



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: April 18, 2022
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: April 2022

Our dry spring is securing that we are entering a third year of severe drought. The statewide snowpack is at 38% of normal, but the Phillips Station snow survey (near Echo Summit) measured only 4% of average on April 1. Statewide, reservoir storage is at 73%, with Lake Oroville only 47% full and Lake Shasta, the largest reservoir in the state, only 37% full. A substantial heatwave impacted the entire west coast, making the first week of April feel like mid-July, with further impacts to our dwindling snowpack. Above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation prompted the National Interagency Fire Center's Seasonal Fire Assessment and Outlook to move their prediction ahead one month earlier than had been forecast, going from "normal" significant for potential in May to "above normal." With our area predicted to be at the "above normal" level.

I'm pleased to report that our three new Firefighter/Paramedic recruits have successfully completed our two-week mini academy. Thank you to Captains Perhacs and Farrell for the outstanding job they did facilitating the academy under the supervision of Chief Whisler. I also want to thank the on-duty crews who helped to ensure that our new Firefighters attained the information they need to be successful. Lastly, I want to congratulate Firefighter/Paramedic Sarah Kertesz, as she just completed all requirements for Phase 3 TAP. As of April 5, 2022, she is in Phase 4 which will allow her to work independently with complete control of patient care.

I'm happy to announce that our CERT team reconvened for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. If you'll remember, the team celebrated its tenth anniversary just before the country went into lockdown. With the promotion of Brent Armstrong to Fire Marshal, Engineer Michael Sacchi has stepped up and taken the helm to lead the CERT program. Our first meeting was a huge success, with 18 members in attendance, many of them being inaugural CERT members, with one new member joining the group. The team will be receiving CPR training at their next meeting on May 4, 2022. I would encourage all Board members who would like CPR certification to attend.

In March, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) received a 2022 National Wildfire Mitigation Award for innovation and leadership in wildfire mitigation. The award recognizes outstanding service at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels of government. It is the highest national honor an organization can receive for exceptional work and significant impact in wildfire preparedness and mitigation. The TFFT has made waves significant enough that a member of CAL FIRE from Monterey did a virtual "ride-along" at the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Information Teams (Fire PIT) last meeting to learn how the group collaborates so successfully in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The TFFT works under the direction of the Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC). The MAC Group is comprised of Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs who give direction and guidance to the TFFT Team. I'm pleased to announce that I was nominated and selected as the 2022-2023 Co-Chair of the MAC Group.

District staff has been following several legislative bills that could possibly affect our District. There are a couple to note: Senate Bill 1012 (introduced in February by Senators Glazer and Nielsen) requires that the California State Parks follow and enforce the local fire restrictions. The bill was supported by the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association, and it successfully passed unopposed through the Senate Appropriations on April 4, 2022; and 2) HR 6903 (introduced by Representatives McClintock and LaMalfa) is being called the "Put The Fire Out Bill." It calls for the use of all available resources to carry out wildfire suppression activities detected on National Forest Service lands not later than 24 hours after such a wildfire is detected. We will continue to monitor these and any others that may impact our district.

The LAFCo process is still a work in progress as Placer County LAFCo has requested a Fiscal Impact Analysis. Placer County LAFCo has commissioned AP Triton to conduct this study with an anticipated completion date in 60-90 days. Upon receiving of the study, we will continue, per Board direction, with submittal of the application to proceed with the annexation process.

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
- Tahoe Public Safety Pier Kickoff Meeting
- Eastern Placer County Town Hall Meeting
- Tahoe Public Safety Pier Workshop
- AP Triton Ambulance Study Meeting
- Firewise Community Workshop
- Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) Conference Attendance
- West Shore Happenings Webinar
- National Weather Service Water/Weather/Drought Briefing
- Administration II Interviews
- Strike Team/Division Leader Refresher Training
- Meeks Bay Municipal Services Review (MSR) Meeting w/South Fork Consulting Services

Attachment: Response Call Comparison Graph

MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2022	24	11	15									
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

