

# Appointment of Fire Captain Paramedic Sean Edwards to the Emergency Medical Services Commission

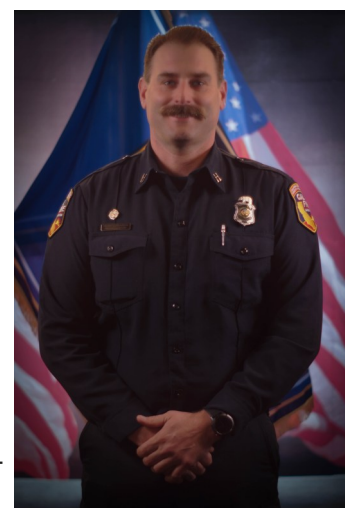
On September 11, 2025, Fire Captain Paramedic Sean Edwards of the CAL FIRE Carmel Highlands Fire Station was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority Commission.


The Commission provides oversight and guidance for EMS operations statewide, reviewing regulations, setting standards, and advising on system development to enhance emergency medical care throughout California.

Captain Edwards began his CAL FIRE career in 2012 and has served as a Fire-fighter Paramedic, Fire Apparatus

Engineer Paramedic, and Fire Captain Paramedic. His extensive background includes roles with American Medical Response, The Auto Club Speedway, and as a volunteer firefighter for the City of Yucaipa.

In addition to his field work, Captain Edwards is an active Union Representative for CAL FIRE Local 2881, serves on the State Bargaining Team, and manages the Inflatable Rescue Boat Program for Battalion 2. His appointment recognizes both his professional expertise and dedication to advancing emergency medical services across California.





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Carmelhighlandfire.org

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# CARMEL HIGHLANDS

## FIRE DISTRICT

*“DEDICATED TO COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION”*



WINTER 2025 / 2026

### Key Points of the EMS Commission Role

- **Statewide Oversight:** Provides leadership, oversight, and policy guidance for California’s emergency medical services system.
- **Regulation Review:** Reviews and approves EMS regulations, standards, and guidelines developed by the California EMS Authority.
- **Advisory Function:** Advises on key areas such as data collection, communications systems, training standards, and emergency medical facilities.
- **System Improvement:** Recommends strategies to strengthen coordination and effectiveness across California’s EMS and trauma systems.
- **State Plan Input:** Reviews and comments on the EMS portion of the State Health Facilities and Services Plan.
- **Appeals Process:** Participates in reviewing appeals related to local EMS agency plan approvals, as outlined in state regulations.

### Fuel Reduction

In a cooperative effort between Cal Trans, ParkIT! and Carmel Highlands FPD/CAL FIRE, construction of our roadside shaded fuel break in between Hwy 1 and Point Lobos State Natural Reserve was completed in the first week in December. We were able to accomplish both phases of all our

objectives of reducing the fire risk by removing dead vegetation and ladder fuels, mitigating overhead hazards and increasing the walking space off the edge of the highway for park visitors. Vegetation Management isn’t just removing all the fuel. It is also recognizing native plants and working around them promoting a healthy landscape with a reduced fire risk!

Huge thanks to the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Board for their continued support in funding fuel reduction projects. These efforts are making our community safer and stronger against wildfires!



## PREPARE! WET WEATHER AHEAD..

### LIMIT TREE HAZARDS

Now is the time to check the trees on your property for dead or hanging limbs. Falling trees and power lines are a real danger in the district during high winds. Be alert to weather forecasts and run errands before the storms hit.

### INSPECT FIRE PLACES & CHIMNEYS

Cleaning your fireplace and chimney is important to prevent the buildup of creosote, which can cause dangerous chimney fires. Fireplaces wood/pellet stoves, chimneys, and flues should be cleaned and inspected before use. Gas log systems, oil-fired heating equipment, and space heaters should also be checked.



### REPLENISH DISASTER KITS

Prepare a disaster kit to make sure that you can be self-sufficient for three days without water or power. Inventory flashlights, lanterns, batteries, and power banks to prepare for power outages. For checklist and instructions on disaster planning please visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

### EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS TIPS

Keep storm drains clear. If your property is prone to flooding, have sandbags, plastic sheeting, and other flood-fighting materials on hand. Learn how to turn off water, gas, power.

If you see any lines down **ALWAYS** treat them as **LIVE**.

The District’s sand bag location will be at: Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District Station 21.

73 Fern Canyon Rd Carmel CA 93923  
(831) 624-2374

### CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

Important links can be found on our website, under the *Fuel Reduction / Chipping Program* tab

**Weed Abatement Ordinances**

**Tree Removal Application**

**Fire Defense Plan**

**District Chipping Program**

**Firewise**

### CONTACT US

Prevention Office  
(831) 375- 9644  
[WWW.HIGHLANDSFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.HIGHLANDSFIRE.ORG)

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# Meet Our Dedicated Team!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Fire Captain
- David Gray**  
Fire Captain
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Fire Captain
- Shayon Ascarie**  
Fire Captain

## District Board Meeting

- 3rd Wednesday's at 12:30 pm
- 73 Fern Canyon Road  
Carmel CA 93923
- UPCOMING MEETINGS**
- January 21, 2026
- March 18, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- May 20, 2026

# What's Happening in the West Division

The Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District experienced a dynamic summer season, with personnel and equipment committed to multiple strike team deployments in addition to responding to our regular local incidents, including vehicle accidents, structure and vegetation fires, medical aids, and water rescues. When not engaged in emergency responses, station personnel remained focused on honing their skills through a variety of multi-company drills. These training sessions covered a range of critical topics—from large-diameter hose operations to coordinated firefighter rescue techniques—ensuring our crews remain proficient, safe, and ready to serve the community.



Vehicle Extrication



Hose Management



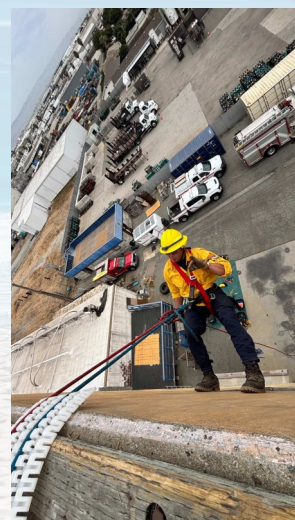
Medical



# Training



Rope Training



# Chipper PROGRAM



## Your Pile Needs to be Placed Out Before the Posted Dates

The Chipper Program is funded by the Carmel Highlands FPD to assist with the disposal of hazardous fuels. Property owners who remove vegetative material from their property to reduce the wildland fire hazard can have the material chipped and disposed of during the non fire season at no cost. The chipped material will be removed from the site. Alternately, the chips may be left on site at the request of the property owner. The chipping will begin on the North end of the fire district and progress to the South. Due to the drought and the popularity of the program, the chipping contractor is processing large volumes of material and it may take several days to reach each neighborhood. No sign up necessary. No appointments will be made and no deviation from the planned route will occur. **The District has moved the Chipping program dates to the non fire season months to eliminate piles placed out during fire season, having these piles out during fire season produces a Fire Hazard to you and your neighbors. Please refrain from placing piles out front of your residence unless its within one week before the dates below.** Additional information on the chipping program will be mailed out and is available on the districts website.

Your cooperation and patience is appreciated.

## 2026 Chipping Program Dates

- 01/12/2026
- 03/16/2026
- 05/04/2026
- 07/06/2026
- 12/07/2026

## Special Thanks to Fire Captain Paramedic Johnathan Ramirez

Fire Captain Paramedic Johnathan Ramirez has served the community for nearly 15 years and has been assigned to Station 25 – Rio Road since August 2022. As Lead Field Training Officer (FTO), he mentors and evaluates Paramedics and EMTs, ensuring operational readiness and compliance with Monterey County EMS protocols.

Captain Ramirez is also an ACLS, PALS, and BLS/CPR Instructor, keeping personnel current with American Heart Association standards. He manages the Zoll program, overseeing all cardiac monitors, AEDs, and life-support equipment across the district, and coordinates EMS training sessions to update staff on policies and protocols.

In addition, he handles medication and equipment ordering for all ALS units in Battalion 2, ensuring each apparatus remains stocked, standardized, and ready for service. Through his leadership and dedication, Captain Ramirez promotes clinical excellence and accountability, supporting the highest quality of patient care.

## For Our Residents...

The Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District will replace your expired Smoke Detectors at no cost. Call 831-375-9644 for more information



# AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE CARMEL HIGHLANDS PREVENTION AND PLANNING

“Stay informed”

## WHAT YOUR PREVENTION OFFICE DOES FOR YOU

- COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION
- HAZARD FUEL REDUCTION
- FIRE DEFENSE PLAN
- BUILDING PLAN REVIEW
- FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION

