



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

December 3, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

Field Operations

The month of November was punctuated by an end to the peak fire season as rains arrived and provided much needed precipitation throughout the month. Responses to exterior and vegetation fires were reduced to one engine only mid-month. Although there were a few late season vegetation fires this month, they were not significant and were managed to be extinguished quickly.

The hand crew transitioned to focusing on wildfire mitigation in November and will continue that work through the late spring.

There were five working residential structure fires and three working multi-family structure fires through the 24th of the month, when this report was written. None of these incidents resulted in injuries to residents and none required greater alarm responses of additional resources to control.

Significant Incidents

Water Rescue, Antioch, November 3

Crews responded to a report of a capsized and sinking vessel near the Antioch waterfront. Despite challenging weather conditions, with winds gusting over 40 mph and a sea state of 5 foot swells, Rescue Boat 81 (RB81) and Fireboat 8 (FB8) were promptly dispatched to the scene. RB81 responded from Antioch and FB8 responded from its berth in Pittsburg.

RB81 quickly located the distressed vessel in the San Joaquin River and found five people in the water, only two of whom were wearing life jackets. RB81's rescue swimmer was immediately deployed into the water, while the other boat crew members maneuvered to rescue the three individuals from the rough open water. The remaining two victims, who were clinging to the sinking vessel, were also rescued and brought aboard RB81 by the rescue swimmer. All victims were suffering from hypothermia and were provided with life jackets for safety. Due to limited crew capacity and the size of the rescue boat, RB81 could not embark our rescue swimmer until

all the victims were transferred to FB8.

The larger FB8 maneuvered alongside the smaller RB81 and embarked all five victims, where medical treatment was initiated. They were placed in a warm cabin treated for hypothermia and shock. FB8 then transported the victims to the Antioch marina, where ambulances were staged. CCCSO Marine Patrol arrived on the scene to tow the overturned vessel into the marina. USCG Sector San Francisco was notified.

Two of the victims were transported to the hospital. The quick response and skilled efforts of the District's Marine Program, its members and its equipment, were instrumental in saving the lives of these individuals. The Marine Program operates with dedicated resources and specially trained personnel from Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, and Discovery Bay and will soon be expanded with a rescue boat in Martinez.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- Work on the Nurse Navigation project continues for a program launch in January.

Special Operations

- As reported verbally at the last board meeting, the firefighting helicopter contract ended for the season on November 4. Work is being undertaken to secure a contract to begin in May or June, 2025. During the 60 days it was operational, the helicopter responded to five fires, delivered 7,500 gallons of water on these incidents, and assisted with one water rescue.

Training

- A six-day capstone class for advanced Incident Management Team leadership was conducted at our Training Division in early November. Normally reserved for CalFire and Federal incident management teams, this represents the first time in the state where this class was taught exclusively to a cohort of local government personnel. The class was resource intensive with a long list of role players to simulate a week-long incident that was managed by the attendees. The class will help our organization's members lead and manage an incident management team more effectively in the event of a large scale fire or local disaster incident.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- Local agencies were notified on November 1 by CalFire that the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps will be published in January, 2025. The letter received from CalFire further described the actions required of the local agencies in adopting the state provided maps within 120 days of their publication and outlined some of the intermediary steps that should be taken in the adoption process. The District has communicated this information, including providing copies of the correspondence from CalFire, to all the impacted cities in our jurisdiction, and our County Department of

Conservation and Development. Several questions remain regarding the process and we are continuing to gather information from CalFire, League of Cities, California Fire Chiefs Association, and others to help inform and prepare our city partners and ourselves regarding actions that will need to be taken in early 2025.

The maps will establish Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the incorporated jurisdictions, and the LRA portions of the unincorporated county areas.

Health & Wellness

- The annual physicals and wellness exams will be concluded in November. This annual four-month process provides a thorough fit-for-duty physical examination in compliance with the NFPA 1582 standard and a full body scan to identify any issues or abnormalities with the body's major organs and circulatory system. Con Fire was one of the first to adopt this annual program for our members in 2019 and the program now provides these exams to almost 500 members each year.

Administration Section Update

- The District is reorganizing the structure of our finance and human resources groups. The District has historically housed both functions under one Chief of Administrative Service position. As the District has grown in size and the finance and HR functions have grown in complexity, we have split the responsibilities of managing, leading, and directing finance and HR into two separate positions.

Following a recruitment process that began in August, a conditional offer was made to a candidate in mid-November to fill the vacant Chief of Administrative Services II position. The candidate possesses prior experience in the fire service and emergency ambulance transport finance and budgeting. The candidate is currently in the background process. This position will lead the District's finance group.

Elizabeth Loud was promoted to the position of Departmental Human Resources Officer II, effective November 25. She joined the Fire District in 2021 and has made significant contributions as a Departmental Human Resources Analyst II. She holds two graduate degrees, is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and an IPMA-HR Senior Certified Professional (IPMA-SCP), and has almost 20 years of experience in the human resources field.

Support Services Division

- New Fire Engines were pushed into their stations in November in short ceremonies commemorating their arrival and placement into service. During October and November, seven Type I fire engines were placed into service. This latest round of investment in our communities marks the end of frontline service for our older KME engines and the frontline fleet is now identical in 30 of our 35 stations.

New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 90 (Brentwood) The acquisition of the new fire station location is progressing. Once escrow is closed, the architect will be released to assess how the previous design could fit on the new site. The District is working with County Public Works to complete the required CEQA studies for the new location. We hope to be in a position to put the project out to bid in the Fall of 2025.
- Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood) The Design-Build Entity (DBE) is working hard on the final construction drawings. The planning application was filed with the City of Brentwood in October. The team needed to address a few dozen comments, and we are now waiting for a hearing to be scheduled with the Brentwood Planning Commission. Once this project clears the Planning Commission and the city building department, construction could begin in Spring 2025.
- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) We have accepted architectural concepts from the architect developing the bridging documents. We are working with Public Works to prepare the environmental reports required for this new location. Identifying and planning for a temporary fire station has become an essential issue for timing. We have identified three locations on County property or Buchanan Airport for possible temporary sites. This temporary planning will become a priority in January so we can work toward a temporary solution. Fire Station 9 is expected to go out to bid in the Summer of 2025.
- Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communication Center (CCRFCC) (Pleasant Hill) Construction is now underway. An early step was removing the hazardous building products that contain asbestos, which is now complete. Interior demolition is expected to be completed in December. Earthwork for footings is underway. The giant redwood trees between Fire Station 2 and the new center have been removed so the root systems do not pose a hazard to the new building. Tree replacement will be part of the final landscaping plan. The acquisition of switch gear and the emergency generator will be critical path items. Staff are working with County Purchasing to ensure these agreements are executed promptly.

Rodeo-Hercules FPD Annexation Update

- The public hearing regarding the sphere of influence change was held on November 13. LAFCO voted unanimously to adopt the sphere of influence change for the Contra Costa County Fire District to include the area currently within the Rodeo-Hercule Fire Protection District. The reorganization/annexation application public hearing is scheduled for the December 11, 2024 LAFCO meeting.
- Internal planning meetings continue with staff from both fire districts and will be held monthly through January when the meeting frequency will then increase to bi-weekly through the annexation effective date.
- Side letters have been executed with IAFF Local 1230, the United Chief Officers Association, and Local 21 outlining the transfer processes and impacts for the affected members of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. The letters will be brought to the board for ratification at an upcoming meeting.

Public Information Office

- Captain Toler assisted with a table top exercise for the County PIOs in November.
- PIOs and staff appeared in numerous on-camera and print media interviews in November. These included seasonal safety messaging, incident responses and pitched stories and events such as the press conference held to highlight our canine programs.
- The District website upgrade project is still underway. The PIO office is hoping to move forward with vendor selection next month.