



# Memorandum

Date: May 11, 2021  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Chief Bradley  
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update-May

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## Engineer Mark Paulsen Retires



Engineer Mark Paulsen retired from South County Fire on May 1, 2021. Unfortunately, his career was cut short due to a significant on-duty injury that occurred at an emergency in 2018. Engineer Paulsen began his career in 2001 as an EMT for Escalon Community Amulance and as a Reserve Firefighter with Escalon Fire District. He became a paramedic in 2004. Engineer Paulsen started his career with South County Fire on May 1, 2006 and was promoted to Engineer in November of 2008. Known for his indepth knowledge of anything mechanical or technological, he was often relied on as the Authority's authority on several different projects and programs. Engineer Paulsen has worked part time as a sales representative for Golden State Fire Apparatus and has transitioned to making fire apparatus sales his primary occupation. I hope you will all join me in congratulating Engineer Paulsen on his solid career and on his retirement.

## Firefighter James Barr Promoted to Engineer



On May 1, 2021, Firefighter James Barr was promoted to the rank of Engineer. In 2006 Barr began his fire service career as a Reserve Firefighter with the Lathrop Manteca Fire District and later served as a Reserve Firefighter with the Manteca Fire Department. Engineer Barr began his professional fire career in 2016 when he was hired as a Firefighter/Engineer with the Lathrop Manteca Fire District. He began his career with the South County Fire Authority in July of 2017 when he was hired as a Firefighter Paramedic and completed the Stockton Regional Fire Academy. Engineer Barr is a licensed Paramedic, Hazmat Specialist, and holds an AS degree in Fire Science. He lives in Manteca with his wife Gabi and his two daughters Kennedy (7) and Cameron (3). Please join me in congratulating James

Barr on his promotion to Engineer.

### Station 95

Station 95 (Tracy Hills) continues to progress through the construction progress on schedule. The interior of the project has seen substantial progress with interior finishes being installed during early May. The project landscaping is complete and the permanent perimeter fencing has been installed at the site. The coming weeks will see the last of site concrete, the delivery and installation of the apparatus bay doors and the installation of appliances. The solar system for the project is currently in plan review. Construction is anticipated to be completed in July with an opening scheduled for September 1, 2021



### Training

In the month of April, the Training Division focused on wildland training and wildland company evaluations in preparation for wildland fire season. All Fire companies completed wildland fire training that included mobile attack, progressive hose lays and shelter deployment. The training and company evaluations were completed at a ranch above the transmission station on Patterson Pass Road. The Training Division also hosted a Driver/Operator 1B class and training for Fire Engineer candidates who will be taking the Engineer's exam in June.



### **Budget Development**

The Fire Authority continues to work with both member agencies to develop the Fire Authority's budget for FY 2021/22. The Authority will have a special Board meeting on Friday, May 14 to present the preliminary budget. The Authority was notified by the City of Tracy that they have restored funding for three positions (Permit Technician, Fire Inspector and Training Captain) that were eliminated due to last years' budget cuts. The preliminary budget could change due to continued labor negotiations and final decisions and dates for the implementation of Phase 2 of the transition plan. We do know that dispatch costs will increase due to the enactment of SB 438, the measure that provided local control of fire dispatch services and processes. Further, both member agencies have agreed to replace heart monitors on all paramedic units.

### **Recruitment/Fire Academy**

Eight candidates have completed background investigations, psychological and physical exams and are scheduled to begin the thirteen-week academy on June 1, 2021. Captain Andy Sansaver will serve as the Academy Coordinator. Extensive planning has been completed to prepare and identify training sites, classrooms, supplies, equipment and instructors. After the academy, the recruits will be assigned to shifts and stations based on the openings created by the firefighter positions and promotions required for the opening of Station 95.

### **Strategic Planning**

Due to logistical challenges, the Labor/Management Strategic Planning workshop has been rescheduled to June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The two-day meeting will focus on developing tactical objectives and work plans that correspond to the strategic objectives that were presented to the JPA Board and the key stakeholders. After the two-day meeting a three-year strategic plan will be developed and presented to the JPA Board for review and acceptance.

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

The Authority has received inquiries regarding the implementation of a CERT program from both the community and elected officials. The Authority is researching possibilities and working to identify staff to manage such a program. The development of a CERT program will be discussed and considered as a part of the pending Strategic Planning process.

### **Community Risk Reduction (CRR)**

The Community Risk Reduction Division continues to conduct required annual inspections along with reviews and inspections of new construction projects. Also, as a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Prevention Officers Group, Fire Marshal Spears participated in the International Code Council's Virtual Committee Action Hearings. The hearings were conducted from April 11<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

The Fire Authority continues to support the efforts of San Joaquin County and the City of Tracy to support vaccination clinics in San Joaquin County. As more vaccinations became available, the Fire Authority anticipated providing additional support to the vaccination clinics. With a significant decline in the number individuals seeking vaccines, the Authority's role in providing vaccination has diminished. Firefighter overtime required to support vaccination clinics will be reimbursed through FEMA.



### New Fire Engines

We have taken delivery of Engine 94 (Fire District Engine) and the other two City of Tracy Engines (Engines 92 and 95) should arrive within the next week. After their delivery, it will take up to one week to conduct the required familiarization training to place them in service.



### CalOES Type III Engine

The Authority was assigned a new Type III Engine (Brush Unit) from the California Office of Emergency Services (OES 4307). The unit was received at the end of the month and is anticipated to be ready for deployment in May 2021. This unit will be staffed by Authority firefighters and deployed to incidents statewide upon request. The unit is also available for use within our local jurisdiction. As an assignee, the Authority now has two brush units and ensures the existing brush unit remains available locally. Deployments with this unit are reimbursable through the California Fire Assistance Agreement.

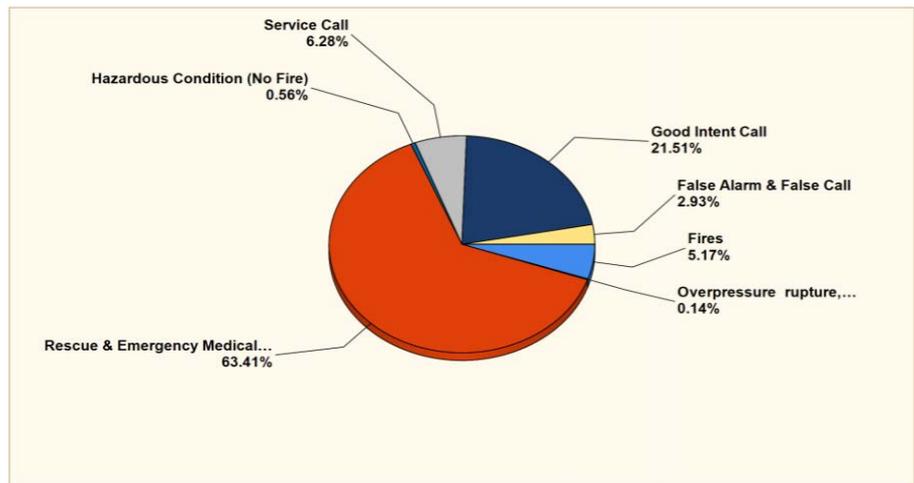


**Phase 2 of 2018 JPA Agreement Transition**

The City of Tracy has reengaged the consulting firm they used to evaluate the potential fiscal impacts of transitioning employees from the City to the Fire Authority. The consultant will work with the City, Fire Authority and the Fire District to address questions presented by the City Council concerning transition impacts to the City and the District. The Fire Authority HR consultant that was utilized to review and update the transition plan, will work with the City’s consultant to help finalize the plan and to present the final transition plan to both agencies for approval. The final transition plan is expected to be presented to both agencies in June with a potential transition date in September (if approved).

**April Response Data**

There were 782 total incidents in the month of April 2021. The charts listed below reflect only those incidents where the incident report has been completed and reviewed. The remaining 66 calls are pending review prior to inclusion in the following charts.



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	37	5.17%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.14%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	454	63.41%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	4	0.56%
Service Call	45	6.28%
Good Intent Call	154	21.51%
False Alarm & False Call	21	2.93%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sincerely,

Chief Bradley

CC: Tracy Rural Fire District Board of Directors  
Mark Bowman, Counsel, Tracy Rural Fire District  
Raychel Jackson, Clerk, Tracy Rural Fire District  
Jenny Haruyama, City Manager, City of Tracy