



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

June 7, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Fire Season Update. Fire Season is in full swing with a significant number of fires occurring throughout the County. Over Memorial Day weekend, we were challenged with a fire in the marshland of Pittsburg. The fire burned over 150 acres and was difficult to access. Due to the marshland, much of the area does not have roads and is not suited for vehicles.

With an early start to our peak fire season, the month of May yielded several grass and vegetation fires occurring daily with strong westerly winds contributing to their growth.

- Annexation Update. On June 1, 2022, we conducted a joint ribbon-cutting/staffing ceremony with East Con Fire to open Fire Station 55 in Oakley. We also announced the renumbering of East Contra Costa Fire's Battalion 5 to Battalion 9 to align with battalion numbering countywide. As a result, Fire Station 55 became Fire Station 95.

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

- Pinole Fire Contract for Service Initiative. A consultant was selected to conduct the fiscal analysis of the proposed contract for service to comply with LAFCO processes. It is anticipated the analysis will be completed ahead of the August timeline originally contemplated, and we continue to be on track to meet an October submission to LAFCO. Staff from CAO, the District, and the City will meet weekly with the consultant until the report is completed.
- Training Update. A graduation ceremony for Academy 57 was held on May 23 at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek. After graduation, 27 lateral firefighters, including 15 EMTs and 12 paramedics, joined the District's ranks.

Wildland Live Fire training for the organization took place May 16 through May 27. Conducted jointly by Con Fire and Rodeo-Hercules Fire, the training was held on the Phillips 66 property in Rodeo. This training is a key component of our preparation for fire season. Due to critical fire weather conditions, this training was suspended for a number of days to safeguard the public and keep crews available for response.

- Operations Update. Upon graduation of Academy 57, 27 firefighters became available for minimum staffing on June 1 and began temporary assignments to balance our ranks. This will allow for more efficient coverage of fire stations during the busiest time of the year and also provide valuable on-the-job training for our personnel.

Effective June 1, Engine 95 was staffed and placed into service in Oakley. This station will be staffed with three personnel, one of which will be a paramedic, and the crew will cross-staff the Type 3 wildland engine and the water tender, as needed. This has allowed us to increase our initial responses to vegetation fires in the far eastern portion of the County.

Following a scheduling delay, due to unscheduled maintenance of our helicopter, personnel will complete Helicopter Fire Specialist training this month. By the end of June, trained personnel will be available to respond to wildland fires with the capability of dropping water.

A two-alarm fire occurred at the former Vogue Theatre in Pittsburg, now being occupied as a church. This fire burned for several hours and required a significant response. The building was a total loss, and the cause is under investigation.

- EMS Update. In late May, the District conducted testing and interviews for District paramedics to attend the Northern California Training Institute (NCTI) program in August 2022.

Proposed temporary operational changes are being submitted to the LEMSA due to sustained strains on the Alliance related to staffing, call volume, and lengthy ambulance patient offload times. This is similar in nature to the temporary measures instituted in January and is a direct result of the increase in COVID related illnesses and associated increases in 911 emergency call volume.

Assistant Chief of EMS, Terence Carey, represented the District at the CFED – California Fire, EMS and Disaster Conference the week of May 23, and participated in a large discussion on statewide EMS issues.

- Fire Prevention Update. In May, the Bureau's focus on wildfire preparedness included chipping days in Richmond with Crew 12 and an evacuation drill at Rossmoor with the City of Walnut Creek and the Office of the Sheriff.

A plan was finalized for creating a shaded fuel break in the Olive Grove at Rankin Park in Martinez.

Staff is working with the City of Lafayette to install two Fire Danger Warning signs.

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Chris Bachman and District PIO Steve Hill coordinated media interviews to provide preparedness tips for wildfires.

- Support Services Update. Two new Type 6 wildland engines were placed into service in mid-May.

In May, we took delivery of a new Pierce Enforcer engine. Modifications are being made, and the engine is being outfitted prior to being placed in service at Fire Station 95 in the near future.

The division is currently engaged in numerous annexation related tasks in order to assure a seamless transition and sufficient logistical support for the expanded organization.

- Communications Update. Fire Communications Center staff are completing wildland fire refresher training.

Information Systems staff continue to work on the necessary final details to support annexation.

The recent Fire Communications Manager recruitment did not yield a suitable candidate. The District will be assessing future options with County Human Resources.

Our application has been submitted for emergency medical dispatch (EMD) accreditation through the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatchers. We expect approval of our application in late June to mid-July. Once accredited, we anticipate being able to work with the LEMSA to implement new response protocols for EMS incidents to provide further efficiencies and sustainability to the overall EMS and emergency ambulance programs.