



MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

8801 ROCK CREEK ROAD

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Chief's Report September-October 2021

Calls for Service: September 21-October 24

Fires: 2 (Structure Fire- Gravel Rd. 10/11 - OES 4613 assigned to the KNP Complex on 10/3- Returned to Station 75 on 10/13)

Medical: 9

Electrical Hazard: 1

Smoke Check: 2

Road Hazard: 1

On Monday October 11, 2021 at 3:09pm, Camino Dispatch received a report of a structure fire on Gravel Road. Engine 75 and Water Tender 75 departed Station 75 at 3:10pm to the location at the end of Gravel Rd. Heavy dark smoke was visible from a distance on Gravel Rd. Assistant Chief Hern requested two additional water tenders to respond.

The fire location was nearly at the end of Gravel Rd. Due to the poor and severely rutted condition of Gravel Road, the engines could not travel more than 20-25 mph to the scene. Engine 75, Water Tender 75, Chiefs Chaloux and Rosevear arrived at scene at 3:20pm, to find a two-story residence fully involved in fire and spreading to the surrounding wildland area. Winds were blowing the time from the north as Red Flag fire weather conditions were in effect. Camino Dispatch upgraded the response for the wildland spread, which included three hand crews, bulldozer, helicopter, air tankers and additional engines. MFPD Engine 275 arrived to assist prior to mutual aid engines arriving. Members of the Support Group closed gravel road and responded with hydration for the fire crews.

MFPD personnel deployed hose lines to stop the spread of the fire from the well involved structure. There were a number of homes in the area which were threatened, including properties on both sides of the fire scene and below on Rock Creek Rd. Approximately 23 minutes later, the first of the Cal Fire engines and our partners from the Garden Valley Fire District and El Dorado County Fire arrived to assist. While MFPD and El Dorado County FD personnel attacked the structure fire, Cal Fire engines and hand crews deployed to contain six spot fires down-wind of the fire scene. Wildland fire crews were assisted by bucket drops from a helicopter while a large capacity air tanker (VLAT) orbited overhead, ready to drop, if needed.

Engines and water tenders were able to access a newly installed (by MFPD) 10K gallon water storage tank at the end of Gravel Rd. The addition of the recently installed 10K gallon water storage tank was instrumental in refilling and providing water to the fire scene. The tank was installed with permission of a nearby landowner, because of the lack of water supply and severe wildland fire threat in the Gravel Road area. Without that new tank in service, water tenders would have had to refill on Rock Creek Rd. near Frank's Diner, a turn-around

time of approximately 30 minutes. This was truly a game changer for our community's safety and our ability to confine a fire under extreme conditions, as we experienced that day.

Approximately 80 personnel were deployed to the incident to ensure the fire did not advance and cause widespread damage. This included 11 MFPD support group personnel who responded to provide hydration and food to the firefighters, and staff the station, to answer questions for community members calling with questions and concerns. An MFPD firefighter suffered a minor back injury after falling, while no civilians were injured. Firefighters will remain at the scene overnight to check for hotspots.

Fire season is officially over in El Dorado County and we are in the midst of serious winter storms. Open burning with appropriate permit will be allowed beginning Monday October 27th at 8:00am. The Fire District does not issue burn permits, which are under the jurisdiction of Cal Fire and El Dorado County Air Quality. If burn piles 4'x 4' or smaller, obtain a burn permit at <https://burnpermit@fire.ca.gov>. For larger burn piles obtain a permit at <https://www.edcgov.us/government/airqualitymanagement/burn-permit-application>. Burn barrels are not allowed.

During the cold and winter season, the top hazards are fires caused by portable heating equipment and chimneys (or stove pipes). It is important to use extreme caution with portable heaters, making sure they are in good condition, limiting use of extension cords and assuring they are placed away from combustible material (furniture, bedding, etc.). Stove pipes and chimneys should be cleaned and inspected annually. When responding to chimney fires, our primary concern is extension of the fire into the attic space where the chimney or stove pipe passes through. If you suspect a chimney fire, do not delay calling 911.

Grant Update:

We will be receiving two new Zoll brand heart monitors, provided by a FEMA-AFG grant sponsored by the Rescue Fire District. From the same grant we have already received a Lucas battery powered CPR device. Our matching fund contribution for the monitors is approximately \$7,000 (we have not received an invoice yet). Matching funds for the Lucas device, has already been paid.

The Garden Valley Fire District was going through employee layoffs at the time the monitor grant was being applied for, is now in need of a new heart monitor. The monitors we are currently using, including Garden Valley FD, are older and can no longer be serviced/repared. Checking with other fire districts, who will receive grant monitors (County Fire will get 11), no one was willing to part with a monitor for Garden Valley.

Due to our Joint Operations Agreement (JOA) and the fact we primarily use one heart monitor (the second would be a back-up), we will indefinitely loan Garden Valley our second heart monitor, when the monitors are received. It is important that our unified fire districts support one another and the communities we are proud to serve. Garden Valley provides ALS medical service. The Zoll sales representative is a member of our community and if there are any problems with our new monitor, we will have easy access to repair and/or a loaner monitor. The new heart monitors are also backed up by our supply of Automatic Defibrillators (AEDs), generously donated by SCPOA. Garden Valley also has adequate older monitors, which can be used as back-up by both departments. The grant requires that there be an older heart monitor trade in for each new monitor received. There is no impact to our service or operations if we share the additional monitor with Garden Valley. This is a last resort solution, after many months of research and discussion for a larger department to loan one of theirs. There is a small chance there might be an available monitor from a different source, and will utilize that, if possible.

Training Update:

We have training goals established for the remainder of 2021 and new year 2022. There are mandatory training certifications for structure and wildland firefighting, in addition to emergency medical/rescue response. Managing volunteer firefighters requires that we be flexible with our training scheduling. The delivery of certified classes requires that a volunteer either take time off work and away from family or we modify instruction to fit into a volunteer's available hours. It can be a challenge, but we are confident we can deliver what our staff needs to be competent and qualified. We are developing our plans based on volunteer schedules and availability to participate.

An important aspect of training volunteers is developing an individual training plan for each person, which accommodates both the District's and individual's needs. The use of task books is important to track and document individual progress. It is also helpful for volunteers to know what skills they need to work on to progress to the next level. We are looking at options to send our recruits for a Firefighter 1 academy. It is unclear if the annual Divide Fire Academy will proceed in 2022. At this point, there does not appear to be enough recruits between the three departments to hold an academy. More information will be developed within the next month.

On Sunday October 17th we hosted CPR/AED training for 29 participants. There were four members of the community who attended, the rest were District staff. Assistant Chief Todd Hern renewed his CPR instructor certification and will be able to accommodate future CPR and first aid classes for staff and community members, in the future. This is a significant accomplishment in our service to the Community.

The District is seeking volunteers of all types. If you have the desire to contribute your skills and talents to help your community, we have a place for you. Please visit our website, www.mfpd.us.

Fire District staff is fully committed to our Community. We stand ready to assist our residents with any needs they may have, to prepare, support and provide the most up to date information. Please call us at 626-9017 or stop by the station.

This concludes my report. I will continue to update our projects and report progress. We appreciate the great support we receive from the Community and its commitment to being prepared. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at the fire station (626-9017) or email me at jrosevear@mfpd.us.

Jack Rosevear, Chief