



Plumas Eureka Fire Department Fire Chief's Report

For May 10, 2017

By Tom Forster

Personnel: No Changes.

Quincy Fire Academy: Luke Scott is completing this annual, required, regional program on Saturday, May 6. This years' Academy was expanded to include a 6th Saturday, and both pre-course and weekly homework assignments using a free International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) online Learning Management System (LMS) or printed versions if students prefer them.

Tom served as an instructor, the online and assignments coordinator, a photographer, videographer, coordinated the graduation keynote speakers and lodging and meals, and produced a video program for graduation. Bill was not able to participate this year.



Tom secured and managed two grants for the Academy:

1) for a special live fire training weekend on April 29 & 30 through the California State Firefighters Association (CSFA) funding all costs including lunch both days, and

2) a grant through the Fire Services Training Institute (FSTI) and Farmers Insurance for 50% of the cost of the \$65 IFSTA Firefighter Essentials textbooks for each student. The Live Burn Training weekend was open to all firefighters in the region in addition to Academy students. Approximately 70 firefighters completed the program on either Saturday or Sunday. John Sea and Luke Scott from our FD participated with Tom both days.

Both days included forcible entry props, pitched and flat roof ventilation props, firefighter survival exercises, a flashover demonstration in a room constructed by Quincy FPD, and multiple entries into several scenarios in the propane-fired burn building.



EMS Training: Luke Scott is currently completing his EMT-1 training in this semester's offering through Feather River College and Graeagle FPD's Chief Ward. Upon completion of his National Registry Testing and paperwork in June, we will have three EMT's (Jenni, Tom, and Luke), and the remaining firefighters qualified as Emergency Medical Responders. Craig needs to renew his EMR certification through Jenni when he returns. We are seeking approval to become certified as a provider for EMS continuing Education, and are in discussion with RN/MICN Julie Cassou from Graeagle to serve as our required oversight.

Fire Apparatus & Equipment: The apparatus check teams are completing detailed inventory reports for each engine. These will be used in a variety of ways. We are awaiting Jeff having time to install the final back-up cameras and truck mounted thermal imaging camera chargers. If he is not able to do it soon due to his work schedule and often being out of town we will find another way to get this done.

Additional Training Being Coordinated:

The Swiftwater Operations Technician course is coming up on May 12, 13, 14 here, and in the river. The costs will initially be borne by the FD but fully reimbursed through a county-wide training fund established after a settlement from a railroad spill a few years ago. This training is needed to keep our firefighters safe when operating in or near water such as rivers, such as happened during the flooding recently. Tom coordinated marketing, signups, and drysuit rentals, and Jenni coordinated contracting, scheduling and classroom arrangements in our station.

Our Participants are John Sea, Ryan Nowling, Bill Robinson, and Luke Scott. There will be a second class offered in July, but with Plumas County Search & Rescue

coordinating. Tom and Jenni intend to take a future class, and the remaining firefighters will be trained and equipped for shore support services but will not be allowed to go into the water. PECAUX will be funding safety equipment purchases after this course is completed.

Following the Swiftwater course, Tom will be working on coordinating and instructing Driver Operator 1A and 1B State courses starting this summer, for both driving qualifications and pumping operations.

EMS Officer: Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the May 10 board meeting due to work, but will most likely be able to call in on the phone to discuss. Nothing has changed from my original request, I just need to respond to your questions from last month. I am choosing to do that over the phone or in person next month since other questions may come up in the discussion.

[From last month]

“I am requesting approval from the Board to reallocate some budget funds previously approved, to create a stipend for a new position called Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Officer. This position will be responsible for managing the PEFD EMS program, including training, equipment, and documentation.

To be approved as a Basic Life Support provider today in our region, we need to transition to electronic patient care reports, complete quality control reviews on incidents, etc. Jenni has been doing a great job handling various PEFD EMS needs, and has even been helping other FD's on occasion with training. She is willing to take on this role, and I'm requesting a \$200 monthly stipend.

Our budget today includes a second Captains position which is vacant and not necessary right now (\$600/year), along with funding for vacant lot inspections in the summer (\$720/year), which we are no longer doing. We also currently budget for fire engine and equipment checks with one person checking all apparatus, at \$25/week, or \$1300/year. This is no longer necessary with the team based system. Eliminating these allocations in our next budget will cover the new position stipend.”

FD Budgeting: Tom is completing the narrative to help the FD budget make sense to the layperson, and is working on the final budget proposal for the June meeting. He’ll walk through everything at that time.

SCBA Fit Testing:

All our firefighters except for Craig have completed the annual OSHA-required fit testing performed at Graeagle FD by Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Julie Cassou. Craig serves as a Driver Operator/Engineer and does not do interior structural firefighting by choice and does not need the fit testing. He is in town from late spring into mid-Fall, and provides all other services including EMS.

FD and CSD Insurance: We have received the proposal from Golden State Risk Management. We have not made any decisions, and are in the process of studying the pros and cons with help from Michael Peters. Nothing new to report.

Structural Fire Protection Clothing (PPE): We have been approved and are about to process reimbursement from CSFA/FEMA grant funding for six sets of structural firefighting coats and pants to replace our existing that is now 11-17 years old. The grant requires completion of a

basic physical exam, firefighter certification, and an agreement to remain with the FD for at least one year.

The academy and physical exam costs are also covered by the grant. Since three sets have already been funded by PECAUX in the last two years (and will be reimbursed), our plan is to use the reimbursements to help replace another three sets, which will almost complete having all sets replaced.

Four of our six newer firefighters have completed the physical exam, and we hope Lew and Jeff will be able to do so soon. Time is running out on this grant, and if we don't meet the submittal deadline we'll lose the funding.

Graeagle Update:

Their new fire engine has been delayed, but is expected to be in service in June.

Firewise Community, Fire Safe Council Projects & Cal Fire Chipping & Inspections:

I understand a neighbor has interest in taking on the leadership role for the Firewise Community program, and I'll let Shirley and Dave Bauer explain the details. We thank Shirley and Dave for their great service, and hope they'll be involved.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is exploring possible vegetation management projects in many areas, and will be working with Cal Fire on chipping projects with funding from the SRA fee. We will again be requesting CalFire 4291 inspections again this year.

Neighbor Disputes about Vegetation Management & Burn Piles: John Rowden can fill the board in on these

situations. I've talked with several residents regarding how burn piles are permitted and managed, and the three outside agencies to contact if there are issues. Heather and Tom will be working on a Frequently Asked Questions list regarding queries that regularly come up about dead trees, burn piles, smoke, inspections, etc. to clarify what the CSD and FD roles are, and what they are not. I'll give an update at the June meeting.

CAL FIRE Grant, PECAUX: Tom will be applying for a Volunteer Firefighters Assistance grant in June for 50% funding of our remaining PPE replacement needs and the Swiftwater PPE. This is not guaranteed, but it would help with the PECAUX support.

Tom met with Sue Carrera and Muriel Aman regarding support needs and requests through PECAUX for this year, more to follow. PECAUX has recently funded six additional lightweight tables and 20 chairs to replace the old pressboard tables. John, Rich, and Tom unboxed and stored the new ones one recent evening. Tom is seeking approval from PECAUX to donate the old tables to a local FD in need.

Rich Machado volunteered to building some additional wood shelving, and a resident has offered to donate some metal shelving to increase our storage space for all PECAUX Pancake Breakfast supplies that are currently stored at the Carreras since they are selling their home.

The Memorial Day pancake breakfast is coming up, with public education planned to include information on CPR training.

Plumas Sierra County Fair Firefighter's Muster: We are planning for the 2nd annual muster competition on Saturday,

August 13 at the Fair. Tom will be organizing this event with Quincy Chief Robbie Cassou and Indian Valley Chief Jim Hamblin.