M E M O R A N D U M

September 23, 2025

To: Board of Fire Commissioners
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Fm: Richard J. Edwards, Fire Chief

Re: Chief's Report for the October 7, 2025 Meeting

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1. Green Waste Collection Dates

October 11 & 12 (Saturday & Sunday)
Washoe Valley: Nevada Division of Forestry Fire Station
885 Eastlake Blvd, New Washoe City 89704.

October 18 (Saturday)
Silver Lake: Silver Lake Station
11525 Red Rock Road, Reno, NV 89506
Red Rock (Dumpster, self-service only)
Red Rock Volunteer Fire Department
16180 N. Red Rock Road, Reno NV 89508

October 19 (Sunday)
Silver Lake: Silver Lake Station
11525 Red Rock Road, Reno, NV 89506
Verdi/Mogul (Dumpster, self-service only)
Mayberry Park
101 Woodland Ave, Reno, NV 89523

October 25 (Saturday)
Spanish Springs: Lazy 5 Regional Park
7100 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89436
Palomino Valley (Dumpster, self-service only)
Ironwood Equestrian Center
5600 Whiskey Springs Road, Palamino Valley 89510

2. Hexagon Update

   Progress with the Hexagon project continues steadily. Personnel are actively engaged in Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) testing and final programming in preparation for training to begin in December. The testing phase includes all core CAD functions as well as integration with third-party applications such as station ring-down and reporting systems.

   While a significant number of vendor tickets remain open – and new ones are being generated as testing advances – the vendor has responded by deploying additional staff on-site to help accelerate resolution and keep the project on track. We remain cautiously optimistic about beginning training for dispatchers and field responders in December.

   Another piece for consideration:

   Over the past two months, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection (TMFPD) staff have had the opportunity to engage with supervisory personnel from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office through a series of presentations on Fire Department Operations. Each 2- to 2.5-hour session has provided a comprehensive overview of our organizational structure and response strategies, with a strong focus on integrating fire and law enforcement efforts during structure fires, active assailant incidents, fires involving assailants, and wildland fires that require evacuations.

   The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of these collaborative efforts. As opportunities arise, we look forward to building on this momentum with joint drills and training exercises to further strengthen our interagency coordination.

3. Capital Projects Construction Update

   a. **Fire Station 37** in Hidden Valley is on schedule. Crews have begun the construction of the containment basin on the west side of the property. Curbing for the parking area has been laid, and concrete and paving will be completed within the next two weeks, followed quickly by landscaping. The final touches of the interior are almost complete. We are looking at doing a ribbon cutting in the first or second week of November.

   b. **Fire Station 35** near Reno Technology Parkway is on schedule. Crews have laid curbing and are preparing to lay pavement and concrete for parking areas and aprons. There is an issue with higher-than-acceptable levels of arsenic in the well; however, the design team is already working with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to incorporate a water filtration system to bring the water quality down to acceptable levels.

   c. **The PPE Washroom** project at our Barron Way Headquarters is complete and in service. This project was started in 2021 when the District was awarded grant funds to purchase commercial washing machines and drying cabinets. In July of this year, the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approved funding for alterations to an area of our headquarters warehouse, including the integration of the building's existing electrical, water, and sewer systems. The facility meets the latest requirements of NFPA 1851, allowing the District to maintain and inspect our firefighters' personal protective clothing properly. The investment is a huge leap forward in pursuing our goal to make the health and safety of our firefighters a priority.

4. Capital Projects Apparatus Update

   a. **One Type III wildland fire Engine** has arrived in town and will be showcased at the Fire Shows West Conference at the GSR September 30th through October 3rd. A grant from the Pennington Foundation has fully funded the entire project.

   b. **Two Type V wildland fire engines,** a smaller version of the Type III, are expected to arrive in November.

   All three of these units are expected to be in use on the road by the end of the year, pending the completion of equipment mounting and radio installations.

5. Wildland Fire Conditions

   Our "fire season" is all but complete for our normal daily large fire potential. Due to precipitation and cooler temperatures, our dead fuel moisture has increased to a non-critical level and is not predicted to return before winter.

   Nationally, fire activity has also decreased, and national preparedness is at level two. This range is from one to five, with one meaning next to no activity nationally and five meaning all areas are actively burning and resources are strained. Interestingly, nationally, fire starts are up by 15% compared to the ten-year average, but acreage associated with those starts is down 30%.

   All of this is positive. That being said, our worst fires regarding loss of life and property typically occur in the fall and winter during our wind events. Nothing currently has removed that threat, and it won't be gone until we have a "season-ending event", typically categorized by .25" of rain equivalent in a single storm system followed by winter-like weather.

6. 180 Day Plan Update

   Finances:

   - Our CFO is providing monthly budget updates to the BOFC, and that information is also being shared with district staff following the monthly BOFC meeting.
   - The CFO and I led a budget study session with International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 (L2487) to increase fiscal literacy and better understand our structural budget deficit.
   - I'm having informal conversations with L2487 leadership to explore cost-cutting measures to minimize the deficit and increase fund balance.

   Dispatch:

   - Conducted an internal meeting with dispatch subject matter experts and L2487 representatives to evaluate challenges with the current dual dispatching in automatic aid areas.
   - Collecting data on Priority 3 EMS responses to evaluate response models.

   Communications:

- Adopted the procedure for electronic communications (Administrative Bulletins and Informational Bulletins) with an archive process to help enhance organizational communications.
- Division and Deputy Chief are scheduling firehouse visits to share divisional updates.