

East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

Meeting Date: July 08, 2020

Subject/Title: Prevention Division Update

Submitted by: Steve Aubert, Fire Marshal

Prevention Division

The Prevention Division is pleased to give an update on our software development over the past month that consist of;

The Compliance Engine which is our 3rd party inspection, testing, and maintenance software system reminding all commercial owners of their requirement to maintain their fire system has launched. Letters have been sent out to both business owners and service contractors alike. So far, we have heard back from a number of different service contractors welcoming this new addition with keeping the systems tested and maintained.

Zoll Fire RMS has been launched. A representative from Zoll was able to travel to our site and work with IT and Prevention Staff to activate the occupancies tab in our RMS system. As part of this upgrade, all RMS functions have gone mobile so that Prevention can perform all field inspections electronically and in the field. We will be able to immediately send inspection notices to clients and have digital record keeping of all prevention items.

First Due has launched. We are working in the background right now during our onboarding phase with the communications center and will be testing the service out prior to making it available to the line. The benefits of having a quick pre-fire plan showing you critical information on the fly will soon be available all while collecting data from both the Compliance Engine and Zoll Fire RMS.

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Services

Juvenile fire setting has been identified as the fastest growing fire threat in the United States. Annual statistics show that more than 300 people are killed and nearly one-billion dollars in property is destroyed by fires set by children. Nationally, over 50% of all arson arrests are youth under the age of eighteen. Addressing this behavior in children can help prevent injuries and property loss and is believed to reduce the number of adult arsonists in our community.

The Firefighters Burn Institute Youth Fire Setter Program (FFBI YFP), provides a coordinated effort in helping youth fire setters and their families receive the help they need through education, diversion, assessment, and psychological services.

Since the Firefighters Burn Institute took over running the program in 2012, they have helped a total of 301 children learn how to be more fire safe through the Youth Fire Setter Program.

The Youth Fire Setter Program is a program that is run by the Firefighters Burn Institute with partnerships from 18 total agencies from two states. Locally, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and San Ramon Valley Fire have successfully partnered and have successful programs.

This program is comprised of fire, probation, burn and healthcare professionals who provide a coordinated effort in helping youth fire setters and their families receive the assistance they need

through assessments, psychological referrals, and education. This program teaches families safe and responsible behaviors related to fire use in the home as well as the financial, emotional, and social consequences of fire setting.

Partnership with FFPI would consist of an annual commitment of \$400.00

Annual Membership Fee: \$250.00

Non-Personnel/Copies, etc.: \$150.00

See attachment for full review and proposal

Engineering New Construction

Permit activity in June continued with an upward trend during the COVID-19 restrictions. A total of 52 projects were submitted for permits during the month. Again 27 of were for NEW single family residential sprinklers. And again, there were a couple of new or large commercial building tenant improvements were also received.

Plan Review / Permit Revenue for the month of June was \$100,398

Code Enforcement

Our code enforcement efforts for the month have been predominately focused on school inspections with them being a large portion of our State Fire Marshal mandated inspections. Along with those, weed abatement has dominated our efforts with the fuels drying out and posing a higher threat from fire especially with the 4th of July holiday. We followed up on a sprinkler activation at a commercial store under construction and can report that the system has been restored to service.

Citations

We issued one citation for the month of June in the City of Oakley for a non-permitted fire. The gentlemen received a warning the same morning from Engine 53 and was found to be in violation later that afternoon. The gentlemen has ten days to request an appeal if they would like to present their reason as to why the citation is unwarranted and appear before the Board. This will be a new section that we report so that the Board may hear any appeals that have been reported to the District.

Exterior Hazard Weed Abatement

Our 2020 weed abatement season is well under way. The community as a whole has done an exceptional job this year with eliminating threats of wildfire with their abatement efforts. As of the end of the month, our Fire District App is now available both on the Apple and Google app stores for community members to notify the District staff of properties that still require mitigation efforts to reduce the threat of combustible debris and vegetation. Our District team along with City Code Enforcement Officers were able to inspect and verify for compliance on 500 properties. We continue to receive new complaints and will process and notify appropriately throughout the season.

Investigations

For the month of June, we provided fire investigations support for two suspicious fires in Bethel Island and one in unincorporated Brentwood and nine accidental fires. Stay vigilant and be aware of those around as you respond and approach the scenes. The District as a whole has responded to 12 fires for a fire loss of \$422,370.00. As you can see we have done a better job at tracking our fire loss data.

Fire Aides

Our Fire Aides received training on weed abatement inspections and for the month of June have been critical with assisting the Prevention Division with the inspection of all properties in the District.