



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

Summary: As Fire Season 2020 winds down, there is still a serious threat to our community. This season will not be over until there is significant rain. Destructive fires have occurred which homes were lost, followed by rain a day or two later (Oakland Fire 10/19/91). We remember the Camp Fire which destroyed the town of Paradise on Thursday November 8, 2018 at 5:33am. The fire was the most expensive natural disaster in the world that year, in terms of insured losses. 86 people were killed, 19,000 buildings destroyed. A study claimed that 50 more deaths were attributed to the fire, indirectly.

It is important that we remain vigilant and for residents to continue to be fire safe, including being packed up prepared to quickly leave. Check the District's web site for further information on preparedness and evacuation planning. Hopefully rain will come soon and put an end to this fire season.

I am pleased to announce that the Mosquito Fire District will receive a brand new Type 6 engine, as we requested in July. I have attached a sample copy of a Type 6 contract, which was not available at the time of our Board review and unanimous agreement of the Type 6 concept. Next month we will receive a specific contract between the District and OES, which identifies the specific engine. After approval by the Board we hope of the delivery of the fully equipped engine by the end of the year. The officers' group will be developing a training program and I would expect the engine to be placed in service as soon as possible, after delivery. This is the first OES Type 6 engine in El Dorado County and a landmark accomplishment for our District. There is more later in this report regarding pending cost questions the Board previously had.

On Tuesday 10/25 we experienced our third Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS). Fortunately, the predicted winds did not materialize (they did reach over 100 mph in some places). Because of dire predictions for historic winds, we prepared for the worst. AT&T provided generators to retain phone service, but a generator failed at Mosquito & Rock Creek Rds. (9/26 AM), causing the phones at the Fire Station to go down. Service was restored several hours later. The power was restored in the afternoon Thursday 10/27. Thank you to the Support Group and Staff for preparing and being ready. We are proud of our people who stand ready to protect and serve this community, despite any adverse conditions.

On Sunday October 11 at 11:04am a vehicle fire was dispatched on Mosquito Rd. near the Goat Doctor's property. Upon the arrival of Engine 275 (Mark Schwegler/Brian Morris) arrived to find a pickup truck well involved in flames, spreading to brush uphill. B/C Leo Chaloux arrived a few minutes later and assumed command. The fire was quickly contained and held with Mosquito FPD resources. A contributing factor to the lack of spread to the wildland was Firefighter Greyson Dillender. Greyson was first to arrive at scene as he was driving home on Mosquito Rd., a short distance behind the pickup. Disregarding his own personal safety, Firefighter Dillender used items at hand from the bed of the pickup truck to scratch a fire break between the

vehicle on fire and the hillside. This action was instrumental in preventing the fire from advancing up the hillside, where a family residence, barn and farm were located. Greyson's courageous actions were exemplary and in the finest traditions of the Mosquito Fire Protection District. Water Tender 75 (Chris Dillender) responded as well as the Support Group, who blocked the road initially and performed traffic control for several hours until the pickup was towed away.

We participated in the Harvest Day event at Finnon Lake on 10/17 (at my request for volunteer recruitment). Apparatus and personnel were present to meet the public, discuss fire safety issues, offer demonstrations and safety tips, recruit new volunteers for support and firefighting. We were able to speak to several people who were interested in participating in emergency response volunteering and several others interested in the Support Group.

Calls for Service: October 2-November 5

Fires: 4 (Tender to Georgetown, Vehicle/Wildland Mosquito Rd, Tender to Garden Valley, Tender to Cameron Park)

Medical: 6 (2 helicopter transports)

Public Assist: 2

SSD Deployments: 6 (East Fork, North, Luna)

Grant Update:

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (**Medical monitors-UPDATE**): This is a regional grant which 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 equipment is estimated at \$98,000. There is a matching fund requirement of approximately \$8,000 with the trade-in of our existing monitors. We expect to receive the CPR device this November and the monitors by February 2021. We have just received our matching funds invoice for the CPR device and should be able to place it in service next month. The cost of the device is \$19,208 and our cost share is 10% (\$1,922). Thank you again to the Rescue Fire District for sponsoring the grant and supporting our community.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (**Breathing Apparatus-Update**): Regional grant in application for 21 breathing apparatus and air masks. This grant is 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 successful and has been suspended. We will research the possibility of resubmission.

50/50 Grant (**Wildland PPE- Update**): A partnership with Cal Fire to purchase wildland safety gear. This grant was reapplied for the next round, which will allow the purchase of \$19,000 of wildland safety gear 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.

Personnel Update:

Volunteer Firefighters: Tuesday night training has resumed. Training is held at the Fire Station at 6:00pm every Tuesday night. Participation since October 13 has been great. Average participation is 10-15 members both Support Group and firefighters. The training topics have been beneficial to both groups. We have two members who have not been active, who have come back to training.

We expect to participate in a joint volunteer fire academy beginning January 6th, hosted by the Georgetown Fire District. The academy would train one weeknight and each Saturday for twelve weeks. We have three community-based volunteers who will be attending. We will also provide training support for the academy. The Academy kicks off with a family night hosted by the Garden Valley Fire District on January 4th. It's an event which give families an inside look at what the academy is like and how to support their loved one going through the academy. This is a traditional and important event to invite others into the fire service community.

Our group of 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, as a team. The group will discuss and be informed of issues on a weekly basis or as needed but will meet as a group on the third Tuesday of each month, as a part of training night.

Support Group: The Support Group is always excellent, strongly assisting us with responses and other projects. As stated previously the Group staffed the fire station and provided community assistance for three recent PSPS power shutdowns. The Group played an important role with two recent medical emergencies, which required helicopter landing assistance and transport of the flight medics to the patient. The Group's annual recognition luncheon scheduled for Saturday November 7, has been postponed due to weather and covid restrictions.

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 (New): 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 program.

The radio system is on track to go operational by December 1. We recently received an antenna donation from the El Dorado Amateur Radio Club and a repeater from our radio expert and community member, Reese Willer. The equipment will be installed at the fire station within the next several weeks. Public Safety level used reconditioned portable radios (Kenwood TK-3140) with paging capability, will be used for the new system. The portables can be activated by a paging system built into the portable radio. The Support Group can be activated through the paging system, which will alert those with radios. Once the alert is made, communication can begin, which will enhance Support Group response to emergency incidents. This method of communication will be important during power and cellular loss. This system will be tested through Spring 2021 and can be expanded to a potential CERT group. We are in the process of dividing the District into communication zones, with a community representative within each zone, who can report on conditions in their area and relay information to neighbors. We will start with determining Support Group member locations and develop a system which can be expanded.

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 established radio system being considered.

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 first teleconference (10/29) gained important information about the technology, cost and design of a system for our community. 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. More information to follow.

OES Type 6 Contract Questions: There were several questions which were brought forward during the Board's discussion and conceptual approval of an agreement with State OES to obtain a new Type 6 engine. The question of providing annual vehicle insurance to cover the engine per contract requirements was estimated by our broker to be \$572 annually. The broker advised the cost may change somewhat after the vehicle's VIN number is entered into their system. Any type of testing expense, including ladder, pump, and smog are typically covered by OES. The general rule of thumb, as expressed by our OES Assistant Chief, is that OES covers everything over \$100 in cost and fully covers all regular maintenance.

The cascade system (air compressor used to refill SCBA bottles) as been serviced with filter changes and will be back in service. This is an important accomplishment because we normally must travel to Garden Valley or Diamond Springs to have SCBA bottles refilled.

Also repaired and placed back in service is the hose tower and motor which hoists the hose up the tower. We are beginning hose testing, as well as training with live hose lines. Both the Cascade system and hose tower will support our in-house training, as gives us the opportunity to increase our training with little downtime of hose and equipment. Thank you to Captain Morgan Lugo, who has been active with a number of projects we have needed to get underway and completed. Captain Lugo is also our designated Safety Officer and has managed similar programs with the Georgetown Fire District. This is a wonderful example of sharing personnel through our Joint Operations Agreement. Implementing similar programs between the districts has allowed us to quickly come into compliance with OSHA standards and the requirements of our workers comp carrier. I appreciate Chief Glenn Brown, Georgetown Fire District, who has given Morgan the flexibility of schedule to allow him to cover shifts with us.

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