

Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District



Annual Report
2015 / 2016
Fiscal Year

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 19, 1959, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors formed the Mi Wuk Village Fire Protection District and appointed its first Board Of Directors (BOD): Hershel L. King, Arne S. Tune, and William A. Wood. The district was supported by a small tax assessment supplemented with local fund raising. On December 19, 1974, the District was combined with the fire department of the Sugar Pine Mutual Water Company to form the Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District. Those new geographic boundaries still describe the district boundaries today. At its inception the District was comprised of all volunteers. Over time, and as revenues permitted, that volunteer force was supplemented with paid staff.



In July, 2010, property owners within the District voted to assess themselves an amount over and above the property tax revenue in order to provide paid fire fighters on duty twenty-four hours a day. Over the next few years, the District acquired the building and property where the fire station is now. It then sold both of the other fire stations; Mi Wuk Village station was sold to Tuolumne County and it is now leased to the Miwuk Area Homeowners Association and is used as a local lending library and community meeting place; the Sugar Pine station was sold to a private party and is now a private residence. With the additional revenue from the Benefit Assessment the District began to provide constant coverage with one fire fighter. As time progressed this one fire fighter and the volunteers have been supplemented with intern fire fighters.

This is the first time that the District has produced an Annual Report in review of the year just ended. In this report you will find information from mostly Fiscal Year 2015/2016 (FY15/16) but in some cases a little more history to make a comprehensive report. Major areas that are discussed include Administration, Operations, the Auxiliary, and Next Year. It is my hope that this Report proves useful to the Board, staff and the public.

The District's budget supports volunteer, intern, and paid personnel; the acquisition of used fire engines and other equipment; vehicle maintenance, facilities maintenance, liability and hazard insurance, utilities, and other ongoing costs. The primary sources of revenue were property taxes and benefit assessments. These revenues were supplemented by state and federal grants.

After a routine review of the Districts fire protection capacity in the summer of 2015, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) announced that the Public Protection Classification for the District would be reduced from a five (5) to a four (4) (lower is better). While this

reduction likely has no impact to residential property insurance costs it can have an impact on the insurances premiums for those commercial enterprises within the District. It is a reflection and direct result of the endeavors that the District has made over the past few years to provide better fire protection to its residents and visitors.

At the end of FY 15/16 the District determined to develop a long-term strategic plan. It reviewed the concept, purpose and benefits of a strategic plan as well as the method best used to develop that strategic plan. At the time of this Annual Report that process is just beginning, but we fully expect to adopt a strategic plan during the first quarter of FY 16/17.

The District is an active and engaged member of the Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association and its Training Officers Association. It is also a member of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and the Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC). Board Member Rucker is an active participant in the legislative advisory council of the FDAC. All of its fire fighters are members of the California State Firefighters Association.

Not part of this report, but something that we have all become familiar with is the tree mortality situation. All of California, but particularly the central Sierra Nevada mountain range has been hard hit with continuing drought conditions. These drought conditions, compounded by unhealthy, overgrown conifer forests has resulted in an unprecedented mortality of trees, mostly pines. These pines are subjected to attack by the Western Bark Beetle and because of the drought conditions and low moisture are unable to fend off the pest. The resulting mortality of pines is almost 100% in some areas of the central Sierra Nevada mountain range. In our area we are experiencing about 50% currently, but pestilence is not over yet – we see trees dying every day that appeared healthy the day before. Tuolumne County has appointed a Tree Mortality Task Force that is working to reduce and mitigate the hazard from the dead and dying trees. The Task Force work began in the Leisure Pines community and then moved into Mi Wuk Village. Cal Trans and PG&E are also working diligently to mitigate hazards to their respective infrastructure. As we move through the summer months there is a tremendous amount of activity removing dead and dying trees, from chainsaws, to tree climbers, cranes as tall as one-hundred, ninety-two feet, and all the debris trucks necessary to remove the hazard from the community.

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ADMINISTRATION

Safety: Is Job One!

At the Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District safety is always paramount in our minds and in our work. The Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP) is reviewed and updated annually by the District's Safety Officer and Fire Chief. In FY 15/16 the District incurred two (2) accidents, neither of which resulted in time lost from work. Safety is woven into every training plan and is part of the start of every day. In the fire season the District utilizes the material available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) including its "Six Minutes For Safety" program which has a new topic each day.



In April of 2016, the District was audited for safety by representatives from the Special Districts Risk Management Authority (SDRMA), the Districts workers' compensation insurance provider. The audit included a two-hour interview followed by a physical inspection of the facilities, inside, outside, and closets included. The District was complemented on its safety program and its focus on safety by the safety engineer who conducted the audit. The audit identified four (4) areas that need immediate attention. Those areas and their status are:

1. A Traffic Control Policy (for employees working on highways and public streets at the scene of emergencies). The District Safety Officer is currently drafting a Standard Operating Procedure to address this concern. It will include relevant and required elements from the US and State DOT guidelines.
2. Gasoline Stored in 'non-safety' cans. Safety fuel cans have been ordered. The 'non-safety' cans will be disposed of.
3. Lack of a working smoke alarm (one alarm had the batteries removed temporarily). This has been remedied by replacing the battery.
4. Split rims (on the wheels of Engine 774). This cannot be remedied immediately by replacing the rims. The immediate solution is a safety warning and instructions to employees regarding the danger of split rims and how to deal with these type of rims.

Funding for these and other safety related corrections will be from a grant program available from SDRMA for just these purposes.

Personnel & Staffing

The District is governed by a five-member Board Of Directors who are each elected to a four-year term of office, staggered so that no more than two members' terms expire on any given year. The Board of Directors elects from within itself a President, Vice President, and Treasurer, and it appoints the Fire Chief as the Clerk to The Board. The Board of Directors has established its Regular Meetings by Policy as the second Tuesday of each month at the Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Station, 24247 Highway 108, Mi Wuk Village, California 95346. The Board of Directors selects and appoints the Fire Chief, who serves in a contractual position and at the pleasure of the Board within the terms of the contract. All other staff are selected by the Fire Chief with assistance and advice from various professionals both within and outside of the District.



The District is staffed by a full-time paid Fire Chief, one full-time paid Secretary, one volunteer Assistant Chief, one part-time Battalion Chief / Training Officer, two full-time paid Captains, one part-time paid Captain / Safety Officer, up to six full-time volunteer Intern Fire Fighters, two Volunteer Firefighters, and about 10 volunteer members of the Community Assistance Support Team.

Volunteer Division

The District's Volunteer Division consists of three (3) elements: Volunteer Fire Fighters, Intern Fire Fighters, and Reserve Firefighters.

Volunteer Fire Fighters (VFF) are what we think of from days-gone-by; a fire fighter who carries a pager on his belt at work and at home. When an emergency strikes his/her pager is activated. If he/she is available, he/she responds, either directly to the emergency or to the fire station from where he/she can bring additional resources to the emergency or cover the station in case of a second emergency. VFFs must cover at the station at least one, twenty-four-hour shift or two, eight-hour shifts each month. This ensures they remain familiar with operations, personnel, equipment, etc. The District currently has three Volunteer Firefighters. This is an increase over none in 2013. Of these three, one lives within the District and the other two live outside of the District but have ties to the District.

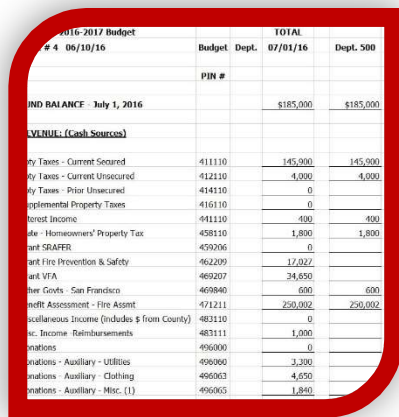
Intern Fire Fighters (IFF) are fire fighters who are looking for a career in the fire service. They have completed or are enrolled in a recognized fire technology program at a local community college. They volunteer to 'work' a firefighter shift of two, twenty-four hour days followed by four, twenty-four hour days 'off shift'. This gives them the experience of a full time, paid fire fighter, which they can include on their resume and job applications. IFFs receive a nominal stipend off fifty dollars for each twenty-four-hour

day. They must be actively seeking employment with fire agencies in order to remain an IFF. The BOD has authorized six IFF positions in the budget, three of which are currently filled.

Reserve Fire Fighters (RFF) are fire fighters who volunteer to work 'shifts' at the fire station. They may or may not be enrolled in or have completed a fire technology program at a local community college. Typical RFFs are seeking employment as a career fire fighter but are unable to work a typical fire fighters shift because of other commitments. VFFs may cover as RFFs if and when their schedule permits. RFFs receive a nominal stipend of fifty dollars for each twenty-four-hour shift. RFFs must cover the station at least four, twenty-four hour shifts each month. This ensures they remain familiar with operations, personnel, equipment, etc. The District currently has two RFFs. Since RFF's stipends comes from the same budget as does IFF's stipend, RFFs are only permitted to the extent that total expenditures do not exceed that budget category.

Report of Financial Operations

This report is a general overview and comparison of the financial operations of the District. It is not intended to be, nor should it be used as an official budget document. Not included in this Report are one-time (unanticipated) revenues such as grant awards and donations; neither are the expenses associated with those revenues reflected in this report.



FY 15-2017 Budget		TOTAL	
Budget	Dept.	07/01/16	Dept. 500
PN #			
END BALANCE - July 1, 2016		\$185,000	\$185,000
VENUE: (Cash Sources)			
ny Taxes - Current Secured	411110	145,000	145,000
ny Taxes - Current Unsecured	412110	4,000	4,000
ny Taxes - Prior Unsecured	414110	0	
plemental Property Taxes	416110	0	
terest Income	411110	400	400
ale - Homeowners' Property Tax	458110	1,800	1,800
ent SRAFER	450206	0	
ent Fire Prevention & Safety	462209	17,027	
ent VTA	469207	34,650	
er Gifts - San Francisco	469940	600	600
enefit Assessment - Fire Assmt	471211	250,000	250,000
ollaborance Income (Includes \$ from County)	483110	0	
ic Income - Reimbursements	483111	1,000	
onations	496000	0	
onations - Auxiliary - Utilities	496060	3,300	
onations - Auxiliary - Clothing	496063	4,650	
onations - Auxiliary - Misc. (1)	496065	1,800	

The expenditures for FY 15/16 were \$412,400. This represents a decrease over FY 14/15 of 2.91%, but an increase of 3.63% over the five-year average of \$397,971. Revenues for FY 15/16 were \$420,510, a decrease of 0.92% over FY 14/15, but an increase of 4.54% over the five-year average of \$402,242.

In FY 15/16 the two primary sources of revenue were from property taxes (38%) and the benefit assessment (58%). The remaining (4%) was from various sources including grants, donations mostly from the Auxiliary, and in-lieu payments. In FY 13/14 the District depleted its Contingency fund to purchase a used fire engine from the Ashland, Oregon, Fire Department (with financial assistance from the Auxiliary). Depleting this fund also meant that the District had insufficient funds to carry it through the dry period¹ in both FYs 14/15 and 15/16 and it borrowed from the Tuolumne County treasury during those

¹ The time from April 10 through December 10 each year are referred to as a 'dry period' as no tax or assessment revenue is received during this time.

time periods. In FY 16/17 the District will have sufficient funds in Contingency to carry it through the dry period without borrowing from the Tuolumne County treasury.

In FY15/16 the District received grants from:

- ✚ Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): This grant award, in the amount of \$26,964.00, required a match equal to the grant amount. It funded a variety of purchases including wildland personnel protective equipment (PPE), training, and equipment. The District spent (with financial assistance from the Auxiliary²) \$14,211.00 of the allowable \$26,964.00. It will be reimbursed for fifty percent of what it spent, or \$7,105.00.
- ✚ Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP): This grant award, requiring no match, was managed by Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services. The District received three new state-of-the-art Automatic Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) to replace the existing units which were no longer supported by the manufacturer. The District incurred no financial outlay with this grant award.
- ✚ State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Grant (SRA FPF): This grant award, in the amount of \$190,516.00, was awarded in FY14/15; however, the work did not begin until FY15/16. It funded hiring a contractor to clear brush and other flammable vegetation from the sides of the Tuolumne County roads within the District. With these funds every County roadway in the District had some brush clearing completed on it, in total about seventeen miles of roads. This project was completed within budget at a direct cost of \$147,510.00. The District was reimbursed \$170,827 as direct and indirect expenses.
- ✚ Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (FP&S) (US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Assistance to Firefighters Grant): This grant, in the amount of \$17,878.00, requires a local match of five percent, or \$851.00. It is funding the cooperative program with CAL FIRE through its Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) program that is conducting the Defensible Space Inspection program within the District for the 2016 Fire Season³. This project has three goals:
 - 1) Recruit and train more VIPs
 - 2) Inspect every residential property within the District



² See the discussion regarding the "Auxiliary" below.

³ See "OPERATIONS: Fire Prevention" below for additional information on the DSI program.

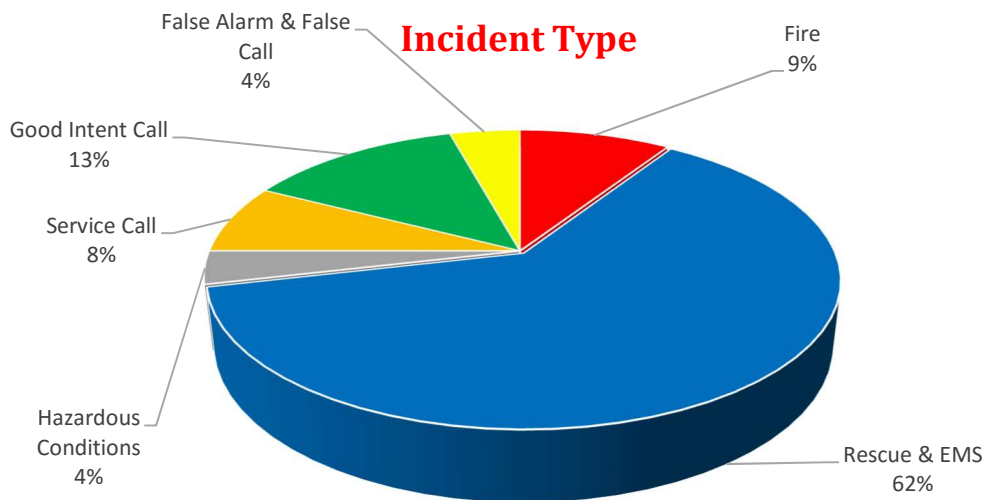
3) Develop a guide for future DSI programs to ensure a self-sustaining, VIP Defensible Space Inspection Program

In the winter and spring of FY15/16 the District applied for the following grants:

- ✚ Assistance to Firefighters Grant (US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency) (AFG Vehicle): Type One fire engine in the amount of \$465,000.00. This grant has a local match of five percent or \$25,610.00
- ✚ Assistance to Firefighters Grant (US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency) (AFG Equipment): Extractor and Dryer in the amount of \$21,006.00. This grant requires a local match of five percent or \$1,000.00.
- ✚ Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (US Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Assistance to Firefighters Grant) (FP&S): Green waste disposal / voucher program in the amount of \$59,760.00. This grant has a local match of five percent or \$2,845.00
- ✚ Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): Thermal Imaging Camera, fire hose and equipment, PPE in the amount of \$39,330.00. This grant has been awarded for FY 16/17, but in the reduced amount of \$25,330.00. This grant has a local match of fifty percent or \$12,665 (for a total of \$25,330).

Report of Incident Activity

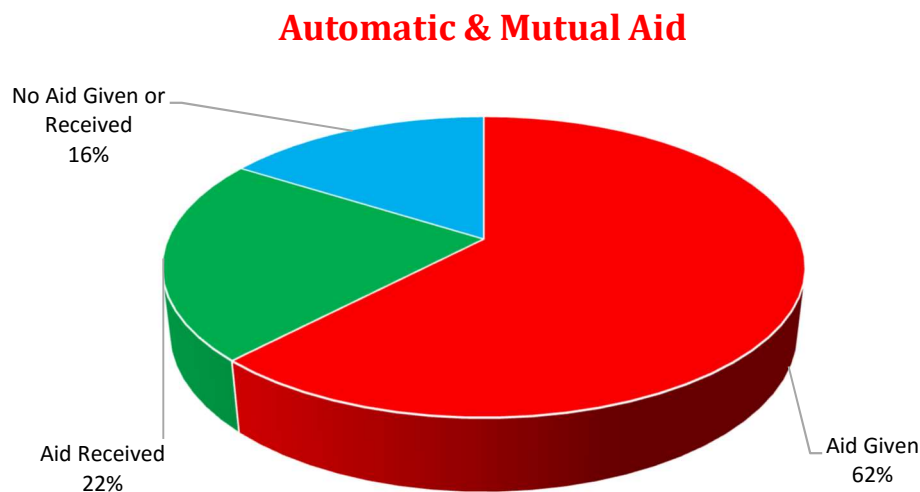
In FY 15/16 the District responded to three hundred, six (306) incidents. Nine (9) percent, were fire calls; Sixty-two (62) percent were rescue and calls for emergency medical services. The balance of twenty-nine (29) percent were other types of call. This represents an increase over FY 13/14 and FY 14/15 of about three (3) percent overall, not enough to indicate a trend, but something to keep an eye on in the next few years. The pie chart below shows the breakdown graphically.



Because of the geographic location of the District, its resources are frequently the closest appropriate resource to calls for assistance both within and outside of its boundaries. From about the upper Twain Harte entrance to about Little Sweden, District resources are almost always the closest. This includes the Middle Camp Sugar Pine and Confidence Road areas, as well as the communities of Sierra Village, Whispering Pines, High Sierra Park, Leisure Pines, Peaceful Pines, and Long Barn.

Following a revised and renewed Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreement with all of the local fire agencies in Tuolumne County, the District responds as the first appropriate resource to all calls for assistance in those areas.⁴ It is also frequently called upon to respond to emergencies in the Italian Bar and Hull Creek areas of the National Forest.

Of three hundred, six (306) incidents in FY 15/16, one hundred, eighty-nine (190), or sixty-two (62) percent of all calls, were to provide assistance outside of the boundaries of the District to other agencies. This includes both the anticipated and planned 'automatic aid' responses as well as a few mutual aid calls where the other agency's resources were insufficient to mitigate the incident without assistance. The District received aid from other agencies for incidents within the boundaries of the District a total of sixty-six (67), or twenty-two (22) percent of the total incidents. The remaining forty-nine (49), or sixteen (16) percent of all calls were incidents within the District boundaries where no aid was received. The chart below is a graphic representation of these statistics.



⁴ The Agreement provides that the District is under no obligation, and may in fact decline to respond at any time that it determines a response would reduce the protection, in the District's view, within the District to unacceptable levels.

Fleet

On March 11, 2014, the District adopted a Fleet Plan. Plan elements include The District, The Communities, The Geography, Terrain, & Urban Interface Issues, The Water Supplies, The Fire Department Staffing, The Public Protection Classification, The Current Fleet, The Future Fleet and a Summary. That plan calls for a fleet of one (1) command vehicle, one (1) utility vehicle, three (3) Type One, four-wheel drive fire engines, and one (1) water tender. The current fleet does not reflect that plan. Since the adoption of the Fleet Plan, the District has acquired additional vehicles at little or no cost and has eliminated vehicles from its fleet. The District needs to re-evaluate the Fleet Plan to ensure that it meets the current and projected needs of the District.



There are currently ten (10) motor vehicles in the fleet all of which are licensed for highway use (except for the Kubota tractor) and are insured:



- ✚ 1994 HME Western States Type One four-wheel drive fire engine.
- ✚ 1983 Emergency One / Ford Type Two fire engine
- ✚ 1996 HiTech / Freightliner Type Two fire engine (leased from Tuolumne County)
- ✚ 1998 Boise Fire Equipment / International (Navistar) Type Three fire engine (on long term loan through the Federal Excess Property Program)
- ✚ 1988 Ford Type Two fire engine (not currently in service; lacking equipment and in need of maintenance; donated by Placer County Fire Department / CAL FIRE)
- ✚ 2012 Chevrolet Pickup; chief officer vehicle
- ✚ 2005 Ford Expedition four-wheel drive utility vehicle (donated by Jim Krussow)
- ✚ 2007 Ford Expedition four-wheel drive utility vehicle (donated by Jim Krussow)
- ✚ TomCar UTV; off-road / trail rescue vehicle (not in service until conversions are completed) (on long term loan through the Federal Excess Property Program).
- ✚ Kubota four-wheel drive tractor; snow removal and utility uses

Community Assistance Support Team

The Community Assistance Support Team (CAST) is a group of District volunteers who desire to be part of the District and its mission but who can't or don't want to be fire fighters. It meets monthly at the fire station. CAST members provide invaluable services to the department using whatever skill sets they possess; electrician, photography, community relations, media relations, etc. In the past year CAST members have produced press releases, updated both facility and vehicle electrical work, mapped hydrant locations, photographed training and emergency incidents, and many other 'non-fire' related tasks.

OPERATIONS



Fire Suppression

The District is an all risk emergency responder. Its firefighters respond to a variety of calls for assistance besides fires; medical emergencies, hazardous conditions, vehicle accidents, assists to other agencies and jurisdictions, and public assists such as 'lift assists.' In FY 15/16 firefighters responded to a total of three hundred, six calls for assistance.

On September 26, 2015, at about 11:30 at night a structure fire was reported on Hekeke Lane. Before the fire could be stopped it completely destroyed two occupied homes and one unoccupied home. In addition to the fire fighters and equipment from the District, it was assisted by resources from CAL FIRE, Tuolumne County Fire Department, Twain Harte Community Services District Fire & Rescue Department and Tuolumne Fire District. This disaster was the worst within the District in recent memory, and perhaps in its history.






In 2016, the District signed a renewed automatic and mutual aid agreement with other fire agencies in Tuolumne County. This revision was more than three (3) years in the works and went through several iterations before finally concluding with the version that is now in place. One direct result of this new agreement is that the Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) is no longer responding with its firefighters to its calls where the District's firefighters are the closest available appropriate resource, unless of course the incident calls for more than a single engine to respond. While this will not increase the number of incidents to which the District's firefighters respond, it will place a somewhat increased burden on them as they will, of necessity be making decisions for the TCFD without direct input of TCFD firefighters on the scene with them. It has also resulted in the desired effect of reducing the number of instances where unnecessary fire engines respond code three to incidents where another appropriate and available engine is closer.

The District also maintains an independent Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreement with the Tuolumne Fire District for both fire and non-fire emergency responses.

Fire Prevention

In 2014, the year after the devastating Rim Fire, the District collaborated with CAL FIRE in its Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) program to organize a Defensible Space Inspection (DSI) program. The DSI is a CAL FIRE program of inspecting residential properties for clearance of flammable vegetation. Inspections are conducted and enforced under the authority of the Public Resources Code section 4291, which gives CAL FIRE that authority. The District facilitated the development of a VIP presence in the local communities and recruited applicants. CAL FIRE provided the training and materials necessary. In 2015 the local VIP program was continued for the same purpose (DSI). In 2016, the District received a small federal grant to select and appoint temporary part-time, paid inspectors. These inspectors assist in the recruitment and training of VIPs, conduct inspections, and will draft an 'operations handbook'. The goal for 2016 (which crosses into two fiscal years) is threefold:

-  Continue to build the cadre of VIPs
-  Complete first and second inspections of every residential property within the District boundaries
-  Complete an operations handbook that can be handed off to volunteers in future years to ensure the continued success of the program

The cooperative effort with CAL FIRE includes the first inspection of every residential property within the District boundaries. It also includes the second inspection of those properties not in compliance with the statutes at the first inspection. Any properties not in compliance at the time of the second inspection will be handled by CAL FIRE independent of this cooperative effort.

During National Fire Prevention Week in October, the District and the Auxiliary sponsored a Family Fire Fest fun day. The foci of the event were fire prevention and fun. During this event the fire fighters demonstrated the use of firefighting gear, gave children rides on

the fire engines, and answered questions about the District and fire prevention. The Auxiliary hosted several vendors, some related to fire prevention and others related to firefighting, or just simply the community.

Probably the most apparent issue related to fire prevention at this time is the host of dead conifers (mostly pine) as a result of the Western Bark Beetle infestation following the severe multi-year drought in the central Sierra Nevada mountains. Some estimates are as high as a 100% loss of the pine in our area. Tuolumne County has engaged in an aggressive approach to deal with this problem by appointing the Tuolumne County Tree Mortality Task Force, comprised of representatives from Tuolumne County, California Office Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, Tuolumne Utility District, FireSafe 108 Council, Cal Trans, and Pacific Gas & Electric Company. The Task Force has invited the District to attend all of its meetings and we have been a constant presence in order to stay abreast of the developments. At the end of FY 15/16 the Task Force had moved its project work in to Mi Wuk Village. The work in the Village will probably take three (3) months or longer, and even then more work will need to be done as live trees continue to die.

Training

Training is a large part of what is done at the District; daily, weekly, monthly, and annually. The District is an active member of the Tuolumne County Training Officers' Association (a division of the Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs' Association). As an indicator of the commitment to training, the BOD has authorized the appointment of a paid training officer at the Battalion Chief level. This position is filled by Craig Konklin, former Training Chief for the Tuolumne County Fire Department and the Tuolumne Calaveras Unit of CAL FIRE. This is a part time position, authorized at twenty (20) hours per month.



The District records its training activity with an online database provider, TargetSolutions. This resource is provided free-of-charge from Special Districts Risk Management Authority, our workers' compensation insurance provider. In FY 15/16 not all training was recorded; however, there were 993 hours of training which were recorded, including:

Company Training	775.5 hours
Wildland	36.8
Driver/Operator	27.5
Facilities	20
Haz Mat	18
EMS	16
Safety	16
Officer Training	12

Pre-fire	9
Fitness	3

The District trains not only with its own fire fighters, but it trains frequently with fire fighters from neighboring agencies. For example, the required Continuing Education training for emergency responders was taught by staff from the Tuolumne County Ambulance Service in the District’s Training / Community Room, and was attended by fire fighters from stations as far away as Pinecrest, Strawberry, and Mono Village, as well as our own fire fighters. May 9 – 13, 2016, was devoted to a class on Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (S-290); a nationally recognized and approved safety class. This forty-hour class included students from several fire agencies in Tuolumne, Calaveras, and San Joaquin Counties. It consisted of not only classroom training, but also physical weather observations and calculations, as well as a Staff Ride (field trip) to study the site of the tragedy where Fire Fighter Eva Schicke lost her life on September 12, 2004, on the Tuolumne Fire in the Stanislaus National Forest. Six fire fighters from the District took and completed this critical wildland fire safety course.

AUXILIARY

The Mi Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District Auxiliary has been a very active part of the District since its inception more than fifty years ago. Today the Auxiliary brags of 299 members, most of whom live outside the area but are members because of connection to this community. There are about thirty active members who produce and manage the activities of the Auxiliary. Activities include annual events such as the Pancake Breakfast, Rummage Sale, Fashion Show and Luncheon, and Spaghetti Dinner. These are supplemented by monthly business meetings which are consolidated with a luncheon held at the fire station, and the monthly ‘pot-luck’ dinner and bingo evening.



In FY 15/16 the Auxiliary donated \$14,674 to the District to support the District’s operational needs such as personal protective equipment, hose tester, and wildland fire fighter tools. This was a reduction of 58% over the donations in FY 14/15 of \$34,610, and a reduction of 48% over the last four-year average of \$28,306.

Without this historical support from the auxiliary the District would not have been able to purchase many of the supplies and equipment that it has over the years, including the current first-out fire engine. The current fire station and apparatus building were purchased and constructed in large part because of support, both with finances and muscle, from the Auxiliary. A very special “THANKS!” is due them for their tireless efforts for more than fifty years!

NEXT YEAR

There are many things on the horizon for next year. Here are but four to start with: response statistics expectations, a District strategic plan, a county-wide study of fire and emergency services, and the District's fiscal outlook.

Strategic Plan

In 2016 the Board began exploring the possibility of developing a long term plan. The driving factors included funding needs, fleet needs, and staffing. As the year ended the Board has determined to engage a professional consultant to guide the District and Community through the process to develop a five (5) year Strategic Plan. The consultant will be selected in early FY 16/17 and work will commence shortly thereafter. The District intends to involve community members and leaders, leaders from allied agencies, District employees and volunteers, as well as other stakeholders in the outcome.



Tuolumne County Fire Service Study

In March of 2015 the Tuolumne County Board Of Supervisors (BOS) adopted a work plan that included engaging a professional consultant to conduct another study of the provision of fire and emergency services within Tuolumne County. That initial work plan called for the study to be completed by the end of the calendar year; however, that goal was not met. At the current time the County has developed a draft Request For Proposal (RFP) and provided it to the fire agencies within Tuolumne County. We have commented on the DRAFT and now wait to see what the next steps will be.



Fiscal View

The adopted Preliminary Budget for FY 16/17 reflects anticipated revenue of \$426,192, an increase of 1.35% over the FY 15/16 budget of \$420,510. As always the Preliminary Budget will be followed by the Final Budget which will be adopted prior to October 1, 2016, and after a more reliable estimate of property tax revenues can be made.

In the next few years the District will need to budget for and complete repairs and maintenance including the following:

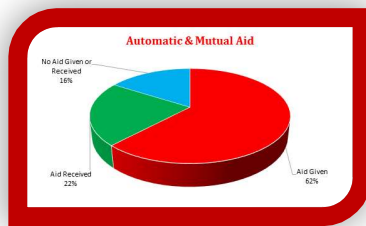
- ✚ Resurfacing the parking lot and apron in front of the Apparatus Building. The surface is in such poor shape that during rain storms water from under the surface comes up through the pavement and runs down the parking lot. This poor condition will continue to deteriorate, and at an increasing rate until proper repairs are completed.

- ✚ Surface grading and/or drainage between the fire station and Zak's Auto Shack. During snow storms, as the snow packs down and then melts, the resulting water intrudes into the building itself. This creates an environment conducive to mold and mildew, an unhealthy situation. Correction of this problem will probably involve grading the surface to change the slope, adding underground drainage and collectors, and paving the surface.
- ✚ Installing gates at the entrances from Sugar Pine Road and Sugar Pine Cutoff. This is necessary to reduce and/or eliminate the vehicular traffic coming through these access areas as a 'short-cut' to Highway 108. This non-District related traffic creates a safety hazard to our employees, the Auxiliary members, and others using the facilities, as this vehicular traffic travels at a high rate of speed with little or no regard for pedestrians in the area. Most of the material has been acquired; however, the installation is yet to be completed.

In addition, the District must establish a policy and budget process for replacing the aging fleet of fire engines.

Response Statistics Expectations

For the past several years the District has consistently averaged about three hundred calls for assistance per year. We do not anticipate any dramatic change in that number; however, we do anticipate changes in the calls for assistance to and from other agencies. Due to the recently modified Response Plans the District's resources are frequently the only resource needed and the only resource that responds to calls for assistance outside



of its boundaries. This is especially true for those geographic areas where the District's resources are the closest appropriate available resource. Historically in areas where the District resource was the closest appropriate available resource, but NOT the agency with jurisdiction, resources were dispatched from both the District and the agency with jurisdiction. That is no longer the case unless more than a single resource is needed. This has resulted in a drop in the number of incidents where responding resources are unnecessarily duplicative. This will result in a drop in the number of incidents where the District receives assistance from other agencies, because the assistance is not needed⁵ and it is no longer automatically dispatched.

⁵ And historically the assistance from other agencies was NOT needed; frequently that assistance was returned to its quarters before it arrived on the scene.