



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: November 29, 2023
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: December 2023

Fall was off to a mild start despite the four cold fronts that traveled through the region in October, the hydrology reports from the National Weather Service were unremarkable. Mountain soil moistures as measured by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) SNOpack TELemry (SNOTEL), which is a fancy name for a remote backcountry weather station that measures snow and transmits the data wirelessly, reports down to near average conditions heading into this winter. Currently, the only significant wildland fire potential in the US is in Hawaii and the deep south. Year-to-date acres burned for the United States remains well below the 10-year average at just over 38%, with a near average number of fires as well, about 99% of average. Significant fire activity diminished across northwestern Canada as well, with commitment of United States resources ending in October.

The district continues to prepare with our partners at California Special Districts Association (CSDA), NTPUD and TCPUD to advocate for awareness for all aspects of the financial assistance that our region needs. We participated in the production of a video for promotion to federal and state legislative staff, inviting them to virtual tours and live discussion with special district leadership events in December.

As you know, I am always proud to report on the successes of our fire fighters, who were quick to accept movements to equalize shifts through the holidays, academies, and on boarding of the new staff. Engineer/Paramedic Rhett Stemmler and Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Rau have each done an outstanding job working in the respective capacity of Captain and Engineer over the last couple of months. They returned to their respective classifications of Engineer/Paramedic and Firefighter/Paramedic on November 27, 2023. Engineer/Paramedic Dustin Hollingsworth has accepted a temporary appointment to fill a current Captain position, where he will serve until February 1, 2024.

I am excited to congratulate the six candidates who successfully completed the promotional examination process for the position of Engineer: Stephanie Lockhart, Brian Hansen, Ted Soloski, Jeff Rau, Will Marshman and Chris Bartow. These successful candidates are now eligible to Work-Out-Of-Class (WOC) and on a promotional list. I'm pleased to announce the first of these promotions to Firefighter/Paramedic Stephanie Lockhart, who has served as a WOC Engineer since the end of October and will take on this new role in early December.

I would like to thank our part-time seasonal Defensible Space Inspector, Manuel Valdez, for his contribution to educate residents and encourage wildfire risk reduction this season.

In closing, I'm proud to be your Fire Chief and serve the citizens and visitors of our district. I want to thank all members of our staff for their hard work and attention to detail in keeping our community safe. And I want to



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thank you, the Board of Directors for your support and believing in us that we are always doing the right thing, for the right reason at the right time. 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
- 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 Planning Meeting
- Tahoe Area Managers Meeting
- California Special Districts Association Virtual Tour Planning Meeting
- Fire and Law Enforcement-Evacuation of Lake Tahoe Basin Meeting
- Truckee/Tahoe Airport District Staff and Board Member Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting (NTRAC)
- Attended Fire District Association of California Leadership Symposium w/Board President
- North Tahoe/Meeks Bay Annexation Meeting #2 and #3
- Meeting w/Senior Planner Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
- Attended Blood Borne Pathogen Class
- Engineer Interviews
- Alpine Springs General Manager Meeting
- North Lake Tahoe EMS Leadership Meeting