



Chief's Reports

To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Simons, Fire Chief
Date: June 14, 2019

Meeks Bay/El Dorado County

We are proud to welcome Ellie Beals as our newest Meeks Bay Fire Board member following the resignation of Director Nick Kromydas after more than three decades of dedicated service to the Tahoma/Meeks Bay communities.

Staff has placed another set of ads in the local paper soliciting interested parties to submit a letter of interest and current resume for consideration to fill the next board vacancy following Director Massie's recent resignation.

Newsletter drafts are complete and just about ready to print. Thanks to Erin and Shawn for their assistance in this important seasonal project.

We are now just a couple weeks away from the annual Sierra State Parks Foundation and Meeks Bay Fire pancake breakfast which is scheduled for July 6th and 7th. Joe has plans to move the cook trailer into place a few days prior. This time of year also brings many of the annual homeowner's association meetings. Chiefs and staff are preparing key points to review with our community members.

Operations:

May was much cooler and wetter than typical with numerous days of clouds, rain, and snow. June transitioned quickly straight to summer with a much warmer and dryer atmosphere. Thunderstorms have been active in the area over the last couple of weeks, and the summer tourist population is starting to fill the basin.

Personnel have been busy with both swift water and near shore water rescue training refreshers. They have also been finishing up annual wildland refresher mandates.

I, along with new board members Heidi Doyle and Ellie Beals, as well as Finance Director Eason, Forest Fuels Coordinator Horntvedt, and PIO Holland, had an opportunity to spend a day in Paradise (Butte County) hearing a presentation from the Paradise Fire Chief and touring the devastation still clearly evident seven months after the Camp Fire destroyed the town and surrounding area in a matter of a few hours. We continue to try and learn as much as we can to help improve education and safety conditions for our local constituents and customers.

Other tasks and assignments I have been engaged in over the last few weeks include: preparing for and participating in a field visit from Congressman McClintock, his staff, local Chiefs, and forest management agencies. I assisted with development and facilitation of our recent Division Chief Recruitment and testing process. I assisted Truckee Fire as an evaluator for their recent Battalion Chiefs testing process. I also participated in the preliminary/continuation budget preparation meetings.

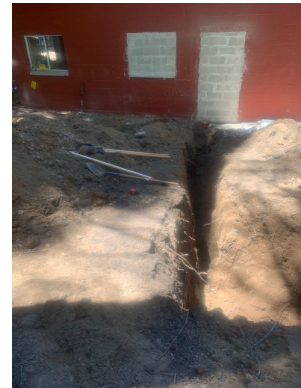
We now have a final draft of the new, Emerald Bay response and communications agreement. We should be able to obtain appropriate signatures and communicate and implement changes in the next couple of weeks.

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Fleet/Facilities:

Station 53 has been closed for seven weeks. In that time, Tim, his subs, and several firefighter assistants, have made very good progress. Framing is essentially complete, new plumbing has been run in the floors, walls, and ceiling. The aged sewer system has been rerouted, and fire sprinklers are currently being installed. New furnaces and duct work installations are in progress, and some of the rough electrical work is already in. Other changes include new windows for the new upstairs living spaces, masonry work to fill in openings no longer needed and a lot of deep holes and trenches for the new sprinkler systems and wire rerouting. We are still hoping to have the station livable again in another month or so.



Joe and his assistants, have been servicing our three brush engines and all of the ambulances prior to the beginning of a busy summer season. Joe has also tuned up the Ranger UTV to have it ready for back country rescues.

I recently met with the Apparatus Committee leadership to give guidance and answer questions on upcoming projects and priorities. We plan to have a stakeholders meeting in the next several weeks to discuss the development of a new truck company program.

XTB Tahoe Basin Operational Area:

Erin is finalizing all of the seasonal updates to our regional Operations Manual. The new information should be uploaded to the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs website in the next few days. Fire season has started, and XTB sent out the first resources last week to a fire down in the Yolo County area.

Meetings & Assignments:

- Executive and Command Staff meetings
- North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Board meetings
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
- Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs Association
- Eastern JPA Chiefs/CalFire Cooperators
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators
- Operations Team meeting
- Captains meeting
- Fleet/Facilities meetings
- Liberty Energy cooperators meeting
- Budget preparation meetings

North Tahoe Fire: (Fire Chief Schwartz)

Operations:

The month of May began with an awesome 26th anniversary celebration and awards banquet, and I want to thank our Awards Banquet team and all those who were involved. Congratulations to Firefighter of the Year recipient Engineer May, Awards of Merit recipients Blanca Lundin, Shawn Crawford, and Scott Baumgardner, and to Engineer Braziel for receiving the EMS Award of Excellence

During the month of May, the District along with most of our state, federal, and local partners prepare for the fire season. Staff and I have been attending numerous preseason planning meetings and resource readiness activities, such as the, California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) Region IV cooperators meeting, CAL FIRE



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Amador/El Dorado Unit (AEU) - El Dorado County preseason meeting, and the Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Generals meeting. On a local level, District staff has been receiving wildfire training (RT-130) while our brush trucks and equipment are also being prepared for the fire season. With summer weather finally upon us, the District has experienced increased demands for emergency service. Regionally, we had a delayed start due to late spring rains; however, during the June 8-9 wind event, numerous fires occurred in the Lake Berryessa/Napa area. According to National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Predictive Services, August will mark the peak of the western fire season. While most of the country can expect normal conditions, the exception will be along the west coast where a heavy crop of fine fuels and grasses has developed which will elevate that potential as it dries. Residents and visitors need to be extra vigilant when involved with activities that provoke fire ignitions. These activities included any open burning, camp fires, barbecues, ash disposal, trailer towing, and discharge of fire arms just to name a few. They also need to stay informed about local, state, and federal fire restrictions and know that all fireworks are prohibited within the Basin.

Following the recent retirement and resignation of Captain Goldstone and Engineer Rust, respectively, I have made some personnel position changes. Jayme Stowell has been promoted to the position of Captain, and Firefighter Paramedics Kevin Gilley and Rhett Stemler have been promoted to the position of Engineer. I have also made four conditional offers of employment to three lateral Firefighter Paramedics, Stephanie Lockhart, David Justus, and Chris Bartow and to one recruit Firefighter Paramedic, Kylie Daniels. All four will be joining the District on June 19, 2019. On May 23, the District conducted a Division Chief recruitment and testing process in order to develop an employment list for future Division Chief vacancies. Currently, the District does not have a vacancy at this position. Finally, we have hired two grant-funded, seasonal Defensible Space Inspectors, Talina Sky and Chris McMaster. With these new recruitments, the District should be able to remain fully staffed throughout this year's fire season.

Again this year, we participated in the California Special Districts Association's (CSDA) Legislative Days in Sacramento. Captain Sedgwick joined me on May 21 and 22 as we met with our State Senators and Assembly Members. During our legislative visits, we discussed priority bills related to Special Districts in general and advocated for specific Fire Protection District concerns. Attached to my report is a legislative activity summary prepared by Captain Sedgwick. Noteworthy is the appointment of Scott and myself to the legislative advocacy team for CalChiefs and Fire Districts Association which provides us with timely involvement of governmental issues affecting the District and access to their advocacy firm.

Last week, North Tahoe Fire staff presented to their Board the preliminary 2019-2020 budget. Since the District doesn't receive revenue estimates from the County until September, the preliminary budget is primarily a continuation budget of the previous year. The preliminary budget, once approved by the Board, will allow the District to continue business until a final budget is developed for September's Board meeting utilizing the Priority Driven Budget and containing precise financials. This year's budget was primarily developed by Director of Finance and Administration Eason in consultation with the District Chiefs and responsible staff. Staff also prepared the preliminary budget for the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District with specific assistance from Chief Simons and Business Manager Crawford. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this important initiative that insures fiscal health and responsible spending.

During the past month the Fire Chief (designee*) represented the Districts at the following external meetings and events:

- 5/2 Camp Fire tour in Paradise w/California Board of Forestry
- 5/8 CAL OES XTB Operations area refresher

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- 5/10 ASCWD BOD Meeting*
- 5/15 NTFPD Board Meeting
- 5/16 Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Assoc./ Sierra Front Interagency Wildfire Cooperators
- 5/17 NTFPD BOD Meeting
- 5/21-22 CSDA Legislative Days Sacramento
- 5/22 MBFPD BOD Meeting*
- 5/23 Tahoe Forest and Fuels Team Executive meeting
- 5/30 Congressman McClintock pre-fire season briefing

Fire & Life Safety Division: *(Division Chief Conradson)*

The Fire Prevention Officers have been busy with plan reviews and inspections. We have also had many pre-development meetings. Access, water, and setbacks continue to be the biggest challenges builders have with their projects.

The engine companies are completing their assigned R-1 and R-2 inspections. A resolution will be presented to the Board of Directors next month indicating the progress of completing mandatory inspections. Resolutions will be presented to North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Springs County Water District.

Meetings continue with the contractors association in an attempt to find a long-term solution to the issue of insufficient water for firefighting in areas of our fire districts. There are a wide range of options available, and we are finding it difficult to draft those into policy. Every project is unique and a one-size-fits-all solution is hard to find, but we have been successful accommodating alternate materials and methods requests.

The Fire and Life Safety staff have attended several meetings and training over the last month. The latest training was in West Sacramento on egress of buildings. This training was timely as we have been addressing exiting issues recently with some of our hotels/motels. Over the years, many have remodeled or have changed the use of buildings which requires additional exits.

We are continuing to work on updating the District's Fire Code. Before bringing it to the Board for adoption, we have committed to having meetings with the contractors association to consider their suggestions in our amendments to the code.

We will be hosting the Cal Chiefs Northern California Fire Prevention Officers Association meeting this month at Za's in Tahoe City, and we look forward to that event.

Finance & Administration Division: *(Director Eason)*

Administrative Division:

The end of the fiscal year is fast approaching and everyone in the Administrative Division has been preparing for this demanding time of year. We worked to complete the 2019/2020 preliminary budget that will be presented at tonight's Board meeting. The Awards Ceremony that was held on May 3, 2019 was a success. Thank you to everyone for your participation and assistance in getting this done.



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Training & Safety Division: *(Battalion Chief Whisler)*

The month of May was a busy month for the training division. We continue to do joint trainings with Truckee fire with our Technical Rescue program. Along with Truckee Fire, we had a joint training with CHP on hoisting with their Helicopter. Captain Sheppard, Engineer Meadows, and Engineer Perhacs hosted our quarterly confined space training with each PUD.

Engineer Wagner conducted swift water awareness training for all shifts. Each member made entry into the Truckee River and practiced river knowledge and how to get out of the river. In addition, we had firefighters on shore practicing throw bag rescues to the individuals in the water.

The shifts have completed their RT-130 training. RT-130 training is required annual training for wildland firefighters. This refresher is required every spring prior to the wildland fire season. With all of the snow, we have had to postpone this year's PACK test. We have decided to complete this test in July, which is a federal standard to measure a person's agility. He or she has to walk 3 miles with a 45 pound pack on under 46 minutes.

The Engineers completed their annual Spring Engineer training. This year, the training was built around our new Type 3 engine. I would like to thank Captain Beatie, Captain Nelson, and Engineer Moen who provided the training. The Engineers became acquainted with all of the compartments and hose loads on the engine. In addition, they worked on pump and roll and drafting with the engine.

The folks from the training division would like to recognize Captain Jeff Goldstone for his contributions to the Engineer program. Jeff helped with all aspects of testing from the rank of Captain down and helped with mentoring Engineers to become Captains. He built our first Engineers academy with a 100% passing rate and kept our Engineers at the top of their game. Jeff retired in May after 25 years of service for our Department. Over the years, Jeff was a tremendous help in assisting and supporting the Department. In addition to the Engineers academy, Jeff was also the lead on the apparatus committee, including helping Mechanic Joe Parle with the buildup of our new engines. He will be greatly missed. We all know Jeff was a strong personality and demanded a high standard, but he always treated everyone fairly. Thank you, Jeff, for holding us to the highest of standards.

Safety & Logistics Division: *(Battalion Chief Smith)*

As I write my report this morning, we have just been through the first red flag warning of the year for the Sacramento Valley and the PG&E power grid safety shutdowns in the valley, coast range, and Sierra Foothills. Fire season is here even though it seems like it just stopped snowing.

The Station 53 remodel is progressing very well with framing, rough plumbing, and rough electrical all completed. The fire suppression sprinkler system is being installed and will likely be completed by this Board meeting date. Our Facilities Coordinator Tim has been doing a fantastic job overseeing all aspects of demolition and construction. We have had a small group of employees who have stepped up to help Tim with various aspects of the project on an as-needed basis. In particular, I would like to call attention to Firefighters Will Marshman and Dustin Peters for their contributions to this project. At times, the on-duty Station 61 crews have stepped up to help Tim with certain tasks as needed, too. Many thanks to all who have made this project possible. We are optimistic that we will be moving back into the station in late July with work completed.

A few months ago, the District placed into service our new Hurst E-Draulic extrication tools. Subsequently, both Boards authorized the surplus of our old hydraulic tools. I am pleased to report to you that three of the four sets

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have found new homes at fire districts that previously had no hydraulic extrication tools. These districts are Mono City, CA, Golconda, NV, and Lackawanna, NV. One of our vendors, Dan Bria of Curtis, has been instrumental in locating departments who have a need for these tools. These departments are so appreciative of our donations of equipment they otherwise would not be able to purchase.

On June 13 and 14, we co-hosted with Truckee Fire a first ever in our region, two-day, multi-agency Unmanned Aerial Systems Pilot Skills Workshop. There were approximately 30 participants from Northern California and Nevada registered. The District will be hosting media events with PIO Erin Holland and Truckee's PIO Nick Brown coordinating the media to gain exposure for our UAS programs. They were instrumental in helping prepare for this event.

We recently had a handful of incident responses in which we have deployed our UAVs as part of our overall incident operation to assist in the search of victims. This tool gives us a first-hand perspective of the incident and additional capabilities we have not had until recently.

Lastly, I want to thank Chief Simons, Mechanic Joe Parle, and the apparatus committee for their contributions to a project that has been in development for the last couple of years and is now finally in the implementation phase District-wide. It was identified a couple of years ago that District apparatus needed a highly visible, interchangeable apparatus identification placarding system that clearly identifies the apparatus unit designator from a distance. This system needed to be uniform in design and useable on all types of engines, water tenders and medic units. Having such a system is becoming an industry standard and is a significant safety improvement for our personnel when operating at incidents both in our District and while participating in mutual aid responses. Future apparatus, including a truck and boat, would be able to utilize this placard system as well.

Facilities: *(Facilities Coordinator Tim Schrader)*

The remodel at Station 53 has consumed much of my time, but before I get too far into that, I'd like to thank many of you at the stations for keeping my repair list short. I know some of you have taken repairs into your own hands and gotten them taken care of. Thank you. I appreciate that. My time has been very limited this summer with the workload in front of me and a short "building" season.

Station 53: On May 10, we began the very overdue station remodel. So far I have taken nearly 16,000 lbs. of trash to the dumps from this place. Wow! Progress has been ramping up all along, but the most visual progress has happened the last few days. The entire sewer system has been upgraded and is now completed. This required Will Marshman and me cutting the foundation with a saw and removing sections of concrete slab, followed by hand digging the trench for the sewer pipe. Big thanks to the 61 crew for coming over and getting dirty digging this trench by hand. This past Tuesday, I mixed the concrete and filled in all the saw cut areas where the new sewer line was placed.

The entire station has been re-plumbed for domestic water. From the water meter to the sinks is all new copper pipe. No more old system or any galvanized pipes.

HVAC: Two new systems have been installed for the station: one system running the upstairs living space, and a new system running the downstairs living space. The former system that handled the downstairs area all routed beneath the concrete slab. That now is gone and any vent holes have been filled in with concrete to prevent any rodents from trying to access the interior of the property.



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The apparatus bay is getting a new, much-overdue Reznor heater. This one should save a fair amount on efficiency cost.

Framing: All the new interior framework is up and nearly complete. With just two short walls that can go up now that the plumbing is complete. The framing consisted of adding two new upstairs bedrooms and a complete Jack and Jill style bathroom.

I'd like to thank the crew from 61 again for coming over several times to help out with unloading supplies, digging trenches, and getting training on the k12 saw cutting mason blocks for the new windows at the upstairs bedrooms. Also, thank you to those of you for signing up for the overtime to assist me on this project.

Forest Fuels & Defensible Space: *Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt*

Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) 16 - FAC - Defensible Space Inspector (DSI) Position & 2019 Work Plan

Two new Seasonal Defensible Space Inspectors joined our Prevention team the week of May 20. We are excited to have Talina Sky and Chris McMaster on board and out in the neighborhoods performing Defensible Space Inspections and giving our community members education on how to make their property ready for fire and hone-in on their emergency preparedness.

- Talina is originally from Alaska, but has also lived in Colorado, New Mexico, Costa Rica, and Southern California. She has lived in Truckee the past two years and loves it! Her background is primarily in the field of her degree, early childhood education, and she has spent most of her career working in schools and family-owned businesses. Outside of work she enjoys spending time trail running in the summer and snowboarding in the winter. She has two daughters (Estrella 15 and Isabella 8) and enjoys backpacking, camping, traveling, skiing, and spending time on Donner Lake.
- Chris was born in San Mateo, California and moved to Nevada City when he was six years old. He spent most of his young life there. In 1990, he moved to Reno, Nevada to work in the casino industry. Over the years, he has held the positions of Bike Officer/EMT and field training officer. He then moved to Las Vegas to open the Mandalay Bay Casino and train the security staff. While in Las Vegas he also worked at Las Vegas Metro. In 2002, Chris moved back to California to work for Nevada County OES and started as a volunteer in the fire service and fell in love with the job. He has earned the rank of Captain in both local government and private fire services, and he has helped run the Defensible Space Inspection program for Nevada County OES.

SNPLMA 16 - PTEIR

Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Ascent) was selected as the Phase II contractor for the Lake Tahoe Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR). We are excited to continue the momentum from Phase I, which generated the PTEIR Strategy Report, into Phase II with Ascent as they develop a draft and final PTEIR. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) for public scoping period opened June 13. If anyone is interested in providing comments on potential environmental impacts associated with the PTEIR, have them go to our website for more info.

- All agencies that conduct vegetation management on the California side of Lake Tahoe will benefit from this Programmatic report as it will streamline environmental planning/permitting on commercial and noncommercial timber harvesting/fuels reduction projects. The project-by-project review process that has been

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used to comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Forest Practice Act (FPA), Tahoe Regional Planning Association (TRPA), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB), and other regulatory requirements has led to inefficiencies, delays, excess costs, and inconsistencies in project planning. We are excited to keep our momentum moving forward with this project, as completion will allow accelerated implementation of fuels reduction projects by resource managers in the Defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin.

SNPLMA 15 - Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Implementation

This project is categorically exempt, and North Lake Tahoe Fire's Hand crew began performing "hand thin and pile" style treatment.

- The MOU between North Tahoe PUD and North Tahoe Fire (NTPUD) establishes a Forest Fuels Management Partnership, outlining the scope of services that NTFPD Forest Fuels Coordinator provides, as well as the opportunity to leverage grant funding for forest treatments. On March 26, the MOU was signed/effective, allocating \$50,000 to NTFPD in order to meet the required "match" component of SNPLMA 15 and additional funding to carry out project management duties: planning, permitting, oversight, etc. This grant provides \$450,000 to reduce hazardous fuels on at least 135 acres as identified in the CWPP.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) on California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) Lots

The contractor started back up on May 13 in Kings Beach and will be finished with the lots in Kings Beach by the end of June. CTC is out marking lots from Hwy. 267 to Tahoe City, which will be put in a contract for Phase II.

SNPLMA 16 - HFR & Wildfire Prevention

I have been using available geo-database sets to identify landowners that are at high risk for catastrophic wildfire and will be looking to engage these landowners and work to combine fuel reduction treatments.

Public Information Office: *(PIO Holland)*

Notable Events

- May 1: Finalized review of proposals and obtained best and final offers from local print and online media for the Cal Fire Community Outreach Grant managed by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District on behalf of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team.
- May 2: Took receipt of the two mobile sign trailers purchased with TOT Grant Funds, completed inspection and walk through with Joe Parle.
- May 3: I spent two fabulous weeks in Bali!
- May 14: CERT training on the new sign trailers.
- May 20: Met with Placer County and Chief Conradson to review plans for the proposed Kings Beach roundabout at 267. Later that day I attended the workshop for the proposed Nahaus Development in Dollar Hill.
- May 22: Meeks Bay Board Meeting – swearing in of Ellie Beals.



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May 23: Presented at the North Lake Tahoe PR Summit, put on by the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association/Chamber of Commerce to talk about preparedness and the importance of informing visitors of hazards and safe/appropriate behavior in our forests.

Took a tour of the progress at Station 53.

May 24: Presented with Chief Schwartz and TDFD Fire Marshal Eric Guevin at Garwood's for the Lakefront HOA's "Launch Into Summer" meeting, with TDFD Fire Boat Demo.

May 28: Toured Paradise, Concow and Magalia with LTRFCA group, returned on Highway 70 to tour Chief Simons' Division.

May 30: Attended North Lake Tahoe Fire's Wildfire Community Forum in Incline Village.

May 31: Eagle Falls Incident.