



## **North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts**



Date: September 19, 2022  
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors  
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
Subject: September 2022

Our blue skies finally filled with a substantial amount of smoke after 2022 started off with a much milder fire season than in recent years. CAL Fire is currently reporting that 351,161 acres have burned in California. This is in comparison to the more than 2.5 million acres that burned as of the same time in 2021. Another comparison is that the 5-year average for this same timeframe is just over 1.6 million acres burned. Nationally, the fire activity is much higher at 6.7 million acres burned focused primarily in Alaska, New Mexico, Idaho, and Oregon. Early in September, the National Interagency Fire Center raised the National Preparedness to a Level 4 on a scale of 1 to 5. This rating system is used to help assure that wildland firefighting resources are ready to respond to new incidents. A Level 4 indicates that geographic areas are competing for wildland resources and about 60 percent of the country's incident management teams and firefighting crews are committed to wildland fires.

Here in the Tahoe Basin, we are experiencing our first fire season without a red flag day since 2011. While the Mosquito Fire is the largest in California at this time, it is a fraction the size of what we have seen in recent years. The current situation of this incident are: 76,290 acres, 39% contained, 78 structures destroyed and 3,037 personnel assigned. This fire is what the firefighting world considers a fuel driven fire as opposed to a fuel and weather driven fire. Fuel driven fires are much more beneficial to the firefighting resources as they are not dealing with wind pushing it long distances. We have been following the progress closely as it is approximately 20 miles from the Basin. The crews have been successful protecting the values at risk while the weather continues to cooperate. With the reduction in the size and number of fires as compared to recent years, our North Tahoe crews have stayed busy participating in fire assignments 29 of the 31 days in August. We are also currently staffing Station 55 in Carnelian Bay as a cover engine for CAL Fire.

As always, I am eager to share the successes of our members. Captain Meadows has returned to the line, resulting in the return from temporary appointments for staff working out of class. Temporary appointed Captain Dustin Hollingsworth and temporary appointed Engineer Brent Wible have done an excellent job working in these assignments. Provisional Captain Clyde Rust received permanent appointment as Captain on "B" shift. Engineer Curtis Smith is now qualified to work out of class as a Captain. Engineer Kevin Gilley has met the requirements to open a Captain's Task Book. Firefighter/Paramedic Stephanie Lockhart has met requirements to open an Engineer's Task Book. And finally, our newest Firefighter/Paramedic's Andrew Doe and Daniel Parker have advanced to TAP 4 and 3 respectively. Nate Whisler ended his seasonal employment as a part-time defensible space inspector and the full-time inspector position has been flown.



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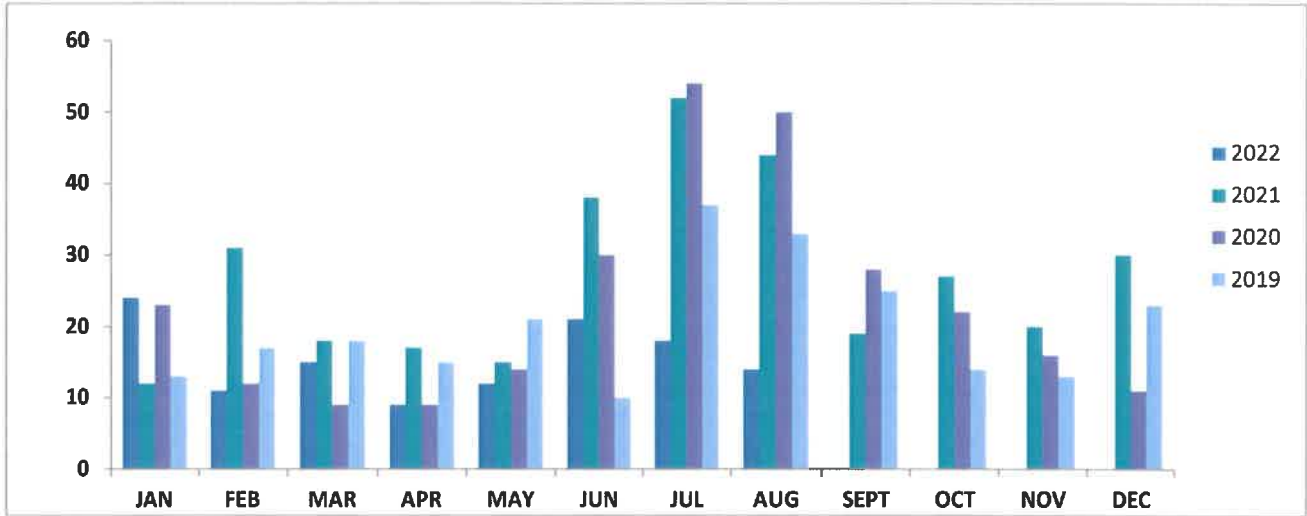


### **Meetings and Assignments:**

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Chiefs Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- Fire District Association of California Board Member Meeting
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Eldorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- Eldorado and Placer LAFCO Meetings
- AP Triton Ambulance Study Meeting
- Homewood Development Agreement Meetings
- Meetings with District Attorneys
- Priority Budget Meeting with Staff
- CSDA Gold Country Chapter Tour of Tahoe
- Placer County Engineer Meeting
- Meeting with Scott Zumwalt (Bridgetender)
- Staff Meeting Final Budget
- Board Presidents Meeting
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting
- Mosquito Fire Trigger Points Meeting
- Mosquito Fire Basin Chiefs Contingency Planning Meeting
- Multiple Mosquito Fire Meetings and Briefings at Roseville and Placerville Command Posts
- CAL Chiefs Annual Conference Attendance
- Tahoe Forest Hospital/Law Enforcement Roundtable
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting

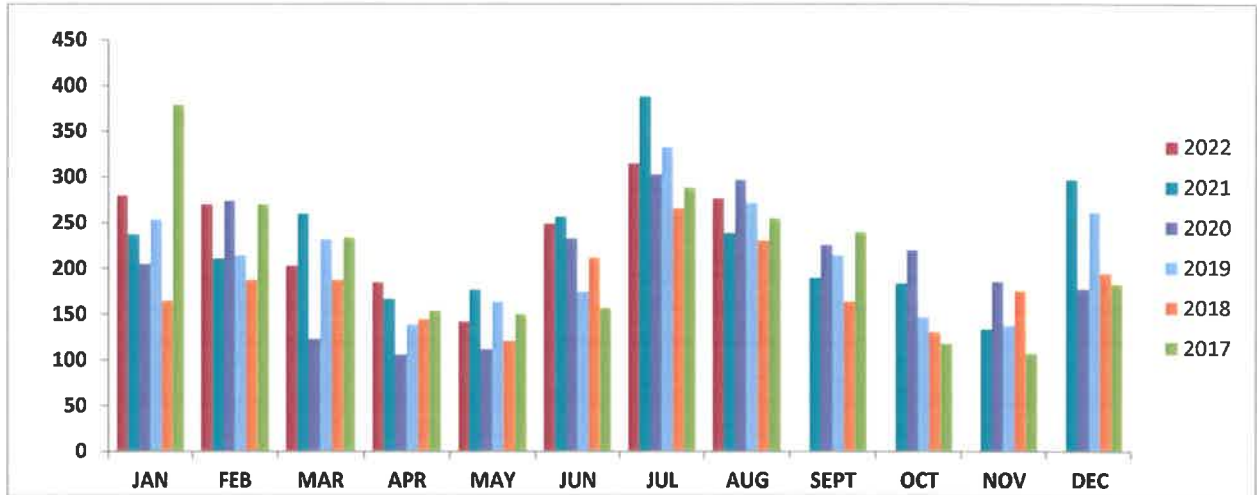
**MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>2022</b>	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14				
<b>2021</b>	12	31	18	17	15	38	52	44	19	27	20	30
<b>2020</b>	23	12	9	9	14	30	54	50	28	22	16	11
<b>2019</b>	13	17	18	15	21	10	37	33	25	14	13	23



**NTFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>2022</b>	280	270	203	185	142	249	315	277				
<b>2021</b>	237	211	260	167	177	257	388	239	190	184	134	297
<b>2020</b>	205	274	123	106	112	233	303	297	226	220	186	178
<b>2019</b>	254	215	232	139	164	175	333	272	215	147	138	262
<b>2018</b>	165	188	188	145	121	212	266	231	164	131	176	195
<b>2017</b>	379	270	234	154	150	157	289	255	240	118	107	183





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*Steve Leighton, Fire Chief*

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### Chief's Corner – The Empowerment of Preparedness

**Tahoe City, Calif. Sept. 1, 2022** – National Preparedness Month is observed each September to help raise awareness about the importance of remaining prepared for emergencies and disasters that may occur at any time, to anyone. Preparedness is empowering. Knowing your family is prepared to self-sustain during an emergency helps to reduce fear, anxiety and actual losses that may be experienced in a disaster.

The best way to keep your family safe is to plan now to ensure you are prepared before an emergency happens. Take time to make a plan and have conversations about preparedness. Help your family know how to stay safe and navigate potentially scary situations.

In the Sierra, wildfire tends to be at the forefront of our minds when we think of disasters, but it's important to remember that our community may face not only weather driven disasters such as flood, fire, mudslides and extended power outages. Our area is susceptible to earthquake and seiche, and any community could face events such as industrial accidents or other incidents we typically don't consider.

Don't forget to prepare for pets! During and after a disaster, many different shelters and organizations take in pets that have become separated from their families. Microchipping your pet and keeping your information up to date (including a recent photo of your pet) can help make sure you and your furry friend are reunited should you become separated.

Follow the [National Weather Service](#) for weather updates, and visit [CalTrans Quick Maps](#) and [Nevada511](#) for road conditions. Consider the following recommendations to help your family stay prepared:

- An emergency supply kit should have everything you need to survive for several days, including necessities like non-perishable food, water, flashlights, batteries and medical care.
- Pack an emergency kit for your car with a cell phone charger, jumper cables, a flashlight, warm clothes/boots/blankets, emergency reflectors, food, and water.
- Carry an emergency kit with supplies for each member of your family and pets, including cash, prescription medication, prescription lenses, water, pet food, etc.
- Know which local radio stations are used for emergency information.

By acting now, we can ensure our families and communities are prepared to be self-sufficient in the event of an emergency. Learn more at <https://www.ready.gov/september>.

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