



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

---

May 21, 2019

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

---

- Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. During his tenure leading the Support Services Division, Chief McAlister developed and implemented a strategic fleet replacement program; managed the construction of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette; initiated the construction of Fire Station 70 in San Pablo and the design of Fire Station 9 in Pacheco and Fire Station 86 in Bay Point; completed the District's solar energy project; initiated and completed the Fire District administration building project; filled the long-term vacancy in the Fire District Apparatus Manager position; established the Fire Mechanic I and Fire Mechanic II classifications; and managed numerous other equipment, apparatus, and facility projects. He holds an AS Degree in Fire Science from Solano Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Sacramento State University. In 2016, he became only the 33<sup>rd</sup> Chief Officer in the State of California to be certified as a Fire Chief by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Chief McAlister is a certified and qualified Type 3 Incident Commander and was recently appointed as one of the Incident Commanders for the East Bay Incident Management Team serving Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. He is the alternate Region II Mutual Aid Coordinator for California OES as well as the new Operational Area Coordinator for Contra Costa County. Until Chief McAlister's vacancy is filled, he will retain his Support Services responsibilities.
- "Fire season" has arrived. Early indications find the annual grasses are thicker, taller, and in more densely packed and continuous fuel beds across our area. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) publishes the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook reports for each month – looking forward 3-4 months. Their report anticipates "above normal" potential for significant wildland fires for our area and much of the state for June and July. August finds almost all of northern California at a critical stage for significant wildland fire activity.
- North Orinda Shaded Fuel Brake (NOSFB) project. The NOSFB is a joint project among several local government agencies and funded by Cal Fire to remove or reduce certain vegetation and fuel beds in a continuous line stretching from Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette to Tilden Park. The areas in our jurisdiction include a widening of a ridgetop fire trail and thinning of brush and trees on East Bay Parks property above Lafayette, as well as thinning of trees and grasses along Bear Creek Road and portions of Wellesley Drive and Happy Valley Road near Lafayette. The goal of the project is to provide a fuel break to slow the spread of a fire in the area and give firefighters additional areas with which to directly suppress or direct the spread of fire in these improved fuel reduction zones.

- District weed abatement program. Our annual weed abatement program has begun – starting in the eastern areas of the District and moving out to the west based on the curing of the annual grasses. We anticipate a busy year and have secured a 3-year contract with a new vendor to fulfill the abatement orders.
- REACH public safety helicopter program. The contract with REACH has been completed and we are working on the logistics, training, and structure of the program. We anticipate implementing the program in late summer.
- Fire Boat rescues. Our marine program continues to be busy on the Delta with rescues. On Monday, April 29 at approximately 1:00am, Rescue Boat 81 and Fire Boat 85 responded to a report of a sinking boat with two men in the water. The boat, a 12' aluminum outboard, had been swamped by 3'-5' waves in the windy Delta. The boat was mostly underwater and both men were in the water suffering from hypothermia with no way to get out of the water. On Sunday, May 5, crews responded to a total of three separate water rescues and pulled six people from the water. Our marine program has taken years of effort in procuring equipment, providing training to dozens of personnel, and developing relationships with other agencies – but the attitude and spirit of those involved in this specialized rescue team is saving lives and making a difference.
- In the community – American Red Cross “Sound the Alarm” campaign. On Saturday, April 27, over 60 volunteers installed 400 smoke alarms at two mobile home parks in Pacheco. On Wednesday, May 1, another installation event was held at a mobile home park in Antioch. The campaign installed almost 1,700 residential smoke alarms in Contra Costa County between April 27 and May 12. This important partnership with the Red Cross makes it possible to increase education, fire safety awareness, and provide smoke alarms that give critical notification and the minute or two that often makes the difference between life and death in a mobile home fire. The program is a successful partnership to assist in outreach to homeowners and residents in some of our most vulnerable populations.



Special thanks to Beth Lee (Assistant Director of Airports), Keith Freitas (Director of Airports), James Lyons (District Coordinator – Supervisor Gioia), and Anne O (Chief of Staff – Supervisor Mitchoff) for volunteering their time on a Saturday for this important event!!