



July 29, 2014

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief
RE: Fire District Report

- The District continues to work with Human Resources to hire personnel as quickly as possible. We are currently operating with 30 vacancies in the Operations Division. This represents about 15% of our operational workforce. In addition, we still have to accommodate vacation leave, workers comp. injuries, sick leave, and other various forms of leave in our daily staffing. As a result, it is not unusual to have 20+ personnel off per day. We are also in the beginning stages of what appears to be one of the worst fire seasons in recent history. Our personnel are working very long hours to maintain our service levels, and they should be commended for their efforts. In my opinion however, this is a very dangerous situation. Because our personnel are working extended shifts, sometimes totaling 120 consecutive hours, they are tired and prone to mistakes and injury. We are monitoring this situation closely and making every effort to limit the number of hours worked in an effort to keep our personnel safe while continuing to provide the high level of service our customers have come to expect.
- Battalion Chief Lon Goetsch has been appointed as the Acting Assistant Chief of Operations to replace retired Assistant Chief Hartford. It is anticipated that he will have a commitment of approximately six months at which time we hope to have a permanent assistant chief in place. Chief Goetsch has been with the District for 12 years; the last four as a battalion chief.
- The EMS first-responder fee that we brought before the Board a couple of months ago is in its final review with County Counsel and we hope to have that brought back before the Board in September.
- On July 21, the District held its annual memorial ceremony honoring those that have passed away in the line of duty. July 21 is a significant date for the District as it is the date when Fire Captain Matt Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond were killed while attempting to rescue occupants at a house fire on Michele Drive in San Pablo in 2007.

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- The District is continuing to work with the consultant who is completing the EMS Feasibility report, providing the last pieces of data necessary to finalize the study. The report will be presented to the Board of Directors at the September meeting.
- The District continues to work with the City of San Pablo to implement a 2-person squad in West County. County Counsel is looking for existing contracts that can be used as a template for the contract that will be required between the District and the City. We hope to have the squad in service in late 2014/early 2015.
- Introduction of Dr. Peter Benson, our new medical director.