

# DISTRICT NEWS



EAST FORK FIRE AND  
PARAMEDIC DISTRICTS

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



## From the Chief's Desk....

The past several months have seen the districts respond to several significant incidents both within and outside the district boundaries. This is not to forget the tragic string of fatal accidents that we responded to, nine in total, between April and June of this year.

As an organization we continue to demonstrate our ability to get the job done and to do so under some very difficult circumstances. We have also demonstrated, as an organization, it takes an incredible effort by ALL. Whether you happen to be the first responder on a staffed rig, the volunteer operating a water tender or rehabilitation unit, or a staff member on call back working with a volunteer to make up the crew on a rescue, it takes all of us to make it happen. I am exceedingly proud of all of you who participated in our most recent events, and while I don't like to single out any specific group or individual, I must offer commendations to those who responded to the IHOP incident in Carson City. I was extremely proud of each and every one of you. For anyone to ever think that that type of situation can't happen here, a reassessment of your individual security and safety should be a consideration. I know it has been for me.

The Ray-May Fire was one of the largest fires we have had in quite a while. In fact, it will be the most expensive fire we have had to pay for in our history. More on that in a minute. The Ray May Fire also was the first fire that I can remember in recent history which was managed by the district (in unified command with BLM) beyond the first operational period. In fact, we maintained incident management for three days. I am particularly pleased with our capability in that regard. While I don't want to consider our incident management group for this fire as a "Type 3 Team" it certainly represented a strong Type 3 structure. We were able to fill the major positions of a Type 3 organization and in my opinion, successfully. It was only until the number of personnel working the fire (over 600), a couple of injuries, a high number of aircraft being used, and concerns over land rehabilitation, did we (EFFPD and BLM) jointly elect to transfer the management of the incident to a Type 2 Team.

Now, as for the cost. We entered into a two party cost share agreement with the BLM. Unlike most fires of this type, we had a significant amount of private "range" land involved, thus driving the burned acre cost to an excessively high number, at least in terms of what we are normally confronted with. The estimated East Fork costs are going to exceed the quarter of a million dollar amount. Fortunately, we do have the funds in our emergency fund. The final adjudication of cost will be a few months down the road.

The second "large" fire was of course the Holbrook Fire. We once again were able to assemble a strong Type 3 structure and managed this fire from beginning to end for the most part. Once again, we encountered a significant portion of the fire being on private lands, thus driving the cost. We were fortunate to secure a Fire Management Assistance Grant which will cover 75% of our direct costs. This grant was successful due to the high number of homes at risk. This is something that we did not have in the Ray-May Fire. Once again, some awesome firefighting efforts were exhibited on this fire, especially in the area of Breccia Way once the wind changed direction. The efforts of the ground forces, including the dozer work, were in my opinion responsible for the containment of that aspect of the fire. This incident, like others, demonstrated the fact that it takes the entire organization, both staff and volunteers, working with our mutual aid resources to get the job done. A good job by all.

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Certain elements of the Standards of Cover have been in their trial phases for about a month now. Over all, the feedback that I have been hearing has been positive. We certainly have been able to “test” the proposed system changes with the recent events, i.e. IHOP incident and the two wildland fires. We are making adjustments as necessary and as issues develop. What we are attempting to do is perhaps one of the most important things that we should be doing at a time where organization growth is being limited by the economic situation. We are setting the stage for making some significant future decisions in personnel needs, new roles for our volunteers, apparatus acquisitions, and certainly policy and procedures once we start to see some economic recovery. When that might occur is anyone’s guess, but I am sure it will happen. I want to continue to encourage everyone to allow the process to work through to completion. We need to make the best possible decisions we can based on what we experience and adjust to during this trial period.

Speaking about economics, I would not feel that I was being honest with the organization if I didn’t tell you that I do have some concerns with budget and revenues.

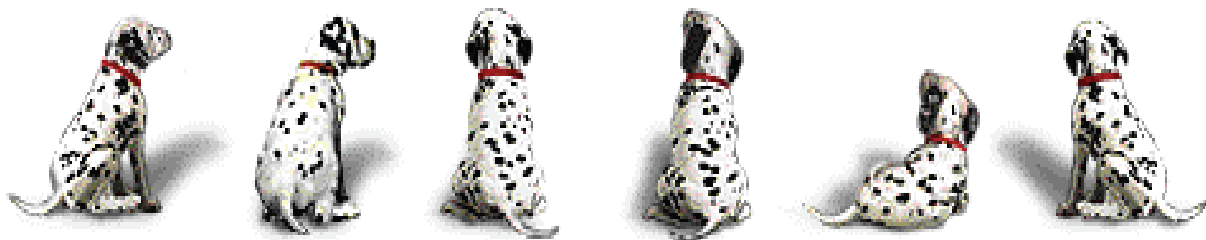
We will be looking at crafting a very preliminary budget at the end of this month under a zero based budgeting method. We are fortunate to have some variables removed from the process, i.e. association contracts and the state legislature. We should be able to develop some finite numbers in most areas. Staff overtime is a critical concern. The fires and several injuries both in line of duty and not, have placed a strain on the overtime budget. We also will be faced with an increase in employee health insurance.

On the revenue side, we are only seeing a slight increase in ambulance revenue, as call volume appears to be on the rise. We have developed a “tiered” response to revenue shortfalls that I hope we won’t have to resort to. We did the same thing last year, however, instead of having 14 tiers in our plan like last year, we are now down to 10. In other words, our options are becoming somewhat limited. Sorry for the budget woes, but I feel it is important that you understand the challenges that we may be facing. We will also have a better picture once the annual audit is completed sometime in late November or early December.

Now, to end on a positive note. On October 10th, Mr. Tim Soule will join our organization as the Deputy Fire Chief of Training and Safety. Mr. Soule was selected from an original pool of 18 individuals. Deputy Chief Fogerson and I are working on a “transition” and “indoctrination” plan for Tim. Some responsibilities will be assumed from day one, others will take some time. We are hoping to have Tim fully assimilated into the organization within nine months. I would ask for everyone to certainly welcome Tim and his family to the organization and to allow him time to get to know our organization.

I also want to commend Deputy Chief Fogerson on two points. One for his time served in charge of the Training and Safety Division and most recently, being able to wear two hats in managing not only the Operations Division, but also Training and Safety.

As always thank you for your fine efforts and please keep up the good work. What you all do IS recognized!



# Prevention Perspectives

Steve Eisele, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal

## Juvenile Firesetter Program

Juvenile firesetting has been identified as the fastest growing fire threat in the United States. Annual statistics show that more than 300 people are killed, and nearly \$300 million dollars in property is destroyed by fires set by children. More than 30-percent of the victims are the children themselves.

### CHILDREN AND FIRE CAN BE A DEADLY COMBINATION - THE FACTS

- Nearly 34-percent of the victims of child-set fires are the children themselves.
- Nationally, playing with fire is the leading cause of death in residential fires for young children.
- At home, children often play with fire in the bedroom – where lots of things catch on fire easily.
- Older children frequently play with fire outside the home, at the bus stop, or in vacant lots.
- Children are under the false impression that they can control the fires they set.
- Many children who set fires lack both parental supervision and fire safety education.
- Juveniles account for more than 50-percent of all arson arrests in the United States.
- Nationally, children who play with fire cause nearly 80,000 structure fires per year which result in approximately 760 deaths and more than 3,500 injuries.
- Juvenile firesetting does an estimated 1.2 billion dollars in damage annually.
- It only takes about two-minutes for the flame from a single match to set an entire room on fire, and less than five minutes for that fire to overtake an entire house.
- Juvenile arson and youth-set fires result in over 300 deaths and 2,000 injuries annually, and \$300 million in property damage and more than 400,000 incidents annually (USFA)
- Children playing with fire cause 40 percent of residential fire-related deaths among children.

### Why Children Set Fires

Before you can begin to understand firesetting behavior, you must first look at where and why children set fires. Experts believe that there are two basic types of children who start fires.

#### Curiosity Firesetters

Curiosity is the most common reason children play with fire. Children want to know how fire looks and feels, what it can do, and how it burns. They may also try to imitate adults by lighting candles, cigarettes and fireplaces. What begins as a natural exploration of the unknown can often lead to tragedy because children do not understand fire's destructive potential.

#### Problem Firesetters

Problem firesetters are generally between the ages of 5-17 and may set fires because of emotional or mental disturbances ranging from mild to severe. A change or crisis in the child's life such as a move, a divorce or a death could trigger firesetting behavior. Some behavioral traits that have been linked to firesetting

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## Questions & Answers

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### Is it normal for children to play with matches?

While curiosity about fire is common, some children light fires for other reasons. A change or crisis such as a move, death or divorce, may result in firesetting. This behavior can be the child's way of acting out fear or anxiety. Some children set fires to get attention or to oppose authority. Other behaviors in addition to firesetting may reflect more serious emotional problems and require the services of community mental health professionals. Proper intervention can help juveniles who set fires.

### Is it a phase?

Juvenile firesetting is extremely dangerous and should not be dismissed as a phase or simple curiosity. Do not ignore it! Left alone it may cause severe property damage or even loss of life. Early recognition and treatment of firesetting can help prevent tragedies in the future.

### My child lit a small fire, should I be concerned?

Every fire starts small. Fire moves fast and can get out of control very quickly. Any time a child starts a fire, he endangers himself and the people around him.

## What You Can Do

### Educate Your Children That:

- Fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Fire is dangerous and it can kill.
- All fires, even small ones, can spread quickly.

### Other Things You Can Do:

- Supervise children at all times - almost all fires start when children are unsupervised.
- Store matches and lighters in a secure place away from a child's reach.
- Occasionally check under your child's bed and inside the closets for burned match. Parents often discover the first signs of evidence that a child may be playing with fire.
- Use a "Don't Touch!" approach with children under 5 years old. Teach older children to bring matches to you. Reward them with praise when they do.
- If an older child is curious about matches, demonstrate the proper and safe way to use them. Explain that it is important to use matches only when an adult is present.

### Practice Home Fire Safety

- Install and maintain smoke alarms.
- Know two ways out of every room.
- Show children how to crawl low under smoke.
- Teach your children how to STOP, DROP and ROLL, if their clothes catch on fire and how to COOL a burn and CALL 9-1-1.
- Set a good example and make fire safety a family matter.
- Create and practice a family fire escape plan.

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## When to Seek Help

The number of fires set by children is growing. If you suspect or find evidence that your child is setting fires, you should be concerned!

### Juvenile Firesetter Statistics

Source: Burn Institute

#### Percentage Amount/Ages in Yrs.

21% of children were 13 yrs.
16% of children were 15 yrs.
13% of children were 14 yrs.
10% of children were 16 yrs.
9% of children were 8 yrs.
8% of children were 12 yrs.
6% of children were 7 yrs.
5% of children were 5 yrs.
5% of children were 10 yrs
3% of children were 9 yrs.
3% of children were 11 yrs.
1% of children were 6 yrs.

#### IGNITION SOURCE

Matches	34%
Lighters	51%
Fireworks	6%
Matches/Lighter	0
Matches with Flammable Liquid	0
Gas Stove with Flammable Liquid	0
Miscellaneous Other	3%
Lighter with Flammable Liquid	3%
Explosive Device	0
Candles	3%
Electrical	0

The East Fork Fire and Paramedic Districts (Burn Institute's) Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program works directly with your family to provide valuable fire and burn prevention education including the consequences of playing with fire.

The Juvenile Firesetter Program consists of one 2-hour session held at the Burn Institute. It requires the participation of the child and at least one parent or guardian. The session is set in a casual setting where confidential interviews are conducted with the child and parent to determine the reason behind the firesetting behavior. Trust is built through a mutual agreement, and at the end of the session, a contract is drawn up between the child, parent, and the Burn Institute stating that fire is a tool and needs to be used carefully and responsibly.

Please call Counter Technician Toni Braga at 775-783-6415 to make an appointment. The program is managed by Fire Inspector John Babcock with certified Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialists Deputy Chief Steve Eisele, Captain Terry Taylor, Captain Dave Norvell, Paramedic/Firefighter Heidi Neilson, and Counter Technician Toni Braga.

These statistics (in the table at the left) reflect a larger populated area, however, are consistent with our experiences over the last 7 years our program has been in operation. If you have questions concerning the Juvenile Intervention Program please contact Fire Inspector John Babcock.

# TRAINING DIVISION

By Deputy Chief Dave Fogerson

Wow – October already – this year has flown by! Here is a recap of some of our significant activities!

## New Hire

Welcome to Cameron Peek who replaces Joel Greenfield. Greenfield resigned and left us for Sac Metro Fire. Peek comes to us from Elko Fire. Peek is assigned to B shift; Patrick Hughes moved from B shift to C shift to fill the Firefighter/Paramedic opening created by Greenfield.



## Welcome

Welcome also to Tim Soule, our new Deputy Chief of Training and Safety. I look forward to working with Tim. He brings some new experiences to East Fork that will help us continue to grow as an organization.

## Captain Testing

Congratulations go out to Paul Azevedo, Jamie Buck, Sky Dwinell and Roy Minor for their recent move to the acting captain position. Matt Kruse is our new acting training captain. Please welcome these individuals to their new roles with our organization.

## Significant Incidents

The summer has had a host of significant incidents where East Fork members displayed their customary outstanding efforts. We have seen the tragedies of nine motor vehicle fatalities along with Carson's IHOP shooting. We have also seen three wildland fires and a structure fire. Our call volume projects out for 5,200 calls this year – an increase of 500 calls over last year. We will have to wait and see if this continues to hold.

## Preparation for Winter Operations

With winter coming up, please make plans for the following winter preparation items:

**-EMS certifications:** Those of you who hold EMS certifications, please coordinate with Captain Brawley to make sure we get all of your recertification information. State EMS is now holding us more responsible for the accuracy of your paperwork. You must have a training report submitted for each CME you denote on your paperwork.

**-Chimney fires:** we always have the potential for chimney fires as folks start firing up their heating devices for the first time. Remember that we extinguish the fire in the firebox and allow the steam to travel up the flue rather than applying water down the chimney and creating a mess inside the residence.

**-Cold patients:** Make sure we are ready with blankets to cover those patients as we move them out of the house into the cold towards the ambulance.

**-Station once over inspections:** While the weather is still good – GET OUTSIDE and look around the station. Is there trash? Are the downspouts still intact? Get maintenance requests into Support Services before the winter comes.

**-Carbon monoxide emergencies:** With the use of heating devices, our responses to carbon monoxide incidents will increase. Make sure you are familiar with where the four-gas monitors are located in the District and your role for these incidents. We do have some pulse oximeter/carbon monoxide detectors we can use on patients to determine COHb levels.

## Civilian Ride Along Program

The chief officers have finished an updated ride along procedure so we can have non-fire district members ride along once again. While these are not that frequent, educational ride along requests are quite frequent during the Fall with college EMT classes. Please make sure you are familiar with the procedure.

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### Cell Phones

Training Division, Continued from Page 6

We are undergoing a change to Verizon phone service as opposed to our current Nextel, Verizon and ATT mix. This change is possible due to two new towers within our District providing better coverage for us. We have eliminated cell phones from volunteer apparatus because of budget concerns and their lack of use. Two spare cell phones are kept at the District Office when volunteer companies need to use one (i.e. off-district assignments).

### Battalion Chief Test

We are still planning a battalion chief test in the spring of 2012, so get those fire officer-2 task books completed!

### EMS Hallmarks

Our EMS Committee is working on updating the protocols. I have also asked them to review a committee charter and EMS vision for East Fork. The current vision includes the following hallmarks for EMS delivery: **Patient advocacy, Clinical excellence, Customer satisfaction, Response time reliability, and Responder and Patient safety.**

### Standards of Cover

I tried to hide this one in the middle of the article for those of you that are determined to read it all! We are a month into our trials for the Standards of Cover. Some of the items are working flawlessly while others are in need of evaluation. The chief officers will be getting together shortly to discuss everything. Please remember to provide feedback to your Battalion Chief.

Speaking of Battalion Chiefs, they should be out to your volunteer station shortly to see how things are going. Better utilization of this critical management position is key to us.

All of these changes we are trying out with the standards of cover provides us the opportunity to retool ourselves for the every changing needs of our community. Please take advantage of this period of change to evaluate what you can do differently to produce better outcomes.

## **GET OUT AND TRAIN – CALL YOUR LOCAL CAREER STATION OR VOLUNTEER STATION AND DO SOMETHING WHILE THE WEATHER IS NICE!**



My name is Cameron Peek. I was born in Bishop, California to Bobby and Patricia Peek on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1982. I have one younger brother by two years who is a Sheriff's Deputy for Humboldt County. My wife's name is Marissa, and I have a six month old boy named Brayln. My wife was born and raised in Reno. She is currently a stay at home mom, but she is preparing to return to work as a cosmetologist. We currently live in Spanish Springs, with family, and we are looking into buying our first home.

I grew up in Eureka, Nevada where I attended high school and was a three sport athlete. When I graduated in 2001, I moved to Reno, and attended the University of Nevada for nursing. During my freshman year I took a job with Saint Mary's ER as an EMT/Tech. I came to realize that I did not want to go to nursing school, and my English teacher pointed me in the direction of the Fire Service. I enrolled at TMCC in the spring of 2002, and began the process of attaining my AAS degree in fire science. I got my degree in 2005, and during that time I tested in multiple departments in Nevada and surrounding states. I was hired by the City Elko in August of 2008. I stayed in Elko for three years where I got married and had my first child. When the opportunity arose to apply for East Fork I took it. I started on August 29<sup>th</sup> and look forward to serving Douglas County and its citizens for the remainder of my career.

Thank you for the opportunity, Cameron