



Fire Chief's Report July 11, 2019

I. The Department:

Things around the Fire Station have been relatively quiet. Most projects have been completed or placed on hold for the new Fiscal Year.

Acknowledgement:

The night of June 22nd, a call out for emergency service was received for an incident involving a person who went over the side on Rock Creek Road in the forest area. Firefighters and Support Group Members responded to the incident. The Support Group coordinated the Helispot and the assisted Fire Personnel in the technical rescue of the patient. Our Fire District Personnel showed great strength of knowledge and professionalism during the operation, which was brought to a successful resolution. The great strength of this Fire Agency, though small in size is to have members who continually show dedication to service and community, as the call itself demonstrates how important each member of this Fire District is to its operations. So, to everyone who responded congratulations for a job well done.

II. Personnel:

Lieutenant AJ Bechler has received and accepted a job offer from Sac Metro Fire Department, Lieutenant Curtis Harper has received and accepted a job offer with the Vacaville Fire Department.

III. Information.

On June 25, 2019. Board Members from Garden Valley Fire and the Mosquito Fire Protection District held a consolidation meeting in Mosquito. I believe it was a successful meeting allowing for interaction and questions to be asked and answered by Board Members from both Fire Districts.

During the meeting a question was asked. "Why is this meeting being held?" The answer is transparency and information. It is necessary to allow the public to address their representatives and provide input and feed back to allow for a clear path forward for the Mosquito Fire Protection District. I believe it necessary that the community know firsthand what the issues are and options there are to address the fiscal health of the Fire District. I hope that we will host more meeting such as this so that concerns can be addressed and true information provided so that all members of the community who wish to be involved will be well informed, so that



decisions regarding your Fire District are made with community knowledge, that provides a clear path for the best First Responder Services on the “Hill.”

1. **Station Coverage**

We are in the process of developing an adaptive staffing model that increases Emergency Services coverage in the district when Volunteer availability decreases as they prepare to leave for work, and the transitional period when they return home. One plan will be presented here tonight by Captain Purves

Wednesday July 10, 2019, we barely averted a no-response to a reported medical emergency. At the time of the Emergency paid staff including myself were off duty. Volunteers were out of the Fire District for personal shopping or still in transit home from work. I had experienced a double blowout of tire and was in the district at Franks Diner having my vehicle placed on the flatbed of the tow truck. When it was identified that there wasn't a response from Mosquito Fire Units, I asked the Tow Truck Driver to take me to the emergency. The driver from G & O Towing graciously did and then stood by waiting until I assessed the patient and Medic 19 from El Dorado County Fire arrived on scene and patient care was transferred.

2. **The IMT**

No update at this time.

Because of the issues related to Federal Compensation to Local Agencies and as a good neighbor response to the El Dorado National Forest, I have informed the US Forest Service that we will participate in an initial attack and will remain on scene through a single 24 hour Operational Period. Should the Fire have the potential for immediate threat to the community we will remain on-scene until that threat has been mitigated.

3. **JPA**

The JPA is experiencing issues relating a cohesive management model, as transporting agencies are feeling the pressure of the flat fee contract with the County. There is considerable confusion as to previous votes to add then remove Marshall Hospital as a voting member of the JPA Board. The transporting agencies continue to push to decrease the weight of the vote for non-transporting agencies or eliminate the vote of non- transporting agencies completely or relegating Non-transporting agencies to advisory positions.

The JPA Legal Counsel Girard Edwards has withdrawn from representing the JPA due to conflict of interest issues. Gerrard Edwards represents several Fire Agencies in the County. Girard Edwards did suggest the JPA consider retaining Doug Alliston (Murphy, Campbell, Alliston & Quin).

The vote on Procedural Concerns regarding JPA Board Membership has been tabled until such a time that new legal counsel can be retained, and a new opinion provided.

4. **50/50 Grant**

No update at this time.



5. Request for Deployment

Fire Activity is relatively slow in the state. We have established a rotating staffing schedule that provides continual coverage for the District and deployment of the Water Tender.

6. I have included in this report modeling information on potential fire behavior as the Fire Season progresses through the Summer. This information is provided to educate the community that the Fire Danger grows exponentially through the months of August and September. Regardless of when we may experience the greater potential of severe Fire Behavior it does not decrease fire potential. We have a bumper crop of light flashy fuels throughout the community which is fully cured and with lower humidity expected this weekend, these fuels are as dangerous now as they will be in the later parts of the Summer and early Fall. Hopefully this will help our community to plan for extreme situations such as the potential for a PG&E Public Safety Power Shut Down (PSPS)
7. Community Clean Up is this weekend. Dumpsters will be delivered Friday July 19, for refuse collection July 20, 2019.
8. County DOT will be performing road repairs on Rock Creek Road from the west Mosquito Road Cutoff to the Mosquito Road Rock Creek Road Intersection.

IV. The Station

The Emissions Exhaust System requires modification for the vertical stacks of the water tender. Though this was discussed with the vendor when we were seeking bids, the second drop for the water tender was not included. The cost of the modification is \$7279.80. We have \$3841.00 left in the original funding from the grant, which will offset the cost of the modification, leaving a balance of \$3438.80, which is included in the adjustment of the budget, I had discussed with Director Warner. Per our FEMA Grant Coordinator, being that the cost for modification is less than \$10,000 she can authorize distribution. Work must be completed by August 29, 2019. The vendor will be ready to go on notification and can complete the project in two days.

V. Equipment.

- a. **E 275** No reported issues
- b. **WT 75** No reported issues.
- c. **E 75** No reported issues.
- d. **SG 75** No reported issues
- e. **E 75** No reported issues.
- f. **U 75** No reported issues
- g. **SQ 75** No reported issues.
- h. **C7500** No reported issues



- i. **Pump 75** is currently out of service. The trailer axle is considerably under rated for the weight of the trailer, the brakes are inoperative, the pump and pump packing require a rebuild and the wheels and tires need to be replaced. We are currently waiting on quotes for the pump repair and exploring the viability of repairs and use as a trailered asset or a stationary asset permanently anchored at a static water source.

VI. Calls for Service: (June 13, 2019 through July 10, 2019)

Medical	3
Public Assist	
Traffic Collision	1
Electrical Hazard	1
Structure Fire	
False Alarm	1
Vegetation Fire	
Chimney Fire	
Smoke Check	2

Fire Behavior Expectations

July -October 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Warmer and drier than average through October.
- Weak El Niño continuing through the fall.
- Above average fine fuel crop, mostly cured below 4500 ft in July, and below 6000 ft in August.
- Above normal brush growth. Live fuel moisture above normal, dropping to below normal by late July below 6000 ft.
- Below normal amount of summer lightning due to frequent SW-W flow.
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential at lower elevations with mostly cured fine fuels in July, spreading to most areas below 6000 ft in August and September and west of the Cascade-Sierra crest in October.
- Above normal snowpack to finish melting off in July. Fire activity remaining fairly quiet at elevations above 6000 ft

Fuel conditions:

The annual fuel loading of the grass crop is well above normal for a fourth consecutive year, and is mostly cured at elevations below 3000 ft inland from the coast. Live fuel moisture is above normal in most areas and at most elevations. Live fuel moisture values peaked well above normal due to the wet rainy season, but values in most areas are now past their peak. Dead fuel moisture showed a considerable drop in June to near the daily average due to the warm and dry weather and will likely drop to below average in the coming weeks as the warmer and drier than average conditions continue. Drought conditions currently do not exist in California but



may begin to spread during the early fall if the dry outlook verifies. Middle elevations (3000-6000 ft) will see enough curing of fine fuels by late July or early August to have above normal significant fire potential. Other fuels issues that will contribute to above normal significant fire potential this fire season include the following: A rare heavy snow event in the northern Sacramento Valley has led to lots of dead and down trees and limbs and an increase in tree mortality in the past year.

Weather Conditions:

The 4-month Predictive Service outlook calls for warmer and drier than normal conditions in the North Ops region through October. The high elevation snow pack will finish melting off by mid-July in most locations below 8000 ft, but fuels and soils above 6000 ft will likely remain moist through the end of the month. Little to no significant fire activity is expected in July at elevations above 6000', and fire activity there will likely be on the quiet side of the normal range in Aug-Oct. Lower elevations (below 3000') will see increasing grass fire occurrence in July, and the potential of fires there growing to large sizes is Above Normal. Middle elevations (3000-6000 ft) will gradually dry out a normal to slightly slower than normal rate, reaching above normal significant fire potential in many areas by late July or August. El Niño patterns during summer months tend to correlate with a prevailing SW-W flow aloft, leading to fewer monsoon surges into the North Ops region, and therefore, less lightning occurrence than usual. Due to the moist conditions, any lightning strikes at upper elevations in July will not be as likely to produce large fires, compared to 2018 when the snowpack was below normal. By August most areas below 6000 ft have Above Normal Significant Fire Potential, and this will continue in September. In October areas east of the Cascade-Sierra crest drop back to Normal while most areas west of the crest below 6000 ft remain Above Normal.