

History

Fire Station 56, Malibu

A lawsuit was filed against the County after a developer was denied the right to build in the Yerba Buena area, due to the lack of fire protection in the area. This caused the Board of Supervisors to direct the Fire Chief to place a fire station in the area at once.

On July 1, 1968 a small apartment at Camp Joan Meier was rented on Ellice Street and one firefighter from station 53 or 51's crew was assigned each shift to staff the station. A WWII surplus 1942 GMC engine with a front mount 500 GPM pump & 500 gallon tank was the first engine.

At first the firefighter even had to share the apartment with the camp's caretaker. The station remained one firefighter with a half dozen volunteers until the early 1970s when a second firefighter was assigned.

When the GMC engine was replaced with a larger engine, it would not fit in the apartment garage. They had to park the engine outside in the weather, covered with a tarp for a number of years.

A larger garage was built beside the apartment in the early 1990s. This provided an engine room for the engine and storage for equipment.

A new fire station 56 was built in 2008 off Pacific Coast Highway below and east of the first station.



Ventura County's first Malibu fire station, 1968 to 2008.