



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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March 21, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

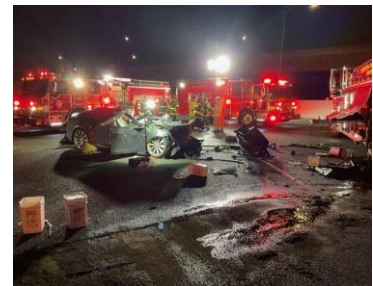
RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Pinole Contract Update. Last Saturday, along with the City of Pinole, we celebrated the reopening of Fire Station 74 and the operational implementation of our contract for service with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. The ceremony featured remarks by elected, fire, and labor officials and was well attended by area residents. An official transfer of command ceremony will complete the contract implementation process at the Pinole City Council meeting on April 4.



- Operations Update. In the early morning hours of February 18, a vehicle struck Truck 1 on scene of a minor traffic incident on northbound I-680, just south of Treat Boulevard. The passenger car was traveling at highway speeds on impact resulting in the death of the driver, critical injuries to his passenger, and extensive damage to our ladder truck. Out of an abundance of caution, all four Truck 1 crewmembers were transported to the hospital for evaluation. They were later released back to duty.



This is a tragedy on several levels, made all the more so because the accident was preventable. Far too often, we see our crews and vehicle operators endangered and equipment damaged because drivers fail to slow down and move over when approaching highway incident scenes. Having failed to find and implement improved solutions with our highway partners on mitigating these risks, we are pursuing solutions within our control to better protect our firefighters, equipment, and passing drivers.

In the meantime, we are evaluating with the manufacturer whether Truck 1 can be repaired and returned to service. Truck 1 was a 2016 model with 51,000 miles. Unfortunately, the backlog for delivery of new fire trucks is long, and this incident will impact our ability to implement plans to staff a completely new truck company in Battalion 9 in the spring. The new resource for Battalion 9 will, initially, be an engine company. On the positive side, we have three ladder trucks already on order. The first is due to arrive this summer.

- Training Update. Fire Recruit Academy 58 completed its 20-week course of instruction earlier this month, and its 28 probationary firefighters have since begun their first company assignments. These much-needed additional firefighters are, among other things, supporting staffing of the new Fire Station 74 in Pinole as well as our plans to expand crews in east county in the coming months.



Academy 59, a lateral academy, began yesterday Monday March 6. This is a group of 15 lateral firefighters and firefighter-paramedics who come to us with experience from other agencies. This academy will be eight weeks long, and we expect the graduates to be online in May 2023. These firefighters will allow us to staff the dedicated rescue company with funds awarded by the FEMA SAFER grant program.

- Communications Division Update. The Communications Division completed installation of all radio and computer support as well as new fiber connectivity for Fire Stations 73 and 74 in Pinole ahead of the March 1 contract implementation date.
- Fire Prevention Bureau Update. During the month of February, the Bureau focused much effort on implementation of electronic plan review in the Engineering Unit, bringing considerable new efficiencies to these processes for both the District and our customers. The new feature will initially only be accepted for Pinole and east county customers as electronic plan review was already in use by the former consultants for these areas. The goal is to transition this new technology Districtwide in a phased approach throughout the coming year.