

Chiefs Update July 2021

Considering a zoom error and subsequent postponement of our July Board meeting, I am providing my Chiefs report for public posting and distribution to the Fire Board.

July 15, 2021

Wildfire Season: As everyone is acutely aware, the drought has magnified an already challenging wildfire risk for the Western States; California and Marin County are no exception. Our live fuel moistures and fuel conditions are several months ahead of normal drying. As part of the greater mutual aid system, Ross Valley Fire continues supporting the Statewide effort to limit the destruction. We currently have our Type III (wildland engine) deployed with four personnel as part of a strike team to Beckworth Complex on the Plumas National Forest.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator: After considerable effort and interest in establishing a new position of Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, our recruitment did not yield a candidate willing to accept the job. We remain committed to moving forward, we will work with the management team over the next month to review options and return to your Board in August with an update.

SAFER Grant: FEMA has not released any awards for the 2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. As your Board is aware, we did submit a grant application and will bring this back to your Board as a policy item once FEMA notifies us of our grant status. We expect FEMA will start issuing award notices in the next several months.

Fairfax Interim Town Manager: We would like to welcome Adam Politzer as the Fairfax Interim Town Manager. Many of you are familiar with Adam from his role as Sausalito City Manager. We look forward to working with Adam as the Town of Fairfax works to appoint a new Manager.

In-person Board Meetings: We are looking forward to the return of in-person meetings, which will probably be in October.

Station 18: Work continues surrounding the options associated with the Ross Fire Station. At your Board's direction, the Management Committee continues to develop costing scenarios around the four options. We plan to return to your Board with additional information at the next meeting.