

# **Contra Costa County**



# **Fire Protection District**

August 16, 2016

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- 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. In July, all agencies met to discuss the proposal in detail. On August 15, District personnel will meet with the City of Pinole ad-hoc committee for a final discussion before the proposal goes to their council. A similar meeting will be held with the Rodeo-Hercules FPD ad-hoc committee in late August or early September.
  - 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. The design review submittal package is scheduled to be submitted to the City within the next two weeks.
  - 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. The finance agreement, which includes a land swap, has been returned from County Counsel and is being reviewed by District staff.
  - We are just entering the most dangerous part of wildland fire season. Although the days are getting shorter and the evenings are getting cooler, I urge our residents and visitors not to be fooled into thinking fire danger is waning because the opposite is actually occurring. In the early days of fire season, we typically see quick drying and burning of the light, flashy fuels such as our annual grasses. This year's early fire season has been responsible for the loss and damage of several homes in our District and elsewhere. As the season progresses, the medium and heavy fuels, including brush and timber, also dry out which leads to those fuels igniting much more easily than in the early season. The longer we go without consistent precipitation, the drier those fuels get which is why many of the most devastating fires are seen in late summer and fall.

- The communication center has been in transition for the last several months in order to fully assume responsibility for the dispatch of ambulance resources. The final step of this transition, implemented on June 28, fully eliminates an average 33 second call transfer/processing time.
- 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 screenings. Academy 50 is scheduled to begin on October 3 and graduate in early 2017.
- The District is proud to announce the hiring of two new Assistant Fire Chiefs. The Assistant Chief of Support Services is an existing position that was vacated by Chief Broschard last year upon his promotion Deputy Fire Chief. Aaron McAlister was hired to fill that vacancy and started in his new position on August 8. Chief McAlister was most recently the Fire Chief for the cities of Dixon and Winters for the last six years and brings with him over 20 years of fire service experience. Chief McAlister has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from California State University at Sacramento, is a state certified Chief Officer, and is a certified Chief Fire Officer (CFO) through the CPSE. He is currently enrolled in the Executive Fire Officer program at the NFA. Chief McAlister is the OES Region II Alternate Coordinator and will continue to retain that position in support of the statewide mutual aid system.

The other Assistant Chief position, newly created this fiscal year and funded from the transport fund, will oversee the ambulance transport program. Terence "Terry" Carey has been hired to fill that position and will begin on August 17. Chief Carey brings with him over 30 years of fire service experience and was most recently, since 2014, a Division Chief with the Alameda County Fire Department. In that role, he was responsible for managing the training division, supervising one of the department's three operational shifts, and serving as the department's primary representative for the City of San Leandro. Chief Carey holds a master's degree in Emergency Administration from California State University at Long Beach as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis. In addition, Chief Carey is a state certified Chief Officer and has completed the Executive Fire Officer program at the NFA.

- In the first half of the year, the District responded to 24,867 (137 daily) incidents, including 18,810 medical calls; 1,132 fires; 3,186 public assists; and 312 rescues. Our ambulances have responded to 49,604 incidents (274 daily) and transported 35,439 times (196 daily). Response times are as follows:

Zones	Urban			Rural		
	Average	90%	Standard	Average	90%	Standard
A	6:19	9:31	10:00	10:42	16:37	20:00
B-D	7:11	10:52	11:45	10:42	16:37	20:00

- On June 30, the District was awarded a training grant from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in the amount \$677,440. Our matching portion is \$61,585. The ten classes that make up the grant must be delivered over the next 12 months. The grant includes tuition, overtime, and backfill pay for our personnel. The classes will cover a variety of rescue-oriented topics including rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, swift water rescue, urban search and rescue, auto extrication, firefighter rescue, and helicopter rescue.