



MEMORANDUM

March 31, 2025

To: Board of Fire Commissioners
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Fm: Richard J. Edwards, Fire Chief

Re: Chief's Report for the April 7, 2026 Meeting

1. Fire Prevention Statistics for January and February 2026

- Public Education Events: 9
These are events such as school visits, educational events, and parades
- Annual and Initial Business License Inspections: 87
These inspections are regulatory procedures designed to ensure that businesses comply with safety, health, and zoning regulations to protect public safety and maintain legal operating standards.
- Agency Reviews: 12
These are miscellaneous document reviews that fall out of New Construction Plan Review. They could include items such as special events, zoning change or Parcel subdivision adjustment.
- Pre-Development Reviews: 2
An early-stage high-level assessment of a proposed project by county departments or experts before formal application submission. These types of reviews can help identify issues, reduce risk, identify high-cost requirements and help accelerate formal approvals
- New Construction Building Reviews: 167
These reviews are a comprehensive assessment of building plans or on-site work to ensure compliance with safety codes, zoning regulations, and design standards before or during construction.
- New Fire and Life Safety Systems Reviews: 43
These reviews are comprehensive, proactive assessments of building construction documents, fire protection systems, and safety features conducted to ensure compliance with adopted codes (e.g., NFPA, IFC) and standards before construction or modification begins

2. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Grant Update

Washoe County is renewing its nearly 22-year-old Community Wildfire Protection Plan. TMFPD is a core team member from a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary collection of public and private entities. Those involved consist of Washoe County EM, Reno Fire, Sparks Fire, Nevada Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Shared Stewardship, Tribal government, NV Energy, TMWA, Living with Fire, UNR, Washoe County GIS, Homeowners Associations, Citizen Advisory Boards, Firewise Communities, etc. Most CWPP's are renewed using contractors and their specialists. This endeavor is being supplemented by the long list of engagement and funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry's Disaster Relief Funding. The CWPP was selected to pilot a new "Living CWPP" tool that will carry all future iterations of the plan more easily. The current phase of the CWPP process is building a new, county-wide risk assessment modeling standard using the latest data sources. From this, specific mitigation projects and public-facing data will be derived.

3. REMSA Franchise Agreement Update

In January of 2026, the Northern Nevada Public Health District Board of Health approved an Amended and Restated Franchise Agreement for Ambulance Services. The fire district had been actively involved in this process for the previous 18 months to ensure the best level of pre-hospital transport service is delivered in Washoe County. Many of the amendments in the final document were not seen by my team until just days before the January DBOH meeting, when the draft document was released to the public.

In the months leading up to the January meeting, I sent a letter to Dr. Kingsley (District Health Officer), copying the DBOH Directors and Fire Board Chair Hill, requesting that the negotiations for a new agreement be postponed as their current contract was valid through 2030. Referenced were the fire regionalization study, regional dispatch, and ongoing discussions of the closest unit responses for EMS calls as the basis for our request. Each of these items could require additional changes to an agreement that would not currently expire for another four years. This request was disregarded, and the agreement was ultimately approved, subject to the condition that the DBOH confer with REMSA within 6 months of the Franchise signature date (February 6, 2026) to discuss possible revisions.

The DBOH initially scheduled two workshop meetings to hear stakeholders' concerns with the approved franchise agreement and identified an initial list of ten topics for discussion. The list of topics included the fire district's priority items, including the EMS Joint Advisory Committee, closest unit responses, and Priority 2 performance requirements. We participated in the first meeting on March 18, 2026, along with representatives from Sparks, Reno, NNPH, DA's Office, and Technical Medical. DBOH Board member Steve Driscoll was also present. Dr. Kingsley shared that, absent any technical error, changes would not be made to the agreement, and new recommendations could be introduced after July 1st for consideration in future agreements.

After two hours of the meeting, only three topics were discussed, and five additional topics were added to the list, bringing the total to 15. It's important to note that there was strong consensus among the parties represented on the proposed amendments discussed, including the EMS Joint Advisory Committee and the REMSA Health Board composition. When it became evident that we would need several additional meetings to discuss the topics, Deputy District Attorney Dania Reid, representing NNPH, suggested two options. Option one was to continue the stakeholder meetings to work through the issues and make recommendations for amendments to the agreement. Option two suggested that a member of the DBOH could make a motion for reconsideration, thereby allowing the board to re-vote on the agreement in May, given the many items that need to be amended. A brief discussion ensued regarding the reconsideration process, and the meeting concluded shortly afterward with additional meetings scheduled for April 1, April 24, and May 1.

4. Regional Operations Policy Update

Staff continues to work collaboratively towards regionalized practices. Efforts are underway not only to adjust policies and train firefighters, but to improve interoperability among fire agencies and dispatch centers. For example, a regional dispatch protocol is now in place to standardize how a dispatcher handles emergency radio activations for distressed firefighters. Work is also underway to standardize how all fire department radios are programmed, making moving between channels and dispatch centers easier to aid in firefighter safety. Both initiatives support the creation of a field procedure for how our agencies handle a mayday event for a trapped or injured firefighter. That procedure is being developed by field personnel as we move into spring. Our efforts to increase efficiencies continue this month when the three fire agencies will meet and discuss how the new Octave (Hexagon name change) CAD will be programmed to address mutual and automatic aid. A main topic of conversation will be the utilization of Automatic Vehicle Location (AV

5. Regional Fire Study Board Update

On March 19, 2026, TMFPD participated in the Regional Fire Study Board kick-off community informational meeting, where representatives of Emergent Global Solutions provided an overview of the project, and the community had an opportunity to voice their opinions. A public engagement portal was also shared at the meeting, with a survey open through April 30, 2026, to gather the community's concerns.