



## MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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### *Chief's Report*

***December 2022-January 2023***

Calls for Service: December 20-January 22

Fires- 0

Vehicle Accident- 1

Medical Aid- 5

Smoke Check- 1 (Structure fire in the Camino area)

Welfare Check- 1

Public Assist- 4

Storm Response- Trees Removed from Roads (numerous)- Power Lines down (2)

This month we honor the service of the Hern Family. For many years, the HERNs have served Community, State and Country. Assistant Chief Todd Hern has been with the Department, as a volunteer, for over 24 years. Todd has spent many years in law enforcement, working for Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety and State of California. Todd has also served in the military, being deployed overseas in response to 9/11. With Mosquito FD, Todd has held the ranks of Firefighter, Engineer, Captain, and Assistant Chief. Todd has given a great deal to this Community; standing watch and responding to calls when sometimes it was only him responding. I have responded to many calls with Todd and always feel confident the incident is controllable when he is there. Todd and his wife, Kelly, have sacrificed a great deal for the Department and Community. After 24 years of monitoring a radio pager, keeping an ear on the scanner, attending training, teaching firefighters, responding at all hours of the day and night (weekends, holidays, rain, snow, Red Flag Days) he finds it time to retire. That's quite enough volunteering for a lifetime! It's time for others to pick up the ball. We all owe him a debt of gratitude and wish him well relaxing, travelling and spending time with his wife. Todd will assist us with CPR instruction and like Chief Leo Chaloux, is there for support, wisdom, and consultation.

Firefighter Engineer Devin Hern started as an Explorer Scout and progressed to Firefighter in October 2019. Devin was promoted to Engineer in 2021 and has covered many shifts for us, sponsored by our FEMA SAFER grant. Devin completed his EMT certification in 2022 and is currently completing Firefighter 1 & 2 certification. For his Firefighter 2 certification, he will work weekly shifts through the Spring at the Consumnes Fire Department. Devin has moved to Mendocino County to be with his girlfriend and works part time as an ambulance EMT while waiting to be hired as a seasonal for Cal Fire MEU. We are very pleased to see Devin obtain his important training certifications through the Department and move forward to fulfill his dreams. We are all proud of you Devin and know you will do very well.

Ralph and Sharon Hern, Todd's parents, were foundations of the Department with the Fire Board and Support Group. The amount of time, energy and talent the HERNs have volunteered cannot even be quantified. There has always been a HERN present, when needed. The Family will always be treasured members of our Department.

The Department hosted our first of many firefighter pancake breakfasts on January 7<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the fundraising and generosity of our Community, which purchased tables, griddles, cooking equipment, coffee machine and other items to host these important events. 92 people were in attendance, which raised \$1700. Thank you to our firefighters, spouses and Auxiliary Board members for your hard work and commitment. The next breakfast (scheduled the first Saturday every other month) is set for March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Appreciation to our staff, firefighters and Support Group for the solid response to the series of storms which impacted the County. All aspects of coverage were provided, including emergency response, road clearing, public information, coordination with other agencies, including DOT and PGE. We are grateful that the damage to our Community was not worse. Power outages were limited, and PG&E response was good. At one point in the afternoon of 12/31 both Rock Creek and Mosquito Roads were closed due to slides. Thanks to the response of our crews (Engine 275 was clearing a tree on Rock Creek and was there when the slide happened) and DOT staging a loader on Rock Creek Road, the road was quickly opened with no impact to our Community. When both roads are closed, we have no way of getting a paramedic ambulance or other fire engines in when we need them. A special thanks to Board Member Linnea Uggla for her work posting storm/road information quickly and to Kevin Birks, who assisted with the tractor at the slide on Rock Creek Road on 12/31.

Firefighters Cole and Kyle Caudle have started EMT training, which they will complete in the late Spring. We are currently on boarding three community based firefighter recruits. The next few months will include wildland firefighting training to prepare our staff for the upcoming fire season.

This is the time of year, as the season turns cold, to use caution with fireplaces, wood stoves and portable heating devices. Placement of portable heating devices is critical, to prevent the ignition of combustible materials such as beds and couches. An annual safety check and cleaning of the chimney or wood stove pipe will prevent a fire which could spread into the attic. Now is also the time to check batteries for smoke detectors. Always have a functioning carbon monoxide detector. At a recent incident we were reminded to make sure dryer lint is frequently removed. Dryer lint provides a perfect source of fuel for a fire, ignited by high heat. We are happy to conduct an interior or exterior fire safety inspection upon your request. Please contact Captain Lugo @ 530-626-9017.

Below is a list of important dates. Community members are always welcome to attend Tuesday night training and meet our firefighters and Support Group members. Our training is currently focused on winter storm preparedness and structure fire response. Wildland fire training will begin in March.

We continue to provide addressing signs for residents and installing in the Community. Firefighters put together signs and mount it at the best location at a resident's property. The cost of the sign is \$35. Contact Captain Lugo at [mlugo@mfpd.us](mailto:mlugo@mfpd.us) for ordering.

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. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at the fire station (626-9017) or email [jrosevear@mfpd.us](mailto:jrosevear@mfpd.us).

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday January 24, 31- MFPD Firefighter Training- 6pm- Station 75- Public Welcome

Thursday January 26- Fire Board Meeting- 7pm- Station 75

Thursday February 2- MVFA Monthly Board meeting- 3pm- Station 75

Saturday February 4 – Support Group Monthly training and start of CERT Training- Station 75

Tuesday February 7, 14, 21, 28 - MFPD Firefighter Training- 6pm- Station 75- Public Welcome

Jack Rosevear, Chief