



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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March 9, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Antioch Drive-By Shooting Incident. A Con Fire firefighter and an AMR paramedic were both struck by gunfire at the scene of an EMS call on Saturday evening, February 20, in Antioch. The firefighter was struck in the foot and the medic in the leg. They were both transported to local hospitals in stable condition, and neither injury was life-threatening. Both first responders were released from the hospital on February 21 and were recuperating at home as of the end of last month.

The incident was an EMS call, originally reported to dispatch at 8:53 p.m., for a male patient with abdominal pain. Shots were reported by the Con Fire unit, at 9:08 p.m., shortly after firefighters and medics arrived on scene.

In spite of the very fortunate outcomes in both cases, this was a very serious incident that we are not ignoring. We are conducting an After Action Review to address the incident, including a review of existing policies and protocols to identify any changes that may be warranted.

The incident was initially investigated by Antioch PD, with the Contra Costa County Sheriff taking the lead investigative role on February 21. The Sheriff announced a suspect had been arrested on Sunday morning in Richmond. The suspect was taken into custody following a pursuit from the scene in Antioch.

The suspect has been publicly identified as 26-year-old Darryon Williams of Stockton. After being interviewed by detectives, Williams was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on one count of murder and eleven counts of attempted murder. At the end of February, he was being held in lieu of bail of approximately \$11 million.

- Evacuation Planning. The County Fire Chiefs were awarded a \$300,000 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant that was funded late last year. The procurement process is wrapping up, and a firm was selected to provide a countywide evacuation planning and operational software system. This was an item of interest in Grand Jury Report No. 2007 issued in 2020. Implementation is expected in July 2021.

- Fire Station 4 Update. The District continues to prepare for the reopening of Fire Station 4 in unincorporated Walnut Creek as part of our overall Great Recession recovery planning. Staffing of the station is planned for July 2022 which coincides with the elimination of debt service on our pension obligation bonds. Several logistical and facilities-related issues will need to be addressed over the next year as we prepare to reopen the station. It is anticipated overall engine response times will be reduced by an average of three to four minutes to the immediate area once the station is reopened.
- COVID-19 Vaccination Update. Efforts to vaccinate our employees continue as we begin to see benefits surrounding return-to-work protocols for fully vaccinated employees.

As the fire Operational Area Coordinator for Contra Costa County, the District's efforts to support County Health's request for fire-hosted vaccination clinics continues. Clinics in east, west, and south county are being supported by firefighters, as well as those from all other fire agencies, the Office of the Sheriff, Brentwood PD, Los Medanos Community College Police, Hercules PD, CERT teams, County Medical Reserve Corps, and other agencies. Last week, we began to increase doses administered, from 500 per day to 1,000 per day, with a reduced number of total clinics and are prepared to expand the number of clinics as the situation warrants. The District is also engaged with County Health in planning for potential large scale vaccination sites.

In February, the Fire District received approval from the State to operate a standalone vaccine clinic. We have procured an appropriate refrigeration unit, and all elements are in place to function as a separate and distinct clinic which would allow the District to order and receive vaccination directly from the supply chain. We do not currently plan to initiate this effort as the need to operate a standalone clinic is not necessary at this time, but, having received approval from the State, we have the option and flexibility to do so in the future.

- Fire District Annexation Study Update. Phase II of this study continues with a rough draft and initial findings expected in April. Stakeholder interviews are taking place in March. As we progress, we anticipate additional stakeholder briefings and a number of public outreach activities for Con Fire and the other jurisdictions involved.
- Operations Updates. Hoist training resumed for Con Air 1's pilots in late February. The new estimate for completion of training is mid-April. An FAA issue has surfaced that may alter our initial hoist mission configuration. This issue requires administrative work to find a resolution but does not affect our ability to provide initial hoist training or impact our go-live date.

A number of recent incidents, including a 10-rail-car incident at a local refinery, kept the HazMat crew busy in February. In the refinery incident, our crews made entry into the scene and secured a leaking valve.

Our new HazMat apparatus is on site and being equipped. It should be inspected and inventoried by the state for OES typing in April after which it will go in service as our primary response unit. The OES apparatus we currently use for responses will be moved to reserve status for distant county OES responses or as an in-county back up.

Our HazMat team participated in the BAY EX 2021 training that took place in Antioch and Vallejo last month. They worked alongside specialized units from the FBI and National Guard. The training focused on threats from chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and explosives. Follow-up training will occur in April at MOTCO in Concord.

The recruitment and on-boarding process began last month for the 2021 Fire Control Worker program to staff our hand crew. A total of 84 interested candidates were interviewed for up to 24 positions. The estimated start date for this year's program is May 1.

- Alliance Ambulance Staffing. Alliance EMTs have been assigned to the FEMA Oakland Coliseum site to assist with vaccination efforts there.

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) conferred another three-year accreditation on our emergency ambulance system.

Congratulations to our EMS Division and our Alliance partner!

- Fire Prevention Updates. In February, the District formally launched the Firewise USA® program districtwide. This is a national program that helps neighbors work together with their local fire jurisdiction to protect their communities from wildfire danger. It is administered by the Community Risk Reduction Unit of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The Firewise USA® recognition program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the fire resistance of their homes and community; and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level.

Across our District, numerous communities face heightened wildfire danger due to terrain, vegetation, and local evacuation route conditions. Firewise USA® is a perfect complement to our many safety initiatives and a powerful tool for better protecting at-risk communities.

Two new fire inspectors started last month and are assigned to the Engineering Unit where they will be working on new construction plan intake and reviewing plans for approval. Three additional fire inspectors are expected to be hired this month to fill Code Enforcement vacancies.

- Communications Update. Since the universal power supply (UPS) failure at the Contra Costa Regional Fire Communications Center (CCRFCC), on January 24, we

have temporarily replaced one of the two older units. Two brand new units were ordered for future installation.

The Deputy Fire Chief and the new Assistant Fire Chief of Communications are working with County staff to expedite the design and eventual contracting of a major remodel to the CCRFCC. It is anticipated that we will repurpose our former administrative offices on Geary Road to relocate and accommodate the CCRFCC.

Information Systems staff are working on several projects including full implementation of Everbridge mass text notifications, CAD interfaces, and filling current staff vacancies.

- Training and Safety Updates. In February, the Training and Safety Division was very busy providing multiple hosted courses including All Hazards Incident Command, Basic Air Operations, Safety Officer, Advanced Drone Operations, Crew/Engine Boss, and Wildland Urban Interface Operations training.

Our training captains, mechanics, and engineer's cadre provided all probationary firefighters from Academies 54 and 55 with a 24-hour Apparatus Driver/Operator Training Course.

The District's Health and Wellness program continues to grow and provide expanding services to Con Fire personnel. In addition to providing a location for conduct of firefighter physicals and training, the wellness facility in our former fire prevention offices in Pittsburg is equipped with a variety of physical fitness equipment and is staffed by a physical therapist one day per week. The physical therapy evaluation and treatment program is off to an impressive start and will provide another valuable source of support for the organization.

Congratulations to our Academy 55 firefighter/paramedics on the successful completion of their 10-month probationary training!

- Apparatus Update. We took delivery of two Pierce Type I fire engines in January, and they were placed in service last month at Fire Stations No. 5 in Pleasant Hill and No. 10 in Concord. This delivery continues the ongoing effort at replacing older apparatus and maintaining compliance with NFPA standards for taking aging apparatus out of frontline service. One replaced fire engine is a 2002 model with 180,000 miles that the District will surplus; and the other is a 2007 model that will be retained as a spare unit.