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Fire Chief - Kevin Nunn

To: Board of Trustees

From: Fire Chief

Re: Hot and Dry...

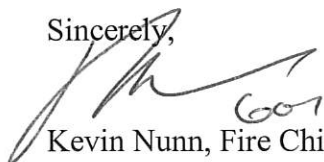
I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on resources. Last Sunday, we sent (5) firefighters, BR641, and T61 to Oregon as part of a two-Task Force EMAC Deployment. EMAC stands for Emergency Management Assistance Compact and it's a State-To-State agreement for fires and all-hazards work. Our crews worked the Falls Fire, the Telephone Fire and the Durfee Fire all week. Their final transition took them to Eugene, OR where California picked them up. Both Task Forces have been sent to the Park Fire. That fire, currently 360,000 acres, is the largest fire in the US. Unfortunately, an injury sent one of our firefighters home and we swapped another firefighter into his position this morning (flight to Sacramento). Our firefighter, Julius Gallegos, was evaluated by his doctor and released to work shifts.

The question has been asked, "Why send so many resources out of the area when we're at such risk of our own?" This is where planning aligns with a little bit of faith and focus.

- 1) Of the 5 firefighters, two should complete their Engine Boss Position Task Books and three should complete their ICT5/FFT1 Position Task Books. This positions us really well for future deployments where we need our own Engine Bosses.
- 2) Our acquisition of the BLM Tender a few weeks ago keeps 3500 gallons of water at home and allows us to send our 1800 gallon tender out of the area. The new vehicle is registered, insured, inspected and usable. We are working on a driver training program.
- 3) After expenses, these EMAC assignments should bring in nearly 200,000 dollars. These assignments are money-making opportunities that can pay for vehicles, personnel and equipment. This will help build and justify our Wildland Program.
- 4) Within the resources left at home, this has opened up opportunities for people who don't normally step up. Firefighters that don't normally work together are providing backfill. I've been covering shifts when they are missing a driver or additional staffing.
- 5) In discussions with FFSL and Great Basin Predictive Services, I believe the worst of our fire season will be after August 15 and into September. By then, all the crews will be home. It's a busy season that may not end for a while.

At the moment, we are holding our own. I am optimistic that we will work hard in these upcoming days, but our crews will be stronger on the other side. The EMAC crews should be home in 10 days. I'll keep you informed.

Sincerely,



Kevin Nunn, Fire Chief

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