



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

November 12, 2019

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Academy 54 Update. With many of the fundamentals under their belts as they make the transition from civilian to firefighter, our recruits are now entering week five of training. In the coming weeks, they will continue to hone basic skills while learning structure firefighting and prepare for state testing. The class is performing well and is on track for mid-February 2020 graduation.
- Academy 55 Recruitment. A lateral Firefighter/Paramedic application period was recently closed, during which we received 54 applications. Initial interviews are scheduled for November. We anticipate the need to hire nine-to-13 lateral Firefighter/Paramedics to account for attrition in the organization and an abridged academy of eight weeks in mid-April will help us accomplish this.
- Apparatus Update. We took delivery of Water Tender 14 (Martinez) in October. This is the first of 2 water tenders obtained with grant funds and will replace our single, almost 30-year old, water tender and give us water handling capacity for the area of Franklin Canyon that does not have a hydrant system.
- Annual Fire Prevention Open House. Hundreds attended our annual open house event Saturday, November 2 at our training grounds in Concord. This is always a popular family event and this year was no exception with the unusual series of events we have experienced county-wide in the last 30 days driving interest in fire safety and emergency preparedness.

Our Fire Prevention Bureau provided staffing for a variety of educational booths and activities, including a fire rescue "house" trailer (provided by San Ramon Valley Fire) that offered realistic kitchen safety and bedroom escape training. Informational booths and displays included our fire investigation unit, defensible space, and wildfire preparedness.

Fire Explorers and Los Medanos Fire Academy students provided support for all the youngsters who wanted an opportunity to try their hands at firehose target practice and Concord CERT gave countless kids a chance to learn how to put out a real fire with a fire extinguisher. Live demonstrations included auto extrication using the Jaws of Life, rappelling from our newly refurbished training tower, rooftop ventilation, and fire behavior and safety using live-fire in scaled houses.

Static displays included our new REACH-partnership Con Fire helicopter, Con Air 2; our newest fire bulldozer, Dozer 220; a marine program rescue boat; and, of course, fire engines, ladder trucks, heavy rescue apparatus, and ambulances.

- NuStar Response and Investigation. Significant resources were committed to the initial response to the NuStar explosion on October 15, including more than 15 engines and trucks, Dozer 220, the Command 84 mobile unit, 10 chief officers, and multiple support personnel.

Our Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) continues to lead the joint team of investigators working in their third week at the site. The team also includes the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, County Health and Haz Mat, Cal OSHA, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Owing to the complexity of this investigation, work is ongoing at the site with no updates related to the cause available at this time.

- REACH Partnership. The air ambulance remains busy and crews are experiencing the variety of incidents and critical inter-facility transfers we now provide. The second helicopter will be delivered in late November with rescue hoist training now scheduled for late January.
- October 27 Fire Weather Event. An unprecedented level of response was required to successfully mitigate multiple, sometimes simultaneous, significant fire weather incidents throughout the Fire District and across our county in an 18-hour period Sunday. A separate report is provided for the Board of Directors regarding this event, the incidents that occurred as a result, and the efforts of our organization in responding to these incidents.
- A Resilient Organization. October, 2019 will be remembered by many of us as one of the busiest and most unusual months of our careers. From the first ever PSPS event on October 9, to the NuStar incident on October 15, to the second PSPS event on October 26 and the corresponding fire incidents on the following day, we were exceptionally busy and confronted with new and rare incidents.

I am proud to point out that none of these events, and the individual incidents within them, would have been managed so well, planned for and executed with experience and training, or mitigated and controlled so effectively if it were not for the quality, caliber, and commitment of our personnel and the relationships we hold between our labor and management groups, as well as with our external fire, EMS, and law enforcement partners. Great people make all the difference in determining the capability and resiliency of an organization and I am humbled by everything our personnel did in service to the public across our county this past month.