



CHIEF'S REPORT

Date: October 15, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief

Fire Activity

Local fire activity has been moderate, cooler temperatures, shorter days and increasing humidity have kept local fire danger adjective ratings moderate. However, we see a seasonal increase of structure fires as people fire-up their heating appliances. The District recommends that homeowners have their appliances checked regularly, chimneys cleaned at least annually and that all vents remain unobstructed. As our extended dry weather period persists, the local Energy Release Component (ERC) rating is now above average for this time period. Locally, fire season is beginning to taper off, but we are just past the statewide peak and it's important to remember that many of our worst Sierra Front fires have occurred during the fall season. These fires often occur when the region has experienced below normal precipitations and are propelled by cold front high winds.

October is Fire Prevention Week, which really lasts a month, during which PIO Holland and Sparky are accompanied by our fire companies as they **virtually visit** all the schools in the District. Additionally, we are running a media campaign that emphasizes this year's theme **Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen! For the NFPA Fire Prevention Week information [click here](#).**

Good smoke in the air. The Tahoe Forest and Fuels Team (TFFT) and our partner agencies are planning treatment activities that include hand thinning, pile burning and understory prescribed fire. All activities are weather dependent. Information can be found on the [TFFT web site](#) and the District posts local prevention activities on its Facebook and Twitter accounts. Occasionally, we do field questions from concerned residents about prescribed fire activities while local fire restrictions are still in effect. It is important to understand that prescribed burns are managed and monitored by land use and fire agencies to insure a safe and healthy forest.

Breast Cancer awareness

October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month. During this month the Fire Chief has authorized staff to where pink logo-wear tee-shirts in place of their Class B shirts. The Firefighters Association sells these pink-shirts with all proceeds being donated to the [Susan G. Komen Foundation](#).

COVID-19

District facilities remain closed to public visitors, however we are allowing small business-essential meetings and trainings following current directives and guidelines.

The staff has been diligent in maintaining face-coverings when in common areas or in public. Our operations folks are always in appropriate PPE for the call types (Fire, EMS, HazGas, Rescue, Other). The Districts have been able to maintain adequate PPE and supplies. Disincentive systems including UV and foggers are being utilized in our ambulances. One of our real heroes during this pandemic has been our contract with Tahoe Forest Hospital occupational Health Nurse, Susan McMullen RN. She has insured that our folks returning from travel, exposure and illness are cleared to work with or without specific restrictions. Because of her diligence and the directives above we have been able to maintain a healthy workforce throughout fire season.

Administrative

North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire both passed annual budgets in September. With adoption of the final budgets FY-2020-21, we will move right into annual audits FY-2019-20. While everyone in our organizations contribute to budget development, it is led by our Chiefs, Director and the Administrative finance team and I want to acknowledge all their hard work in developing this year's budgets. Of note this year, is the grant revenue of \$640,000 which supports our forest fuels work including forest thinning, defensible space inspections and curbside chipping. It's important to keep in focus that in order to have grant revenue you need a grant team. Our grant team is made up of successful grant writers, compliance officers, finance accountants and knowledgeable grant management professionals.

Fire Prevention

Grants are a function of our Fire and Life Safety Division. Fire and Life Safety encompasses the traditional Fire Prevention Bureau activities (plan review, Inspections, code compliance etc.), Public Education/Information, Forest Fuels management, with an overview of community risk reduction. Currently the Districts are managing over two-million dollars of federal grants as recipients or sub-recipients and in September our team submitted six new, applications/Notice of Intents, two SNPLMA Round 18 nominations, and four FEMA BRIC grant NOIs. The goal of our grant team is to actively seek and return federal tax dollars and put them to work locally. Oftentimes we match local dollars with federal dollars to make our communities safer and more resilient. As an example, in the 2020 calendar year we completed 1,717 Defensible space Inspections, 1,180 in the North Tahoe, Meeks Bay and Alpine Meadows sphere and have entered over 6,000 records into the ArcGIS data base. Risk and hazards have a direct correlation to insurance availability and cost, By reducing risk we can improve our insurability. On that note, I will be a guest speaker at the California Insurance Commissioner Ricard Lara's, virtual investigative hearing set for October 19th.

Operations

Please join me in congratulating Division Chief Steve Leighton on his recent promotion to Assistant Chief. Following his promotion, the District will be conducting a series of promotional testing to fill out our ranks. Captain – November 9, 2020, Engineer- December 1, 2020, Division Chief- March 22, 2021, Battalion Chief- May 3, 2021.

In September the District participated in NV-CA FIRE HIRE, a regional recruitment with five similar sized organizations. Through this process North Tahoe hired three new firefighter paramedics who will be joining 27 additional recruits, from other partner agencies, for a 12-week recruit-academy beginning October 19, 2020. After completion of the academy they will be assigned to shifts, bringing us back to full, shift staffing.

Septembers' Calls were 226 (Meeks Bay Fire -28, Alpine Meadows -11) up about 5% over last year, but not quite a record for this month which was set back in 2017. Despite increased calls for service over the summer, we are on course to end the year a little shy of last year's numbers, mostly due to the drastic reduction in calls for service, March through May, following state isolation orders and the premature ski area closures.

Grant Applications and NOI

SNPLMA round 18 Nomination for Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention

NTPFD submitted one nomination for a standalone fuels reduction project and was included as a project partner for a nomination that the Tahoe RCD submitted.

NTPFD Wildland-Urban Interface Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Lead Agency: NTPFD

Amount Requested: **\$2,776,162**

PURPOSE STATEMENT

North Tahoe Fire Protection District will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 300 acres, but not more than 700 acres of highest priority WUI Defense Zone areas within North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts, as identified in the Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These treatments will improve forest health and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire, protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities

Lead Agency: Tahoe RCD

Amount Requested: \$8,705,000* NTPFD is a project partner in this grant, just like in TNFAC, NTPFD submitted a budget detail in the amount of **\$2,517,407** for our share of this project

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) and project partners will deliver a coordinated Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Adapted Communities Project, including extensive community engagement, outreach, and assistance through the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (Tahoe Network) program that will result in increased wildfire prevention and preparedness. Fire defensible space treatments will reduce hazardous fuels on private parcels across 400 to 2,500 acres through community assistance and Tahoe Network program support. Private parcel fuel reduction will be focused on communities where fuel reduction projects are planned in adjacent community forestry projects. The total project area is within the Lake Tahoe Basin and includes approximately 32,275 parcels (1/4 acre or less in size), with an estimated 4,435 acres (Project Map).

Notice of Intent(s)

FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (HMA) 2020 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

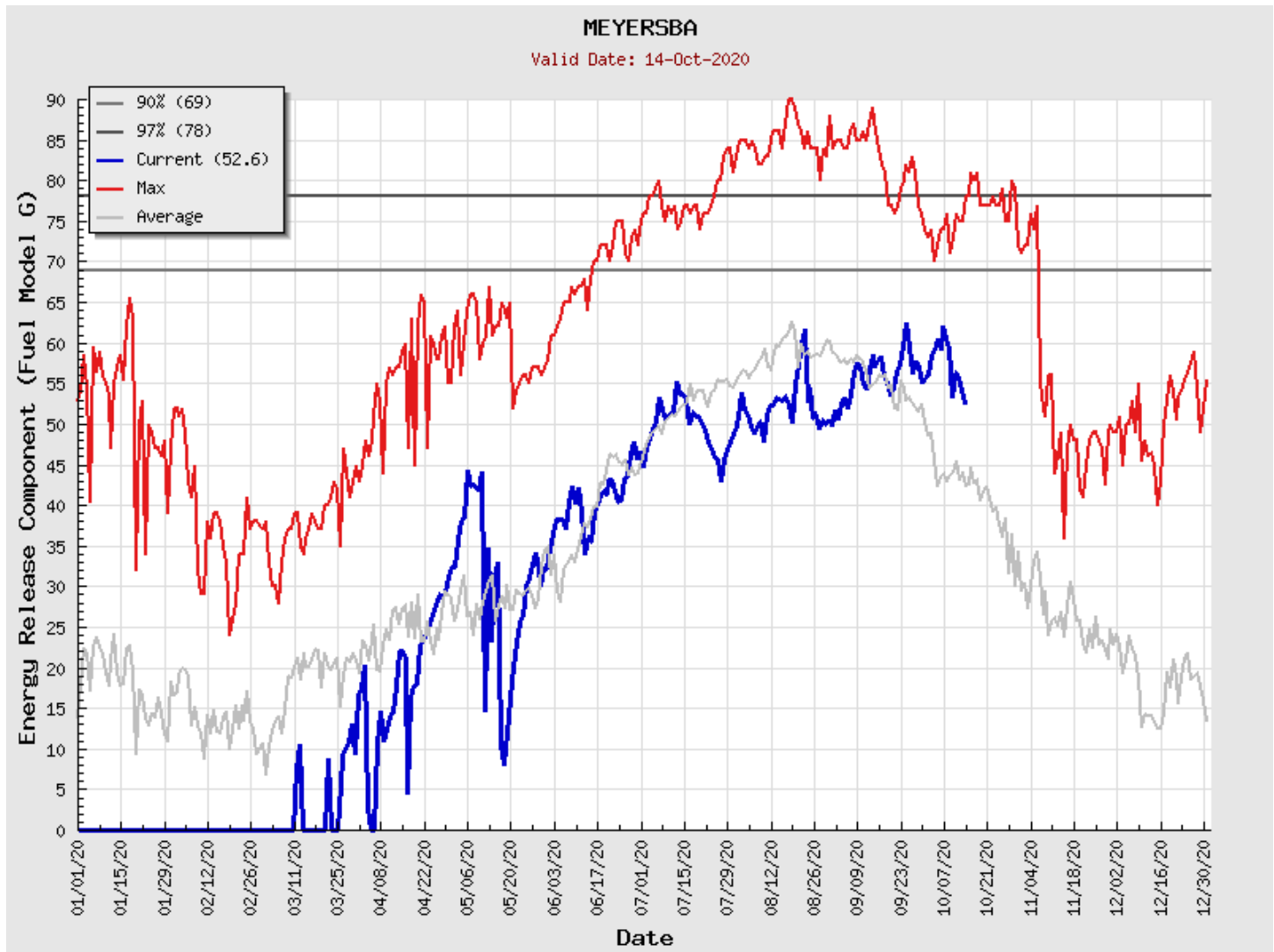
BRIC (Building Research Infrastructure and Capacity) Program (replacing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program)

Notice of Intent (NOI) and sub-applications were made to Cal OES according the dates listed on the Cal OES webpage for projects in the North Tahoe, Meeks Bay and Alpine Meadows service areas.

- \$10 million North Tahoe Fire Station 52 - Mitigation Reconstruction Project - New Station
- \$800,000 North Tahoe Fire Fire-Flow Initiative for Utility and Infrastructure Marine-Based Fire Protection
- \$500,000 North Tahoe Fire Water for Fire Suppression Collaborative - Utility and Infrastructure Protection
- \$8 million North Tahoe Fire - Utility & Infrastructure Project - Tahoe Evacuation Notification System

Energy Release Component

http://www.wfas.net/data/firedanger/graphs/NC/MEYERSBA_ERCg.png

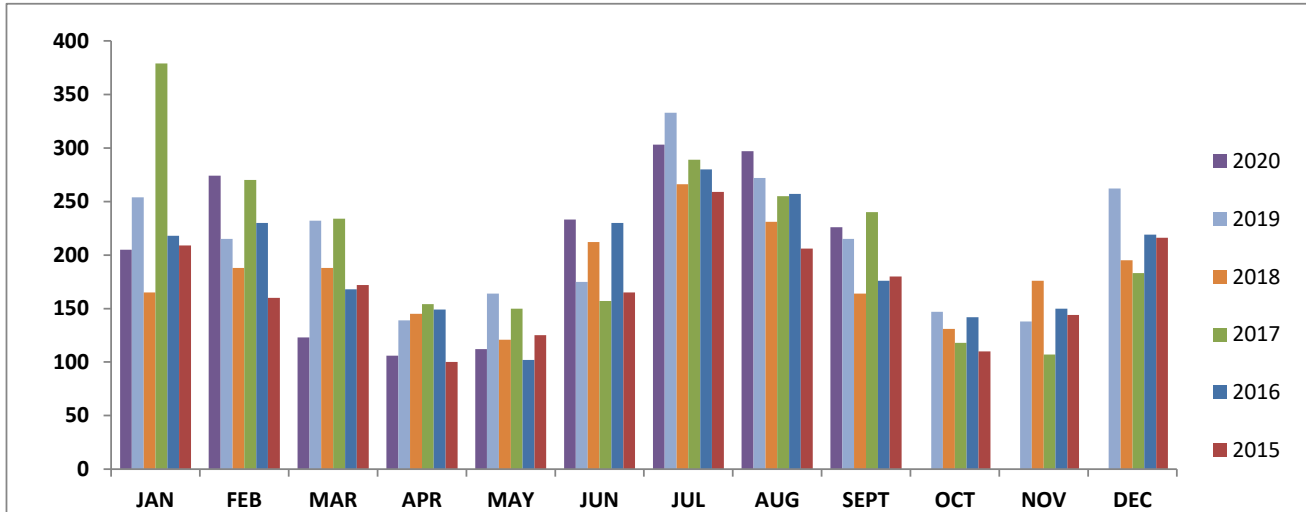


Important Memorandums and Attachments.

- Response graphs
- Memorandums:
Memorandum #20-80

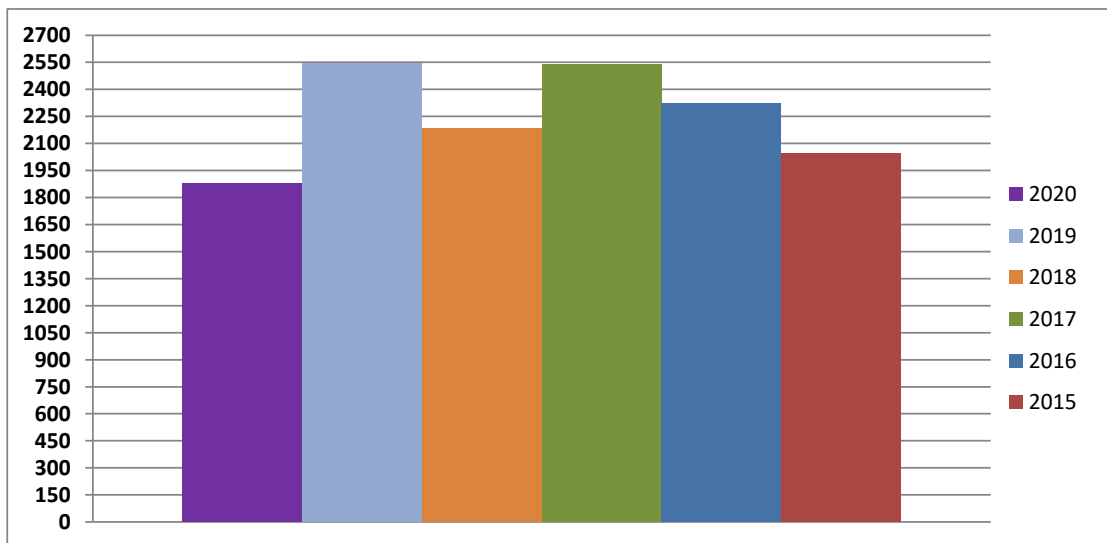
NTFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 2020 | 205 | 274 | 123 | 106 | 112 | 233 | 303 | 297 | 226 | | | |
| 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 |
| 2016 | 218 | 230 | 168 | 149 | 102 | 230 | 280 | 257 | 176 | 142 | 150 | 219 |
| 2015 | 209 | 160 | 172 | 100 | 125 | 165 | 259 | 206 | 180 | 110 | 144 | 216 |



YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

| | |
|-------------|------|
| 2020 | 1879 |
| 2019 | 2546 |
| 2018 | 2182 |
| 2017 | 2536 |
| 2016 | 2321 |
| 2015 | 2046 |



**NTFPD - El Dorado County Response Calls
September 2020**

| Basic Incident Number (FD1) | Basic Incident Date Time | Basic Incident Postal Code (FD1.19) | Basic Incident Type (FD1.21) | Basic Apparatus Call Sign List | Basic Primary Action Taken (FD1.48) | Basic Additional Actions Taken 2 (FD1.66) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 2020020653 | 9/1/2020 13:27 | 96142 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | M51, M67 | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | |
| 2020020700 | 9/1/2020 21:39 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E67 | Fire control or extinguishment, other | |
| 2020020803 | 9/3/2020 8:24 | 96142 | Carbon monoxide incident | B5, E67, M53 | Investigate | |
| 2020021019 | 9/5/2020 9:12 | 96142 | Lock-out | E67 | Forcible entry | |
| 2020021121 | 9/6/2020 5:41 | 96142 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | E51, E67, M53 | Refusal of EMS care | |
| 2020021198 | 9/6/2020 20:18 | 96142 | False alarm or false call, other | E67 | Investigate | |
| 2020021307 | 9/7/2020 22:06 | 96142 | Alarm system sounded due to | B5, E67, | Investigate | |
| 2020021316 | 9/8/2020 0:12 | 96142 | Alarm system sounded due to malfunction | E53 | Investigate | |
| 2020021505 | 9/9/2020 17:47 | 96142 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | E67, M53 | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | Transport person |
| 2020021549 | 9/10/2020 9:22 | 96142 | Power line down | E53 | Investigate | |
| 2020021600 | 9/10/2020 18:12 | 96142 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident | B5, E67, | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | Transport person |
| 2020021745 | 9/12/2020 11:23 | 96142 | Arcing, shorted electrical equipment | E67 | Remove hazard | |
| 2020021779 | 9/12/2020 17:20 | 96142 | Alarm system activation, no fire - | B5, E67, | Investigate | |
| 2020021783 | 9/12/2020 17:38 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E67 | Information, investigation & enforcement, other | |
| 2020021884 | 9/13/2020 22:11 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E67 | Investigate | |
| 2020021948 | 9/14/2020 19:58 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E67 | Investigate | Enforce codes |
| 2020022220 | 9/18/2020 7:12 | 96142 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | E67, M53 | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | Transport person |
| 2020022283 | 9/18/2020 18:41 | 96142 | Building fire | B5, E67 | Investigate | |
| 2020022285 | 9/18/2020 18:43 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E53 | Information, investigation & enforcement, other | |

**NTFPD - El Dorado County Response Calls
September 2020**

| Basic Incident Number (FD1) | Basic Incident Date Time | Basic Incident Postal Code (FD1.19) | Basic Incident Type (FD1.21) | Basic Apparatus Call Sign List | Basic Primary Action Taken (FD1.48) | Basic Additional Actions Taken 2 (FD1.66) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 2020022287 | 9/18/2020 19:03 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E67, M53 | Enforce codes | |
| 2020022808 | 9/24/2020 18:00 | 96142 | ORDINANCE COMPLAINT | E67 | Investigate | |
| 2020022996 | 9/26/2020 19:29 | 96142 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | E53, M67 | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | |
| 2020023045 | 9/27/2020 12:21 | 96142 | Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional | B5, E67, M53 | Investigate | Restore fire alarm system |
| 2020026978 | 9/6/2020 9:04 | 96142 | Good intent call, other | E67 | Investigate | |
| 2020021059 | 9/5/2020 15:09 | 96150 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | B5, M67 | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | |
| 2020022355 | 9/19/2020 17:06 | 96150 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | E53, M67 | Refusal of EMS care | |
| 2020023312 | 9/30/2020 6:20 | 96150 | Cover assignment, standby, moveup | E67 | Fill-in or moveup | |
| 2020023346 | 9/30/2020 13:13 | 96150 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | M67 | Provide advanced life support (ALS) | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Calls = 28 | | | | | |



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-80

CORRECTED

To: All Personnel

From: Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief

Re: Steve Leighton –Assistant Chief Appointment

Date: October 12, 2020

Subsequent to the District's August 7, 2020 Assistant Chief recruitment, and following related Board of Directors actions, the Fire Chief has appointed Steve Leighton as the new Assistant Chief with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District.

Following a full and distinguished career in Reno Nevada, Chief Leighton started with the District as Division Chief-Operations on October 15, 2019. He has accepted the Assistant Chief position and will begin filling his new role effective October 19, 2020.

Please join me in congratulating Assistant Chief Leighton!