Al Forbes is Aptos chief

Al Forbes

APTOS — Al Forbes has been named Aptos fire chief by district directors.

Forbes, who joined the district as assistant chief in April 1981, succeeds Nick Baumgartner, who retired on medical disability. Baumgartner had been chief since 1978.

Before joining Aptos Fire, Forbes was assistant chief in Monterey, where his primary duties were fire prevention and investigation.

Board Chairman Dick Duchscher said Forbes was hired with the board's intent he would eventually succeed Baumgartner upon the chief's retirement.

Forbes' appointment, Duchscher noted, will maintain "continuity."

Aptos Fire District operates stations on Soquel Drive in Aptos and Bonita Drive in Rio del Mar and has 21 paid firefighters and paramedics.

Baumgartner, 53, had been on medical leave of absence since Feb. 4 and announced his retirement in April.

He joined Aptos Fire as assistant chief in 1977 and became chief in 1978 when Chief Dick Chinn retired. Before joining Aptos, Baumgartner served three years as assistant chief of the Live Oak Fire Department and 22½ years as a firefighter and captain with the Los Angeles City Fire Department.