



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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September 10, 2019

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Annual Line of Duty Death Memorial Service. This event will be held on Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m. at our memorial wall located on the District's Concord training campus. Two names have been added to our memorial wall, those of Fire Captain Peter Aliotti and Fire Captain Roger Harless who both succumbed to job related illnesses in the past year. Beginning this year, we have moved this event to its new September date to more closely align it with the California Firefighters Memorial Service and to increase attendance by timing it after the summer vacation months.
- National Night Out. Con Fire engine and truck crews, along with the Fire Prevention Bureau's public education specialists, supported a total of nine annual National Night Out events across the County last month with Sparky also making appearances. At each event, participants received educational information on the importance of smoke alarms. The District participated in events in Antioch, Concord, Martinez, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, San Pablo, and Walnut Creek, with some communities having multiple events.
- Academy 54 Update. We are preparing for 27 recruits to begin this 19-week intensive training program beginning in October. Of the 27 recruits, six are paramedics who will be a welcome addition to our ranks for this critical specialty when graduation occurs next spring.
- Apparatus Update. The District's newest water tender recently underwent final acceptance inspection at the manufacturing facility in Florida. The water tender will be delivered very soon and just in time to enter service before the end of this fire season. It will replace a 30-year-old tender, from the Riverview Fire District, which is still in service.
- REACH Partnership. The new Con Fire-branded medical transport helicopter is planned to go into service on September 28. Air medical training for our personnel will begin on September 16.



- **Facility Maintenance.** The training tower on the Concord training campus, originally constructed in the 1960s, is receiving much needed repairs and renovation. The tower closed for renovation on August 22 and is expected to reopen on October 4. In the meantime, necessary training is being conducted using other training facilities including our multi-functional Phase V Burn Trainer located at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station.

Historic Fire Station 6 in Concord is also undergoing a well-deserved re-roofing. That work began on August 26 and is expected to conclude on October 4.

- **Fire District Open House.** Our annual open house will be held on Saturday, November 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Training and Safety Division on Treat Boulevard in Concord. The theme for this year's event is "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape; Plan and Practice Your Home Escape," which will be used to tie together the several public education demonstrations and displays. As in past years, the open house will feature a variety of interactive and educational activities as well as apparatus, equipment, and our helicopter program.
- **Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparation and Evacuation.** Although intended to be a digital product available on numerous County websites, we recognized a need for hard copies of the document and are having several thousand copies printed in collaboration with the Sheriff's office. These will be distributed at public presentations, senior citizen facilities, county libraries, and will also be available for Supervisors' offices.
- **North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break (NOSFB) Project.** As of late August, about 50% of the 20 miles of this project had been completed. Almost all the work in our District has been completed as a result of this progress report. Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District has created a detailed online progress tracking tool that can be linked to from the Con Fire Exterior Hazards webpage (<https://www.cccfpd.org/exterior-hazards>).
- **Fire Season.** To date, this fire season has been mild across the state. There are estimates stating that up to 90% fewer acres have burned compared with the same time last year. In our District, there have been about the same number of fires as compared with last year, and we have succeeded in keeping these relatively small fires small. There have been three significant wildland fires in the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District within the last 60 days, and we provided substantial resources for an extended period. We now are entering what is normally the most active and dangerous period of our local fire season but with a significantly higher fuel load than in recent years. We all should be reminded there is still considerable potential for large and destructive wildfires until consistent rains begin to fall in the area.