



Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For November 8, 2017

By Tom Forster

Personnel: Firefighter/Engineer Craig Fox has resigned/retired from the FD due to a move to Arizona and very limited time each summer at their home here. We thanked Craig and his wife, Pat, for their many years of service to our community, and will formally recognize them next summer in person when they return. There are no other changes in personnel.



PECAUX: Firefighter/Engineer Jeff Train's wife Kim may be willing to serve as Treasurer for PECAUX. This will be firmed up this month.

Fire Apparatus & Equipment:

Engine 9121's cab lift pump was successfully repaired at Graeagle Chevron by their mechanic, using salvaged parts from the old 9122 broken pump.

Jeff continues to troubleshoot some electrical issues on 9153, and is continuing with wiring including our thermal imaging camera truck charging mounts (2) and one remaining engine back-up camera. If his work schedule does not allow for completion before the end of the year, we will look at hiring another electrician.

Training: The Fire Apparatus Driver Operator 1A State Fire Training course was completed by 32 students on October 22. This 40-hour course was held over two weekends, one in September and one in October. This is for DMV Firefighter Endorsement driving qualifications for the large/heavy fire engines.



The course was hosted through the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association at Quincy's training room, with Tom serving as the lead instructor, assisted by Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou. Ryan Nowling successfully passed. When Ryan tests and receives his DMV Firefighter endorsement, we'll have six of our 10 firefighters with endorsements to drive all our apparatus – Rich, John, Bill, Tom, Jeff, and Ryan.

Thanks go to John Sea and Jackson Harris from Graeagle, who volunteered to help mentor drivers and ride along in Greenville one weekend, for Indian Valley FD students. Thanks also to Rich and John for serving as mentors and skills evaluators for one day each on the last weekend.

Tom is working on scheduling a 16-hour pump operations course through the Chief's Association before the end of the year. We are also currently planning for two days of ice rescue training over the winter.

CSFA Protective Clothing Grant: We have received the partial reimbursement of roughly \$3600. CSFA is applying for more grant funds for 2018 through FEMA. This will not be retroactive, but we could apply for more funds then.

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant: Tom applied for more money for structural PPE replacements through CAL FIRE. The State had extra VFA funds, and accepted a second round of applications in September. We were awarded for our 2nd request in October, and are awaiting details of the overall award. Acceptance will require a board resolution.

Firewise Community & Cal Fire Inspections: We are awaiting the summary from Cal Fire of the completed community inspections.

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 County Fire Chiefs Association: Tom coordinated a federally grant-funded off-campus National Fire Academy weekend course on October 14-15, in Quincy. Tom and Bill completed the class.



Course FO610 covered “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. We were originally expecting over 30 students, but the out-of-county mutual aid responses to the fires in the north bay, and Butte County, reduced actual enrollment to 10 after no-shows were also accounted for.

Minerva 5 Incident, Quincy: Tom is working on the accounting and billing for the mutual aid coverage we provided, through the State and USFS. We are not sure yet if a “portal to portal” resolution from the board was submitted to the State during Chief Castagnetti’s tenure. He says it was, but we have not found any paperwork yet in CSD files. We will be looking at his old computer files. The State office that processes the claims has been overwhelmed with the recent fires, and payment can take up to 12-18 months.

Having an agreement means the equipment and personnel are reimbursed from time of dispatch to time of return. Not having one means reimbursement only covers the actual hours worked, which would be roughly 50% less due to the 12-hour shifts assigned, and rest/food/sleep time.

If we do not have an agreement, we’ll do a board resolution and submit it for any future responses, but it can’t be retroactive. Once on file it serves indefinitely for any future responses.

We do want to pay our responders for their time before the end of the calendar year, at the state base rate of \$20.69 per hour. This is the agreed upon standard with other FD’s. Once we determine if a ‘portal to portal’ exists or not we’ll proceed, and then await reimbursement.

Annual Firefighter Appreciation Dinner: Our thanks go to PECAUX for hosting the annual Firefighter Appreciation Dinner at Longboards on Friday evening, October 6. Special recognition awards were given out to a) John, b) Bill, and c) Jenni. A photo print on poster board was circulated for signatures and messages thanking Sue and Bill Carrera for their 17 years of support to the FD. In addition, Tom and

Maureen presented the annual year-in-review video program. A good time was had by all.



Assistant Chief Bill Robinson with his special recognition award for his coordination of EMS coverage at winter sports and other events and the Ski Hill at Plumas Eureka State Park.



Engine 9122 at scene of garage fire at Feather River Resort on October 11. Automatic Aid to Graeagle.