



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



Date: September 20, 2021  
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors  
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
Subject: Chief's Report

As always it is a pleasure to serve as your Fire Chief and be able to give you a brief update on district business. North Tahoe Fire firefighters continue to serve on strike team assignments as they have been doing since the end of June. Most recently, our firefighters are staying within our region serving as part of a Task Force to help battle the Caldor Fire, which started in El Dorado County on August 14, 2021.

As the Caldor Fire approached the Tahoe Basin, our Meeks Bay community was placed under evacuation warning shortly after 11:00pm on August 29, 2021. The warning was upgraded to a mandatory order shortly before 9:30am the next day. The order remained in place until September 5, 2021, when it was rolled back to an evacuation warning, and finally lifted altogether on September 12, 2021, at 1:00pm. The evacuations were done out of an abundance of caution due to the erratic fire behavior and challenges with moving people on our limited road systems.

Our residents did a great job and the evacuation was extremely successful. I'm proud of the swift response of our community. I would also like to thank local law enforcement agencies, as well as, law enforcement from around California for a job well done in supporting the Incident Management Team. Here is the current status of the fire:

220,548 acres  
76% contained  
782 single residences destroyed  
18 commercial properties destroyed  
203 other structures destroyed  
1555 personnel assigned  
\$211,600,000.00 cost estimate

We talk a lot about fuels treatment at the landscape level, and that includes the defensible space and home hardening measures taken by residents. With these efforts, in addition to the larger coordinated fuels reduction measures facilitated by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, the Caldor Fire did not enter our jurisdiction. When the fire was approaching Christmas Valley in Meyers, local fire chiefs activated four strike teams comprised of local engines to make a stand and prevent the fire from reaching the Basin. The previous fuels work provided them a safe zone to work while steering the fire away from Meyers. It's important that we recognize that all of that hard work helped give our firefighter's a chance for success.



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I would also like to thank the TCPUD for printing the large maps that we posted on the local information boards until the new incident management team, who were undergoing evacuations of their own homes and offices, could get their feet under them. This effort helped us keep our community informed in the early days of our evacuation and we greatly appreciated their partnership.

### **Meetings and Assignments:**

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Chiefs Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs Association
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators
- Executive and Command staff Meetings
- National Weather Service conference calls
- Tahoe Basin (XTB) Operational Area Coordinator Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Fire District Association of California Board Member Meeting
- Placer County Breakfast Club Meeting
- Budget Priorities Meeting w/Staff
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Placer and Eldorado County LAFCO Meetings
- TCPUD General Manager Meeting
- Lake Tahoe Summit Attendance
- Caldor Fire Basin Chiefs Meetings
- Caldor Fire Daily Incident Briefing Meetings
- Placer County Sheriff's Office Executive Staff Meeting
- Eldorado County Sheriff's Office Executive Staff Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
- California Fire Chiefs Annual Conference