



CHIEF'S REPORT

Date: May, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief

Fire season outlook: Last year was pretty quiet in the Sierra range compared to normal. Not as many windy days and pretty lackluster thunderstorm season. This year is expected to more robust; the weather pattern was more similar to the winter of 2018. Locally our high fire danger is expected to come earlier this year, beginning in late June and continuing through November. Following a drier than average winter has really upped the odds of large fires in timber zones compared to recent years, as there is still a lot of dry, unburned, carryover fuels in the Great Basin from 2017-2019 wet winters. Fire season onset depends on spring weather. July onward is the most likely time frame.

District(s)-wide, preparations for this fire season are under way at every level. Contracts and operating plans are being updated and we have a new California Fire Assistance Agreement CFAA in place. The CFAA is the primary mutual aid agreement between the State of California and our Federal fire partner as to how we cooperatively respond, manage and reimburse for auto and mutual aid. Annual firefighter wildfire training is being conducted with all personnel and Incident Qualification Cards (Red Cards) are being issued to qualified personnel. This year our Strike Team Leaders, Overhead personnel and Chiefs received their annual CAL OES training virtually and are now requalified for the season. Administrative staff has been updating our CAL OES annual salary survey and administrative rates. All the while our fleet mechanic has been changing us over from winter to summer operations and servicing our apparatus to insure operational readiness for fire season.

CALFIRE engine 2385 will reoccupy Station 55 in Carnelian Bay on May15th and throughout the fire season and we welcome them back into the District. Having a state engine compliments our local responses while adding an additional level of fire protection to the region. Likely the best news.

Our Public Information Team, in conjunction with our partners at Living with Fire, have been putting out weekly wildfire preparedness messaging that include wildfire preparedness suggested activities you can complete while under the Stay at Home Orders. This month's Chief's corner is on home hardening; the process of preparing your house to resist ember ignition so that it can better withstand an approaching flame front.

➤ **COVID 19**

- Began in Wuhan China in 2019
- January 14, 2020 first case in the USA
- March 2nd first case in Placer
- March 4th 1st COVID Death in the USA, Placer County, CA.
- March 13, Districts initial actions
- March 17, District released memo #20-26
- March, The District initiated an Incident management Team
- March The IMT developed the IAP and corresponding Memorandums #20-29 and #20-30
- March 28, NTF Local Emergency Declaration
- March, COVID Modifications made to all Medic Units
- April The IMT and Command staff met daily to review the Situation Reports
- April Logistics established PAR levels for all PPE
- April Ordered Specialized decontamination equipment
- May 12th most recent update of COVID Memorandums, #20-29 and #20-30
- May 13th is Day 60 of our COVID-19 Prepare and Respond Incident Management Team.

On the frontlines locally are the men and women of North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts, they have sworn to protect and serve our communities from all enemies, both foreign and domestic, putting themselves and their families at risk of harm; I'm proud of them, and proud to serve along with them and all the first responders across our nation as they continue in combat against COVID-19.

Administrative and Fiscal

- Preparing preliminary 2020/21 budget numbers for both MBF and NLT
- Wrapping up 2019 CalPERS Audit
- Monitoring and managing the FEMA COVID Programs CARES 1 & 2 and Post Disaster Mitigation.
- COVID-19 Administrative Section Chief
- Final 2019/20 Expenditures approved
- Added increased fiscal controls, including a spending freeze on all discretionary spending.
- Developing fiscal projection scenarios for the next 12-24 months, FY-2020/21 and FY-2021/22.

Fire and Life Safety (Fire Prevention) Fuels Facilities

- Recruitment and Hiring of 2 Inspectors: D-space and STRs/VHRs
- All plan checks are being done electronically
- New inspection software is now operational
- Our two current fire prevention officer inspectors are doing essential construction inspections.
- Chipping and D-Space inspection requests are open.
- Burn permits are required and being issued via CALFIRE web site.
- Many of the Pacific Northwestern federal lands are already under fire restrictions.
- PIO Erin Holland has returned from her deployment to the State of Nevada EOC.
- COVID-19 Logistics Section Chief duties.

Operations and Fleet

- Structure Fire on Park Lane (Kings Beach)
- Updated alarm response cards
- Cal OES R4 and XTB with our state and federal partners developing guidelines for wildland firefighting amidst the pandemic.
- Developing response plans for fire season that include COVID-19 mitigations

- Wildland XTB Peer review complete
- PPE Replacements and reflective helmet tape installed following inspections.
- NLTFPD (Incline) will be migrating from Washoe Dispatch to Grass Valley in July.
- COVID-19 Operations Section Chief duties

Training and Rescue

- RT 130 and our Strike Team Leader refreshers.
- Most of the April training was done at the company level or virtually.
- Preparing for the May Engineers academy
- With proper precautions, ran some multi-company drills
- Completed a mini-academy for our three new lateral firefighters

EMS and UAS

- Continue to see rule-out (presumptive) COVID patients,
- Received our fogger decontamination unit.

Safety/Wellness and IT

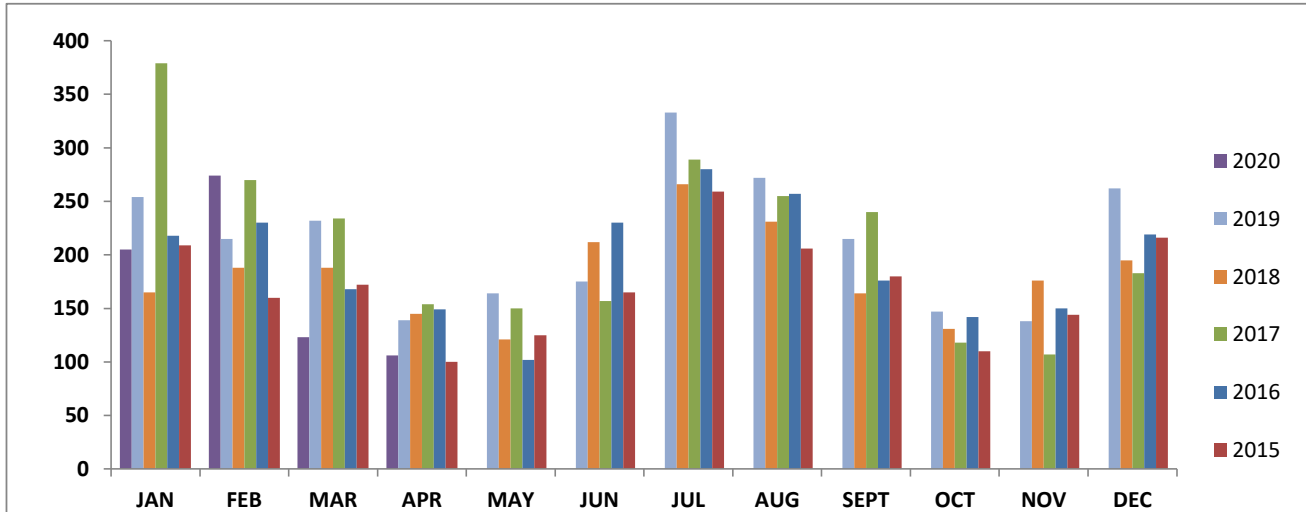
- Health and wellness physicals will be going forward in late May and June.
- IT utilizing a lot of technology for communications, doing great job.

Important Memorandums and Attachments.

- Response graphs
- Memorandums #20-40
- 2020 Chipping and Defensible Space Inspection Season Update

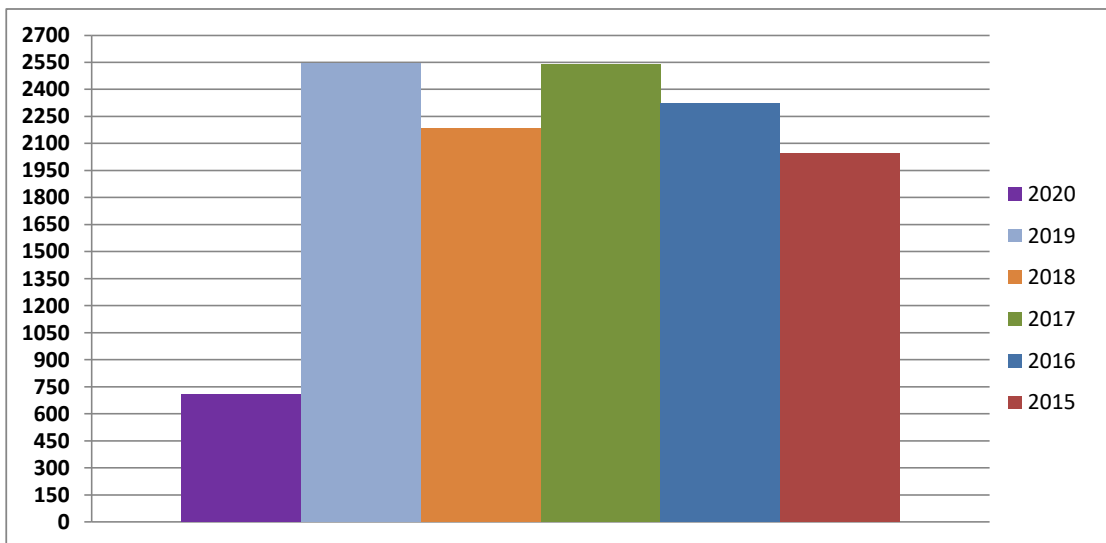
MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2020	205	274	123	106								
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	708
2019	2546
2018	2182
2017	2536
2016	2321
2015	2046



NTFPD-MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS

April 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)
2020007850	4/4/2020 8:49	96142	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E67, M53	Transport person	
2020008227	4/10/2020 17:46	96142	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	B5, E53, E67, M51	Investigate	Hazardous materials leak control & containment
2020008242	4/10/2020 22:46	96142	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020008263	4/11/2020 10:28	96142	Public service assistance, other	B5, E67, M53	Assist physically disabled	
2020008290	4/11/2020 16:56	96142	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E67, M53	Transport person	
2020008366	4/13/2020 10:22	96142	Interfacility Transfer	E53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020008935	4/22/2020 12:40	96142	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E67, M53	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020009099	4/24/2020 16:49	96142	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	B5, E51, E53, E67, M51,	Hazardous materials leak control & containment	
2020009332	4/28/2020 10:32	96142		E51, E52, E53, M67		

Calls = 9



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-40

To: All Personnel

From: Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief

Re: District Spending Freeze – FY 2019/2020

Date: May 12, 2020

Effective immediately, all discretionary spending is suspended, except for overtime and expenses necessary for the ongoing operations and for business functions of the District. This spending freeze is due to the emergency spending related to COVID-19 and the uncertain financial outlook for the state and county.

On Thursday, May 7, 2020, the Fire Chief, Division Chief Leighton, and the Director of Finance approved known operational expenditures needed for the remainder of this fiscal year. Purchases and expenses approved by the Fire Chief prior to this date are authorized to continue. Any purchases or budgeted items that have not been approved prior to today or obligated to date are no longer authorized and those accounts are now frozen. All invoices over \$1,000 need to be reviewed by the Director of Finance prior to purchase.

Unforeseen or expenditures of an exigent nature should be brought to the appropriate Division Chief for review.

This spending freeze is applicable to the 2019/2020 budget year (May 11-June 30, 2020) and does not currently pertain to the 2020/2021 budget year.

2020 Chipping and Defensible Space Inspection Season Update

We are accepting requests for FREE residential curbside chipping

MBFPD: <https://www.meeksbayfire.com/seasonal-curbside-chipping>

NTFPD: <https://www.ntfire.net/defensible-space-chipping>

Direct link to google chipping request form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec3F3cJAaZR0SmUvKKMmmGAKd9CL6OqeHo0a6UbbnawagYcA/viewform>

Schedule: Note that community members can submit multiple requests throughout the summer to support their ongoing defensible space efforts. To see the full schedule, see the chipping request form.

Area 4:

Pineland, Ward Creek, Timberland, Swiss Tahoe, Tahoe Pines, Homewood, Tahoma, Meeks Bay, Rubicon, Emerald Bay Tract

(6/24-6/30), (7/29-8/4), (9/2-9/8), (10/7-10/13)

Defensible Space Inspections:

The El Dorado County portion of Tahoma as well as the Glenridge communities were set as “Target Hazard Areas”. The goal is to inspect homes for compliance with PRC 4291 and the El Dorado County Vegetation Management Ordinance, while providing outreach, education, and community assistance support. Through the TNFAC program we are also able to identify neighborhood leaders and connect them with the Tahoe Network and Firewise communities coordinator. NTFPD is currently in the hiring process to bring on 2 Defensible Space Inspectors, and starting June 1st we will be rolling out Microsoft Bookings on NTFPD and MBFPD websites to allow community members to autonomously schedule a Defensible Space Inspection or Tree Removal Permit.

Funding:

NTFPD/MBFPD will be utilizing Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) – Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities (TNFAC) Grant funding for all things defensible space and chipping related. This is the 3rd year that this TNFAC grant has covered the costs of chipping and we are currently expecting to utilize this funding source for the next 3-4 years.

Chipping Agreement

NTFPD renews a one-year agreement via MOU annually with NTFPD to contract their crews to perform the chipping service. NTFPD also seeks hourly cost recovery for both the NTFPD and MBFPD towed chipper trailers to cover repair, maintenance and fuel costs.

To: MBFPD, Board of Directors
From: Steve McNamara, Division Chief
Date: 5/20/20

SUBJECT: PRIVATE PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS

Background

An informational request from the MBFPD Board regarding contractors hired for private pyrotechnic displays was relayed to Division Chief McNamara. Research with El Dorado County Deputy CAO Sue Hennike and District staff determined the following information.

1. El Dorado County Code Chapter 8.08 Fire Prevention Section 8.08.050 places restrictions on all fireworks in the county. Any public fireworks display must be authorized by written resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

Sec. 8.08.050. - Fireworks restricted.

Any person who uses, discharges or possesses any fireworks as defined in Health and Safety Code § 12511 within the unincorporated territory of the County is punishable according to the general penalties described in Chapter 1.24.

Exception. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person engaged in the preparation for or performance of public fireworks display authorized by written resolution of the Board of Supervisors in advance in full compliance with any conditions or restrictions contained in such resolution.

2. District prevention staff are not aware of any planned or past permitted public fireworks displays in the MBFPD area.
3. In the event of a private or public pyrotechnic display in the MBFPD area or on Lake Tahoe District staff would invoke a permit and inspection process consistent with
 - a. El Dorado County Code
 - b. California Health and Safety Code, Section 12500 - 12759
 - c. Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 6
 - d. Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations part 55, Sub-part K
 - e. Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Selected Sections

Recommendation

Information only with continued follow up for staff if requested.