



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 11, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Academy 58. The District held its traditional family night event on September 28 to welcome the 32 new recruits of our latest, and largest-to-date, academy to the Con Fire family. The academy itself kicked off the following Monday morning, being an exhaustive 20-week course of instruction designed to turn recruits into Con Fire probationary firefighters. Academy 58 will graduate on February 15, 2023.



- Lateral Academy 59. Based on the success of our most recent lateral academy, we are planning a second such academy designed to bring experienced firefighters to Con Fire. As an early step in the planning for this spring 2023 event, we conducted firefighter interviews in September.

- Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service. The District conducted this poignant and moving ceremony on September 24. It was attended by firefighters, family, and friends honoring the 18 firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities. The event featured fire service leaders, San Ramon Valley Fire Chaplain Dan Sturdivant, the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Honor Guard, and retired Battalion Chief Tom Oakley as the bagpiper.



- Statewide Mutual Aid. The Fire District has supported the statewide mutual aid system, supplying resources to some of the state's largest incidents. The Mill Fire, in Weed, California, destroyed numerous structures and resulted in citizen fatalities. The Mosquito Fire, in Placer and El Dorado Counties, also destroyed numerous structures. We supplied apparatus and overhead to both of these incidents.



- **Fire Safety Town Hall.** The Bureau's Community Risk Reduction Unit conducted a fire safety town hall meeting in Clayton for residents of Marsh Creek and Morgan Territory on Saturday, September 17. The event, attended by more than a dozen residents, featured speakers from Con Fire, Cal Fire, and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, along with County Supervisors Mitchoff and Burgis. The event was videotaped and is available for viewing on the District's website and Facebook page.
- **Honor and Dignity Committee.** The District conducted an initial planning meeting of this new group charged with revamping the many programs necessary for recognizing the contributions and commitment of our members, retirees, volunteers, and outside agencies. The objective of this committee is to plan District ceremonies, employee recognitions, and honors for those who have passed, among other activities. The committee will also work to capture and document Con Fire's history and heritage including those of the many agencies that have consolidated to form today's District. In addition, the Honor and Dignity Committee will encompass employee peer support and introduction and oversight of a Con Fire Volunteer Chaplain Program.
- **Pre-Fire Plans.** The District is working to enhance, standardize, and ensure the accuracy of these critical plans used by our crews during responses to emergency scenes. They aid in ensuring expedited arrival to a scene and quick identification of access points and critical life safety systems by our firefighters. As pre-fire plans are a resource used during all hours of the day and night under stressful conditions, it is crucial that they be basic, concise, and consistent.
- **Strategic Planning Studies.** The District is working to identify consultants to conduct a coverage study to analyze current coverage and extrapolate future needs of our communities over the next 20 years. This crucial data will be used to identify needs for fire service growth aligned with supported community general plans and to inform our own overall five-year strategic plan.
- **Fees Study.** We are also working to identify a consultant to work alongside staff to ensure all District fees are up-to-date and being used to full effect in support of our communities. The District leverages numerous types of fees to fund its activities and mitigate the impacts of new development. Currently, these include impact fees, community facility districts, regulatory cost recovery fees for prevention activities, and recovery of expenses due to incidents caused by negligence. We expect this consultant to be in place by January 2023 with detailed timelines to follow.
- **Measure X-funded Wildfire Hardening Program for Residents.** The Fire Prevention Bureau is working to implement this important program that will help residents further harden their homes and properties from the threat of wildfire. A web-based tool is being put in place now to facilitate and track data on resident applications for the many benefits of this \$2 million fire, wildland, and fuel reduction program.

