

ROSCOE, THE  
FIRE DOG'S  
SAFETY TIP OF  
THE DAY:



**Woof!** Yeah, I know it's winter, it's cold, we're havin' some weather issues. But have you looked at your roof lately?

If there's snow on your roof, you can ignore it until the snow melts and whatever is there, under the snow, dries out and... uh-oh, yup! You got it... pine needles, leaves, stuff that can catch on fire if a stray ember flies out of your chimney (or your neighbor's) and sets the whole shebang on fire.

Then, my boss and his folks down at the Idyllwild Fire Station will get a call to come put out the fire... if they can.

Maybe the best they'll be able to do is just keep it from burning down the whole mountain.

So how 'bout clearing your roof off as soon as you can.

**Woof! Woof! Woof!**  
**Thanks for staying fire safe!**



## Idyllwild Fire Dept Gets New Ambulances



Ambulance Unit "A"



Ambulance Unit "B"



Each unit came with a Stryker gurney, which would normally cost the department \$5,000-\$6,000 each. More great value this purchase brings to IPFD.



Lots of storage, inside & out!

Just prior to the regular IFPD Board Meeting on February 24th, Chief Patrick Reitz got word of the availability of these two ambulances through the GSA auction site. We're not sure exactly where these units came from, but they clearly were used on a military base and located at the GSA yard in Norwalk. Each of them had less the 25,000 miles and in pristine condition. IFPD Board President Jerry Buchanan put the discussion of these possible purchases on the Feb 24th agenda as "Emergency Action Items" as the auction was due to close the following day. The Board authorized Chief Reitz to bid to a maximum of \$50,000 per unit.

IFPD successfully acquired these two ambulances for just over \$44,000 each. We had been discussing the imminent purchase of one new / demo ambulance for around \$120,000, so getting two for under \$100,000 is truly a bargain. Each unit will need a few custom items added - radios installed, one needs a light bar, gear moved from the old units or purchased new. Chief Reitz estimates we'll need to spend another \$20,000 to get the new ambulances ready for use.

These units are set up to transport up to four injured victims, including a child in a infant restraint seat, and an attendant in the back. They're also both four-wheel drive, so they'll be able to navigate our difficult terrain when necessary. Imagine a mass casualty event where transport of several people is needed. We'll now be able to accomplish what previously would have required several units coming from off the Hill.

### IFPD Training Snapshot by Captain Mark Lamont, IFPD Training Officer

At Idyllwild Fire, we have no lack of training opportunities helping us to become more proficient in every aspect of our work. The IFPD has adopted a *minimum* requirement of 30 hours training per month for *all* of Career Staff, and 20 hours per month for Reserves and Volunteers. This critical training ensures that you will always receive professional service from your well trained and experienced IFPD Staff.

Crews train daily at Station 621 and on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 10:00 - sometimes longer. Because of our unique geographical position here in Idyllwild, we place great emphasis on wildland and Urban Interface Training.

The IFPD has fostered and maintains a strong relationship with the United States Forest Service (USFS), specifically the San Bernardino National Forest personnel. I, myself, provide instruction at the USFS Training center in San Bernardino which then allows IFPD to send our personnel through that training program at a reduced fee, many times free of charge.

We **Thank You** for the opportunity to serve and look forward to meeting and exceeding your needs and expectations.



In between March storms, Capt **Alan Lott** (on ladder) cleans leaves & pine needles from IFPD station roof & gutters. Firefighter **Dane Smith** serves as his safety watch.