



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



Date: June 14, 2024  
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors  
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
Subject: June 2024

I would like to start this report by saying how thankful and grateful North Tahoe Fire is in our partnership with the Truckee Tahoe Airport District (TTAD.) In a commitment to community safety and environmental stewardship, the TTAD approved unanimously in a 5-0 vote the approval of \$1,934,500 in funding for eight district wide mitigation projects. The approved funding will support collaborative efforts between TTAD and the local fire departments, including Cal Fire, NorthStar Fire Department, Truckee Fire Protection District, Olympic Valley Fire Department and North Tahoe Fire Protection District. These projects identified as a priority initiative within their individual Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and Cal Fire Burn Plan and are aimed at implementing strategic measures to enhance resilience and mitigate the risk of devastating wildfires. Among the funded projects are critical initiatives such as the establishment of shaded fuels breaks, vegetation management in high-risk areas, and the creation of buffer zones to safeguard residential areas from encroaching wildfire.

As always, I'm happy to report on the successes of our team. Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron Stiny has quickly progressed through Phase 3 TAP and is currently completing the final steps of TAP 4. Firefighter/Paramedic Brant Lucas is now qualified to work as a Work Out of Class (WOC) Engineer. Captain/Paramedic Jeremiah Meadows has completed the education and extensive training program, lead by Division Chief Whisler, and is now qualified to work as a Battalion Chief. After a productive and successful last season, I approved without reservation the reinstatement of Manuel Valdez re-employment with us as a Defensible Space Inspector. To compliment Manuel, we have also hired two new DSI Inspectors in Killian Fay and Michael Haran.

On the legislative front, staff continues to closely follow the California Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Districts Association of California Joint Legislative Task Force for bills and decisions effecting the fire service. Budget negotiations between the Governor and legislative leaders continue. The legislative budget bill may be amended later to reflect subsequent budget compromises between Legislature and the Governor. However, there are a couple of items of note. First is the Assembly and Senate approved the implementation of AB 40 (Ambulance Patient Offload Time.) To implement AB 40, EMS Authority will be receiving funding in the amount of \$1,246,000 and 4 positions in 2024-25; in 2025-26 the request would be in the amount of \$696,000 and 4 positions. This funding would be ongoing to streamline patient transfers, reduce delays, and enhance coordination between EMS agencies and hospitals to decrease ambulance patient offload times. Second is the Governor proposed including charter schools in the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) starting in the 2025-26 fiscal year. This bill currently did not clarify the accounting for charter school enrollment in the calculation of the local ERAF funding for school districts. These negotiations are on-going. And finally, Department of Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced that insurance companies will be allowed to use forward-looking catastrophe models if—and only if—they increase writing policies in these wildfire distressed areas, helping fix a fundamental shortcoming of Proposition 103. Under Proposition 103 enacted by voters in 1988, insurance companies are legally free to chose where they will write policies in California. As a result, insurance companies are writing more and more in areas of the state deemed less risky, especially with

continued threat of climate change. This mostly affects residents and business owners in areas with wildfire risk where the California FAIR Plan had become the only option for insurance, not as the last resort as it was intended.

In closing, I want to wish staff and the board of directors a healthy and happy beginning to summer. I couldn't be prouder of our outstanding staff for their commitment and dedication to service in ensuring that North Tahoe Fire is successful!

### **Meetings and Assignments:**

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority Fire Chiefs Meeting (EJPA)
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting (LTRFCA)
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- El Dorado and Placer LAFCO Meetings
- Meetings with our District Attorneys regarding District business
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting
- Tahoe Area Managers Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting (NTRAC)
- Alpine Springs Board Meeting
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Tahoe Basin Evacuation Planning Meeting
- Meeting Supervisor Gustafson
- Strike Team Refresher Training
- Meeting TCPUD General Manager
- Eastern Division Cooperators Meeting
- Executive Staff Budget Meeting
- Tahoe Basin Management Unit Fuels Reduction Coordination Meeting
- Goodwin Consulting Meeting w/Placer LAFCO
- Ridgeline Consulting Meeting

### MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>2024</b>	8	14	10	4	9							
<b>2023</b>	6	12	7	14	21	25	37	23	23	15	7	11
<b>2022</b>	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14	11	7	3	8
<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

