



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

December 7, 2021

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Annexation Update. The annexation process is moving forward. We are tentatively planning for the sphere of influence change to be considered by LAFCO in January 2022 and the annexation application to be considered at a LAFCO hearing in February 2022. We continue the ongoing planning process and have held two organization-wide webinars to keep our members informed. Significant support from Measure X will assist in fire station construction, apparatus procurement, and staffing for future needs of the annexation.
- EMS Update. We continue working with the LEMSA to gain permission to utilize Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances as augmentation to Advanced Life Support (ALS) units currently deployed. This would provide much needed additional transport capacity to our current delivery model which continues to be strained due to high call volume and staffing issues at the paramedic rank.

APOT (Ambulance Patient Off-Load Time), the wait time for hospitals to take charge of patient care at the emergency room, is at an all-time high. This impacts the ability to make ambulances available for subsequent calls for service. In essence, the Alliance is supplementing hospital staffing with ambulance crews thereby keeping them from responding to additional calls for service.

The LEMSA, Alliance, and the Hospital Council recently met to discuss this problem. The Alliance requested a follow-up meeting with hospital representatives to hear their solutions for this ascending crisis.

- Fire Prevention Update. Zonehaven evacuation zones are completed and online throughout the entire county. A presentation of the Zonehaven program will be scheduled for the Board in January.

Fire Inspector recruitment and interviews will continue in December to fill recent vacancies.

We are continuing to collaborate with CCC Public Works and cities to identify evacuation routes that need fuel reduction utilizing our hand crew. Measure X funds

to support our hand crew as a year-round resource will ensure fuel reduction work will be maintained during the winter months.

All state-mandated occupancy inspections are completed for 2021.

The implementation of the new Fire Prevention Bureau inspection and records management program goes live December 2. This system replaces our current program that dates back to 2009 and will allow for more efficient operations, less need for traditional forms and paper usage, and allow for inspections to be completed in the field on a tablet.

- Logistics Update.

Fire Station 86 construction is 55 days ahead of schedule.

Construction in preparation for installation of a new fuel tank began at Fire Station 9 on December 1.

Engineer and Battalion Chief promotional tests were conducted in November.

Planning for expansion and buildout of our Administration building is underway with an eye toward accommodating post-annexation staff additions.

Recruitment continues with applications open for both a logistics manager in the Supply Division as well as a mechanic for the Apparatus Shop.

- Communications Update. Recruitment is proving challenging with our recent Fire Communications Manager recruitment producing just three qualified candidates of which only one was interviewed. The District did not make a job offer. This recruitment will be reopened in January with hopes of increasing the candidate pool. Similarly, the District is still working to fill the vacant Information Systems Technician II position.

We are also working with County Human Resources on a new recruitment for Fire Dispatcher with oral board interviews being conducted in early December.

The planning and design phase of the Fire Communications Center remodel continues with the architect and dispatch console designers working on initial console layout designs and options.

The Google Workspace transition is nearing final completion with a few remaining issues to adjust and/or correct. District Information Systems staff are assisting the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District with their transition to Google in order to make communications more efficient during our pending annexation.

Telecommunications staff have concluded their trial project for wired LAN connections to all mobile data computers (MDCs) in emergency response vehicles

with good results. The entire fleet of emergency response vehicles will be switched over to wired LAN connections for their MDCs in the next few months.

- Emergency Operations Update. We were able to reduce our wildland responses to non-peak fire season standards at the end of October.

Crews remained busy with 13 working structure fires in the District in October, requiring a total of 109 fire crews, a slight increase over 2020. Ten of these fires occurred between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m.

Staffing is still constrained by an increased number of personnel on long-term injury leave. This is having an impact on daily operations with the need to hold personnel for mandatory overtime shifts.

Interviews were conducted the week of November 30 for lateral firefighter-paramedic and lateral firefighter to select candidates for Academy 57 which is scheduled for spring of 2022. Approximately 150 interviews were conducted to fill 30 spots in the academy.

- Training Update. Academy 56 is going well. The recruits have entered week seven of their 19-week academy. Recent training has focused on forcible entry, ladder evolutions, and fire hose handling and manipulation training.

The Training and Safety Division is proud to welcome Fire Captain Tom Waller as our newly appointed 40-hour Training Captain. Tom comes to the Division as a tenured Fire Captain. Captain Waller's area of focus will be continuing education development, hazardous materials, and annexation training.