

SIERRA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1 2023 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



District Wide Operational Activities

- 57 responses to District incidents, including one mutual aid to Loyalton
- 48 training events
- More than twenty staff were trained at the 3rd annual regional (Plumas/Sierra) live fire training exercise conducted at the Regional Public Safety Training Center, Chief Connolly and Chief Russell of Beckwourth FPD took volunteers through drills at the Truckee Meadow College fire tower simulator
- Support and participation in regional Basic 32 wildland firefighting training
- Continued collaborative training with Tahoe National Forest (TNF) resources
- 110 days of supporting Tahoe National Forest with supplemental 1A resources (2 dozers)
- Explored Dispatch System modifications including potential use of Tablet Command software
- Qualified 3 members as Operator 1A and 1B and one EMT
- Multiple members participated in 2023 “Firepalooza Event” hosted by Sierra Co. Fire Safe Council, a day of educational events and family fun exploring hot topics on fire safety
- Chief Connolly, Denise Wood and Serenity Enriquez coordinated a Christmas party for the Volunteers and cooperators

Administration

- Recruited Director Tony Commendatore
- Collaborated with Sierra County Board of Supervisors (BOS) regarding Terms of Office and conversion of Commissioners to Board Directors with specified terms of office
- Adopted Amended Policies & Procedures replacing “Commissioners” with “Directors” and adding terms of service (Resolution 2023-1)
- Adopted Resolution 2023-2 and 2023-3 in appreciation of Laurie Belli and Shawn Burt for service as Directors.
- Explored trademark of the Tour de Manure and networked with new 501-c-3 (Eastern Sierra FF Auxiliary)
- Adopted a FY 23/24 budget
- Redesigned website and ensured accessibility
- Participated in Sierra County Planning Director Tim Beals Retirement celebration
- Participated in Office of Emergency Services (OES) process for Storm Damage cost recovery
- Participated in Cal Fire’s Fire Hazard Severity in State Responsibility Areas re-evaluation process
- Lobbied for Cal OES confirmation to authorize hired equipment (dozers) for repositioning activities
- Provided Video and Audio Conferencing for all Commission meetings
- Obtained a clean financial audit opinion
- Executed new professional service agreement with auditor
- Initiated process to move banking to Plumas Bank and Live Oak Bank for increased return on savings
- Facilitated County BOS approval of annual Mitigation Fee Inflation Adjustment
- Adopted Financial Policy (Resolution 2023-5)
- Updated Capital Improvement Plan (Resolution 2023-6)

- Awarded a CALFIRE VFC 50/50 Grant for Assistance to Firefighter grant (\$39,910) for 10 new ensembles of wildfire Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Resolution 2023-7)
- Monitored Mitigation Fee Collections by Sierra County Building Department
- Approved Volunteer Response Incentive Policy for response reimbursement (Resolution 2023-8) and reimbursement for family coverage for Careflight Enrollment
- Extended agreement with NorCal Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Revised values of property and fleet within insurance policy
- Updated schedule of equipment covered by Roen agreement
- Updated Fleet Maintenance, Clerical, and Training/Retention Agreements
- Submitted Sierra Countywide Communications Equipment Grant with assistance from Volunteer Ben Edwards (not funded)

Sierraville

- Hydrant flushing/annual exercising in Sierraville
- Assisted Sierraville Public Utility District (SPUD) with snow removal at various hydrants and executed an MOU regarding fire suppression water supply and hydrant uses
- Participated in Chief 8200 (Dan Wentling) memorial
- Accepted funds from the 2022 Tour de Manure (TdM) for an Electric over Hydraulic Combi Tool

Sattley

- Ninety-nine percent (99%) remodel of Sattley Well House, including power supply (plumbing to be completed in spring of 2024)
- Accepted Sierraville-Sattley Fire and Rescue Service donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Rope Rescue Gear (\$8,573)

Calpine

- Assisted Calpine Water District #1 with their effort to dredge Calpine Reservoir with Title 3 Funds
- Conducted hydrant flushing/annual exercise in Calpine
- Worked with Water District #1 to repair damaged hydrants
- Assisted Water District with snow removal at various hydrants.
- Adopted a plan to move the Calpine siren to the top of Station 84

Loyalton, Verdi/Long Valley

- Reviewed and renewed contract with City of Loyalton
- Completed installation of water source improvements at Fillippini Well site
- Explored feasibility of additional water storage
- Provided a representative (Director Tom Rowson) to Smithneck Fire Resiliency Advisory Group
- Provided continued access to Title 3 funds for Sierraville, Loyalton Pines and Sierra Brooks Fire Wise efforts
- Documented mitigation fees received, property tax collection and service area costs for reconciliation and to hold any excess funds in reserve for future potential contractual increases.
- Monitored county and TMFPD responses to activities that could spark large wildfires in national forest lands near residences
- Reviewed and renewed contract with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, reviewed annual report
- Met with owners of Verdi Gold Ranch RV Resort private water system

- Coordinated neighborhood meeting after October 2023 Hill Fire to review evacuation efforts, consider FireWise activities for County support, develop neighbor contact information and discuss loss of secondary egress road across Hill Lane

Facilities, Equipment and Fleet:

- Purchased Brush 384
- Sold 94 Jeep (former command vehicle)
- Purchased two snowblowers (for Stations 82 and 84)
- Updated inventory of facilities and fleet
- Returned Engine 1 to Old Calpine Station
- Repaired major failure on pump on WT-82
- Installed a tankless hot water supply for Station 82
- Installed a master shut off and frost-free hydrant at Station 82
- Repaired pump issue on E382
- Repaired pump on E84