



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: October 31, 2022
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: November 2022

Fall is off to a mild start, with record September moisture and cooling temperatures after the heatwave we experienced in August. Since my last report, The National Preparedness Level (scale of 1 to 5) dropped from 4 to 2. The Mosquito Fire has reached 100% containment and this week the Basin Chiefs have a scheduled meeting to conduct an after-action review of the incident (AAR). The State Parks took advantage of conditions allowing them to conduct a successful prescribed burn at Sugar Pine Point State Park earlier than normal. Due to a lack of sufficient precipitation in October, we remain in fire restrictions. The Basin Chiefs have recently met regarding this issue and remain united in our efforts to deliver consistent basin wide fire restrictions when appropriate. Fire season typically ends after a wetting rain such as an atmospheric river event. Normally we see these conditions mid-to-late November, but fire season has stretched into December as recently as 2019.

Sharing the success of our team members is my favorite part of this report. Our firefighters served on strike teams or single resources assignments throughout September and into October. The experiences gained from these assignments are valuable in helping members advance through their career tracks. In the recent weeks, Engineer Jerry Sheehan opened a Captain's Task Book, while Firefighter/Paramedics Brent Wible and Josh McCurley promoted to Engineer/Paramedic and Engineer respectively. Firefighter/Paramedic Brant Lucas moved through TAP 3 and into TAP 4. Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Garcia progressed to TAP 3. Captain/Paramedic John Perhacs and Firefighter/Paramedic Ted Soloski are busy helping with our internal two-week academy as we welcome newly hired Firefighter/Paramedics Doug Levin from Pyramid Lake Fire and Andrew Brodbeck and Robert Krogstie from Mammoth Fire to the ranks. We have also returned to staffing of 13 seven days a week while continually monitoring call volumes and needs of the community.

My commitment to the success of our crews is matched only by my commitment to their safety. In September we were notified that firefighter turnout gear has been linked to adverse health risks to firefighters. Recent studies have shown that all three layers of firefighter turnout gear contain Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), a class of fluorinated chemicals known as "forever chemicals" which have been linked to cancer and other serious effects. These studies highlight the risks associated with the material and finishes used in turnout gear even before it is exposed to fire. It is my intent to have all safety personnel in new turnouts as soon as feasibly possible. A personal protective gear (PPE) team has been established and is actively pursuing this issue. We have also developed policies and procedures to reduce exposure to our firefighters until we can outfit all personnel in new turnouts.

In lighter news, the district hosted lunch for the Annual EMS Bike Tour. A former patient and his wife stopped by to thank our team, (Battalion Chief Naman Beatie, Captain/Paramedic Jeremiah Meadows, and Engineer



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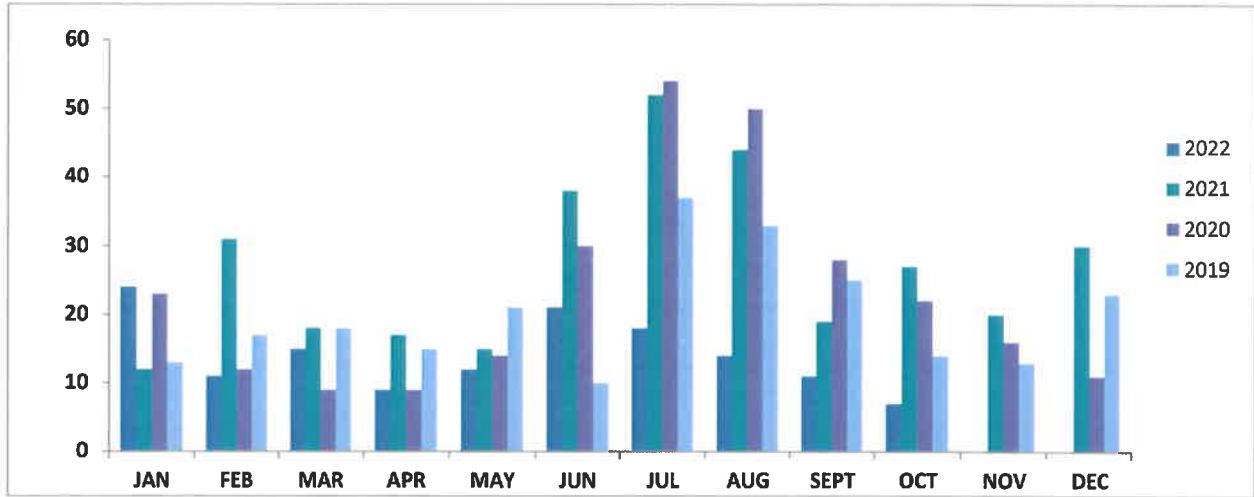
Curtis Smith) who responded to his cardiac arrest. Captain/Paramedic Dave Telfer and Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Parker hosted a station tour for the Boys Scouts Pack 734 from Truckee. And the district also received a painting from a Nevada resident in appreciation of and inspired by our firefighters on the Caldor Fire. This is just a snapshot of the outstanding work our staff does every day, and it makes me proud to serve as their Fire Chief.

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
- Fire District Association of California Board Member 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
- Homewood Development Agreement Meetings
- Meetings with District Attorneys
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting
- Meetings with Board Members and Candidates
- Meeting with Supervisor Gustafson
- Attended Olympic Valley Board Meeting
- TRPA Board Meeting-Public Safety Piers
- Tahoe Truckee Airport District Board Meeting
- Grass Valley Dispatch Center Meeting
- Capital Projects Advisory Committee Meeting
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Special LAFCO Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs After Action Mosquito Fire Meeting

MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2022	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14	11	7		
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



NTFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2022	280	270	203	185	142	249	315	277	203	154		
2021	237	211	260	167	177	257	388	239	190	184	134	297
2020	205	274	123	106	112	233	303	297	226	220	186	178
2019	254	215	232	139	164	175	333	272	215	147	138	262
2018	165	188	188	145	121	212	266	231	164	131	176	195
2017	379	270	234	154	150	157	289	255	240	118	107	183

