



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

April 27, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- COVID-19 Update. As County infection and vaccination numbers continue to improve, we are continuing to emphasize the need for protective measures among our employees. At the same time, we have begun to review a number of interim policies and procedures with an eye toward adjusting or rescinding them at appropriate points along the path to a return to normalcy.

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 is expected to continue through May. These clinics are being supported by our firefighters, as well as those from all other fire agencies, the Office of the Sheriff, Brentwood PD, Los Medanos Community College Police, CERT teams, County Medical Reserve Corps, and other agencies. These clinics will conclude as fire season begins to ramp up.

- Fire District Annexation Study Update. Phase II of this study continues to move ahead with no roadblocks identified by the consulting team as of mid-April. With this in mind, and anticipating the likelihood of being able to move forward, we have begun to engage in certain planning efforts necessary to appropriately prepare for a potential annexation.
- Operations/Fire Weather Update. With continued dry and warm weather, it looks as though heightened fire danger will be upon us earlier than in prior years. In mid-April, hillsides are already changing from green to brown, a sign of things to come. There are several things new for the 2021 fire weather months, including:
 - Weed Abatement Deadline – Fire Prevention has established the weed abatement deadline for East County as May 16 based on current fuel moisture content and dry conditions. Dates for Central County and West County are expected to be determined by the end of the month.
 - Firewise USA Program – Now available to neighborhoods District-wide, this national program helps neighbors work together with their local fire jurisdiction to protect their communities from wildfire danger. 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. It is administered by the Community Risk Reduction Unit of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

- Crew 12 Update – Our hand crew program begins May 1 with two weeks of training. This year, we are fielding two complete crews for a total of 24 personnel. After the two weeks of training, we will have seven-day-a-week staffing. Crews will be available for spring/summer abatement projects and fire weather suppression support assignments.
- Con Air Program – Hoist training began at the base at Buchanan Field in early April with two of our members becoming certified. We are moving ahead with rescue training to support upcoming hoist capability.
- Training Division Update. April was a busy month for the Training Division with multiple courses completed and more planned for future months as we move into fire weather. Here are some highlights:
 - Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) training was completed for all companies in March. Highly realistic training was conducted in a vacant K-Mart building in Pinole and using another building at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station. Training focused on the roll out of our updated Mayday checklist, RIC pack familiarization, mayday communications, and command communication and tactics.
 - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) orientations were also conducted in March for all Fire Prevention Bureau investigators. Nearly 20 personnel completed this training and received personal SCBA masks and related gear.
 - In early April, the division hosted classes, part of the State Registered Instructor series, to build our bench of instructors in support of our Accredited Local Academy (ALA) status. Twelve personnel completed level one instructor training and another 20 completed ethics training. Additional instructor classes are projected to be hosted in late summer and early fall.
 - Our seasonal live fire training will occur in June with chief officers, engine companies, Crew 12, heavy equipment operators, and dispatchers rotating through multiple training sessions.
- Assembly Bill 389. This bill proposing legislation to memorialize sub-contracting of ambulance transport services was the subject of committee hearings in Sacramento the second week of April. In this hearing, the proposal passed unanimously and will move to the assembly floor for a vote in the coming weeks. The California Professional Firefighters Association and California Fire Chiefs Association are in support of the legislation, and Con Fire testified on the matter before the committee.

- Antioch Drive-By Shooting Incident Update. The case continues to move through the legal system with the accused shooter having entered a not guilty plea on March 16. The AMR paramedic injured in the shooting has recovered and returned to work, and our firefighter-paramedic should be back to work by the end of the month. We are in discussions with the City Manager regarding the safety of our members during certain responses.
- Apparatus Update. We have various wildland apparatus in production with manufacturers. While the orders were placed in the fall or winter, production has been slowed by supply chain delays related to COVID. This will cause delivery dates to be pushed into the fall and, potentially, winter of 2021.
- Facilities Update. In mid-April, we conducted a groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station 86 in Bay Point and a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Fire Station 70 in San Pablo. Construction has already begun in Bay Point with site preparation well underway as of mid-April. Construction on this much-needed station that will replace the current facility built in 1949 is expected to conclude in December 2022. As of this writing, FS 70 is expected to be operational on April 21.
- Communications Update. A new mass notification system (Everbridge) implementation continues in an effort to dramatically improve the effectiveness of this critical staff communication tool. The goal is to replace the current and aging PageGate application with this modern and more effective system.

The communication center remodel project is moving ahead with the first organizational meeting for the project having occurred in early April. The plan calls for the re-use of the former administration building on Geary Road for this project.

We are upgrading our building access card program to provide these cards to all employees. This will both improve security to our facilities and improve our ability to perform contact tracing for COVID exposures.

We celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week by honoring our dedicated, professional, and accredited cadre of fire dispatchers with a number of activities. The most popular activity was the daily catered meals provided by leadership, our partner agencies, and local vendors.

- Recruitments and Retirements Update. The District engaged in several recruitment activities this month to fill current and anticipated vacancies. Captain Whit MacDonald was promoted to Battalion Chief effective May 1 and replaces Battalion Chief Jim Huntze who retired at the end of March with 33 years of service. Fire Captain Elia Alailima also retired in March after 33 years of service. Interviews for Firefighter Recruits and Firefighter-Paramedic Recruits were conducted mid-month for our October fire academy.

PHOTOS – Training Activities



Con Fire Dozer 220 training at Camp Pendleton with eight other agencies from Sacramento to San Bernardino County.



Con Fire hazardous materials team at the recent SENTINEL Response drill at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station. Our team worked alongside Alameda County Fire, Berkeley Fire, and Oakland Fire Department hazardous materials teams in simulated responses to complex hazardous materials and rescue problems.