



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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September 18, 2018

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

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- Fire Station 16 (Lafayette): The building footings have been poured, and the underground plumbing and electrical are being installed under the building. The September schedule calls for all foundations and floors to be poured by the end of the month. We look forward to the structure going vertical in October.
- Fire Station 70 (San Pablo): The architectural drawings are complete, and the City of San Pablo is currently reviewing the building plans. Kitchell, our construction management firm, has completed a constructability review of the plans. We expect to approach the Board in October for authorization to go out to bid by year end using our existing pre-qualified bidders.
- The ambulance transport program continues to operate at very high levels of performance. Our County contract requires ambulances to be on-scene within 11 minutes/45 seconds, 90% of the time, in all areas except the City of Richmond where our requirement is 10 minutes, 90% of the time. Countywide, we are arriving within our timeframes 96-97% of the time.
- Although the weather is assuming a fall-like pattern with cooler days and nights, I urge the public not to drop their guard as fire season is not nearly over. This is, in fact, the time of year when we experience the most significant wildfires because the larger fuels are at their driest. This time of year is when we see the highest-risk areas, such as Walnut Creek and Lafayette, become the most vulnerable.
- Another of our apparatus was involved in a freeway accident on September 11 while tending to a patient who had been involved in a previous accident. Fortunately, none of our personnel were injured in the accident, but this was another "near-miss" for our personnel while operating on the freeway. We have already taken steps to get our personnel and apparatus off the freeways as soon as possible, but we are considering implementing additional measures that will reduce our risk even more. This marks the fifth or sixth time our apparatus and/or personnel have been struck while operating on the freeway.

- Fire District managers met with East Contra Costa Fire managers this last month to discuss the auto-aid agreement between the two agencies. Over the summer months, the ratio of aid provided to aid received has become very out of balance with ConFire providing up to four times the amount of aid to East Contra Costa Fire than it is receiving from them. As both fire districts are experiencing increasing call volume every month, and neither agency has added additional resources for quite some time, the management teams from both agencies agree that the current auto-aid agreement is not sustainable. ConFire is working on a proposal whereby only a limited number of resources will be available for auto-aid which will ultimately result in occasional refusals to East Contra Costa Fire when aid is requested. Our agencies are also exploring other measures for reducing the number of requests for resources.
- The Fire District continues to work toward developing an operational plan for “Intentional Multiple Casualty Incidents” (IMCI, formerly referred to as “active shooter incidents”). The new plan will focus on getting EMS to victims of these types of incidents as quickly as possible, including firefighters and EMS personnel entering the “warm” zone. Labor and management are working closely on this topic as it presents a significant change from typical operations.
- The Fire District’s new Hazardous Materials Team has responded to several significant incidents since it was placed into service. The main goal of deploying our own team was to shorten the response time to chemical incidents, and that goal has been accomplished. By shortening the response time, we are able to have both incident commanders and first responders on scene to organize the incident, begin evacuations, and stop or divert the leaking material, thereby reducing exposure to persons and the environment.
- Several District personnel have been deployed as part of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force ahead of the hurricane, Florence, affecting the east coast. The deployment will provide swift water and flood rescue capability along with heavy rescue capability, if needed, in the aftermath of the predicted category four hurricane.
- All District senior safety managers attended the four-day Emergency Operations Center (EOC) class presented by the Sheriff’s Department last month. The class emphasized the function of the EOC and the Department Operations Center (DOC) during disaster operations. While four days was a huge commitment in the middle of fire season and amongst other demands, staff learned a great deal and, most importantly, were able to interact and develop working relationships with other county staff in the EOC.
- Retired Fire Captain Peter Aliotti passed away on August 28 as a result of occupational cancer. Captain Aliotti served for 32 years with the Fire District. After being hired as a firefighter, he promoted through the ranks and retired in 2012 as a

well-respected and admired Fire Captain. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, mother, siblings, and their significant others. Captain Aliotti will be missed by all of his brothers and sisters at ConFire, and we thank him and his family for the contributions and sacrifices they made to the benefit Contra Costa County. Funeral services for Captain Aliotti were held on September 14.