



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: January 9, 2024
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: January 2024

December 2023 was generally a mild month with temperatures about 3-4 degrees above average. Precipitation was below average across the Basin, with only a few weaker systems scattered through the month. At the month's end, the Basin average Sierra snowpack was only 40-45% of average—quite a difference from the 200% snowpack at the same time last year. No snow cover was reported at any of the measuring sites below 6500 feet in the areas surrounding Truckee, Tahoe, Carson and the Reno Airport. Despite the dry water year so far, other long-term drought indicators such as water storage, soil, moisture, and stream flows are still in good shape. More active weather is anticipated through mid-January, which is likely to improve the snowpack and water supply conditions. Fire weather nationwide is sitting between normal and below normal for all North American areas including California.

I'm always proud to report on the successes of our personnel. Congratulations to Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Vickers for completing and passing the academy in Carson City. Having been through several academies, this is not an easy task. Austin comes from a family with a strong background in the fire service and I'm confident that he will be a great asset to our team. In addition, he will be teamed with one of our best, in Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Rice to complete the field training portion of our program.

I would also like to say what an outstanding job our Facilities Coordinator Bjorn Beckman has done in the conference room renovation. One office is ready for furniture and the final touches on the second office are being wrapped up. Great job Bjorn! I want to publicly acknowledge your hard work and dedication in making us a premier organization. This would have never been possible without the leadership of Division Chief/Fire Marshal Brent Armstrong's vision.

Another one of our unsung hero's is our Fleet Services Division. Our Master Mechanic Joe Parle with assistance from Assistant Mechanic Scott Baumgartner keeps all our apparatus and equipment running in tip-top shape. Not an easy task as they prepare to get all the district vehicles for winter operations. As the Fire Chief, I want to acknowledge their hardwork and commitment to excellence in our Fleet Services Division under the direction of Division Chief of Operations Alan Whisler.

On the legislative front, the California's' State Legislature came back on January 3, 2024, to resume the second year of the legislature session after a three-month hiatus. As it resumes its session the focus will be mostly on policy and fiscal committee hearings to vote on two-year bills that need to move out of its house of origin by January 31, 2024. Any two-year bill that fails passage out of its house of origin by the end of January is considered defeated but can be reintroduced in a different bill. On the Senate side, members will see changes in leadership as Senator Mike McGuire becomes the new Pro Tem next month. The Assembly faced leadership changes in the middle of last year, leading to various changes in committee chairs and committee members. The Senate will more than likely encounter a similar process.

In closing, I'm proud to serve the Meeks Bay Board and will represent you appropriately as we navigate the annexation process.

Meetings and Assignments:

- North Tahoe, Meeks Bay, and Alpine Meadows Board Meetings
- Eastern Joint Powers Authority Fire Chiefs Meeting (EJPA)
- Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs Association Meeting (LTRFCA)
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Breakfast Club Meeting
- El Dorado 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 Board Member Planning Meeting
- Tahoe Area Managers 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)
- North Tahoe/Meeks Bay Annexation Meeting #4
- Alpine Springs General Manager Meeting
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Emergency Medical Services Leadership Meeting
- Attended Citizens Emergency Response Team Holiday Party (CERT)
- Administrative Manager Interviews
- Attended Fire Academy Graduation in Carson City
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Fit Testing (Required to allow Fire Chief to enter IDLH atmospheres)

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	23	23	15	7	11
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

