



## Chief's Reports

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**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Steve Simons, Fire Chief  
**Date:** September 20, 2019

### Meeks Bay Fire:



It is with pleasure that we recognize Jane Warmack for her 22 years of service as a Meeks Bay Board Member. It is with regret that we accept her retirement from the Board. We wish her the very best and thank her for her service.

The USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has approached us looking for potential short- and long-term solutions to some serious facility problems they are facing with their Meeks Bay Station 43. The facilities are currently uninhabitable, and personnel are working out of an office trailer with no kitchen or restroom facilities. The TMU has no current solutions in the works for this problem due to significant bureaucratic red tape, and they are looking to partner with us to potentially improve their situation while they work through some internal processes. Chief Schwartz and I spent some time with the Forest Supervisor and Chief to brainstorm some options to keep an engine and crew on the west shore.

County Supervisor Sue Novasel is working with us and hosting a series of "Town Hall" style meetings to discuss issues of interest to our communities. The first one was last week at Marie Sluchak Park in Tahoma. The event was well attended, and we had the opportunity to discuss many items of interest with the public. Our next meeting will be held at Station 61 and is tentatively scheduled for the evening of October 17.

### Operations:



August finished off the busiest two consecutive months on record for call volume. With over 600 calls, crews averaged over 10 calls per day over the last couple of months. As we have discussed, many were serious medical and trauma calls. Several were related to technical back-country rescues. Several over the last few weeks were related to structure fires, and we even had a

barge fire following a fireworks show. This one was especially frustrating because crews had to stand on the shore and watch, unable to take action due to the lack of water-borne capabilities. This District has the most lake shore of any emergency services department on the lake, and we are the only one without any type of emergency response boat program.



Thankfully (and surprisingly) we have made it to the middle of September without any significant or serious wildland fires in our immediate area. We did just survive our first Red Flag Warning which was issued due to very high winds and low humidity preceding the season's first cold front storm. This storm brought the first snows and rains, but do not let people think that fire season is over yet. These frontal systems will continue to bring strong winds and low humidity each time they pass. Until we receive significant moisture,

# Chief's Reports

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we are still at risk for serious wind-driven fires. Fortunately, daytime heating is decreasing nighttime humidity, and recovery is slowly getting better. Soon we will be looking at prescription burns and associated smoke impacts.

Will Marshman and Placer County Telecom have been testing and servicing our mountain-top radio repeaters the last few weeks. This is an important task that we try to finish each fall before winter storms set in.

## **Fleet/Facilities:**

Joe flew to Washington to perform the final acceptance inspection of our newest ambulance and drive it home. It is looking good, and we expect to have it in service as soon as we receive it and install our new controlled substance lockers.

Tim is getting closer to finishing the Station 53 remodel project. The fire sprinkler system, insulation, drywall, electrical, and lighting installs are almost complete. Painting is mostly done and flooring is being installed. Soon cabinets will be installed, and then we are down to final plumbing and finish work. The front apron has been in poor shape for the last 10-15 years. With this remodel, we were able to remove all of the old asphalt, re-compact, add additional road base, and repave the whole apron. This should now hold up much better under the heavy weight of our apparatus.

## **XTB Tahoe Basin Operational Area:**

During this last Red Flag Warning, we were able to staff additional personnel in-house, and we were also able to bring a pre-positioned strike team of engines into the basin from agencies on the west slope. CalFire also pre-positioned engine strike teams, hand crews, and dozers in the Truckee and South Lake Tahoe areas ahead of the serious wind event. All together, we had approximately 125 additional firefighters in the area throughout the event. Thankfully, we did not have a need for their services.

## Meetings:

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board meetings
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
- Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs Association
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators
- Executive and Command staff meetings
- Final budget prep meetings
- Fleet / Facilities meetings
- National Weather Service conference calls
- Tahoe Summit at Valhalla

## **North Tahoe Fire: (Fire Chief Schwartz)**

### Seasonal Overview

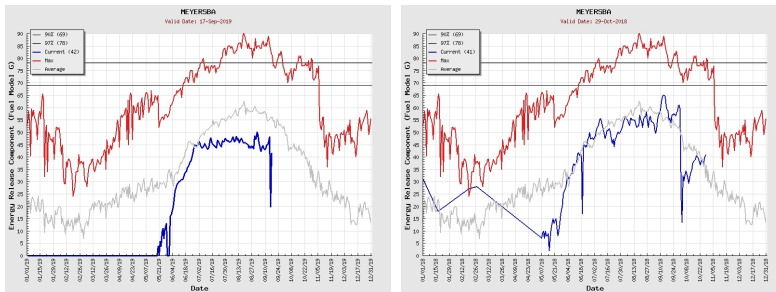
September started out again this year with a bang, as two private fireworks displays lit up the skies over the North and West shores of Lake Tahoe surprising many residents. The District's Fire Prevention Bureau ensured compliance with the events' permits, while our Operations Division provided extra fire patrols to ensure public safety. Later that night, the District and Coast Guard responded to Carnelian Bay for a barge fire. Firefighters stood by on the shoreline for 90 minutes while we awaited the arrival of a mutual-aid fire boat (Marine 24), which, on arrival, extinguished the fire courtesy of the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District located in South Tahoe. Our UAS program did prove valuable as we were able provide FLIR surveillance throughout the incident.



Our fall season has become a favorite time of year for special events, and the District provides support to many local, regional, and national events. Many of these popular events attract hundreds of competitors and spectators that enhance our community's vitality. Servicing special events can be challenging to our Fire, Rescue, and EMS services, but by working closely with dedicated event organizers, we can ensure that these special events and our community's emergency service requirements remain uncompromised. Chief Simons and Administrative Assistant Kelly McElravey do an excellent job processing these applications ensuring that organizers follow state and local regulations and that proper safety standard are adhered to.

## Fire Activity

I have attached an article entitled, "Don't be fooled by mild temperatures fire season is here" that PIO Erin Holland and I submitted to the Sierra Sun which I think accurately portrays the District's fire season and seasonal outlook. Local fire activity has been moderate, with cooler temperatures, shorter days, and increasing humidity has kept local fire danger adjective ratings moderate.



USFS Predictive Services

[gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/fuelsfiredanger](http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/fuelsfiredanger)

The Energy Release Component (ERC) is a National Fire Danger Rating System index related to how hot a fire could burn. It is directly related to the potential worst case (BTUs) within the flaming front at the head of a fire. The ERC can serve as a good characterization of fire season as it tracks seasonal fire danger trends well.

With the recent precipitation and cooler weather, you can see a sharp drop in the local Energy Release Component (ERC). The left graph is 2019 and shows a sharp contrast to the 2018 graph on the right.

However, fire season is not quite over yet and both the North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts remain under USFS, CAL FIRE, and local fire restrictions. Last Sunday, we had our first Red Flag Warning of the season which was accompanied by a NOAA designated Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS), during which USFS, CALFIRE, CalOES, and local fire agencies all increased fire suppression resources throughout the events duration. The District also responded by adding public notifications via our sign boards. The District's local radio broadcast station AM 1630 and our CERT Team remained on high alert, too. I issued a Red Flag percolation banning all open flame fire pits during the event. There were several close calls around the lake, but agencies responded efficiently and fires remained contained and were extinguished quickly.

Regardless of the ERC, cooler temperatures lend themselves to an increased reliance on campfires, warming fires, and recreational fires for warmth, by backcountry travelers and local residents alike. This increased fire

# Chief's Reports

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activity is concerning as October is often the month when the state sustains its greatest fire losses. Eighty percent of all wildfires within the Tahoe Basin are attributed to human-caused ignitions. This is due in part to the fact that our forest fuels are near seasonal low fuel moistures and changing weather patterns support strong dry Easterly winds with rapid rates of spread. The October 2016 Emerald Fire is a case in point. We also see a seasonal increase of structure fires as people fire up their heating appliances, plug in their heat tape, and have more frequent fireplace fires. The District recommends that homeowners have their appliances checked regularly, chimneys cleaned at least annually, ensure that all vents remain unobstructed, and follow local burning ordinances.

To date, the 2019 fire season has been milder than the past few years, with minimal requests for out of area responses. We did commit a brush engine to CALFIRE and deployed four overhead personnel to fires up North earlier this month. During these deployments, our labor group, North Tahoe Professional Firefighters Association, stepped up to cover our stations, apparatuses, and our community commitments. And I'm not just speaking of our line folks. Fire prevention and Admin both have had to work in high gear to meet our public's increased expectations.

Locally this summer, we have been really busy with fires, complex medical calls, and technical rescues (land and sea). July and August call volumes are now in the books, 333 and 272 respectively, making this our busiest summer on record! We now slide into the RV-retiree and special event seasons when thousands of visitors, participants, and residents compete for the last few months of summer-like weather.

During this summer, we had many success stories in the field: fires extinguished, folks rescued, and resuscitated, albeit too many to list here; but today I wanted to mention some additional activities and accomplishments that maybe less visible:

- ▶ We were notified by FEMA that the District has been awarded an AFG equipment grant in the amount of \$151,000 dollars for power load systems to be installed in our medic units. Nice work and congratulations to Chief McNamara and his team.
- ▶ The District received its new Medic Unit and the team has done an outstanding job keeping everything operational given the increased demands placed upon it.
- ▶ Our Facilities Coordinator Tim Schrader and his team have been working tirelessly on finishing the Station 53 remodel in time for winter and making many needed repairs and improvements to the other District facilities. Tim has been a wonderful addition to our fire service family, and he has shown that he takes great pride in maintaining our facilities.
- ▶ The preliminary budget was done in June, and we are well on our Priority Budget way towards achieving our final budget. Director Eason and I hosted seven budget workshops with all personnel, three budget development meetings with Chiefs, and several more with Chief Simons, Director Eason, and Shawn Crawford related to development and reconciliation with the Meeks Bay Fire budget. The final versions are being presented to the Boards on September 24 and 25, and they are due to the Counties prior to October. Director Kim Eason carried the ball on this year's budget processes. Our (NTF & MBF) success reflects the strength of our Finance Team: Director Eason, Business Manager Crawford, Administrative Assistant II (Grants Compliance and Finance) Wood, and the Chief Officers. At the same time the Admin. Team has been working through several agency audits and is now preparing for our annual audits.



## Chief's Reports

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- ▶ Prevention really has had quite the busy building season, too! The volume of plan reviews, inspections, and fireworks shows are unprecedented and are ever increasing in number and complexity. Following the resignation of FPO Ransdell in July, the District's Prevention staff has been recruiting a replacement. During this time they have been outsourcing more plan reviews, thus allowing Fire Marshal Conradson and Fire Prevention Officer Rodriguez to focus on inspections and AMM requests. Administrative Assistant Blanca Lundin and Firefighter Paramedic David Justus have both provided invaluable assistance and support to the Fire Prevention Division this season.
- ▶ Forestry, Defensible Space projects, and curb-side chipping are also in high demand. Forest Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt has been supervising two large treatments, one on NTPUD Land and the other consisting of hundreds of CTC lots intermixed within the District. Our two Defensible Space Inspectors, Chris McMaster and Talina Sky, have completed over 2,000 defensible space inspections this season, and NLTFPD's hand crews have kept up on our chipping requests, making for a very successful summer.
- ▶ The District is in the final stages of a Fire Prevention Officer (FPO I) recruitment, and we expect to hire at least one inspector next week.
- ▶ After 35 years of service, Chief Simons has informed the District of his intent to retire on December 1, 2019.
- ▶ The District is excited to welcome Division Chief Steve Leighton to North Tahoe Fire. Steve will be starting on October 15. Previously, he served as the Operations Division Chief for Reno Fire in Reno, Nevada.
- ▶ After 28 years of Service, Chief Conradson has informed the District of his intent to retire on November 22, 2019.
- ▶ Subsequent to the District's May 20, 2019 Division Chief recruitment and testing, the District has made a conditional offer of employment. Division Chief Mark Regan has accepted with an anticipated starting date of October 15, 2019. Mark is currently the Fire Marshal for North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District in Incline Village, Nevada.
- ▶ Throughout the month, Forest Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt, Public Information Officer Erin Holland, and all of the Chief Officers have attended numerous public assemblies, homeowners' association meetings, and educational events where we have discussed defensible space, evacuation preparedness, and the District's efforts to educate about public safety.
- ▶ As follow up to some of the issues the District has experienced with marine-based pyrotechnical displays, the District sent a letter to the county, suspending any future permits pending an evaluation of our marine capabilities.
- ▶ The District responded to two drownings this month. With no rescue boat immediately available, one of our shore-zone swimmers, a Paramedic Firefighter, swam out to the last known location in the lake and performed a 15' subsurface dive to retrieve the victim.
- ▶ Our governmental affairs team has been busy. We have supported many bills and opposed others. I recently submitted an Op Ed opposing (SB 13 - Wieckowski), to the Sacramento Bee, which is also attached for your review.

During the past month, the Fire Chief (designee\*) represented the Districts at the following external meetings and events:

8/5 Verisk ISO meeting  
8/6 Breakfast Club\*

8/8 End Warning System meeting  
8/9 Alpine Board Meeting

# Chief's Reports

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8/15 LTRFCA

8/19 U.S. Senator Cortez Mastro - Wildfire

8/20 Lake Tahoe Summit

8/21 U.S. Senator Feinstein - Wildfire

8/28 Meeks Bay Fire Board meeting

8/29 US Forest Service Supervisor

8/30 Meeting with Supervisor Gustafson and CDRA staff

8/31 - 9/1 Numerous public meetings

## Opinion/Editorial submitted:

Law to encourage “granny flats” will increase fire risks, exacerbate fire insurance crisis

By Chief Michael S. Schwartz

Senate Bill 13 (SB 13 - Wieckowski), a bill intended to address the housing crisis, simply trades one crisis for another if the unintended consequences are not addressed before it is enacted. While we recognize the housing crisis faced by Californians, we cannot solve it if we cannot protect and insure our homes.

Widespread residential development that adds fuel to wildland and forested areas along with a warming climate have made catastrophic wildfires year-long events in California. Fire agencies are already unable to keep pace in populated, vulnerable areas like Lake Tahoe, Northern California and the Sierra Foothills. California cannot afford legislation that further reduces fire and life safety.

SB 13 encourages the development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs, commonly known as granny flats) by eliminating development impact fees. Without these fees, how will our community pay for the equipment, apparatus, and facilities needed to serve the people who move into these new units? It can only lead to reduced services and more risk for all.

Granny flats are constructed under reduced building standards and may be at greater risk than traditional homes. It is reasonable to expect that increased population and property built to lesser standards in high fire areas are likely to worsen the insurance crisis currently plaguing California, making it even more difficult for homebuyers to get fire insurance and for existing policyholders to be able to renew their insurance policies.

All one has to do to grasp the flaw in the bill is read the author’s recent Viewpoint article in the Sacramento Bee which lists clearly the benefits of the proposal, yet fails to address how local governments would serve and protect the additional populations these units will bring. The bill fails to consider the small percentage that most impact fees truly represent in a construction budget. It also fails to recognize that many fire departments, such as our District, already have a scalable fee, whereby impact fees have been thoroughly analyzed, are transparent and are proportionate to the additional square footage - or fuel and risk - being added to the forest.

Granny flats create more densely populated neighborhoods, which adds risk... risk that is already higher in popular forested and wildland areas. Yet SB 13 encourages this growth while taking away the one funding mechanism fire agencies have to add the firefighting capability to provide that protection. Development impact fees are often the only funding available to meet the demands of additional structures and population.



## Chief's Reports

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In popular tourism areas like Lake Tahoe, it is likely and even probable that eliminating development impact fees will also create an incentive for homeowners to add units for VRBO or Airbnb short-term rentals. SB 13 would essentially become a profit-making tool for landowners without adding the affordable housing that was the original goal.

We all remember with horror the massive fire that virtually wiped out the town of Paradise last year and killed dozens who could not escape. Here in Lake Tahoe, over 350 wildfire ignitions were recorded in the past seven years. Over 80 percent of these wildfires were human-caused. Adding unmitigated square footage adds people and will result in more fires with less fire protection.

The Fire Districts Association of California, the California Special Districts Association, and California Fire Chiefs Association all strongly oppose SB 13. It would be irresponsible to sign this measure into law unless it is amended to address the serious consequences its language currently ignores.

### **Fire & Life Safety Division:** *(Division Chief Conradson)*

The fireworks shows on Labor Day weekend resulted in a fire on one of the barges. Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District Marine 24 was called as mutual aid to extinguish the fire. It resulted in a lot of debris washing into the lake, and no agencies had the ability to contain the debris. Much of it either sank in the water or washed up on shore. I issued a letter suspending the marine-based outdoor aerial displays of fireworks until we have marine capabilities to address emergencies resulting from fireworks.

The Fire and Life Safety Division has been extremely busy with predevelop meetings, inspections, plan reviews, and code compliance. Due to being short staffed and the volume of work this time of year, much of the plan review and sprinkler inspections have been outsourced to third parties to assist in meeting the current demands. With the assistance of third parties, we are staying within the usual time frames for inspections and plan review.

The resolution on the hotels, motels, and schools has been pushed to the November board meeting. With the current workload and Fire Code adoption, there has not been enough time to process the report accurately. We received several applications for the open Fire Prevention Officer position and will be conducting the testing and interviews next week on September 26, 2019.

We are continuing to develop the document for alternate means of protection when projects do not meet fire flow requirements. CATT has provided the latest draft addressing the comments from the Board at the last meeting. We are incorporating some additional information to their draft and believe the document will be ready to present at the next Board meeting. In talking with our Fire Prevention Consultant, it would be best to have it on the Board's agenda so they are aware and in agreement with the District's approach to Alternate Materials and Methods requests.

A lot of work has gone into amending the 2019 Fire Code. It is on the Board's agenda for this month, and we will be introducing the Meeks Bay and Alpine Springs County Water District codes at their next meetings.

# Chief's Reports

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## **Training & Safety Division:** *(Battalion Chief Whisler)*

### Special Drills, Classes, Events:

The month of August was a fairly mild month to train due to the amount of calls the District ran. Crews continued to get out and do basic firefighter and engineer training when they weren't on calls. Each station Captain completed approximately 18 hours of training during the 7-19 training period. We continue to work on improving our training hours documentation to be compliant with ISO. We currently have three probationary firefighters that continue to meet the District training standards and are preparing for their upcoming six-month test.

All crews completed an air consumption drill this last month. This drill allows the individual to have a better understanding on how long they will last on air while doing strenuous work. The course consisted of dragging a manikin approximately 40 feet, climbing a 24' ladder fully extended, crawling across a roof ladder simulating rafters, using a tire to strike with sledgehammer ten times each arm, carrying two 40-lb. dumbbells 2, 30 yards. There was approximately 30 feet between each station.

The District established a re-classification list for Paramedics. I would like to congratulate Firefighter Frey and Firefighter Rau for completing the process. I also would like to thank Captain Stowell, Engineer Perhacs, Engineer Meadows, Engineer Worl, Firefighter Lockhart, and Retired Captain O'Brien for helping with the testing process. I would also like to thank Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Nelligan from NLTFD for being an evaluator for this process.

### Technical Rescue:

The Technical Rescue Team continued to respond to calls over the last month and host multi-agency trainings. The team responded to Black Rock and Granit Chief for two early evening rescues. We were not able to use H2O for the Granite Chief rescue due to light constraints. We also responded to Eagle falls to assist H2O with a hoist operation for an individual with a broken ankle. The team also participated in a joint training at Black Rock. All of the North Tahoe team members participated in the training.

### Upcoming Training:

- ▶ District CPR Class - Station 51; September 23 and 26, Contact Whisler
- ▶ Engineer Academy September 30 to October 18, SLT Airport
- ▶ Blood Bourne Pathogens Class; November 11, 13 and 15

## **Safety & Logistics Division:** *(Battalion Chief Smith)*

The Facilities Division has had another busy month continuing the remodel project of the Homewood Fire Station. I am pleased to report to the Board that steady progress is being made. The fire sprinkler system is near completion, drywall installation, texture, and paint are completed. The finish electrical, plumbing, and HVAC are in progress. Cabinet and flooring installation are about to commence the week of the 16th. The station has a new asphalt apron. Western Nevada Supply has generously donated a Navien Tankless Water Heater for the station remodel project. Our Facilities Coordinator Tim Schrader has been working long days to keep this project on track. He has done an outstanding job! All the while with the help of Firefighter David Justus and Blanca, he has been scheduling maintenance and repair projects throughout the District in preparation for winter.





## Chief's Reports

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Chief Whisler has generously offered to present the one item I have on the Board Agenda this month which is the surplus of three gas powered portable ventilation fans. These are now no longer needed due to the recent purchase of three battery-powered Ram Fans that are now in service on our Type One Engines. I am working with Dan Bria of Curtis (an equipment vendor) to donate these fans to departments in the region that do not have funds to purchase this equipment. He has been instrumental in getting our surplus Hurst Hydraulic Extrication equipment to regional departments that do not have extrication equipment due to lack of available funding.

It appears that we are nearing the commencement of installation of the Verizon Micro Cell Project at the Kings Beach Fire Station. This has been a very long and involved process. Our Legal Counsel Steve Gross has been instrumental in negotiating the development of legal documents to a version that is acceptable to both parties. I am hopeful that the project installation will be complete before winter arrives in Tahoe. As a reminder, this installation will generate approximately \$25,000 of revenue per year for the district.

Recently, I was invited by CalFire Butte County Unit to meet with their Air Operations staff regarding the process and requirements to stand up a UAS Program for the Butte County Fire Department (managed by CalFire under contract). One of the requirements of the Camp Fire Grand Jury Report was for the department to enhance its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities as related to fire situational awareness. The UAS Program is just one component of this program. I anticipate that I will continue to work with their staff in program development efforts in the coming months.

### **Public Information:** *(PIO Holland)*

#### Notable Events:

August was another busy month for the District. Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei hosted a luncheon with members of the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs. Forest Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt and I attended on behalf of Chief Schwartz due to a conflicting engagement. The Congressman has lifelong ties to Lake Tahoe and is committed to the concerns faced by the local fire districts. Nevada Senator Cortez-Masto held her first annual Wildfire Summit in Reno. The event was heavily covered by local media and attended by most fire agencies in Nevada and Western California. Senator Cortez-Masto is also committed to taking local concerns to Washington.

The 23rd Annual Lake Tahoe Summit also took place in August. Senator Feinstein once again recognized the Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs by name, with forest health and fire safety the focus of the event. Nevada Governor Sisolak, Nevada Senator Cortez-Masto, and California Congressmen McClintock and Garamendi all spoke, with the keynote address from Governor Newsom wrapping up the event.

As summer hit its peak, so have calls for illegal fires. Placer County launched a complaint hotline for Short-Term Rentals (STRs), which has been popular with local residents. I've met with Doug Jastrow, the Revenue Manager overseeing the Tourism Occupancy Tax (TOT) program, to request that Fire and Life Safety Requirements are made key components in the development of a TOT Ordinance. I am also attending TRPA and Placer County workshops and meetings on the topic.

# Chief's Reports



Insurance continues to be a hot topic. The last Board meeting received a lot of play from KTVN in Reno, and the Chief's presentation was well received.

We had several opportunities to meet with hundreds of homeowners at their annual HOA meetings and continue to take every opportunity to engage with our community about preparedness, ember hardening, and Red Flag Warnings. We are working with Alpine Meadows and Dollar Point to achieve FireWise® Community designations. Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows are hosting "Shelter in Place" Drills at their parking lots by exercising the scenario that SR 89 is compromised, and we've participated in their planning meetings for these events with Chief Riley of Squaw Valley Fire and Lieutenant Paul Long of PCSO.

## Special Events:

- Congressman Amodei Luncheon
- Senator Cortez-Masto Wildfire Summit
- Tahoe Summit

- TFFT Subgrant Committee on Outreach
- Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Evacuation Plan Meeting
- CERT (absent)

## Meetings Attended:

- Placer County CEO Area Managers Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- North Tahoe Fire Board Special Meeting/Meeks Bay Fire Board Meeting
- Fire Public Information Team (Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team)
- Capital Projects Advisory Committee
- Special Joint North Tahoe/Squaw Valley Regional Municipal Advisory Council
- Alpine Meadows Firewise® Assessment
- First Tuesday Breakfast Club

## Community Meetings and Events:

- National Night Out (Inspectors)
- Family Science Outreach Day
- Cedar Flat HOA
- Tahoe Cedars POA
- Alpine Meadows/Bear Creek HOA
- Talmont POA
- Highlands HOA (BC Whisler)
- Family Science Day Outreach
- Concert at Commons Beach

## Training:

- Fire Inspector 1A (Mather, CA)





## **Forest Fuels: (Fuels Coordinator Horntvedt)**

### SNPLMA 16 - TNFAC

Defensible Space Inspectors Talina Sky and Chris McMaster are still out in the neighborhoods performing defensible space inspections, giving our community members education on how to make their property ready for fire, education on ember ignition, home hardening, and emergency preparedness.

- 1700+ defensible space inspections completed this season
- 700+ requests for free curbside chipping
- HOA Meetings - community outreach vents - Kings Beach block party

### FEMA - HFR on CTC lots

The contractor completed Phase I, which treated 154 parcels for a total of 26.67 acres in Kings Beach. We flew the Phase II IFB and will be awarding the contract once all required documentation is submitted. Phase II will treat 281 parcels for a total of 51.82 acres from Hwy. 267 to Tahoe City, and I am hoping to get the contractor out to work this fall.

### SNPLMA 16 - PTEIR

Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Ascent) was selected as the Phase II contractor for the Lake Tahoe PTEIR. We are excited to continue the momentum from Phase I, which generated the PTEIR Strategy Report, into Phase II with Ascent as they develop a draft and final PTEIR. The NOP for public scoping period closed, and we are now consolidating and addressing the scoping comments, as well as moving forward with reviewing the draft project description, data requests, descriptions of alternatives, implementation checklist, integration of Lake Tahoe West modeling results, and working towards the preparation of an administrative Draft PTEIR.

- All agencies that conduct vegetation management on the California side of Lake Tahoe will benefit from this programmatic report as it will streamline environmental planning/permitting on commercial and noncommercial timber harvesting/fuels reduction projects. The project-by-project review process that has been used to comply with NEPA, CEQA, FPA, TRPA, LRWQCB, and other regulatory requirements has led to inefficiencies, delays, excess costs, and inconsistencies in project planning. We are excited to keep our momentum moving forward with this project, as completion will allow accelerated implementation of fuels reduction projects by resource managers in the defense zone of the WUI on the California side of the Basin.

### SNPLMA 16 - HFR & Wildfire Prevention

I have been using available geodatabase sets to identify landowners that are at high risk for catastrophic wildfire and will be looking to engage these landowners for implementation of fuel reduction treatments. I have met onsite with Tamarack Mutual Water Co. representatives to propose implementing a 700-1000' shaded fuel break along Hwy. 89 uphill of the "Ring Roads". The current approach is to engage CTC, Tamarack, Rubicon, and a few other adjoining property owners in order to implement an all-ownership fuel break that would tie in to previously treated USFS lands.

### SNPLMA 15 - CWPP Implementation

NLTFPD's Rifle Peak hand crew began performing hand-thin and pile style treatment in mid-June and has completed 50 acres of initial entry hand-thin work wrapping up NTPUD's Gentry property that is North of Hwy. 267 in Tahoe Vista. I have completed boundary marking and project layout on 170 acres of NTPUD

# Chief's Reports

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lands in preparation for Rifle Peak to continue their hand-thin work through the remainder of this season. Rifle Peak is expected to begin working within the North Tahoe Regional Park by the end of this month.

