



### Safe Surrender Site

Recently the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Groveland Fire Department as a Safe Surrender Site. This means that parents or guardians can leave newborns they cannot care for with fire department personnel without fear of prosecution. The only other county safe surrender site is the Sonora Regional Medical Center.

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law was implemented in January of 2001, in response to the alarming number of abandoned baby deaths in California. The law is intended to encourage parents to safely surrender infants within 72 hours of the baby's birth rather than abandoning them. As of mid-year 2008 there have been 251 newborns surrendered to personnel at drop-off sites in California.

Groveland Fire Engineer Josh Scheib has been the moving force behind this project. He met with all the proper authorities, compiled the packets, and trained the fire department staff. He installed an emergency 911 phone outside the station and now, after Board approval, has added the Safe Surrender Site sign. Thank you to Josh for a job well done!

