



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 8, 2019

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- **Fire Season.** We weathered the late September heat waves well, and the total vegetation fires to date number almost the same as compared to this time in 2018. We have succeeded in keeping all but two of these fires to less than 10 acres. This is a considerable accomplishment given we have dispatched to some 165 such fires since the beginning of fire season in early May.

We can attribute some of this success to pre-planning, including up-staffing for the most risk-prone periods, and rapid, multi-unit responses. Another reason is what seems to be somewhat increased property owner attention to weed abatement and defensible space creation. A great example of this occurred on a late September fire in the Rossmoor community at the site of a 2018 fire that very nearly involved structures. This year, the essentially similar fire was much more easily and quickly controlled because of the diligence and attention to detail of the Rossmoor grounds-keeping team and the work of Fire Marshal Bachman, Fire Prevention Captain Laing, and Fire Prevention Technician Woofter with PG&E to mitigate power-line related risks.

While we are hopeful that sustained rains will put an end to this season in the next few weeks, we are now in what is normally the most active and dangerous period of our local fire season but with a 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.

- **Academy 54 Update.** October 1 was the first day of training for our 25 new recruits, and they are off to a strong start. We hosted a family night event on September 26 where we introduced the academy and fire service life to family members and began the transition for these recruits from civilians to firefighters.
- **Apparatus Update.** We took delivery of our second fire bulldozer, Dozer 220, in late September and are planning an event to introduce it to the community later this month. This powerful firefighting tool joins its more seasoned brother, Dozer 221. The new addition effectively doubles our fire dozer capability with more power, capabilities, and safety features; and it includes a new prime mover semi-truck and trailer.

- **REACH Partnership.** The new Con Fire-branded medical transport helicopter went into service on September 28, as planned. A media event is planned for October 10 to introduce this important new program and capability to the public and to preview the addition, expected near year's end, of an additional larger and more capable helicopter.
- **Facility Maintenance.** Significant progress has been made on our training tower repair and renovation project. With the completion of the exterior surfaces repairs and recoating, the result is a safer and more attractive structure with increased functionality and durability. Staircase repairs have been delayed due to permitting requirements, but this final portion of the project is now expected to be completed by the end of November.
- **American Medical Response Awards.** Our emergency ambulance contractor, American Medical Response (AMR) has been named winner of two prestigious 2019 California Ambulance Association Service Excellence (CAASE) Awards. CAASE awards recognize excellence, resourcefulness, and ground-breaking ideas being implemented by California ambulance operators and showcase the best practices of the ambulance business in the State. Awards were presented at the organization's annual convention on September 25 in San Diego.

AMR was recognized in two categories:

- Community Impact for its enhanced bystander CPR (EBCPR) program designed to increase lay rescuer comfort with performing CPR as well as improve familiarity with how to properly use an AED. In the year prior to the program, bystander CPR rates for sudden cardiac arrest were 41.9% and public AED usage was 6.6%. Following EBCPR, bystander CPR rates increased to 49%, and public AED usage increased to 11.3%.
 - Clinical Service/Patient Outcomes for its CPR Highly Defined (CPR-HD), a program that created a uniform approach and system for cardiac arrest management that could be replicated throughout the service area.
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Award.** On September 18, the District was awarded a three-year federal grant in the amount of \$4.9M to fill nine firefighter or firefighter-paramedic positions. The grant was awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. With Board approval, the District intends to use this grant to add a fourth firefighter to three additional companies.
 - **Hurricane Dorian Deployment.** In early September, we deployed four paramedics and four EMTs from AMR as well as two FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Team members from the Fire District.
 - **North Orinda Shaded Fuelbreak.** All work is reported as complete within the Lafayette area of the Fire District. Work remains in the hills above San Pablo Dam Road near Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. For updates, the public can visit <http://www.mofd.org/shadedfuelbreak>.