



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

April 14, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

- **Working Structure Fires.** March was a busy month for structure fires. There were 7 residential fires and 3 commercial fires across the District. Fortunately, none resulted in fatalities. No significant firefighter injuries were reported.
- **Wildfire Preparation.** The District is preparing to begin our annual fire trail maintenance in April. This clearing of trails provides reliable access and firebreaks in our wildland areas. The process takes about 6 weeks, depending on weather and trail conditions.
- **Hand Crew Staffing.** 20 new crew members and 10 alternates were selected for this year's crew program. Training for the new crew members begins in April. Effective in July the District will be able to staff two 10-person hand crews each day with one being deployed from the Byron Wildfire Center and the other from the former Fire Station 12 in Martinez on Shell Avenue.
- **Lateral Academy Firefighters.** After completing their 8-week lateral firefighter academy and a round of orientation shifts, our 15 new firefighters were placed on line in fire stations at the end of March as part of minimum staffing. These personnel are replacements for recent retirees and other vacancies that occurred throughout the previous 12 months. We are fully staffed with 434 firefighters.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- **Ambulance Response Compliance.** March will mark our 9th consecutive month of response time compliance across all zones and priorities. We successfully navigated a mild flu season with periodic spikes in call volume that were offset with additional ambulances being deployed throughout the system to cope with the normally busy illness season.
- **Ambulance Patient Offload Times.** John Muir's November workshop has drastically reduced APOT times. It has been a game-changer in the central county zone for response times and ultimately patient outcomes. It shows that when a hospital decides to take APOT seriously, the turnaround can be quick

and impactful. Several East Bay hospitals have been reaching out to our EMS Division and John Muir Walnut Creek to ask about best practices. We continue to try to engage other receiving facilities in the county to assist them in meeting the County EMS Policy for the 20-minute patient offload requirement.

Training & Safety

- Engineer Train to Qualify (TTQ) Promotional Process. The promotional process for Fire Engineer concluded in the first week of April. 17 candidates successfully completed the three week process. Successful candidates will be promoted to Engineer at the conclusion of the Captains TTQ Promotional Process in May, as vacancies will be created from that process.



- Intentional Mass Casualty Incident (IMCI) Training. Quarter 2 training for the District is in progress and includes what used to be referred to as “active shooter” training. While we hope never to deploy to an incident of this nature, it is prudent to be prepared for such complex and demanding incidents.
- BART Training. Crews participated in a regional BART training for a person trapped under a train in the station. These types of trainings occur in the early morning hours when service is suspended and offer an opportunity to conduct realistic training in the BART stations, tunnels, or on overhead tracks.



Special Operations

Hazmat

- Organophosphate spill at County Agriculture Department. A shipment of pesticide ruptured in transit and was discovered upon receipt at the County Ag building on Bisso Lane. The delivery driver and two firefighters were transported with symptoms consistent with organophosphate exposure. All were evaluated and released with no treatment required. A pheromone additive was also present in the product, causing symptoms similar to those of organophosphates. Three separate areas were evaluated and made safe before the delivery truck and building were turned over to the respective owners for cleaning.
- EV Extinguishing Tool Train-the-Trainer. Two personnel will travel to Arizona at the end of April to attend the instructor course for the Cold Cut Cobra EV battery fire extinguishing tool. The purchase of this specialized equipment was approved by the board a few months ago and includes this training. The two members will receive the training and be capable of delivering training to additional members upon their return. We have taken possession of the two units and they will be placed into service after a training period for all District members.

Rescue

- High Angle Rescue Training with Phillips 66. As part of our commitment to building strong relationships with local industry, the Fire District's dedicated rescue companies have been training with their counterparts at Phillips 66 in March and April on high-angle rescue scenarios. This training benefits the District and the facility partner by maintaining competencies and building relationships that extend beyond the specific training.



Marine

- Boat Operator Training. Maintaining competency is a never-ending process in our special operations programs. Boat operator training has been ramped up this spring to maintain competency and skills for personnel tasked with operating our two fire boats and rescue boats with the busy summer on the delta approaching.
- Water Rescue 14 Motor Replacement. We will be replacing boat motors on WR14's inflatable boat equipment prior to the end of the fiscal year. These boats are the westernmost water-rescue boats, deployed from Fire Station 14 in Martinez.



Community Risk Reduction Section

Fire Prevention Bureau

- **Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Task Force.** The State established this task force to conduct a comprehensive review of existing laws and regulations related to fireworks, propose changes to enhance public safety, and develop a robust Fireworks Program enforcement plan. Assistant Chief Chris Bachman participated in this effort, representing the California Fire Chief's Fire Marshal's Section. The task force recently completed its final report.

At the local level, the recommendation is to update the District's citation ordinance, which is included on the April 14 board agenda. It should be noted that the District is limited in the fine amounts that can be imposed for violations. The task force report recommends amending state statute to increase the fine limit. If state regulations and statute are revised the District could increase the fine amounts in the future. The full task force report can be found on the Office of the State Fire Marshal's website:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-engineering-and-investigations/fireworks>

- **Fire Investigator Recruitment.** Interviews were conducted in late March to fill the remaining two vacancies for our shift Fire Investigators. Two candidates have been selected to proceed to the background investigation phase, with the goal of onboarding the new Fire Investigators by August.
- **Annual Weed Abatement Deadlines.** The spring weed abatement deadlines for compliance with District exterior hazard control requirements have been established as follows for 2026:
 - East County - May 12
 - Central County - June 1
 - West County - June 1

Legislation & Grants

- **Zone 0 and Home Hardening Regulations.** The State Board of Forestry agenda for April 14 & 15, 2026 does not appear to contain any items pertaining to this subject.

Administration Section Update

Support Services Division

- **Apparatus Shop Improvements.** The District Apparatus Shop recently completed significant exterior renovations, including the installation of new siding and a fresh coat of paint. As a critical hub for daily fleet operations, these upgrades ensure the facility's long-term structural integrity and continued operational readiness.
- **Hydration & Wellness Initiative.** In coordination with the District Health and Wellness Program, the Facilities Team has begun coordinating the installation of filtered water dispensers across all District sites. To support this rollout and reduce plastic waste, reusable water bottles are currently being distributed to all personnel.
- **Extractor Re-Programming.** All 34 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) extractors operated by the District are undergoing re-programming. This initiative ensures effective decontamination in accordance with NFPA Standards, current regulations, and industry best practices. The District is fortunate to have 34 extractors designed to remove contaminants from firefighting gear, extending the life of the PPE and protecting our firefighters from the effects of harmful chemicals that can be absorbed while wearing their equipment. Each extractor costs approximately \$20,000 for the unit, electrical system upgrades, and installation.
- **PFAS-Free Wear Test (AB 1181).** Our Supply team and the District PPE Committee have started working with vendors and selected members to begin a wear test for PFAS-free structural PPE to meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 1181. A diverse group of members has been selected to participate in the field test, which is slated to begin later this year. Following the evaluation period, the committee will submit a formal recommendation for future PFAS-free structural PPE specifications.

New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- **Fire Station 90 (Brentwood)** The Fire District is currently moving into the planning phase with the City of Brentwood to advance project design and permitting. The planning process is expected to take several months.
- **Fire Station 9 (Pacheco)** A Notice of Intent (NOI) to proceed has been issued by the District and County Public Works. The architectural firm tasked with the temporary station has scheduled a comprehensive site survey the first week of April at Buchanan Field.

- Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood) Vertical construction is progressing well; framing of the roof and walls has commenced. The project remains on schedule for completion in late 2026.
- Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communication Center (CCRFCC) (Pleasant Hill) The new communications center is in its final finishing touches. The “big move” is planned for mid to late June, 2026. This is a detailed process, as we need to continue providing critical dispatch services while we bring up the new dispatch center and take down the former center. Much planning and coordination have gone into this effort. A public ribbon-cutting ceremony will occur following the final move-in to the new center to celebrate this milestone.



Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs Transition

- Cal EPA notified the District their review of the application package should not delay a July 1, 2026 transition from the County to the Fire District. The draft Cal EPA CUPA programs application package was submitted to Cal EPA for their initial review in mid-February.
- Weekly planning meetings with staff from the District and County HazMat are continuing.

Upcoming Events

- Girls Empowerment Camp. The camp was increased in size from 50 to 75 participants for this year. The registration was full within the first few hours of opening the registration portal on April 1.