



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

August 10, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- COVID Update. We continue to monitor the evolving guidance as the COVID-19 Delta variant represents a growing potential threat to our employees' health and our operational capabilities. In late July, we first implemented new vaccination status reporting requirements and, in the final days of the month, implemented indoor masking for all employees with limited exceptions in a bid to minimize exposures, infections, and adverse impacts on operations.
- Annexation Update. In mid-July, feasibility study author AP Triton made its final presentations to all three fire district boards. Each of these governing bodies is now considering their separate decisions relative to its recommendations for their jurisdictions. Meantime, we continue our efforts to prepare wherever possible for what we anticipate will be one or more annexations beginning at some point in 2022.
- Operations/Fire Weather Update. In July, drought-influenced conditions across the District continued to create high fire risk and a significant number of exterior and vegetation fires. In the first 30 days of the month, we dispatched on 260 such fires, well before the typical height of the fire season. On July 21, one of these fires demonstrated the potential for danger by burning into a neighboring apartment complex, damaging two buildings, fully destroying four apartments, and displacing up to 60 residents.

In early August, we conducted Fire Captain interviews from which we selected four firefighters to be promoted to this rank. Similar efforts this month are underway to add Marine Program and Hazardous Materials Program members as well.

Air transport helicopter, Con Air 1, went back into service at the end of last month after undergoing radio updates and maintenance. Two additional pilots received FAA certification for night fire observation operations, and the aircraft itself is expected to be similarly certified.

- Fire Prevention Update. As a result of a number of planned and unplanned vacancies in our Inspector ranks, the Bureau is this month opening recruitments for Inspector I and Inspector II.

The Community Risk Reduction team has put in place a process to accommodate

the new state AB-38 law requirements for inspections ahead of a new weekly public education social media campaign. Inspector II Ryan Bain is on two week deployment to the Dixie fire as a field PIO.

- Communications Update. Architects delivered the initial draft design drawings for the remodeled Fire Communications Center last month. Staff will be working with architects, 911 technology consultants, and internal stakeholders to further refine the design. This progress is an encouraging first step in the process of delivering a new center.

The Assistant Chief of Communications is working with District and County human resources staff to recruit for and fill several vacancies in the division. Meantime, two new fire dispatchers will begin their training with the CCRFCC next week.

- Logistics Update. Both the Fire Station 81 dormitory and the Fire Station 10 bathroom remodel projects were completed last month, dramatically improving living conditions for our firefighters serving out of these two stations.

A planned purchase of another 20 ambulances per the agreement with AMR is in progress.

- Training Update. Recruit Academy 56, the first of the year, has now been scheduled to begin on October 18, 2021, with the goal of preparing, educating, and training up to 31 new Con Fire firefighters.

Eleven fire captains recently completed a qualifications process to fill future Training Captain and Shift Training Captain assignments. This process also qualifies additional captains to provide for Shift Training Captain relief staffing. As a result of this process, we are honored to welcome Captain Sam Nichols to the Training Division.

Operations personnel recently participated in a National Safety Stand Down training focused on improving firefighter rehabilitation. This program enhanced our knowledge regarding heat stress and hydration, cardiac health and nutrition, exposure mitigation, mental health, and rehabilitation support procedures. As a result of this program, we have taken steps to improve our incident support capabilities by staffing a hydration/cooling unit with new equipment, better hydration products, and development of an expanded incident rehabilitation policy.



Con Fire hosted the fire and EMS portions of Diablo Valley College's Public Safety Youth Academy on our training campus in Concord in June. High school students took part in hands-on activities to learn about fire service and EMS careers. The academy, designed to give high school students the opportunity to explore career opportunities and experience the real-life worlds of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service personnel was also a great opportunity for us to hone our plans for a variety of other such academies that we are considering.