



MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
8801 ROCK CREEK ROAD
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
(530) 626-9017
Fax (530) 626-3240

Chief's Report
July-August 2022

Calls for Service: August 22-September 19

Fires- 2 (Tender to Georgetown for Mosquito Incident-OES 4613 deployed to several incidents)

Smoke Check- 1

Medical Aid- 2

Public Assist- 2

Electrical Hazard- 1

The Mosquito Fire, named after it's start on Mosquito Ridge Road in Placer County, at the Oxbow Reservoir, started Tuesday afternoon, September 6th. The fire was predicted to jump to the south side of the American River at some point below Volcanoville, with steep slope which could carry the fire rapidly into their community. Plans were made for structure protection and on Thursday afternoon September 8th, the fire made a fast run through houses in Volcanoville. Water Tender 75 with a crew of two firefighters were sent to the Georgetown to assist engines with structure protection, if needed.

As the fire made a strong run through Volcanoville, fire engines had to seek refuge as the fire passed through. I received a telephone call from the Georgetown Fire Chief, who gave me an update regarding the intensity of the fire with structure loss and recommended that we prepare for evacuation. Our firefighters and Support Group were called back to the station to staff apparatus and stand-by while the situation in Volcanoville developed. I directed personnel to disperse in teams to first notify residents closest to the north and east edges of our District to prepare for potential evacuation. It was important for potentially exposed residents to be aware of the fire, as we were unable to determine where the fire was located. There was coordination with the EDSO/OES staff regarding the potential of fire threat to our community and an evacuation warning was confirmed. EDSO advised that a Code Red warning would be transmitted, but there would be delays due to mandatory evacuation of the Georgetown and Garden Valley.

Our personnel continued with notification to our residents of the evacuation warning status. Approximately 90 minutes passed before the official warning was issued by EDSO. Normally, a warning would be communicated immediately by EDSO/Code Red and Sheriff would physically handle any mandatory evacuation. We would follow their direction for assistance as they require. For a threatening fire in our community, deputies immediately respond along with mutual aid fire engines and Cal Fire. With this particular incident, there were widespread evacuations happening closer to the fire in Georgetown and Volcanoville. It was important for our residents to know what was happening so they could be prepared, without delay.

The huge spiraling smoke column loomed large north of us, as we continued to determine the exact location of the fire, including driving out Mosquito Road into the forest. Before sunset, we requested and were

granted utilizing Kim Purcell's airplane to get a better view from above. Once in the air, Captain Lugo was able to determine that the fire was a distance away, being held up by prevailing winds from the southwest. It was later determined that the fire accelerated into Volcanoville due to fuel and terrain, but slowed down as it got into flat ground. The fire front came within less than one half mile of Wentworth Springs Road and was held back by prevailing winds and additional resources dispatched to make sure the fire did not cross. The trigger point of mandatory evacuation for us, was determined to be if and when the fire crossed Wentworth Springs Road.

We appreciate our staff for being available for the Community, when needed most. All District fire apparatus were staffed with firefighters and maintained above average staffing during this incident. We also thank Kim Purcell for the use of her aircraft, giving us a better idea of what distance the fire needed to clear before reaching our community. The fire may have reached us, except for the skill of firefighters along the southern flank of the fire and the daytime prevailing winds which pushed the fire away from us. Of comparable communities in El Dorado County, Grizzly Flat and Volcanoville have both suffered significant fire damage. In Volcanoville, the fire engines, initially driven out, were able to re-engage after the fire front passed. They saved many homes by putting out active spot fires around structures. Those homes would have been lost without the return of firefighters. This was a very dangerous fire, which could have been much worse.

A special thanks to Board President James Young for his leadership, skills and time spent staffing the station and apparatus during the crisis.

The evacuation warning was lifted by EDSO on Sunday September 18th, with a rainstorm that will slow the fire down considerably. The multi-day storm will give firefighters a great opportunity to significantly increase containment on the fire.

We are in the process of critiquing and making improvements to our evacuation procedures. The fire did not damage our Community, which is the best possible outcome, followed by our ability to staff and respond as needed. Our staff provided maximum coverage for our station and apparatus, answered hundreds of calls, questions and visits from Community members and other concerned citizens. We maintained close communication with the EDSO, fire personnel both on the fire line and within the management team. I am proud and pleased of the committed effort that our personnel put forth for our Community.

OES 4613 has returned to Station 75 after three weeks of deployment and one crew rotation. The engine was assigned to almost a week of work on the south side of the Mosquito Incident. Both crews were responsible for contributing to keeping the fire from advancing towards us. We appreciate their hard work and commitment to the Community.

Our apparatus room has received two new coats of paint with new colors. We appreciate Lisa Rivera and Natasha Cutter for the many hours of creative work, to make the station a better place for the public and our personnel. Both Lisa and Natasha are extremely attentive to detail and have done a remarkable job. The last task to complete the project will be to seal and repaint the floor. We are looking forward to the final outcome of the improvements.

Planning and work will also start on landscaping the area around the new digital sign. On September 6th the sign was dedicated to Chief Leo Chaloux, honoring his twenty two plus years of service to the District. Also

honored was Meredith Blain, who led the project. Thanks and appreciation to Trent Williams for his time spent and hard work to coordinate electrical service and site work installation for the sign.

We are in the process of obtaining authorization to purchase \$55,000 of new vehicle extrication equipment through our FEMA SAFER grant. Three battery powered Hurst tools, charger, spare batteries, air bags for lifting vehicles and heavy objects, vehicle stabilization equipment, pre-assembled harness and rope sets to quickly get to trapped patients off the road. This represents a significant upgrade in our current capability to rescue people trapped in a vehicle accident.

We have obtained addressing kits for residents and installing in the Community. Firefighters put together the address signs and mount it at the best location at a resident's property. The cost of the sign is \$35.

Our Fire District staff is fully committed to our Community. We stand ready to assist our residents with any needs they may have, to prepare, support and provide the most up to date information. Please call us at 530-626-9017 or stop by the station.

This concludes my report. I will continue to update our projects and report progress. We appreciate the great support we receive from the Community and its commitment to being prepared. This fire season will be every bit as serious and dangerous as last year. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at the fire station (626-9017) or email me at jrosevear@mfpd.us.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday September 20- MFPD Firefighter Training- 6pm- Station 75- Public Welcome

Thursday September 22- Fire Board Meeting- 7pm- Station 75

Tuesday Firefighter Training- 6pm- Station 75- Public Welcome

Thursday October 1 – Monthly Support Group Training- Station 75- 10am

Tuesday October 4, 11, 18, 25 - MFPD Firefighter Training- 6pm- Station 75- Public Welcome

Thursday October 6- MVFA Monthly Board meeting- 3pm- Station 75

Saturday October 15- MVFA Harvest Fair

Saturday October 29- Trunk or Treat Halloween Celebration- Station 75

Thursday October 27- Fire Board Meeting- 7pm- Station 75

Jack Rosevear, Chief