



2020 Annual Report

Respectfully Submitted by,
Tim Cordero, Fire Chief

Mission Statement

We are dedicated to providing professional and courteous service to our citizens and communities with Pride, Trust & Integrity

Core Values

Professionalism

Respect

Integrity

Dedication

Excellence

About the District

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District is located on the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada's between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe. The fire district covers approximately 281 square miles, protecting a population of 75,000 residents. The district provides all-risk services to the City of Placerville, which is also the County seat, along with the communities of Pollock Pines, Camino, Pleasant Valley, Shingle Springs, Coloma/Lotus, Cool, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and Red Hawk Casino. Within the district are several destinations for recreation, including world class rafting on the American River, the Crystal Basin region of the El Dorado National Forest, and Apple Hill in Camino. These destinations, along with others, bring thousands of visitors to the District annually. US Highway 50, which is the main travel route to South Lake Tahoe, bisects the district and is a significant travel route for tourists year-round.

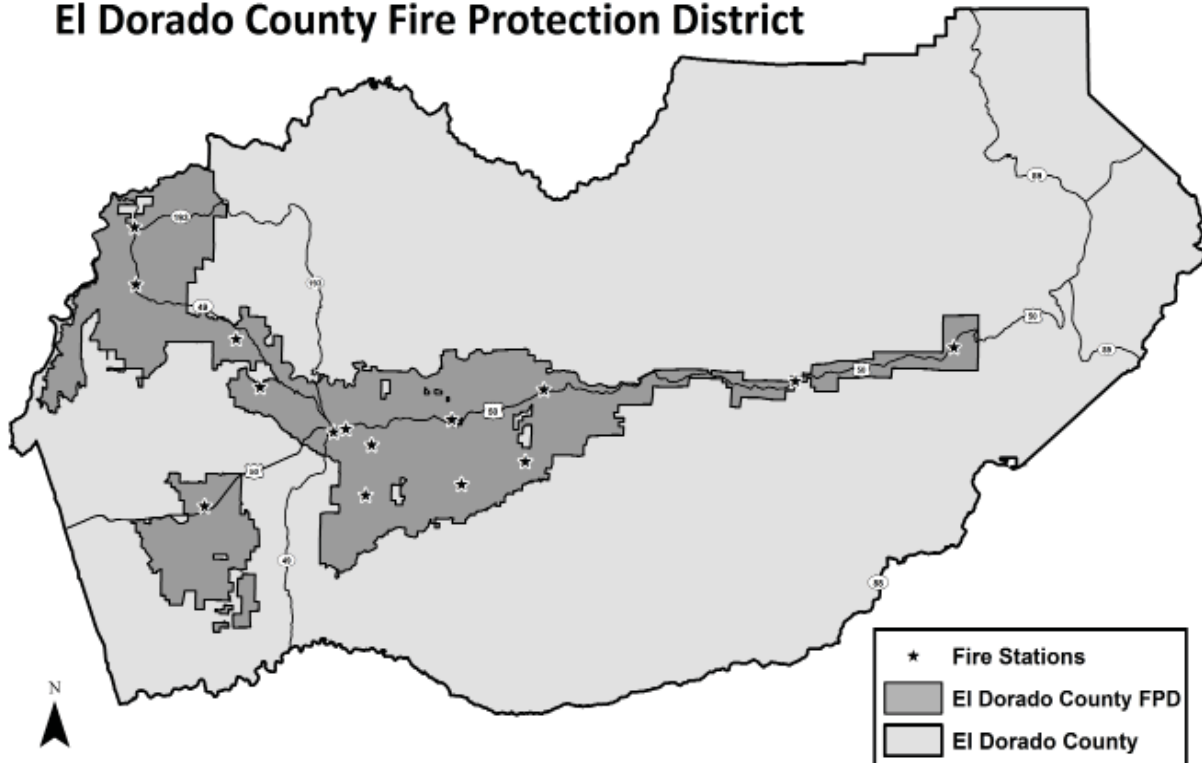
District Organization

The District is governed by a five-member, elected Board of Directors, representing all areas and residents of the District. The Fire District provides all-risk emergency services to the communities and citizens with 73 uniformed personnel staffing 6 engine companies and 4 ambulances, protecting an assessed valuation of \$7,651,567,127.00.

Our District has several operational and administrative divisions to meet the needs of our citizens and firefighters, such as:

- Fire Prevention and Investigations
- Training Division
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Fleet
- Facilities
- Operations
- Financial / Risk Analysis
- Human Resources

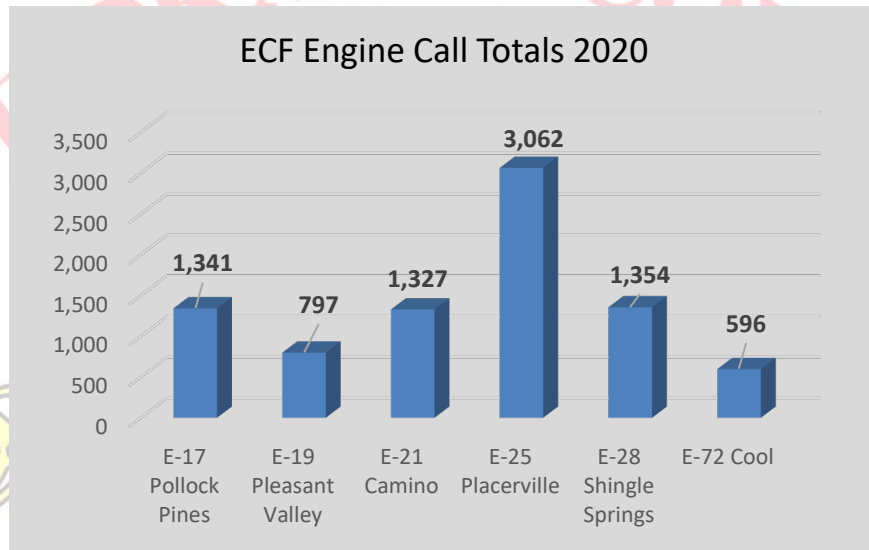
El Dorado County Fire Protection District



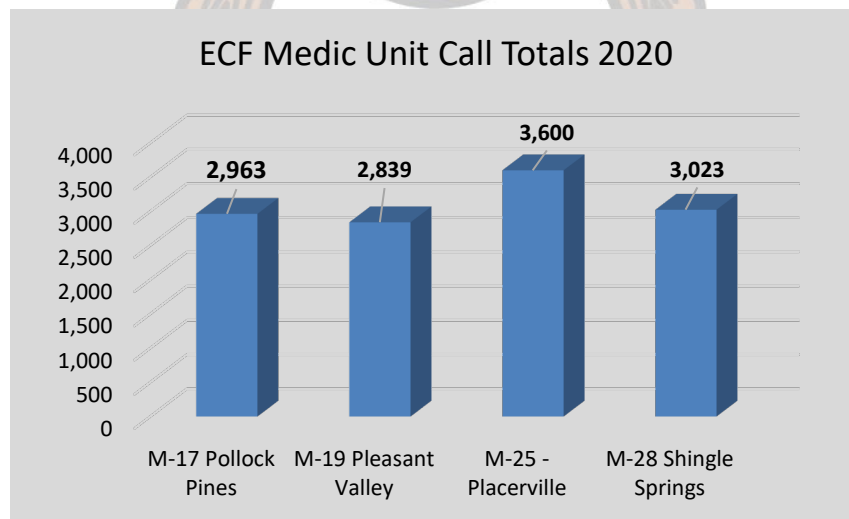
Calls for Service Emergency and Non-Emergency

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District continues to see an increased call for services on an annual basis. These increases in calls range from medical aids, vehicle accidents and wildfires. During the 2020 fire season, personnel from County Fire responded, as part of the state-wide mutual aid program, to fires across California and into Nevada. During the initial onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, our District, like many others, saw a significant decrease in calls for service. However, by June the call volume had begun to return to normal and increased levels. Our personnel continue to remain ever ready and committed to serving the citizens within our District and beyond.

Engine Company Response Statistics

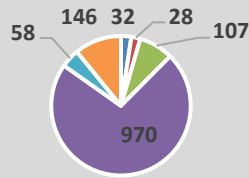


Medic Unit Response Statistics



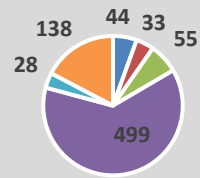
Engine Company Call Breakdown

E-17 Pollock Pines



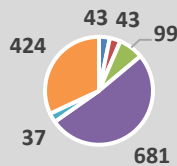
■ Vegetation Fires
 ■ Structure Fires
 ■ Other Fires
■ Medical
 ■ Hazardous
 ■ Public Assist

E-19 Pleasant Valley



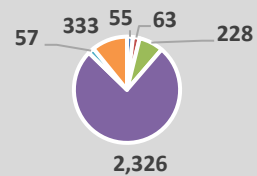
■ Vegetation Fires
 ■ Structure Fires
 ■ Other Fires
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 ■ Hazardous
 ■ Public Assist

E-21 Camino



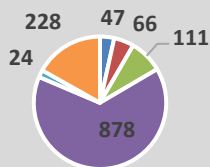
■ Vegetation Fires
 ■ Structure Fires
 ■ Other Fires
■ Medical
 ■ Hazardous
 ■ Public Assist

E-25 Placerville



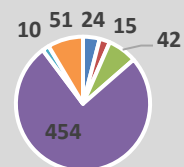
■ Vegetation Fires
 ■ Structure Fires
 ■ Other Fires
■ Medical
 ■ Hazardous
 ■ Public Assist

E-28 Shingle Springs



■ Vegetation Fires
 ■ Structure Fires
 ■ Other Fires
■ Medical
 ■ Hazardous
 ■ Public Assist

E-72 Cool

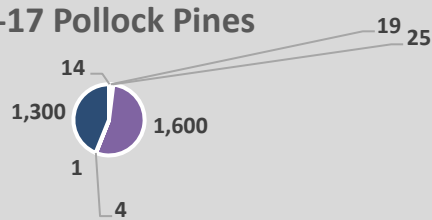


■ Vegetation Fires
 ■ Structure Fires
 ■ Other Fires
■ Medical
 ■ Hazardous
 ■ Public Assist

FIRE

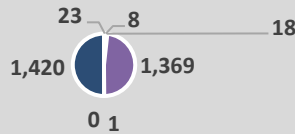
Medic Unit Call Breakdown

M-17 Pollock Pines



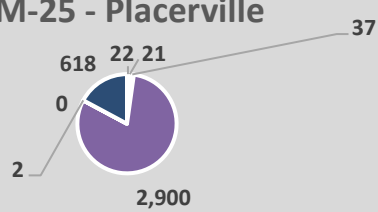
- Vegetation Fires
- Other Fires
- Hazardous
- Public Assist
- Structure Fires
- Medical
- Law Enforcement

M-19 Pleasant Valley



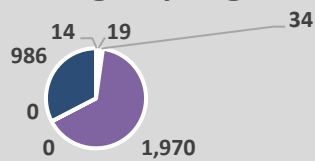
- Vegetation Fires
- Other Fires
- Hazardous
- Public Assist
- Structure Fires
- Medical
- Law Enforcement

M-25 - Placerville



- Vegetation Fires
- Other Fires
- Hazardous
- Public Assist
- Structure Fires
- Medical
- Law Enforcement

M-28 Shingle Springs



- Vegetation Fires
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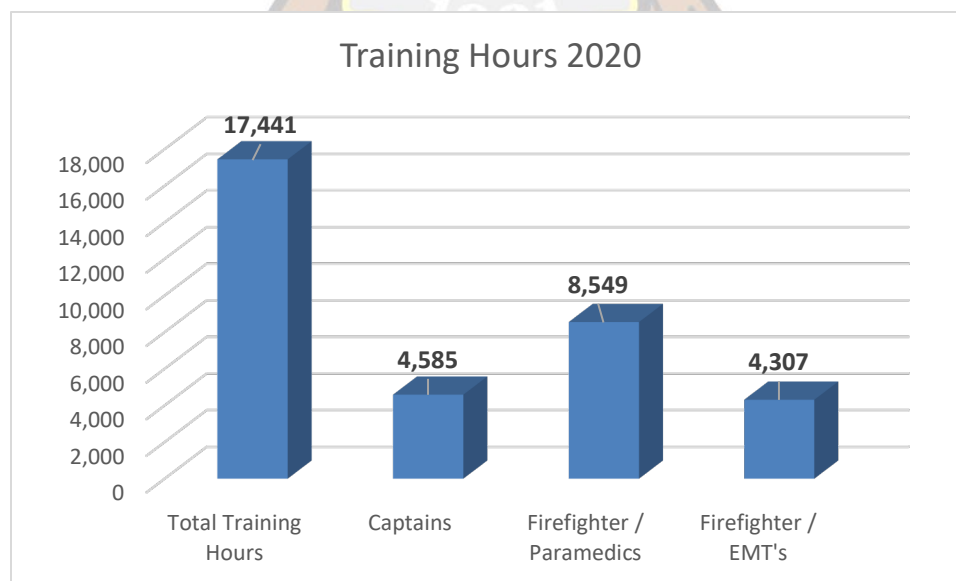
Training Division

All District training aspects are managed and supervised by the Training Division Chief. The District also supports multiple training cadres that are specific to various specialized training functions. Annual core trainings, which include State mandated trainings, are delivered through five individual eight-week training modules. Over the course of 2020, our personnel participated in a total of 17,441 hours of training. In addition to the required company level training, our firefighters also received specialized, multi-company drills in the following areas: live fire, auto extrication, high angle rescue, swift water rescue, wildland firefighting, large area search drills, RIC deployment, and commercial roof ventilation.

The District supports several special operations programs with additional training requirements and demands of those involved. These programs include:

- Tactical Paramedic Program (SWAT Medics) – 6 members
- USAR Task Force 7 – 5 members
- Swift Water Program – 20 qualified members

The training division is in the process of relocating our training site from Pony Express Trail to Station 23. Personnel, under the direction of the Training Officer, are locating five Conex Box containers to the new site. These containers will undergo fabrication and modifications for use as training props to provide high quality, realistic trainings for our firefighters.



Fire Prevention Bureau

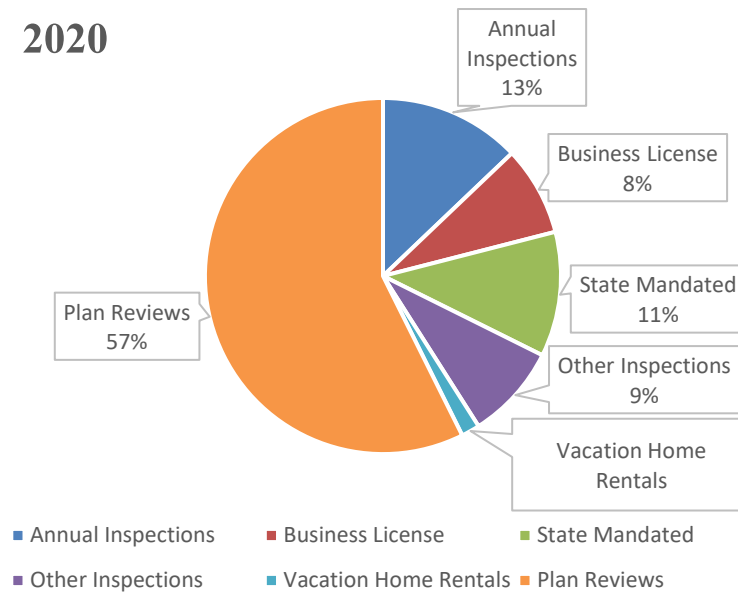
The El Dorado County Fire Prevention Bureau faced many challenges this past year. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for many assignments that directly affect the public and their fire knowledge/awareness, such as plan review and inspections. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the bureau's responsibilities and duties, especially for inspections. Because of COVID restrictions inspections were postponed. Currently, inspections can be completed following necessary protocol and are back on schedule to perform all state mandated inspections. One of the changes made that directly affected the bureau is the office is closed to the public. Because the public is not permitted inside, a new system was created for plan drop off and pick up. Public who have questions on their plans about requirements or measurements have been asked to email them. Since there has been an influx of emails, this has delayed our email response time and overall efficiency since there is no face-to-face interactions. Towards the end of the year there was a change in prevention personnel, specifically the inspector position. A transition period of about a week happened when the new inspector was shadowing to take over the duties of the previous inspector.

Fire Prevention Activity Totals for 2020

| <u>Inspections</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Annual Inspections | 100 |
| Business License | 63 |
| State Mandated | 88 |
| Other Inspections | 67 |
| Vacation Home Rentals | 13 |
| Plan Reviews | 445 |

Prevention

2020

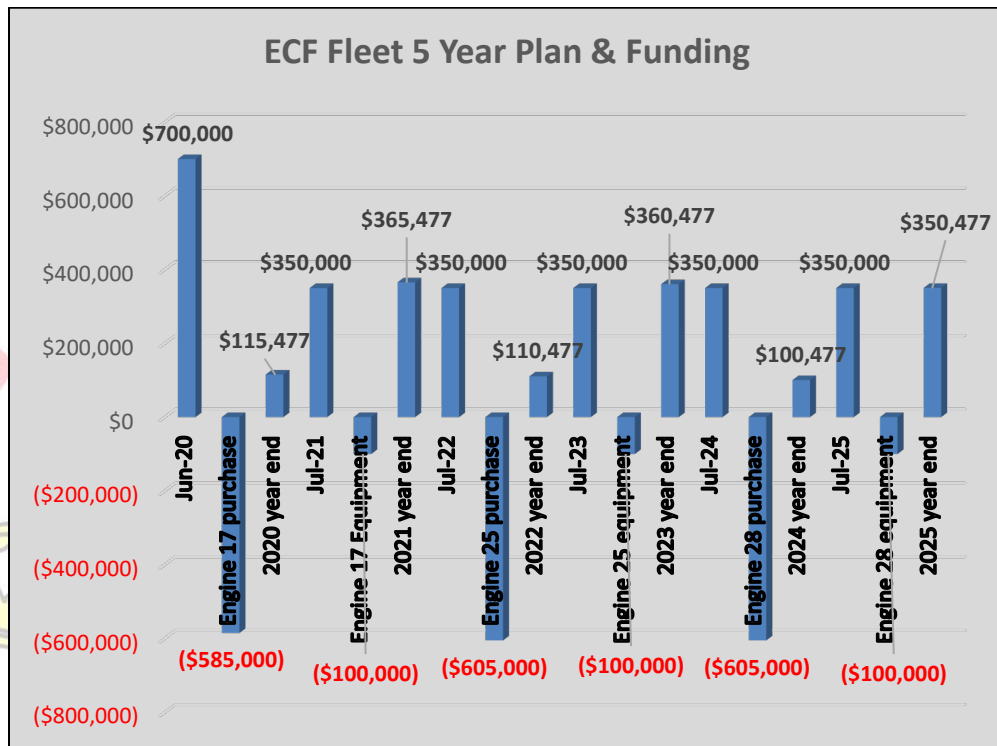


Apparatus & Fleet

Our apparatus fleet and equipment is managed by a Division Chief, who is responsible for the maintenance, repairs, and replacement plan. Our apparatus undergoes routine maintenance, annual maintenance and required certification when applicable. This also includes the annual pump testing of all fire apparatus. During 2020 there were several pieces of apparatus that were placed into service within the District: one Type 3 engine – in service as Engine 319, one Type 1 engine (previous OES engine) – in service as Engine 19, two command vehicles, rescue boat and trailer. The apparatus specifications committee also completed the specifications and ordering of a Type 1 engine – scheduled for delivery May of 2021 to replace Engine 17. The District is currently undergoing a change in business model and deployment of resources, our apparatus replacement “Five Year Plan” has been updated to reflect these changes. Challenges facing the apparatus & fleet division include, increasing costs to purchase and repair apparatus, and overall apparatus size. The geography and road systems within our District favor smaller apparatus, however, changes in emission requirements and NFPA recommendations have continued to require larger apparatus builds. Our apparatus specifications committee continues to work to find ways to keep apparatus size optimum for our District.

Since 2013, the District has allocated funds to our apparatus replacement fund. The initial annual funding was \$250,000. As the cost of apparatus has continued to increase, the

District recognized the need to increase this funding allocation to keep pace with rising costs. Our current annual allocation is now \$350,000 and will likely need to increase again in the years to come. By properly allocating the funds, this allows the district to own our fleet, entirely. The annual allocation allows for us to pay cash at the time of ordering apparatus, which yields a significant savings for pre-payment, further stretching our apparatus dollars to meet our needs. The following chart is an outline of our funding and planned purchases over the next five years.



Safety Officer

The District is committed to the safety of all our firefighters and the public. The past year has created an additional challenge to our normal safety operations with the addition of COVID-19 Global Pandemic. As the pandemic began to sweep across our region, the District had to respond with multiple policy changes to protect our work force. These changes included a closure of all El Dorado County Fire Stations to the public, on-going revisions to information and guidelines for crews, and additional PPE purchases.

Another function of our Safety Officer is the on-going review of the District Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's), when needs are identified these SOG's are updated to reflect current standards, and operational or administrative needs.

The District has long identified the need for a second set of turnouts for our personnel. The District had recently initiated a process to complete these purchases over the next 4-5 years, however, several issues, including COVID-19, elevated the need to make the purchase in a timely manner. The District purchased and issued a complete second set of turnouts to all our personnel which has significantly enhanced their health and safety. Coupled with the purchase were revisions to our SOG's regarding cleaning and inspection of all PPE.

The past summers have introduced all of us to Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (PSPS), the District has been involved both at a City and County level in working with PG&E before and during these events. Assisting in early notification and being a resource to our communities during these times is very important to ensure the public is both prepared and safe during these PSPS events.

Honor Guard

Our Honor Guard started off the year with our Change of Command Ceremony in early January. They were also preparing for several other events that typically utilize their personnel, such as District Promotions, parades, and other public events. Unfortunately, with COVID-19 many if not all these events were cancelled which limited the participation of our Honor Guard. We are looking forward to 2021 and hope to see their involvement in these events.

Critical Incident Stress Management – Peer Support Group

The members of our CISM team continue to maintain a state of readiness for any needs our personnel may have. Our District is truly blessed with the high level of commitment and training our team members have maintained, we also have a team member that is trained and certified at the National level with the IAFF as an instructor for Peer Support. As our crews continue to contend with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, our peer support team remains in contact with personnel to ensure the added stressors related to the pandemic are being mitigated for the overall health of our personnel.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

El Dorado County Fire Protection District continued in its contract with the JPA to staff and operate four of the eight medic units in El Dorado County. Each of these units are staffed 24/7 with 2 Firefighter Paramedics and/or EMT's and are stationed in Pollock Pines, Pleasant Valley, Placerville, and Shingle Springs. Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections are done in-house and needed repairs or service were coordinated with certified mechanics. El Dorado County Fire remains heavily involved in the JPA's coordination of medic unit replacement and the remount program. It was because of this District's suggestion, that led to the medic unit "remount program". This continually saves the JPA and county residents tens of thousands of dollars a year.

We continued to staff each of our medic units with personnel who were qualified at the Paramedic or EMT level, with at least one Paramedic on the unit, each shift. These first responders have many duties. On a medical aid, they perform an assessment of their patient, diagnose the cause, start treatment, then move the patient to the medic for transport to the hospital. They are required to notify the receiving hospital, transition care, ensure all documentation is submitted and the medic unit is cleaned and decontaminated before the next call. When not responding to medical aids, vehicle accidents, rescues, or fires; personnel are required to submit all paperwork for billing, resupply the medic unit, order the needed EMS supplies, participate in a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) peer review of other members patient care reports for compliancy and complete required training hours for the District and State. Since all our medic units are cross staffed with firefighters, they have the additional requirements of fire training, station maintenance and cleaning.

El Dorado County Fire Paramedics continued to show they perform at the highest level. With now a total of 8 Field Training Officers (FTO), we were able to accredit and perform readiness evaluations on all our in-coming probationary firefighters. With our available FTO's and the busiest medic unit(s) in the county, we are sought after by both CSUS and NCTI Paramedic programs to perform field internships. As well as other agencies requesting us to accredit their paramedics. Unfortunately, our FTO's were denied the chance to mold and certify future paramedics due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We plan on re-engaging in our FTO training as COVID-19 restrictions allow.

The SWAT-Medic program had multiple call outs last year. This inter-agency program provided our qualified Paramedics the chance to train and respond with the El Dorado County Sheriff- SWAT Team to incidents. With El Dorado County Fire Paramedics at the scene of an escalating incident, our personnel are ready to support and ensure that Law Enforcement has Advanced Life Support immediately.

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic many of our personnel stepped up to meet the challenge that Covid-19 placed on the system. Personnel received training to become qualified to both perform rapid COVID-19 testing and to administer the Moderna vaccination. This was done through inter-agency training with the EMSA of El Dorado County.

Facilities Report

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District has 14 Stations. Of those, seven stations are staffed with District employees, two are occupied under rental agreements, & one is shared. The overall condition of these stations can be described as “Fair”. With the age of these buildings ranging from 10 to 70 years old, maintenance is both a high priority and continuous.

It is this District's philosophy that firefighters make every attempt to perform station repairs that are within their scope of knowledge and abilities, to reduce costs and stretch our tax dollars to their fullest extent. Repairs that were performed in-house this last year include replacing doors, windows, painting stations, fixing plumbing leaks, repairing refrigerators, station generators, lawn mowers and much more. However, there were construction projects that we were unable to complete in house, these projects required an external contractor to perform. Large projects that were contracted out this year, include the replacement of a station generator, the replacement of water damaged flooring at Station 72, asphalt replacement to keep the office from flooding during heavy rains, and hazard tree removal from around stations.

We've completed two improvement projects this year, as a result of the District receiving Cares Act funding. All other upgrades were the result of needed repairs that were brought up to code or provided a potential cost savings to the District (i.e.: better warranty, durability, etc.).

The outlook for large projects this coming year include a partial update of Station 17 and repairs to Station 28's distressed walls in the South East corner. Building maintenance will again be a concern as four of our stations are over 60 years old and another five stations are over 40 years old.

Administratively, costs are tracked for each project. The larger projects required prevailing wage tracking through the California Department of Industrial Relations. Contracts for facility rental agreements were reviewed. Those that required renewal were signed & two that required submittal for reimbursement were pursued. Additionally, a new contract was signed for propane services that will result in a cost savings to the

District. On-line accounts were set up to monitor energy usage with the aspiration to pursue solar power. Detailed information on all stations was gathered for the Nexus Report.

Administration

In October of 2020 we celebrated the retirement of one of our Administrative Assistants who had been with the Fire District for over 35 years. While her retirement left us with some big shoes to fill, we brought on a new Administrative Assistant mid-year to begin the on-board training to keep our payroll division running smoothly.

Due to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to pivot away from some of our normal operations, such as, the in-take of fire prevention plans and projects with our stations closed to the public. Virtual meetings and conference calls became the “new normal”, our staff rose to the challenge to rapidly learn these systems and functions to adhere to local and state guidelines and restrictions.

The Administration and the Union Leadership partnered to begin taking an in-depth look at our overall operations, with a goal to capture opportunities to improve and strengthen our District. In December, the committee presented our plan to the Fire District Board of Directors, which was approved for implementation starting in January 2021.

Hiring and maintaining a consistent and tenured work force remains a challenge for the Fire District. The fire service across the nation needs qualified and experienced firefighters and paramedics, this has created significant challenges for us to retain personnel in this competitive environment. Our District is largely semi-rural, with limited growth, these factors coupled with a low Ad Valorem rate and limited revenue streams has impacted our attrition rate. During 2020 our District hired 8 firefighter/paramedics to keep our ranks filled.

The District conducted several promotional exams during the year. We partnered with Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire District for a joint Fire Captain promotional exam, we also conducted a Division Chiefs exam. One of the components of our business model change includes the introduction of an engineer’s position. This new position has required the creation of the engineer job requirements and testing criteria.

CARES Act Funding

The District applied for and received Cares Act Funding through El Dorado County to assist in unforeseen Covid-19 expenditures. This funding had to be tracked and in compliance with standards set by both the County and Federal governments.

This funding was greatly appreciated and aided our firefighters in many ways. In addition to purchasing our standard PPE, the District procured Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) units for each apparatus. These PAPR units provided our personnel the maximum protection against viruses when they had to perform advanced lifesaving procedures in the field. Cold weather PPE was purchased to protect responders while working in the winter months during the global pandemic and four extractors were purchased to assist our firefighters to disinfect and return their gear back into service faster. Finally, money was used to create maximum separation between crews while living at the stations.

In Closing...

The year of 2020 has been quite a year for EL Dorado County Fire Protection District. The District has faced many challenges, including COVID-19, however we have been able to overcome these hardships and be successful in providing the community the highest level of service. With our continued dedication we are able to deliver effective operational readiness and service to the community. The efforts put in by our operational and administrative divisions personnel has been outstanding during these onset challenges and their hard work has made our many achievements this year possible. The Districts achievements include a second set of turnouts for all personnel, apparatus replacement and ordering, completion of several LAFCO projects, completion of the updated Fire Impact Fee Study, and collaboration for a new business model from the JLMC. Although 2020 presented us with some challenges it has also provided us with strategies and tools to successfully combat 2021.

Respectfully,



Tim Cordero, Fire Chief
El Dorado County Fire Protection District