

LPVFR Profile - Robert Morrish

Robert Morrish



This month's firefighter profile focuses on Robert Morrish, one of several department members who joined after the Loma Prieta wildfire, which burned more than 4,000 acres in May 2008. "I'd been thinking of volunteering with the department before then," says Robert, "but that fire really helped spur me to finally take the plunge."

Asked how long he's lived in the Summit area, Robert reveals that he moved here the day of the Loma Prieta earthquake -- October 17, 1991. "We were moving here from the Los Angeles area. The moving company was loading up the truck and we were watching the World Series until it was time to load the television, too. When the earthquake happened, the movers -- who were from Santa Cruz -- got very anxious because they couldn't reach anyone

back home on the phone."

Robert didn't realize the true nature of what he was moving into -- a full-fledged Federal Disaster Area -- until a day or two later. Once he did arrive in the Summit area, "seeing the assistance provided by emergency responders, and the resilient community spirit, was something that I'll never forget. That experience stuck with me and helped influence me to eventually join the department."

As for his day job, Robert qualifies as a true Silicon Valley veteran, having worked for technology companies such as Symantec, Adobe, Apple, and (most recently) PayPal, as well as a startup or two along the way. Although his full-time work has sometimes hindered his ability to volunteer as he'd like, he has been able to respond to nearly a hundred calls to date. When asked to cite a favorite call, Robert mentions a fire at a mountain winery: "thankfully, it wound up being not that big of a fire -- but it was my first structure fire, so it certainly got my adrenaline pumping."

After living for several years on Redwood Lodge Road, Robert is now one of the few department members residing on the west side of Highway 17, off Hutchinson Road. In his free time, Robert enjoys the outdoors, tinkering with technology and gadgets, working out and traveling, with Venice, Italy and the Mohonk resort in New York's Catskill Mountains ranking as two favorite places.

As with virtually all department members, Robert cites support from his family as vital to his ability to volunteer. "My wife, Kaya, has always been extremely supportive of my volunteering as

a firefighter. We have four dogs, two horses and a cat, so when I'm off responding, she's in charge of the whole menagerie. And she's also herself become a member of CERT -- the Community Emergency Response Team.

“Speaking of which,” adds Robert “CERT is a great resource for the community, and if anyone reading this is interested in joining, email cert@lomaprietfire.org for details.”