



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

January 16, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

Training and Safety Division

- Firefighter Recruit Academy 60 started on January 8th. The academy includes 15 Con Fire recruits and 5 Moraga-Orinda FPD recruits. It is anticipated to last 22 weeks.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- Ambulance Patient Offload Times (APOT) at our hospitals continue to impact system performance. While we have added 11 BLS ambulances to our daily deployment, the performance of the system has receded back to less than 90% compliance due to increasing APOT at almost all receiving facilities. The current APOT has increased to over 1 hour 90% of the time at the end of 2023, as compared to the current county policy of requiring receiving facilities to transfer patient care within 20 minutes, 90% of the time. APOT issues continue to play a significant role in influencing ambulance availability and response time compliance with the county contract.
- The RFP process for selecting an Alliance ambulance subcontractor in anticipation of the District bidding on the full County Emergency Ambulance RFP in 2024 continues with a goal of finalizing our process by the end of January.
- As required by our contract with the County, a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) drill was conducted at the County Regional Medical Center that included the Sheriff's Office, Con Fire, our ambulance subcontractor, and one of the Basic Life Support ambulance companies that operate within the county.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- The fire prevention bureau completed 100% of the State Mandated Occupancy Inspections for 2023. These include all schools, apartments, condominiums, and hotels and motels.
- On January 9 the Board approved an application for a CalFire Grant in the amount of \$1.1M for a 73 acre shaded fuel break project in the East Richmond Heights area, which was submitted on January 10. The shaded fuel break will reduce fuel loads relative to areas outside of the fuel break, and the shade provided by the canopy improves the microclimate conditions of the underlying fuels. The shaded fuel break is intended to help reduce fuel loading while also providing a defensible position for fire crews to engage in fire suppression. Letters of support have been received from the City of Richmond and the East Bay Regional Park District.
- The Bureau continues to work with the City of Antioch and the property owner of a very large vacant building in the downtown area. The building has a repeated fire history with several unhoused people using it for shelter. I have directed firefighters not to enter the building for fire suppression efforts due to the numerous hazards inside the building. The building has been posted to alert potential occupants that we will not enter the building in the case of a fire. The goal is to have the building completely emptied of all occupants by mid-January and eventually demolished to remove the hazard. This type of situation is potentially multiplied across several areas of Antioch and other cities with vacant unused buildings being used by the unhoused. The District is looking into increased inspections of known vacant buildings to ensure the properties are being maintained in accordance with the Fire Code.

Administration Section Update

Communications Division

- Two of our new Fire Dispatchers have completed all of their training and have transitioned to their floor assignments as fully functioning Fire Dispatchers. There are two remaining vacancies at the Fire Dispatcher position. The District initiated another recruitment process and has issued two conditional offers and we hope to begin training two new Fire Dispatchers in the next month.
- The District began the recruitment process for one GIS Analyst and one additional Information Systems Tech II to assist with growing workloads with mapping and information technology projects.

- The Communications Division leadership team continues to work with COAR Architects on the pending remodel of the communication center and future communication division offices all located at 2010 Geary Road in Pleasant Hill. The District hopes to have a final set of approved plans by mid-January with an RFP process to be initiated before the end of the month to select a contractor for the project.
- The Information Technology team continues to work on several major projects, one of which is to provide for a stand-alone network that is supported 365 days a year 24 hours a day. The Information Technology team will be working with District and County DoIT leadership to review the system design, estimated costs and implementation plan.
- Work continues to secure contracts for several major projects to help support the fire communications center including a VHF radio system upgrade, CAD upgrade, CAD on-site support and GIS support.

Support Services Division

- We were successful in recruiting two Emergency Vehicle Technician I (diesel mechanic) positions. We have one vacancy remaining, and unfortunately we have not been successful in recruiting Emergency Vehicle Technician II (certified fire mechanic) positions. We will pursue sending our diesel mechanics to the necessary schools and classes to become certified fire mechanics.
- Pierce Manufacturing has delivered two new Water Tenders for the District.
- The repaired Walnut Creek ladder truck, Truck 1, was successfully repaired and returned to the District. The truck should be back in service by mid-January.
- Two new ladder trucks completed their final inspection at the factory, one in December and one in January. One was involved in an incident at the factory and will need to be repaired before being delivered, causing a delay in being placed into service, while the second truck should be delivered in February.

Fire Stations / Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 90 and Fire Station 94, Brentwood The design concept drawings are complete. The request for proposals (RFP) for the design-build contractor was released following Board action on January 9, 2024. Work continues on the draft reports and studies required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A presentation was delivered to the Brentwood City Council on January 9 updating the council and community on both projects. Ultimately, the yet-to-be-selected design-build team will fully develop construction plans and bring the projects through the planning and building permit process at the City of Brentwood.

- CCRFCC- Contra Costa Regional Fire Communication Center- Pleasant Hill The construction drawings are now fully approved through the City of Pleasant Hill. This month, an RFP will be released soliciting bids from contractors with experience in constructing essential services facilities. Staff is preparing to relocate employees who currently work in this location to a temporary location.
- Fire Station 14- Martinez This fire station has experienced concrete failure in the apparatus bays and the front apron, extending to the curb and gutter. This is most likely due to 1951 construction methods combined with the weight of modern fire apparatus. Staff has worked with County Capital Projects to develop a concrete removal and replacement plan. The cost is approximately \$1 million and will require the crew to be relocated from Fire Station 14 (Martinez) to Fire Station 12 (unincorporated Mountain View area) for approximately 60-90 days. Response times will not be significantly affected during this time. The District will provide public and community notice when the specific timing of this plan is determined later this Spring.