



NEWS RELEASE

## Yocha Dehe Leaders and Community Members Recognize Dedication and Service of Yocha Dehe Fire Dept.

**Brooks, CA (April 7, 2016)** – The Yocha Dehe Tribal Council, tribal citizens, and leaders and guests from around the region gathered today at the Fire Station in Brooks for the Seventh Annual Recognition Luncheon to celebrate the service of the Yocha Dehe Fire Department (YDFD).

Yocha Dehe Tribal Secretary and Fire Commission Chairman James Kinter told the firefighters, “We are here to honor all of you for your hard work, commitment, loyalty and professionalism. Each and every day, you go above and beyond to keep us safe, dedicating your lives to the protection of life and property.”

Secretary Kinter also thanked the regional fire departments with which YDFD works closely on an ongoing basis. “We greatly appreciate and value these professional partnerships,” he said. “We cannot do it without you.”

Today’s luncheon featured the presentation of YDFD’s annual awards. Fire Chief Gary Fredericksen presented this year’s Chuck Garton Leadership Award to Captain Paul Brewer. Firefighter/Paramedic Tadashi Matsuoka was named Firefighter of the Year. Both awards are determined by a vote of the firefighters.

The event also recognized YDFD’s important achievements for 2015, including its attainment of accreditation for the second time by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). YDFD is the only tribal department to earn this accreditation.

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*Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is an independent, self-governed nation that supports our citizens and the Capay Valley, California community by strengthening our culture, stewarding our land and creating economic independence for future generations. ([www.yochadehe.org](http://www.yochadehe.org))*

*Yocha Dehe Fire Department (YDFD) provides full service fire and life safety response for its local community and beyond. It is the only internationally accredited tribal fire department in the world. The department has 32 uniformed and three administrative employees and a full complement of equipment. In addition to fire suppression and emergency medical services, YDFD performs technical rescues, including swift-water, trench, confined-space, low-angle, vehicle extrication and specialized search and rescue. ([www.yochadehe.org/tribal-government/yocha-dehe-fire-department](http://www.yochadehe.org/tribal-government/yocha-dehe-fire-department))*

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