

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



Photo- NCFPD Personnel



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NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

11200 Speegle St Castroville, CA 95012



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### Fire Chief's Message

I am proud to introduce our Annual Report for 2021. This was a year filled with many unique challenges with a worldwide pandemic and record-breaking wildfires. Throughout these challenges, North County Fire has continued to respond to our community as highly trained and compassionate professionals.

It is important to take time to reflect on our past accomplishments, so we remain focused on exceeding previous expectations. More importantly, this is our opportunity to provide a behind-the-scenes look at the details of your fire department and the positive impact we are having in the community. It is our belief that the quality of life in our neighborhoods depends on strong partnerships between our citizens, business leaders, elected officials, and local government employees. We welcome every opportunity to participate in these partnerships.

In our Annual Report, we highlight the year's successes and identify areas of opportunity to improve as we continue to rebuild our Fire District. Whether it be modernizing apparatus and equipment, information technology systems, or hiring more personnel to better serve the communities, sustaining our progress and moving the organization forward will be the measure of our success. Thank you for your continued support as I look forward to a successful and healthy 2022 for the North County Fire District and communities we serve.

Joel Mendoza, Fire Chief



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Promotions

**Joel Mendoza**

Division Chief to Fire Chief

**Aaron Daniels**

Lieutenant to Captain

**David Batinovich**

Firefighter to Lieutenant

**Victor Rocha**

Reserve to Firefighter

**Harrison Hasslinger**

Reserve to Firefighter

## New Hires

**Saul Bolanos**

Reserve Firefighter

**Brandon Hernandez**

Reserve Firefighter

**Benjamin Moulton**

Reserve Firefighter

**Jarod Pompey**

Reserve Firefighter

**Kyle Wallace**

Reserve Firefighter

**Emilio Wilson**

Reserve Firefighter

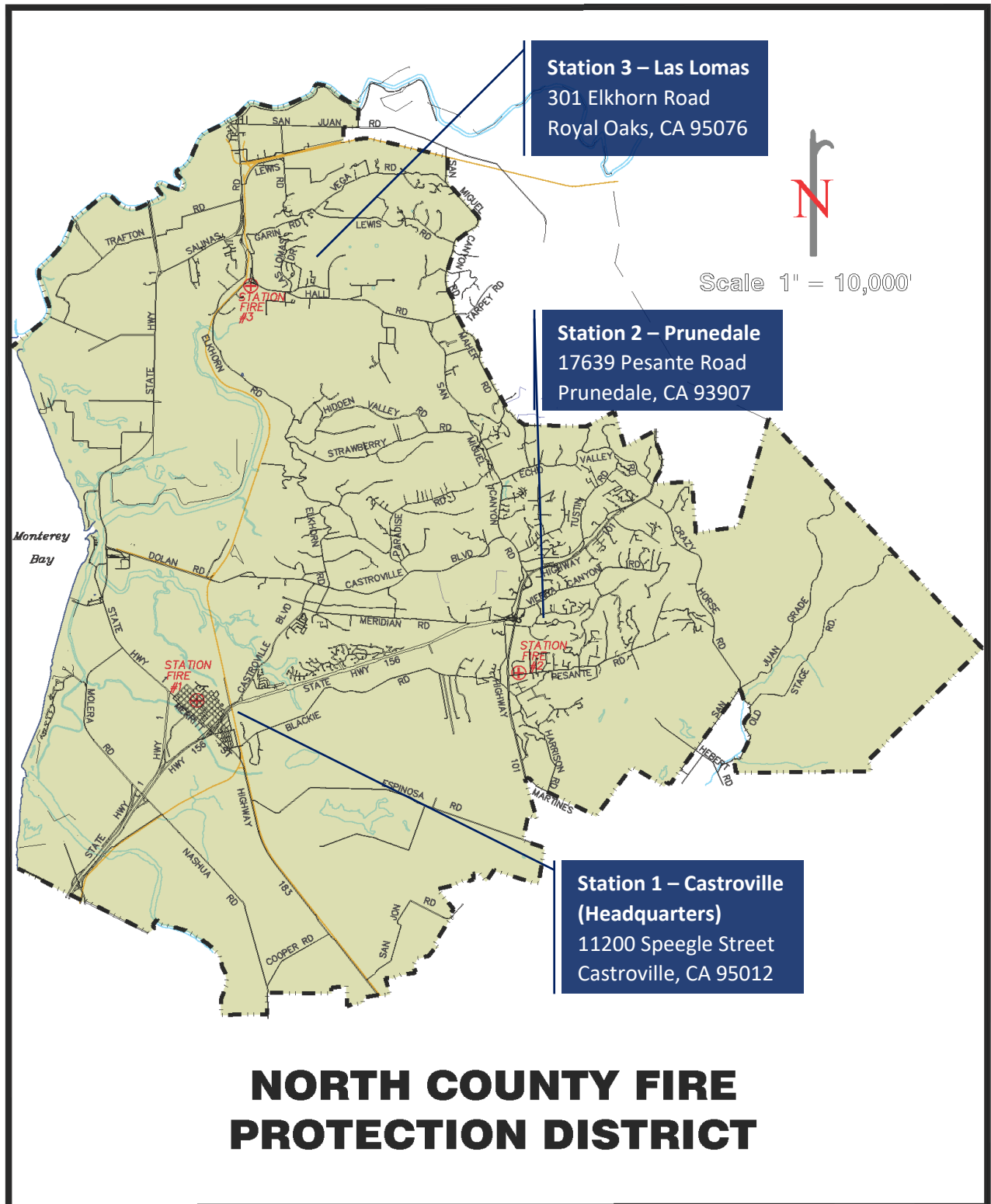
## Retirements



**Captain Don Harvey**

1997-2021

# DISTRICT MAP



06.18.2018



## OPERATIONS

The North County Fire Protection District (NCFPD) Operations Division mission is to effectively respond to all hazards and to mitigate all emergencies in the safest manner with the best outcome. Fire personnel under this division are responsible for medical emergency response, fire suppression, rescue, and disaster mitigation. This Division is overseen by the Operations/Training Division Chief and is comprised of 27 personnel assigned to 3 fire stations that provide emergency response services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### 2021 Operations Highlights

- Transitioned to a new medical emergency reporting system, ESO Electronic Healthcare Records. This system will help the District maintain state reporting compliance.
- Continued Leadership and readiness of the Monterey County Urban Search and Rescue Team.
- Continued leadership and support of the District's Reserve Firefighter Program.
- Support & coordination of Auto Extrication training to the Monterey Peninsula College Firefighter Academy. The District provides instructors and A&S Metals provides the site.



Photo- Ff Outzen

## Strike Teams

The 2021 wildfire season in California experienced an unusually early start amid an ongoing drought with historically low rainfall totals and reservoir levels. In January 2021 alone, 297 fires burned 1,171 acres on non-Federal land, almost tripling the number of fires and more than 20 times the acreage of the five-year running average for January. In July, more than three times as many acres had burned compared to the previous year to date. On August 18, 2021, the state of California was facing "unprecedented fire conditions" as multiple fires including the Dixie, McFarland, and Caldor fires burned.

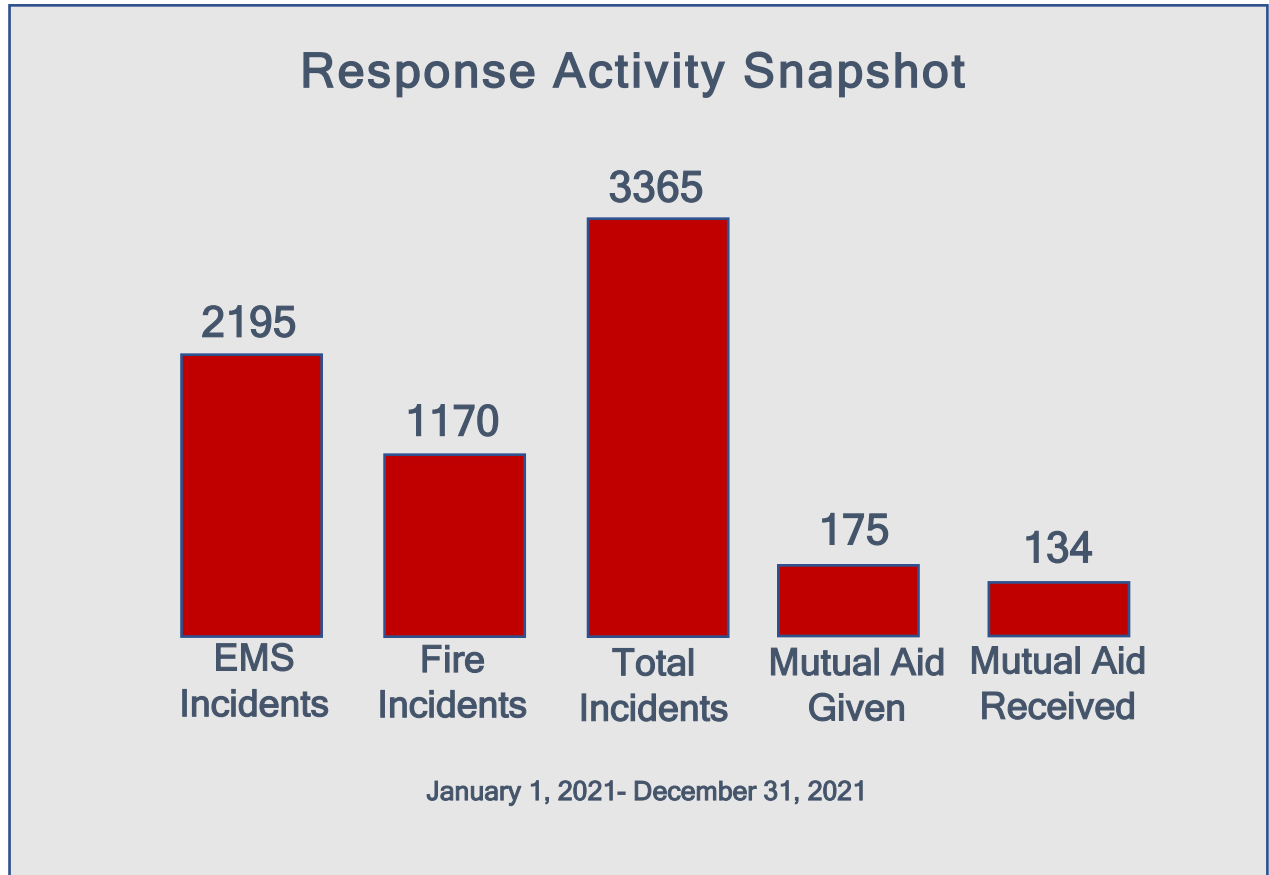
In a State as large and populated as California, no one emergency response agency can do it all. That is why cooperative efforts via contracts and agreements between state, federal and local agencies are essential in response to emergencies like large wildland fire incidents. As we have in previous years, the fire District responded to those incidents as part of the Master Mutual Aid plan.



## Emergency Response Activity

In 2021 the Fire District responded to 3,365 calls for service. Similar to 2020, we faced COVID-19 challenges in emergency response; however, our personnel accepted those challenges and adapted their response approach. Every call for service to our community was answered efficiently and effectively with minimal impacts to personnel.





## TRAINING

The primary function of the District’s Training Division is to ensure that all personnel have the basic and advanced core competencies necessary to respond safely to any type of emergency.

Ongoing skills training, education, and pursuing State and National Certification tracks help achieve this. The Division’s success is heavily dependent on the participation and dedication of the line personnel who are certified to provide the highest level of training to their fellow personnel. Our company officers and subject matter experts deliver the bulk of the district’s in-house training, as well as provide input into policy and procedural development.

### 2021 Training Highlights

- Skills development & support to personnel seeking certification in the California Incident Command Certification System (Line EMT, Strike Team Leader).

- Monterey County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Personnel received training in multiple disciplines such as Trench Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Wilderness Search and Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Collapse Rescue.
- Oversight and support provided to members in the Officer Development program and personnel seeking professional state certifications (Firefighter II & Company Officer).
- Mandated compliance training provided. Examples are Respiratory Protection, Infection Control, Hazardous Materials Refresher, and Wildland Fire Safety Refresher.
- Probationary Firefighter Training provided for all newly promoted Reserve Firefighters that were promoted to Full-Time Firefighter.
- New Reserve Firefighter Training provided for all new responders to include in-house fire academy.



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is community focused and employs the full spectrum of risk-reduction tools. It allows us to identify high-risk neighborhoods, determine hazards, build partnerships, improve safety, and form effective strategies with limited resources. CRR is also responsible for construction inspections including verification of project scope, fire protection systems, photovoltaic, and generator inspections.



### Public Education/Community Outreach activities

The CRR Division's participation in community outreach programs was reduced during this past year. The annual Fire Prevention Week, Open House and school visits were canceled. However, we still participated in holiday food and toy drives, collecting over 300 toys for the North Monterey County Family Resource Center.

### 2021 CRR Highlights

- Fire Safety smoke alarm installation & battery replacement as requested.
- Wildfire Safety Community Outreach & Disaster Preparedness lectures and Q&A sessions.
- Provided outreach programs such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training to public and private groups and individual members of the public.



## The Following Training classes/conferences were attended by CRR staff in 2021

- Fire Investigator Foxworthy attended the 2021 CCI Conference Paso Robles, CA

## Weed Abatement

Every year, fires threaten homes and properties as a result of unnecessary combustible debris and vegetation. It is every property owner's responsibility to eliminate these fire hazards on their property that may endanger their neighbors and the community at large.

The District has established minimum standards for weed abatement and they are available on the District website. In 2021, our Weed Abatement Officer responded to over 120 cases and worked with property owners to minimize fire hazards and meet the minimum requirements. In addition, connections have also been established with several HOA's in the rural areas with a long-term goal of establishing Fire Wise Communities.

## Inspections Conducted by the District in 2021

DESCRIPTION	Number of Inspections
AB-38 LE-100 Inspections (realtor request)	16
Engine Company Inspections	186
Defensible Space Inspections	249
Fire Sprinkler Inspections	96
Photo Voltaic Inspections	64
Weed Abatement Cases	120



Photo- FC Mendoza

## ADMINISTRATION

The Administration and Maintenance Division plans, supervises, and coordinates recruitment, management and oversight of facilities, mobile equipment programs, as well as grant management. In addition, the Administration Division ensures the District is in compliance with all state laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

### Administrative Highlights

- New Covid-19 protocols were implemented at all stations and the administrative offices.
- Conducted promotional examinations for Company Officer and Full-Time Firefighter.
- A total of two different recruitment and hiring processes were held for Firefighters. The Spring process brought 6 new Reserve Firefighters onboard.

### Emergency Fire Services Special Benefit Assessment

In June of 2021, a majority of the property owners in the District's communities approved a Proposition 218 Special Benefit Assessment. The Benefit Assessment will be used to re-hire previously displaced personnel, purchase new fire engines and make much needed repairs and improvements to the District's existing fire stations.



Photo- Jason Camp  
Bay Area Stringer



## MAINTENANCE

The Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining the operational readiness of the apparatus fleet, support vehicles and facilitates maintenance for the District's facilities and equipment.



### Maintenance Highlights 2021

- A new four-wheel drive Model 34 fire engine was delivered and put into service, replacing a Brush Truck that was 33 years old.
- Three new 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe command vehicles were purchased and put into service, replacing vehicles that were over 10 years old with 200K miles.
- Three cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) devices were purchased as part of a grant and put into service in early 2021. The new device provides handsfree mechanical chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest.
- Two new sets of battery-operated rescue tools (“Jaws of Life”) were purchased in 2021. This purchase brings our inventory to 3 sets.

## FUTURE GOALS

### New Firefighters

In 2021, our fire personnel responded to over 3,300 calls for emergency service, covering everything from car accidents to medical emergencies, and, of course, fires. Thanks to the overwhelming support of the residents of the North County Communities, the Fire District will re-fill five (5) firefighter positions that were displaced in mid-2019. The new firefighters will start February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, bringing the number of full-time personnel to 27 Members. The additional personnel will enhance emergency response and make working conditions safer for responders. The enhanced response will also reduce the time it takes to control fires and rescue victims of major vehicle accidents. In addition to the improved local service, the District will be able to participate in the mutual aid system and respond to major wildfires in Monterey County, and throughout the state.



### Full-Time Fire Chief

Over the last four years, the Fire District has been managed by a number of different leaders, including one interim fire chief and three temporary fire chiefs. During this same time, open recruitment attempts failed to produce a suitable candidate from outside the



department. In 2019 the governing body made the decision to promote from within the department, leading to the promotion of Division Chief Joel Mendoza to the District's top executive position. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Chief Mendoza assumed dual roles, serving as the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal of the District.

Chief Mendoza brings over 22 years of firefighting experience with a broad range of skills that include government compliance, compensation & benefits, accounting, employee management, fire apparatus fleet management and community risk reduction.

Chief Mendoza will focus on improving Community Outreach and the District's Community Risk Reduction Program, staffing & employee retention, employee training, repair and improve the District's facilities and continue the work of replacing the apparatus fleet.

### **New Fire Apparatus**

One new Type 1 Fire Engine/Pumper was ordered in March of 2021. This new fire engine was purchased as part of a Community Block Grant, made available by the County of Monterey, and is slated for the communities of Las Lomas, Royal Oaks and Pajaro. The new fire engine will be replacing a 19-year-old fire engine and is expected to arrive in spring of 2022.



# THANK YOU

The North County Fire Protection District thanks you for taking a few moments to read about your community's fire department and the important services we provide.



Photo- J. Mendoza

## CONTACT US

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