



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: December 2, 2022
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: December 2022

Our fall started off somewhat mild, but it wrapped up with an impressive snow system coming through our region in the second week of November. On the night after our last board meeting our crew members were called out to respond to a chimney fire. I responded, since it was relatively close to when our board meeting ended, and I was still in at Station 51. When I arrived, our crews were actively involved in fire suppression. Crews were on the roof in eight inches of snow attempting to suppress the fire, while guarding it against the spread to the rest of the structure. Our crews did an excellent job in suppressing this fire to the point of origin. I know their constant training and preparedness paid off as the fire was suppressed with no injuries that were reported to me. As your Fire Chief, I was able to see our firefighters at work. And let me say that they did an outstanding job! This fire occurred on Captain Jamie Stowell's last shift, sending her "blazing" into retirement. I personally want to thank Capt. Stowell for her many years of dedicated service to the district ensuring that North Tahoe residents are safe.

As always, I am proud to share the successes of our team members. I'd like to congratulate Fire Marshal Brent Armstrong for his hard work in meeting the minimum requirements to work as a line Battalion Chief. Fire Marshal Armstrong can now fill in operationally in the role as shift Battalion Chief as needed. I'm also happy to report that Julio Gonzalez, who served as a defensible space inspector for the past two seasons, has accepted the position of inspector. This full-time and fully benefited position is funded by the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, and we are gracious for their partnership.

As you know, we are continually working on succession planning. With that said, I'm pleased to share that Firefighter/Paramedics Daniel Parker and Kyle Garcia are now in Phase 4 TAP. Recently we conducted a Captains assessment center exam. We had six candidates apply. All six candidates showed an incredible amount of preparedness and study while going through the process. The future of the district is bright with these professionals who continually work hard to provide the best possible service we can to our customers.

November is typically a slower month due to the holidays, but Director of Finance and Administration Kim Eason and her team have stayed busy providing information to our Auditors, while Chief Lagano began implementing the First Due System. Forest Fuel Manager April Shackelford oversaw pile burning in the district for the first time in recent memory. Our consultant for the FEMA funded Community Risk Assessment has been preparing for this study and will be onsite in December for a first-hand view of our service area.

In other news, Placer County appointed Jane Christensen to the position of CEO. Ms. Christensen has served as acting CEO since June 2022. She began her career with Placer County in 2019 as the assistant county executive officer to then-CEO Todd Leopold. I look forward to working with her.

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 dedication in keeping our community safe. And I want to thank you, the Board of Directors for your support and believing in us that we are always doing the right thing. I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, and Safe Holiday Season with your family.

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
- Fire District Association of California Board Member Meeting
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Eldorado County Fire Chiefs Meeting
- Eldorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- Eldorado and Placer LAFCO Meetings
- Homewood Development Agreement Meetings
- Meetings with District Attorneys
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
- Captains Test Presentations
- Meeting w/Auditors
- Grass Valley ECC Meeting
- LTRA Non-Federal Partners Coordination Meeting
- Placer County Elections Office Meeting
- Fire Captain Chiefs Interview
- North Tahoe Pre-Attack Plan Update Meeting

Attachments:

- Photos from the Chimney Fire
- Response Call Comparison Graph



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MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2022	24	11	15	9	12	21	18	14	11	7	3	
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

