



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

July 9, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

Field Operations

- The fire district was very busy in June. Twelve significant vegetation fires occurred across the county. The two most significant events occurred at the old golf course in Pittsburg, where an old maintenance building that caught fire extended into the vegetation. Structure protection was required for homes adjacent to the golf course property. A second fast-moving vegetation fire occurred in Antioch, which also required structure protection of homes adjacent to the incident. A total of 250 acres burned. In both instances, no homes were damaged or lost due to the actions of suppression personnel and aviation assets provided by CAL FIRE.
- Thirteen working structure fires occurred during the month of June, the most significant being a fire in an apartment building in Pittsburg. Fire crews pulled two victims out of the apartment. Both were not breathing at the time of the rescue, but they regained spontaneous respirations after treatment. The adult victim was recently listed in stable condition, but the hospital would not release the status of the juvenile victim.
- A verbal report on July 4th activities will be provided. This written report was submitted prior to the 4th of July.
- A verbal report on the early July heatwave impacts and responses will be provided.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- At the June 17 quarterly meeting with the hospital council and executive leaderships from all hospitals in the county, most hospitals recognized that increased volume continues to challenge their abilities to reduce offload times. Dr. Kidane from the County EMS Agency recommended they dedicate resources specifically to address offload delays. Sutter Delta's model continues to be successful in reducing patient offload delays.
- Nurse Navigation working groups have been created to move the program forward and they are making good progress.
- The District participated in the CCH/FEMA Full Scale Medical Surge Response Exercise that occurred on June 13th in Brentwood.
- Martinez PD has agreed to participate in a trial use of "Card 38" protocols, which is an abbreviated method to ensure law enforcement officer requests for EMS resources are sent through the emergency medical dispatch protocols. Using Card 38 will enable us to send the most appropriate transport resource to these calls.
- We are discussing the possibility of expanding basic life support (BLS) transport resources into west county with agencies that would benefit from the additional ambulances.
- Our first 12 paramedic firefighter students, who attended the Contra Costa College program, have completed their didactic (classroom) portion of their training and have started their field training. Another 12 District members have been selected to start the next cohort on August 2nd. Without the ability to hire new firefighter paramedic recruits in large numbers the District has turned to training our own members to become firefighter paramedics to ensure we continue our ability to provide advanced life support (ALS) to our communities.

Special Operations

- The District's hazardous materials response team participated in the CCH/FEMA exercise on June 13th in Brentwood.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex was submitted by the District for the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Community outreach and public comment was offered at each of the Town Hall meetings in May.
- The Contra Costa County Wildfire Mitigation Program wrapped up the 2023/2024 year with 103 completed projects and 88 projects still remaining in the request portal under review. An updated map, attached, provides the details and locations of these projects.

- The County Coordinator grant recently offered agencies to extend their period of performance an additional five months to December 31, 2024. The District applied for this extended funding. This program has been extremely successful through outreach to inform Fire Safe Councils, Firewise Communities and residents of funding opportunities that are available for Wildfire Mitigation efforts.

Administration Section Update

Support Services Division

- Push-in ceremonies for the two new tillered ladder trucks occurred in June. The first truck was put in service at Fire Station 92 in Brentwood. The second truck went into service at Fire Station 81 in Antioch.
- The project to replace the concrete in the apparatus bay and front apron at Fire Station 14 in Martinez has been completed. The crews have returned and this station is now open and operating.

Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 94, Brentwood: Staff has continued to meet with the design-build teams who will be proposing on the project. We anticipate final selection in August. The final selected team will be responsible for taking the design through the Brentwood Planning Commission.
- Fire Station 90, Brentwood: A preferred alternative site has been identified. Preliminary soil sampling has been completed and the results are indicating no major contamination issues with the site. Staff is working to advance the project to the next steps.

Communications Division

- The recruitment for Fire Dispatchers continues with two new members joining the team. These two are completing their four week classroom based training. Two additional new Dispatchers are finishing up their floor-based training and will be part of minimum staffing soon.
- The District has started work with GeoComm for system-wide GIS assistance. This will help to repair and resolve current mapping and GIS based issues with the current maps used for emergency response routing and address location verification.
- The District has executed a contract with Thompson Builders, Inc. out of Novato for the pending remodel of the fire communications center and the communications division offices. The goal is to begin construction in July with an estimated 18 months for completion of both buildings.
- 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 a contract for a computer aided dispatch (CAD) rebuild and support from Central Square, our current CAD provider. The District's CAD is older and in need of being rebuilt or replaced in order to perform more efficiently and reliably. This is a significant and expensive project for any communications center with direct impact to our service delivery and 911 communications system.

Public Information Office

- The PIO office is maintaining a busy schedule with ceremonies and events. In addition, an internal newsletter will soon go out to all members of the Fire District. Given the size and continued growth of the Fire District, the goal of this newsletter is to keep Fire District personnel abreast of important events, incidents and relative features of interest unique to the Fire District.
- The PIO team has recently added a new member. Fire Prevention Captain Ted Leach is the newest member of the Oncall PIO Team. Captain Leach is shadowing the current PIO team members on incidents and during media interviews.

Rodeo-Hercules Annexation Discussions

- Two Town Halls were conducted in June in the communities of Rodeo and Hercules. The Fire Chief and other District leadership participated in these events along with the Rodeo-Hercules Interim Fire Chief and their consultant.
- The Rodeo-Hercules FPD Board of Directors will now take the item under consideration at their July 10 board meeting and determine next steps.