



## Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For January 10, 2018

*By Tom Forster*

**Personnel:** No changes, 11 active members.

**Training:** Tom served as Lead Instructor of a State Fire Training 16-hour Basic Pump Operations course through the Chief's Association on December 2 & 3 in Quincy, working with Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou. John Sea and Ryan Nowling from PEFD successfully completed the course.



Tom is also currently planning for two days of winter, ice and river rescue training over the winter, also through the Chiefs Association. This will be held the first weekend in February.

**Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant:** We were awarded our 2<sup>nd</sup> request in October, and are awaiting details of the overall agreement. This is a 50% grant for protective clothing, both wildland and structural. Acceptance will require a board resolution.

**Firewise Community & Cal Fire Inspections:** We are awaiting the written summary from Cal Fire of the completed community inspections. Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit Chief Don Gordon has promoted to a Cal Fire position in Sacramento. No word yet on his replacement.

**FD and CSD Insurance:** No recent progress, but we intend to work on this over the winter. 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 (PCFCA):** As Secretary/Treasurer, Tom coordinated the annual PCFCA year-end meeting in Graeagle on Saturday, December 9, with recognition awards and a BBQ lunch.

Thanks go to John Sea and Steve Munsen for helping cook and serve along with three firefighters from Graeagle. The BBQ burger lunch was hosted by PCFCA.

An “Inside the Fire House” column on this meeting and annual



awards should be in the Regional section of Plumas News, the day of the board meeting. PCFCA is also working on updating the rolling three-year strategic plan, and finalizing accomplishments for 2017.

**Minerva 5 Incident, Quincy:** Tom is still 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. The State office that processes the claims has been overwhelmed with the recent fires, and payment can take up to 12-18 months. A request has been made but still no response yet.

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 all FD’s. Once we determine if a ‘portal to portal’ exists or not we’ll proceed, and then await reimbursement.

**Fire Apparatus Maintenance:** Thanks go to John Sea for coordinating the replacement of the front tires and wheels on Engine 9178 – this work has been completed. We will be budgeting for replacement of the rear tires and wheels in the

next budget cycle. Wheel replacement is necessary due to the need to shift to tubeless tires. All three of our pumping fire engines are roughly 30 years old.

Inventories have been completed for all of our fire apparatus, and Heather coordinated the final documentation that includes photographs. They are being used in our ongoing maintenance program. Thanks to everyone who worked on these.



**Sprinkler System Grant Application:** We'll be holding off on this request until the next round of grants applications in December 2018. This will be a FEMA grant to retrofit a fire sprinkler system in the fire house, as has been previously discussed with the board. Unfortunately, the grant application period was announced by FEMA with short notice, right before Christmas, starting December 26 through the end of this month. We still need to get at least two bids for the sprinklers, and one for the water line extension. We've so far have been unable to get the potential contractors out from Reno, leaving insufficient time to complete the data required.

This would be an approx. \$75-100k project, including a 4" water line extension from the middle of Lundy to the office side of the building. If awarded, the grant would cover 95% of the cost, with a 5% match.

**Weekly Training for 2018:** We are in the process of planning our weekly training for the year. It has been delayed due to illness with one of the Graeagle Chief

Officers. We will have the plan completed and will share by the next board meeting.

The plan will include some training at PEFD, and some at Graeagle, working together as in the past. This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> year of automatic aid and joint training. Tom and Maureen produced and presented a 'year in review' video program for Graeagle for their annual Xmas dinner on December 16, as thanks for the ongoing cooperation and sharing.



**Johnsville Skill Hill Events EMS Support:** We are prepared to support the usual Sledding Days and Longboards events with EMS coverage, but not enough snow so far. The first weekend could be January 20-21, assuming we get some snow.

