

Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District
MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors, Rodeo-Hercules Fire District
From: Rebecca Ramirez, Fire Chief
Subject: Fire Chief's Report
Date: September 11, 2024

Labor Relations /Personnel

We have concluded our firefighter recruitment and have a new Firefighter in the hiring process. We wish Fire Marshal Bill Lellis a happy retirement and thank him for his decades of dedicated service.

Reporting: Chief Ramirez

Operations

08/22 E75 responded to a vehicle fire in the Viewpoint area. Upon arrival crews found a fully involved car fire which was rapidly extinguished.

08/23 Q76 responded to Rodeo for an exterior fire ignited by a juvenile. The fire was quickly brought under control by Q76 and ConFire E73. A ConFire investigator sponsored the juvenile into the ConFire fire setters' program.

Reporting: Chief Ramirez

Training

Crews participated in a two-day course for professional development for company officers and one day multi-jurisdictional command and control class "Calm the Chaos." The training focused on how to safely and effectively command and control moderate to large level incidents. Training in El Sobrante search and rescue of downed Firefighter with ConFire and Richmond. ConFire hosted 75 and 76 crews in a multi company drill at an acquired building where crews simulated a large commercial structure fire with multiple rescues inside.

Reporting: Chief Ramirez

Facilities/Equipment

Sidewalk repair complete at station 76, courtesy of the City of Hercules. Kitchen and training room renovations are undergoing bidding process pending passage of procurement ordinance.

Reporting: Chief Ramirez

Fleet Management

All apparatus back in District. Q76 scheduled for aerial inspection and certification late Sept.

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Grants/Reimbursements

A mini-grant application for bicycle helmets to be given away at the open house has been submitted to Supervisor Glovers' office for consideration. Two grants under the Assistance for Firefighting Grant (AFG) with FEMA have been submitted for cardiac monitors and portable radios. Award announcements have begun. Awards on previously submitted HSGP for Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) expected in December.

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Community Risk Reduction and Fire Prevention

Weed abatement continues with the assistance of CSG Consultants. Over 20 letters were mailed with either a first notice or final notice to abate weeds. Many previously noticed property owners have complied by cutting weeds and removing other fire hazards. Inspectors continue to reinspect and update their records as the weeks progress. First Due software is being used for plan check and inspections and it will soon have the ability to accept credit card payments once the county completes setting up our new bank account. We continue to work with the developers and subcontractors at Owl Ranch as they move forward with building homes, and we are assisting an architect on a project at St. Patrick School.

Continue to coach and mentor the community through wildfire awareness and education measures. Significant success with two property owners on 7th Street abutting the Rodeo Citizens Association property, who made tremendous progress improving their properties. There is still work that can be done to improve conditions, but their accomplishments are very commendable. Staff continue to work with the community to gain Firewise neighborhood recognition. Focused efforts are 7th Street, Lilac, Violet, Mulberry, Victoria by the Bay, Foxboro Heights, Foxboro Downs and Chelsea areas.

Continue to work with Phillips 66 staff to develop a plan, prioritize and seek opportunities to make improvements on properties within the refinery and bordering the community. Some significant gains were made this year with fire trails and abatement along properties bordering California St., Springwood Ct., Viewpoint Blvd. and Donald Dr. Fire trails north Violet and east of Lilac have been significantly improved. Signage is being added to strategic locations to help clearing identify access points, which can help improve response times.

Continue to work with West Contra Costa School District to improve areas with dead standing trees at multiple school campuses.

Reporting: Chief Ramirez

Fiscal Stabilization/Budget

Defer to final budget presentations.

Reporting: Chief Ramirez

Community Activities/Meeting

The Chief attended Phillips CAP and the RMAC monthly meetings. Crews attended Victoria Greens Community School supply handout with HPD.

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