



# Fire Department Monthly Progress Report

**Meeting Date:** November 14, 2019

## **A Job Well Done, again!**

Once again, the community was hit hard by PG&E Power Shutdowns due to extreme fire weather. As in recent times, the Support Group stepped up displaying tremendous dedication to the community while manning a Community Resource Center here at the Fire Station.

## **Personnel :**

We continue to attract quality highly experienced personnel to the Fire District. Captain Robert Molinaro from the Rocklin Fire Department has joined our Relief Staff. Mr. Molinaro will assist the Fire District Staffing with weekly staffing, including increasing our staffing pool during Taskforce or Strike Team Deployment. He is also a line safety officer and is looking to join our IMT.

## **Finance:**

### **Budget**

We are at about 1/3 of the Fiscal year and remain below budget. There will need to be line adjustments in the new year, they should be minor. We are at 27.39% of the 2019/20 Budget

## **Community Risk Reduction**

The Fire Safe Council is seeking a new grant for fuel reduction on Mosquito Road. The Fire Safe Council is requesting a letter of support for labor in kind, as what was done for a previous grant. The labor in kind agreement is work already conducted by Fire District Personnel and would have minimal fiscal impact. I believe this is an appropriate endeavor for the Fire District to commit to.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION**

Nothing to report at this time

## **Operations Report:**

On October 26, Engine 275 deployed to the Kincade Fire attached to Strike Team 4081 Charlie. Personnel assigned were Mark Schwegler as Engine Boss, Jeff Schwegler Operator, Firefighter Morgan Lugo and Firefighter Steve Schwegler. Being that Engine

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75 has the same Wildland Firefighting capability it was decided to keep the water tender in the District and deploy the Engine.

### Equipment and Apparatus Status

Engine 275 has been taken offline for repairs.

Utility 75 and Support Group 75 have safety issues requiring repairs. I am expecting a repair plan this week for both vehicles. The Support Group has been authorized to use the Command Vehicle in the overnight hours and on weekends. I will be using my personal vehicle to conduct non-emergency district business and to attend meetings in the county until repairs are made.

We continue to have issues with the Station Power Generator. Being that the Generator is over 12 years old, under powered, with a limited power load capability. I will be seeking competitive bids for a Generac 22kW Whole House Generator. Currently our generator can only power limited rooms in the Fire Station. This creates a need to layout extension cords to areas of the Fire Station not currently powered by the generator. The 22kW Generator will provide us with a fully powered Fire Station including the water heater, air-conditioners and the central heating system with newer fuel saving and power generating technology. According to Generac website advisors, the unit will cost about \$4609, with estimated installation costs of about \$2,500-\$3,500. As we prepare to move into winter, I believe it is imperative for the Fire District to modernize our back up power generating capabilities.

### Department Training and Safety:

Acting Battalion Chief Schwegler in accordance to NFPA, CALOSHA and the California Division of Fire Training/Fire Marshal's Office will be establishing a training plan for all Firefighter and Support Group Personnel. He has also established a coordinated training relationship with the Palo Verde Community College District, in Blythe California. This relationship will allow the MFPD to be compensated by the college for training hours completed by all personnel both Support Group and Firefighters.

### Recruitment & Retention:

We opened recruitment for Volunteer Firefighter. Opening the application process was meant to be a twofold.

1. To set the cornerstone of a foundation towards building a robust volunteer program. Though we have not yet received any applications. I believe it will be a successful endeavor. Being that we have not yet entered the performance period of the Safer Grant, we will be re-evaluating the process identifying the path forward and establishing benchmarks necessary to evaluate our progress. To do so, we will be delaying intake of Volunteer Personnel until the New Year.

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2. We need to build a strong infrastructure for new volunteer recruits. This infrastructure will include training paths, a modernized Web Site, strong coordinated Social Media networking, the purchase of a new digital sign for providing real time information to the community and projecting a modern Fire Agency Image (All Grant Funded). We will also be evaluating the feasibility of a Volunteer EMS Corp to respond to medical emergencies, for those who are medically trained and would like to volunteer but do not want to fight fires. This does have considerable logistical issues but must also be explored as we move forward.

There will not be a coordinated Divide Fire Academy this year. This reduces the need to rush the recruitment process. We will accept any application for Volunteer Firefighter submitted; however, we will look to re-establish a vibrant recruitment process early in the new year. This will provide us the time necessary to fully understand the parameters of the SAFER Grant, to create a plan that identifies spending priorities, with a well-established line item budget. We will be able to build a vibrant recruitment process, establish a strong training and incentive programs for the next three years.

Chief Nugent and I will be taking a day to travel to the Delta Region. River Delta Fire east of Rio Vista is an agency very much like ours. However, they have a reserve Firefighter Model that provides 24/7 coverage for their Fire District. We will be seeking to evaluate their Staffing and recruitment models to assist in establishing our own.

## **Logistics:**

- Acting Battalion Chief Schwegler is continuing to assess the Fire Station for needed repairs.
- I am including information of grants available by the USDA for community infrastructure, which includes monies for building and /or remodeling Fire Stations

## **Fire Chief's Association/El Dorado County JPA and LAFCO:**

- Due to the power outages the JPA and Fire Chiefs Association Meetings have been rescheduled. No current information is available
- Also due to the power outages, the LAFCO Meeting was cancelled and items regarding Fire District Consolidation will be presented December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

A joint November/December meeting occurs at 5:30 PM on the first Wednesday of December.

El Dorado County Government Center  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room 330 Fair Lane, Building "A"  
Placerville, CA 95667