



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

November 5, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

Field Operations

Crews responded to 11 working residential structure fires, three working commercial or multi-family residential structure fires, and three significant vegetation fires in September. There were six working residential structure fires, five working commercial or multi-family structure fires, and four significant vegetation fires in October.

Significant Incidents

Vegetation/Residential Structure Fire, 330 Warren Way, Pittsburg, September 24

On the afternoon of September 24, crews responded to a residential structure fire located at 330 Warren Way in Pittsburg. Responding units reported smoke from a mile away and arrived to find one residence on Warren Way well involved. The fire was spreading to multiple homes to the rear of the involved structure due to the wind and accumulated flammable material. The fire took two alarms and 30 minutes to bring under control. Three homes and an outbuilding sustained damage.



3461 Monroe Ave, Lafayette, October 8

Contra Costa Fire and Moraga Orinda Fire units were dispatched to a reported residential structure fire after neighbors called 911, reporting flames from the roof of a home. Lafayette Engine 15 arrived and reported that the structure was well involved, and a second house was also on fire. A second alarm was called, and crews immediately pulled hose lines to protect the uninvolved structure and initiated fire attack on the involved homes. The homes are extremely close to each other and there is a creek to the rear of the houses, making access difficult. The home that was initially on fire had one occupant who was able to climb through a window before units responded and exited safely. The houses to the left and right were also occupied, and all occupants exited safely. The fire was under control in 45 minutes. The fire investigation concluded the most likely cause was the result of a BBQ used on a wood deck, earlier. There were no injuries.



Vegetation Fire, Highway 4 at Willow Pass Road, September 11

This 62 acre fire saw the first deployment of our contracted firefighting helicopter. The fire was running uphill, and with the wind, towards the top of the hill, and heading towards Bay Point. While fire engines, dozers, and hand crews attacked the flames from the ground, several aircraft, including the District's helicopter, made a number of water and fire retardant drops from the air, preventing the fire from endangering structures.

2518 Manchester Ave., San Pablo, October 20

Commercial structure fire in a two-story apartment building. The fire originated in the kitchen area. In the area of origin, we located a burner in the on position and food in a pan on the stove. The fire appeared to be a cooking fire. Two victims were transported to the hospital and one victim was pronounced deceased at the scene. Engine and

Truck 70 immediately went to work conducting a primary search, fire attack and ventilation. Engine 70 found the first victim less than four minutes after their arrival. The second victim was found five minutes after their arrival and the third victim was found seven minutes after arrival. Fire crews worked rapidly to remove all three victims from the second story apartment. Unfortunately this incident resulted in the death of two occupants.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- In September, the District collaborated in hosting a disaster scenario response drill with PG&E, law enforcement, and ambulance transport providers at our Training Campus in Concord. The event was attended by almost 200 PG&E personnel, firefighters, ambulance, and law enforcement personnel.
- A pilot program to strengthen data collection at local hospitals, confirming the time when transfer of patient care occurs between our ambulance crews and hospital personnel, was launched with Sutter Delta Medical Center. The goal of this pilot program is to ultimately adopt a standardized method to time-stamp the transfer of care at receiving hospital facilities.
- We took delivery of 33 new LifePak 15 cardiac monitors to replace those units that have exceeded their 10 year service life. Each monitor costs \$36,000.
- The Nurse Navigation project is in progress with an anticipated implementation date sometime in early January. This will reduce the total number of ambulance transports by offering alternative treatment and transport options for certain non-emergency calls.
- The final quarterly APOT meeting for 2024 with local hospital executives was held on October 30. Facilities shared some of their new procedures to reduce patient offload times pursuant to AB 40 legislation. The Fire Chief emphasized the need to convene this group in person in 2025 to work on real and actual solutions to reduce offload delays together as system providers.
- Ambulance patient offload times appear to show no reduction as compared with the previous 12 months. (Report attached)

Special Operations

- The firefighting helicopter contract will end for the season on November 4. With the hopeful continued support of PG&E, we are planning for a redeployment of this program in May, 2025 for the full duration of the peak fire season. The short 60 days of this program has proven it's worth and overall value in providing a rapid and capable aerial firefighting platform to the county.
- On September 26, an after action review was conducted at the Corteva Agriscience facility in Pittsburg to discuss the events that took place on September 2 when a railcar on the facility was leaking chlorine. Cost recovery efforts are underway for the personnel hours spent on scene, equipment use, consumable items used, and for the replacement of contaminated equipment.
- Eight Fire Hazmat team members attended the Continuing Challenge Hazmat Conference in Sacramento from 9/3 to 9/6 to sharpen their skills for Hazmat response within the county and for their role in our contract with Cal OES.

- Fire Hazmat team members participated in a Joint Hazard Assessment team operation during the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival where they worked with Lafayette PD and other agencies to perform area monitoring for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.
- Four District members will be completing Hazmat Specialist school in Richmond in early October (6 week course). They will add to our Hazmat team at the rank of Firefighter.
- Our rescue program members are moving forward to secure a multi-agency grant to replace some of our rescue ropes and hardware with newer, lighter-weight equipment. Con Fire, Rodeo-Hercules, and Richmond Fire are part of this regional grant application.
- The District is preparing and planning to add seven additional Con Fire personnel to obtain the Swiftwater Rescue Technician certification to increase daily staffing of a rescue boat at Fire Station 14 in Martinez to better serve our communities. This addition would bring an additional component to on-the-water rescue capability in the areas between Bay Point and Richmond.

Training

- Quarter 3 Training - Mental and Human Performance - concluded in September focusing on techniques to handle and mitigate the impact of stress on firefighters operating on the fireground and in critical incidents.
- Quarter 4 Training - Disaster Response - This training started in September. This quarter is focused on refresher training for District and operational area policies regarding response to large scale disasters like earthquakes. The District is leading a countywide effort to integrate the national FEMA USAR data collection platform for windshield surveys and search marking into policy with all fire agencies. In the event of a large disaster, this platform will give the command structure a real time picture of what is going on in the field and where priority needs for resources exist.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- The Community Risk Reduction unit started transitioning several fire inspectors from weed abatement to defensible space inspections on September 3rd. The defensible space inspection program will continue during the winter months to focus on education and compliance with defensible space requirements.
- The Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break is currently 90% complete for all manual fuel reduction work. The remaining work will need to be completed in late fall and winter months to conduct pile burning and strategic fuel reduction in several sensitive habitat locations. The goat grazing portions will be completed in the Spring of 2025. The RFP process will begin in October to find a contractor to complete this grazing work.

- The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Annexes and Revisions were completed for the District in collaboration with County OES, to support the County Base Plan.
- The Bureau has launched a new revenue collections program for all inspection invoices unpaid past 90 days. This vendor is currently being used for our ambulance transport program collections processes.
- The Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal joined the California Fire Chiefs Association newly created Fire Marshal's Section, with Deputy Fire Marshal Steve Aubert appointed as the Northern Branch Director for this section.
- Fire Prevention Week occurred in October, the highlighted event for the month was the District's Open House held on October 19th from 9am-1pm at the Training Campus in Concord. This event showcased Fire Apparatus, REACH Air Ambulance, Crew 12, Con Fire Ambulance, Fire Investigations, Mobile Command Unit, Fire Rescue Boat, the District Recruitment Team, CAL Fire resources, Firewise USA, CERT programs and the California Fire Safe Council. The Open House had a record number of 755 attendees this year.



Health & Wellness

- The Fire Board will receive a report on the District's Health and Wellness program initiatives at their November 5th meeting. Collaboration efforts between Con Fire and various partners, including the Contra Costa County, Chief Associations, and other County partner fire agencies, will be discussed, highlighting the impact of these collaborations on the effectiveness of the health and wellness programs. The presentation will also highlight the District's and County Chief's health and wellness goals and objectives for 2024 and 2025, outlining the targeted initiatives planned for the upcoming years.

Administration Section Update

- Recruitment efforts are underway to fill the vacant Chief of Administrative Services II position. This critical position has not been vacant for over a decade. The Fire District has already received some unsolicited interest and expects to garner a strong pool of finance professionals interested in joining our team. Our

recruitment, outreach and marketing efforts are supported by an external recruiting consultant.

Support Services Division

- New Fire Engines were placed in service in Oakley (2), Antioch, El Sobrante, Pinole, and Walnut Creek. Each of these new engines represents approximately \$1.1 Million in cost for the apparatus plus equipment. These significant investments in our communities are highlighted with “push-in” events at each fire station.
- Fire Investigation Unit (Pittsburg) We are replacing the roof at this former fire station. Once the contractor has completed the work there, they will move to Fire Station 15 in Lafayette and begin replacing the roof on that fire station.
- Fire Station 81 (Antioch) has been remodeled to add a bathroom to the station. The Fire District added a truck company to the station about a year ago, so this was needed to accommodate the added crew.
- Fire Station 85 (Pittsburg) A new driveway has been completed for Fire Station 85. The engine accessed the old driveway using a very small left turn lane when traveling south on Loveridge Road. The engine could not fully fit in this left turn lane, causing it to stick out into traffic, creating a safety hazard. The new driveway is accessed off the side street, through the District's adjacent property parking lot. This provides increased safety for the firefighters and decreases the potential for damage to Engine 85.
- Fire Station 2 (Pleasant Hill) and Fire Station 81(Antioch) both have new emergency generators. These generators were installed as part of a hazard mitigation grant through Cal OES. The generators will provide emergency power, allowing the fire stations to continue to operate during power outages.

New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 94 (Brentwood) The September 10, 2024 Board of Directors Agenda includes the award of a contract to the successful design build entity to construct Fire Station 94 in Downtown Brentwood. This two story, 3 person, two bay station will take approximately 24 months to construct.
- Fire Station 90 (Brentwood) Fire District leadership continues to work with County Public Works, Real Estate Division, to secure a new site for Fire Station 90.
- Communications Center Remodel (Pleasant Hill) This project has encountered some challenges right from the start. The availability of an emergency generator and switchgear has been a critical path issue. This supply chain issue and lack of clarity is unresolved and could have major impacts to the project. The groundbreaking ceremony was canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date, as a result.

- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) The bridging documents for Fire Station 9 in Pacheco are well underway. Internal stakeholder meetings have taken place with firefighters who work at Station 9 providing feedback to the design and floor plan. It has been determined that Station 9 will not be able to be occupied during construction. Therefore, early efforts are underway to identify a suitable site for a temporary (24-32 Months) fire station in the Pacheco area. Options include Buchanan Airport Property, County owned vacant land on Pacheco Boulevard or leasing commercially available space.

Communications Division

- The district has begun weekly meetings with the contractor and architect for the pending remodel. The actual physical work is tentatively scheduled to begin the last week of October.
- The district continues to work on GIS improvements with our two internal GIS Analysts and our external GIS consultant. These efforts are focused on aligning boundaries, moving to a parcel address-based routing system for responding units, and preparing for NextGen 911 implementation.
- The district's newly contracted CAD Administrator has been engaged for over two weeks. The CAD Administrator is an experienced CAD professional who has already identified several adjustments that need to be made to the CAD. These adjustments will be implemented in the next few weeks. After which, he will begin his work a complete CAD rebuild.
- The Information Technology team and our IT Consultant continue to work on the District's stand-alone network project with weekly meetings to review the system design, estimated costs and implementation plan.

Rodeo-Hercules FPD Annexation Update

- The public hearing regarding the sphere of influence change is scheduled for November 13, 2024. The reorganization/annexation application public hearing is tentatively scheduled for the December 10, 2024 LAFCO meeting.
- Internal planning process commenced in early October. Monthly planning sessions are scheduled through January when the meeting frequency will then increase to bi-weekly through the annexation effective date.

Public Information Office

- The PIO Office was busy with annual events and highlighting Fire District personnel deployments to large fires in the state and other natural disasters. The office planned and executed the annual 9/11 and Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony at Station 11 in Clayton. It was a collaborative effort with the City of Clayton and VFW Post 1525 to commemorate that tragic day.

- Earlier that morning on Sept. 11th, the office covered the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. 2300 Clayton Road, in Concord, hosted and welcomed firefighters and all that wanted to participate in climbing 110 floors, or 2200 steps, in remembrance of the firefighters of FDNY that made that climb on that fateful morning. Those that completed the steps had to walk up and down the 15 floor building staircase 7 ½ times to equal the number of stairs climbed on 9/11.
- Great ShakeOut - October 17 was the 35th anniversary of Loma Prieta. Along with refreshing our Fire Companies on disaster response, we also participated in the Great Shakeout, with several crews visiting local elementary schools to review earthquake safety.



Project Pink Wheels

- With October having an emphasis on cancer prevention our Project Pink Wheels engine was very busy visiting with survivors and participating in several community events throughout the month. The photo below was taken at the Kaiser clinic in Pinole in support of their cancer walk on October 28th. Our thanks to retired Captain Chris Leimpeter, Local 1230, and everyone who makes Project Pink Wheels such a success in the collective fight against cancer!

