



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: August 9, 2023
To: North Tahoe Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: August 2023

Our late spring and heavy snowpack have resulted in the slowest start to fire season in California in decades. July was more typical with plenty of warm to hot days and generally dry weather. The National Interagency Fire Center raised the National Preparedness to 3 on July 21, 2023 (on a scale of 1 to 5), with the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook rated as normal. Last season's mild weather made for a mild fire season, and 2023 has already seen a 58% increase in fire starts, however, thanks to fuel moistures, we are sitting at only 20% of the acres burned at this same time last year with 56 active fires nationwide with the bulk of the fires located in Arizona, New Mexico, and Alaska. Roughly 2500 fires were started by lightning (8%) whereas more than 27,850 wildfires were human cause this year. Within California, there are only five active wildfires as of August 1, burning a total of just over 80,000 acres, with most of that attributed to the York Fire in San Bernadino County.

Grasses will continue to dry out which may lead to an increased occurrence of initial attack fires. Due to the late rainy season, larger vegetation located in the mid and upper elevations will continue to experience above normal growth into the early summer months. The snowpack that remains in the mountain areas should assist with mitigating significant fire potential in the higher elevation until late in the summer. Fire season was declared late in the Tahoe Basin on June 26th upon CAL FIRE's suspension of burn permits.

Call volume continues to remain high. After the busiest May on record, June saw a fleeting return to "normal", but the volume swung back to the second highest July on record. Our firefighters have been busy training on the following: Shore Zone Rescue, Swiftwater Rescue, Low Angle Rescue, Active Shooter, as well as Helicopter Rescue Training at the Station 51 Helipad.

In addition to training, crews also supported several community events including: America's Most Beautiful Bike Race, Truckee Airshow, Tahoe Off-Road Triathlon, Trans Tahoe Relay Swim, Tahoe City Drone Show, Tahoe City Public Utility District Kids Camp, Placer County Sheriff's Office Annual Bike Rodeo, Tahoe City Public Utility District Sailing Camp and Tahoe Lake Elementary Celebration.

As always, I enjoy reporting on the successes of our team. And our success this month is that all of our probationary firefighters are progressing exceptionally well, and we are excited about their future. Several of our laterals bring many years of experience and knowledge working in our sometimes-extreme environment. We embrace and welcome the skills that they bring to the district.

The California Legislature is taking its annual Summer Recess that began on July 13th and reconvening on August 14th. In the last few weeks, they finalized the State Budget and various Budget Trailer Bills. Although the fiscal circumstances for the state revenues are much leaner this year, fire prevention and suppression programs remained a high priority.

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
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Eldorado County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- Eldorado 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
- Fire Districts Association of California Meeting
- Priority Budget Executive Staff Meeting
- Meeting w/ELDO CO Supervisor Brooke Laine
- JMA Homewood Development Agreement Meeting
- NTCA Annual Grant Program Workshop Meeting
- Olympic Valley Fire Chief Riley Retirement Celebration
- Verizon First Responder Meeting
- Tahoe Area Managers Meeting
- Tahoe Daily Tribune Interview
- Eastern Placer County Unified Command Staff Meeting
- L3729 Labor Negotiations Meeting
- Placer County Tahoe Basin Area Plan Meeting
- Presenter in Meeting with Senator Padilla and his Staff at Granlibakken
- Presenter at Lake Tahoe Summit Legislative Tour of West Shore
- Short Term Rental Stakeholder Meeting
- Eastern Placer County Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness Town Hall Meeting
- Firefighter/Paramedic Interviews

MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2023	6	12	7	14	21	25	37					
2022	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14	11	7	3	8
2021	12	31	18	17	15	38	52	44	19	27	20	30
2020	23	12	9	9	14	30	54	50	28	22	16	11
2019	13	17	18	15	21	10	37	33	25	14	13	23

