



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



Date: March 9, 2022  
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors  
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
Subject: March 2022

As we progress through 2022, unfortunately it seems to be drier than anticipated. Our record December snowfall is a distant memory, and the dry end of winter moved us from 101% of average snowpack to just 68% in only the last month. Unless we experience a miracle spring, we should be prepared for our third consecutive year of drought. Currently, the National Interagency Fire Center's Seasonal Fire Assessment and Outlook has the Northern California forecast to have "normal to significant" fire potential through May, with near below normal temperatures and precipitation from March through June. Due to the drought conditions, there is predicted significant fire potential forecast in the lower evaluations.

March brought with it a partial return to normalcy and to pre-pandemic traditions with the return of Snowfest. North Tahoe Fire continued to support the event with crews providing standby support for the Polar Bear Plunge at Garwoods and the Great Ski Race sponsored by the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team. Our Prevention staff provided support with the fireworks display by determining safety protocols, conducting inspections, ensuring safe practices, and providing a fire watch looking for unspent ordinances. Once again, we provided for the use of our mobile sign trailers during the event to assist with traffic flow. The sign trailers proved beneficial in assisting the event to reduce costs while providing a visual message for our residents regarding the event. Speaking of the parade, our 1922 Seagrave celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Of note: this engine was North Tahoe's first fire truck after being purchased from Stanford University in 1948 by then Fire Chief Al Henry. Stanford originally paid \$12,500 for the fully equipped engine with ladders, hoses, nozzles, and adapters. Much has changed since Chief Henry started our motorized fleet. A stark contrast to our modernized equipped engine costing over \$800,000. Our Master Mechanic Joe Parle and his family had the honors of rolling through Tahoe City on the antique for this centennial year. A big thank you to Joe for proudly representing us and for handling the logistics in deploying the sign trailers.

Our recruitment efforts in January proved successful, and I'm pleased to report that three lateral firefighter/paramedics will be joining us on March 21, 2022. We are happy to welcome Firefighter/Paramedics Jarrett LaShure, Andrew Doe, and Sergio Preciado. Our newest hire, Firefighter/Paramedic Sarah Kertesz has completed all requirements for TAP Phase 2 and has moved into Phase 3. This allows Sarah to function as the attending paramedic while she is paired with another paramedic who will drive and remain available during each call. In other efforts to maintain a safe environment while keeping our workforce healthy, we've changed daily staffing to 12 Monday through Thursday, increasing to 13 Friday through Sunday. On or around May 7, 2022, we will return to daily staffing of 13 per shift seven days a week.

Our Operations staff remains busy with 270 calls District wide. During the month of February, 11 of those calls were to assist the residents and visitors of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District.

As always, I'm honored to serve as your Fire Chief and proud of our excellent staff who always goes above and beyond in their duties.

**Meetings and Assignments:**

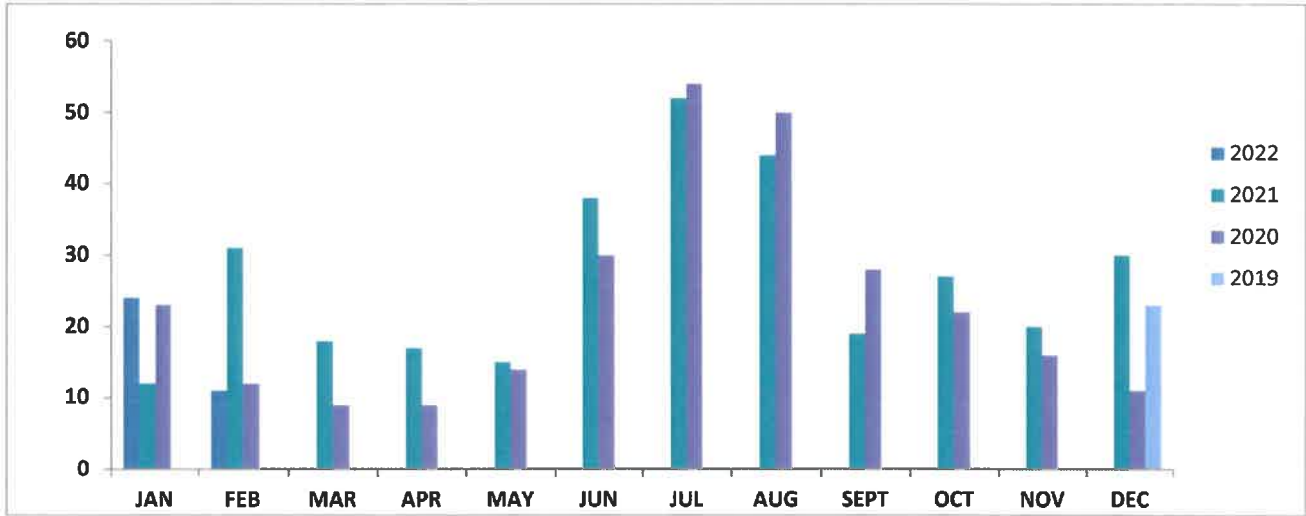
- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Chiefs Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Eldorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- NTF/MB Reorganization Meeting with Eldorado County
- Chiefs Interviews Lateral Firefighter/Paramedics
- Forest Fuels Manager Staff Interviews
- Short Term and Vacation Home Rentals Inspection Meeting
- Tahoe Regional Dispatch Development Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Basin POD's Meeting
- Eldorado and Placer LAFCO Meetings
- Tahoe Public Safety Pier Kickoff Meeting
- Meet with Senator Glazer's office
- Cabin Creek Biomass Meeting
- Eastern Placer County Town Hall Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Community College Advisory Committee Meeting

**Attachment:**

- Response Call Comparison Graph
- Memo #22-15 – Revised Station and Incident COVID-19 Directives

**MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>2022</b>	24	11										
<b>2021</b>	12	31	18	17	15	38	52	44	19	27	20	30
<b>2020</b>	23	12	9	9	14	30	54	50	28	22	16	11
<b>2019</b>												23





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### Memorandum

**#22 - 15**

**REPLACING #21-61 COVID DIRECTIVES**

**To:** All Personnel  
**From:** Alan Whisler, Division Chief-Operations  
**Re:** COVID-19 Operations  
**Date:** March 8, 2022

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Effective immediately, the following guidelines apply to all District buildings, stations, and employees amending and replacing Memo #21-61 (COVID Directives) in response to changes in guidance from the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines, and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA).

The following directives are effective immediately and per policy may remain in place up to a year unless modified by the Fire Chief.

- All District buildings are open to the public without restriction beginning Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

#### **PERSONNEL DIRECTIVES:**

1. Fully vaccinated employees and public are not required to wear a face covering in District buildings.
  - a. If there is a surge in COVID cases involving District personnel, the Fire Chief may implement a two-week mask mandate.
2. Fully vaccinated employees are not required to wear a face covering while interacting with the public in non-medical situations unless they are in a business requiring them.
3. Unvaccinated employees are required to wear a face covering while interacting with the public.
4. Unvaccinated employees with increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should always wear an N95.
5. If you're sick, stay home. Captains and supervisors must send home personnel who exhibit COVID or flu like symptoms.
6. An employee who exhibited any COVID like symptoms must call the COVID hotline at 530.582.3436 and send an email to [employeeCovid@tfhd.com](mailto:employeeCovid@tfhd.com) for evaluation prior to coming to work. Include your Name, DOB and Phone Number.

7. Allowing six feet of distance between yourself and other people remains a simple and effective way to keep germs from spreading and is recommended when interacting with unvaccinated people or people of unknown vaccination status. Keeping your distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

## **INCIDENT DIRECTIVES**

1. An N95 mask must be worn while acting in a healthcare capacity (during all medical responses, in the ambulance and in hospitals).
2. A surgical face mask (not an N95 mask), or non-rebreather mask, shall be given to a patient with any complaint prior to performing patient assessment and committing more personnel. All patients will be transported wearing either a surgical mask or an NRB.
3. All receiving hospitals expect personnel and patients to be wearing face masks while inside the hospital regardless of the patient complaint.
4. Complete a full decon wipe down of the cab and patient compartment after every call.
5. On incidents where COVID is suspected:
  - a. We should not transport anyone but the patient. Exceptions can be made if the patient is a minor or has other personal needs. Explain to the rider that they may not be able to remain with the patient at the hospital and they must wear a surgical face mask during transport.
  - b. Turn on the patient compartment vent and open a front window in the cab. Do not recirculate any air.
  - c. Notify the ER that you are enroute with a patient with “flu like” or “respiratory symptoms”. TFH will provide a designated room for these patients.
  - d. SSV guidelines stress personnel should exercise caution if an aerosol-generating procedure (BVM ventilation, oropharyngeal suctioning, endotracheal intubation, nebulizer treatment, CPAP, etc.) is necessary. Notify the receiving hospital and obtain guidance whether to continue, discontinue, or complete the procedure. Adequately document any order to stop an aerosol-generating procedure. All PPE must be worn while performing any of the above procedures.
  - e. Following the call, leave the rear doors open to allow sufficient air changes while transferring care to the ER staff, and open both windows in the cab to allow sufficient air changes.
  - f. Ask the ER physician if the patient will be tested for COVID-19.
  - g. Notify the on-duty Chief following the call.
6. IFTs for a known patient with COVID-19: Utilize M95 when possible. During transport, turn on filtration fan, vent fan, and open the side window to increase air exchange rate in the patient compartment.