



MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Chief's Report
January-February 2021

Calls for Service: January 22- February 18

Fires: 1 (Structure residential-heating unit-minor damage)

Medical: 5

Electrical Hazard-Power line: 1

Public Assist: 1

Personnel Update:

I am pleased to announce that Christopher Baker has been selected as the new Fire Captain/FEMA Grant Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. Chris will begin his orientation process on Friday 2/19 with Captain Purves. After orientation and schedule coordination, Chris will work shifts on Sundays and Tuesdays, which gives the best access to volunteers (and interested volunteers) needing assistance, guidance, and training. Chris has an extensive fire service background (14 years) and is a certified instructor and fire officer. Chris also has extensive experience and knowledge with FEMA grants, including grant writing and reviewing submitted grant requests. Chris is also an experienced and certified Public Information Officer (PIO). As he gets oriented with our District and its operations, he will assume the lead PIO role for us, working with the very capable Lauren Ono. We are fortunate to have Chris on board.

The Fire Captain/FEMA Grant Coordinator position is primarily responsible for volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention efforts under our SAFER Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Grant. This task is all encompassing related to marketing strategies to attract new volunteers, incentives to retain volunteers (recognition and stipend pay), creating opportunities for enhanced training, mentoring new firefighters, assuring they have everything needed to be successful. The position would also assist with emergency response, preparedness, and training, assuring safe operations at the scene of a fires and emergency incidents. The District's FEMA SAFER Recruitment and Retention Grant will reimburse the District for the Coordinator's grant related duties, approximately 20 hours per week.

District Paramedics Ryan Purves, Evan Alexander and Austin Reed are currently engaged in their El Dorado County certification process, which involves running 10 ALS calls each with an on-duty paramedic ambulance. Georgetown, Diamond Springs and Cameron Park FDs will host our personnel. Once the first medic is certified, we will order the Board approved ALS medical equipment. The County Director of the paramedic program will conduct an on-site inspection of our required equipment and we would be able to officially begin our ALS program.

Our six volunteer firefighter recruits have completed their first month of the Divide Fire Academy. They have received training so far in first aid/CPR, fire dynamics, building construction, ropes, knots, ladders, and hose

streams. There is quite a bit of homework for our folks, but they are committed and keeping up with it. I often see several recruits at our station, putting in extra time participating in training with the on-duty crew or at our weekly Tuesday night training. The recruits attend academy classes either Tuesday or Wednesday evenings in Garden Valley or Georgetown (class split due to Covid protection) and all-day Saturday with hands-on training outside (rain or shine). I would like to express my compliments and appreciation to the instructor cadre of Georgetown and Garden Valley personnel. We are assisting as requested.

Seven of our District emergency responders have received Round 2 of the Moderna vaccine. We have developed a second list and submitted it to the vaccine coordinator representing the fire districts. The County is obviously experiencing a shortage of vaccine and will let us know, as soon as possible, when it becomes available and when we can get the rest of our District members vaccinated, who have requested it.

OES Type 6 Update:

Due to the pandemic, OES is experiencing delays in processing the Type 6 contract, when after adoption by the Board, we can pick up the new fire engine. Our OES representative updated me recently. They do not expect the contract to be completed until sometime in April. We will continue with our training schedule and be ready to put the engine in service as soon as possible. It may be necessary to have a special meeting if the contract comes in prior to a regular board meeting.

Grant Update:

We have completed three grant requests for FEMA's latest Assistance to Firefighters grant (AFG) round. We have submitted a request for approximately \$100,000 in equipment for the fire station and to assist with emergency operations. The request is for a replacement breathing air compressor, a specialized washing machine to remove contaminants from safety gear (extractor), vehicle extrication equipment, and chain saws to assist us clearing roads for emergency access and vegetation clearance defending structures during a wildland fire. We are also participating in two regional grants with Georgetown and Pioneer Fire Districts for new breathing apparatus and replacement radios/pagers.

Our Cal Fire 50-50 grant is currently active (\$20,000) for the purchase of wildland safety equipment. It will be necessary for us to assess needs and determine where our share of the grant (up to \$10,000) will come from the budget. We will cover that in our budget discussions coming soon to determine needs for the 2021-22 Preliminary Budget.

We are in the process of submitting for a new round of the SAFER Staffing grants, which opened February 8. The grant would give us the opportunity to provide 24/7 staffing (2 personnel minimum) for the next three years. This grant was previously awarded to the District in 2016-17, but conditions and restrictions regarding matching funds and continuance of employees after the grant, made it impossible because of the District's difficult budget position. Based on concerns (as we experienced also) expressed by volunteer and combination fire departments around the country, FEMA has changed their requirements and lifted the restrictions, to make it viable and usable for fire districts such as ours. The new grants do not have matching fund or employee extension requirements. We are confident that we have true staffing and budget challenges to put forward a competitive grand application for serious consideration.

The new District website is currently being constructed and will be available soon for review and input. The ideas and expertise of the web designer, Lanitech, will produce a clean and excellent product. There will be a member portal built into the site, from which timesheets, emergency incident reporting, the Target Solutions

training platform and other resources can be obtained and processed. Our grant coordinator, Chris Baker has solid experience as a web master, having the capability of maintaining and adjusting site information, as needed. I will assign this task to him when the new site is ready for launch.

MFA Library Project:

I have approved a request by the Firefighter's Association to locate a book exchange kiosk (Little Free Library) at the northwest corner of the parking lot. It would be chartered and registered with Little Free Library non-profit organization, which promotes neighborhood book exchanges. The MFA would design, build, install, and maintain the kiosk, as well as provide information pertaining to fire and life safety topics, volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and other relative community information. They have raised more than \$560.00 for this project and would like to add two additional kiosks in the community. This is another positive way in which we can enhance our service and connect with the community.

SSD/Strike Team Invoice Update:

Attached is the latest update of invoices, breakdown of expenses and revenue generated by fire engine and SSD out of District fire deployments. We have recently received and issued payroll for personnel assigned to Apple and Stagecoach Incidents. I will continue to keep the Board updated each month as payments arrive. I do not anticipate all invoices to be paid until June or July.

The District is seeking volunteers of all types. If you have the desire to contribute your skills and talents to help your community, we have a place for you.

This concludes my report. I will continue to update our projects and report progress. There are some exciting months ahead as we develop these programs and attract new people to the District. I appreciate the great support we receive from the Community and its commitment to being prepared. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at the fire station (626-9017) or email me at jrosevear@mfpd.us.

Jack Rosevear, Chief