



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

August 25, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Aaron McAlister, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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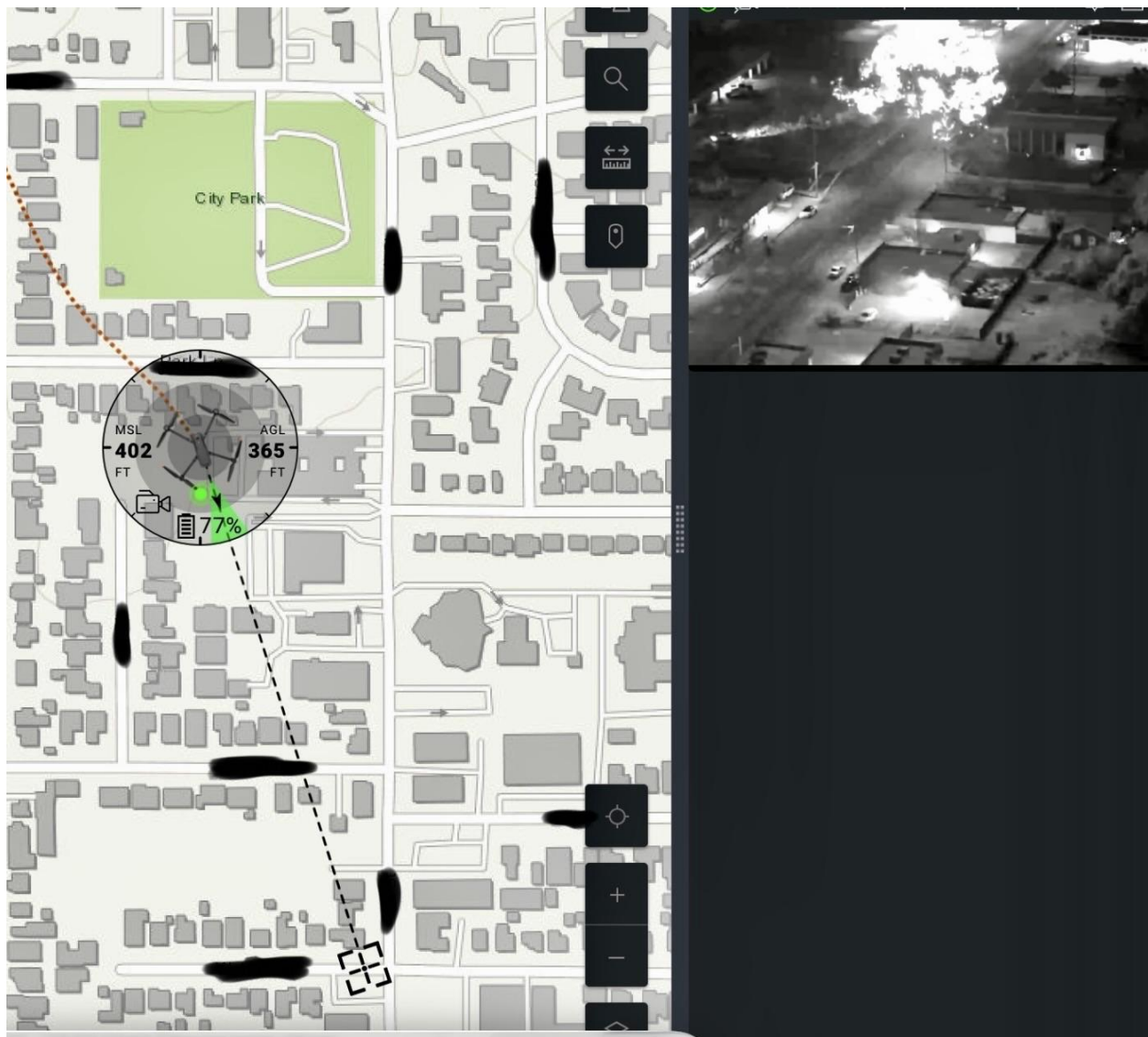
### **Operations Section Update**

- July 4, 2026- A statistical report is attached. Overall use of illegal fireworks and fires resulting from fireworks reached a three-year low. It is difficult to attribute this drop to any one effort and is likely the result of numerous efforts. It is also important to acknowledge a very high-profile fireworks case in Yolo County. The dangers and risks associated with fireworks have likely resonated with the public, prompting people to reconsider the risks versus the rewards.

This year, we again prepared for the worst-case scenario. Additional equipment was upstaffed to bolster our response capabilities. One new level of preparation involved inviting CWS staff into the new communication center. In the event that evacuations were necessary, the reflex time would have been significantly reduced, allowing the team to communicate with the public more quickly. The picture below shows CWS staff and CONFIRE staff in the evening briefing.



- The Fire Investigation Unit was busy over the July 4th holiday weekend, investigating fires and issuing citations for illegal fireworks. A new approach was taken this year to increase enforcement efforts by utilizing 2 unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The teams consisted of 3 personnel members, each with a pilot, a visual observer, and a field investigator. Over three days, 20 citations were issued via certified mail on the following business day. This allowed for an efficient enforcement method while maintaining officer safety among large groups of people. The Fire Code Ordinance (2025-14) and the Administrative Fines Ordinance (2026-08) now allow Con Fire to issue administrative citations via social hosting. This means the person hosting the gathering or party is responsible for their guests if citations are issued for the use of illegal fireworks that were witnessed via UAS or by officers in the field.



- Mutual Aid Deployments- The last two months have been steady for mutual aid deployments. Some of the assignments include:
  - Crew 12- State of Washington
  - Safety Officer- BC Johnson- State of Washington
  - Timber Fire- two engines in a mixed County Strike Team
  - Timber Fire- two heavy equipment supervisors
  - Calaveras County- Engines in a mixed strike team
  - Communications Technicians- Multiple assignments out of state
  - Little Fire- Alameda County
  - Crew 12- Lassen County
- Significant Structure Fires: The Fire District experienced multiple structure fires in July and August. The most notable was the three-alarm fire in Lafayette. This incident drew media attention due to the home's history of association with Henry J. Kaiser. This 14,000-square-foot home sustained major damage. This fire and another the next day in Lafayette occurred on a day with high temperatures. Structural firefighting in high temperatures is challenging and poses additional risks to our staff's safety.
- Staffing Software- The Fire District launched a new staffing software in August. This replaces a legacy platform the District outgrew. This new vendor brings new capabilities to use technology more efficiently and effectively to assign and schedule over 100 firefighters daily. While it is a District-wide platform, the biggest challenge is ensuring that Captains, Engineers, and Firefighters with the correct specialty qualifications, such as paramedic, hazmat, rescue, and truck, are assigned to the correct roles. This project was led by Assistant Chief Vito Impastato and has had a successful launch.
- SCBA Deployment- the Fire District successfully deployed 100% new breathing apparatus throughout the District. This required updating inventory, in-service testing and training, and record keeping. This project was led by Captain Brent Boiling, who worked for months to implement this successful upgrade, keeping our firefighters safe with the most modern equipment available today.
- Safety Officer Deployment- West County. During the first week of August, the Fire District deployed our third shift safety officer in West County, known as Battalion 7. This increases firefighter safety and public safety in West County. It also demonstrates our commitment to enhance services where possible in areas that were not historically served by CON FIRE.

### Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- The EMS Division has launched a Community CPR Certification program. A soft launch was done this month with Liberty High School and a Walnut Creek Senior Citizen group. It will be at no cost to any Contra Costa County resident seeking CPR certification. Additional information can be found on our website.

- AMR completed its site visit from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. They received a full 3-year CAAS accreditation for complying with their national standards. Accredited through June 2029.
- Emergency medical response performance remains strong, with nearly 95% compliance across all Zones in July for Priority 1 calls. Averaging 236 transports a day through 7/28.

### Special Operations

- Hazardous Materials Response Team
  - The Haz Mat Team has continued to work to integrate the CUPA Staff into Hazardous Materials response plans. Training is ongoing with the new combined group.
- Aviation Program
  - In July 2026, the Copter flew 18 fires and delivered 115 drops, totaling 43,125 gallons. 53 of the drops were on Morgan Fire.



Copter 1 fills from the Helopod at the Marsh Creek Detention Center.

### Training

- Completed interviews and staffing of the SOF3 position for West County.
- Scheduled pre-academy training sessions for the prospective recruits - including workouts, orientation, and turnout fittings.
- Evaluating a new LMS platform for the District to start in 2027.
- Updated the policy on Life Safety Hazard Marking - Emergency Traffic and Fireground Emergencies for Ops and the Comm Center to ensure that there was clear and effective communication.
- Supported the new SCBA rollout.

### **Community Risk Reduction Section Update**

#### Fire Prevention Bureau

- The Fire Risk Reduction Community List (FRRCL) was released by the Board of Forestry on July 1. We are pleased to report that Con Fire is now on that list, including every fire district in Contra Costa County. This application process was completed last October by all the Fire Marshals, in cooperation with Michelle Rinehart, our County Coordinator. This certification will allow communities to receive priority consideration for CAL Fire Wildfire Prevention Grants. In addition, Insurers are required to recognize the list when determining risk, which could offer potential savings. The full list can be found here:  
<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-community-list>
- The County Coordinator Grant was renewed again through the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC). Funding is for the next 15 months, which is through October 15, 2027.

### **Administration Section Update**

- Deputy Fire Chief Appointment- Assistant Chief Xon Burris has been promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. His assignment will be Administration, which includes Support Services, Human Resources, Finance, and Communications. Chief Burris has been with the District since 2003 and has served as a Captain, Safety Officer, EMS Chief, and Assistant Chief of EMS. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.



- City of Pinole- District staff has been meeting with City staff to discuss the future of a contract for services. One option is to annex the City of Pinole into the Fire District. This would make the fire services arrangement more permanent and most likely involve a tax-sharing agreement and the LAFCO process. Additional information will be shared as this concept takes shape.

### New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 90 (Brentwood) The District continues to coordinate with the City of Brentwood regarding this project. The City will not accept the planning application until conditions associated with the small City-owned parcel involved with the project are met. Fire District and County staff are evaluating the feasibility of meeting these conditions.
- Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood) Construction is progressing well. The design and plans are being finalized for the ADA parking and storage building next door at the Veterans Memorial Hall. This station is on-schedule and is anticipated to open in January 2026.
- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco): The District is evaluating design-build proposals from entities in coordination with County Capital Projects. Plans and specifications are being developed for the temporary Fire Station 9 that will be located at the western edge of Buchanan Field.
- Communications Center - Phase 2 - The contractor has now turned its attention to the former communications center, remodeling this space for use as offices supporting the communications center. Functions such as IT support and GIS will be based in the location. This work could be completed as soon as the end of 2026.

### Upcoming Events

September 11, 2026 - The District will hold its annual ceremony at 10 am. This ceremony will mark 25 years since the attacks on the World Trade Center. Notably, soon-to-retire Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Peter is our only employee who responded to New York with a California-based FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team.