



July 19, 2016

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

- In honor of our fallen firefighters, the Fire District's annual Line of Duty Death Memorial Ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 21 at the Fire District Training Facility located at 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include a moment of silence.
- The District continues to work with the City of Pinole and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District on a proposal to provide administrative oversight to both agencies. Details of the proposal were discussed at a June meeting, and the agencies' ad-hoc committees reported back to their governing bodies. Both the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Board of Directors and the Pinole City Council voted in favor of continuing to negotiate the details of the proposed contract.
- District negotiations to purchase a fire boat from the Tiburon Fire Protection District did not reach fruition. During the inspection process, significant corrosion was detected in both hulls. Negotiations were terminated when the purchasing committee concluded that the corrosion in the hulls could cause future maintenance issues. The funds that were allocated for the purchase of the boat in fiscal year 2015-16 were reserved. After the committee identifies a suitable boat for purchase, the District will request that the Board approve a budget appropriation in fiscal year 2016-17. The District is fortunate that the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District fireboat remains available for our use.
- Fire Station 16 in Lafayette continues to progress. District and City staff have met and finalized the design concepts, and the application for environmental review has been filed. The environmental process will take approximately five months during which time the architect will complete the drawings and construction documents.
- Fire Station 70 in San Pablo is a few months behind Fire Station 16 in the design process. The architect is working on the conceptual design and attempting to determine if a single-story building will be sufficient as opposed to a two-story building. The District is working with the City on design concepts to determine egress routes and other important matters.

- Wildland fire season is here! While the rainfall we received last winter did improve our drought situation, there has been little to no improvement in fire behavior. The fires we have experienced thus far appear similar to late season fires, spreading very quickly and “spotting” ahead of the fire. Our fire prevention staff are ensuring that excess fuels are removed from land and around structures. Furthermore, we are requesting that the public exercise maximum caution when handling items that can start fires such as smoking materials, welding equipment, and lawn mowers.
- On June 25 and July 3, the District and the County experienced a significant drawdown of fire resources as a result of multiple incidents occurring over a short period of time. For example (see graphic), on June 25, over a period of 73 minutes, the District experienced seven significant incidents that required more than 41 District companies of firefighters and 11 chief officers to mitigate. It is important to note that our District currently operates with 25 fire companies. Several companies went directly from one incident to another in order to successfully resolve the incidents. In addition to District companies, all fire agencies in the County (and some from outside) provided assistance through our mutual and automatic aid agreements. This assistance included response to the scene, support vehicles, and station coverage. Additionally, our ambulance transport division handled many medical incidents without the assistance they would normally receive from our firefighters. On the evening of July 3, there were circumstances similar to those of June 25. I have chosen to bring these events to your attention for two reasons:
 1. As our governing body, it is important for you to know that the types of events we are experiencing include those where our resources are drawn down to the point that services are delayed and calls may go unanswered for a period of time.
 2. Despite scarce resources, District personnel are managing to handle these incidents. On the dates noted above, for example, many of our personnel went directly from one fire to another, and even on to a third incident, without getting any rest between calls. Additionally, our communication center staff are processing multiple incidents at an incredible pace.
- The communication center has been in transition for the last several months in order to fully assume responsibility for the dispatch of ambulance transport resources. The final step of this transition, implemented on June 28, fully eliminates call transfer time. We anticipate that response times could improve by as much as 30 seconds. The full extent of the improvement will not be known until we have operated under the new system for at least 90 days. In October, we will report back to the board on our performance.
- I am pleased to announce that Engine 6 in Concord has been officially re-opened! Fire Station 6 is one of our busiest fire houses, running approximately 20 incidents per day. Previously, Fire Station 6 housed two companies which consisted of a ladder truck and a fire engine, each with three personnel. During the recession, the

engine company was closed, and the truck company was required to respond to all incidents occurring in the District. Because of the high number of incidents, surrounding companies were required daily to respond to many of those calls. In 2014, the District was able to open a two-person EMS squad at Fire Station 6 which, to some extent, addressed the workload issues. Last year, the Board allowed the District to temporarily staff Engine 6 during most of the fire season. The corresponding data indicated that the second company was effective in relieving not only the high workload at Station 6 but also that of the surrounding companies. The Fire District is pleased to be able to open this company permanently as it will result in better service to our citizens and promote a safer working environment for our personnel.

- Preparations for Academy 50 continue to move forward. Currently, we have 17 candidates participating in the hiring process which includes a background investigation and fitness for duty psychological and medical screening. Academy 50 is scheduled to begin on October 3 and graduate in early 2017.