



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

July 12, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Annexation Update. On June 30, at midnight, our years of planning came to fruition with the official annexation of East Contra Costa Fire Protection District into the Con Fire family. As of July 1, all former ECCFPD people, facilities, and resources are part of our larger District.



Today, with the addition of ECCFPD people and resources, Con Fire consists of 30 stations with 33 on-duty crews, serving a population of 753,000 across 553 square miles. Our workforce now includes some 494 employees, including 389 firefighters.

On Friday, July 1, at 10 a.m., we hosted an historic transfer of command ceremony in Brentwood City Park, marking the annexation occasion. It was attended by more than 200 elected and fire officials, firefighters and their families, and residents. In addition to the ceremony itself, attendees were able to view numerous static displays and learn more about Con Fire and our specialized capabilities.

- Pinole Fire Contract for Service Initiative. We continue to work with the City of Pinole executive staff, County Counsel, and County Administrator's Office. 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.
- Operations Update. Protecting our communities from the widespread use of illegal fireworks on Independence Day and throughout the long holiday weekend was a major operational focus in recent weeks. Much planning goes into our preparations to provide the rapid and overwhelming responses necessary to limit damage from these potentially dangerous and destructive fires.



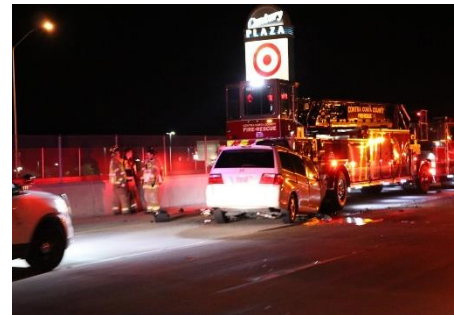
Over the long holiday weekend, from 6 p.m. on Friday, July 1 through 1 a.m. on July 5, Con Fire responded to some 79 fire-related incidents. Of these, fully 68 were either known or suspected to have been caused by fireworks use. While incidents were down approximately 18% year-over-year, it was another dangerous year for residents around the County with a total of seven structure fires and multiple grass and vegetation fires. One structure fire in Pittsburg significantly damaged the home,

displacing a family. Of the many grass fires, the largest in Bay Point burned 6.5 acres along Port Chicago Highway, potentially threatening neighbors nearby.



We believe several factors influenced the slight improvement in total incident numbers this year. Chief among them were the favorable weather conditions with unseasonably low temperatures and high humidity seeing more people celebrating indoors and inhibiting the start and slowing the spread of fires. Additionally, we believe our joint fire/law enforcement fireworks campaign efforts resulted in more visibility for law enforcement, helping to further reduce fireworks use.

- **Training Update.** The Training and Safety Division collaborated with Operations on enhancements to our Freeway/Highway Operations Policy. Operating on the freeway is one of the most dangerous duties that our firefighters perform. Operations personnel were provided with an updated policy and additional training to improve our safety while operating on these dangerous roadways.



Advanced preparations are already underway to prepare for our next Entry-Level Fire Academy, Academy 58, which will begin October 3. Candidates will be participating in outreach events in the coming months to be sized for personal protective equipment, participate in physical fitness workouts, and receive other valuable tips to prepare for successful completion of their fire academy.



Training and Safety is committed to supporting our operations during the hot summer months to protect personnel from heat illness and injury. More than 20 of our District Aides staff the Hydration and Cooling Unit on a rotating basis to support our incident operations. This unit recently supported not only our personnel but police officers, EMS personnel, and BART passengers who were involved in a derailment in Concord during triple digit temperatures. The unit, along with an AMR ambulance crew, also provided precautionary support to attendees at the transfer of command ceremony on July 1 in Brentwood.

- **Fire Prevention Update.** We received the welcome news last month that Con Fire's application for the Lafayette / Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break had been approved. This is additional good news for our residents who will be better protected as a result of this 12-mile long, 194-acre fuel break in Walnut Creek and Lafayette. The total amount awarded was \$3 million.

Recruitment began this month for two much-needed Fire Inspector I positions and one Fire Inspector II. Interviews are expected to begin in August.

Annual exterior hazard inspections are proceeding well with more than 1,500 inspections completed as of the end of June and 89 work orders issued to our contractor to abate non-compliant properties.

- Communications Update. We continue to work with the architect on our dispatch remodel project with the design drawings more than 50% complete at this point.

A new dispatcher was on-boarded last week and we are launching a recruitment later this month for additional dispatchers to support our new eight-dispatcher staffing level that began on July 1.

Communication staff have successfully implemented myriad changes, including CAD, and radio and response area conventions, to support the July 1 annexation.