

# East Fork Fire Protection District

## OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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### East Fork Welcomes 12 New Firefighters and Recognizes Promotions

Minden – The East Fork Fire Protection District welcomed 12 new firefighters on December 21, 2018 at an official badge pinning ceremony held at the CVIC Hall. Over 200 persons attended. The District also recognized 16 existing employees who have been promoted and 1 new Fire Inspector.

East Fork has been facing an unprecedented challenge of staff vacancies due to retirements, employee resignations, and academy failures. Combined that with five to six long term injury vacancies, the district has been short staffed by nine vacancies for several months.

The new recruits are anxious to start their jobs on shift and begin to apply all that they have learned in the twelve-week Regional Academy.

Three other recruits from Central Lyon County Fire Protection District also completed the academy. The Regional Academy conducts two programs per year.

District Chief, Tod Carlini stated that this is the single largest recruit class that the District has ever been able to field at one time. *“This is all pretty exciting for the organization and certainly needed as the district starts to experience the “retirement wave” over the next few years,”* noted Chief Carlini. The new recruits will fill five vacancies due to retirements and employee resignations over the past eight months. Seven of the positions are new positions, reflecting an increase in staffing and allowing the district to staff all four of its paramedic engines with a crew of three. Three of the positions will be used to fill positions which otherwise would be filled with an overtime position on an almost daily basis. The District Chief was quick to point out the while these twelve new recruits are a welcome site, the district will still have to consider additional personnel and that there are still several positions open each day due to long term injuries. Additional staffing is needed to address the challenges of geography, area growth, population demographics, and volunteer recruitment challenges. The district has revamped its volunteer program, focusing effort on training volunteers for logistical and wildland firefighting tasks. Under this revised effort, the District has managed to recruit and train 28 new logistical and support volunteers. While the volunteer commitment is critical to the overall mission, the bottom line is that the District needs additional career staff.

East Fork provides one of the most comprehensive emergency services programs in the state and is considered to be an *“all hazard”* response agency.

The new personnel will be assigned to one of three shifts effective on January 7, 2019. They are all currently working 40-hour weeks through a two-week orientation period. The new recruits include:

Audrick Anderson

Cedric Elzey



East Fork's newest recruits pictured on their official first day on the job.

Justin Grimm  
Lester McDonald  
Dominic Merlino  
Steven Milich  
Raphael Rayford  
Bret Sanchez  
Garret Seward  
Cameron Van Ness  
Sam Watts  
Anthony Zevnick

In addition to welcoming the new recruits, the District recognized two who were promoted to the rank of Captain, twelve individuals who were promoted to the rank of Engineer, two who completed Paramedic Training and one who was hired as a Fire Investigator. Those being pinned with promotions and assignments included:

Captain Nick Summers  
Captain Roy Minor

Engineer Jeremy Chandler  
Engineer Jeff May  
Engineer Zac Pedersen  
Engineer Kevin Repan  
Engineer Chad Sheldrew  
Engineer Adam Wennhold  
Engineer Matt Smith  
Engineer Dennis Cote  
Engineer Torril Purvis  
Engineer Steven Hara  
Engineer Sky Dwinell  
Engineer Michael Ierien

Firefighter/Paramedic Clint Loudenberg  
Firefighter/Paramedic Jeremy Hall

Fire Inspector Brook Enos

The Chief stated that he was very proud of all those being promoted and that they each work very hard to achieve that recognition.

Board President Bernard Curtis read the oath of office and conducted the swearing in portion of the Ceremony. President Curtis was joined Board Secretary Barbara Griffin, and members Steve Mihelic and Kenneth Garber.