



Moraga Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors Meetings
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Next meeting:

Next regular MOFD Board meeting is October 19, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Assists With East Coast Hurricane Efforts, Propane Tanker Fire

By Lucy Amaral

The recent hurricane threat in New York and the propane tanker explosion in Lincoln, California may not seem to have anything in common with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) at first. But several members of the MOFD staff were on hand at both of these events, managing logistical, operational, safety and community issues related to the incidents.

At the September 21 MOFD Board of Directors meeting, Battalion Chief, Stephen Healy briefed the Board on the recent efforts by MOFD staff and their involvement with the East Bay Incident Management Team (EBIMT). The EBIMT consists of 84 command and general staff members from Contra Costa and Alameda fire agencies. Along with Healy, five members of MOFD are part of the team: Battalion Chief Darrell Lee, Fire Marshall Mike Mentink, Battalion Chief Sean Perkins, Fire Prevention Officer Kathy Leonard, and Telecommunications Specialist Bob Williams. During the presentation, Healy said that while the events were disparate, the experience received during these two deployments is excellent training if similar emergencies were to occur in this area.

For the Lincoln incident, which occurred on

August 22, Healy and Perkins were deployed with the management team to assist in planning and logistics in cooperation with the local fire agency. The team worked for 28 hours straight to organize resources, create an incident action plan and contingency plans.

Two days later, at the request of State of New York, Healy joined 33 other members of the EBIMT deployed to the City of New York, and later, Essex County to offer command, planning and logistical support.

Along with Lincoln and New York, Lee said the EBIMT has been deployed to incidents in San Mateo, San Joaquin, and Contra Costa County. The team trains together twice a year and is called into service on average once or twice a year. Healy also said that MOFD is reimbursed any salary or fees associated with the assistance through a method similar to that when strike teams are deployed through California.

"The Incident management Team was developed to help agencies or city governments manage any incident, develop plans, and be a resource for planning to mitigate the incident," said Lee. "When the incident de-escalates, the team turns it back to the local agency or government."

MOFD Meets to Review Revised 2011/12 Budget

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors was scheduled to meet last night, after press time, to discuss adjustments that might need to be made to the 2011/12 Budget.

A MOFD finance sub-committee meeting was held on September 1 during which the staff report indicated that in the preliminary budget development and approval process, the District was able to produce a balanced financial plan with no impact on current service levels. However, it added, the assumptions that were used for the 2011/12 General Fund Preliminary Budget revenues projections were now incorrect. The report noted that due to a projected decrease in property tax revenue, revised projections would now call for a \$537,499 decrease in revenues.

Read a full report of actions taken by the Board of Directors regarding the 2011/12 budget in our October 12 issue.
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MOFD Announces New CQI Nurse

By Lucy Amaral

Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Fire Chief Randy Bradley recently introduced to the Board the district's new Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Nurse/Coordinator, Greg Kennedy.

Kennedy's responsibilities will include providing a prospective analysis of MOFD's EMS System and a retrospective analysis of individual EMS incidents. In Bradley's staff report, he said that Kennedy will identify personnel strengths and weaknesses, and participate in assessments and provide targeted training.

"We are always evaluating

processes and employee performance to identify areas to improve our overall service levels," said Bradley. "Kennedy's education, reputation with the County, and his familiarity with the MOFD and county EMS processes and protocols makes him the best candidate for the job."

According to Bradley, the position was restructured to become part-time, with a number of the previous CQI responsibilities being integrated throughout the MOFD staff. He said that this will allow the District to maintain the same level of service while saving money.

Kennedy currently also works with the Contra Costa Fire District, holding a similar position. Bradley noted that Kennedy has a flexible work schedule at the Contra Costa Fire District which will allow him to spend one day each week at MOFD.

Along with working at the Contra Costa Fire District, Williams has been a Registered nurse for 20 years, served as a medic in the Air Force for seven years, was a Mobile Intensive Care Nurse for 11 years, and is a reserve firefighter.

20 Years After the Oakland Firestorm, What Can Lamorinda Learn From It?

Submitted by Jonathan Goodwin

On October 20, 1991 Oakland, California suffered one of the most devastating fires in United States history. The fire began around 10:40 am but could not be brought under control until the late afternoon. In the first hour one home ignited

every five seconds and most of the eventual 25 fatalities occurred during the course of a desperate evacuation. By the time it was over there were over 1000 injuries, more than 3000 residences were lost and the damage was estimated at \$1.5 billion in 1991 dollars.

On October 12th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Orinda Library Auditorium (24 Orinda Way), the Lamorinda Wildfire Forum will present a program remembering the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. Speakers will include CAL FIRE Unit Chief Steve Woodill, Oakland Firestorm survivor and Special Assistant to Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, Sue Piper, a representative from the Berkeley Fire Department and a representative from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. They will discuss the policy and im-

plementation lessons, changes and remaining challenges they've been working on over the past 20 years. The program will conclude with MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley presenting the initiatives the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has been undertaking to mitigate local hazards.

The Lamorinda Wildfire Forum is supported by the Canyon Fire Council, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, the Orinda Citizen Corps Council, the City of Orinda, the City of Lafayette, the Town of Moraga and Lamorinda CERT. The purpose of the program is to provide a basis for future wildfire policy discussions in Lamorinda.

If you plan to attend, please contact Jonathan Goodwin, Canyon-Fire@VFEmail.net.

Emergency Planning Moves Forward

By Sophie Braccini

The three Lamorinda communities are getting closer to establishing workable emergency plans. The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) recently hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Dennis Rein, and according to Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe, the City of Lafayette has expressed an interest in joining forces in planning, testing and enacting emergency response.

A recent Moraga Town Council meeting began with the Council issuing a Proclamation in support of a program hosted by the Lamorinda Wildfire Forum on October 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Orinda Library Auditorium to commemorate the 1991 Oakland Firestorm. The proclamation was given by the Council to Canyon Fire Council and emergency preparedness activist Jonathan Goodwin.

Priebe acknowledged that regionalism is a great thing in case of emergency and he believes that the City of Lafayette will seek to enter a

Memorandum of Understanding with its two neighbors.

"We will establish a functional Emergency Command Center, we will organize exercises and drills, coordinate with CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers, and we will have an emergency plan," said Chief Bradley, "but we will not take the responsibility of the response from you - this is a greater community effort."

Bradley was echoed during the public comment period by Goodwin, who added, "There are all kinds of policy decisions that have to be made. In a serious earthquake, what will happen to people who need oxygen? How are injured people going to be identified? The sewing together of the staff, the people in the neighborhoods, and the volunteers, has yet to be done. City councils should make the policies and should have an implementation group to test them."

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