

## **HISTORY: Lakehead Volunteer Fire Company 54**

- 1973** Steve Ramie family donates property on Mammoth Drive to build a new fire station in Lakehead, CA
- 1973** Lakehead citizens build and charter their first independent volunteer fire department named **“Shasta Lake Volunteer Fire Department”**

The first volunteers numbered 30 and responded to 100 calls the first year. Fire engines were borrowed from the U.S. Forest Service annually from September through May.



As funds were donated, engines and other equipment were purchased by the community. By the early 1990's, the number of volunteers began to dwindle, but the number of calls increased.

- 1990** Fifteen volunteer firefighters covered on average of 300 calls per year

**Early  
1990's**

**OSHA and other regulating agencies significantly increased the requirements for volunteer responders to equal that of paid firefighters. Numbers of volunteers living in Lakehead continued to decrease. Shasta County Fire Department assumed the administration of Lakehead's volunteer unit.**

**Central Valley, the town south of Lakehead filed to change their town name from Central Valley to Shasta Lake City. Their volunteer company was obligated to follow suit and change their name to "Shasta Lake Fire Protection District." As a consequence of these actions, Lakehead could not keep "Shasta Lake" in their company's name and became known as:**

**Lakehead Volunteer Fire Company 54 (LVFC 54)**

**2005**

**Six Lakehead volunteer firefighters with 300+ calls per year**



**2008**

**Lakehead public school grades K-8 is CLOSED by the Gateway School District. Younger families with school-age children began to move away from Lakehead. More retired couples began to relocate to become permanent residents or to buy a vacation home in Lakehead.**



**2010 - Older retired residents begin to move away in larger numbers. Houses are hard to sell for their true value and two dynamic trends begin to change Lakehead dramatically:**

**1. Early 2018, The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation returns to Lakehead for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 40 years to again announce that Shasta Dam will be raised 18.5 additional feet, thus necessitating removal of lake-shore residences and some resorts and recreational campgrounds. Property values plummet, especially the larger, more expensive homes along the lake shore.**

**2. As more older retirees move out and cannot sell their residences for a true value, out-of-the-area investors begin to “buy-up” choice properties for cash sales and open a huge vacation rental trade that significantly increases the numbers of visitors to Lakehead during the season – Memorial Day through Labor Day. These out-of-the area investors and owners of second homes are not vested in the community...nor the concept of “**Volunteerism**.” They don’t understand there is a lack of manpower to answer medical and fire emergencies.**

**2017 Lakehead Volunteer Fire Company 54 **CLOSES** when the last volunteer retires.**

**By late 2017, **one** new trained volunteer firefighter moves to Lakehead and re-opens Lakehead Volunteer Fire Company 54.**



*Thank you, Rick, for volunteering!*



**2018** A volunteer board of directors continue to hold fundraisers for recruitment and training.



**2019** Lakehead's Volunteer Fire Company 54 board and one volunteer firefighter learn that the Shasta County Fire Department “may” develop a new program that could provide paid firefighters on 12-hour shifts to fire companies that are struggling to find and train volunteers.

Could Lakehead be considered for this new program?

YES...but,

**ONLY if new construction can add sleeping, kitchen and bath facilities for over-night firefighters.**

Board members retained an architect to draw plans, then presented the plans at a barbecue event and the fall Lakehead Community Safety and Watch meeting, finalized plans, purchased a Shasta County building permit, obtained bids from contractors and sent out letters to Lakehead property owners asking for donations.

**A Remodel Project is “Born”**

**January 2020** Local contributions grow to \$20,607.00 – enough to pay for all the initial costs: architectural fees, energy calc fees, building permit and mailing



February 2020 The LVFC 54 board initiates a relationship with **Community Foundation** in Redding, CA. who specialize in helping groups locate funding for special civic projects, such as Lakehead's Volunteer Fire Company 54 **Remodel Project**, that will benefit and improve the safety and health of Shasta County residents.

