



MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Chief's Report
November-December 2020

Summary: The recent rains have thankfully put a close to the devastating 2020 fire season. Cal Fire has lifted the burn ban and are issuing burn permits (see attached info). Even though we have had rain, the fuel moisture and humidity are low. A fire can potentially spread beyond a burn pile. Please follow burn permit instructions carefully. Cal Fire issues burn permits for piles up to 4'x 4'. Piles larger than that are regulated and permitted through the El Dorado County Air Quality District.

We are now prepared for winter storms, along with snow and ice in the higher elevations of the District. Slippery conditions could lead to an increase in vehicle accidents. Increased use of heating equipment, fireplaces and woodstoves are a leading cause of fires and carbon monoxide incidents during the cold season. Residents should use caution and reduce risk by inspecting/servicing equipment, changing heater filters, cleaning chimney/wood stove flues and maintaining a safe distance from portable heaters to combustible materials. Residents should also check their smoke detectors and make sure it has a fresh battery. Our residents should always feel free to contact us for additional safety information and/or a home inspection.

Calls for Service: November 6- December 3

Fires: 0

Fire Alarm Activation: 1 (malfunction)

Medical: 5

Public Assist: 1

SSD Deployments: 4 (Creek, August, Mountain View)

Grant Update:

This is a full update of our grants for 2020 and new for 2021:

The FEMA SAFER (**Staffing** for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant is beginning the second year of a four-year grant totaling \$700,000. The focus of this grant is to assist the District improve its level of service and staffing by recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. There are several aspects of the grant including the remodel of the District's website, marketing volunteer opportunities in the community and outside the area, encouraging fire station staffing and response with stipend pay and stipend pay per call, funding for specialized training classes, purchase of safety gear/uniforms, and tuition for firefighter/EMT academies. We are in the process of launching a greater marketing outreach to attract applicants, especially those who are community based. The stipend pay program will be extended to our current volunteers for station staffing and making themselves available in the District to respond to emergency calls. We are actively training and recruiting volunteers for firefighting and other emergency operations. We have three volunteers (with the hope of adding one more) ready to attend a local fire academy and three additional volunteers currently undergoing physical and background checks. We have strengthened our station internet capability and

develop partnerships with other fire districts for more training opportunities. The grant will fund our website redesign (in progress) and upgrade our current fire station sign with a digital display sign at the fire station to attract volunteers from the community and display helpful community information.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (**Paramedic Training**): This grant provides \$172,000 for paramedic training and associated expenses. Captain Ryan Purves and Volunteer Firefighter Evan Alexander are currently receiving training. The grant not only pays for the training program but also for shift coverage expense to replace an employee while in training. We recently received approval for Firefighter Brian Morris to attend paramedic school in the Spring. Captain Ryan Purves will be returning to duty, after successfully attending paramedic training, on December 14. He will have some final tests to take for his local and national paramedic certification. Ryan has excelled in his studies and internship. We are proud of his accomplishments and glad to have him back.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (**Medical monitors**): This regional grant was recently approved through the Rescue Fire District and County's medical Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The District will receive two advanced Zoll heart monitor/AEDs and a Lucas compression device which does effective CPR beyond what responders can do alone. The value of the grant equipment is estimated at \$98,000. There is a matching fund requirement of approximately \$8,000 with the trade-in of our existing monitors. The CPR device has recently arrived at Rescue Fire. Captain Lugo will attend a training session (the week of 12/14) on the use of the device. He will then deliver the device, train staff and put it into service by the end of December. The cost of the CPR device is \$19,208 and our cost share is 10% (\$1,922). The advanced heart monitor specifications are still being reviewed by the JPA, with a hopeful order and delivery by March 2021. Thank you again to the Rescue Fire District for sponsoring the grant and supporting our community.

50/50 Grant: A partnership with Cal Fire to purchase **wildland safety gear**. The year 2020 grant is closed, which allowed the purchase of \$12,000 of wildland safety gear. This grant was reapplied for the year 2021, which will allow the purchase of \$19,000 of wildland safety clothing and tools. We will purchase what is needed (in the spring prior to fire season) and Cal Fire will reimburse the District for half of the purchased amount.

Jenny Jones: This was a private grant for \$10,000 for the purchase of **wildland safety gear**. The equipment was purchased, and the grant is closed. Additional safety gear for new volunteers can be purchased through our SAFER staffing grant.

CSFA: A generous grant from the California State Firefighters Association (SAFER Grant for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention) which purchased \$25,000 of **structural firefighting coats and pants**. The gear has arrived, and this grant is closed. We will reapply for additional safety equipment after assessing needs.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (**Radios**): Similar to the regional grant for heart monitors, this is a regional grant in application for mobile, portable radios and pagers. The grant is in coordination with the Georgetown and Pioneer Fire Districts. Our District has requested 11 mobile radios, 24 portable radios and an unspecified number of pagers with a matching fund amount of approximately \$6,900. This grant was not approved and will be resubmitted by Georgetown FD at the next available opportunity.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (**Breathing Apparatus**): Regional grant in application for 21 breathing apparatus and air masks. This grant was in coordination with the Garden Valley Fire District. The cost of the

equipment for the district is \$60,000 with a matching fund amount of \$6,000. This grant was not approved and will be resubmitted by Garden Valley FD at the next available opportunity.

Our current breathing apparatus was obtained used and is a different make (Drager). We are the only district using Drager breathing apparatus. They are known to be complicated and difficult/expensive to repair. Most districts are using "Scott" breathing apparatus, which allows interoperability and joint repairs between districts, which reduce costs and downtime. I will be checking on the viability of a future grant and may present the Board with a purchase request, for Scott breathing apparatus replacement, within the next two months. It is important that our District have breathing apparatus which are compliant and compatible with our fire service partners. It would seem, based on recent grant denials, the future proposals will be difficult to obtain.

Personnel Update:

Administration: Administrative Assistant Teresa Wren is retiring effective December 4. Teresa has been a foundation for our staff and operations for nearly the past four years. Prior to our District, Teresa was with the El Dorado Sheriff's Office for sixteen years. She will be nearby, but everyone will miss her, her compassion for others, her excellent work for the District and her positive attitude. Teresa will be missed.

Volunteer Firefighters: Tuesday night training is progressing nicely. Training is held at the Fire Station at 6:00pm every Tuesday night. Average participation is 10-15 members of both Support Group and firefighters. The training topics have been beneficial to both groups, which is currently focusing on structure firefighting and water supply. Many thanks to Chiefs Chaloux, Hern and Captain Dillender for their leadership and instruction to the group.

Our group of fire officers (volunteer and paid) comprises the leadership for our day to day operations and is the backbone of everything we are doing to serve our community. All operational ideas, proposed changes, equipment placement/needs, training and safety programs are discussed and agreed upon by the group. The team will discuss and be informed of issues on a weekly basis or as needed but will meet on the third Tuesday of each month, as a part of training night.

Captain Ryan Purves will be returning for duty, after completing his paramedic internship program, on Monday December 14.

The Explorers have been a part of the District for years. It is an important part of the District's outreach to the community and its young people. Explorers have a chance to participate with District events, training and emergency response. They often go on to be volunteer firefighters (age 18) and to careers in the fire service.

Our workers compensation policy currently covers an explorer program. We are in the process of remodeling the explorer program and will present it to the Board next month. It is intended that the program be under the sponsorship (insurance) of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts organization sponsors many explorer programs, including those with fire and law enforcement agencies.

Georgetown/Garden Valley/Pioneer/Mosquito Joint Operations Agreement (JOA): We are participating in the annual joint volunteer firefighter academy (Georgetown, Garden Valley, Mosquito), hosted by Georgetown FD. Three (fourth and fifth pending) community-based volunteers will be attending. We will also provide training support for the academy. The academy will kick off January 6th with remote access to view by family members. The traditional family event/orientation night was cancelled due to covid restrictions. I am

awaiting word from the academy coordinators if the number of available academy slots will be reduced from 20 due to covid restrictions.

This academy will be overseen by the Consumnes River College and will result in academy graduates getting their Firefighter 1 certification. This is an important addition for graduates and our personnel attending. Many thanks to the Georgetown Chief Glenn Brown for his leadership and coordination to obtain state certified sponsorship for the academy.

The Chiefs continue to meet several times each month to discuss operational issues and ways we can assist one another. Captain Morgan Lugo is the designated safety officer for both Georgetown and our fire district, who has assisted us in getting quickly in compliance with OSHA and worker compensation insurance carrier requirements. Captain Lugo represents our districts for “train the trainer” instruction and sharing information such as the new CPR device and Covid rapid testing. He also represents both District with the County’s vegetation management program. This has increased efficiency and communication between our Districts. We have benefitted in many ways so far, since the passage of the agreement, with adapting operations (and resolving problems) already in place at the other districts.

Support Group: The Support Group is always excellent, strongly assisting us with responses and other projects. The Group has been active attending Tuesday night training, currently learning how the Group can better support a structure fire incident. The Support Group has recently added a firefighter rehabilitation program (medical monitoring, hydration ,etc), according to NFPA standards. The next training specifically for the Support Group will be Saturday January 9.

We would like to cultivate more interest in the Support Group program from interested members of the community with specialized training and capabilities (medical, IT, web site design, heavy equipment, mechanic, tree removal, etc). With our SAFER Grant marketing for volunteer firefighters we will also incorporate Support Group recruitment into our outreach.

Radio Group (Update): The radio group was formed to develop an auxiliary communications system which can be used for alternate communications when needed. Fire tactical channels (line of sight) provide inadequate coverage in the community due to terrain. In the event of an evacuation, winter storm, supporting an emergency incident, special event or any other District activity, the system can be used to communicate between the fire station and personnel in the field. An ACS system would also be used to communicate with neighborhoods regarding needs and conditions, in the event of telephone communications failure. This is the beginning foundation for a future CERT (community emergency response team) program.

The radio system is now operational, thanks to the expertise and generosity of the members of the radio group. We have purchased fourteen radios so far, four are will responding staff and the rest are with the Support Group. One radio will be assigned to the SCPOA maintenance person, Kevin. We can add radios at any time. There is an abundance of quality Kenwood portable radios at a reasonable price. From this point, we will test the capabilities of the radio system through training and actual emergency incidents. Our next step, along with testing, it to divide the District into manageable zones by which a designated person within each zone would have a portable radio to communicate with us when widespread damage or isolation may have occurred. It would allow us to quickly know conditions around the District and the needs neighborhoods might have.

The radio group is made up of community volunteers with many years of experience with radio system installation, maintenance, repair and use. Some equipment, installation and maintenance will be donated to reduce the overall cost to the District, which will be minimal. There is also an effort to reach out to HAM radio operators in the community. The HAM network would be a backup to the newly established radio system.

Evacuation Siren (New):

A small group of community representatives (Fire District, SCPOA, Fire Safe Council, EDSO) are meeting to discuss the design and viability of a community evacuation siren system. Our next teleconference is December 3. We are in the process of obtaining a cost estimate and will meet again soon to discuss the path forward. The concept of the system is viable and will be based on our ability of obtain funding. The general direction is to start with funding and installing one siren and building more into a system, as needed. More information to follow.

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.

This concludes my report. I will continue to update our projects and report progress. There are some exciting months ahead as we develop these programs and attract new people to the District. I 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