



Mosquito Fire Protection District

Monthly Progress

Meeting Date: January 9, 2020

As the year ends, 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 of the Fire District. In February 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 presented to the Board of Directors before the end of January.

The Fire District has made considerable leaps and bounds in a professional direction since June of this 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. As with any significant change, the Fire District has experienced growing pains resultant from the necessary transformations. As we level the process, the growing pains will subside as our advancements become evident throughout this year.

Personnel :

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.

Finance:

Budget

We are just about halfway through 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 47.47% overall and 56.78% employee costs of the 2019/20 budget. The overage for employee Salaries and cost will balance once payment from CAL/OES for Strike Team and Taskforce deployments are received.

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 February Board Meeting
- Ongoing inspections for fuels 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.

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 February. We will be training four Support Group Members and three Firefighters, who will provide CPR Training to the Community.

I have spoken with Sgt Todd Crawford of the El Dorado County Sheriffs 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 6 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, most times the application is a formality. CSFA administers a FEMA SAFER Grant, it is very rare that any agency is turned down.

Operations Report:

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 is out of service due to heating issues. The vehicle requires a blending valve. Duty 75 is in the que to be repaired once repairs to Support Group 75 are completed.

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.

Until all utility and command vehicles are repaired, I am again using my personal vehicle to conduct Fire District business.

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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.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICE

CALFIRE is currently transferring data to new digital storage systems. Information on the annual request for service are not yet available. An accurate breakdown of call type and call volume for 2019 will be submitted in my report for the February Board Meeting

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.