



NOVATO FIRE DISTRICT



Media Release – October 8, 2018

**Contact: Fire Chief Bill Tyler
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Novato, CA – Novato Fire District is proud to announce the promotion of Lori Jessell to the rank of Battalion Chief – Fire Marshal, effective October 16, 2018. Chief Jessell is the first female Battalion Chief-Fire Marshal in the 92 year history of the Novato Fire Protection District. Lori has been Acting Fire Marshal since January of 2018.

Lori began her career in the fire service as a Firefighter with Cal Fire in 1994, after completing her degree with honors in Fire Technology from Sierra College. Chief Jessell was hired by Novato Fire as a fire inspector in 2002. She promoted to Captain – Deputy Fire Marshal in 2013. Chief Jessell is a member of the California Conference of Arson Investigators; Northern Californian Fire Prevention Officers; Past President of the Marin County Fire Prevention Officers; and current team leader of the Marin County Fire Investigation Team.

Chief Jessell is an instructor at College of Marin’s Indian Valley Campus for the Emergency Medical Responder/First Responder Course, which is the precursor to EMT. From 2012 – 2017, she was the Coordinator of College of Marin’s Fire Technology Program. Lori is a certified Fire Marshal from the California State Fire Marshal’s State Fire Training Program and has completed a wide array of certifications over the years, including Fire Officer, Public Education Officer, Plans Examiner, and Fire Investigator II; is a certified Code Inspector; and has completed four courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Additionally, Lori has been involved in many District and Novato Fire Foundation activities, including Fire Squirts Camp, Steven Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament, NFD Open House, and Community CPR Instructor.

Lori was recently married to her husband Ian, and has two adult children – Megan and Nathan. When she is not working or teaching, Lori enjoys photography, traveling, riding motorcycles, and spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Novato Fire District is an independent Special District providing all risk fire, rescue, emergency medical paramedic service and risk reduction to the City of Novato and the county communities of Bel Marin Keys, Loma Verde, Black Point, Green Point, Wildhorse and Indian Valleys. The Fire District serves a community of nearly 63,000 residents and responds to over 5,000 incidents annually. An independently elected Board of Directors provides policy and budget direction to the Fire Chief and 86 full-time employees.