



## Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For April 11, 2018

*By Tom Forster*

**Personnel:** No update at this time. Tom will be meeting with a prospective new member soon, after the family completes relocation from the Bay Area.

**Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant:** We are in the planning stages of doing the sizing and purchasing of the grant 50% funded PPE, PECAUX will support the remainder. Purchasing needs to be completed by mid-June.

**Firewise Community & Cal Fire Inspections:** No change with awaiting the inspection report from last year. Kathleen Schori is the Acting Unit Chief of the CalFire Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit until a formal replacement decision has been made. Our Firewise Community signs have been mounted – big thanks go to Firewise Committee Chair Dennis Lincoln for getting this completed.

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Equipment & Supplies Updates:** Jenni continues work on ordering and distributing EMS supplies to replace in our units, due to age and expiration, or changes in protocols. She is also identifying what additional EMS equipment and supplies are needed to make our three other engines and command vehicle Basic Life Support compliant. Julie is also helping with this project. Thanks very much to both of them for their good work.

**FD and CSD Insurance:** No update.

**Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association (PCFCA):** Tom coordinated the recent general meeting on Saturday, March 24 in Quincy. Tom serves as Secretary/Treasurer. While attendance was good and the meeting ran an hour late due to presentations, once again we lacked a quorum of voting Fire Chiefs. We are in the process of adjusting by-laws to allow for a department representative to vote in place of a Chief.



In addition to the annual, regional new firefighter Quincy Fire Academy having to be cancelled this year, the offer of live firefighter burn training over a weekend is also being cancelled, in both cases due to low enrollment. Also, the offer from Tom and Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou to teach a regional Driver Operator 1B course over two weekends, one in May and one in June (pumping operations) is being cancelled due to low enrollment.

Providing any kind of regional training like this is a huge commitment in time and resources for instructors and hosts, so having minimum enrollments to hold the class is very appropriate. We are considering causes for this trend, and perhaps will try again in the fall. The next Academy for new firefighters will be offered in April of 2019.

Concerned about the fire service in Plumas County? There are some very serious issues we need to address.

We will be starting a PCFCA planning process in June, to address this time of continuing challenges and change for the volunteer fire service. The recent course cancellations underscore that the volunteer fire service is struggling not only locally, but in California and nationally. There is abundant evidence to support these trends, and the decline has been happening for over 25 years. More information to come.

**Cooperative Efforts with Graeagle:** Tom met with Graeagle Chief Ed Ward recently along with the Assistant Chiefs (Bill Robinson and Jim Stockdale) to discuss future joint training and joint efforts. We reached the 10-year mark late last year, for both our automatic aid agreement and for joint training. We now need to do the necessary updates and maintenance needed to keep this very successful effort viable. That will be this years focus – to update our plan for all areas of mutual operations, assuring we are effective and efficient.

**Fire Apparatus & Equipment Maintenance:** John Sea has been very active in providing maintenance needs, including installation and removal of snow chains, washing vehicles, and back flushing the pumps on the fire engines. Julie helped with a backflush recently. Thanks very much to both, and especially to John for his continued work “above and beyond the call of duty.”

**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)**

**Compressor and large Cascade Bottles:** Still working on additional training needed for the new setup, through the technician from LN Curtis with the compressor and cascade

bottles. While we are able to operate the system, we have some questions. Our goal is to develop a step-by-step guideline for safe use. We are also looking into the addition of some pressure relief valves needed in the new setup.

Tom has been in contact with Shasta College regarding a used, trailer-based cascade system, that could be repaired and updated to have mobile air capability. They did recently complete the process of declaring it surplus, and offered it to us if a release is signed. Our goal is to have an additional resource for health and safety breathing air needs, replacing our prior mobile capability with 9153 that is now station-mounted.

We are in discussion to do this refurbishing jointly with Graeagle, and with Quincy's help. Tom is looking into some possible grant applications to help pay for the work, and the cost of new bottles and installation that will be required. I'd like to proceed with this with approval from the GM and Board.

**Johnsville Ski Hill Events EMS Support:** Bill coordinated EMS coverage for the only Longboards race event held this year, on Sunday March 18th. The potential Sledding Day on Saturday was cancelled due to the need to get the Lodge and Ski Hill in shape after the recent snowfall. All of that is done with volunteers. Thanks to the group who volunteered to do this valuable community service – Bill, Julie, Ryan, Tom Connolly, Joanne Burgueno and Rachel Cudia from Quincy FPD.

The weather was great and the snow was good. Attendance was big, with parking stretched out down close to Johnsville. Of Special Note, Graeagle Firefighter Alice Berg won the

Women's World Championship after a heated competition!  
See photos below.

**Training Completed:** A scenario based hands-on Emergency Medical Services trauma drill was held at PEFD on April 4 for both PEFD and Graeagle. Big thanks to Jenni and Julie for coordinating, and for the great work with a fun drill.

