



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

---

August 12, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

---

## **Operations Section Update**

- **July 4th Activity.** A specific report is attached with data for the past three years. Overall fire activity this year was moderated by favorable weather conditions which included light south winds, increased humidity levels, and cooler temperatures. The observed level of illegal pyrotechnics activity in the field suggests the weather was likely the primary factor in the reduced volume of fires, and not necessarily a noticeable reduction in fireworks activity. There was a significant EMS incident with multiple victims shortly after midnight in Antioch.
- **Peak Fire Season.** This year's summer fire season has benefitted from favorable weather conditions, locally. Even with the moderate weather, there have been some significant vegetation fires with several being caused by fireworks, before and after the July 4 holiday, and mowing operations on hot, windy days, in addition to a myriad of other ignition causes.

Defensible space, disced fuel breaks, and managed open spaces, along with aggressive and timely fire response have collectively combined to keep many of these fires from damaging homes and structures. The largest and most impactful fires have occurred in Antioch with dry vegetation and windy conditions helping to spread two human caused fires.

Residents are reminded that defensible space is critical to ensuring your home's ability to avoid damage or destruction from wildfire. Mowing and use of gas powered machinery should be done early in the morning, when the humidity is higher, outside temperatures are lower, and winds are not significant.

Wildland Program

● Hand Crew.

- Assisted with two prescribed control burns: Rossmoor and Hunsaker Canyon  
The hand crew has improved the District's ability to perform this type of mitigation work throughout the County.
- Continued work on grant-funded shaded fuel break and Firewise Projects
- Staffed 7 days a week on a two-crew rotation schedule.
- Provides 12-hour staffing of a 2,000 gallon tactical water tender. This improves fire suppression capability for areas east of Willow Pass, as well as the rest of the District, when responding with the Hand Crew.

● Aviation Program.

- Copter 1 Statistics through 7/31/25
  - Fire Dispatches: **23 (9 SRA & 14 LRA)**
  - Acres Involved: **563**
  - Drops and Gallons of H2O Delivered: **183 drops & 54,900 gallons**
  - Structures Threatened: **61 Homes & 2 Commercial Buildings**
  - Critical Infrastructure Threatened: **2 Water Tanks in Pinole/Rodeo Area**
  - Agencies Supported: **3 San Ramon Valley FPD, 1 Alameda County, 2 Richmond FD**
  - Training: Contra Costa County Sheriff's STARR, East Bay Regional Parks EAGLE, CALFIRE Alma Copter, and CALFIRE Sonoma Air Attack base.
- HeloPods - *Measure X Funded Project*
  - Three 3,770 gallon tanks were delivered and installed August 1, 2025.
  - CCCSO Marsh Creek Detention Facility, Phillips 66, and Byron Wildfire Center will receive the first three.



- Heavy Equipment Program
  - Fire Trails Completed late May: Nearly 300 miles improved
  - Dozer staffed 24 hours (June - October): Positive feedback from surrounding mutual aid agencies and our own crews.
  - Started the purchase process: 1 Motor Grader, 1 Transport, and 1 Dozer Trailer

### Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- Nurse Navigation There are approximately 3 calls per day being handled by this new program. The net result of this new system is not significantly less transports or trips to an emergency department, but keeping ALS ambulances available for true emergencies. We are looking to increase referrals as dispatchers get more comfortable on what calls qualify for nurse navigation. We are also looking to expand the types of calls qualifying for nurse navigation after quality assurance of the program has been fully evaluated and we become more comfortable that the system is working how we expected.
- BLS Ambulance Deployment BLS ambulances were deployed in west county on July 1, 2025 to handle non-emergency 911 calls in all areas with the exception of the City of Richmond. This is an expansion of service and will provide additional 911 emergency ambulance system capacity in west county to reduce the use of ALS ambulances for non-emergency calls. On July 28, the system recorded its highest level of BLS transports at 72 for the day while the average is 53 BLS transports daily.
- APOT As with the last report, Ambulance Patient Offload Times remained almost unchanged for June and July as a system. APOT is 44-45 minutes, 90% of the time, across all receiving facilities in the county. Some facilities continue to see one hour APOT times at the 90% level. The state standard is 30 minutes, 90% of the time, and the county EMS agency standard is 20 minutes, 90% of the time. It should be noted that both Kaiser Antioch and Sutter Delta have seen noticeable improvement in their APOT from almost one hour in January, 2025 to 32 minutes in July for both facilities. (A report is attached.)
- Emergency Ambulance Contract Extension The Contra Costa County EMS Authority (CCCEMS) contacted the District in mid-July to request an extension of the emergency ambulance services contract that is set to terminate on December 31, 2025. Details are being discussed with CCCEMS regarding the length of the extension and other terms.

### Special Operations

- **Hazardous Materials Response Team**

- Corteva plant closure. District leadership met with Corteva and K2 to discuss the upcoming closure of the Corteva facility. Plans have changed and Corteva now plans to continue supporting certain emergency response capabilities for the next 12 months. Work continues on a transition plan with K2 and other remaining facilities within the footprint of the Corteva plant.
- Lithium Ion Batteries. Fire Captain Clem continues to provide training to local law enforcement agencies on this emerging fire and safety threat to responders.
- Training. There were a multitude of various training sessions held with local industry, the petro-chemical mutual aid organization (PMAO), and specific facilities.
- Cal OES Haz-Mat Team Funding. The state has committed to an additional \$100,000 in funding for training cost reimbursement for our personnel.
- Team Expansion. Pursuant to the approved FY 25/26 District budget, the total number of hazardous materials specialists rostered on the team has increased to 60 as of July 1. This is an increase from 36 members and ensures approximately 20 fully qualified specialists are on duty each day.

- **Marine Program**

- Response Activity. There have been five local responses, which is low for this time of year. Fire Boat 9 was deployed to Lake Shasta in support of a large wildland fire incident around the lake. This was a first for the District and our crews received very positive reviews from Cal OES for their work at the incident.

### Training & Safety

- National Traffic Incident Management Training. Training has started for all emergency response members and will be completed by the end of September. This training involves 10 hours of instruction to help our members understand the dangers of working on roadways and mitigations to put in place to increase firefighter safety.

## **Advanced Planning Section Update**

### **Fire Prevention Bureau**

- **LRA Fire Hazard Maps** We have completed all the requirements to implement the new local response area fire hazard severity zone maps and submitted to the State Fire Marshal's office the required maps, resolution, and public comments.
- **Wildfire Mitigation Projects**. Our fuels mitigation work continued on the Lafayette-Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break with the completion of work area nine as well as the use of goat grazing across three separate areas of the project. We also completed two community chipping days in both Lafayette and El Sobrante. These continue to be a great avenue for both community engagement as well as fuels reduction in our communities.
- **East Richmond Heights Shaded Fuel Break** We attended the East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council meeting on July 16, 2025 where we provided updates and received feedback for our CAL FIRE wildfire prevention grant submission. We received 232 letters of commitment from property owners to move forward with the project to mitigate approximately 50 acres to reduce fuel loading, enhance forest health, and support our fire suppression efforts. A special thank you to Senator Grayson and Supervisor Gioia for their support in this endeavor.
- **July 4 Holiday** Fire Inspectors supported five special events throughout the District as well as seven commercial fireworks shows. While our fire investigators responded to three significant fire events over the course of that evening into the early morning on July 5. Two of the incidents were fireworks related with one incident leading to injuries to six people. This event underscores the extreme danger of handling illegal or improperly manufactured fireworks.

### **Legislation & Grants**

- **CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant**. As mentioned above, the District applied for this year's grant through CAL FIRE for a shaded fuel break project in the East Richmond Heights area. The \$950,000 grant request was approved by the Board at their June 22 meeting. If funded, this grant would provide a linear shaded fuel break along the ridge of the west hills in East Richmond Heights. We anticipate an award decision later this year.
- **SB 131 CEQA Exemptions**. The District was offered the opportunity to provide input on our concerns and frustrations with the CEQA process for wildland fire mitigation projects in a recent meeting with Senator Grayson and Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire. We provided language to both senators which, in our opinion, could streamline the process of getting important mitigation projects completed. Much of this language was ultimately included in the bill and there are now specific exemptions to the expensive and time consuming CEQA requirements for prescribed fire projects, expanded evacuation route

maintenance, and increased defensible space projects onto lands surrounding housing developments. The impact of this legislation will enable us to channel more funds and effort directly into hazard mitigation and do so in a more timely manner without the lengthy CEQA review process for these specific projects.

## **Administration Section Update**

### **Support Services Division**

- **New Wildland Fire Engines.** Final inspections were conducted for two Type 6 Wildland Fire Engines the week of July 14. One of the units has been designated for deployment in Pinole, while the final placement of the second unit is under review. These inspections mark the completion of a critical phase in the acquisition and readiness of these specialized units.
- **Training Campus Improvements.** The concrete sidewalk in front of the Training Center was replaced. This work was initiated in response to significant buckling of the existing concrete, which had resulted in a trip hazard. The replacement ensures the safety of staff and visitors.

The roof of Classroom 3 was replaced. This project was undertaken due to age-related deterioration and a history of water intrusion during previous rainy seasons. The new roofing system is expected to resolve these issues and significantly improve the integrity and usability of the classroom space moving forward.

### **New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction**

- **Fire Station 90 (Brentwood)** Required CEQA studies and other planning and design work continue at this new fire station site. The design team is closely coordinating with the County team on the youth center. We are collaborating where it makes sense for site entry and utilities. A preliminary design meeting with the City of Brentwood Planning Department was held in late July to obtain early feedback and preliminary comments. This feedback will be incorporated in the next phase of planning and design. In September, we anticipate sharing these updated design drawings with the surrounding community.
- **Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood)** All modifications to the design and site requested by the City Council have been incorporated. The District has submitted construction drawings to the City of Brentwood. We expect to have a building permit issued in August. The general contractor will mobilize and begin construction, starting with underground work first. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, at 11:00 am. The Fire Station site is located at 739 First Street in Downtown Brentwood.

- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) The bridging documents are nearing completion. Staff continues to work with the County for CEQA-related studies. We have identified Buchanan Field as the preferred location for a temporary Fire Station. We are in the early phases of designing a temporary station and structure to house the fire apparatus. An informational meeting was held in July 2025 with potential bidders for this project, which will go out to bid in early 2026.
- Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communication Center (CCRFCC) (Pleasant Hill) Construction continues and is on track for an early December move-in. Sheetrock is in, paint is on the walls, and work has turned to the server room and raised flooring systems to accommodate all the information system infrastructure. Timing is dependent on several moving targets, including the switch gear delivery, generator, delivery, and PG&E. Once complete, the contractor will turn their attention to the current communication center building and embark on the remodel of that structure.

#### **Rodeo-Hercules FPD (RHFPD) Annexation**

- The annexation was effective on July 1, 2025.
- A significant payment of \$7.5 Million was made by the RHFPD in June from their fund balance and reserve balances to reduce the unfunded accrued actuarial liability of the RHFPD. This effectively mitigated any pension cost increases to our District and the rate impacts were approved for a July 1, 2025 by the CCCERA board.
- Other post-employment benefit (OPEB) trust funds in the amount of \$3.6 Million were successfully transferred from the RHFPD OPEB trust into our OPEB trust accounts on July 29.
- The annexation, now a month old, has been relatively seamless.
- The District continues to work with the City of Hercules on transfer of ownership of Fire Station 76, including potential lot line adjustments.

#### **Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs Transition**

- Combined meeting of Health HazMat and Fire District members held on August 7 to initiate the planning process
- August 23 meeting between Health Officers and Fire District leadership to discuss best practices for communications and community notifications
- Bi-Weekly planning meetings will commence in August
- Cal EPA has been contacted and no issues have been identified in their process to transfer the CUPA to the Fire District

## **Upcoming Events**

Fire Station 94 Groundbreaking - 739 First Street, Brentwood, September 8, 11am

Annual Firefighter Memorial - 6500 Center Street, Clayton, September 11, 11am

