



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: May 10, 2023
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: May 2023

While April finally brought some periods of spring-like temperatures, a few cold weather systems did give us a reminder of the winter not ready to let go of its grip on the eastern Sierra and western Nevada. Temperatures were still at 15-20 degrees below average, but not to the extent as what occurred during the previous few months. Despite the prolonged cold stretch and what felt like a never-ending series of storms, precipitation was also below average, which was overall good news as it didn't exacerbate the rate of snow melt into the rivers and streams. Overall, considering the extreme extent of the winter snowpack, the snow melt in April was relatively orderly as the warmest periods were short duration and not accompanied by rain. This helped us avoid more severe flooding. The weather outlook for May and June includes moisture intrusions with near to below normal temperatures. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) predicts normal to below normal for significant fire potential through July, potentially reaching normal by August. What all this means is that the traditional green-up and gradual snow melt will lessen the fire threat across the mid and upper elevations and delay the start to a significant portion of the fire season. With that said, we will still follow our fire restrictions as appropriate although they might be delayed.

With the onset of spring comes the return of much needed roadway construction in the region. Southwest Gas will begin replacing the natural gas pipeline on SR 28, starting in Tahoe City, and moving northeast to Kings Beach. Flaggers will be in place to direct traffic around work zones with single-lane restrictions. Traffic restrictions will be removed on Fridays at 2pm and reinstated on Sundays at 7pm. Caltrans will also begin filling the potholes that riddle SR 28 due to the harsh winter conditions. This work will take place between the hours of 7am-5pm Monday-Friday.

On the legislative front, staff continues to closely follow the California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA) and Fire Districts Association of California Joint Legislative Task Force for bills effecting the fire service. Below is a list of a few that have been supported by this task force and passed their committees of origin and a few that they are recommending opposing unless the bills are amended.

1. AB 482 (Wilson) would transfer \$8 million annually from the Aeronautics Account to the Emergency Medical Air Transportation and Children's Coverage Fund to support Medi-Cal reimbursement for emergency medical air transportation or related cost.
2. AB 557 (Hart) is the CSDA sponsored bill to extend the sunset date on the ability for special districts to conduct remote board meetings.
3. AB 700 (Grayson). Is the CPF sponsored bill that would establish the California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program to award grants to eligible institutions to conduct research on biomarkers of exposure to chemical carcinogens absorbed by firefighters that ultimately lead to a cancer diagnosis.

4. AB 1403 (Garcia) would require the Office of Fire Marshal to collect and analyze data relating to illegal fireworks and coordinate with the stakeholders to improve the enforcement of illegal fireworks' seizure, storage, and disposal.
5. SB 356 (Archuleta) would establish a code enforcement incentive grant program to support efforts to identify and remediate existing housing stock.
6. SB 436 (Dodd) would require OES to develop a Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Plan for agencies to collaborate and implement a wildfire risk mitigation action, a Wildfire Risk Baseline and Forecast, and an annual Wildfire Mitigation Scenarios Report.
7. SB 470 (Alvarado-Gill) would establish a regional forest and fire capacity program to support local capacity to create.

Recommend Oppose unless Amended Bills:

1. AB 740 (Gabriel) would create various restrictions on the use of drones utilized by public agencies.
2. AB 835 (Lee) would require the State Fire Marshal to research and propose building standards for single-exit, single stairway multiunit residential buildings more than three stories tall.
3. AB 42 (Ramos) would restrict a local agency from imposing a requirement to provide sprinklers in temporary dwelling units less than 250 square feet if certain safety conditions are met.
4. AB 944 (Irwin) would require fire stations to have an alternative source of power that lasts at least 96 hours during a power outage.

In other legislative news, the Fire Grants and Safety Act passed the Senate and has moved to the House. The legislation would extend the SAFER Grant and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (which funded our cancer screening and extrication equipment) for the next seven years through fiscal year 2030.

In closing, I'm proud to report on the accomplishments of our employees. Engineer Jerry Sheehan is now qualified to work out of class (WOC) as a Captain. Engineer/Paramedics Michael Sacci and Julien LeCorps have opened Captain's task books. Our newest Firefighter/Paramedic Colin Hamel, whom you met at last month's board meeting, has successfully passed our mini academy. Manuel Valdez starts May 15th as our new seasonal Defensible Space Inspector (DSI), with interviews for additional candidates currently underway. We have completed our initial round of cancer screenings a few weeks ago with excellent participation from our members.

Meetings and Assignments:

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Chiefs Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Eldorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- Eldorado and Placer LAFCO Meetings
- Meetings with District Attorneys
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting

- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting
- Priority Budget Executive Staff Meeting
- NTF/Meeks Bay Annexation Meeting w/EI Dorado County
- Tahoe Truckee Community Organization Active in Disasters Meeting
- JMA Homewood Development Agreement Meeting
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District Meeting
- Tahoe Area Managers Meeting
- Shawna Purvines Meeting
- Olympic Valley New Fire Chief Selection Committee Meeting
- CAL FIRE East Division Cooperators Meeting
- Community Wildfire Preparedness Workshop

MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2023	6	12	7	14								
2022	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14	11	7	3	8
2021	12	31	18	17	15	38	52	44	19	27	20	30
2020	23	12	9	9	14	30	54	50	28	22	16	11
2019	13	17	18	15	21	10	37	33	25	14	13	23

