



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: October 8, 2024
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: October 2024

The month of September finished with monthly average temperatures that were 1-3 degrees above normal. Although a few areas in western Nevada and northeast California finished with monthly average temperatures that were between 3-5 degrees above normal. Precipitation during September was mixed, with some areas such as northern Mono, Mineral, Lyon, Churchill, Pershing and portions of Washoe counties experiencing well above average precipitation. Other areas such as southern Mono, Lassen, eastern Plumas and portions of the Tahoe Basin experienced below average precipitation. Light snowfall was also recorded in the higher elevations above 8000-9000 feet in the Lake Tahoe area southward through Alpine and Mono counties.

Of note weather wise: On the afternoon of September 7th, a fire started in the wind-prone northern Washoe Valley area that grew rapidly pushed by winds nearing 35 mph. The result of this fire, dubbed the Davis Fire, burned nearly 6000 acres and destroyed 14 structures. During this fire Red Flag Warnings were in place on the 8th, 10th and the 11th. The Red Flag Warning issued for the 11th was issued as a Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) due to intense winds reaching 40-50 mph and the threat to many residential areas (with evacuations in effect) in far south Reno. This was the first PDS Red Flag Warning since September 2019 and only the 6th issued in National Weather Service Reno's history going back to 2017. Fortunately, due to extensive preparation by the fire crews, including members of NT Fire, the fire did not have a massive spread into the neighborhoods as was expected. In addition, I initiated an emergency recall of our operations personnel to staff additional apparatus and equipment if the fire threatened our district. I want to thank all those who responded to this request.

As we approach the legislative recess, here is an overview of what to expect in the coming months. With the election on the horizon, many legislators will be focused on running strong campaigns to secure their reelection. After the election, legislators will have some time off before convening in early December for an organizational session to swear in newly elected members. With the passage of the Governor's signing deadline of September 30th, below are a few signed bills affecting the fire service. Governor Newsom acted on 1,206 bills, which is the highest number of bills reaching his desk during his six years in office. He had a veto rate of 15.7%, signing 1,017 bills and vetoing 189. The historical average veto rate of the past decade has been about 15%, so this year's average is slightly above average. Governor signed bills:

AB 2225 (Rodriguez) provides an Evidence Code to protect emergency medical services QA/QI from discovery.

AB 977 (Rodriguez) would make an assault or battery committed against a physician, nurse, or other health care worker of a hospital engaged in providing services within the emergency department punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, by a fine not exceeding \$2000, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

AB 1976 (Haney) would require the inclusion of naloxone hydrochloride or other FDA-approved opioid antagonist for reversing opioid overdoses, along with usage instructions in workplace first aid kits.

AB 2968 (Connolly) would require the disaster procedures in the comprehensive school safety plans to include the establishment of a procedure to identify appropriate refuge shelter for all pupils and staff for use in the event of an evacuation order, and to notify the operational area having jurisdiction of the refuge.

SB 504 (Dodd) would require the agency reviewing applications for local assistance grant programs, to give priority to any local government entity that is qualified to perform defensible space assessments in very high and high fire hazard severity zones and reports information using the common reporting platform.

At the last Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association (LTRFCA) meeting, it was agreed that all departments associated with the LTRFCA should be on the same shift schedule. There were only four fire departments or districts that did not align with the other agencies, and we were one of them. Therefore, effective January 10, 2025, we will be adjusting our shifts to align with everyone else. This has many benefits to the district including training and safety improvements. There will be a minimal financial impact to the district with this change.

Lastly, I want to congratulate Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Cota for completing all requirements of TAP Phase 2. A big warm welcome to New Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Doe who has accepted a conditional offer of employment and will start the academy in Carson City beginning October 14th. Captain/Paramedic Scott Worl will also join the academy as a lead instructor. Engineer/Paramedic Rhett Stemmler will serve as a temporary Captain and Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Bartow will serve as a temporary Engineer while Captain Worl is assisting with the academy.

Meetings and Assignments:

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority Fire Chiefs Meeting (EJPA)
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting (LTRFCA)
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- El Dorado and Placer LAFCO Meetings
- Meetings with our District Attorneys regarding District business
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting (NTRAC)
- Tahoe Basin Management Unit Fuels Reduction Coordination Meeting
- NEU Command Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Region Multi-Agency Meeting
- Homewood Development Agreement Meeting
- Alpine Springs General Manager Meeting
- Meeks Bay Advisory Council Meeting
- Alpine Springs HOA Meeting
- CSDA Legislative Task Force Meeting
- Placer County CEO Meeting
- EMS Memorial Bike Ride BBQ at Station 51
- Placer LAFCO RFP Interviews
- South Tahoe PUD Meeting w/Congressman Kiley
- Placer LAFCO Final Annexation Meeting
- Placer LAFCO Municipal Services Review Request for Proposal Meeting
- Empower Deferred Compensation Meeting
- California Fire Chiefs Annual Conference
- Apparatus Committee Meeting

MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2024	8	14	10	4	9	22	30	22	13			
2023	6	12	7	14	21	25	37	23	23	15	7	11
2022	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14	11	7	3	8
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

