

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF, ALAN ERNST

As we move through the heart of summer, fire season is in full swing, and the past several weeks have demonstrated the tremendous commitment and professionalism of the men and women of East Fork Fire Protection District.

Our personnel have been extremely busy, not only responding to incidents here at home but also supporting our regional, state, and national partners through numerous wildland fire deployments.

Within our District, crews have responded to several significant wildland fires, including the Topaz Ranch Fire, Double Springs Fire, Ruby Fire, and Eagle Fire. Each of these incidents required a coordinated response involving multiple cooperating agencies, including local, state, and federal resources. These incidents are an important reminder of how critical our partnerships are and how effectively the fire service works together when our communities are threatened.

I am extremely proud of how our personnel responded to each of these incidents. From initial attack and incident management to structure protection and extended operations, our members worked tirelessly to protect lives, property, and the communities we serve. Their professionalism, adaptability, and commitment were evident throughout these challenging incidents.

At the same time, East Fork personnel have continued to answer the call beyond our District. We have had members deployed to numerous wildland fires throughout Nevada as well as three other states, providing critical support to communities facing significant wildfire activity. These assignments not only allow us to assist our partners across the country but also provide our personnel with valuable experience that strengthens our capabilities when they return home.

I would also like to recognize an important addition to our leadership team. Paul Azevedo has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Business Operations. This position plays a critical role in supporting the administrative, financial, and organizational needs of the District. Paul brings valuable experience and leadership to the position, and I look forward to working with him as we continue strengthening the organization and planning for East Fork's future.

Wildfire season is far from over, and we know there will be additional challenges ahead. I want to thank all of our personnel for their continued hard work and dedication, as well as their families for supporting them through long shifts, deployments, and time away from home.

Finally, thank you to our neighboring agencies and our state and federal partners who continue to stand alongside us. The success we have experienced on these incidents is truly a team effort, and those partnerships remain essential to protecting the communities of the Carson Valley and beyond.

Holly Megee

Director of Administrative Services

Career Opportunities

Interested in a career in the fire service?

East Fork Fire Protection District will soon be opening recruitment for Entry-Level Firefighter positions. This is an exciting opportunity to begin a rewarding career serving our community as part of the East Fork team.

Stay tuned and get ready to take the first step toward a career with East Fork Fire Protection District!

For complete job descriptions, qualifications, and application information, please visit www.eastforkfire.org or contact Human Resources at hr@eastforkfire.org.

Help us spread the word as we continue building a strong, talented workforce dedicated to serving our community.



Deputy Fire Chief

We're pleased to announce the selection of Paul Azevedo as East Fork Fire Protection District's next Deputy Fire Chief of Business Operations. Following a competitive recruitment process, Paul distinguished himself through his leadership, professionalism, organizational knowledge, and commitment to the District. Paul brings more than 20 years of progressive fire service experience with East Fork, including service as EMS Administrative Captain, Acting Battalion Chief, Training and Safety Captain, Station Captain, and IAFF Local 3726 President. These roles have given him a strong understanding of both the operational and business needs of our organization. Please join us in congratulating Paul on this well-deserved promotion. Congratulations, Deputy Fire Chief Azevedo!

Office Specialist Recruitment

Please join us in welcoming Sara Viles and welcoming back Lisa Owen to the East Fork Fire Protection District family! Sara joins us as our new full-time Office Specialist. A Douglas High School graduate, she is excited to return to serving the community she loves.

Lisa returns as our part-time Office Specialist and is excited to be back at a place she considers "home." Her experience and familiarity with the District will be a valuable addition to our team.

Sara and Lisa will support a variety of administrative functions and help keep our daily operations running smoothly. We are excited to have them both on board!

Service Anniversaries

Please join us in recognizing the dedication, commitment, and years of service of the following team members celebrating service anniversaries this month. Their continued hard work and contributions help make East Fork Fire Protection District stronger every day. Celebrating This Month:

- **ERIC BRINK - 4 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **TREVOR CHARLES RE - 4 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **WILLIAM HUTCHISON - 34 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **BARRY CEVERHA-3 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **SCOTT CHANDLER-3 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **GREG MUELLER-3 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **MICHELE MACAULEY-3 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **TURNER YATES-3 YEARS OF SERVICE**
- **CLINT LOUDENBURG-10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED
DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM, AND
COMMITMENT TO THE DISTRICT AND THE
COMMUNITIES WE PROUDLY SERVE.**



Deputy Fire Chief Michael Shockey

July Call Summary

- Total Calls for Service: **726**
- YTD: **4,689**
- Air 12 Calls for Service: **7**

July Incident

East Fork crews responded to a motorcycle accident near the end of Johnson Lane and attended to one patient. The patient was transported by Air 12 to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno for further treatment.

The incident also marked Paramedic Alex Callahan's first scene flight in Douglas County since transferring to Air 12.

Deputy Fire Chief/ Fire Marshal

Amy Ray

PLAN REVIEWS JULY

- 41 submitted
- 68 approved

INSPECTIONS FOR JULY

- 30 Construction
- 27 Annual

PREVENTION UPDATES

- New projects: Wally's is doing an upgrade to two of the current buildings. Possible residential and commercial development near the golf course. Current projects continue to move forward.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide..

Safety Tips:

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.



Brad Driscoll

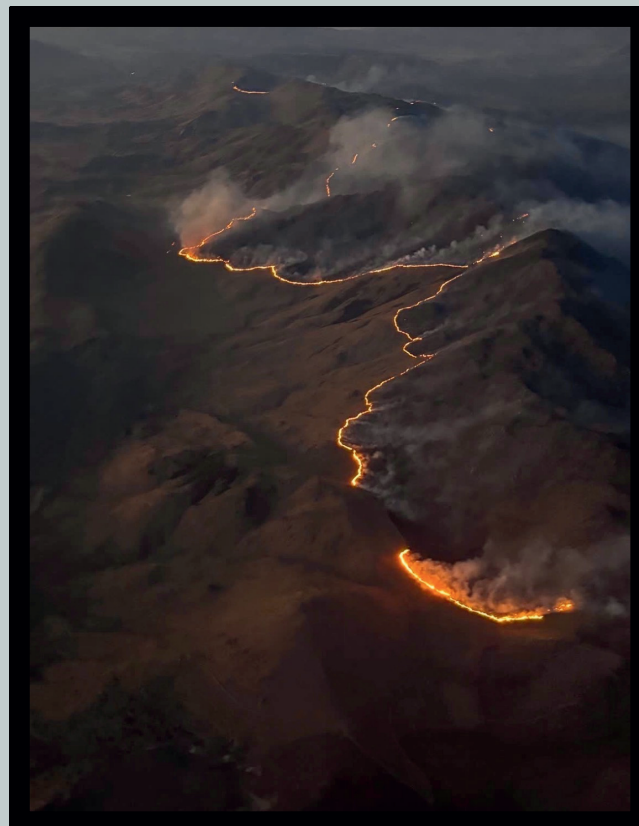
Division Chief

Work Related Injuries for July

- Required Treatment: **0**
- Report Only: **3**
- Accidents: **0**

July Training Updates

Captain Farmer did a great After Action Report/Training on the Santa Inez Incident (Outside Urban Fire) with successful actions and lessons learned. Friday trainings have focused on Two-Out and Rapid Intervention Crew - Command and Control. The Training Division is preparing for multiple Battalion Drills coming up this Fall. Stay Safe!



August Safety Topic

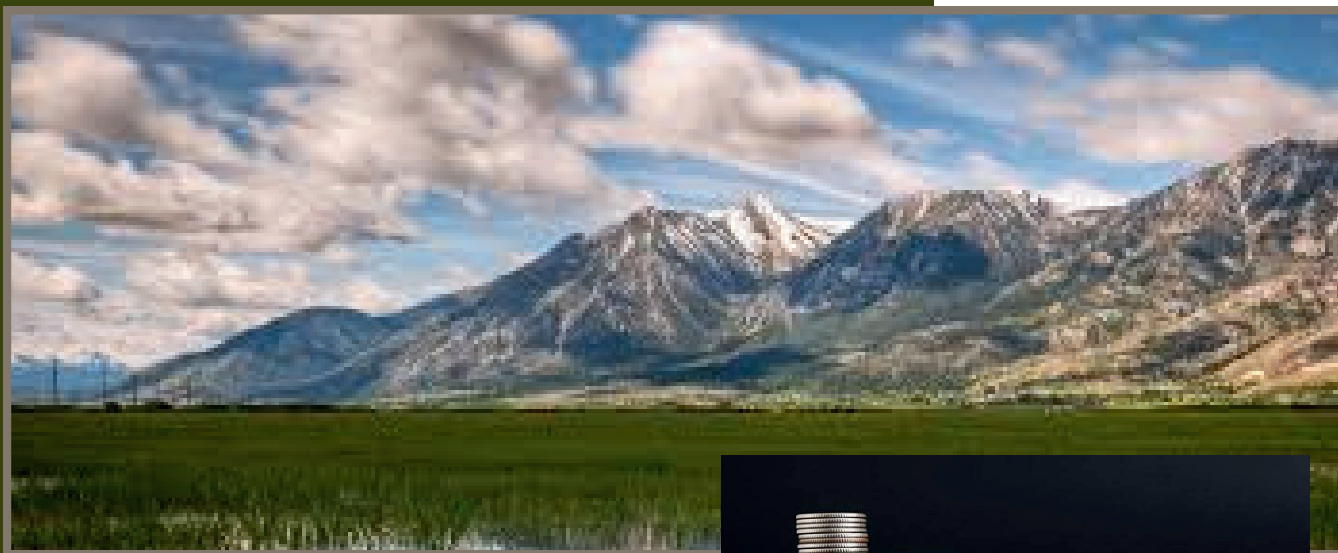
Know Your Equipment: Understanding the Mechanics

This month's Safety Message focuses on a 2001 firefighter fatality involving a stationary water fill tank that became over-pressurized during the filling of a new fire engine. The tank catastrophically failed and was propelled approximately 100 feet into the air, striking the engine cab. The firefighter suffered severe injuries and died the following day.

This incident is a valuable reminder of the importance of fully understanding how our equipment and systems work. The investigation identified several contributing factors, including unfamiliarity with the new engine's pump configuration, inadequate training on the pump system, and the use of a discharge connection to fill the engine tank. The resulting back pressure caused the stationary tank to fail.

Crews are encouraged to review the incident and discuss the "mechanics" of what happened. Understanding how equipment is designed to operate—and recognizing what can happen when it is used differently—is essential to safe operations. NIOSH recommended developing clear procedures for filling engine water tanks, using the appropriate inlet tank fill connections, ensuring proper pressure-control devices are in place, and providing thorough training before operating new equipment.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress



FINANCIAL UPDATES



- As of July 31, 2026, the District has completed 8% of the fiscal year and remains in a stable financial position.
- Total revenues are at 0% of budget, with in property tax collections and consolidated sales tax projecting to meet budget.
- Charges for services continue to show growth in relation to projections.
- Total expenditures are at 10% of budget, tracking closely with the fiscal year's progress.
- Personnel costs remain the largest expense category for the District. Overtime has been significant due to off-district fire response.
- Capital projects continue to move forward with the start of the new year, with 4% of the budget expended. Several projects are still underway and will continue into FY 26/27.
- The District continues to monitor revenues and expenditures closely to ensure fiscal responsibility through the end of the fiscal year.

Deputy Fire Chief Paul Azevedo Latest News



Building and Grounds

- The Air 12 helicopter pad at Station 12 is complete and is expected to be placed into service in the near future.
- Station 14's VCT flooring was removed and replaced with a new epoxy floor. While the station was cleared, crews repainted the interior and completed several light remodeling projects.
- The District's PPE extractor is being reprogrammed to improve the removal of hazardous contaminants associated with lithium-ion battery fires.

Fleet

- Outfitting of the two new command vehicles remains in progress. Both vehicles are expected to be placed into service within the next few weeks.
- Truck 12 has been repaired and prepared for sale. The apparatus is currently in the bidding process and is expected to be removed from the District fleet before the next Board of Directors meeting.

Information Technology

- Station 12 is scheduled to receive fiber internet service near the end of the month. The upgrade is expected to improve communication reliability and address previous connectivity issues at the station.

Anthony Seghieri

Executive Program Manager

Genoa Handcrew:

Our new Genoa Handcrew continues to be busy! This joint venture with the Nevada Division of Forestry continues to be a tremendous success, with the crew traveling throughout the state to support our state, federal, and local partners with fire response.

The crew spent 14 days assigned to the Ward Fire in Elko County before extending for an additional four days to support the Stallion Fire in Washoe County. After 18 consecutive days on assignment, the crew has returned home and is taking some well-earned time off before returning to service.

We continue to hear outstanding feedback from our partners regarding the crew's professionalism and performance. Well done, Genoa Handcrew!



Engines:

Brush 6, with Engine Boss Cole Jackson and his crew, traveled to Idaho for a preposition assignment, where they responded to multiple initial attack incidents. The crew then returned home and completed their assignment on the Eagle Fire within our district.

Brush 3 continues its preposition assignment in the Klamath area. Engine Boss John Chester and his crew completed a 21-day assignment and are returning home Thursday.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of all our crews representing East Fork Fire throughout the region. Great work, everyone!



Great Basin Area (PL 4)

Fire Activity & Teams Assigned

- New Fires: 14
- New Large Fires: 8
- Uncontained large fires: 8
- CIMTs Committed: 3

East Fork Resources Committed on incident:

- **Brush 12:** North Ops Staging, Plumas NF, CA
- **Brush 3:** Klamath Staging, Happy Camp CA