



September 12, 2017

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Fire Station 16 (Lafayette): The plan review process continues with various agencies. A sewer line issue was identified during this process and is being addressed. Originally, we anticipated receiving the building permit in August, but this should actually occur in the next 60 days. After the building permit is issued, the formal bid process can begin. The Lafayette City Council was updated on the project on August 16, 2017.
- Fire Station 70 (San Pablo): The CEQA analysis is complete. Upon Board approval of the CEQA findings, we will submit plans to the City for design review. We anticipate the City of San Pablo will schedule a design review hearing before the Planning Commission in October. We will utilize the same construction management firm for fire stations 16 and 70.
- The District's new Hazardous Materials Response Team has completed their third week of training. The team remains on schedule for being functional by January 2018.
- The District has updated our Automatic Aid Agreement with East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. Changes to the previous agreement were necessary due to the recent closure of their fourth fire station. I am cautiously optimistic that the new agreement will provide adequate protection to both fire districts without excessively burdening either agency. We will evaluate the new agreement every 30 to 60 days to assure the impacts are well managed.
- The District's tenth annual Line of Duty Death Memorial Service was well attended. This year's ceremony included personal stories and testimonies about the incident that took the lives of Fire Captain Matt Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond in 2007. A major highlight of the ceremony was Scott's 11-year-old son who spoke to the attendees about his feelings for his dad. I want to thank the Board and our commissioners for their attendance and overwhelming support. During the ceremony, the fire district announced the dedication of the new FS70 to Matt and Scott.

- The District presented a report to the Emergency Medical Care Committee regarding the excessive delays in transferring patient care to hospital staff. These delays create response delays to emergencies and pose a negative financial impact to an already burdened emergency response system. There is no penalty structure in place to limit the delays, and the delays in patient transfer times continue to increase. The District is working with various stakeholders in an effort to make improvements through mutual understanding and cooperation. In the absence of improvement over the next 60 to 90 days, the District may begin invoicing the hospitals for the additional expenses incurred as the result of the delays.
- July was a very busy month for the Fire District. Several multi-alarm fires occurred in both wildland and residential commercial structures. Our personnel also responded to several of the major wildfires that occurred across the state. Additionally, the District responded to several major emergency incidents including water rescues, disentanglements, and hazardous material spills. Although most of the major wildfires are now under control, the worst of the fire season lies ahead in late summer and fall.
- The District promoted Battalion Chief Ed Gonzales to Assistant Chief of Emergency Operations effective August 1. Chief Gonzales is a 30-year member of the organization and was most recently assigned to our busiest battalion in the Pittsburg/Antioch area. Over the last several years, he has provided key support for our promotional testing and career development programs, and he brings a vast amount of operational experience to the position. The District is now able to divide the Training/EMS Division into two which gives each of the divisions the oversight and staffing they require. Assistant Chief Lon Goetsch has been transferred to lead our Training/Safety Division, and Assistant Chief Terence Carey continues to oversee the EMS Division. In addition, Captain Paul Silva was promoted to Battalion Chief. Paul has been with the District for a number of years and brings a wealth of experience with him to his new position.
- The Fire District continues to work very closely with the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) to make sure our ambulance response times are as fast as possible. Together we have achieved a very high performing emergency medical system. For example, we are required to meet our response times 90% of the time. We are currently achieving our goal 97-98% of the time. Outliers, any response time over 19 minutes, have been reduced to single digits in June and July. In the cities of Concord and Lafayette (who recently requested information on ambulance response times for their areas), we have reduced average ambulance response times by two to three minutes since we assumed control of the ambulance transport contract.