

September – October 2024

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

by Chief Eddie Dwyer



To The Community

Work here at the Fire District continues to move forward. We are searching for every way possible to best serve this community.

In recent weeks, the Mosquito Fire Safe Council and my office held a long meeting to re-establish communication, opening these avenues of communications is key to a successful promotion of Fire Safety. I want to express my appreciation to the Fire Safe Council for the graciousness extended this office, with the opportunity to place negative issues in the past and be able to move forward in a strong cooperative manner.

During the Crozier Fire, apparently a group tried to access the area of evacuation as a Large Animal Rescue. While I applaud the idea of a LAR Team, to access areas under emergency evacuation, you must be assigned to the Fire, receive an O-number and be associated or affiliated with a Fire Department or Law Enforcement agency as a recognized group that has undergone training, received their qualification and is listed in IRQS (Incident Response Qualification System) with appropriate credentials. Then you must go through the planning section of the Incident Command Team or be dispatched as a resource through an Emergency Communications System.

You cannot just show up saying you are a Large Animal Rescue and be expected to access the Fire Area. You must be vetted through a legal authority.

It must be made clear as accusations have been made, when contacted by Law Enforcement asking me about a Large Animal Rescue Team, showing some kind of Mosquito Fire Credential, I told Law Enforcement the MFPD does not have a LAR Team. The Mosquito Fire Safe Council had nothing to do with your being denied access.

If there is a Community Group looking to establish an LAR Team, please contact me.

Fire Chiefs Report:

With my last report I had high hopes in completing several projects to present to the Board, unfortunately due to the workload, much remains in progress.

Restructuring of the Fire District Operational Command is ongoing. I have established a communications group, which will act as District PIO.

This communication group is separate from the Districts Communication Committee, The Comm Group will have 5 members who will be working in a week to week rotation to ensure there is always someone available to provide immediate emergency and non-emergency information to the public. During any significant emergency to avoid misleading information, the Comm Group will direct you to the most appropriate website for the best information.

Though some timelines have changed, I will be presenting an organizational chart that represents the changes required that are coming and those that have already been implemented. This plan will have a broad scope and be presented to the board by year's end. With the expectation of full implementation in early 2025.

The Fire District continues to build relationships with other County Agencies and stakeholders, recently hosting the El Dorado County Emergency Medical Services Authority here at the Fire Station. We were able to discuss EMS Operational proposals which will greatly enhance Emergency Medical Services here in the community.

Part of what was discussed is the official endorsement of using the Support Group vehicle as a patient extrication unit. The visit and discussion were born out of the use of the Support Group Vehicle to extricate a critical patient from their home to the Swansboro Airfield where a waiting medical flight crew was waiting on the ground.

Dr. Duncan from EDCEMSA expressed appreciation for the issues impacting this community and could see the value for in-district movement and extrication of injured and ill patients to the airfield when incoming ambulances would be delayed. More information will be provided in October.

In District Members

We continue to increase the numbers of Personnel who live in the Fire District.

Our Operational Goals have remained the same with one exception.

The MFPD will be looking to establish a qualified Technical Rescue Team, which can be fielded in times of emergent rescue, as well as a deployable Rapid Extrication Module Support (REMS) Team

Goals Established :

- Hire mid-level Command Fire Captain, a position that is funded through our annual budget.

- Expand training for our EMS Corp to include Emergency Medical Technician Level. This will increase the skill level to assist our on-duty firefighters. The implementation of our Support Group EMS Medical Corp has shown great promise of continued success. To achieve a greater level of service to our community we will recruit from current medically trained Support Group personnel to attend Emergency Medical Technician courses through local colleges.

- We will be seeking a reassignment of an OES Type VI Engine. And investigate the purchase of a retired OES Type I engine. The engines come fully equipped with rescue equipment, hand tools, chain saws, nozzles and sundry equipment. These engines sell for about \$40,000 fully equipped. Purchasing a retired OES engine will provide the district a change in water supply platforms from 3" Supply lines to 4" + water supply capability, with a 1000-gallon tank and 1500 gpm pump.

- We will also investigate the purchase of a new/used Tactical Water Tender for future mutual aid deployment. Increasing deployment to Mutual Aid Fires can increase income to the district as well as increase the annual income earned by our personnel, thus increasing potential draw and easier continued recruitment of personnel.

Increase Support Group responsibilities and operational capabilities.

To continue focus on building a resilient Fire Command capability with the goal of reducing the fiscal impacts of personnel costs on the Fire District. Looking to work with the El Dorado County Regional Fire Authority to increase command presence and oversight as we seek the most appropriate and cost-effective leadership for the Fire District.

With the development of a resilient part time and volunteer command staff, it provides the Command and Managerial presence necessary to be successful in this endeavor.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION

Community Safety Training:

We will begin providing quarterly CPR Training to the Community, The first class to be held in January, date to be provided at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Department Training and Safety:

Firefighters will be undergoing operational ability evaluations. These evaluations are NFPA based standards established for equally trained, equipped and staffed Fire Departments. The reports generated will be done to maintain the District ISO rating.

Operations Report:

Water Tender 75 deployed to the Bridge Fire in Southern California. The deployment lasted 12 days earning the Fire District roughly \$55,000 in vehicle rental and administrative fees. This allowed our personnel to earn a considerable income paid by the state.

Calls for service:

Medical	11	Smoke Check	1
Structure Fire	1	Mutual Aid	
Veg/Debris Fires	3	Deployment	1

Equipment and Apparatus Status:

Ongoing evaluation of equipment and assets continue, as we identified Fire Apparatus Maintenance needs. Current Status of Equipment-

- Engine 75, in service, minor maintenance issues.
- Engine 275, out of service with electronic issues
- Water Tender 75 Is in service. Required the front tires to be replaced. It also requires the replacement of dashboard systems cluster, along with other maintenance issues.
- OES 4312, in service requiring minor maintenance issues

Recruitment & Retention:

Nothing to report

Public Recognition of Haven Little:

On August 25, there was a Structure Fire reported at 2809 Darr Court. The fire was the result of pyrolysis occurring in potting soil, better known as peatmoss.

If it were not for the quick decisive actions of one young resident of the house, the situation had the potential for loss of life and total destruction of the home.

Haven Little, made the difference that night. Smelling smoke, she investigated finding an active fire on the upstairs deck of the house. She immediately evacuated her younger sister then returned to the house spraying water from a garden hose onto the fire.

This action cooled the fire considerably, slowing its interior spread, keeping it in check until Fire District Personnel arrived on scene to fully extinguish, mop up and overhaul the fire. Due to her actions, damage to the house was minimal keeping the home habitable. All family members and pets were safe.

So tonight, I want to recognize Haven for her courage, and critical thinking that truly made the difference, saving her home and ensuring the safety of her family.

Fire Chief's Association/El Dorado County Regional Fire Authority:

A meeting of the County Chiefs occurred on Wednesday September 25. Information discussed included, upcoming changes to Fire Scope and State Mutual Aid process.