



City of Dixon Fire Department

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Contact: Aaron McAlister, Fire Chief, 707-678-7060

VANCE “SPARKY” MASON RETIRES AFTER 48 YEARS IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Dixon, CA – Dixon Fire Engineer Vance “Sparky” Mason will be retiring from service on December 18th, after 48 years in the fire service.

Sparky started his career in 1968, while still in high school, as a Junior Firefighter with the Cordelia Fire Protection District, under the command of Chief Al Guyan. He stayed with Cordelia until 1970, when he moved into town.

When Sparky moved into town, he volunteered with Suisun Fire Protection District, from 1970 until approximately 1978.

In 1978, Sparky moved to the Allendale area of the Dixon Fire Protection District, and began volunteering with what was then known as the Allendale Fire Department. Sparky started with Allendale as a Fire Captain, and was eventually promoted to a Battalion Chief. He stayed with Allendale until it was eventually absorbed by the Dixon Fire Department in approximately 1992, at which time Sparky was hired by the City of Dixon as a temporary part-time Firefighter. In December 1993, Sparky became a permanent part-time Fire Engineer, and in December 1997, Sparky’s position became a permanent full-time Fire Engineer.

During Sparky’s career, he has seen many incidents, as well as countless changes to the fire service. When asked about some of his most memorable events, he stated that his ‘career fire’, most eventful in his career, would have been the Dixon Lumber Yard fire in June 1999.

Some other events Sparky noted include; the Dixon Auction yard fire, a very large hazardous materials incident at TSI in Dixon, and the Florin Tallow plant fire in Dixon.

Sparky remembers going on a State of California Civil Defense (CD) incident to the Los Angeles area in 1970. These were the precursor to the current State Mutual Aid System or CalOES incidents. He also says the most scared he was on an incident was when he was on a Suisun Fire District fire on Twin Sisters when his crew was 'burned over' on an incident.

"Vance has enjoyed an exceptional career in Solano County. His leadership and mentorship has been shared with the next generation of firefighters and will shine through for years to come. Vance has always been a pillar of strength for our organization. His commitment is second to none and his love for the fire service is evident in his work", said Fire Chief Aaron McAlister.

Sparky has spent the majority of his life in Solano County and is well known throughout the County. He has dedicated himself to the Fire Service, and for that we are eternally grateful. Sparky is a valued and trusted member of the Dixon Fire Department family, through ups and downs, he has been here. He will be greatly missed!

We wish Sparky a very Happy Retirement with many years of enjoyment!

####

**Media Note:

Vance Mason will be recognized at an open house on Friday December 18th 2015 at the Dixon Fire Department, 205 Ford Way in Dixon CA. The open house is 9am to 11am. While the open house is only open city staff, friends and family, it is an opportunity for the media to meet with Vance and to have a photo opportunity for his "last ride" home in the fire apparatus. The "last ride" will depart at 11:30 am from the FD.