

**FALLEN LEAF LAKE CSD
FIRE DEPARTMENT / GENERAL MANAGER / OPERATIONS
REPORT
September 1, 2018**

RESPONSES

- The fire department responded several times during the month of July and August. We have also responded with Six (6) Strike in Northern California of these three (3) were 28 day deployments. We also deployed to a CalFire cover station assignment for 20 days.

TRAINING

- Training continues on shifts with our paid and seasonal staff.

VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL / SEASONAL PERSONNEL

- The fire department is operational for the summer season.

APPARATUS / EQUIPMENT

- All apparatus is operational.

LOCAL AGENCIES / AGREEMENTS

- All local area agency agreements are in place

PROJECTS AND PREVENTION

- All the current fire and weather forecast are predicting continued dry weather. We continue to have dry weather over the next couple of months with increased chances for wildland fires. I want to stress that everyone should be maintaining defensible space around their home. The fire department will be happy to do an inspection or offer any information that you may need to comply with PRC 4291 Please contact the fire station at 542-1343 or Chiefs office at 544-3300.
- We will be scheduling some chipping projects in late September where accessible for the chipper.
- The Wine Tasting and Volunteer BBQ were a great success this summer. Thanks to everyone who contributed and attended. Wine Tasting \$7500 and our BBQ \$5400. Thank you for all your support.

STORE / MARINA

- The Store and Marina are operational.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS / STRIKE TEAM

**Fallen Leaf Lake CSD Fire Department operation breakdown is as follows:
Chief, Assistant Chief, 3 Captains, 3 Firefighter/Paramedics, 17 RR's (Resident Recruits) and 5 Volunteers**

In 2010 I became your Fire Chief the Fire Department was operating with 3 paid personnel and 16 volunteers. We were working with a very small budget. We did not have any excess funding for improvements. The Fire Department was also working with older apparatus, and equipment. This situation would need to be upgraded in the very near future.

In 2009 El Dorado who had provided augmentation funding to fire departments throughout the county to assist in funding the departments budgets was cutoff. The Fallen Leaf Lake Community stepped up and increased the Fire Special Tax to offset the loss of funds from the county.

In early 2013 understanding the Fallen Leaf Lake Community needed an improved level of service, which included additional firefighter / emt, better equipment, apparatus and working toward a improved ISO classification. With all of this in mind, I implemented a recruit program from the graduates of the local Tahoe Basin Fire Academy. This program would allow us to have recruits on duty with our paid personnel. This gave us the ability to respond to incidents with additional firefighters.

With the addition of the recruits in 2013, we were better staffed and this allowed us to be available to respond with other department in our XTB Strike Team call outs. Previously, the Fallen Leaf FD had been sent on Strike Teams, but this was very rare and our equipment was not considered appropriate for such calls. During 2013 we did receive some strike team calls through the XTB and started to establish a reputation for our personnel and the quality of work and performance during the 2013 fire season. Since the 2013 fire season and into the current 2018 fire season we have continued to recruit firefighters from the Tahoe Basin Fire Academy on an annual basis. Our numbers have grown over the past 5 years with our current level of resident recruits is 16 this season.

The resident recruit program provides a wonderful opportunity for the recruit in the form of training toward receiving the State of California Fire Fighter 1 certification. We provide the valuable training to the recruit. We also provide the opportunity for the recruit to gain many hours of experience through responding to fires and medical calls. The recruits respond to Strike Team Call Outs throughout the fire season. This gives our department the ability to provide quality response to our community and the XTB / OES mutual aid system throughout the State of California. Currently we are very respected by our peers in the surrounding basin community, as a department that can be counted on to assist locally and throughout the state.

Since 2013 with the additional personnel, equipment, training, water supply and apparatus, we have made great improvement in our ISO Public Protection Classification. Over the past 5 years we have received two inspections from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) and have gained a better PPC from the previous classification. When I arrived in 2010 we were a Class 5/10/8B we improved to a Class 3/3Y in 2014 and in 2017 we received a Class of 2/2Y which is a great rating for our area. This classification was earned through hard work from all the members of our fire department.

Another success for the community is the Fire Department Paramedic Program. This program is to provide a higher level of service to our community. The Board of Director approved hiring and accrediting firefighter/paramedics in early 2017. We started the process with El Dorado County Emergency Medical Agency to complete all the process for our fire department to become accredited and certified by El Dorado County. This process took most of our 2017 season. We completed all areas of the County requirement and were approve at the end of 2017. This year we started out our season totally with Advanced Life Support equipment and with Paramedics on duty.

The Paramedic Program, the ISO PPC improvements would have not been accomplished without funding. Your current special fire tax, ad valorem tax, donation and grant income all encompass providing for the operation of the fire department. The key to providing the current level of service is through additional funding that is provided from Strike Team income to fire department.

The fire department Strike Team Income has provided the fire department the ability to establish reserve funds for anticipated projects. Some of these projects are as follows:

Continued support for the paramedic program.

Purchase of new new Type 3 Brush Apparatus.

Purchase of a new chassis for remount of an existing Type 3

Planning for the replacement of our Type 6 fire apparatus.

Purchase of new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's)

Planning for an expansion of fire station 9 to better house our firefighters and our apparatus.

Planning for upgrades to the marina pier for Fire Boat 9

Planning for a fire station in conjunction with housing a JPA medical ambulance for the Westside residence. This would allow for quicker responses for fire apparatus and medical ambulance to our Westside.

None of the projects could be accomplished without Strike Team income or the increase of the Fire Special Tax. Based on Govern Browns reference to fire season as being the new Normal with fires throughout the summer and into winter, Our continued support of the State of California Office of Emergency Services Mutual Aid Program and the ability to respond with our XTB unit out of Region 4, should help to maintain our fire departments ability to provide the current level of service.

California Department of Correction fire crews have been reduced this season by a significant number which in turn has created a demand for municipal agencies asked to supply more apparatus and personnel to combat the continued increase in Wildland fires throughout the state. Our continued support of the State of California will help to provide stability to our operations.

Our fire department has been very fortunate over the past 5 years of having great community support and receiving grant funding for our Fire Boat from El Dorado County and receiving an AFG Grant from FEMA to purchase a new Type I fire apparatus. Our Resident Recruit Program has continued to grow and give us the ability to develop new firefighters through the Firefighter 1 certification and allow our department to benefit from all these great recruits that have come through our program since 2013. Without the recruits, we would not be able to provide the level of service that the community deserves. Through the program and ability to respond to Strike Team Call Outs this has given our department a resource that has continued to grow and increase our funding reserves within the fire department. The following is a current estimate of anticipated income from 2018 Strike Teams that we participated in.

2018 income estimate \$1,001,367.68

This year we have responded to 12 Strike Team Callouts.

2017 We responded to approximately 25 assignments through Strike Teams

2016 We responded to approximately 15 assignments through Strike Teams.

2015 We responded to approximately 11 assignments through Strike Teams.

2014 We responded to approximately 4 assignments through Strike Teams.

2013 We responded to approximately 2 assignments through Strike Teams.

I want to thank all our community for the past eight years of support for me as your Fire Chief and General Manger. It has been an honor to serve you in these capacities and I look forward to great things for our district in the future.

**Gary D. Gerren, Fire Chief/GM
Fallen Leaf Lake CSD Fire Department**