



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 14, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

Field Operations

- In the midnight hours of April 29th, a significant fire occurred in a three story commercial building under renovation in Concord. This fire was in the triangle created by Clayton Road, East Street, and Sunset Avenue. The fire was only a few blocks from Fire Station 6 and crews reported seeing smoke and flames from the station. Upon Engine 6 (Concord) arrival the 24,000 square foot building had fire on all floors and significant roof involvement. Crews made a brief attempt to enter the structure but the amount of heat and smoke along with the risk of rapid fire spread and building collapse changed their strategy to a defensive posture. Fire crews set up large hose streams applying water from the ground and through aerial ladder streams utilizing the three ladder trucks on scene. An estimated 600,000 gallons of water was applied in the first two hours of operations to bring the fire under control.

There was no damage to surrounding structures and no injuries were reported to civilians. Streets in the area were closed for almost two days as building collapse was a risk and demolition work was required. The cause of the fire has not been determined.



- The drying and curing of the annual grasses prompted the District to increase the response levels to vegetation fires, effective May 15th. Vegetation fire responses will now receive multiple engines and other specialty resources for the duration of the peak fire season.

Training and Safety Division

- The annual pre-season wildland fire coordination meeting was held with all agencies and Cal-Fire in late April. This is an annual event to ensure all agencies responding to fires within the county are collaborating and communicating about operational readiness and response capabilities.
- The District is exploring options for a live burn for wildland training. Locations, feasibility, and logistics are being examined to determine if this can be accomplished within the time parameters and existing weather conditions.
- Multiple members of the District participated in the annual County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) drill. The District was responsible for filling the Operations Section of the EOC, as well as the Fire Branch of that section. These drills are important to practice skills not often used, and for establishing and strengthening relationships with other County departments and personnel who will need to work together to effectively manage EOC functions in the event of an EOC activation.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- Mid-May represents the final week of classroom instruction for our 12 paramedic students. The students will move into their clinical and ambulance internships.
- All of the Alliance ambulances have now been outfitted and equipped with the new powerload gurney systems. These systems save ambulance personnel from manually lifting the loaded gurney into the ambulance and use a power assisted system. This was a \$1Million investment by the District and we expect to minimize back strains and other associated injuries as a result of this new equipment.
- On May 8, Firefighter-Paramedic Brendan Cleary was awarded the California EMT of the Year by the State Emergency Medical Services Authority in a ceremony held in St. Helena. He is the sole recipient of this statewide award. He was nominated, and ultimately selected from a statewide list of candidates based on the following:
 - o Brendan, a dedicated paramedic and firefighter, has consistently demonstrated clinical excellence and exceptional compassion in critical situations.
 - o Notably, he provided comforting care to an 80% burn victim, praying with the patient at their request and facilitating a heartfelt message to their family, showcasing his human kindness.
 - o Brendan also exhibited quick thinking and clinical expertise in a complex case involving a 15-year-old with severe injuries, preventing further deterioration.

- o Additionally, he played a crucial role in the successful resuscitation of a newborn in cardiac arrest, ensuring a positive outcome without ischemic injuries.
 - o Brendan's commitment to continuous learning, genuine concern for each patient's well-being, and leadership qualities, coupled with his background as a proud Marine, make him a highly respected figure among his fellow firefighters and paramedics.
- Fire District EMS staff, hospital administrators, emergency ambulance program staff, and County EMS Agency representatives met on May 9 to kick-off the Nurse Navigation program design and implementation. The Nurse Navigation program is intended to reduce 911 emergency call volume by identifying those patients who do not require emergency ambulance transport or emergency room care and can be navigated to urgent care or other services with the assistance of a nurse and subsequent alternate transport assistance. While not widely used in California, the program is used in both large and small communities elsewhere in the nation, including Washington, D.C. and Seattle.
- The 50th Anniversary of EMS week is May 19th - 25th. This is a week to recognize and honor all who play a role in the delivery of critical medical services from the point of the 911 call to the scene of the emergency to the delivery of a patient to a hospital emergency department.

Special Operations

- Fire Trail maintenance, performed by our heavy equipment program, began in the eastern part of the county, including Marsh Creek and Morgan Territory. The trail maintenance moves west into the central portions of the county, and then into the far west areas of El Sobrante as the weeks progress into the late Spring and early Summer. The District uses our bulldozers and rents additional equipment to accomplish this annual program.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- Pile burning started on May 1 at the Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break. The piles are relatively small, averaging 4 feet by 6 feet in size, which allows our handcrew to safely burn them through mid-May. The majority of the vegetation has been chipped, although portions of the project are not accessible for a chipper and need to be burned.
- Wildfire prevention and preparedness Town Hall meetings started on May 7 in District 2 to discuss this year's fire season. They will continue throughout the month of May with one Town Hall meeting in each supervisorial district..
- Fire Inspector Ted Leach will be promoted to Fire Prevention Captain on May 13, filling the vacancy to supervise our Code Enforcement Unit.

- The deadline to comply with the District's weed abatement standards is June 3. Notices were sent out to residents at the beginning of May and signage is being posted along various roadways in impacted communities.

District Studies

- **ISO** - is the Insurance Services Office, an advisory organization many insurance providers use to help evaluate residential and commercial property fire hazard risks. The process of updating the District's ISO rating is underway. The update will consider the openings of new stations funded through Measure X, acquired through the East Contra Costa Fire annexation, and the contract for service with the City of Pinole. The project will take months to complete. Updates will be made as they become available.
- **Community Facility Districts (CFD) and Development Impact Fees (DIF)** - The District is maintaining existing CFDs and DIFs and is also in the early stages of updating them to ensure these programs keep pace with District costs related to mitigating the impact of community development and growth.
- **User Fees—Updating Fire Prevention Cost Recovery Fees** - The District is evaluating the existing fee schedules and plans to make recommendations to update them in July or August 2024.
- **Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover Study** - The District has a request for proposals (RFP) distributed, seeking consultants to complete a District-wide Risk Assessment and recommended Standards of Cover study. The risk assessment will measure the risks throughout the jurisdiction and the standards of cover will recommend the appropriate amount of firefighters, type and kind of apparatus and equipment, and support staff needed to manage the District's overall risk. It is anticipated this project will take up to 18 months to complete.
- **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)** - The District is participating in and collaborating with other county departments in updating the LHMP. Our current focus is educating communities served about the updated report and accepting public feedback and comments using social media and our scheduled town hall events.

City of Pinole Contract

- The contract for service with the City of Pinole is going well. March 1, 2024, marked the one-year mark for Station 74 being opened and the implementation of the contract. On May 11, 2024 the City of Pinole and the District will be hosting an open house to celebrate this milestone.

Administration Section Update

Support Services Division

- The District has taken possession of both of our new tractor drawn aerial ladder trucks. These \$2Million apparatus are expected to go in service at Fire Station 81 in Antioch and Fire Station 92 in Brentwood at the beginning of June. Small ceremonies to commemorate this investment in our communities are being planned for each station.
- The District has six new Type 1 fire engines that are being manufactured. District personnel will be completing a final inspection of them at Pierce Manufacturing, in Wisconsin, at the end of May. They will have various in-service dates throughout the summer as they are delivered to the District.
- Contractors have completed the installation of a new roof at Fire Station 10 in Concord. They have now started replacing the roof at Fire Station 5 in Pleasant Hill.
- Fire Station 85, Pittsburg: A new driveway is being installed that will allow Engine 85 to more safely access the fire station. Currently, when Engine 85 returns to the station, there is not a southbound turn lane for them to use to turn left into the station, exposing the engine and crew to being hit from behind as they wait to turn into the station. The District is in the process of installing a driveway to allow them to access the Station from the side street, through an adjacent District property.
- Fire Station 14, Martinez: The project to replace the concrete apparatus bay and front driveway is underway. Both Engine 14 and Truck 14 have been relocated to Fire Station 12 for the duration of this project. The District plans to restaff Fire Station 14 at the beginning of June.



Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 94, Brentwood: Design build teams have delivered presentations and responded to questions. We anticipate final selection in August. The final selected team will be responsible for taking the design through the Brentwood Planning Commission.

- Fire Station 90, Brentwood: Alternate sites have been identified. Staff is working with County Environmental and Real Estate to determine feasibility. Environmental review will be required. Staff is currently obtaining the required permission to conduct site testing.

Communications Division

- Two new Fire Dispatchers continue with their dispatch floor based training. Both are performing well in their training assignments. The district is currently conducting background investigations on two potential new Fire Dispatcher candidates to fill the last two remaining vacancies.
- The district will conduct interviews for one new GIS Analyst the second week of May. The district also finalized a contract with GeoComm to assist with increasing GIS needs and a full assessment of GIS projects district-wide.
- The Communications Division leadership team continues to work with COAR Architects and County Capital Projects on the pending remodel of the communication center and future communication division offices all located at 2010 Geary Road in Pleasant Hill. A tentative contractor has been selected via the County's bid process and the award of the project goes to the Board of Supervisors on May 14th. The district hopes to begin the remodel no later than July 1, 2024.
- The Information Technology team continues to work on several major projects, one of which is to provide for a stand-alone network that is supported 365 days a year 24 hours a day. The Information Technology team will be working with district and County DoIT leadership to review the system design, estimated costs and implementation plan.
- Work continues to secure a contract for a computer aided dispatch (CAD) rebuild and support from Central Square, our current CAD provider.

Public Information Office

- A new quarterly external community newsletter is being created to bring more awareness of things going on in the District to our residents.