



Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For September 13, 2017

By Tom Forster

Personnel: Luke Scott will have moved into his new home here as of Monday, September 11. Congratulations to Luke and welcome! No other changes.

PECAUX: Recruiting continues for new members. We'll update at the October meeting.

Fire Apparatus & Equipment: John and Jenni have been rotating our apparatus through oil and lubrication servicing at the Graeagle Chevron. This had not been done for several years, and we thank them for their efforts.

While Engine 9122's cab lift hydraulic pump was repaired and is now fully functional, the Engine 9121 lift pump has now broken. The cab lift pump exposes the motor of each cabover fire engine for maintenance



checks and repair. We are researching repair or replacement options. Both engines are roughly 30 years old, so extra maintenance and repair challenges are to be expected.

Jeff continues to troubleshoot some electrical issues on 9153, and is continuing with wiring including our thermal imaging camera truck charging mounts.

Training: The Driver Operator 1A State course will be starting Friday evening, September 15. This 40-hour course continues over two weekends, one in September and one in October. This is for DMV Firefighter Endorsement driving qualifications of the large/heavy fire engines.

The course is hosted through the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association at Quincy's training room, with Tom and Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou volunteering to instruct. As of this writing we have one firefighter signed up, Ryan. When Ryan receives his endorsement, we'll have seven firefighters with endorsements to drive all our apparatus – Rich, Craig, John, Bill, Tom, Jeff, and Ryan.

CSFA Protective Clothing Grant: While we had received approval to proceed with this grant, the program ran out of funds before our reimbursement was completed. We will be receiving roughly \$3,600 reimbursement instead of roughly \$12,000, due to the timing of reimbursement submittals by many other FD's. PECAUX had already funded all our structural PPE replacements so far, and this new funding was to be used to complete the final four firefighters in need. Instead, we'll be using the funds and the Cal Fire grant in the next item to complete this project, along with PECAUX support.

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 have received the paperwork. It is for roughly \$4,400, and PECAUX will fund the remainder. We will be applying for

some additional funds for structural PPE, as they have extra funds and will be taking applications for more, to be submitted by September 27. Tom is working on this.

Firewise Community & Cal Fire Inspections: Inspections got underway on the day of the August Board meeting, and the two inspectors were in our community for several weeks. Firewise Committee Chair Dennis Lincoln spent one day with them for awareness and training and said it was very helpful.

Tom checked in with the inspectors every week, and in general the feedback was very good. They reported the community was generally in very good shape, and that properties needing work were responsive, including a bank-owned property on Poplar Valley.

A summary will be discussed at the October meeting.

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

Plumas Sierra County Fair Firefighter's Muster: This event was successfully held on Saturday, August 12 at the Fair. Tom and Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou organized the muster, with sponsorship from three insurance companies and the Fair. Tom wrote an article for Plumas News, and the results and photos have been posted on the www.plumasfirechiefs.org website.

We competed with a joint team consisting of Ryan, Luke, and Jenni, along with Jack Harris and Tom Connelly from Graeagle. They tied for second place overall, and a good time was had by all with no injuries or incidents.

Plumas County Fire Chiefs

Association: Tom is managing this federally grant-funded off-campus National Fire Academy weekend course on October 14-15, to be held in Quincy.

Course FO610 covers 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 20
Quincy Captain John Gay, Strike Team Leader at Minerva. Photos by Kim Eason, 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: Tom is working on billing for the coverage we provided. More at the October meeting.

Toll and Squirrel Incidents:

We were dispatched for a Type I Engine for structure protection to these incidents, but were cancelled upon arrival at Oakland Camp. A second dispatch came in one hour later for our Wildland Type III Engine 9178, which ended up covering for several hours into the evening under mutual aid.



Thanks to Ryan, Luke, and John for their response on 9178. Tom and John responded initially with 9122. Most local government resources were released within the first five hours, as sufficient federal resources and out-of-county assistance arrived. A suspected arsonist was arrested

following these fires, and is being prosecuted, also for the Minerva Incident.

Portola Railroad Days Parade: Thanks to John and Jenni for taking Engine 9122 in the Railroad Days Parade on August 26. Tom and Maureen took their 1941 Mack fire pumper.

Labor Day Weekend Pancake Breakfast: Thanks to PECAUX and the PEFD Firefighters for another successful pancake breakfast fundraising event on September 2. A good time was had by all.

