



Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For February 4, 2017

By Tom Forster

Personnel: No Changes.

Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: Tom and a PCFCA committee have settled on an alternate web-based communications platform for both the Fire Chiefs Association and our joint training program. Our long time free provider called WIGGIO is going out of business by April. We will be using the free version of the platform called "samepage", meaning 'everyone on the same page.' Tom is in the middle of transitioning over 130 people to the new platform, to be completed in roughly a month.

We are in the process of updating our 3-year strategic plan, rolling it forward to 2017-2019. It will be finalized at our next meeting on February 25.

Fire Apparatus & Equipment: Multiple maintenance needs are being worked on, but all apparatus and most equipment is operational and handling the winter season challenges. Chains are being put on in heavy snow periods by the firefighters, and removed when not needed. The Onspot chains work best when the snow is 12-18" or less on the roads, and when higher than that both chains and onspots are used.

Lew is working on getting our building air filtrations system filters changed out. First step is approving the costs for an order.

Training Being Coordinated: Tom and Ed Ward are working on planning 'the big picture' for joint training for 2017, in alignment with the new State Firefighter I program. They are meeting with the officers in both FD's this month, and the plan will be completed soon.

EMS Training: Jenni McGuire is teaching the entry-level training in EMS course for firefighters, called Emergency Medical Responder (formerly "First Responder"). Jeff, Ryan, and Lew are completing this entry level training, and the course is in progress. Thanks go to jenny for her work on this and the online platform.

In addition to classroom and online work, they will need to complete hands-on skills training and testing to complete the roughly 64-hour program.

Luke Scott is enrolled in the FRC EMT program in the spring semester taught by Ed Ward, which is a higher level of certification than EMR, more than twice as many hours, 160+, and a higher level of skills.

Sledding Days and Longboards Races EMS Coverage: Two public Sledding Days were held at the Johnsville Ski Hill on January 28 and 29. Thanks to Bill Robinson for coordinating EMS standby coverage required by State Parks, and for covering the 29th on his own. Two firefighters from Quincy covered the 28th.

Everything went well with about 50-75 people sledding each day according to organizer Glenn Bardet, and there were no injuries or incidents.

The next Longboards Ski Races will be held February 19, with Sledding days the day before and after. The "World

Championship Races” will be held the third Sunday in March. There will also be Sledding Days the Saturday prior to the race Sunday, and the Monday after each Sunday. EMS coverage is required by State Parks for all of these events. PEFD coordinates since it is in our response area.



CSFA Volunteer Committee: Tom will be serving as Chairman of the California State Firefighters Association Committee for Volunteers starting in 2017. This is a volunteer position, and the committee seeks to help volunteer FD’s in California through grants, regional training programs, and general communication of resources available. A “kickoff meeting” is being held on a conference call Super Bowl Sunday, before kickoff, and yes, pun intended.

FD and CSD Insurance: We are answering some questions including providing copies of water and sewer certifications of staff to get an initial proposal from Golden State Risk Management. More later.

Quincy Fire Academy: This will start in March and run through April. This year Luke Scott will be participating as a student, and Tom and Bill will be helping throughout. Tom does the administration for the Academy, and Bill helps instruct. Boards members are encouraged to visit.

Tom coordinated a successful grant for adding a live burn training weekend in Quincy's burn facility, and this will be incorporated into the Academy over one of the April weekends. We are also working on getting discounted IFSTA firefighter textbooks through another grant.

Snow Rescue response: Kudos to responders who helped with the challenging rescue of an injured back country skier near Eureka Peak. A story from Tom will be published in Plumas News soon. Tom will discuss at the meeting.



Building Security: Tom will discuss at the meeting, including recent break ins in our community and reducing our risk.

Hydrant Clearing: Tom will discuss at the meeting.



Apparatus Checks: We will be implementing a new team-based approach. Tom will discuss at the meeting.