



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 24, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Annexation Update. With 38 days to go to annexation, we are focused on the myriad final details necessary to prepare us for the midnight June 30 changeover to one Con Fire. The County Administrator's Office, County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and others are working with District staff to ensure all the necessary elements of the transition process are accounted for and in place for the effective date of the annexation.

As a preview of changes to come, we are conducting a joint ribbon-cutting/staffing ceremony with East Con Fire on June 1 to open the new, but never opened, Fire Station 55. At that event, we will announce the renumbering of East Con's Battalion 5 to Battalion 9 to align with battalion numbering countywide. This will change Fire Station 55 to Fire Station 95.

A transfer of command ceremony is being planned for July 1 in Brentwood.

- Pinole Fire Contract for Service Initiative. We continue to work with City of Pinole executive staff, County Counsel, and the County Administrator's Office. A joint meeting with all parties was held on May 2 to coordinate the plan to move this initiative forward. On May 6, the City of Pinole issued an RFP for the fiscal analysis contractor. District and City staff and County Counsel are preparing initial drafts of the service plan and contract for service and continue to meet on a regular basis.
- Training Update. Academy 57 wrapped up its abbreviated eight-week lateral course of instruction last week with structural live fire training. Graduation was held last night, May 23, at Walnut Creek's Leshner Center with 15 new EMTs and 12 paramedics added to Con Fire's ranks.



Annual wildland live fire training for our organization, as well as many other area fire agencies, began May 16 and runs through May 27. Training is being jointly conducted by Con Fire and Rodeo-Hercules Fire on Phillips 66 property in Rodeo. This training represents an opportunity for fire agencies and the communities surrounding the training area. In addition to providing critical training for firefighters, it also mitigates

considerable risk to surrounding homes and businesses by burning, under controlled conditions, grass that historically burns most every year.

Annexation orientation training continues. Our current efforts are focused on position-based task books, target hazard identification, and apparatus/station guides to orient our members to the combined organization.

- Operations Update. On May 6, we announced a return to full wildland fire responses signaling another early start to fire weather danger. As of that date, we began dispatching at least five apparatus to every exterior fire, including reports of grass and vegetation incidents.

Numerous improvements to our wildfire risk stance are now in place, including promotion of several suppression personnel; and upgrades to our wildland fleet with new wildland fire engines. With its new members, Crew 12 will now be staffed seven days per week through October.

- Fire Prevention Update. The Bureau and other divisions participated in the joint planning and conduct of a first-of-its-kind evacuation exercise of Rossmoor Mutual 68 last week. The exercise was designed to test procedures for this challenging evacuation area while testing resident use of the new Zonehaven evacuation tool.



Volunteer residents responded to a 7:00 a.m. CWS alert to “evacuate” Zone WCR-E002. Using predetermined evacuation routes established by Walnut Creek Police, they made their way to the evacuation point at Heather Farm Park. All told, more than 100 residents volunteered for the exercise, which resulted in a number of lessons learned for these and other County evacuations.

Our Fire Investigation Unit continued to take accused arsonists off our streets with four arson arrests related to 33 separate intentionally set fires over the weekend of May 7 and 8. The following weekend, additional fire investigations identified intentionally set fires along Hwy 4 in Bay Point and identification of another suspected arsonist. Investigation continues into these fires.