



# **GOLDEN GATE**

## **Fire Protection District**

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[www.goldengatefire.org](http://www.goldengatefire.org)

**To: Board of Directors**

**From: Damian DiFeo, Fire Chief**

**Subject: May Chief's Report**

**Date: May 19, 2022**

### **Administration**

- No report

### **Personnel**

- Currently have 15 total members, 13 of which are active on the department including myself.
- Firefighter Kinnard has submitted his resignation from the department.

### **Operations**

- Have run 38 calls to date this year compared to 36 at this time in 2021.
- Last month we moved a brush truck to station 83 so it can be picked up by personnel coming from Golden. I am driving the command vehicle that was in that station.

### **There are two recent calls I would like to highlight**

- We had a chicken coop fire off Wood Rock Road that was dispatched at 1337, TLFDF Chief 81 arrived on scene first at 1350, followed by TLFDF engine at 1405 and DFPC at 1407. TLFDF began fire attack and knocked down the bulk of the fire. A GGFD brush truck arrived with two personnel at 1411 and a second brush with two at 1417. We then had to have TLFDF bring us a tender as we did not have personnel to get ours.
- We had a very serious chain saw accident that occurred on a Monday at 3:00pm that required a helicopter transport. GGFD had a very delayed response due to nobody being in the district and only two people were responding. This call including the landing zone management was handled completely by TLFDF. Had TLFDF not handled this call for us the outcome could have been much different.

The reason I bring these two calls up is our lack of response is a continuing and worsening issue now that people are back to work and not working from home. So far this year we have had ten calls with only two people responding and two calls with only one person responding, which equals 31% of our calls. This lack of response cannot continue, as the Chief I feel we are doing a disservice to the community if the board and I do not proactively seek change. We do not have in-district residents to pull from to be volunteer Firefighters and the

ones we have are not around during the weekdays. We do not have a budget that will support paying paid Firefighters, so we must think outside the box to fix this issue. I went back and looked at meeting minutes from 2014, 2015 and 2016 and found the issue of recruiting and retaining volunteers being brought up several times. I also found that the department was down to 11 active volunteers in August of 2015. Previous Chiefs and board members also questioned the sustainability of this department long term with these issues. We cannot keep kicking this can down the road. I would ask that the new board members read the study report that was produced by the study group before the next meeting. Next month I will be asking the Board to revisit the report from the Study Group and come up with a concrete plan to move forward. This is a serious situation and needs immediate attention.

### **Recruitment and Retention**

- We sent out 4,700 joint recruitment post cards and received four new joint applications since then.

### **Communications/Jeffcom**

- GGFD participated in a press conference with JCSO and other fire agencies to launch the new Lookout alerting system.
- That system has gone live and there is information on our website to sign up for it.

### **Stadium Medical**

- No report

### **Strategic planning**

- No report

### **Budget**

- No report

### **Education/Training & Travel**

- No report

### **Inspections/planning & Zoning**

- There has been an application filed with Jeffco for a short-term rental license at 5082 Baby Doe Drive. I will be working with the owner to educate their guests on wildfire safety, fire pits, etc.

### **Grants**

- No report

### **Stations/Maintenance/Equipment**

- No report

### **Miscellaneous**

- A Stadium medic and I may be subpoenaed to court to testify in a DUI case from a call we were on in GG that is going to trial in Jeffco.

**Chief activity/meetings since last board meeting**

- Attended mountain Chiefs meeting
- Attended Jeffco Fire Marshalls meeting
- Attended Jeffcom board meeting
- Attended rave alerting press conference
- Attended central fire EMS OP's meeting
- Attended Jefferson County wildfire regulation update meeting
- Helped a homeowner with a wildfire mitigation survey/plan
- Responded to 4-calls