



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



Date: January 10, 2022
To: Meeks Bay Fire Board of Directors
From: Steve Leighton, Fire Chief
Subject: January 2022

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday Season! December 2021, now henceforth as “Deepcember” was one for the record books. With nearly 18 feet of snow, North Tahoe received more of the beloved powder than any December in the past 142 years and broke the 1970 record for the season total of 266 inches (October-December). 2021 also made for the busiest December on record for our duty crews. They responded to many downed powerlines and other storm-related emergencies, with a 7% increase in calls from our previous busiest December in 2019. North Tahoe Fire crews responded to 94 calls for service just during the Christmas storm series, for a total of 281 incidents in December. 2021 overall saw a 7% increase in annual calls for service over what was our busiest year and a 10% increase from 2020 with a new record total of 2,725 emergency incidents for the year. Emergency calls in the Meeks Bay district increased by 45 from 2020. The total emergency responses for Meeks Bay were 323.

COVID is still influencing how we work and play as we are experiencing an increase of positive COVID test results amongst staff. We are continuing to monitor the latest Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to ensure we are maintaining a safe work environment for our employees. The COVID pandemic has been challenging for many, and we are no different. However, as an emergency response organization that really can't shut down our service, it is important that we remain vigilant and take necessary precautions in our efforts to avoid unnecessary exposures to the virus.

As always, I continue to look for opportunities to celebrate good news when it comes to our employees. Engine 52 had the opportunity to deliver Santa to the North Tahoe Event Center earlier in the month and Engine 67 gave Santa a ride to Tahoma. Our academy is still on schedule for graduation later this month despite many COVID challenges, and I appreciate the hard work that Captain Farrell has done to ensure success. Crews have completed their Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) recertifications and Captain Wagner participated in avalanche beacon training with the Tahoe Truckee Regional Rescue Team (TTRRT).

Fire Marshal Brent Armstrong formally assumed command of the Fire and Life Safety Division on December 1. He has hit the ground running and will be a great addition to our existing excellent command staff. Division Chief McNamara officially retired on December 30, at just the perfect time to enjoy this record snowfall. Chief McNamara was an excellent long-term district employee who always had a “service above self-attitude.” He will be missed by all, and I wish him a healthy happy retirement. I talked to him a few days ago as he was on the chair lift at Diamond Peaks Ski Resort. He seems to be doing just fine.

Engineer Scott Worl was promoted to Captain on December 18, 2021. Captain Worl has been with the district since November 2013, most recently serving as a Temporary Captain since May 28, 2021. He has been



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assigned to "C" Shift under the tutelage of Battalion Chief Sarah Lagano. I'm excited to watch him learn and grow into his new position.

Earlier this fall, Engineer/Paramedic Dustin Hollingsworth opened his Captain's task book, and already he has been offered and has accepted a temporary appointment to fill a current Captain position on "B" shift. He began these duties on Saturday, January 1, 2022, and may remain in the position until two of the three Captains off for various reasons return to work, or up to six months per District Rules and Regulations Section 10 D.2.

Firefighter/Paramedics Nick Bisagno and Taran Madison have completed probation and are eligible to be utilized as Step B Firefighters. These two individuals have done an excellent job during their first year of employment and I'm glad they are on our team.

After a successful season of Defensible Space Inspections and other valuable work, our seasonal staff have ended their tour with the district. I wish the best to Arden Heki and Julio Gonzalez and thank them for their commitment and dedication while serving with the district.

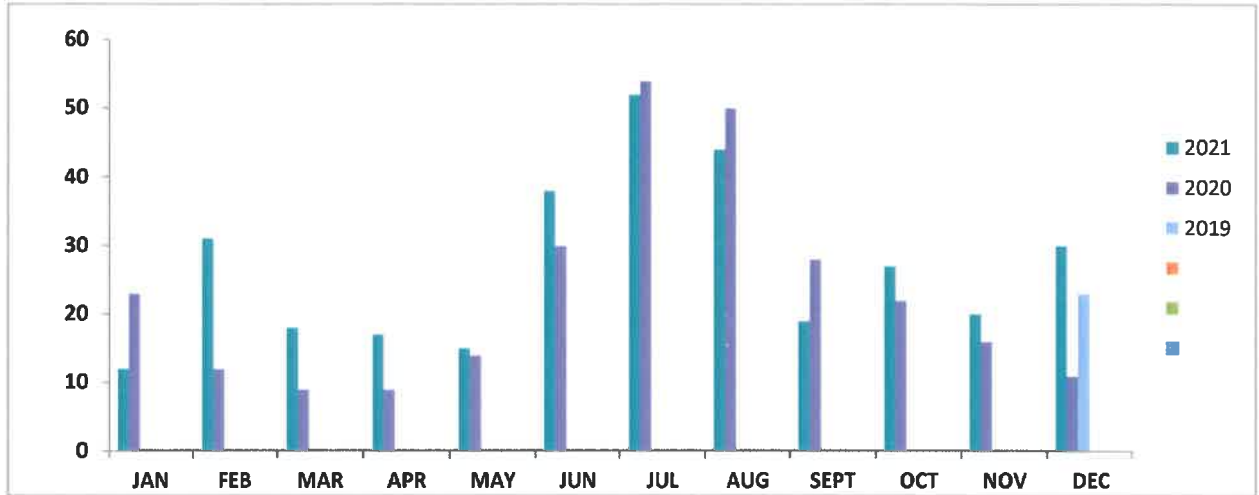
In closing, 2021 was a challenging yet rewarding time for us. As we look toward the future and what 2022 will bring, I'm confident that will continue to provide excellent service while continuing to look for ways to improve. We have an outstanding and dedicated staff in all divisions, and I thank them for their efforts as we move forward toward another successful year.

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
- Sierra Front Wildfire Cooperators Meeting
- Executive and Command Staff Meetings
- Labor Management L3729 Meeting
- Fire District Association of California Board Member Meeting
- Placer County Breakfast Club Meeting
- North Tahoe Regional Advisory Committee (NTRAC) Meeting
- Placer County CEO Area Managers Meeting
- Placer/Eldorado County LAFCO CEO Coordination Meetings
- Eastern Placer County Town Hall Meeting
- Captains Interviews
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT) Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) Meeting
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Meeting
- Short Term Rental (STR) Fire Districts Focus Group Meeting
- NTF Retiree Breakfast Meeting
- Facilities Coordinator Interviews
- File Review with FASIS and Athens Administrators Meeting
- CAL PERS Meeting

MBFPD RESPONSE CALLS - MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
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												23



YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

2021	323
2020	278
2019	23

