



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

February 11, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- **Coronavirus Planning.** The District has taken steps to prepare for the potential spread of the virus. We have implemented changes to our Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) questions of 911 callers regarding recent travel to China so we can provide appropriate information to our responders as well as alert receiving hospitals of possibly infected patients. As the situation develops, we are closely monitoring guidance from Centers for Disease Control and California Department of Health and updating our threat assessment. Our Medical Director, EMS Chief, and Ambulance Transport Program management are in daily contact with each other for information sharing, discussion of protocol changes/implementation and are in contact with county EMS staff and the State EMS Authority as needed.
- **High School Hands-Only CPR Training Program.** This important initiative to help drive up cardiac event survivability across the County continues to gain momentum with several high schools across the District opting in this year. In January and February, multiple training sessions were conducted by AMR and CON Fire personnel at all Mount Diablo Unified School District high schools. At the beginning of February, approximately 5,000 of our stated goal of 10,000 students were trained. We continue to reach out to remaining high schools in the hopes of providing training to their students, as well.
- **Lucas Device Update.** Lucas mechanical chest compression devices demonstrated at the December Fire Board meeting were placed in service last week. These easy-to-use lifesaving CPR units are now available on every District engine and truck to help our crews deliver high quality and consistent chest compressions to sudden cardiac arrest patients at every incident where they may be needed.
- **Academy 54 Update.** Academy 54 is days away from completion with graduation scheduled for this Thursday, February 13, at 5 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. This is one of the most important events for the District, our recruits and their families and friends, and the communities we serve. All of the above, including District residents, are invited to attend and celebrate with us.

- Academy 55 Update. Candidates for this relatively small and abbreviated Lateral Firefighter-Paramedic Academy are currently in the medical screening process. We expect to begin this abridged, 10-week academy with approximately 10 experienced firefighter-paramedics in mid-April.
- Fire Control Worker Recruitment. Interviews were conducted last week to identify 10 to 12 qualified candidates for the new hand crew program. Hiring will follow in May.
- REACH Partnership. Con Air 1 remains at Mather Field where maintenance issues have delayed its in-service date until at least the end of February. In conjunction with the arrival of Con Air 1, we will plan a media event to communicate the many positive attributes of this unique partnership. Con Air 2 continues to provide air ambulance services and has been busy with transports from within Contra Costa County as well as adjacent counties.
- US&R Search Dog Handler Update. The District continues to move forward with the plan to add a canine handler from our existing ranks of FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 4 personnel. Three potential candidates have been selected and will undergo an observation period by the task force that will inform a decision later this month as to which handler will attend training on the east coast later this year.
- Pine Street High-Rise Training Drills. This training for these low-frequency, yet high-risk incidents was completed in late December. More than 250 CON Fire firefighters, along with firefighters from San Ramon Valley, Pinole, and Rodeo-Hercules, completed the training which assures we are better prepared in the event they are called on to respond to a high-rise fire.
- Firefighter Injuries. Our occupation is a dangerous one, and that was proven out in two January incidents with two of our firefighters suffering injuries responding to structure fires. In one case, which could have been much worse, a firefighter fell through a second-story floor resulting in falling debris injuring a firefighter below. Neither of these firefighters was seriously injured, and both returned to duty soon after the incident. In a second incident, a firefighter suffered a fractured ankle requiring loss of duty time while recuperating.
- Development Impact Fees. Antioch and Pittsburg have adopted the revised impact fees approved by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year.
- Additional Fire Inspectors. Two new Fire Inspectors started with the District in December. This increases code enforcement staffing from 7 to 9 Fire Inspectors. We are expecting two retirements in March and have initiated a recruitment for Fire Inspector I and Fire Inspector II positions.
- Fire Prevention Software. Procurement of a new inspection records management system and invoicing program is in process. We anticipate the new program will be installed and tested by July. This is one of the key components identified in the 2019 Grand Jury report regarding the Fire Prevention Bureau.

- NuStar Investigation Update. The investigation team continues to work on the investigation. We anticipate being able to complete the investigation and associated reports by the end of March.
- Emergency Generators. As part of ongoing planning and preparedness for PSPS events and disasters, we have applied for several grants for replacement of older fixed generators at our stations as well as new towable emergency generators. We were awarded funds for one towable generator as part of the State Homeland Security Grant program (\$92,000 with no matching funds) and replacement of the older fixed generators at Fire Station 2 in Pleasant Hill and Fire Station 81 in Antioch under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (\$614,960 total with 25% matching funds). Installation and delivery is expected in 2021 due to grant funding timelines.