



CHIEF'S REPORT

Date: July 13, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief

Local Fire Restriction and CALFIRE "Burn Bans"

The USFS Tahoe Basin Management Unit (TMU/TNF) and CAL FIRE (NEU/AEU) Units have fire restrictions and burn bans in place; as such, our local fire season officially began June 15, 2020 with our associated fire restriction. (California Fire Code 307.43 with locally-adopted amendments and ordinances) which place additional restrictions on recreational fires during fire season within the Districts. Our Fire Crews, Prevention Officers and Public Information Team are educating local residents and visitors about these new restrictions.

Following the adoption of the 2019 Fire Code, ONLY Natural Gas (NG) or Propane (LPG) outdoor firepits and barbecues, and pellet grills/smokers are allowed year-round, except during [Red Flag/critical](#) fire weather conditions. On Red Flag days all sources of open flames, including Natural Gas (NG) or Propane (LPG) outdoor firepits and barbecues, and pellet grills/smokers are prohibited. For reports of hazardous campfires, people should call 9-1-1. Fire crews have been responding regularly to reports of unauthorized/hazardous campfires and Barbecues. This suggests two good activities are taking place: we have an educated and alert community that is reporting suspicious fire activity; and our Engine Companies are extinguishing fires and educating the public on the regulation surrounding these types of fires.

While May 2020 was our slowest May in five-years with 123 calls, conversely, June was our busiest with 233 calls, 37 of those calls were in the Meeks Bay Fire response area. As summer progresses, it seems to be accompanied by a similar progressive increase in demands for emergency services. It has not been uncommon this month to have two, three, and four emergency incidents happening simultaneously, many in town, while others in our surrounding forest. Our fire and EMS crews continually step-up to these response challenges and, along with the Battalion Chiefs, Division Chiefs and myself, we are responding to these frequent simultaneous events, often after hours. While this year's COVID-19, 4th of July may have been short on fireworks displays it was robust with people enjoying the holiday, some being more cautious than others. The good news is our personnel continue to remain vigilant, with face coverings and other District directives, and we have kept a healthy and safe workforce which is necessary to serve our communities. The District has remained in "Step

One” of our normalization plan, all facilities remain closed to the general public, all stations, offices and services are fully staffed and operational.

Defensible Space and free-curbide chipping services are also in full swing meeting an increased demand for these types of services. I have been getting great feedback from the community related to the knowledge and professionalism of our three new inspectors. Additionally, contract crews have been completing forest fuels treatments in the NTPUD Regional Park and 871 California Tahoe Conservancy lots along the North and West shores. Completion of this volume of community work would not be possible without the great effort by our Forest Fuels Coordinator, Eric Horntvedt, federal grant funding and our cooperative agreements with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, Meeks Bay Fire Protection District, Alpine Meadows County Water District, California Tahoe Conservancy and Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

Fire season is now in full swing. Personnel from North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire, along with our fire agency cooperators have responded frequently to vegetation, debris and other fires. Because of the quick multi-jurisdictional responses, coupled with the increased staffing and available resources, the fires have been kept relatively small; abandoned campfires and dooryard burning are amongst the most frequent requests.

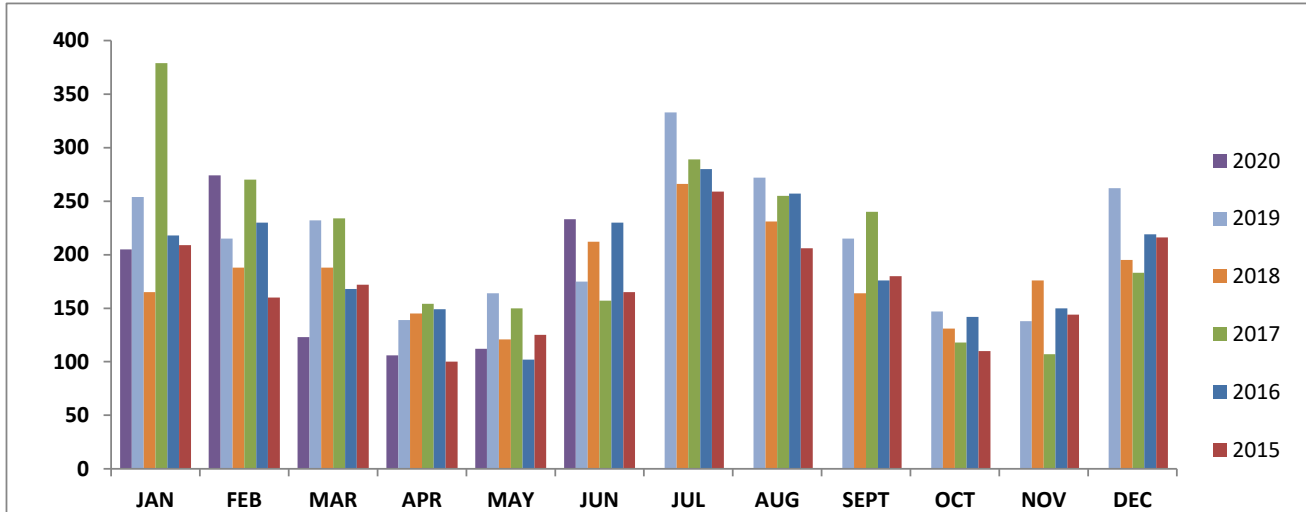
Out-of-county assignments: Our crews have responded to two, out-of-county, mutual aid fires: the Poleville Fire in Washoe County, and the Numbers Fire in Douglas County. In both instances our engines were credited with saving lives and property. Responding to mutual aid requests is an important function of a Fire District as it save lives and property of our neighbors, provides experience for our crews, is often reimbursed by the hosting agency, and come with an expectation of reciprocity should we need to request their assistance.

Important Memorandums and Attachments.

- Response graphs
- Memorandums:
 - Memo #20-46 - Civil Unrest Response Best Practices
 - Memo #20-52 - Staffing Memo
 - Memo #20-57 - 4th of July Weekend 2020 Safety Message
 - Memo #20-59 - Closed Promotional Opportunity - Assistant Chief
 - Memo #20-60 - Wildland Fire Response During COVID
- Fire Restrictions flyer(s)

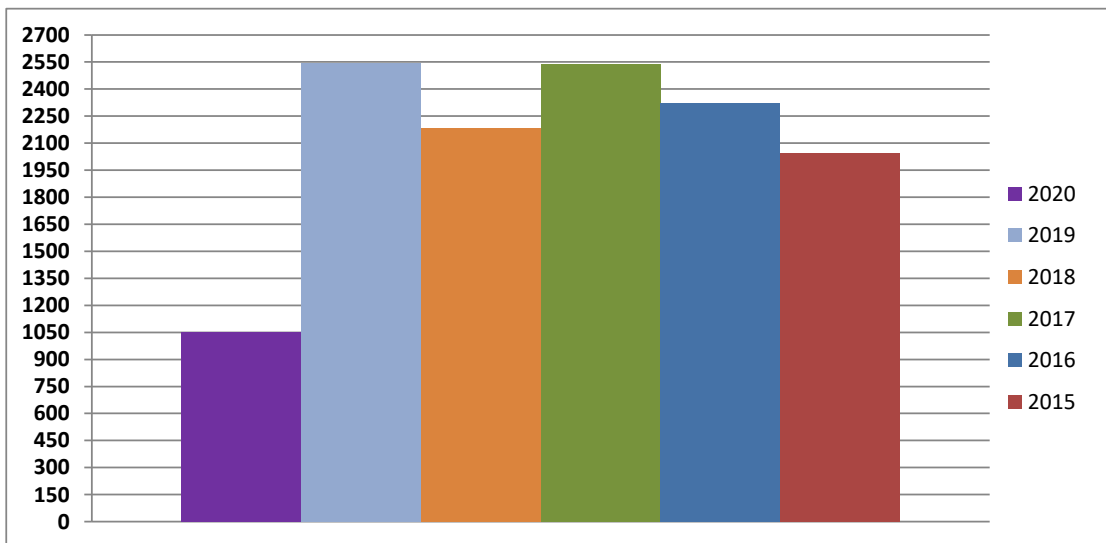
MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2020	205	274	123	106	112	233						
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	1053
2019	2546
2018	2182
2017	2536
2016	2321
2015	2046



**NTPFD-Meeks Bay-El Dorado County Response Calls
June 2020**

Basic Incident	Basic Incident Date	Basic Incident Type (FD1.21)	Basic Apparatus Call Sign List	Basic Primary Action Taken (FD1.48)	Basic Additional Actions Taken 2 (FD1.66)
2020011814	6/1/2020 16:56	Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	B5, E53, E67, M51	Investigate	Secure property
2020011910	6/2/2020 21:07	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E53, M67	Transport person	
2020011974	6/3/2020 15:18	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	B5, E67, M53	Provide first aid & check for injuries	
2020012507	6/9/2020 20:38	Outside rubbish fire, other	B5, BR53, M67	Investigate	
2020012557	6/10/2020 14:14	Assist police or other governmental agency	B5, E67	Provide manpower	
2020012562	6/10/2020 15:05	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	B5, E67, M51, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020012638	6/11/2020 14:36	Motor vehicle accident with injuries	B5, E53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020012734	6/12/2020 16:12	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020012839	6/13/2020 18:58	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020013107	6/17/2020 9:53	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	B5, E51, M53	Investigate	
2020013137	6/17/2020 15:47	Dispatched and cancelled en route	B5, E67, M53	Cancelled en route	
2020013200	6/18/2020 14:07	EMS in backcountry / wilderness	B5, E53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	Transport person
2020013234	6/18/2020 20:07	Unauthorized burning	E53	Fire control or extinguishment, other	
2020013251	6/18/2020 23:27	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E51, E53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020013322	6/19/2020 19:20	Unauthorized burning	E53	Fire control or extinguishment, other	
2020013341	6/19/2020 23:19	Dispatched and cancelled en route	B5, E67, M53	Cancelled en route	
2020013381	6/20/2020 12:38	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E67, M53	Refusal of EMS care	
2020013403	6/20/2020 17:37	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	M67	Transport person	
2020013416	6/20/2020 20:45	Cover assignment, standby, moveup	M67	Standby	
2020013417	6/20/2020 20:44	Unauthorized burning	E53	Extinguishment by fire service personnel	
2020013456	6/21/2020 9:56	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E52, M53, M67	Transport person	
2020013599	6/22/2020 17:59	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E53, M67	Refusal of EMS care	
2020013626	6/22/2020 22:57	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	B5, E51, M53, U51	Refusal of EMS care	
2020013759	6/24/2020 15:03	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	B5, M53, U61	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020013811	6/25/2020 9:20	Dispatched and cancelled en route	M67	Cancelled en route	
2020013966	6/26/2020 16:45	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E53, M53, M67	Transport person	
2020013973	6/26/2020 18:07	Unauthorized burning	B5, E53	Extinguishment by fire service personnel	
2020014045	6/27/2020 13:24	Dispatched and cancelled en route	M53	Cancelled en route	
2020014058	6/27/2020 15:21	Dispatched and cancelled en route	B5, E53, M52, M53	Cancelled en route	
2020014102	6/27/2020 21:47	Unauthorized burning	B5, E53	Investigate	
2020014183	6/28/2020 18:27	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	B5, E67, M53	Systems and services, other	

**NTPFD-Meeks Bay-El Dorado County Response Calls
June 2020**

Basic Incident	Basic Incident Date	Basic Incident Type (FD1.21)	Basic Apparatus Call Sign List	Basic Primary Action Taken (FD1.48)	Basic Additional Actions Taken 2 (FD1.66)
2020014190	6/28/2020 21:00	False alarm or false call, other	B5, E67	Information, investigation & enforcement, other	
2020014269	6/29/2020 16:19	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	B5, E51, E67, M53, M67	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020014295	6/29/2020 22:03	Public service assistance, other	E67, M53	Assist physically disabled	
2020014365	6/30/2020 18:43	Unauthorized burning	E67	Investigate	
2020014370	6/30/2020 19:35	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	E51, E67, M53	Provide advanced life support (ALS)	
2020018010	6/23/2020 18:25	Dispatched and cancelled en route auto/mutual aid	B5, BR53, E67, WT51, WT68	Cancelled en route	
	Calls = 37				



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



MEMORANDUM

#20 – 46

To: All Personnel

From: Steve Leighton, Division Chief-Operations

Re: Civil Unrest Response Best Practices

Date: June 9, 2020

All members, please review and provide me with any recommendations, thoughts, or concerns.

Due to current events nationally and throughout the State of California, North Tahoe Fire recognizes the need to send out some best practice recommendations to our members.

This memo is intended to provide a general guidance for North Tahoe Fire activities during civil unrest, civil disturbances, and violent encounters that may result in a prompt and coordinated action between fire and law enforcement.

Civil unrest conditions may present extreme hazards to our personnel. The potential dangers may include the usual hazards of fire plus the threat of physical injury from a variety of weapons, such as rocks, bottles, and firearms.

- Remember Responder Safety is always our Number #1 priority.
- Request that law enforcement be notified and respond accordingly.
- Ballistic vest, when issued, should be worn under bunker gear by all responding members.
- Shut off lights and sirens at least three blocks from scene, and they should not be used in the affected area.
- Keep apparatus compartments locked and equipment secure, if possible.
- Assess the need for additional assistance.
- Use caution and common sense to avoid increasing tensions. Avoid hostile verbal exchanges, gestures, or physical contact. Complete the assignment, if possible, and leave the scene.
- Position apparatus at intersections whenever possible to affect a rapid exit, if necessary. Always have an escape route, and post lookouts to monitor crowd activity.
- If in the company officer's opinion conditions present an unreasonable risk to the safety of members or to safe operations, leave the area immediately by the most expedient route, and notify GVECC of the same.
- Do not leave apparatus unattended, and always stay together as a crew.
- Unless a life hazard is present, an exterior attack using master streams from deck guns may be most effective. Depending on the number of fires in an area, fires that present no exposure hazard may be left to burn.
- Always maintain discipline, follow the chain of command, promote safety and good conduct, and behave in a professional manner.



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-52

To: All Personnel
From: Steve Leighton, Division Chief - Operations
Re: Staffing Memo
Date: June 23, 2020

Effective July 1, 2020, we will be reinstating the pilot staffing program for three months until September 30, 2020. The pilot program that was initiated in December 2019 (Memo #19-81) will consist of on duty staffing of 13 Monday through Thursday and 14 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

I was pleased with the positive operational benefits that the initial trial program produced. Please use the same rules of engagement as stated in Memo #19-81. In addition, use this extension time to continue to evaluate the operational benefits of the program. I will be monitoring the staffing levels on a regular basis to observe the impacts on the organization.



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-57

To: All Personnel

From: Steve Leighton, Division Chief-Operations

Re: 4th of July Weekend 2020 Safety Message

Date: July 1, 2020

Attention, All Personnel:

Please review the information below regarding operating safely during the Fourth of July weekend.

Major Hazards and Risk:

- Be aware of impaired drivers.
- Remember to bracket roadway incident scenes.
- All personnel must wear Traffic Safety Vests, per policy, on all roadways incidents.
- Maintain hydration and remain alert to the potential dehydration of any member of the public.

Crowds:

- There may be limited access and egress.
- Use caution when operating and moving vehicles in crowds.
- Fireworks and open wood burning are illegal; respond and check the area for any signs of fire.
- Assure scene safety and maintain crew integrity.
- Contact law enforcement and stage if necessary.
- When providing EMS care in crowds, attempt to remove the patient from the crowd and into a safe area as soon as possible. Utilize PCSO to assist you with this task, if necessary.

Tactical Patrol:

- Get out and visibly patrol your first due response area on July 3rd and 4th from 2030 to 2200 hours

Swift Water or Shore Zone Rescue:

- When responding to water rescue type calls, time is of the essence. Pre-position the gear. Get familiar with the pile of duffel bags and what's in them. Have your boot size and wetsuits all lined out.
- Always wear personal floatation devices when working in or around the water.

UTV-Backcountry Rescues:

- Use extreme caution while responding into the backcountry with possibly many inexperienced off-road drivers out there with you. Remember to check all equipment daily and wear proper safety gear. Confirm Tac channels and have a patient location prior to response.
- Always utilize helmets and restraints when operating the UTV.

Civil Unrest:

- Remember responder safety is always our #1 priority.
- Do not leave apparatus unattended, and always stay together as a crew.
- Always maintain discipline, follow the chain of command, promote safety and good conduct, and behave in a professional manner.



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-59

To: All Personnel

From: Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief

Re: Closed Promotional Opportunity – Assistant Chief

Date: July 7, 2020

A closed promotional testing opportunity for Assistant Chief is now available. Please see the attached job flyer that includes information related to the position's typical duties, minimum qualification requirements, and filing instructions. Interested personnel should closely follow the application procedure outlined within the promotional testing opportunity flyer, and all required application materials must be received prior to 12:00 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2020.

NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**P.O. Box 5879
222 Fairway Drive
Tahoe City, CA 96145
530.583.6913
Fax 530.583.6909
*Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief***



Assistant Chief – Closed Promotional Opportunity

Posting Date:

July 7, 2020

Final Filing Date:

Friday, August 7, 2020 by 12:00 PM.

Typical Duties:

Under the direct supervision of the Fire Chief, as a confidential employee and member of the District management team, an Assistant Chief:

- Is a member of the Executive Management Team and may serve as Acting Fire Chief.
- Exercises a high degree of authority and supervisory responsibility.
- Develops plans, organizes, and directs one or more functional organizational divisions such as: communication, EMS, operations, training, prevention, safety, fleet, facilities, personnel supervision, fuels, etc. as assigned by the Fire Chief as well as administering a variety of management and/or administrative support programs throughout the District.
- Develops and recommends policies and procedural changes for all areas of responsibility.
- Participates in budget development and oversight for areas of responsibility.
- Supervises and oversees Division Chiefs, Director of Finance and Administration, and may supervise the Battalion Chiefs in place of the Operations Chief.
- Responds to incidents and ensures effective and efficient delivery of emergency services.
- Works cooperatively, adapts quickly, and performs line functions as necessary.
- Performs other duties and responsibilities as outlined in Class Specifications, District Expectations, and Career Development Guide.

Salary Range:

- Salaried position, FLSA exempt.
- \$146,536.00 - \$153,524.80 annually DOQ *
- Benefits: ALS Premium (as applicable) and Longevity (as warranted).
- Additional benefits outlined in District Rules and Regulations and Unrepresented agreement including but not limited to:
 - PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) - benefits dependent on employee tier
 - Health Insurance including medical, dental, and vision for employee and family - 100% paid by District
 - Life and long-term disability insurance - 100% paid by District
 - Vacation, sick leave, 14 paid holidays, and uniform allowance

Minimum Requirements:

- Ten years as a full-time paid firefighter, three at the rank of a Chief Officer
- Possess the following certifications:
 - Bachelor's Degree or higher; Fire Sciences, Public Administration, or related fields
 - CSFM Firefighter I and II (or equivalent)
 - CSFM Fire Officer or Company Officer certification (or equivalent)
 - CSFM Chief Officer or CSFM Chief Fire Officer certification (or equivalent) or possess the following certificates:
 - Chief Fire Officer 3A: Human Resources Management
 - Chief Fire Officer 3B: Budget and Fiscal Responsibilities
 - Chief Fire Officer 3C: General Administrations Functions
 - Chief Fire Officer 3D: Emergency Service Delivery Responsibilities
 - Hazmat IC
 - CA or NV Class C driver's license with Firefighter endorsement or equivalent
 - Current California State Paramedic License or EMT Certification or National Registered Paramedic or EMT (California licensed and local accreditation required within 60 days of appointment)
 - Current CPR certification to the Health Care Provider level
 - S-270 Basic Air Ops
 - S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior
 - AH-330: Strike Team/Task Force Leader All Hazards
 - I-100 / I-200/ I-300 / I-400 / NIMS IS 700

Preferred or Desired Qualifications:

- CSFM Executive Chief Officer certification or equivalent nationally recognized accreditation
- National Fire Academy Classes pertaining to Leadership

Application Procedure:

To be considered for this promotional opportunity, please submit a completed letter of interest, resume, and copies of required and applicable

certifications. With your letter of interest, please include a detailed list of your experience in leadership styles, organizational development, and human relations.

All required material must be received prior to noon, August 7, 2020. Postmarks and/or faxed material will not be accepted.

Mail:

North Tahoe Fire Protection District
Attn.: Kelly McElravey
P.O. Box 5879
Tahoe City, CA 96145

-or-

Hand Deliver:

North Tahoe Fire Protection District
Attn.: Kelly McElravey
222 Fairway Dr.
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Examination Process:

The tentative test date is August 17 through August 28, 2020 at Station 51. Selection procedure will include an application review, written examination, assessment center, oral interview, and Chief interview.

The examination process will be designed to evaluate tactical and management level knowledge, skills, and abilities consistent with the Division Chief position.

Schedule:

40 hrs./week

Probation:

This position has a probationary period of one year.

*Final salary range, by approved salary scale at time of appointment

North Tahoe Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The provisions of this bulletin do not constitute an expressed or implied contract. Any provision contained in this bulletin may be modified or revoked without notice.



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Memorandum

#20-60

To: All Personnel

From: Steve Leighton, Division Chief-Operations

Re: Wildland Response During COVID

Date: July 9, 2020

Attention, All Personnel:

Please review the following guidelines regarding Wildland Response during COVID.

Priority Dispatch:

- Prescreening before departure, screening at the incident (by STEN) and screening when return.
- Operate under a “Module of One Concept” - Stay within your group.
- Take hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies with crew.
- Be ready to respond as if it’s our jurisdiction, bring PPE, Gowns and Masks.
- Be self-sufficient- Food and Water for 96 hours.
- If we are diverted to cover stations en route be able to provide the service as if it’s our District.

Travel:

- Send only one into the store for supplies.
- Don’t congregate with crowds.
- Minimize interaction with other crews.
- Communicate via cell phone.
- No unnecessary trips into town.

Operational:

- Maintain social distance and work within your module or assigned crew.
- Expect changes to traditional fire camps. No communal showers or dining.
- One person to attend briefing meetings and supply unit.
- Do not mix and match crews if possible.
- Wear a mask where social distancing CANNOT be maintained.
- Follow all camp guidelines and directions from the incident safety officer.

Protect yourself so you can protect others – Mask up!



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Michael S. Schwartz - Fire Chief

PO Box 5879
222 Fairway Dr.
Tahoe City, CA 96145

Main: 530-583-6911
Fax: 530-583-6909
Meeks Bay Main: 530-525-7548

PRESS RELEASE

Erin Holland - Public Information Officer - North Tahoe Fire – holland@ntfire.net - 530-308-1158

North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts Prohibit ALL Open Burning and Recreational Fires

Tahoe City, Calif. June 12, 2019 – On Monday, June 15, 2019 CAL FIRE is suspending residential burn permits in the Tahoe Basin. This, along with the fire restrictions announced by the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit on May 28, 2020, are the triggers that prompt North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD), Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MBFPD), and Alpine Springs CWD jurisdictions to activate local fire restrictions by suspending all solid fuel recreational fires and open burning. The suspension takes effect Monday and will remain in effect through the remainder of fire season.

Subsequent to the adoption of the 2019 Fire Code, ONLY Natural Gas (NG) or Propane (LPG) outdoor firepits and barbecues, and pellet grills/smokers are allowed year-round except during **Red Flag**/critical fire weather conditions. All of these appliances must be utilized following manufacturer's recommendations.

All sources of open flames, including Natural Gas (NG) or Propane (LPG) outdoor firepits and barbecues, and pellet grills/smokers are prohibited during **Red Flag**/critical fire weather conditions. Red Flag Watches, Warnings and Advisories of critical fire weather in the Tahoe Basin are issued by the [National Weather Service, Reno](#). For reports of hazardous camp fires, people should call 9-1-1.

"It is important that we obey fire restrictions. Sadly, illegal campfires continue to be the leading cause of wildfires in the Tahoe Basin." said NTFPD Fire Chief Michael Schwartz. "As California reopens and visitors begin returning to Lake Tahoe, it is important for residents and visitors to know that open-flame devices such as tiki torches and all fireworks, including sparklers and firecrackers, are illegal in California year-round."

NTFPD and MBFPD are asking residents to prepare for wildfire by maintaining a minimum of 100 feet of Defensible Space around every structure. "It's essential for residents to effectively maintain defensible space on their property, which improves their home's chance of survivability from both surface fires and ember showers." Said NTFPD Fire Marshal Steve McNamara. "To support these efforts, we offer free defensible space inspections to our residents, and free residential curbside chipping is available through fire districts basin-wide."

Here are some tips to help prepare homes and property for wildfire:

- Maintain at least 5 feet free of combustible material around each structure.
- For a distance of at least 30 feet from the home, keep the area Lean, Clean and Green.
- Clear all dead and or dying vegetation 100 feet from all structures.
- Landscape with [fire resistant/drought tolerant plants](#).
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris through chipping or green waste collection opportunities.

For additional information on how to create Defensible Space, tips to prevent wildfires and ways to prepare for emergencies and evacuations, visit www.Tahoe.LivingWithFire.com.

###

SUMMER FIRE RESTRICTIONS (JUN - NOV*)



**TYPICALLY JUNE - NOVEMBER*
PERMISSIBLE



Only These Types of Devices are Allowed
During Fire Season and Year Round

GAS FIRE PITS



LPG OR NATURAL GAS FIREPITS, PORTABLE OR BUILT IN

BARBECUES



PROPANE

NATURAL GAS

PELLET

ALL FORMS OF OPEN FLAME ARE PROHIBITED DURING RED FLAG WEATHER CONDITIONS.

A red flag warning is the highest alert and is issued for weather events which may result in **extreme fire behavior**.

Red Flag Weather conditions are posted by the National Weather Service. Check www.weather.gov/rev or www.ntfire.net for current red flag conditions.