

# ConFire responds to grand jury report on fire inspections

By Nick Marnell

A Contra Costa County civil grand jury found that the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District had fallen behind in its mandatory fire inspections of schools and multifamily residences in 2018 and presented the district eight findings and six recommendations, mostly regarding the number of personnel needed to conduct more than 7,600 mandated annual inspections, incomplete record keeping and an obsolete records management system. ConFire acknowledged the report with a formal response in early August, though the district

did not agree with all of the 14 points posited by the grand jury.

ConFire has implemented or agreed to implement grand jury recommendations to evaluate the size of the fire prevention bureau, produce a quarterly report on the status of compliance with state mandated inspections and to replace its records management system to allow code officials to enter inspection data directly into a tablet device in the field, rather than manually when the inspectors arrive back at the office. The district said that the data harvested into the new software system, though not directly connected to the computer aided dispatch system,

will be available to the fire dispatchers as needed.

The district noted that one recommendation – that ConFire set up by the end of June a publicly available internet-based lookup feature disclosing the status of fire inspections – will not be implemented “because it is not warranted or feasible.”

“We are in the process of selecting and implementing a new records management system for the Fire Prevention Bureau, which we expect to offer many benefits for our inspectors, customers and the community,” district spokesman Steve Hill said. “However, we are looking at posting a regular inspections summary to our

website and are investigating what level of additional detail our current system will allow us to include. This interim solution is in process.”

That the public was not informed of the fiscal impacts of the Great Recession on state mandated fire inspections prior to 2018 was disputed by the district. While there was no formal reporting of fire inspection activity to the ConFire board of directors until this year, the district said it provided fire prevention bureau activity to its Advisory Fire Commission bimonthly, and to its board of directors via the monthly fire chief’s report, from 2010 through 2013.

ConFire also disagreed with the grand jury finding that the district had no audit process in hand to confirm the accuracy and completeness of its RMS data. The district responded that it did initiate an audit process to confirm the accuracy of its data related to occupancies in 2018, and promised to implement an improved audit process with the deployment of the new records management system by the middle of next year.

“We have been working prior to the grand jury investigation to make improvements to our fire inspection system, and the work is ongoing,” Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said.

## Lafayette portion of North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break completed



Courtesy MOFD

Cal Fire working near Wagner Ranch Elementary School.

By Nick Marnell

Work began the week of July 20 on the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break, a \$4 million state-funded program managed by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to remove hazardous fuels from a 1,500-acre stretch of land extending from Tilden Park to near Acalanes High School. By the second week of August, the seven-mile strip along Lafayette Ridge was completed, according to project manager Jim Call.

“The Lafayette area is a little more affected by the hot weather because there is less

of the coastal influence,” Call said, explaining why the fuels from the Lafayette segment of the project were removed early in the process. The initial areas of clean up, though, were adjacent to Wagner Ranch and Sleepy Hollow elementary schools in Orinda, which had to be completed before the commencement of the 2019-20 school year.

Call said the crews have faced challenges along the way as they worked 10-hour days, seven days a week. “We’ve run into a lot of wasps, and a number of workers have been stung. And along the Lafayette Ridge, we’ve encountered a

number of rattlesnakes,” Call said. He praised the efforts of the on-site biologists, who tag along with each work crew, ensuring the environment is not harmed. “They found a wild turkey nest, and we gave it a buffer,” Call said.

Through mid-August, more than 20% of the fuel break acreage had been cleared. Plans are to work in Wildcat Canyon through the end of August, and then along Bear Creek Road in north Orinda. The final section to be cleared will be the area near Inspiration Point, again, because of its proximity to the coastal influence, Call said. According to terms of the MOFD contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the fuel break project must be completed by Dec. 31.

Early on, Call said he heard plenty of skepticism from neighbors, but the complaints have eased as the crews complete their work in the treatment areas. “Now the bystanders comment on how nice it looks,” Call said.

## Proactive Lafayette property owners helped prevent a catastrophe



Photo courtesy Lafayette Police Dept.

By Nick Marnell

The drone shot from the Lafayette Police Department shows the aftermath of the Aug. 1 vegetation fire on Reliez Valley Road. The charred, 1.5-acre circular area in the center shows that the fire avoided the homes that ringed the blaze.

“It could have been a real disaster,” said Kathy Woofter of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District fire prevention bureau. “Thanks to

the Reliez Valley Road and Windsong Way property owners, who abated the weeds and created defensible space by limbing up the trees, the fire did not spread onto their property. And it allowed our firefighters to quickly put out the fire.”

Both Woofter and Jim Call of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District remind property owners that they are the true first responders, and to abate problem vegetation on their parcels.

### Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



## Public Safety

### Emergency response:

Emergency: 24 Hours 911

Police Dispatch: 24 Hours

925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

### Lafayette Police Department:

3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

925-283-3680

Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt

925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line

94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues

94549Traffic@gmail.com

### Moraga Police Department:

329 Rheem Blvd.,

925-888-7055

Chief of Police, Jon King

ext. 7049

### Orinda Police Department:

22 Orinda Way

925-254-6820

Chief of Police, Mark Nagel

925-254-6820

[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 28 - Aug. 10

Alarms 71  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 21  
Traffic 89  
Suspicious Circumstances 8  
Suspicious Subject 28  
Suspicious Vehicle 23  
Service to Citizen 63  
Patrol Req./Security Check 30  
Vacation House Check 55  
Supplemental Report 24  
Welfare Check 15

### Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle  
Camino Diablo at Nogales St.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.  
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way (2)  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Sky Ln./Brown Ave.  
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)  
Auto Burglary  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.  
3200 Block Stanley Blvd. (2)  
100 Block Camellia Ln.  
DUI Misdemeanor  
Brook St./Dewey Ave.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.  
Petty Theft From Vehicle  
900 Block 2Nd St.  
3500 Block Via Los Colorados  
1200 Block Barott Rd.

Reckless Driving  
Wb Sr 24 At Acalanes Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute  
Moraga Rd./St. Mary's Rd.  
600 Block Burton Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Willow Dr.

Tc - Property Damage  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.  
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Sierra Vista Way/1St St.  
Deer Hill Rd at Oak Hill Rd.

Vehicle Theft  
Golden Gate Way/1St St.  
**Other criminal activity**

Fraud Credit Card  
1100 Block Oak Hill Rd.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1100 Block Glen Rd.  
3200 Block Burton Ct.  
1000 Block Leland Dr. (2)  
3500 Block Eagle Point Rd.

Grand Theft  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
4000 Block Canyon Rd.  
Identity Theft  
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Pd Laf Police Department  
3400 Block Echo Springs Rd.

Petty Theft  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Residential Burglary  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)

Threat  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.  
Loud Noise  
900 Block Reliez Station Ln.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1100 Block Glen Rd.  
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
S Lucille Ln./St. Marys Rd.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
Vacation Dr./Stanley Blvd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Other**  
Accident Property  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Animal Cruelty  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.  
Computer Fraud  
600 Block Huntleigh Dr.  
Harassment  
1000 Block 2Nd St.  
Ordinance Violation  
Springhill Elementary School  
La Canada Rd./Reliez Station Rd.  
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.  
Phone Harass  
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.  
Trespass  
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Unwanted Guest  
900 Block Paulson Ct.  
3400 Block Golden Gate Way  
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.  
3500 Block Deerhill Rd.  
Violation Custody Order  
1000 Block Miller Dr.  
3600 Block Walnut St. (3)

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 30- Aug. 12

Alarms 23  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9  
Traffic 50  
Suspicious Circumstances 11  
Suspicious Subject 1  
Suspicious Vehicle 5  
Service to Citizen 47  
Patrol Req./Security Check 24  
Supplemental Report 4  
Vacation House Check 5  
Welfare Check 1

### Vehicle violations

Accident Property  
60 Block Shuey Dr.  
Excessive Speed  
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (3)  
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave  
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
800 Block Crossbrook Ct.  
Rheem Bumoraga Rd.  
Petty Theft From Vehicle  
300 Block Draeger Dr.  
Reckless Driving  
Safeway  
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Country Club  
**Other criminal activity**  
Burglary  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
400 Block Kingsford Dr.  
Forgery  
Police Department

Fraud Credit Card  
10 Block Williams Dr.  
Grand Theft  
1600 Block Del Monte Way  
Identity Theft  
Not Available  
Petty Theft  
50 Block Shuey Dr.  
1200 Block Moraga Way  
100 Block Draeger Dr.  
Residential Burglary  
Not Available  
Shoplift  
CVS  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Barking Dog  
300 Block Donald Dr.  
Disturbing The Peace  
10 Block Hetfield Pl.  
St. Marys College  
Loud Music  
2100 Block Donald Dr.  
Loud Noise  
Homegoods  
Loud Party  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.  
Public Assembly Check  
Safeway  
Vandalism  
2000 Block Ascot Dr.  
**Other**  
Fraud False Pretenses  
Police Department  
Mentally Ill Commit  
St. Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
1900 Block Joseph Dr.  
Trespass  
St. Marys College



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 28 - Aug. 10

Alarms 51  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9  
Traffic 46  
Suspicious Circumstances 3  
Suspicious Subject 13  
Suspicious Vehicle 9  
Service to Citizen 72  
Patrol Req./Security Check 7  
Vacation House Check 4  
Supplemental Report 14  
Welfare Check 5  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Injury  
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.  
Auto Burglary  
Orinda Community Center  
Orinda Country Club (2)  
Greystone Terrace/Orindawoods  
10 Block Altarinda Rd.

Carjacking  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
60 Block Southwood Dr.  
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Southwood Dr./Northwood Dr.  
Moraga Way/Orchard Ct.  
Vehicle Theft  
CVS  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
CVS  
Fraud False Pretenses  
200 Block Overhill Rd.  
Grand Theft  
100 Block Ardith Dr.  
Petty Theft CVS (2)  
20 Block Longridge Rd.  
Petty Theft Other  
300 Block Overhill Rd.  
Residential Burglary  
100 Block Barbara Rd.  
Warrant Arrest  
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.  
70 Block Via Floreado  
Rite Aid  
Safeway  
Shell Gas  
Warrant Arrest  
Bart Orinda Station  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-Domestic  
10 Block Brookside Rd.  
Disturbing The Peace  
Nations  
10 Block Idyll Ct.  
Drunk In Public  
Wells Fargo  
Theatre Square  
Loud Music  
200 Block Manzanita Dr. (2)  
100 Block Silver Oak Terrace  
Loud Party  
60 Block Brookwood Rd.  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)  
Vandalism  
Charles Hill Pl/El Nido Ranch Rd.  
Casa Orinda Restaurant

**Other**  
Accident Property  
Mcdonnell Nursery  
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.  
Wilder Rd.  
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante  
10 Block Sunnyside Ln.  
Indecent Exposure  
Stein Way/Miller Ct.  
Ordinance Violation  
Brookbank Rd./Miner Rd.  
Prom Shoot  
50 Block Miner Rd.  
Revocation Of Probation  
Rite Aid  
Unauthorized Possession  
Safeway  
Unwanted Guest  
Starbucks