



Chuck Mornard

# Aptos chief picked

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**APTOS** — Acting Aptos/La Selva Beach Fire District Chief Chuck Mornard has been named chief of the 33-firefighter district.

Mornard, 38, succeeds former chief Chuck Streeter. Streeter was paid \$25,000 earlier this month to resign by the Fire Board after a dispute over buying firefighting equipment without board approval or competitive bids.

Mornard, who has been with the district 11 years, has been acting chief since Streeter was placed on administrative leave on Jan. 23. His promotion from battalion chief in charge of operations is retroactive to March 1. His starting salary will be \$59,880 a year.

On Friday, Mornard called the appointment a "dream come true," saying, "It came a lot quicker than I ever anticipated."

He is the first chief since 1970 to have worked his way up through the ranks. Mornard acknowledged that the problems between the Fire Board and former chief Streeter probably influenced the decision to promote from within.

Fire Board President Raymond Garcia noted, "In my opinion, we could not find anyone more qualified than Chief Mornard no matter how far we searched. We feel he is outstandingly qualified and is of proven quality."

"We need to get on with the business of the district," Garcia added. "And, we can do that now that we have a permanent chief."

Mornard cited numerous goals for the district, including broadening the fire prevention program, installing hydrants, a comprehensive employee performance evaluation program and a standard operations manual.

In conjunction with Mornard's appointment, several other changes were also made by the Fire Board. Battalion Chief in Training Phil Scofield will become battalion chief in charge of operations. Capt. Greg Joseph replaces Scofield, while firefighter Greg Hansen becomes acting captain.

Mornard is married and has two sons. He lives in Day Valley, and has lived in Santa Cruz County since 1958. He graduated from San Lorenzo Valley High School, received an associate's degree in fire science from Cabrillo College, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Sacramento State University and is now finishing work on a master's degree in public administration at San Jose State University.

He started with the Aptos district in September 1978, and has served as a firefighter, captain, administrative captain, battalion chief in charge of operations, and acting chief.