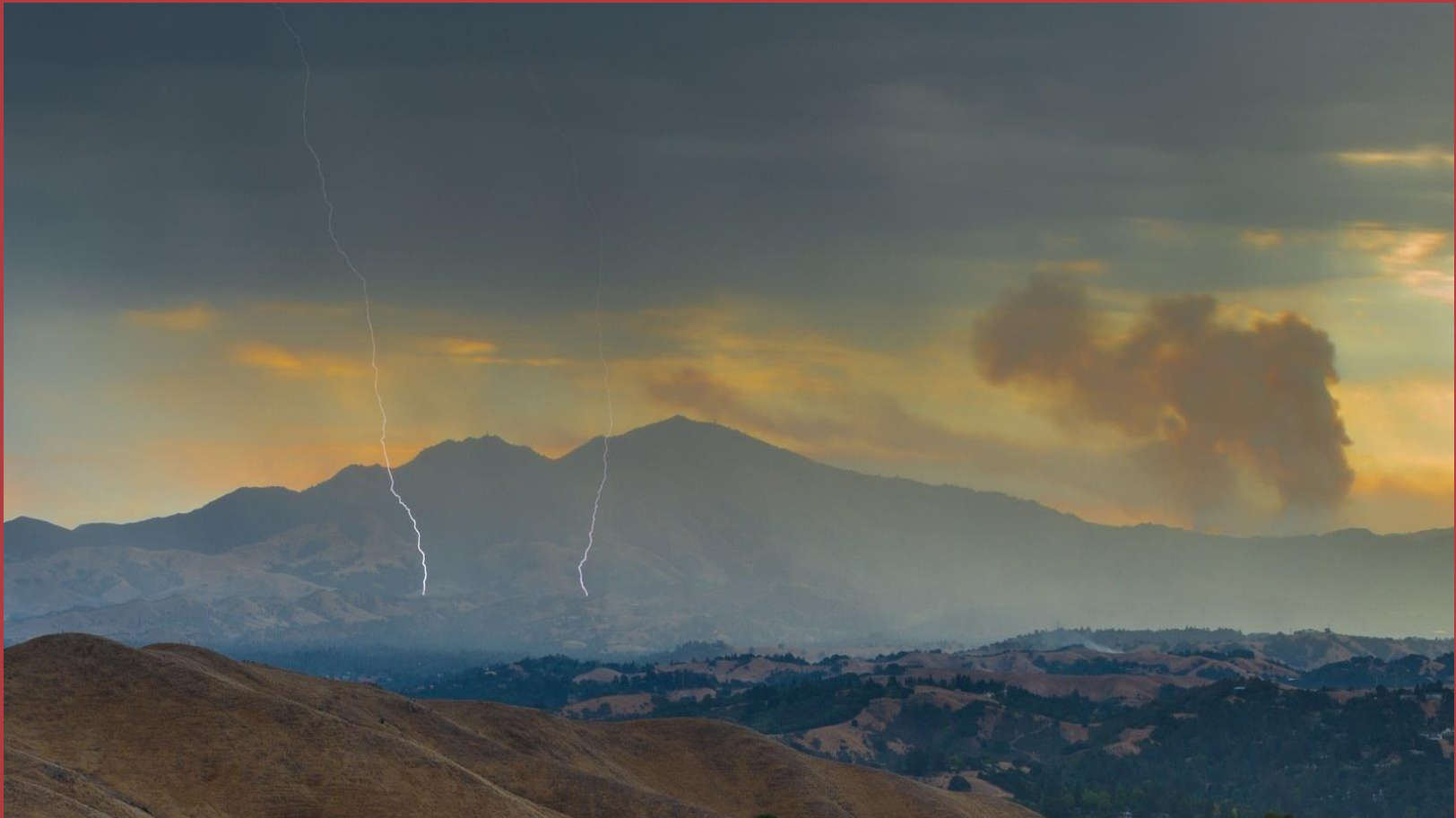




CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

FIRE SEASON 2020



Service • Leadership • Teamwork • Safety and Preparedness • Professionalism • Integrity



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FIRE SEASON 2020 OVERVIEW

- Largest fires on record in the Bay Area/Northern California region
- Highest level of mutual aid and strike team activity for the District
- Significant resource commitments mid-August through mid-October
- Significantly unhealthy air quality for extended periods



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FIREFIGHTING THIS SUMMER



Video courtesy of @FirePhotoGirl

Service • Leadership • Teamwork • Safety and Preparedness • Professionalism • Integrity



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IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

- Increased number of fires compared to 2018 & 2019
 - Vegetation Fires
 - 2018 – 313
 - 2019 – 317
 - 2020 – 436
 - Exterior Fires
 - 2018 – 719
 - 2019 – 775
 - 2020 – 1,043





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CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

- Crew 12
 - Hand crew that responds to fires in support of engine companies
 - Performs prescribed project and fuel reduction work
 - Assistance to CAL FIRE during the COVID pandemic





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CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

- Heavy Equipment Program
 - Fire trail maintenance
 - Increased capacity for emergency response
 - Force multiplier at fire scenes
 - Increased ability to assist with mutual aid
 - Cost recovery through mutual aid responses





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CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

- Aviation Program
 - Providing rapid response to local incidents
 - 160 gallon bucket
 - Incident observation
 - Learning from our 2020 experiences
 - Expanding training and coordination with CalFire





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CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

- Prepositioning
 - Consistent use of internal and external resources
 - Used during Red Flag conditions
 - Includes engines, hand crews, dispatchers, overhead, dozers, and aviation





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CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

- Expanded wildland apparatus fleet
- Increased wildland training - Incident Command
- AlertWildfire camera program
- Increased resiliency for large incidents
- Invested in towable emergency generators
- Continued work with Diablo Fire Safe Council



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CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

- Community Risk Reduction (CRR)
 - Working with H3 and certain cities to identify, educate, and support fire safe practices in homeless encampments
 - Work with H3 and cities/county to relocate encampments in high fire hazard zones or areas with dangerous fuel conditions
 - Exterior Hazard Control Unit – continued work on weed abatement and reducing fire hazards
 - 1,182 inspections
 - 150 work orders issued



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FIRE SEASON IS YEAR ROUND ISSUE

- Fire Season has become more an issue of levels of severity throughout the year
- No longer a real “hard stop” to Fire Season
- Droughts, continued effects of climate change, continued introduction of people into areas of dry vegetation, and other factors contribute to the risk
- We are in December and waiting for sustained rain



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PLANNING FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

- Crew 12
 - Has shown value – needs to be expanded to 7 days per week
 - Portion of staffing should be considered for year-round work
- Seasonal Staffing
 - Need to explore staffing of additional engines June-October
- Continued Support and Advocacy for Prepositioning
 - Important for our Operational Area and adjoining areas



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PLANNING FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

- Diablo Fire Safe Council
 - Need to consider funding to support neighborhood grants
 - Currently funded through federal grants that are uncertain
- Ordinances and Alternative Mitigation Approaches
- Expand Community Risk Reduction Efforts
 - Increased education and enforcement for defensible space
 - Continue work with H3 and others regarding encampments



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PLANNING FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

- Evacuation Planning
 - Support and integrate with countywide planning effort
- AlertWildfire Program
 - Continue to expand camera locations
 - Potential for early fire-detection technology
 - Increase resiliency and effectiveness of volunteer firewatch



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QUESTIONS?