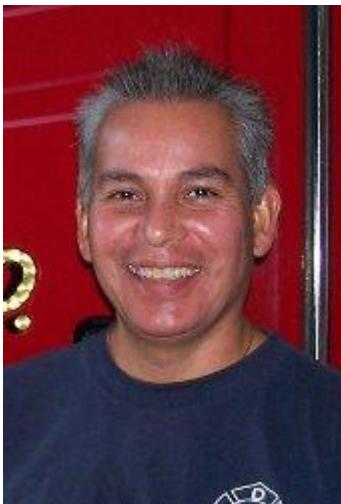


# LPVFR Profile - Jose Cruz

Jeff Powell



This month's introduction is slightly bittersweet. Jose Cruz has been a seasonal firefighter with Cal Fire, working in our area for 17 years. Two years ago he joined LPVFR in the off season, but this year things are changing and Jose won't be responding with the volunteers anymore.

Jose's experience with Cal Fire was a great addition to the team. As a paid fire fighter Jose gets to a lot of calls and makes regular use of his fire fighting and EMT skills. That experience helped us all get things done safely and effectively.

Jose has lived in the Loma Prieta area for five years, and clearly cares about the community. In fact, staying in touch with the Loma Prieta area was the biggest reason he joined LPVFR. Things change, however, and Jose and his future wife Marina have plans to move nearer to her employer.

All is not lost, however, since Jose will still be working in our area regularly during the fire season. He's often at Burrell fire station and we regularly work the same calls, so we'll still see him regularly.

As with most experienced fire fighters, Jose has a few stories. His current favorites are about rescuing cats. Yes, we do get these calls on occasion, and Jose has been there. Once he helped rescue a cat from 30 feet up a tree. Later, he pulled a cat out of a chimney using PVC pipe and rope. Neither cat was injured in the process.

When he's not working Jose can be found participating in a number of hobbies, including racquetball, fishing, backpacking, and mountain biking.

The LPVFR volunteers wish Jose & Marina much happiness in their new home, thank him for his service with the department, and look forward to working with him again this spring when he's back on duty at Burrell station. Best of luck, Jose!