



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: November 25, 2024
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: December 2024

As a result of receiving vital precipitation in the area, local fire restrictions for the North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts have been reduced by the Fire Chief. CAL Fire has lifted their burn permit suspension that was in place in Placer and El Dorado counties and residential burning is now allowed with a valid permit.

Residents and visitors should expect to see some smoke in the region as fire managers have begun essential prescribed fire operations. Regional prescribed fire and forest fuels activity is coordinated through the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team. Smoke sensitive individuals are provided advanced notice and all activities are coordinated through press releases. We will continue to message out information on prescriptive activities through our social media outlets. The goal of these prescribed burn operations is to decrease the existing fire hazard to prevent and reduce future wildfires in our area.

This time of year, we often experience an increase of structure fires as people fire up their heating appliances. The District recommends homeowners have their appliances checked regularly, chimneys cleaned at least annually, and keep all vents unobstructed. We also relay to homeowners, it is wise to inspect any heat tape before activation, as well as check and change batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

While I normally celebrate our successes, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the success of one of our partners, the Tahoe City Public Utility District. The TCPUD has completed the North Shore Trail Reconstruction Project. This project completion marks a significant milestone in enhancing the safety and quality of the heavily used multi-use trail network along the north shore of Lake Tahoe. The \$3.2 million project to rebuild over 2 miles of trails is located from the 7-11 in Dollar Point to the Rocky Ridge area. This specific trail was earmarked for improvement due to its poor condition and high level of use.

On the legislative front of which my elected board position on Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) allows me early access to issues that have an impact on the fire service and our District, the California State Legislature introduced 5,562 measures during the Legislative Session. Over the last few years, I have learned to deeply appreciate the leadership of associations like the FDAC and Cal Chiefs to help me navigate the complicated world of legislative issues affecting fire districts.

In closing, I truly consider it a privilege and honor to work with such great people employed by North Tahoe Fire. I am regularly inspired by each of them and I am consistently reminded of how fortunate I am to have selfless leaders at all levels of our organization. This is our last meeting for the 2024 year and I think it has been a very successful one for sure. I want to thank all members for their service-above-self attitude and ensure their hard work and dedication to North Tahoe Fire never goes unnoticed. I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season!

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)
- Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) Board Meeting
- 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
- CSDA Legislative Task Force Meeting
- Placer County CEO Meeting
- Grants Meeting w/Staff
- Supervisor Gustafson Meeting
- Apparatus Committee Meeting
- Empower Deferred Compensation Plan Meeting
- Placer County 2024/2025 Winter/Spring Hazard Outlook Meeting
- Tablet Command Demonstration
- Blood Borne Pathogen Class
- Remsa Annual Paramedic Program Advisory Committee Meeting

Attachment: Chief's Corner – December 2024



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Steve Leighton, Fire Chief

Chief's Corner – The Power of Building Strong Relationships in Public Service

Tahoe City, Calif. December 2, 2024 – I would like to announce a significant development for emergency services in the Lake Tahoe region. The Meeks Bay Fire Protection District has officially merged with North Tahoe Fire Protection District as a reorganized North Tahoe Fire Protection District. This bi-county reorganization is set to take effect January 1, 2025, streamlining fire protection and emergency services between the two Districts.

The decision to reorganize was compelled by the need for enhanced service delivery and resource management in the face of increasing demands on fire protection and emergency medical services in the region. Since 2014, North Tahoe Fire Protection District has been providing services to the west shore area of Lake Tahoe through a shared services agreement with Meeks Bay Fire Protection District, which laid the foundation for the reorganization.

The process for the reorganization involved multiple steps, including approval from the El Dorado County and Placer County Board of Supervisors, as well as final endorsement from the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). These approvals were successfully obtained in 2024, marking the completion of the necessary regulatory processes.

We expect the reorganization to improve operational efficiency and resource allocation for fire protection and emergency medical services in the region. By merging the two districts, residents can anticipate better response times, increased funding opportunities, and enhanced community safety initiatives. Our focus will continue to be on maintaining our high level of service standards and ensuring the community's safety.

By building strong and positive relationships with open communication and active listening between North Tahoe Fire Protection District staff, the El Dorado County and Placer County Board of Supervisors, Placer LAFCO, North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors, we were able to successfully overcome all obstacles to finalize the reorganization to form a solid and committed Fire Protection District to serve and protect the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe. The dedication and hard work of all involved has been truly inspiring and I am honored to be the Fire Chief of the reorganized North Tahoe Fire Protection District.



Steve Leighton is the Fire Chief of the North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts, serving the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe, and the communities in Alpine Meadows. Chief Leighton is a 32-year veteran of the fire service.

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	15		
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

