



## ***North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts***



**Date:** February 11, 2021  
**To:** Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors  
**From:** Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
**Subject:** Board Report February 2021

With integrity and dedication, it is an honor to serve as your Fire Chief for the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District.

January has kicked off to what is looking to be a busy and productive year for the district. I'm happy to report that our new firefighters have graduated from the academy and have been assigned to their respective shifts. They are all doing well and will be a great operational asset to the district. We have made well deserved permanent appointments of Division Chief McNamara, Battalion Chief Sedgwick and Battalion Chief Lagano. They are all valuable assets to the command staff and have done an outstanding job in helping manage the organization.

As I mentioned in last month's report, the California Fire Service was called upon to send paramedics and EMT's to support hospitals and alternate care facilities throughout California. Our very own Firefighter/Paramedic Lockhart has just returned from a 21 day assignment in Murrieta. I received positive feedback on her performance, so much so, that they wanted to keep her longer. Engineer/Paramedic Frey is also on one of these assignments in Fresno and is nearing the end of his assignment. The fire service sent over 100 paramedics on these types of assignments and I'm glad we were able to assist in that effort.

Our Fire and Life Division has been busy improving workflow documentation and developing new policies for inspections and fire hydrants, to name a few. We have been selected by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to participate in the second phase of a pilot program to build a digital Community Risk Assessment tool. Access to the "dashboard" includes customized visualizations (maps, charts and graphs) that illustrate the community's risks and hazards across a variety of categories such as demographics, geography, building stock, economics, infrastructure, and event loss history. The dashboard will help the district in making data-informed decisions to address risk by employing impactful mitigation initiatives. The division is also working on updating the District's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and is closely following legislation aimed at identifying communities with only one point of ingress/egress. I'm also pleased to announce that Inspector Manzano and Fire Prevention Officer Sky have been awarded scholarships to attend the California Fire Prevention Institute's annual conference. This scholarship will pay for their attendance and membership status with the Sacramento Regional Prevention Officers Association.

February and March are "grant season" for federal funding opportunities, and staff is all-hands-on-deck completing applications for staffing (SAFER), equipment (AFG) and a formal Community Risk Assessment. We have received notice from the California Fire Safety Council that our application has been approved for a Listos Ready California grant. This award includes an outreach tool kit with preparedness material available in multiple languages, along with a \$3000 stipend which will be used to provide ash cans and smoke/carbon monoxide alarms to those in need. The grants process is an avenue for us to secure additional funding for



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important district initiatives. I'm very proud and impressed by the dedication our grant team consisting of: Chief McNamara, Erin Holland, Eric Hornthvedt, Director Eason, Gordana Wood, Kelly McElravey, Captain Armstrong and Captain Whitham.

To date over 90% of our members have received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Our staff is doing well and continue to follow the safety directives as they have since the beginning of the pandemic. We are still assisting Tahoe Forest Hospital deliver the vaccine, and our CERT members will be in the next tier of recipients to receive it. All of our personnel have been issued personalized face masks. I would like to thank Engineer/Paramedic Lecorps for coming up with the idea and doing the research and Shawn Crawford for personalizing them for us. Great job team!

We received some much needed precipitation at the end of the month. This resulted in an increase in call volume for our operations division, especially to the ski resorts. Our monthly call volume for January was 237 with 12 being in Meeks Bay Fire Protection District's jurisdiction. The Lodging Barometer has been a good tool for us to use in regards to anticipating the approximate number of calls for service we may have. On the weekends we are seeing an increase in visitors resulting in some traffic issues in and around the district. We have been working with Tahoe City Public Utility District in the use of our sign trailers to help alleviate some of these issues. The division remains committed to providing excellent care to our patients and I have received several positive comments from the public.

In closing, a record number of fire hydrants have been "adopted" by community members this winter. Over 25 hydrants are being cleared of snow by approximately 20 community members, many of whom signed up to be community leaders over the past year.

### **Meetings and Assignments:**

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern 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
- XTB Operational Area Coordinator Meetings and Duty Chief
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Bi-State Dispatch Meeting
- Grass Valley Emergency Communications Center Meetings
- Eldorado and Placer County Public Health COVID Vaccine Meeting
- Fire Academy Graduation
- Fire District Association of California Meeting
- Eldorado LAFCO Meeting
- Placer County Breakfast Club Meeting
- Tracy FD Battalion Chief Exam
- CAL OES COVID Vaccine Meeting
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Placer County CEO/Area Managers Meeting