

March – April 2024

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

by Chief Jack Rosevear



Calls for Service: February 22- March 25

Medical Aid- 5

Assist Citizen stranded in Forest- 1

Lift Assist- 1

Water Main Break- 1

Check Burn Pile- 1

Public Assist- 3

Congratulations to Firefighter Scott Montgomery, who recently completed EMT academy through Sacramento State University. Scott will complete his National Registration Test and El Dorado County certification within the next few weeks. Scott is a local resident, a professional plumber with previous firefighting experience, out of state. He started his first shift at Station 75 on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Scott's son, Mecklin, has joined the Department as an Explorer Scout.

Fourteen members of the Support Group are participating in Title 22 Public Safety First Aid, which involves 24 hours of hands on training, in addition to ongoing training. The training certifies participants in the administration of Narcan, Glucose, Epinephrine (anaphylaxis) and advanced bleeding control. The class was certified by the County of El Dorado EMS Agency and delivered by El Dorado Hills Fire Department Training Division. There will be on-going training of the group by our EMTs and Paramedics, which forms a basic Medical Response Group, to assist duty firefighters, as needed. The added personnel having certified medical skills training will be a tremendous benefit to our community, to compensate for the long response times paramedics have to get to our incidents. For critical patients, the Support Group will continue to meet the dispatched air ambulance and transport the flight crew to the patient (when the medic ambulance is not yet in the area).

We are currently onboarding a new firefighter, who is a current EMT. He will complete his physical and background check, which will include his El Dorado County EMT certification. Upon successful completion he will begin orientation shifts within three weeks. There is another firefighter candidate which will start the onboarding process in the next 30 days.

Austin Eby, Tony Christensen, Trevor Dillender and Angel Rosevear continue each day in Firefighter 1 academy at Sierra and American River Colleges. They will graduate in June. This is a very intense program, requiring the firefighters to attend academy and related training (or physical training), seven days a week. Both EMT and Firefighter 1 training are funded by our FEMA SAFER Grant.

We are currently preparing wildland firefighter training for Fire Season 2024 and in the process of recruiting additional firefighters and part-time supervisors for the upcoming fire season.

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), and breathing air compressor (\$76,213). Awards will be announced beginning April 30. We are currently working on the application for the FEMA SAFER staffing program to request three full time positions to staff the Station. The deadline for that application is April 12<sup>th</sup>. We are currently being considered for a grant extension of residual funding from our previous volunteer Recruitment and Retention Grant (\$117,000). This will purchase a number of items and services for marketing to recruit new volunteers.

We have completed purchasing 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 will apply 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). I have posted a success story about our grant experiences on the US Congressional website for SAFER and AFG staffing. The District has also been awarded \$10,000 from Cal Fire for wildland PPE and equipment to be spent in the Spring 2024 (50/50 grant- \$10,000 matching from District- \$20,000 purchase total).

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.