



El Dorado County Fire Protection District

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Monday, January 13, 2020

Date/Time of Occurrence: January 13, 2020 5:00 p.m.

Nature of Occurrence: Firefighters Build Little Free Library for Community

Location: 4429 Pleasant Valley Rd, Placerville, CA 95667

Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/n9r4zGinkbdT1Jqp7>

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Placerville, CA, January 13, 2020 – El Dorado County Fire Protection District Firefighters at Station 19 put the finishing touches on a community book exchange late Monday afternoon. This “Little Free Library” will provide free honor-system access to books in the Pleasant Valley community. Firefighters planned, proposed and constructed this project as part of a shift professional development opportunity.

Little Free Libraries are scattered throughout El Dorado County and the rest of the world; seeking to inspire reading and foster community spirit at the same time. The Little Free Library non-profit organization hosts interactive maps of libraries similar to the one at Station 19 and provides people with creative ideas on how to successfully bring these “take-a-book, leave-a-book” projects to their neighborhood or community. Over 90,000 libraries have been constructed to date.

For the Pleasant Valley community, access to a library is an over 20 minute drive. Little Free Libraries such as these can help to encourage a love of reading where books are scarce. “We found that the Pleasant Valley community did not have literature that was easily accessible and convenient. We intend that the Little Free Library will serve as a local outlet to help solve this problem,” says Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Bautista. Academically, children who grow up in homes without books are on average 3 years behind those that do have access to books, even when other factors are considered. “The Little Free Library is a great opportunity for people to enjoy reading and expand their knowledge at all ages,” says Firefighter/Paramedic Todd Pennington. Firefighters also hope that the Little Free Library will allow firefighters to meet their neighbors. “Along with the educational benefits and the ability to bring a community closer together,” Nick Aguilar, a Firefighter EMT adds, “the Little Free Library at Station 19 gives the residents the opportunity to interact with, and learn about the firefighters serving our community.”

Firefighters invite neighbors to come by and use the Little Free Library at any time. “We hope to provide a safe place to find your next reading adventure,” says Fire Captain Jacob Poganski. “I am very proud of this project and what my crew was able to put together. They eagerly accepted the challenge and saw it through to completion. It will serve as a great resource in our tight-knit Pleasant Valley community.” Firefighters largely used reclaimed and remnant materials to build the structure. Since the library is new, books are greatly needed! Local residents are encouraged to bring books in good condition and share them using Station 19’s Little Free Library. Children’s books are especially encouraged. Station 19 is located in Pleasant Valley at 4429 Pleasant Valley Rd.

Firefighters are planning a special story-hour gathering at Station 19 to share the Little Free Library with the community. Firefighters invite children and adults alike to come listen to a story, see the Little Free Library and even tour the fire engine on Saturday, January 25 from 1-2 p.m. Please bring a book to share!

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District provides fire and EMS services in the communities of Placerville, Shingle Springs, Pollock Pines, Camino, Pleasant Valley, Cool, Coloma, Lotus, Pilot Hill, Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Strawberry, and Kyburz.



Pictured left to right: Firefighter/EMT Nick Aguilar, Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Bautista and Firefighter/Paramedic Todd Pennington with Pleasant Valley Station 19's Little Free Library.

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