

DISTRICT NEWS



EAST FORK FIRE AND
PARAMEDIC DISTRICTS

JULY 2011

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FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS **FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS** **FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**



From the Chief's Desk....

Well, budgets are adopted, contracts signed, and we finally are feeling the summer heat, and our fire season may be a late one. Even with a wetter than average spring and early summer, we will most certainly see conditions change at some point. With a diminished and limited pool of resources, both internal and

external, we will have to be fairly aggressive with our initial fire attack, but at the same time, pay due regard to our safety.

Even though the budget has been adopted, we really are never done. I issued a rather lengthy financial directive last month which established many of the same financial and budgetary practices we used last year. There have been a few modifications and some additions. Being charged with the financial stability of the districts, I once again felt it was necessary to issue these directives. Accounting Specialist Ellen Nelson is in agreement with the directives. We have also revised our tiered contingency plan. Last year we were able to develop 14 financial tiers. The revised document includes 10 this year. In other words, we are running out of options. We must hope that the local economy begins to change for the better.

The Standard of Cover Working Group has delivered their first draft of their four month work product to me for my initial review. From what I have seen thus far, I can tell you that the group has done an exceptional job. They have evaluated several aspects of response and have made some very bold recommendations. I can also tell you that they have had some pretty interesting discussions throughout the process. Our next step will be for me to meet with the working group and review the document and review all aspects of their work. We will also be selecting which proposal we will subject to beta testing and for how long. We will be establishing some evaluation criteria as well. One thing that everyone needs to understand and accept is that after our beta testing, we may find that the best approach is one which requires no change at all. We cannot make emotional decisions with our Standard of Cover. I know the working group went to great lengths to consider the various proposals based on analytical data, established standards, and hybrid standards developed by the working group. We are going into this also with the understanding that we will have several critics with the document and certainly with some of the proposal. We will be presenting the items for beta testing in the very new future. The goal would be to establish beta testing on the first day of August. I really want to encourage everyone to keep an open mind as we take the next step.

We have drafted an 8 point Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District. They are currently reviewing this proposal. The MOU is designed to be between the two district chiefs and is not designed for Board actions. The 8 areas of cooperation, functional program and service sharing include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Fire Investigation | Forestry Expertise | Ladder Trucks | Basin Response |
| Fire Mechanics | Hand Crews | Command Officers | Boundary Drop |

Completing this MOU would be a huge step forward in bringing the two districts closer together functionally. We are also working with other regional fire agencies on a regional apparatus and personnel numbering system as well.

A lease/inter-local agreement has been drafted between the Town of Minden and the Districts for the use of the Fire Station 1 Annex in Minden. We hope to bring this forward for the Board to consider sometime in August. The Town of Minden requested additional time to prepare the agreement. The District Attorney's Office is representing the fire district.

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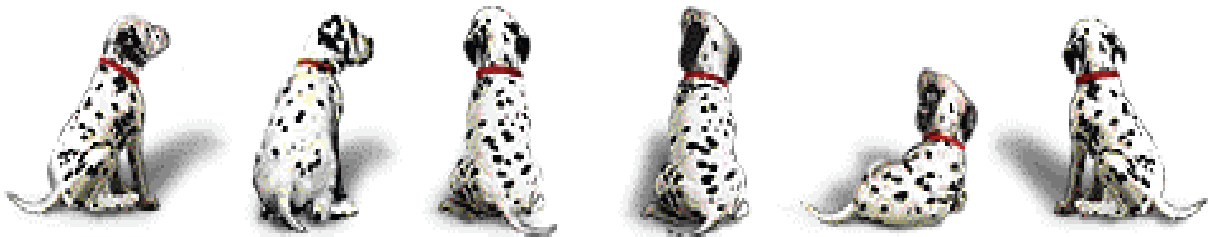
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We have allocated \$10,000 for a lease fee to the Town of Minden. With the demise of the Douglas County Engine Company, the district's conditions for use changed, thus necessitating a different type of agreement.

As everyone knows, Deputy Fire Chief Tognoli will be retiring on July 8, 2011. It has been my pleasure to work with Steve for over 13 years of my career. He has done a very commendable job for the districts in perhaps one of the most difficult positions. I want to wish him nothing but the best as he enters the ranks of retirement. Deputy Chief Fogerson will be assuming the responsibilities for Operations. He has my complete confidence that he will do an outstanding job. As with any change in leadership, I am sure that there will be some changes in the Operations Division. Not to neglect the Training and Safety Division, we have also completed a nationwide recruitment effort for Deputy Chief Fogerson's replacement. We have received several very qualified applicants. My desire is to fill this position by October.

So, we keep moving on, ever changing and continuing to evolve. We are a top notch organization and everyone should take pride in that fact. I know for one that I do! I hope you do too. Please be safe and thanks for doing a great job across the board.



East Fork Fire & Paramedic Districts held its Firefighter Appreciation Event on June 18th
Congratulations to the winners of our annual awards!



Firefighter of the Year Gale Maynor



Medic of the Year Roy Minor

Fire Chief's Commendations: John Collins, Justin Thran, Jonathan Plumer, and Joe Turek

Safest Station: Ruhenstroth VFD

Cleanest Station: Johnson Lane VFD

TOGNOLI'S OPERATIONAL TUTELAGE

Seasonal Firefighter Program



The seasonal firefighter hiring process has been completed. I am pleased to announce five qualified individuals who are going to be a great asset in the role of the Seasonal Firefighters for EFFPD.

Tom Kokenge – Truckee, CA

Kevin May – Returnee

Matt Sampson – Station 7 Volunteer

Javier Trujillo – Gardnerville

Kevin Quenga – Station 6 Volunteer

The crew completed their training on May 31st and will be on seven days a week from 0900 to 1900 starting Saturday June 4th. They will be working 4/10 schedules.

Emergency Medical Technician/Firefighter Position

Most of you are probably aware that we filled the open FF/EMT position. We hired Jesse Washington who currently lives in the Ranchos. Jesse has completed his training and is assigned to Station 12, "A" Shift under Captain Costa. From the feedback that we are hearing, Jesse is doing an exceptional job and will be a great asset to EFFPD.

Last Newsletter

Well, I am sure all of you are aware that I am retiring and my last day is July 8th. I have been trying to find words to summarize the past three (3) years with EFFPD and thirty (30) years in the fire service. This is not easy, it went by so fast.



Working in the fire service, I have seen stuff that would make a layperson wonder why we do this job. I believe it is truly the most rewarding job one could ever do. I have learned so much.

Please bear with me for a few as I take a trip down memory lane. I can still remember my "firsts"; CPR, structure fire, first day as a firefighter, baby delivered, the life saved, lives I have made a difference in and the first one I watched die. There are so many memories I will never be able to write them all down, but it was a great ride.

THANK YOU

Over the past years I have met great people, made mistakes, learned a lot of stuff from a lot of great people and hopefully have given a little bit of myself to everyone I have met over the years.

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank everyone who has been there with me during my career. I don't have enough words to express my gratitude and appreciation, so stay safe and have fun!

Prevention Perspectives

Steve Eisele, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal



Focus on Fire Safety: Fireworks

Every year in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July with community parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks - the things of which happy memories are made. But sadly, Independence Day also includes tragic events resulting from fireworks use. **The safest way to enjoy them is through public displays conducted by professional pyrotechnicians hired by communities.**

Who is at Most Risk?

In 2010, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,600 people for fireworks-related injuries. 73 percent of these injuries occurred between June 18 - July 18. Of these:

- 65 percent were to males and 35 percent were to females.
- Children under 15 years old accounted for 40 percent of the estimated injuries.
- Children and young adults under 20 years old had 53 percent of the estimated injuries.
- An estimated 900 injuries were associated with firecrackers. Of these, an estimated 30 percent were associated with small firecrackers, 17 percent with illegal firecrackers, and 53 percent where the type of firecracker was not specified.
- An estimated 1,200 injuries were associated with sparklers and 400 with bottle rockets.
- The parts of the body most often injured were hands and fingers (30 percent), legs (22 percent), eyes (21 percent), and head, face, and ears (16 percent).
- More than half of the injuries were burns. Burns were the most common injury to all parts of the body except the eyes, where contusions, lacerations, and foreign bodies in the eye occurred more frequently.
- Most patients were treated at the emergency department and then released. An estimated 7 percent of patients were treated and transferred to another hospital or admitted to the hospital.

By the Numbers: Fireworks

8,600 Number of injuries caused by fireworks in 2010

2 out of 5 People injured by fireworks in 2010 were under 15 years of age

18,000 Number of fires caused by fireworks in 2009

\$38 million Amount of direct property loss caused by fireworks in 2009

Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission and National Fire Protection Association

What Can I Do?

The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home—period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.

TRAINING DIVISION

By Deputy Chief Dave Fogerson



Everyone Goes Home

Your health and safety committee has been reviewing the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. These are the ones that are linked to the Everyone Goes Home program we have previously discussed informally. Your safety committee reviewed where we felt East Fork was at with each of the Initiatives. Overall, we are not doing badly, but we have done all of the easy stuff. Your committee decided to focus on the four Initiatives that we felt were the least implemented.

In this newsletter article, members of the committee have written about their Initiative. Our goal with this is to bring forth the ideas to everyone in a broad stroke. Over time, we will discuss each of these Initiatives in more detail. We all ask that you look at the four Initiatives to see how you can help make sure Everyone Goes Home.

For more information on all 16 Initiatives, visit www.everyonegoeshome.com

Initiative #11: *National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.*

Chief Gale Maynor, Station 8

Initiative 11 is dealing with safe driving the vehicle to and back from the emergency event. There are a number of deaths due to unsafe driving operations. We need to develop a set of standard operating procedures. Twenty-five percent of all LODDs is a number that we need to lower. I know that here in EFPD we have an excellent record. That does not mean that we should not champion an operational guideline (SOP). We need to write the SOPs so that we “arrive alive” and in time. We have a good Code Three driving class but I don’t think we have an SOP that fits the class. We have all signed (I hope) the Seat Belt Pledge (belts are law). Everyone in the district needs to be held accountable for safe vehicle operations!

We need to have a set of SOPs so that we can handle aggressive and dangerous policies and operators before there is an accident. The national standards for emergency response policies and procedures should not need to be developed! Safety should **always** be on our minds whether going to the station or the store. If we “see something, we need to say something” in regard to any unsafe operation not only driving but any unsafe action!



Initiative #13: *Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.*

Chief Dave Thomas, Station 5

Like other first responders, firefighters and their families are at-risk for stress-related illnesses. Some would argue that firefighters are at more risk than most other occupations. These types of illness can clearly impact work performance as well as family health and personal relationships.

Firefighter, particularly when combined with emergency medical care, is a high-risk occupation that, from time to time, can put the employee and his or her family under extreme stress. Firefighters and EMT/Paramedics and their families

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deserve access to and should be encouraged to take advantage of mental health care, stress management, drug and alcohol abuse recognition and treatment programs, and employee/volunteer assistance programs. Remember, don't tough it out, and if you see someone struggling emotionally, help! "See something, say something," can save a life in more ways than one.

Initiative #6: Develop and Implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on duties they are expected to perform.

FF/Paramedic Jonathan Plumer, C Shift

According to the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, 50% of all firefighter line-of-duty deaths are cardiovascular related. This statistic has remained pretty consistent throughout my 10 years in the fire service. It always has been a statistic that has amazed me. To me it says that of the line-of-duty deaths in the fire service, half can be prevented with a well developed wellness program that includes proper physical fitness, timely medical evaluations by a medical staff versed in the physical and emotional demands of the fire service, and education in making good nutritional decisions both on and off duty. To me this would be a low cost, easy to implement, standard that will not only reduce the cost of on duty injuries, but prevent possibly half of the firefighter funerals around the country, if a national standard can be developed and implemented.

The goal of the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives is to work towards developing just such a standard. I think that here at East Fork we have the basic building blocks to get a strong physical fitness and wellness program implemented. We should not wait for a national program to be developed however. We should take the lead and develop one right now. Chief Haskins has worked very hard to bring Crossfit workouts to on duty crews and I think that this type of workout is exceptional for our job, both career and volunteer staff. Personally, I have added some of these workouts to my off-duty workout schedule. Even if you are not sold on the benefits of Crossfit, we have to be taking advantage of our workout times in the mornings to be doing some form of physical activity. Crews, and volunteer stations, need to encourage and help each other too with a consistent physical fitness regiment.



Secondly, after the benefits of a strong cardiovascular system, we need to make better nutritional choices, both at work and off-duty. Extra weight and plugged arteries will eventually lead to a cardiovascular condition that could end a career or life. We should be cognizant of what we are making for food choices, again both on and off-duty. Lastly, as we put our new Scott air packs into service, we need to be aware of the physical demands of these new packs. The department is working on a policy of rehab for use on fire scenes. We have to follow these policies and make sure we stay properly hydrated at fire scenes, to further prevent unneeded stress to our cardiovascular systems.

To me it is unacceptable to continue to allow the above statistic to remain the same. We have the power to change it and prevent approximately 50 firefighter funerals a year. In my career, I have attended 3 firefighter funerals. They are not fun events. I could go the rest of my career without going to another one. What we need is a commitment from everyone to develop and implement this standard. Without it we will fail, and the status quo will remain.

Initiative #14: Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.

FF/Paramedic Todd Hovenden, A Shift

Public education is an often under utilized resource. Through public education, fire departments can connect with their communities and teach valuable skills from bicycle helmet safety and carbon monoxide detectors to wild fire preparedness. Public education can teach families and children safe practices that they can use and apply throughout life. As firefighters, one of our main objectives is to protect life, public education is one way to do that.

Opportunity

- by Deputy Chief Fogerson

Well, lots of stuff going on at the Fork this July! **The key word is opportunity!** We have a number of items coming to fruition in this quarter. I will take time to discuss the impact of these issues one-by-one in this newsletter article. As always, feel free to call me if you have questions or need clarification. Let us stop the rumors and confirm or deny them instead of spreading them! Thanks.

Retirement of Steve Tognoli

Chief Tognoli has served a distinguished 25-year career in the fire service. His departure will leave a hole for East Fork, especially in the term of Emergency Management. He has done an outstanding job with the Local Emergency Planning Committee and building relationships for us in the community. I wish him the best in his future endeavors!

My Transition to Operations

Chief Carlini has asked me to move from the Training Chief to the Operations Chief. Many of the reasons for this are outlined in this newsletter article – look at how much we have going on! Moving to Operations will allow for continuity of these events to ensure they are completed and we move forward. It is bittersweet leaving training after 10 years and all that has been accomplished; I still see so much that needs to be accomplished in training and I am sure the new Training Chief will continue to tackle those issues. The issues are not just at East Fork, but also regionally and statewide with course offerings, certification and testing.

Training Captains

A big thanks to the training captains, John Brawley, Larry Goss and John Bellona for allowing me to be their supervisor for the last three years. It has been wonderful supervising these three outstanding individuals.

Firefighter and Medic of the Year

Congratulations to Gale Maynor and Roy Minor for their recent awards!

Scott SCBA's

I am sure everyone is excited over the new SCBA's that we have been able to receive! The trainings have been going well and everyone seems to be getting the hang of them. The change in SCBA allows us the opportunity to implement Rules of Air Management (ROAM). These are essential to provide firefighters a round-trip ticket into and out of the hot zone. We have an obligation to send everyone home to their families. The low air alarm air supply is reserved to get you home to your family. Please respect this and practice ROAM. We must also be aware of the increased work duration times these packs provide. This requires the use of ROAM and effective rehab. Breathing down two 1,800-liter cylinders is more work than breathing down two 1,200-liter cylinders. The expectation is to have everyone out of the structure just prior to their low-air alarm sounding. Low-air alarm within the hot zone should be the same as a PASS device sounding in the hot-zone. Practice your CAN reports with your air readings of 75 plus, 50 plus, 50 minus.

Captain and Training Captain Testing

We will be conducting testing for captain and training captain in July. This will be to establish a promotional eligibility list and an acting list. We have been remiss for a few years in conducting this testing but stand firm in our commitment to test for captain ranks in the spring of odd years and to test for battalion chief in the spring of even years.

Legislature

The Nevada Legislature is out-of-session so we don't have to worry about staying on top of bills and running down to testify. Some bills, including changing EMS training levels to the updated National Standards Curriculum failed and will have to be reintroduced next session. Other bills, including volunteer firefighter physicals and the Board of Fire Services, will make us more efficient. This will enable us to focus on other items.

Union Contract

Chief Tognoli, Darcy Worms and our contract legal counsel have wrapped up the contract negotiations. If approved by both sides, we will have a two-year contract that will enable us to focus on other items.

Budget

FY2011/12 budget was passed. We do have Icom radios for Station 3, CDM1250 radios for Station 6 and a computer replacement plan for career stations within the budget.

Uniform Procedure

Don't forget the wear-out period ends August 1, 2011. Captains – please review the procedure with your crews prior to that

date so everyone is in the correct uniforms on that date!

Recruitment Drive

The new volunteer recruitment drive is underway with a chief officer and volunteer chiefs attending each volunteer station fundraiser. A banner will be going across Highway 395. Applications are coming into the District Office, and the Training Division will be working with Chief Carlini to schedule some orientation meetings so the new applicants will know what it entails to be a volunteer. The East Fork Administration class will probably be November-ish so the new volunteers can complete their physicals prior to the Academy in January 2012.

New Radio System

We have spoken quite a bit about the radio system. While it is not perfect, as no radio system ever is, it is a drastic improvement from what we had. We must now begin exploring what our long-term solution will be for radio communications.

Can't Hear a Unit on the Radio Issue

We have a problem with the radio system voters where someone may hear only one side of the conversation. For example, Rescue-7 is talking to dispatch and all you hear is Dispatch. Please advise Dispatch of this situation so they can send in a radio issue notice for repair.

Volunteer Job Descriptions

Job descriptions for volunteer firefighters have been created and approved that mirror those of career firefighters.

Volunteer Expectations

A committee of volunteer chiefs created a listing of volunteer participation expectations for our newly recruited volunteers. These expectations, a first at East Fork, include incident response requirements, training requirements and social requirements for participation in the VFD.

State EMS Office Philosophy

The State EMS Office has a new Program Manager, Pat Irwin. Pat is well known to many from his association with Nevada State Firefighters Association, and recently as a Pershing County Commissioner. The new philosophy within the office is one of customer service instead of regulation. This has made dealings with the office much more pleasant for all involved. Thank you Pat!

EMS Protocols

The EMS Committee is reviewing the EMS Protocols. The plan is to have updated protocols by Fall 2011 that are printed in a nice format for every EMS provider to have.

Paramedic Preceptor Program

Once completed with EMS Protocol updates, the EMS Committee will work on revitalizing our paramedic preceptor program.

QA/QI Program

FF/PM Nielson, FF/PM Cote and FF/PM Fletcher are doing an outstanding job with our QA/QI program. Look for future updates and changes to the program that will be shared with all.

Wildland Season Memo

Every officer should be familiar with the wildland season memo issued by Chief Calini. This memo guides all of us in the management of wildland fires.

Trainings

We have seen some great trainings in the last quarter including swift water, new SCBA Orientation, Gordon Graham, Open Mic with Don Stukey, HazMatIQ, Wildland sand table, Plymouth house training, seasonal academy, new hire orientation, wildland evolutions, Civil Support Team and a great roof-top cardiac arrest drill with the folks at GE. Great work Training Captains!

Standards of Cover

The Standards of Cover committee is wrapping up their work and will forward the document to Chief Carlini the second week of July. As with anything new, everyone will have an opinion on the recommendations. Some of the recommendations you will love, some you will agree with and some you will absolutely despise. It will be rough for some people to agree with all of the recommendations but we will be doing everything on data instead of emotion. Many of the recommendations will be tested with established benchmarks to see if they work or not. Those that don't work, will not be implemented. We may implement those that work. Give it a chance to prove or fail on its own before you make up your mind. Anyone that knows me knows I am not afraid of making changes but it has to be for effectiveness and not merely change for change's sake. The recommendations will get a fair chance during trials. Please have patience as we go through the process. The Committee has done a great job of

Opportunity, Continued from Page 8

discussing the tough issues that we face. Thanks to Steve Tognoli, Dave Thomas, Bob Spellberg, Joel Greenfield, Erin Surane, Scott Fraser, Ron Sagen and Eric Schmidt for their professional efforts!

Computers Down after Hours

If computers fail after hours or on weekends, station captains should be contacting their Battalion Chief. The BC will then contact Dispatch to notify IS of the problem.

Wildland Plan

We have already seen a decrease in available resources for this summer with the number of Region 1 mutual aid requests we have filled (Dayton, Dayton and Storey County). This should give you an indication for this summer, when wildland season does start. All air resources, except for the NDF Helicopter, are national assets so we may not have any quickly available! Remember, even if the heavier fuels have a lot of moisture, the grasses will still be ready to burn. Officers – it is expected for you to be familiar with the wildland plan and review it with your crews.

Time Cards

Captains – please make sure your crew's time cards are completed prior to leaving on a four-day at the end of the pay period. We will be meeting to discuss payroll practices as the current system takes reportedly 32-hours of personnel time to make work. We need to increase our efficiency in this practice.

Radio Frequencies

As a follow-up to the e-mails, we have re-programmed all Icom radios with new line-ups for tactical channels. Please review the radio in your station. A highlight of changes are:

- Orange is used to talk with TD and Dispatch during Kingsbury Grade responses;
- Silver will be our primary tactical for all incidents other than wildland fires;
- White 2 is now called V Fire 22, White 3 is V Fire 23;
- Wildland tactical at the Lake is V Fire 26;
- Please leave apparatus radios on Leviathan so you can hear the talk-around frequency in event of a firefighter may-day when the tactical channel is crowded. Handhelds can be placed on the appropriate site (Central or North/South);
- Tahoe Douglas will be on the Valley Fire frequency for calls on Highway 50;
- We are trying to work with Eastern Alpine County Fire to place all radio traffic on Valley Fire.

My Expectations

Many have asked what my expectations will be as the Operations Chief, so I have some of them written below for you:

- Respect rank – follow our chain of command when addressing problems.
- Be nice and get along.
- Do your job well.
- Fess up when you mess up.
- We are responsible to the public but accountable to each other. Hold each other accountable.
- Be open to change.
- Ethics are a key to success.
- Remember our mission, vision and values. We always exist to serve the public not ourselves.
- If you complain about something, have a couple of solutions ready.

I hope you can see all of the opportunity that we have here at East Fork. Many of the things we have been working on for some time are bearing fruit. This is an outstanding time to be associated with East Fork. Much more work needs to be done, so roll up your sleeves!