

Contra Costa County



Fire Protection District

March 8, 2016

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- The Ambulance Transport Program is consistently progressing. We are averaging about 200 transports per day. We have resolved most of the anticipated technology issues that occurred when we first switched dispatching responsibility from AMR's dispatch center to our regional communications center. The City of Richmond is now able to request ambulance service electronically, rather than verbally; and the data connections between the EMS agency and our communications center are in the final stages of completion.
 - The 21 firefighter recruits of Academy #49 continue to advance toward an anticipated May graduation date. A portion of the graduates will fill existing vacancies, and the remainder will staff Squad 70 in San Pablo, Engine 6 in Concord and Engine 16 in Lafayette.
 - In February, the District awarded 25-year service pins to Captain Kevin Prescott and Firefighter-Paramedic Herbert Chang, and we thank them for their service to the citizens of Contra Costa County.
 - The Fire District continues to work with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District to assist them as much as possible during their struggle with scarce resources. In an effort to balance the use of resources by both districts, when fire resources are already committed, EMS calls in East County are often responded to by ambulance alone.
 - In the last 60 days, the Fire District responded to two significant hazardous materials incidents. Although both of these incidents had positive outcomes, the events have prompted the District and the County Hazardous Materials Division to meet and discuss options that would enhance emergency operations between the two agencies.
 - The Fire District continues to proceed with the rebuilding of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. On February 26, the geotechnical engineer completed a survey on the slab and the soil below the slab and expects to report her findings by mid-March.

- Plans for the demolition and reconstruction of Fire Station 70 continue to move forward as a joint effort of the Fire District and the City of San Pablo. During the week of February 22, a draft funding agreement was prepared by County Counsel and delivered to the City, and we are awaiting the City's response. The District is also proceeding with the selection of an architect for the project.
- At the February meeting of the Board, the Fire District was tasked to report back in March regarding any impact the removal of the two-person squads may have had on the EMS system. Unfortunately, due to a series of technological issues surrounding the transfer of ambulance dispatch from Sacramento to the District, we are not yet able to produce a report. We respectfully request your patience and understanding and expect to return to the Board in April with our first quarter report on the Ambulance Transport Program and a report on the Squad Program.