



Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For August 9, 2017

By Tom Forster

Personnel: No changes.

PECAUX: Special thanks are due to our neighbors Sue and Bill Carrera, for their outstanding support over the past 17+ years in PECAUX to help the fire department. We will miss them very much. We are working on finding a replacement for Sue as the Treasurer.

EMS Training: Luke Scott passed his National Registry EMT Testing and is now fully certified. Congrats and thanks to Luke. We now have three EMT's (Jenni, Tom, and Luke), and the remaining firefighters are qualified as Emergency Medical Responders except for Craig, who may renew his EMR certification through Jenni.

Fire Apparatus & Equipment: John has completed the installation of the reflective safety tape on the back of all engines. Thanks to John for his good work!

Engine 9122's cab lift hydraulic pump was repaired and is now fully functional. Jeff has been troubleshooting some electrical issues on 9153, and continuing with backup camera work and installation of out thermal imaging cameras on truck charging mounts.



Training: The Driver Operator 1A State course has been postponed until September 15 due to the Minerva Incident. This is for DMV Firefighter Endorsement driving qualifications, and is hosted through the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association at Quincy with Tom and Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou instructing. As of this writing we have two firefighters signed up, Ryan and Luke. We currently have six firefighters with endorsements to drive all apparatus – Rich, Craig, John, Bill, and Jeff. Jeff just completed his testing recently at Quincy DMV.



Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant: We've been awarded a grant from Cal Fire/FEMA for Volunteer FD's to fund 50% of replacement wildland firefighting safety gear, and we are awaiting the paperwork. It is for roughly \$4,400, and PECAUX will fund the remainder.

Firewise Community & Cal Fire Inspections: A successful Firewise Education event was held Saturday, July 8 with homeowner Bob Graham speaking on the aftermath of his home fire and insurance issues. The engine bay was filled with participants, and Bob did a good job – thanks to Bob. Tom shared general information on fire safety.



We did a drive-through conducting visual fire safety inspections in our community on July 24. Tom, Dave Stone, and Dennis Lincoln participated, and the results were reviewed with John Rowden. Less than 5% of our structures and lots were deemed to need work, and we'll share those addresses with Cal Fire when they conduct 4291

inspections. They are committed to fire incidents right now, but inspections should happen before fall.

A common issue of concern is excessive pine needles accumulated on the roof and in gutters at homes. They can be easily ignited from flying embers in a wildfire. We will be stepping up our public education efforts, working with Heather on the web site, and Dennis in the Firewise Committee. The three met to plan for an annual public education campaign, with topics spread over several years, shared to the community on a monthly basis.

FD and CSD Insurance: No recent progress, but we intend to work on this over the summer. We have not made any decisions, and are in the process of studying the pros and cons of changes with help from Michael Peters.

Structural Fire Protection Clothing (PPE): We have submitted for reimbursement from the CSFA/FEMA grant funding six sets of structural firefighting coats and pants to replace our existing that were 11-17 years old. We should receive reimbursement of a little over \$12,000 this summer, at which point we'll replace the remaining older gear.

Plumas Sierra County Fair Firefighter's Muster: We are one week away from our annual muster competition on Saturday, August 12 at the Fair. Tom is organizing this event with Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou. We will be competing with a joint team consisting of Ryan, Luke, and Jenni, along with Jack Harris and Tom Connelly from Graeagle. Join us Saturday afternoon at the Fair.



Plumas County Fire Chiefs

Association: Tom submitted for and received an award for a federally funded off-campus National Fire Academy weekend course on October 14-15, to be held in Quincy.

Course FO610 will cover Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for Company Officers, those in charge of single or multiple resources at an incident where fire threatens or is involved in a mix of structures and vegetation, such as the recent Minerva 5 Incident in Quincy. There is no cost for the course.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY 2-DAY, WEEKEND OFF-CAMPUS COURSE
WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIREFIGHTING
FOR THE STRUCTURAL COMPANY OFFICER FO610
QUINCY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 505 LAWRENCE ST. QUINCY, CA 95971

Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15, 2017 0800-1700 hours



An attack at Minerva incident, Quincy, CA, July 29
Quincy Captain John Gay, Strike Team Leader at Minerva. Photos by Kim Elason, QFPD Support Team

This two-day course identifies operational activities and safety concerns for structural Company Officers (COs) assigned to a wildland/wildland urban interface (WUI) incident. Topics covered include introduction to wildland/WUI firefighting, interface environment, wildland fire behavior, command and control issues of wildland/WUI firefighting, and tactics.

Target Audience: Company Officers or chief officers who may be in command of a single resource or Strike Team at the scene of a wildland/WUI incident.

No Prerequisites or Fee, sponsored by U.S. Fire Administration/FEMA. Lunch on your own. Refreshments hosted by Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association.

Instructor: Timothy Woodward, Division Chief of Training & Special Operations, Littleton, Colorado Fire & Rescue: <https://www.littleton.gov/city-services/city-departments/fire-rescue>

To Register: Contact Tom Forster @ tforster@mac.com or 530-836-1086 prior to September 1. Minimum Enrollment of 15 is needed to hold class, 40 days in advance.



Minerva 5 Incident, Quincy: We were dispatched Saturday, July 29 about 5:30pm to respond mutual aid for structure protection along with many other Plumas County FD's. The fire had started early



that day in the wilderness, and would eventually threaten roughly 400 homes and commercial structures in Quincy.

Bill, Ryan, and Jeff responded and covered until late Sunday, and then we started rotating those willing to cover until Wednesday night. Also covering were John and Luke. Tom coordinated with Graeagle Chief Ed Ward to do auto-aid immediately on all calls in each district, as Graeagle had sent an engine also. Thanks to Jenni, Rich, Steve, Lew, and Craig for covering at home when available, along with Tom. We did have two EMS calls while 9122 was out, with good coverage. Jenni also did a thorough, deep cleaning of the main restroom the weekend of the initial response, to add to her cleaning of the office restroom and shower in early July. Thanks Jenni!



Thankfully, no homes or structures have been burned, and most local government engines were released as of Thursday night, August 3. The fire is moving south-east in wilderness area, and the USFS and Cal-Fire Ground crews will continue to fight it, with a projected containment date of August 12.

The Fire Camp location is being moved south of the Fairgrounds since Fair preparations are well underway for the start on Wednesday, August 9. Tom will work with Heather and John on reimbursement for the use of our engine, and compensation from the feds for our firefighters as is normally done with extended commitment incident response. More info on that later. 9122 is back in service in our station.