

May – June 2024

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

by Chief Jack Rosevear



Calls for Service: April 22-May 20

Medical Aid- 9

Vehicle Accident- 1

Aircraft Incident- 1

Lift Assist- 1

Public Assist- 3

Congratulations to FF/EMT Austin Eby who graduated from Firefighter 1 academy on May 17 from American River College. Tony Christensen, Trevor Dillender and Angel Rosevear will be graduating from Sierra College Firefighter 1 & 2 Academy on June 2. We are proud of these four men, who will embark on a great career in the fire service. Firefighter academy training is funded by our FEMA SAFER grant.

We have recruited three experienced fire personnel, who will be coming on board soon to assist Chief Dwyer with training and supervision of our firefighters. Two of the three are certified paramedics, adding to two already on staff. One will assume the position of Battalion Chief and the other two Captains. Lieutenant Ryan Howard will be promoted to the position of Captain. We are excited about these new additions as fire season approaches.

Fire Season 2024 will soon be upon us. Cal Fire burn permits are required until they declare a burn ban for fire season. We would anticipate the burn ban to be announced within the next few weeks, if not sooner. Our staff is currently training and preparing for the fire season. Cal Fire will be in full operation, with all stations staffed. There are almost ten fire (hand) crews available, going into the season, with camps at Growlersburg and Cameron Park. Aircraft (helo & fixed wing) are currently available and will be fully staffed by the end of June.

County DOT announced the closure of the Mosquito Bridge for annual maintenance from May 28 - August 4. In the event of a fire evacuation while the road is closed, the Support Group has procedures in place to reopen Mosquito, if possible. If not possible, or delays, the safe refuge area is the Swansboro Airport, until Sheriff's Deputies arrive to manage the evacuation. Our procedures also restrict vehicles leaving out Rock Creek Road, to allow responding fire engines to safely respond in. Evacuation procedures are reviewed and updated often. Copies of the evacuation plan are available through Shar Fields at Station 75 (email [admin75@mfpd.us](mailto:admin75@mfpd.us)).

On Thursday July 25th at 6:00pm, the District will be hosting a town-hall meeting at Station 75 to discuss evacuation procedures and preparedness issues related to home and community protection. Personnel from Sheriff OES, Cal Fire, USFS, County DOT and Shimmick Construction will be attending to answer questions and coordinate resources. More information will be forthcoming.

We have submitted grant applications to FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) program, which we have had past success for training and equipment. The new applications request a replacement Type 6 Fire Engine (\$327,380), updated portable radios (\$60,569), breathing air compressor (\$76,213). Awards will be announced beginning April 30. We have submitted the application for the FEMA SAFER staffing program to request three full time positions to staff the Station (\$1,241,460). We have applied for a grant extension of residual funds from our previous volunteer Recruitment and Retention Grant (\$139,016). This will allow purchase of a number of items and services for marketing to recruit new volunteers.

We have completed purchasing for the Cal Fire 50/50 grant (\$20,000). Items purchased included 5 Bendix King portable radios, training fire shelters, forceable entry tools, wildland hose, nozzles, and fittings. We have applied again for the next open application period in May for 2025 purchasing.

In the Fall of 2023, our District was awarded \$666,320 from the FEMA SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) program. The grant was applied for in February 2023 and we were successful in the first round of awards. This gives us another four years of grant funding for our productive volunteer program, which has resulted in the fire station being staffed 24/7 for over two years. The funding covers volunteers' stipend pay for shift coverage and response to emergencies, training classes, new volunteer expenses including physicals, background checks, uniforms and safety gear, support of the Explorer program, salary and benefits for a volunteer coordinator (Fire Captain), and more. Residual money from the current grant ending in December 2023 can be used for enhanced marketing and other volunteer support needs. Many thanks for grant writing efforts by Meredith Blain and Didi Everhart (Gatchell Grant Resources-Canton, OH). We are currently awaiting the results of a parallel SAFER grant application for full time station staffing (3 positions - 1 firefighter/supervisor 24/7/365).

Our Fire District staff is fully committed to our Community. We stand ready to assist our residents with any needs they may have, to prepare, support and provide the most up to date information. We are happy to conduct an interior or exterior fire safety inspection upon your request. Please call us at 530-626-9017 or stop by the station.

This concludes my report. It has been an honor serving this Community and the members of our District. As a member of the Community myself, I am proud of what our District has accomplished and the level of extra effort the group gives, in dedication to the Community. The spirit of commitment and dedication to volunteering is very strong. We appreciate the great support we receive from the Community and its commitment to being prepared. As the District moves forward, please give your best support to Chief Dwyer, the Board of Directors and our great staff.