



Mosquito Fire Protection District Monthly Progress

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

As 2019 ended and 2020 begin, the Fire District continues to move forward. It is imperative that the operations evolve to be responsive to current funding limitations. This requires a dynamic global view that allows a progressive change from what we have done to what we must do. We are in the process of re-organizing the operations side of the Fire District. We have recruited a new volunteer Firefighter who is currently undergoing training towards Firefighter I qualifications. We currently have three personnel attending Paramedic Training, hopefully adding a fourth. By the end of this month we will be presenting an organizational chart that establishes the change required for the District to be successful and to be in line with the strategic plan. This plan will be implemented following notification and presentation of the Organizational Chart and plan to the Board. The expected unveiling of this plan is February 29, 2020.

The Fire District has made considerable leaps and bounds in a professional direction since June of last year. We have hired professional command personnel who have brought great depth to our staffing cadre. We continue to attract the best of the El Dorado County Fire Service who see a value in what is being done here and wish to be part of what we are trying to provide for the residents of this community. This Community now employs two Fire Service Medal of Valor Recipients a Multi-Million Dollar Business Manager. A command Staff with a cumulative 150 years of experience now serves this community with recognized Fire Service leaders from the Sacramento City, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Departments as well as the San Francisco East Bay. We are now adding a professional Public Information Officer. Lauren Ono, the Folsom City Fire PIO has accepted a volunteer position as PIO of the Mosquito Fire Protection District. She will work with our current PIO Johnny Valenzuela to build a robust District Informational Platform. As with any significant change, the Fire District has experienced growing pains and will continue to do so from the necessary transformations. As the Organizational Evolution moves from infancy to maturation, the growing pains will subside as our advancements become evident throughout this year.

Goals:

1. Hire Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, a position that is grant funded and is not a fiscal burden. This position will not draw down on Fire District reserves.
2. Full implementation of the Incident Management Team. Again, with each position on this team, there will be no fiscal drawdown of district reserves. In fact, the IMT has the great potential of providing a net gain in income to the Fire District. With a cost neutral to extremely low cost to the Fire District
3. Recruitment of stipend reserves from Fire Service Training Academies. Recruitment post training will also lessen the fiscal demands on the Fire District. Again, the stipends for these personnel is provided by the SAFER Grant provided
4. Establishment of an EMS Corp, that will be able to respond to off hour Medical Emergencies. The EMS Medical Corp will provide to the District personnel trained in

house to the level of Emergency Medical Responder. The purpose is to reach out to residents of the community who would like to volunteer but have no interest in firefighting.

5. To seek a reassigned and reclassified OES Search and Rescue Engine for the community. The California Governors Office of Emergency Services will provide a temporary reassignment of Apparatus that is to be surplussed and sold off by the State. These Engines come fully equipped with rescue equipment, hand tools, chain saws, nozzles and sundry equipment at no cost and no demands of commitment for deployment. Basically, these engines are sold for about \$40,000 fully equipped. The reassignment will basically provide the district a test drive with a no cost engine, with a 1000-gallon tank and 1500 gpm pump.
6. To seek a grant to purchase a new tactical Water Tender to replace Water Tender 375. With the potential increase in staffing being sought, we will also evaluate the possibility of applying for an OES Water Tender. Again, this is a no cost Water Tender which does have a deployment commitment.
7. Increase Support Group responsibilities and operational capabilities.
8. Repair of Pump 75. The Support Group has requested permission to evaluate pump 75 and repair as possible.
9. To continue focus on building a resilient Fire Command capability with the goal of reducing the fiscal impacts of personnel on the Fire District. Having a fulltime Fire Chief for a small community Fire District such as this is not cost effective. With the development of a resilient part time command staff, it provides the Command and Managerial presence necessary to be successful in this endeavor. It is expected that by this time next year as we progress through the reorganization that the position of Fire Chief will be part time thus reducing employee costs.

Personnel :

Dion Nugent has been appointed Interim Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. A recommendation and Agenda Item will be presented to the Board of Directors to establish parameters.

We continue to attract quality highly experienced personnel to the Fire District. Captain Mike Walters from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department has joined our Relief Staff. Mr. Walters will assist the Fire District with weekly staffing, including increasing our staffing pool during Taskforce or Strike Team Deployment.

We welcome Legacy Firefighter Devin Hern to the Fire District Firefighter roll. Devin is the first third generation member of the Fire District. He is preceded by his Grandfather Ralph Hern and his father Assistant Chief Todd Hern

Finance:

Budget

We are beyond the halfway point through the Fiscal year and remain below budget. Line adjustments have been made. Funding from the grants has allowed movement of funds from line to line without further drawdown of reserves We are at 47.47% overall and 56.78% employee costs of the 2019/20 budget. We received payment from for Strike Team Deployments which does not reflect in the overall cost for employees.

Community Risk Reduction

- 2019 Code Amendments are at the County Board of Supervisors for comment.
- Developing 2019 Inspection Campaign. Getting license from the County.
- In the final stages of the fee schedule development. Should be completed for the March Board Meeting.
- Ongoing inspections for fuel reduction and abatement being evaluated.
- Our Fire Marshal is working with the County Fire Prevention Officers Association to lobby at the state level for a standardized criterion for policy acceptance and refusal.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION

CALFIRE will be coordinating a County wide Mass Evacuation Drill sometime this Spring. I am currently working with CALFIRE Battalion Chief Brian Mackwood in identifying Temporary Refuge Areas (TRA's), evacuation and escape routes. The current plan is that each Fire District will undergo its own evacuation drill prior to the County Mass Evacuation Drill. More Information will be published once the plans for the drill have been completed. I will be seeking cooperation from SCPOA, to change out the evacuation signs from green and white to a visible reflective red and white that will allow for an easier recognition of evacuation routes and to establish alternate routes. I will also be meeting with El Dorado Forest Managers to post evacuation signs and routes through the forest on Mosquito Road and Rock Creek Road. For those residents who already know the routes this is not a problem, however for newer residents or those under duress, the routes may not be as clear.

Evacuation Drill Participating Agencies include:

California Highway Patrol.
 El Dorado County Sheriff's Department.
 Amador/El Dorado CALFIRE Unit.
 Red Cross.
 California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

To the Community

Heavy Gravel Trucks have been seen crossing Mosquito Bridge. Some damage has occurred to the bridge. I have taken pictures of the damage and have submitted them to County DOT. They will have a team out to evaluate the bridge. If you witness any overweight commercial truck crossing the Mosquito Bridge, please if possible, provide information to the Fire District Office. Date, time, business name. This information will be provided to CHP.

We have received several Calls regarding Homeowners not being able to purchase insurance or stating their policies have been canceled. This is information on State supported insurance.

Homeowners Insurance***

1. Fire insurance issues: FAIR Plan – bottom line: things are in flux; solutions being sought

FAIR Plan to offer a comprehensive policy in addition to its current dwelling fire-only coverage, obviating need for wrap-around second policies.

FAIR Plan is educating insurance agents & brokers to help people get regular insurance, avoid needing FAIR Plan, which is designed as temporary coverage and should not be seen as a long-term option.

The FAIR Plan is an association located in Los Angeles comprised of all insurers authorized to transact basic property insurance in California. Coverage is available to all California property owners, provided submission guidelines are met.

The FAIR Plan provides insurance as a last resort and should be used only after a diligent effort to obtain coverage in the voluntary market has been made.

It is recommended by FAIR and the California Insurance Board that FAIR Plan policyholders' shop for a different insurer at least annually in order to search for coverage that is more comprehensive than that offered by the FAIR Plan. Visit the California Department of Insurance website for help in searching for residential insurance in California.

The California FAIR Plan does not estimate the fair market value of your property, the cost to rebuild your property, or the cost of labor and materials in your (or any other) area or determine the appropriateness of the coverage you request. Instead, those are your responsibilities.

The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements ("FAIR") Plan was created in July 1968 following the 1960's brush fires and riots. It is an insurance pool established to assure the availability of basic property insurance to people who own insurable property in the State of California and who, beyond their control, have been unable to obtain insurance in the voluntary insurance market.

There is no public funding, or taxpayers' monies involved. The FAIR Plan is not a state agency.

This is insurance information only, gathered in response to calls received from the community. The Fire District does not endorse any Insurance Provider.

SUPPORT GROUP TRAINING

We are currently looking into Training Programs that can be delivered to the community quarterly. We will be conducting a CPR Train the Trainer course sometime before the end of March. We will be training four Support Group Members and 4 Firefighters, who will provide CPR Training to the Community.

I have spoken with Sgt Todd Crawford of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office regarding CERT Training Curriculum for the Support Group. This curriculum supports the National Standards for Community Emergency Response Teams. Once received Acting Battalion Chief Mark Schwegler and I will organize training with Trent Williams.

The Support Group Members will be placed into Target Solutions. Each Member will be provided a sign in account and receive required online training. This will allow us to accurately track training hours for all personnel.

To meet the requirements of the Federal Grants all Support Group Members will have to undergo National Incident Management Training, NIMS 100, 200, 700 and 800. These are all online courses. There is no cost for the courses. These Training Programs are administered by the National Emergency Training Center and FEMA. All Firefighters have already gone through this training. Support Group Members will have to obtain a Federal Student ID (SID) Number through the National Fire Academy. Again, this is a very easy process. It should take no more than 24 hours for the applicant to receive this number. More information to come on this process and when all Members will have to have their Student ID Number and the courses completed.

Department Training and Safety:

With the established training agreement with the Palo Verde for which we will receive \$1.98 for every individual training hour. To date we have conducted over 100 hours training for both Firefighters and Support Group Members As it is our training agreement with Palo Verde Community College, has already yielded a significant amount of funds equaling \$1,800.

We are currently working on a California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) Grant for 10 sets of Turnouts. We have been successful in the past on receiving this grant. We will be submitting paperwork to CSFA in March for review. Though not 100% guaranteed, the application is a formality. CSFA administers a FEMA SAFER Grant.

Operations Report:

We surplussed 17 Panther SCBA's to Georgetown Fire, for which we received \$8,500. It has come to our attention that eight of these units were actually property of El Dorado County OES, purchased with a Department of Homeland Security Grant. MFPD will need to refund to Georgetown Fire the amount of \$3247.04 which is the cost of eight back packs and eight bottles.

Due to CALOSHA Regulatory changes we will need to service our current Draeger SCBA platforms.

Flow Test: \$85.00 per unit. x 16 = \$1360

Fit Test each Firefighter: 20 x \$25.00 = \$500

Air Sample Test: \$125.00

Total cost to bring the District to OSHA Compliancy \$1,985.00

This money required for this service can be deducted from \$5,252.96, net income received from surplussing 9 SCBA Back Packs with 24 Compressed Breathing Air Bottles.

We will be purchasing secured storage racks for our SCBA and Oxygen Bottles. The cost of each rack is \$250. It is estimated we will need up to 4 racks to become, OSHA, Fire Code and NFPA compliant.

Equipment and Apparatus Status:

Engine 275 has received the required repairs and is in service.

Engine 75 experienced a water leak from a broken valve feeder line. Repairs have been made; Engine 75 is in service.

Duty 75 has been repaired and is back in service.

Utility 75 has been repaired and is back in Service.

Water Tender 75 is experiencing intermittent electrical issues with the pump. Water Tender 75 remains in service while we work to have the repairs made.

I had been using my personal vehicle as a Command Vehicle while our light duty vehicles were undergoing repairs. Now that all vehicles have been repaired I will return to using Command 75.

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Recruitment & Retention:

We received little interest in our external search for a Retention and Recruitment Coordinator. Only one candidate requested an application, he did not return it for consideration.

We will be going to an internal promotion process, in accordance to the Amended Internal Promotion Policy adopted by the Board on December 28, 2019.

An External Hiring Policy is nearly complete and will be presented to the Board to review, amend, accept or rejection for the February Board Meeting.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment Plan is currently being developed and will be presented to the Board once complete.

2019 REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

The Fire District responded to 112 calls for Service:

Structure Fires:	2
Vegetation Fires:	1
Miscellaneous Alarms	10
Hazardous Conditions	8
Public Assist:	17
Traffic Collisions	10***
Medical Aid Calls	64

*** we experienced a significant increase in vehicle accidents in 2019

Logistics:

Costs for repairs of the Fire Station are currently being identified and will be brought forth in the upcoming budget discussions in 2020

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

The December LAFCO Meeting was cancelled for December. The next scheduled meeting will occur January 22, 2020.

The County Chiefs Meeting was cancelled due to the holidays.

The JPA meeting held on December 4, 2019, primarily was held to elect new Officers for 2020. The new Chair will be Chief Mo Johnson of El Dorado Hills Fire and the Vice Chair is Chief Bryan Ransdall of Diamond Springs Fire.