

New fire chief for Aptos/La Selva

APTOS — Aptos/La Selva Fire Chief Chuck Mornard has resigned to become head of the fire department in the city of Folsom.

His resignation, which was accepted Monday morning by the department's board of directors, is effective March 16.

Deputy Chief Philip Scofield, 46, has been named to take over the top post on that date, announced the board. He will serve as acting chief until then.

Scofield began his firefighting career as a volunteer in Aptos.

"I'm gratified and honored to have gotten our board's nod and that they acted so quickly," Scofield said. "Our

goal is to have a smooth and non-disruptive transition. ... It's an honor to take over the helm."

Santa Cruz County native Scofield is a career firefighter with the department. He served as a volunteer for two years before becoming a permanent firefighter with the former Aptos department in 1971.

He will meet with the board Thursday to discuss a new contract.

Scofield became the first paramedic in the department in 1978. He has served as a captain, battalion chief, division chief and ultimately deputy fire chief in 1991.

The Aptos and La Selva departments merged in 1985.

Scofield is a participant in a four-year executive fire officer program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland, where he goes for training two weeks each year.

He served on the Soquel School District Board of Trustees for six years and was president one year.

Mornard, 43, leaves to take over a department that serves about twice the population of the Aptos/La Selva district, which has 20,000 people living within its boundaries.

"He is going far in this world," said board President Don Griffin. "This is a step up for him."

The Folsom department has 50 employees and four stations with another being planned. Aptos/La Selva has 40 employees and three stations.

Mornard said he had not been looking for a new job, but was recruited by Folsom.

A graduate of Sacramento State University, he is familiar with the region.

His new salary and benefits will pay in the mid-\$80,000 range, which is roughly \$6,000 more than his current

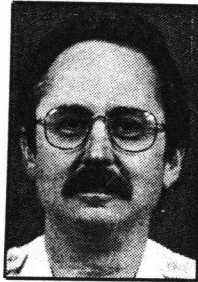
compensation package.

Mornard joined the department in 1978 when he was hired as a temporary firefighter. He became a permanent firefighter in 1980 and was promoted to captain, battalion chief and ultimately fire chief in 1990.

During his term as chief, the department improved its fire insurance rating, which resulted in homeowners in the area receiving better insurance rates.

The department also established a fire prevention bureau and installed more than 250 new fire hydrants in the last five years.

Mornard was also active in bringing together several fire agencies in the county to look at the possibility of a merger. He recently has been pursuing a countywide study to look the possibility of the fire agencies providing paramedic service.



Scofield