



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: June 9, 2021

To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors

From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief

Subject: June Board Report

I am always proud to open my report by sharing the successes of our personnel. Battalion Chief Alan Whisler has promoted into the position of Division Chief of Operations. Captain Naman Beatie has been appointed to temporary Battalion Chief on "B" shift. Engineer/Paramedics Clyde Rust and Scott Worl accepted temporary appointments as Captains. Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Hansen passed probation and has opened his Engineer's task book. Two new Defensible Space Inspectors joined the team last week and are off and running. I would also like to congratulate Engineer/Paramedic Erik Gustafson on the birth of his first born, Wylder Norman Gustafson.

We are always working to keep our facilities, apparatus and equipment in top shape. Crews have completed hose testing. Engine 56 (Alpine) has been upgraded to Advanced Life Support (ALS). I'd also like to thank Captain Nikki Wagner who, with the use of a stethoscope, successfully identified the source of a substantial water leak at Station 51 that has since been repaired.

As the country reopens, staff is busy training. Technical rescue teams have been training for shore zone rescue, as well as swift water rescue with the Tahoe Truckee Regional Rescue Team. We sent a brush engine to Spring Creek for a wildland exercise, and crews also participated in a wildland drill at Glenshire Elementary School in Truckee. Inspector Sarah Gley has completed her Fire Prevention Office (FPO) training. Captain John Farrell completed live fire burning operations training, which included two days of live burning operations. Captain Jamie Sheppard paid a visit to the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center (GVECC) to collaborate on improved operations as part of completing his task book to be able to work as a Working Out of Class (WOC) Battalion Chief. Mechanic Joe Parle trained our new Defensible Space Inspectors on preventative maintenance checks for vehicles and Firefighter/EMT Will Marshman provided annual training on radio usage.

Reopening has resulted in staff being able to attend a number of meetings. I was able to represent the District at Congressman McClintock's annual Tahoe visit. Forest Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt and PIO Erin Holland gave presentations for the June Breakfast Club meeting, the Chamberlands HOA meeting, and have several more community meetings lined up.

A few other things of significance for the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District; as of June 4 the Forest Service began staffing Station 43 (Meeks Bay) with Engine 342. In addition, we were able to request and receive additional COVID related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) though El Dorado County.

Special events are lining up as well. Crews staffed the Big Blue Adventure half marathon and sport week, and the Olympic Valley/High Sierra Archery Shoot at Homewood.



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Fire season is here, and we've already experienced two red flag warning days. Our sign trailers are deployed throughout the District with messaging on local fire restrictions, and both NTPUD and Alpine Meadows are partnering with our fire restrictions and red flag information running on their sign trailers.

On the legislative front, staff continues to follow the California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) and Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) Joint Legislative Task Force for bills affecting the fire service. Bills that passed the Assembly and will be scheduled soon for hearings in the Senate include:

- Assembly Bill 480 (Carrillo) would expand and improve reporting to Cal OES and the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPAs) of hazardous releases and would provide clear access routes for local fire agencies pertaining to hazardous materials release designated sites.
- Assembly Bill 418 (Valladares) among other things; would provide for \$30 million in grants to special districts, on a competitive basis, to improve the energy resiliency of critical infrastructures operated by the special district.
- Assembly Bill 1104 (Grayson) would extend the sunset date on the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act penalty until December 31, 2022 and require air ambulance rates in fee-for-service and managed care Medi-Cal to be reimbursed at 80% of Medicare rates, effective on January 1, 2023.
- Assembly Bill 1071 (Rodriguez) would require Cal OES to conduct tabletop exercises of the State's catastrophic response plans on a biennial basis.
- Assembly Bill 1431 (Frazier) would establish goals for fuel reduction and vegetation management contained in the California Carbon Plan.
- Assembly Bill 1441 (Cervantes) would require Cal OES, upon request, to provide assistance to local agencies who are developing emergency plans for the treatment of critically ill newborn infants during disasters.
- Assembly Bill 1568 (Comm. On Emergency Management) would require Cal OES to establish a statewide registry of businesses and organizations that assist in disaster response and recovery.

Bills that passed the Senate and are headed to the Assembly include:

- Senate Bill 12 (McGuire) would require fire hazard planning findings prior to permitting development in very high fire hazard severity zones and provide grant opportunities to assist in the planning costs.
- Senate Bill 72 (Rubio) would require the Department of Insurance to report on recommendations for vegetative management projects based on nonrenewal of insurance policies and would require the FAIR Plan to contract for a study on community fire mitigation risks.



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts

- Senate Bill 109 (Dodd) would establish the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development within Cal OES.
- Senate Bill 332 (Dodd) has been narrowed to provide limited liability for damages caused by negligent prescribed burns.
- Senate Bill 456 (Laird) would require the regular updating of the Forest Management Task Force's recently released "California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan."
- Senate Bill 533 (Stern) relating to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), would require electric utility companies to collaborate with local governments, tribal governments and community choice aggregators within its service area to identify critical circuits and microgrid projects that need to be addressed in the PSPS setting.
- Senate Bill 804 (Glazer) would require the California Conservation Corps, in partnership with CAL Fire and the Department of Corrections, to establish a forestry training center that will allow formerly incarcerated individuals who meet certain eligibility requirement to enroll.

I'd like to close my report by acknowledging and giving credit to the outstanding job the crews did on stopping a structure fire earlier this month. The fire occurred in the late afternoon of May 29th in Kings Beach. E52 and Medic 52 arrived on scene and quickly deployed a hose line to keep the fire to the building of origin. Nice job 52 crew of Captain Jamie Sheppard, Engineer Scott Worl and Firefighter Ashley Turnbeaugh!

Meetings and Assignments:

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Chiefs Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs Association
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators
- Executive and Command staff Meetings
- Fleet Services Update Meetings
- National Weather Service conference calls
- Meeks Bay Stakeholder Restoration Project Meeting
- Tahoe Basin (XTB) Operational Area Coordinator Meetings and Duty Chief
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Bi-State Dispatch Meeting
- Fire District Association of California Board Member Meeting
- Placer County Breakfast Club Meeting
- Staff Change of Command Planning Meeting
- Budget Priorities Meeting w/Staff
- Eastern Placer County Town Hall Meeting
- CAL FIRE/NEU Annual Season Cooperators Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Region Multi-Agency Meeting