

August – September 2024

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

by Chief Eddie Dwyer



TO THE COMMUNITY:

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the overwhelming positive response to the community wide evacuation, at the onset of the Crozier Fire. I also want to express my great admiration and appreciation to our Support Group and Firefighter personnel who provided the highest level of services to this community with a resilient show of force on the Fireline and for in district emergency response.

More information to follow at the September Board Meeting.

I am currently out of town attending the memorial services of my Aunt Delia who has been my lifelong second mother. She passed away Thursday August 8th at the height of the Crozier Fire. I will be back in the district Tuesday August 27.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

As Chief Rosevear's tenure came to an end, along with my assumption of command as interim Fire Chief, we have overcome many operational challenges. For the Fire District to continue to move forward into the future it is imperative that the operations evolve to be responsive to current funding limitations and capabilities of our personnel to deliver emergency services to the community.

This requires a dynamic global view that allows a progressive change from what we have done to what we must do. We are in the process of re-organizing the operations side of the Fire District. We have been blessed with the return of highly experienced previous Command Officers to our rolls, we have recruited new volunteer Firefighters, six who are fully trained, one who is currently undergoing training towards Firefighter I qualifications along with the recruitment of our 4th Paramedic who has been granted a provisional accreditation and can perform Advanced Emergency Medical Skills on a limited basis.

By the end of this quarter, we will be presenting an organizational chart that establishes the change required for the district to be successful and to be in line with ongoing operational strategic planning. This plan will have a broad scope and be presented to the board by years end. With the expectation of implementation in January 2025.

The Fire District has made considerable leaps and bounds in a professional direction since June of last year. We have hired professional command personnel who have brought great depth to our staffing cadre. We continue to attract the best of the El Dorado County Fire Service who see a value in what is being done here and wish to be part of the dynamic changes necessary to provide the highest level of service to this community.

The Fire District now employs a Fire Service Medal of Valor Recipient, a collegiate educator for the National Fire Academy, which is our nation's premiere Fire Training Facility, two Volunteer

Assistant Chiefs, one Volunteer Battalion Chief, 3 Volunteer Fire Captains, 4 highly experienced Fire Service Paramedics.

Our command Staff provides to the community, a cumulative 150 years of Fire Service Experience

Part of the restructuring will include an Operational Communications Group, which will be separate from the Districts Information Committee. The focus is not to take away from the work of the communications committee, but to focus on the needs for immediate information necessary at the onset of emergencies that are impacting the community and District Emergency Operations. It will also provide my office the platform necessary to respond to the community in real-time.

As with any significant change, the Fire District has experienced growing pains and will continue to do so through the necessary transformations. As the Organizational Evolution moves from infancy to maturation, the growing pains will subside as our advancements become evident throughout the new year.

Goals:

1. Hire mid-level Command Fire Captain, a position that is funded through our annual budget.
2. Expand training for our EMS Corp to include Emergency Medical Technician Level. This will increase the skill level to assist our on-duty Firefighters. The implementation of our Support Group EMS Medical Corp has shown great promise of continued success. To achieve a greater level of service to our community we will recruit from current medically trained Support Group Personnel to attend Emergency Medical Technician courses through local colleges.
3. We are also seeking a reassignment of an OES Type VI Engine. And investigate the purchase of a retired OES Type I engine. These Engines come fully equipped with rescue equipment, hand tools, chain saws, nozzles and sundry equipment. These engines sell for about \$40,000 fully equipped. Purchasing a retired OES engine will provide the district a change in water supply platforms from 3" Supply lines to 4" + water supply capability, with a 1000-gallon tank and 1500 GPM pump.
4. We will also investigate the purchase of a new/used Tactical Water Tender for future mutual aid deployment. Increasing deployment to Mutual Aid Fires can increase income to the district as well as increase the annual income earned by our personnel, thus increasing potential draw and easier continued recruitment of personnel.
5. Increase Support Group responsibilities and operational capabilities.
6. To continue focus on building a resilient Fire Command capability with the goal of reducing the fiscal impacts of personnel costs on the Fire District. Looking to work with the El Dorado County Regional Fire Authority to increase command presence and oversight as we seek the most appropriate and cost-effective leadership for the Fire District.
7. With the development of a resilient part time and volunteer command staff, it provides the Command and Managerial presence necessary to be successful in this endeavor.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION:

El Dorado County OES assisted in the delivery of a highly successful Evacuation Townhall meeting. The Fire District will look to host a meeting with our EDRFA Partners, CALFIRE and EDSO OES to review the successes of our recent community evacuation for the Crozier Fire.

Agencies to be invited:

California Highway Patrol.
El Dorado County Sheriff's Department.
Amador/El Dorado CALFIRE Unit.
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.
MFSC

SUPPORT GROUP TRAINING:

We are currently looking into training programs that can be delivered to the community quarterly. We will investigate the possibility of conducting a CPR Train the Trainer course sometime before the end of spring 2025.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Equipment and Apparatus Status:

All Fire Apparatus will undergo a full readiness evaluation. A maintenance and repair cost analysis will be written and submitted to the Board by the end of this year

Engine 275 has received the required repairs and is in service.

Water Tender 75 has a cracked tank. The water Tank has a lifetime warranty and we will seek repairs through the manufacturer. Water Tender 75 remains in service while we work to have the repairs made.

Recruitment & Retention:

Nothing to report

Requests for Service:

In September I will return to providing information on requests for service.

Logistics:

Nothing to report

FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION / EL DORADO COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY:

I will begin to provide information obtained from attendance of the County Fire Chiefs Association and EDRFA meetings for the September Board Meeting.