



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



Date: November 24, 2021  
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors  
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
Subject: December 2021

When we last met, Tahoe Vista had just experienced a major gas leak, which resulted in evacuations and road closures. I would like to take the opportunity to memorialize that since the incident occurred after my last Board report was submitted. I'm very proud at what an outstanding job our staff did to help mitigate that incident with the assistance from our partner agencies.

We are happy to embrace the end of fire season, with conditions finally conducive to prescribed burning, which is currently underway around the Basin. As of this report, the 2021 record-setting fire season experienced 48,487 wildfires that burned 6.5 million acres. Nearly 6,000 fires were caused by lightning (12%), which burned almost 3.7 million of those acres, with the other 2.8 million acres attributed to 42,540 human-caused fire (88%). This year marked a new record for how long the nation was at a heightened preparedness level, where we remained at Preparedness Levels 4 and 5 for a record 99 consecutive days. Staff and I appreciate the Board's leadership in supporting a fire prevention ordinance that helped keep our community from inclusion in these statistics. I would also like to give a "shout out" to our operations staff, who professionally responded to ordinance calls throughout such a long fire season, educating, and keeping our community safe.

Along with the end of the fire season, it's worth noting that there may be some confusion with the burn permit situation, as the CAL FIRE AEU is requiring permits while the NEU is not. The District requires permits, so to our residents there is no charge, but this does create some confusion for enforcement. We will continue to work with our neighboring agencies to hopefully deliver consistent messaging regarding this issue.

As winter is approaching, our staff has wasted no time in preparing for winter hydrant maintenance. These maintenance areas have been designated by shift and station for the 2021 winter season. The Operations staff have also been busy with ladder testing, company fire inspections, and annual fall maintenance on the radio repeaters. The roof at Station 56 and the heater at Station 53 have undergone repairs. Our Fire Mechanic had completed the winter tire swap, as well as, performing other winter fleet readiness projects. The Administration Division has taken on additional responsibilities with the retirement of Office Manager Shawn Crawford. They are doing a great job as we pause to determine the correct way to restructure the division.

I always look for opportunities to celebrate good news when it comes to our employees. Captain Farrell continues in his special assignment duties at the fire academy in Carson City. Engineer Gilley is cleared to returned to work, which will result in movement of personnel. Temporary Engineer Josh McCurley has done an outstanding job working in the capacity of Engineer over the last month. With the return of Engineer Gilley, he will return to the position of Firefighter. He will still be able to as a Work Out of Class Engineer per our current Staffing and Overtime Policy. Engineer Hollingsworth has met the requirements to open a Captain's Task Book. The intent of this task book is to assist in preparing employees with future promotional opportunities and is a guiding factor in the progression to work in the role of Captain. The station shift bids were completed with the new roster going into effect January 1, 2022.

Placer County and North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council have held a number of presentations regarding the moratoriums on Short-Term Rentals. For the month of December, these meetings will focus on the Dollar Hill/Nahas property development considerations. As always, the community is looking to the District to ensure safety considerations. Our Fire Prevention staff led by Chief McNamara and Fire Marshal Armstrong have done an excellent job articulating the safety requirements that will be imposed for any new development.

This is the time of the year where we often experience an increase in structural type fires as people fire up their heating appliances. The District recommends that homeowners have their appliances checked regularly and chimneys cleaned least once a year. Now is also a good time to check and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

In closing, I want to thank all members of our staff for their hard work and dedication in keeping our community safe. As well as, I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, and Safe Holiday Season!

**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
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Fire District Association of California Board Member Meeting
- Placer County Breakfast Club Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
- AP Triton Ambulance Study Meeting
- Placer County CEO Area Managers Meeting
- Placer/Eldorado County LAFCO CEO Meetings
- Placer County Preseason Winter Coordination Meeting
- Short Term Rental Group Discussion Meeting
- Tahoe Basin Bio-Mass Meeting
- Eastern Placer County Town Hall Meeting

**MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON**

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

