



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: October 20, 2021
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: Chiefs Report

I have been serving as your Fire Chief for the last six months, and I want to tell you how extremely proud I am of our personnel in all divisions. We truly have excellent people doing the right thing, for the right reason, at the right time. I always look for opportunities to celebrate the successes of our employees and this month I have no shortage of good news to share with you. Captain Brent Armstrong has accepted the appointment to Fire Marshal, effective October 23, 2021. Captain Armstrong has been an excellent district employee with many talents and I welcome him as a member of my executive staff team. Fire Marshal Armstrong will shadow and train with Chief McNamara over the next few months to learn the idiosyncracies of being the Fire Marshal. Under the tutelage of Chief McNamara, I'm confident that he will be successful. Captain John Farrell has been offered and accepted a temporary appointment to be assigned to the Fire Academy in Carson City through January 2022. After an extensive testing and interview process, we have four firefighter/paramedic recruits attending the academy.

With the promotion of Captain Armstrong and the temporary assignment of Captain Farrell to the academy, the District has determined a need to fill the resulting Captain vacancies. Engineer/Paramedic Scott Worl and Engineer/Paramedic Rhett Stemmler have been offered and accepted a temporary appointment to fill the vacant Captain positions. Both Captains Worl and Stemmler will do an excellent job as they perform their temporary assignments. Capt. Worl has been assigned to "C" shift and Capt. Stemmler to "B" shift.

These temporary assignments to Fire Captain have provided the district an opportunity to fill some temporary engineer positions. I'm please to say that Firefighter/ Paramedic Brent Wible and Firefighter/EMT Josh McCurley have been offered and accepted temporary positions as engineers. Engineer Wible has been assigned to "B" shift and Engineer McCurley to "C" shift. Both of these individuals are exceptionally qualified and will make sure our apparatus are taken care of.

On the legislative front: The bill that was the most important to the fire service, not necessarily to North Tahoe Fire at this time, was Assembly Bill 389 (Grayson). This bill was strongly supported by the California Professional Firefighters (CPF), Fire District Association of California (FDAC) and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The bill was signed by Governor Newsome and clarifies that counties must negotiate with public fire agencies for pre-hospital care and ambulance transport, when that agency subcontracts with a private ambulance company. Other bills of note, that have been monitored by members of North Tahoe staff to determine the impact on our organization, include: AB



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450 (Gonzales), AB 579 (Flora), AB 1104 (Grayson), AB 1409 (Levine), SB 52 (Dodd) and SB 322 (Dodd).

With winter fast approaching our region. Crews have been hastily preparing after receiving our first snow fall recently. However, the outlook for the region is for drier and warmer than average conditions during October and into the first part of November. Followed by a transition to near, and sometimes above, average precipitation the latter half of November and December as the Jet stream becomes more active. The wettest month is likely to be December. Confidence is lower in January, with mixed results. Please don't quote me on any of this as you know our weather can be unpredictable, but in my research, this is what I have found. Nevertheless, our crews will be prepared to deliver outstanding service no matter the conditions.

In closing, I'm proud to be your Fire Chief and serve the citizens and visitors of our districts. I want to thank all of our staff for their hard work and dedication and let them know that I recognize their efforts.

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
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
- New Firefighter Interviews
- Consultant Bill Green Meeting
- AP Triton Ambulance Study Meeting
- Placer County CEO Area Managers Meeting
- New Fire Marshal Interview
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Town Hall Meeting
- Placer/Eldorado County LAFCO CEO Meeting
- Placer County Hazardous Vegetation Meeting