



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

April 15, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

- Annual Ladder Testing and Hose Testing completed. The testing of all ground ladders and every section of fire hose in the District was completed in March. This task, an essential part of the NFPA standards and ISO Public Protection Classification system, is a very important and labor intensive process, particularly in a fire district of this size. The testing ensures the ground ladders are capable of supporting the weight of firefighters without failing and the hose testing ensures every length of hose is pressure tested in compliance with national standards to ensure its reliability and performance under emergency situations. We are fortunate to have dedicated program managers who lead these programs to ensure our equipment is tested, annually, for the safety of our members and the public.
- UPDATE Martinez Refining Company Fire - 2/1/25 The RFP process was completed and a vendor selected to complete the after action review (AAR) of the emergency response to this incident. This RFP closed on March 14. Together with Contra Costa Health, Fire District staff reviewed and scored the proposals. The selected vendor will interview involved agencies, conduct the after-action review, and compile the findings and recommendations into a document that will be presented to the Board. Additionally, Fire District staff participated in presenting information about the incident in a town hall format on March 13 to the Martinez community along with Contra Costa Health, CWS, and Martinez Refining Company leadership.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- Nurse Navigation No update. Staff continues to work with the vendor on implementation and logistics.
- BLS Ambulance Deployment Staff were scheduled to meet on April 7 with west county fire agencies and the LEMSA to coordinate the deployment of BLS

ambulances in west county. Once BLS ambulances are approved for deployment in west county there will be additional system capacity provided in west county.

- New ambulances purchased. 20 new ambulances were outfitted with radio equipment and decals. We are completing required CHP inspections and scheduling final inspections with the County EMS Authority to gain approval for deployment. Once in service, these ambulances will allow for improved fleet reliability and enable older, high mileage ambulances to be taken out of service. This represents approximately a \$5M investment in our system and 30% of the total ambulance fleet being replaced at this time.
- February flu season. January and February were impacted with high call volumes and significant patient offload delays (APOT). March appeared to bring overall call volume and system transports into normal levels. The monthly APOT report is attached to this report. APOT times improved in March, but continue to exceed state and county standards at almost every facility.

Special Operations

- **Hazardous Materials Response Team**
 - Petrochemical Mutual Aid Organization (PMAO). The District continues to participate with the PMAO group and is currently discussing response plans with the private fire brigades. There are plans for training at Phillips 66 later this year.
 - Corteva plant closure. The Corteva facility in Pittsburg is scheduled to be closed in July. Adjacent facilities will continue to operate on the property. District leadership has met with Corteva management since last fall to understand the closure plan, future risk profile of the facility, and impact of the private fire brigade being disbanded in July. The disbanding of the fire brigade reduces the overall strength of the multi-agency PMAO and places all the fire and hazardous material incident mitigation at the Corteva facility on the District without the specialized industrial firefighting apparatus and equipment provided by the Corteva brigade.
 - Lithium Ion Batteries. Fire Captain Clem gave a presentation to the County Haz-Mat Commission on March 27 regarding the risks, concerns, and fire problem created by the proliferation of these batteries in a multitude of uses and storage configurations. The presentation was well received.
 - Training. The District's haz-mat team will be participating in several regional exercises in April and May, including in Vallejo at Six Flags for a multi-county exercise on April 9, and the regional Bayex 2025 multi-agency drill is set for the week of May 12.

- **Marine Program**

- Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) in service at FS 95 in Oakley. The boat will assist with rescue operations in the waters around Bethel Island.
- Fire Boat 9 The boat is back in service after much needed repairs.

- **Aviation Program**

- Firefighting Helicopter. Work continues to bring this capability to the District starting in June. The parties are working out details of a contract with financial support from PG&E, again, this year.

Training

- Academy 61. Academy 61 continues with 23 Con Fire recruits and one Rodeo-Hercules recruit. All recruits successfully completed the state-required structural fire module using our burn building. Graduation is currently scheduled for May 19 at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek at 6pm.
- Live Fire Training. All crews completed live fire training using our multi-story burn building at MOTCO Concord. This burn building allows for the most realistic fire scenarios under a training environment. The first quarter training was a heavy logistical lift, but necessary to maintain skills and develop safe and efficient fire ground operations.
- 10,000 Hours Logged in March. A total of 10,000 hours of training, including manipulative, classroom, and computer based, was logged by our crews for the month of March.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- LRA Fire Hazard Maps A town hall was conducted on April 1 in the board chambers from 6pm to 7:30pm. Public comment was received in person as well as via remote attendees. The District continues to receive public comment on our website and all of this will be collected and transmitted to the state per the ordinance adoption process.
 - Our online public comment form went live on February 24
 - Hard copy maps are available at 4005 Port Chicago Highway, Suite 250 in Concord for anyone that requests them in person.
 - Our webpage at <https://www.cccfpd.org/lra-maps/> went live within 24 hours of the maps being released.
 - We encourage residents to visit our website since it provides:
 - LRA Fact Sheet
 - Map Roll Out Plan

- LRA Acreage Breakdown
 - Geospatial Model explained
 - Before and After Map of the LRA in Contra Costa County
 - PDF copies of all cities
 - Link to the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer provided by CAL Fire.
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- National Wildfire Mitigation Awards. The District was recognized by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) with honorable mention on a nationwide scale for its work on completing 103 projects and for its use of a virtual dashboard to show the areas impacted by the projects. These projects are all primarily funded through Measure X and demonstrate the District's commitment to supporting wildfire mitigation projects throughout Contra Costa County. Three groups were recognized with awards, and the District and one other agency in South Carolina received honorable mention for their efforts from a combined list of hundreds of applicants. The awards were presented in Kansas City in late March as part of the national Wildland-Urban Interface Conference. More information is available here: <https://internationalfireandsafetyjournal.com/wildfire-mitigation-awards-2025-recipients-announced-across-four-us-states/>

Administration Section Update

Support Services Division

- Energy Efficiency Upgrades The District has been participating in PG&E's Energy Efficiency Upgrades program to transition fire stations lighting to energy-efficient LED fixtures. This year, seven fire stations were successfully upgraded to LED lighting.
- CUPA Facility Inspections. The Support Services division worked with the Hazardous Materials Inspectors from Contra Costa Health to conduct Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) inspections at District facilities, ensuring compliance with hazardous materials regulations.
- Fire Station 83 Security Upgrades Fire Station 83 in Antioch has experienced security threats, including an incident of gunfire where a bullet was fired into the front of the station. The District fortified the station's exterior and installed additional security features to ensure the safety of our firefighters.
- PPE Cleaning Facility. The former Fire Station 86 in Bay Point has been repurposed into a turnout cleaning facility. In response to a growing number of fire incidents and the growth in health risks associated with those incidents, the District recognized the need for efficient and timely cleaning of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure it is quickly restored to service. This facility will serve as a centralized drop-off center, where PPE can be thoroughly cleaned, dried, and promptly put back in service, enhancing operational readiness and supporting the safety and health of our firefighters.

New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 90 (Brentwood) The District and the County have collaborated to retain the services of a construction management firm, which will coordinate the activities of both the Fire Station and the Youth Center on the site. This firm will collaborate with the fire station architect and the County-selected architect to identify areas where cost savings can be achieved, such as underground utility coordination and potentially shared parking for both facilities. The work to complete the CEQA required studies is in progress.
- Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood) On March 18, 2025, the Brentwood Planning Commission requested additional studies related to noise, traffic, and air quality. We believe these studies are not required by law and have asked that the Planning Commission consider our project on the next available agenda. These delays are not only costly but also hinder the improvement of fire and EMS services throughout the entire East County region.
- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) Work continues on the design and layout of the station on the site. Our consultants are evaluating the feasibility of a temporary fire station site before we begin any potential lease negotiations. CEQA studies are underway for the new station. Later this year, the District will open a bidding process to select a design-build entity for this station. Work continues on the design and layout of the station on the site.
- Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communication Center (CCR FCC) (Pleasant Hill) Construction continues, and no significant challenges have been encountered.

Rodeo-Hercules FPD (RHFPD) Annexation Update

- The State Board of Equalization acknowledged receipt of all necessary documentation to shift property tax allocations to Contra Costa County Fire effective with the FY 26-27 fiscal year. This represents the last step of outside regulatory agencies in finalizing the annexation and dissolution of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District effective on July 1, 2025.
- In an effort to improve service delivery immediately, certain fire, rescue, and EMS equipment has already been deployed by Con Fire on the apparatus being used by the RHFPD. This includes new cardiac monitor/defibrillators. Additionally, response boundaries have been dropped between Pinole and Hercules to reduce response times by Fire Station 73 (Pinole) into portions of Hercules. This has already resulted in reduced response times in a number of medical emergency and fire calls.

- A spare CON Fire engine is in one of the RHFPD stations to increase training for the RHFPD crews while on duty.

Upcoming Events

- Girls Empowerment Camp (May 17-18, Concord). The District is hosting our very first Girls Empowerment Camp on May 17th and 18th at our Training Center in Concord. We are working to increase awareness and exposure of the fire service as a career for aspiring and interested young females. We invite young campers of all genders, ages 14-18 to participate in this two-day Girls Empowerment Fire Camp program. The purpose of the camp is to expose young campers to opportunities in the firefighting profession, as well as provide confidence building and mentorship. The camp will spend two days in a structured program led by mostly female firefighters from across California with 50 campers! They will be introduced to firefighting skills and equipment, as well as learn basic first aid and CPR/AED skills. They will also participate in physical training activities, learn the pathways to public safety careers, and see the importance of discipline and hard work. All activities will be closely supervised with participant safety of paramount importance. This camp will provide the opportunity to network with some of California's women in the fire service and bond with other young women. (Flyer attached to the agenda)
- Wildfire Community Preparedness Day (May 3, Concord). Similar to our annual open house event at our Training Center in Concord, we are hosting a targeted community preparedness day with a focus on information for the public to become better informed and prepared for wildfire. Participants and information will be provided by District staff and representatives from other organizations in the field of wildfire response and mitigation. We encourage anyone who lives in, or owns property, in an area subject to wildfire or the potential consequences of an urban fire conflagration to join us for important information to protect you, your family, and our communities from the impacts of wildfire. (Flyer attached to the agenda)