

Fire Board Members Attend Regional Training Academy



Training and Safety Captain Paul Azevedo answers questions from District Board Secretary Barbara Griffin and Director Ken Garber at the Regional Training Academy

East Fork Fire Protection District Board Secretary, Barbara Griffin and Director Kenneth Garber recently toured the Regional Training Academy in Carson City. The East Fork Fire Protection District is one of seven agencies who have participated in the Academy.

Four new East Fork Fire Protection District personnel participated in the ten week program. District Chief Tod Carlini stated, "the academy experience and education provided is outstanding. Not only do the recruits learn the necessary skills to function as firefighter, they also gain a keen understanding of the cultural values of the profession."

The East Fork Fire Protection District just recently was allowed to have an independent governing board. The new board, appointed by the Douglas County Commission includes, Bernard Curtis, Barbara Griffin, Kenneth Garber, Jacques Etchegoyhen, and Steve Milhelic. The Board has met three times and are continuing to learn more about the district. District Battalion Chiefs are providing guided tours of the district and getting the new board members into the stations to meet the staff. Board President Curtis and Director Garber both attended the last meeting of the Volunteer Fire Chiefs' Advisory Board.

The East Fork Fire Protection District has transitioned into an organization where the majority of day to day services are provided by career staff. The four new personnel will allow the district to return to its staffing of 19 firefighters and officers per day. With over 650 square miles to cover and a distance of over 30 miles between its north and south staffed stations, resource allocation is geographically challenged. The district responds to over 6400 call per year with an average annual increase of 4%. Staffing will continue to be a challenge and with slow economic growth in the community a difficult one to solve.

The district also relies on a volunteer contingent to provide key logistical support as well. Volunteer recruitment has been a huge challenge for the district over the past 7 to 10 years. The district hopes to roll out a new program to maintain a volunteer program. Chief Carlini noted that the need for volunteers has never been more important. The district is hoping to see more people apply for logistical positions within the proposed new program, recognizing that the training and arduous nature of the firefighter position is very difficult for a volunteer to attain and maintain, having volunteers trained to support the logistical needs of an incident may be more appealing to some. East Fork's proposed volunteer program is taking a similar and almost simultaneous path with a program in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District of Washoe County.

New employees include, Firefighter/Paramedic Jake Ferriera, Firefighter/Paramedic Aron Harvey, Firefighter/Paramedic Adrian Marquez, and Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Pellow.

East Fork Fire Protection District Training and Safety Captains, Nick Agorastos, Paul Azevedo and Matt Kruse, along with other agency training officers provided the instruction throughout the Academy, which was held at the Regional Training Facility in Carson City.



From Left to Right: Firefighter/Paramedic, Aron Harvey, Firefighter/Paramedic Adrian Marquez, Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Pellow, and Firefighter/Paramedic Jake Ferriera