



City of Modesto services available to city residents only.
 VISIT THE CITY OF MODESTO WEBSITE AT:
www.modestogov.com

City Crews to Collect Holiday Trees for Recycling



City of Modesto pruned refuse crews will begin picking up holiday trees in January as part of the normal pruned refuse collection. Pick up for residents with Street Green Waste Collection begins Monday, January 5, 2004. Pickup for residents with Alley Green Waste Collection starts Monday, January 19, 2004. Trees may also be cut up and placed in your green toter to be picked up with your normal weekly collection.

Collected trees are recycled at the city's co-compost facility. Please follow the following simple steps to ensure your tree is picked up

in a timely manner:

1. Remove all tree stands, rods and tinsel. Trees cannot be picked up by City crews if these items have not been removed.
2. Cut trees in half if they are more than six (6') feet tall.
3. Place trees curbside or in the alley to be collected with your regular green waste pickup or in your green toter.

Trees with flocking, paint or fireproofing cannot be composted and will not be collected by city crews. Flocked, painted or fireproofed trees must be disposed of

through your garbage collection company. Contact Gilton Solid Waste at 527-3781, Modesto Disposal/Waste Management at 538-2210 or Bertolotti Disposal at 537-8000.

Questions should be referred to the City of Modesto Solid Waste Management Office at 577-5494.

For more information on holiday tree collection or the city's pruned refuse/green waste program, visit the City's website at www.modestogov.com, or contact the Community Forestry Division at 342-2249.

Did You Know...?

- It is a violation to store your garbage cans in the street or on the sidewalk. The City of Modesto Municipal Code allows for garbage cans to be placed in the street the evening before collection day and returned to the property after it has been serviced. For the safety and beautification of the community, it is important that our streets and sidewalks remain clear of obstructions.
- If your garbage or green waste container is in need of repair, please contact your garbage company.
- If your garbage/green waste container is stolen, please contact the Police Department at 572-9500 and report the container as stolen. Then contact your garbage company with the Police Report Case Number, and they will deliver you another container.

For more information about these services, contact the City of Modesto Solid Waste Management Office at 577-5494.

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City Pride is brought to you by the Modesto City Council: Mayor Carmen Sabatino, Vice Mayor Bruce Frohman, Councilmember Bill Conrad, Councilmember Tim Fisher, Councilmember Denny Jackman, Councilmember Janice Keating and Councilmember Will O'Bryant.

Life of a Firefighter takes Courage, Dedication and Tenacity

The dispatch intercom overhead interrupts the silence of the night. The firefighters at Fire Station 1 are woken out of sleep in an instant. The sound is all too familiar. The crew sits up and listens as Dispatch reports the



David Paladini

crisis. They hear the words "Engine 21," and they rise out of bed. They hurry out of their room and down

the fire pole. A few seconds later they are buckled up and heading down the quiet streets with sirens loud and clear.

This situation is not unusual to the average firefighter here in Modesto. But when you talk about "the average firefighter," who are they? What are they thinking? How do they feel? What happens in the life of each individual firefighter?

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend the morning with a crew of firefighters from Fire Station 1. I learned that each crew consists of a firefighter, an engineer and a captain. The engineer is responsible for driving. The captain coordi-

nates with dispatch and is in charge of the crew throughout the incident. The firefighter sits in the rear, preparing to extinguish the fire or rescue any civilians, as needed. Fire Station 1 has two fire engines, a ladder truck, a grass fire vehicle and a water rescue boat.

Firefighter Brian Degiere, 25, explained to me that the shift of a firefighter is 24 hours long. That means from 7:00 in the morning until that time the next day, it is their duty to serve the people of Modesto.

When the fire crews are all present and accounted for, the firefighter's day can officially begin. Captain James Gunn explained to me that between 8:00 and 8:30AM, everyone sits down for the morning meeting. On Monday they hold a meeting on a private government channel that allows them to communicate with other stations within the city.

Around 9:00 the meeting draws to an end, and the normal day begins. But to a firefighter, what is a normal day? Of course, the first priority is putting out fires, saving lives and rescuing people from dangerous situations. Fortunately, these dangerous tasks



don't take up all of their time, and they do have some free time throughout the day. They can spend that free time doing a number of things. Said firefighter Brian Degiere, "There is always equipment to check, a project to do or a call to answer." On Monday, however, free time is quite limited. Monday is dedicated specifically to full apparatus checks on all the rigs. Brian told me that when you start a project, you should plan on it taking you quite a while. This is because if there is a call, you have to just drop your project and hop up on the truck.

A really important question to me was, "When do these firefighters eat?" The answer is, whenever they have time. Captain Gunn told me that the firefighters at Station 1 often bring in their own food. During the week, the cooking is everyone for themselves. However, on the weekend they rotate up through the ranks, and every once in a while the battalion chief might cook. Sometimes the food may burn, but hey, these guys can handle a little fire.

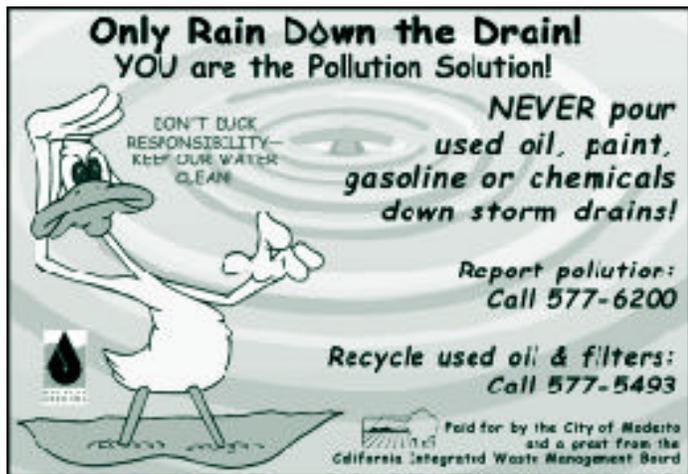
While the life of a firefighter seems pretty glamorous, it takes a lot for someone to get there. First off, you have to be

21 years old. Then you have to have a Fire 1 certification from a college or 15 credits of fire science from a college. Once you have completed those requirements, you must pass a written fire test, a medical physical and an agility test. Finally, you go through the Fire Chief's interview. If you successfully get through those requirements, that's when things start to heat up.

Engineer Robert Gonzales informed me that when a firefighter is fully dressed in their turnout gear (boots, coat, helmet etc.) and BA gear (compressed air tank, etc.), they are carrying as much as 100 pounds of extra weight. In addition, sometimes a firefighter may have to carry an injured or unconscious person out of a burning building. As you can tell, it is imperative for firefighters to be physically fit.

Being a firefighter requires a lot of dedication. They must be willing to put their own life in the line of fire to save the life of someone else.

When I asked him how he feels about this, firefighter Brian Degiere commented on his trust in his crew. He said, "To me, it really isn't that hard... I know that when I go into the fire my crew has got my back."



Time to Adjust Your Outdoor Watering Schedule



With the cooler weather, now is the time to adjust your outdoor watering schedules to take advantage of nature's own watering system.

The following are a few tips to consider:

- If you have an automatic sprinkler system, consider operating it manually during the winter months and watering only when your landscape appears to need it.
- Most lawns and landscaping can get by with once-a-week watering this time of

year. When you do water, do it for short periods of time to prevent runoff.

- Most trees are dormant during the winter, but evergreens will need a little watering every two weeks.
- Watch the weather forecast. if it is going to rain, turn your sprinklers off and let nature take its course! And don't forget to clean out your clogged roof drains, which could cause your roof to fall!

Thank you for all your efforts in conserving water, a limited and valuable resource!

Garden Refuse Collection Schedule

The following calendar provides you with the specific dates when your pruned refuse may be placed out for collection.

Remember, it takes approximately two weeks following these dates for crews to pick up in your collection area. Pruned refuse is only collected once a month.

	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
S T R E E T S	LEAVES ONLY!	1/2	1/30	2/27	4/2	4/30
	Garden refuse resumes	1/3	1/31	2/28	4/3	5/1
	January '04	1/4	2/1	2/29	4/4	5/2
	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May
A L L E Y S	LEAVES ONLY!	1/16	2/13	3/12	4/16	5/14
	Garden refuse resumes	1/17	2/14	3/13	4/17	5/15
	January '04	1/18	2/15	3/14	4/18	5/16

What You Can Do with Your Food Scraps

City of Modesto residents can recycle their food scraps. Just scrape that plate or clean the 'fridge and put the scraps in your green yard waste container! Your yard waste and food scraps are collected weekly and taken to the city's compost facility where it is turned into compost.

Please follow these guidelines when placing your items in the green can.

- Yard Waste: grass, leaves, brush, plant clippings, tree limbs less than 4 ft. long and/or 6 inches in diameter.
- Paper Waste: coffee filters, tea bags, napkins, paper towels, paper plates (no styrofoam and/or plastic coated).

- Food Waste: table scraps; vegetable and fruit peelings; meat, bones, fish and egg shells; solid dairy products; coffee grounds; bread and toast. Note: Food waste may be wrapped in paper bags or newspaper.



Please...no household garbage, liquids, food containers or packaging, foil, plastics of any kind, diapers, kitty litter, animal feces, recyclables, dirt or rocks. Your garbage company can

provide you with a small kitchen container for transporting your food waste to your green yard waste container.

For more information, contact the Solid Waste office at 577-5494.



Free! City of Modesto Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Recycling Program

CRT's are found in TV's and computer monitors and contain large amounts of lead and other hazardous materials. They cannot be put in the garbage. Modesto residents may recycle up to two CRT's per calendar year for free. Help keep our community clean and safe—recycle properly!

Here's How:

- 1) Call your garbage company and request a CRT coupon.
- 2) Redeem the coupon with your CRT's at your garbage company.

- Waste Management 538-2210
- Gilton Solid Waste 527-3781
- Bertolotti Disposal 537-8000



Permits Available at MPD

The Modesto Police Department regulates and issues permits for specific types of events and various employment permits.

Permit applications for street closures, sound amplification, parades, searchlights, RV temporary parking, carnivals and daily dances are available at the Modesto Police Department, 600 10th Street, Modesto, or online at www.modestogov.com.

Permit applications should be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the event and no later than two weeks prior to the event date. Street closures

may also include additional requirements.

The Modesto Police Department also regulates employment permits and licensing for bingo, massage therapy, fortune telling, taxi drivers, dance halls/bars, amusement machines and the adult entertainment business.

The Modesto Police Department has a permit brochure guide of the permits issued and individual permit requirements.

For further information, contact the Permit Division at 572-9679, or email: RodriguezL@modestopd.com.

Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule



Garbage collection will run one (1) day late due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Christmas

- If your regular collection day is Thurs. the 25th, your pickup will be Fri. the 26th.
- If your regular collection day is Fri. the 26th, your pickup will be Sat. the 27th.

New Year's

- If your regular collection day is Thurs. the 1st, your pickup will be Fri. the 2nd.
- If your regular collection day is Fri. the 2nd, your pickup will be Sat. the 3rd.

Bulky Item Collection Program Cut-Off Dates



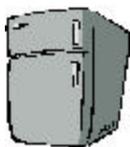
The last day to schedule an appointment to have your large items picked up in 2003 is nearing.

If you need to have any items picked up, you must schedule your appointment by December 12 in order to have your items picked up in 2003.

(All calls for appointments after December 12 will be scheduled for January 2004 and will count towards one of your appointments for that year.)

Please call your garbage company to schedule your appointment and find out about program restrictions.

- **Waste Management** 538-2210
- **Gilton Solid Waste** 527-3781
- **Bertolotti Disposal** 537-8000



Alcohol Permits for Parks Now on the Internet

On July 22, 2003, the City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of alcohol in city parks. The ordinance does, however, provide for an exception with prior approval of the City of Modesto through a permit process. Modesto's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department is administering the permit process; however, applications are available at several locations throughout the city during regular business hours, including the main Police station and area command offices, City Hall at the Mall, King-Kennedy Memorial Center, the Senior Citizens

Center and the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department office at Tenth Street Place, as well as online at: www.modestogov.com/public/forms. Applications may be faxed to 342-4705. Due to legal constraints, permits must be issued prior to events, and alcohol permits will not be issued on site.

Prior to adoption, the ordinance was presented at two public hearings of the City Council and at numerous committee meetings that were open to the public.

For specific permit location hours or more information, call 577-5344 or email: recreation@modestogov.com.



Available at these local nurseries:

Scenic Nursery
1313 Scenic Drive
Westurf
1612 Claus Road

Buy one regular priced flat of flowers and get one bag of Mo-Gro Magic FREE or Buy 2 bags at regular price and receive third bag FREE

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF PURCHASE
LIMIT 2 FLATS - BAGS PER COUPON OFFER EXPIRES 1/15/2004

Bulky Item Collection —by appointment only—



- For active, residential garbage service customers only (black and green garbage totes).
- For large household items, like furniture, appliances, toilets, etc.
- NO TV's, tires, auto parts, household garbage, hazardous waste or construction debris (wood, concrete, sheetrock, etc.)
- Place items out the evening before appointment or you may be subject to citation and fine.

Call your garbage company to schedule an appointment. Questions? Call the City of Modesto at 577-5494.