



Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For October 12, 2016

By Tom Forster

Personnel: We are processing an application for volunteer firefighter from Luke Scott, who also volunteers for Graeagle. Dual FD volunteering has worked successfully in the past, most recently with Danny Gearhart.

Luke lives nearby at Eagle Ridge RV Park, and currently works for Graeagle Land & Water at the golf course. He received his Paramedic training in Arizona and completed a fire academy. He worked there for several years at a hospital before deciding to come back home to the Reno area, and eventually here. His parents live in Graeagle – his father is a semi-retired Urologist working part-time for EPHC through the Graeagle Clinic.

Unfortunately there is no reciprocity for Paramedic certification between California and Arizona, but he is working on getting certified here, first as an EMT and then later as a Medic. He would only be able to practice here at the EMT level, given that we are not an approved Advanced Life Support provider. There will most likely be reciprocity for the firefighter certification. California State Fire Training recently completed national certification to be able to do this, but I'll need to confirm specifics later. Luke did complete the Quincy Fire Academy this year.

This will put us at 11 active volunteers, with a goal of 12. More on this next month.

Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: An informal critique or “After Action Review” on the recent 5-acre fire off 70 east of Graeagle was held at the recent Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association meeting on Saturday, October 1. General agreement that all went well, with local government FD’s working well with USFS. Website continues to evolve, now in its’ ninth month. www.plumasfirechiefs.org

New Protective Clothing Lockers: PECAUX has funded new lockers, with the installation recently completed by Rich and John. The old plywood lockers were given to Quincy FPD for use in the East Quincy station. Thanks to Rich and John for their good work with this, and to PECAUX for their ongoing support.

On a related note, we are working through a relocation of the SCBA air compressor and shelving units. This will include going through all of our storage and reducing some of it where possible. A work party day will be scheduled before the end of the year.

One significant change we will be working through involves no longer carrying the large compressed air cylinders on our Rescue 9153, due to their excessive weight. To maintain a mobile “SCBA cascade” refilling capability, we are researching the possibility of placing them on a small trailer. More will be reported later.

Fire Apparatus & Equipment: The front tires on Engine 9121 have been replaced due to excessive wear. Our biggest maintenance need now is to replace the rear dual tires on 9122. They are currently the old, tube-style tires and are out of service life, worn, with one having a severe gouge in the sidewall. Tube styles are being discontinued throughout the tire industry, according to Bob at Les Schwab.

The cost to replace with the existing tube style Goodyear tires exceeds to cost to go instead with a tubeless style Toyo and four new wheels painted fire engine red. The cost is roughly \$3,000 to do this for the 4 wheels and tires. I'll be working with John Rowden on how to do this in our budget.

Our fire extinguishers are all due for servicing and certification soon by Alpine Fire Equipment. Our SCBA's are also due for annual servicing and certification.

Remaining to be repaired on 9122 is the cab lift hydraulic pump. We have so far been unable to find the part number for ordering a rebuild kit. Separate repair of headphone in one of the rear jump seats remains to be scheduled.

Jeff Train has completed installing a test back-up camera on wildland Engine 9178. The other FD vehicles will also get backup cameras installed soon, to help improve backing safety. It does not eliminate the need for a spotter when backing up. PECAUX is funding this safety project.

Still on the maintenance 'to-do' list are replacing the station air filtration filters in all four ceiling mounted units.

Cal Fire SRA 4290 Inspections: Cal Fire reported at our quarterly Plumas County Fire Chiefs meeting this past Saturday that they have completed inspecting all areas in Plumas County that had never received inspections before. This was their priority in 2016, and we were told they would most likely be able to do inspections for communities like ours next year.

Training Being Coordinated: Upcoming training being coordinated before the end of the year by Tom and others through PCFCA includes a pump operations field day, Low

Angle Rescue, and Hazardous Materials First Responder. Bill is working on a Vehicle Extrication Class for November, but we need to find more old junked cars to cut up – if you know of any please let us know.

Jenni will also be offering an Emergency Medical Responder training course for Jeff, Ryan, and Lew, and Community CPR classes through a generous donation of equipment through Frank Shepard!

Social Media Classes Completed: Tom coordinated and completed the recent Social Media 101 and Social Media use for Disasters courses held in Quincy on a Friday night and Saturday. Lots of good information was provided, but will need to send you all a Tweet or Instagram to communicate.



Graduates & Instructors, photo by Tom Forster

Lost Sierra Hoedown EMS Coverage: Bill coordinated EMS coverage for the recent 4-day music and camping event at the Ski Hill, September 22-25. He camped at Plumas Eureka State Park while volunteering coverage each day, and was assisted by John Sea, Jeff Training, Ryan

Nowling, Jenni McGuire, and Rich Machado from Plumas Eureka.

Incidents were mostly minor, including cuts, scrapes, and bee stings. The most serious incident involved a man who was stung many times by yellow jackets after pulling a young boy away from a swarm of bees. He was transported to EPHC and recovered.



The Lost Sierra Hoedown, 2016, Johnsville Ski Hill, PESP



Rich, Bill, and John providing care for bee sting patient with EPHC.

Fire Sprinkler System Retrofit: Tom is researching the possibility of applying for a grant to retrofit a fire sprinkler

system into our building. Fires in fire stations do happen every year across the US, typically in facilities without full-time staff.

In our case, it has taken us several decades to accumulate all of our equipment and apparatus, through CSD funding, multiple grants, donations, PECAUX support, other fundraising events, etc., and the prospect of losing it all is daunting. It would take years to recover, and insurance would not cover the 'real world' replacement challenges for the apparatus.

A grant application may or may not be practical, but Tom will report more on this later with recommendations.



A fire house fire this year in the mid-west.