



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

November 10, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- End of Fire Season(?). In the final weeks of October, we weathered numerous days of Red Flag Warnings as well as two countywide PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff events. For each period, we were able to coordinate repositioning approval with State OES and provide considerable up-staffing along with support from our other Operational Area fire jurisdiction partners. For the period of October 25–27, this included a Strike Team from San Francisco Fire being positioned within our operational area.

On October 25, based on forecast extreme fire danger, we took the unusual step of offering guidance to county residents suggesting those in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones consider voluntarily self-evacuating, especially if they were uncomfortable with or anticipated needing special attention for a potential evacuation.

In our recent interactions with the National Weather Service, we have been unable to determine the likelihood of the arrival of appreciable precipitation, leaving open the possibility of our fire season extending well into November, perhaps beyond. We are keeping our hand crew and dozer staffed through mid-November and will reevaluate as the weather situation becomes more definitive.

- Virtual Open House. Following up on its successful Fire Prevention Month “Serving Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen” week of public education daily programs, our Community Risk Reduction Unit executed a first-of-its-kind all virtual fire prevention open house. Substituting for this very popular annual in-person community event, the COVID-19-inspired virtual event was well received and visited by thousands of County residents and more across the region. A number of our members, who represent the many specialties and diverse services we offer, contributed their time and effort to making the virtual open house a success.

The numerous online offerings continue to be available on a special page on our website: <https://www.cccfpd.org/annual-open-house>.

- REACH Partnership Update. We received full certification from CalFire to operate Air 1 on aerial firefighting missions in the State Responsibility Areas. This allows us to work with CalFire aircraft on jointly managed incidents within our operational area, as well as assist adjoining operational areas within the Bay Area. Hoist rescue training is scheduled to begin in December.

- Project Pink Wheels. In recognition of the impacts of cancer on our residents, communities and firefighters, Con Fire, in conjunction with Local 1230, launched Project Pink Wheels on October 20 to celebrate and honor the many cancer warriors in our communities, past and present. At a media event on that date, we introduced the newest addition to our fleet, a pink fire engine designed to show support for all those in our communities touched by cancer. With the project, survivors or family members of past cancer fighters will be able to add names to the engine. For those currently in cancer treatment, the pink engine will be available to transport them to first or final treatments and will also be available for public health fairs, community festivals, parades, cancer events and other special requests. While pink is typically symbolic of breast cancer, the goal of Project Pink Wheels is to include all cancers.

- Annexation Feasibility Project. Work continues on this project. An initial fiscal analysis of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District is expected to be completed by the consultant by November 11.