant improvements,
    - residential sprinklers roughs and finals,
    - and unoccupied new business/building related inspections.
  - Hazard/Weed Abatement: due dates for hazard mitigation have automatically been extended, there is NO need to contact the Fire District to request an extension.
    - No new notices for hazard abatement violations will be issued, unless an imminent fire danger is present.
    - Complaints will be accepted and reviewed on a case by case basis.

3. Fire Stations will be closed to the public:
  - Notices will be posted on the front door of each station, directing visitors to call the station to conduct business.
  - An exception will be made for any medical emergency that would require member(s) of the public to enter a station for treatment.
  - Fire stations will remain available for the Safe Surrender program.
4. Effective immediately all engine company business safety inspections will be discontinued until further notice.
5. All personnel, both in the stations and office positions, are practicing social distancing:
  - Employees are encouraged to maintain the recommended 6-foot distance from one another.
  - Conference call or Skype sessions are being used in place of in-person meetings.
6. Until further notice Apple Valley Fire Protection District Board Meetings will be held via teleconference in compliance with Governor Newsom's guidelines set forth in Executive Order N-29-20.

**Apple Valley Fire Protection District headquarters remains operational during normal business hours.** In light of the social distancing measures currently in place, please use the following methods to contact fire headquarters staff:

- General HQ line: (760) 247-7618
- EMAIL: [info@avfpd.org](mailto:info@avfpd.org)
- Or Visit our Website: [www.avfp.org](http://www.avfp.org)

**Contact Information:**

Administrative Services Manager Kim Lopez at [klopez@avfpd.org](mailto:klopez@avfpd.org) 760-247-7618 EXT 105 or Secretary I Danelle Fletcher at [dfletcher@avfpd.org](mailto:dfletcher@avfpd.org) 760-247-7618 EXT 103.

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