



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

December 6, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Operations Update. On November 16, we announced reduction of initial vegetation fire responses to a single fire engine due to soaking rains, signaling the end of heightened fire danger which commenced on May 6. This year's period of seasonal fire danger lasted 187 days, six days short of the previous year.

Through November 11, the District dispatched crews to 1,718 grass, vegetation, and other exterior fires, a 12 percent increase over 2021. The vast majority of this year's fires were held to less than 10 acres. The previous year's total dispatches for the heightened fire danger period were 1,528.

Fourteen fires exceeded 10 acres. Of these, only three burned more than 100 acres before being brought under control.

All of the season's fires were caused by some sort of human activity with 48 known to have been caused by illegal fireworks use. Another 599 began in or near homeless encampments or were otherwise started by transients. No residents were displaced by wildfire incidents in 2022.



Despite the increase, the District fared well with fire service preparation and planning, resident participation, early reporting, rapid and overwhelming responses, and favorable weather patterns in recent weeks all making a difference.

- Fire Prevention Update. In November, we experienced an increase in fatal fires across the District, including a double fatal fire at Countrywood Townhomes in Walnut Creek and a fatal tent fire in Concord. Both of these fires were determined to be accidental, and public outreach was conducted in both areas to provide fire safety tips.

State-mandated fire inspections were just over 97% complete at the end of November, with all mandated inspections projected for completion by the end of the year. As mandated inspections are completed, inspectors will be focusing remaining time on re-inspections.

Captain Ryan Graham, fire investigation unit supervisor, has been accepted in the ATF's Explosives/Accelerant Detection Canine Program and is currently in Virginia at the ATF K-9 Training Academy with Baxter, our new explosives and accelerant detection K-9. Both are set to graduate on December 16 and will be back in the county and available for providing this new and important service beginning December 19. This new resource will be a tremendous asset for fire investigators in Contra Costa County and, if requested by ATF, across northern California.

The Bureau welcomed four new Fire Inspector Is on December 1. An additional Fire Inspector II will join the team on January 3. These inspectors will be fully trained and performing inspections in January.

- Paramedic Program Update. In response to the industry-wide paramedic shortage, the District continues to sponsor firefighter candidates for training to support our ability to provide Advanced Life Support EMS districtwide. As a result of these efforts, three firefighters completed their year-long training process this month and are expected to be on duty as paramedics in the next month. Seven additional firefighters are continuing to train for their eventual certifications next year.
- Pinole Contract Update. The Contra Costa LAFCO approved our out of area service contract at their November 9 meeting. District staff continues to work with Pinole FD and city staff on logistics and planning for the scheduled March 1, 2023 transition of service to the District.

