

iver's license. There is a background check and a 40-hour training session. You volunteer 3½ days a month.

We recently purchased rain gear for our volunteers. We have 16 sets of varying sizes. The cost for these was \$2,056. If you cannot volunteer, we appreciate any donations to help offset this expense.

We worked 1,147 hours in November. Our year-to-date total for 2011 is now 10,345! Since we started in 1994, we have volunteered 165,767 hours! We need your support—whether you volunteer or make a donation. Please contact John Sunde, RSVP administrator, at 538-3156 or [jsunde@pd.sandiego.gov] for more information.

Pat Clark, RSVP Board Member

Speed Limit Won't Be Raised

Recently the city did a routine speed study on Sunset Ridge Drive. The study resulted in the recommendation by city



Resolutions to Keep Your Family Safe

Happy New Year from the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council's (SRFSC) 11-member board of directors. We have some suggestions for New Year's resolutions that may save lives and homes.

1. We will check our homeowners insurance. For questions, go to [www.uphelp.org]. United Policyholders is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is an information resource and voice for insurance policyholders. They are dedicated to help the public acquire adequate insurance and deal with insurance companies when filing claims. UP's contribution to the recovery of wildfire victims in Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, and

elsewhere in San Diego County have been heroic. Their services are free.

2. We will check our fire extinguishers. An extinguisher for each floor is recommended. If you have a rechargeable unit that needs servicing, you can recharge or replace it. Recharging can be a hassle. New ABC-rated single-use extinguishers are inexpensive, easy to use, lightweight, and guaranteed for six to 10 years. They're available at your favorite home supply store.

3. We will check our smoke alarms. It's recommended you replace batteries every six months. Most smoke alarms will chirp when the battery is low. The problem is that half the alarms in urban areas such as ours have dead batteries. In August we reported that the Burn Institute has a new project to equip homes of seniors with high-tech smoke alarms at no cost. Seventy-five percent of seniors who die in house fires do not have a working smoke alarm. For residents 55 or older who own their home, the Burn

Institute will install new alarms and inspect and replace batteries in existing units. Strobe light smoke alarms for the hearing impaired are available. As of Dec. 1, 109 systems have been installed in Scripps Ranch. You can take advantage of this offer by calling the Burn Institute at 541-2277, ext. 13.

To reach the SRFSC, please email us at [info@SRFireSafeCouncil.org] or call us at 945-6303. We wish you all a happy and safe new year.