



## MEMORANDUM

August 20, 2025

To: Board of Fire Commissioners  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Fm: Richard J. Edwards, Fire Chief

Re: Chief's Report for the September 2, 2025 Meeting

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### 1. 180 Day Plan

I have taken the first month of my tenure to meet with district personnel and listen to their ideas, criticisms, praises, and needs. Considering all that and the district's current fiscal restraints, I have developed a 180-day plan. I have attached the plan for your review, but would like to highlight the priorities:

- Financial stability
  - Developing a Long-Range Financial Plan
  - Regular budget updates
  - New Fiscal Policies
- Dispatch Services
  - Evaluate dispatch processes, including dual response areas
  - Explore updates to Emergency Medical Dispatch and response models
  - Leverage data analytics to improve service delivery
- Communications
  - Adopt an internal process for formal directives and bulletins with archives.
  - Work to eliminate administrative silos and increase succession planning.
  - Create monthly reports to identify workload, accomplishments, and significant incidents in Training, Fire Prevention, and Operation Divisions.

### 2. Capital Projects Construction Update

- a. **Fire Station 37** in Hidden Valley is progressing on schedule, target occupancy date will be the end of October 2025. Final details are being addressed to the addition. The structure has been tied in with the residential portion of the building. Construction crews will be focusing their efforts on the exterior features such as parking lot, front apron, landscaping, and installing the emergency generator.
- b. **Fire Station 35** near Reno Technology Pkwy is progressing on schedule, target completion is May of 2026. The CMU walls have been erected and the steel is being placed for the roof structure. The water storage tank has been completed and electrical

power is now available on the remote site from NV Energy. Multiple concrete pours are in progress for the propane, generator, and fuel pump pads surrounding the station.

- c. **The PPE Washroom** project at our Barron Way Headquarters is progressing on schedule, to be completed September 4th. When completed this project will centralize all the PPE needs at our headquarters facility. The goal is to bring our PPE maintenance program up to the latest national standards, thus increasing the safety and health of our firefighters. Our logistics personnel have already received the latest training, allowing the room to go live September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- d. **A security fence project at Fire Station 440**, located at 130 Nectar St in Lemmon Valley, has been completed. Fire Station 440 houses several of our wildland firefighting resources, specifically the equipment they use for fuels management activities. The fence encloses the rear of the property and protects the equipment and property from theft, vandalism, and illegal dumping.

### 3. Capital Projects Apparatus Update

- a. **Three Type I structural fire engines** are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2026. Staff will be working with the manufacturer this October to begin the pre-construction meetings of the apparatus.
- b. **One Type III wildland fire Engine.** Staff recently completed a final inspection of this engine. The engine will be delivered mid-September and immediately sent to a local vendor to install the radios. The hose, tools, and other equipment have already been purchased and will be mounted on the engine shortly after arrival. A grant from the Pennington Foundation has fully funded the entire project. We hope to have the vehicle in service by mid-October.
- c. **Two Type V wildland fire engines** are now in production in Hillsboro, TX. These engines are smaller than a Type III, but more maneuverable in off-road situations. The engines are expected to be delivered this winter.

### 4. Wildland Fire Conditions

So far this fire season, wildfire activity has been within the normal ranges. Roughly ten fires have had potential and grown larger than 10 acres. All of those starts have been human-caused.

Locally, our fuels are right at the tipping point for large fire growth. Our temperatures are predicted to remain above normal through November, with precipitation expected to be about average. Overall, we expect to remain at higher fire danger than average through September at the earliest. We ask that remain vigilant when it comes to fire safety.

Nationally we are Preparedness Level Four meaning that over 60% of the firefighting force is committed on incident. We have assisted with fires in Nevada, Arizona, California, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Nationally our number of starts is up roughly 20% compared to normal, but our acreage is down roughly 20% compared to normal.

5. Hazardous Materials Incident

While hazardous material responses do not generally account for large numbers of responses, a recent response to the Reno Ice facility should be noted. On August 6, 2025, units were dispatched for an ammonia leak at the facility. Initial arriving crews verified the building was evacuated and confirmed a leak using air monitoring equipment. The call was upgraded for a Triad Haz-Mat Team response, bringing Reno, Sparks, and TMFPD assets to the scene. The incident was mitigated safely, and TMFPD Fire Prevention staff worked with facility staff to ensure safe repair practices moving forward. The last ammonia leak response at the facility was in April 2023.

6. AACT Fire Science Program

The AACT fire science program has begun its third year of teaching high school students the practices of the firefighting industry. The District had been heavily involved in supporting this project for the past two years, including assigning firefighters as instructors to teach the students on a weekly basis. The Washoe County School District has now hired a full-time instructor for the program, thus relieving the obligation placed upon the District. Staff still occasionally assist by providing a fire engine for a few hours for tours or demonstrations. Assistance has also been offered by both off-duty and retired firefighters who have been dedicating their own time to help teach the next generation about fire science. Although the District's full-time support of the program has decreased, we will still remain a part of the students' future by providing AACT assistance each fall semester.