



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

February 7, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Operations Update. Severe weather throughout January challenged our crews with a variety of seasonal situations such as flooding, power outages, and vehicle accidents. Additionally, several water rescues, though not all directly related to winter rains, proved the value of our special swift water program and its complement of rescue equipment and training.



We continued to respond throughout the period to another seasonal challenge, the residential structure fires resulting from increased indoor heater use and cooking as a result of the inclement weather.

In one of our more unusual responses, our firefighters, responding to a single family home garage fire in Martinez on January 17, 2023 were surprised to encounter a large number of dogs as they attacked the fire. In the end, they, aided by Martinez Police, County Animal Services, and many helpful neighbors, rescued some 70 Pomeranian dogs and few cats.



Crew 12, continued its first winter storm assignment throughout the last month, clearing roads of downed trees to ensure first responder access and availability of evacuation routes. Assignments included those in Martinez, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek.



Con Fire also supported FEMA Task Force 4's deployment in the South Bay for water rescues there.

- Training Update. In the last month we have rebuilt our Vector Solutions online training platform to better support the District's growing training needs and more efficiently collect training data to ensure both effectiveness and compliance. This has facilitated implementation of both monthly digital training and quarterly in-person class assignments.

Our current fire recruit academy is moving closer to completion with graduation set for the evening of February 15, 2023 at the Leshner Center. At the same time, we are gearing up for our lateral academy for current firefighters from other agencies, which will begin on March 6, 2023.

We continue to coordinate a wide array of professional development and grant-funded classes for our personnel as well as those from other area fire agencies. At the same time, in recent weeks the division also supported use of the training grounds for Berkeley and San Ramon Valley Fire academies, important programs for fire service career entry.



- Pinole Contract Update. Our contract for services in the City of Pinole, effective on January 1, 2023 is quickly moving forward to the March 1, 2023 implementation date when we will assume all responsibility for fire, rescue, and EMS services in that city. One of the most immediate and visible benefits will be the reopening of long closed Fire Station 74 on Pinole Valley Road on that date. A ceremony marking the occasion of reopening the station is planned for March 4, 2023 at Fire Station 74.



- Communications Division Update. The communications division has been busy implementing new fiber connectivity to the County's network for Fire Stations 73 and 74 and facilitating support to other divisions for the pending contracted fire services for the City of Pinole.
- Fire Prevention Bureau Update. During the month of January, we culminated our Fire Inspector Academy with the badge pinning of five new inspectors. Each of the inspectors were then assigned to either our engineering, code enforcement or community risk reduction divisions.

The California Fire Safe Council notified us we were successful in seeking the award of the County Coordinator Statewide Grant Program. After approval to accept the grant, a recruitment will begin to fill the part-time contract position.

The Contra Costa County Wildfire Mitigation Program, funded by Measure X, went live this month on a new portal hosted on our website provided by vendor GovQA. The new interface is more user friendly making it simple and easy for residents to submit an application for one of the eight categories supported by this program. The process involves continued communication with the local fire district of the affected area for input and rating of the proposal. The link to the site has been shared with all county fire districts. To visit the portal, please follow this [link](#).



- Hospital Offload Delays and Ambulance System Performance. We conducted our quarterly meeting with the hospital executives and emergency department directors on January 30, 2023. Over the past several years the issue of offload delays has steadily grown more problematic and impactful on our emergency ambulance transport program. The past three months have seen dramatic increases in offload delays at all hospitals significantly impacting our transport program. We will be meeting individually with each facility in the coming weeks to introduce and discuss a new policy designed to reduce offload delays and place responsibility for transfer of patient care onto the hospital after an established maximum time period. Mirrored off of an established policy in Alameda County, we are hopeful this will be one step towards making improvements to our system reliability by decreasing the severity and frequency of ambulances being delayed from transferring patients to the receiving facilities.