



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

September 14, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- COVID Update. Continuing to monitor the evolving COVID-19 threat, we put plans in place late last month to monitor and enforce the most recent County Health Order requiring testing for unvaccinated employees. While continuing to encourage vaccination for all employees, we have put procedures in place to ensure weekly testing for those who are not vaccinated.
- Annexation Update. In late August, we took a major step forward in our annexation planning, conducting a two-day, offsite workshop for leaders and key managers from both Con Fire and East Contra Costa Fire. Anticipating approval by the two districts' boards, the event marked the first time top managers from each organization had come together for group planning. The workshop was facilitated by an annexation subject-matter expert and resulted in the creation of the beginnings of a comprehensive plan to merge the two districts. Planning continues as we await final Board actions with an eye toward being prepared to move ahead as soon as practicable in 2022.
- Operations/Fire Weather Update. In August, fire danger remained high across the District, as a result of the ongoing drought, though slightly more favorable weather conditions contributed to a slight reduction in exterior and vegetation fires over the previous month. Con Fire responded to 206 such fires throughout the month of August. Notwithstanding the slight reduction, fire danger can be expected to remain high as we move into late September and October, the typical height of our fire danger "season."
- Statewide, because of similar high fire danger, firefighters battled historically large fires and Con Fire, along with our Operational Area fire partners, contributed numerous crews and single resources throughout the month of August. Our crews responded to the Dixie Fire, the Monument Fire, and the Caldor Fire, which threatened South Lake Tahoe. The most critical months of fire season are ahead as we get through September and October.



A milestone was achieved in West County on September 1 when we hosted a traditional “push-in” ceremony for the new Truck 70 in San Pablo. Truck 70 now affords us the significant capabilities of a four-person crew, essentially doubling the number of fire scene tasks that can be accomplished, as well as aerial ladder and rescue capabilities.

This resource utilizes the former Squad 70, including its two-person crew and rescue gear which are incorporated into the new truck. The City of San Pablo continues to contribute to the funding of this part of the new T70 crew.



The event also had historic significance as it marked some 60 years since the city's first fire truck went into service for the then City of San Pablo Fire Department.

- Fire Prevention Update. With the peak exterior hazards inspection season complete, code enforcement inspectors temporarily detailed to the Community Risk Reduction Unit have returned to their normal assignments. In the preceding 90 days, the combined group of five inspectors conducted some 1,400 exterior hazard inspections.

Our Fire Investigation Unit had another busy month in August working with our police partners to make a total of five arson arrests. Investigators continue to work closely with local law enforcement partners to investigate suspicious fires, identify suspects, and bring them to justice. Already in 2021, 39 arrests have been made as a result of these collaborative efforts.

We continue to closely monitor total exterior fires occurring across the District. For the eight-month period ending August 31, there were nearly 1,200 such fires.

- Administrative Services Update. Following the August 31 retirement of HR Analyst Cheryl Morse, we were pleased to welcome incoming analyst Elizabeth Loud to our HR team. Elizabeth arrives in the midst of considerable recruitment and hiring challenges and is a timely and valued addition to the Administrative Services Division.
- Training Update. We are pleased to welcome the following Captains to the Training and Safety Division: 40-hour Training Captain Sam Nichols; B-Shift Training Captain Chris Leimpeter; and A-Shift Training Captain Josh Andrews.

We also recognize the service of Shift Training Captains Jason Conner and Noel Luiz and wish them well as they return to the field.

Planning and preparation for our next fire academy, Academy 56, is underway. Training Captain Jesse Ingram will be our Senior Academy Instructor assisted by Engineer/Paramedic Natividad Porras and Firefighter/Paramedic Jon Grant as Academy Instructors. Academy 56 is scheduled to begin on October 18, 2021.