

Aptos Asst. Fire Chief Selected

The new assistant fire chief for the Aptos Fire Protection District is Nick Baumgartner, currently assistant fire chief at the Live Oak Fire Protection District.

The choice out of 29 applicants was made this morning by the district's board of directors, Chief Richard Chinn announced. Testing for the position was held Saturday.

Baumgartner served 21 years as the task force commander for the Los Angeles City Fire Department before coming to Live Oak in February 1975 to serve as battalion chief and training officer. He was promoted to assistant chief at Live Oak in June.

Chinn said that Baumgartner was the final choice because of his experience. The Aptos department has not had an assistant chief since 1971 when the last one retired, Chinn added.

The district needs an assistant chief because of the workload and the district's insurance rating, Chinn explained. The ISO rating goes up, thus costing building owners more for fire insurance, when a department lacks an assistant chief, Chinn said.

Baumgartner will begin his \$1,650 a month job on Jan. 10.