

Fire district ambulance revenue plummets since onset of pandemic

By Nick Marnell

In March and April, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District saw such a steep decline in hospital transports that the district lowered its ambulance revenue forecast by nearly \$400,000 for this fiscal year.

It is unclear how long the dearth in ambulance demand will continue. According to Battalion Chief Jerry Lee, with people staying home since the onset of COVID-19 there is less potential for injuries, and

with not as many people on the roads there have been fewer traffic accidents. Patients have used alternative methods for their health care evaluation, such as a Zoom consultation, instead of visiting the doctor.

"People don't want to go to the hospital because hospitals are generally viewed as having a higher potential for COVID-19 exposure," Lee said.

MOFD ran 1,605 ambulance transports in 2018 and 1,554 in 2019, nearly all to either John Muir Medical Center or Kaiser Permanente in

Walnut Creek. In March the district transported patients to hospitals 111 times, and in April, 60 times – far below its 133 monthly average. The district is preparing for the steep drop in transports to continue, as it projects a decrease in ambulance revenue from \$1.3 million this year to \$500,000 next year.

"If that's all we're going to get, that will be a tough pill to swallow," Director John Jex said. "If we were a commercial ambulance operation we'd be bankrupt."

Fire Chief Dave Win-

nacker listed options for higher ambulance revenue. Increase the rates, which recently occurred. Add fees, such as a facilities fee to institutional users. Or require payments for patient transport beyond district reimbursement levels.

MOFD charges \$2,300 for an ambulance transport but its reimbursement rates come nowhere near that figure. Medicare payments range from \$350 to \$800, Medi-Cal payments are somewhat lower and reimbursements from private insurers widely

vary. Anything higher than the district reimbursement rate is forgiven for district residents.

Should the district stop writing off ambulance charges in excess of its reimbursement rates, "That would result in district residents receiving a significant bill for transport from an MOFD ambulance," Winnacker said.

"We need to take a hard look at those numbers and really address a change," Jex said.

Letters to the editor

A perspective about pandemic

In response to last week's letter regarding Covid19 and MCC by Ethan Bortman, from how he phrased his letter he's really alarmed by this virus, which has been both demonized and politicized.

Well here are some facts about the virus that he and an enormous amount of folks don't know. Facts that have been known for months and

are readily available from Italian death statistics, Scottish death statistics, WHO reports, Worldometer, Bloomberg and our own CDC. They are:

- Only 4% of any population is actually at risk;
- Children are bulletproof. In Italy of 25,000 deaths, ONLY two were under 19. In fact, in the US, children are 10 times more at risk from pneumonia than Covid 19;
- The mortality rate climbs

exponentially with age; - 75% of all Covid19 fatalities are age 75 and over. In Italy, 83% were over 70. And lastly, - 50% of all deaths occur in care homes.

So to put this into perspective, Covid19 is lethal at any age if you have the well documented underlying conditions. Conditions that very, very few kids are born with but are acquired with age and lifestyle. The older you get,

the more they're acquired and the more you're at risk. Unfortunately, care home residents being frail, have a life expectancy of only months and will likely succumb to any virus.

Which means that currently, we're committing economic suicide, our kids are out of school, 30 million folks are out of work and terrified they may be evicted. All to save lives, half of whom will likely die in months anyway!!! That's a sobering thought, isn't it?

Sure I'd like to save lives; I'm taking care of my wife now. She has advanced Alzheimer's. But certainly not at the expense of my grand kids future, three of whom should be at Campo right now.

And here's the other point. It's likely there never will be an effective vaccine. So until 70% of the population not at risk, actually contract it, and develop herd immunity, the threat continues indefinitely. And, the CIDRAP just published a report confirming that!!! However, that's not possible, because the CDC needs us to social distance and limit the infection rate! Confused? Wow, really! Joseph Heller will be proud, Catch 22 is back.

Why am I telling you this? Because knowledge is power, and the more that folks understand the costs and risks, the better the decisions. And

the first intelligent decision should be to reopen our schools. So when the Governor finally puts our kids first, don't worry. The schools should never have been closed in the first place as that's where herd immunity needs to start. With our bulletproof kids.

And beware of phrases like "we're following the science and saving lives". Wrecking millions of lives to extend the life of someone who, unfortunately, has only months to live, makes no sense. If you're young and healthy you were never at risk from the virus, but your finances will likely be crushed, and you'll be feeling that pain for years and years. Bounce back? Never happened in history and certainly not after a worldwide depression, which all economists agree is happening.

However no matter what age you are, if you have the well documented, underlying health conditions, protect yourself. And, let's collectively try to limit the financial damage of everyone else.

Dave Cummins
Moraga

Editor's Note: While children have a much lower rate of infection, there have been multiple documented cases of children suffering from COVID-19.



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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
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, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 19 - May 2



Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	19
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	19
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	46
Patrol Req./Security Check	84
Public/School Assembly Check	34
Supplemental Report	28
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	19
Ordinance Violation	21
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
3300 Block Dyer Dr.	
1200 Block Vacation Dr.	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
1200 Block Rose Ln.	
1100 Block Monticello Rd.	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Blvd./2Nd St.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Village Center/Sundae Rd.	
3500 Block S Silver Springs Rd. (2)	

1200 Block Monticello Rd.
Petty Theft From Veh
900 Block Moon Ct.
1200 Block Vacation Dr.
900 Block S Thompson Rd.

Reckless Driving
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Via Granada, Mor

Tc - Property Damage
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.

Trailer Theft
1000 Block Blackwood Ln.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Extortion
10 Block Dianne Ct.
1100 Block Bacon Way
800 Block Avalon Ave.

Extortion - Email
600 Block Glorietta Blvd.
Fraud False Pretenses
1800 Block Del Rey St.

1500 Block Rancho View Dr.
Wells Fargo
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Grand Theft
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Identity Theft
1800 Block Del Rey St. (2)
Police Department
3100 Block Somerset Dr.

1100 Block Bacon Way
Misc Burglary
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

1200 Block Quandt Ct.
3700 Block St Francis Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

1100 Block Monticello Rd.
200 Block Lafayette Cr
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.

3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
3700 Block St Francis Dr. (2)
900 Block Hough Ave.

Disturbing The Peace
Janet Ln./Carol Ln.
1600 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Loud Noise
3400 Block School St.
Brook St./Mountain View Dr.

Loud Party
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
600 Block Lucas Dr.
3100 Block Somerset Dr.

Public Nuisance

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Golden Gate Way/Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Acalanes Rd/Wb Sr 24

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 Block Oak View Cr
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.

Vandalism
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
20 Block Olympic Oaks Dr.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
N Thompson Rd./Dollis Park Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

H&S Violation
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vista Bella/Martino Rd.
3400 Block School St.

Harassment
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

K9 Outside Assist Request
Douglas Ln/Oak Park Blvd., Phi
Nb 680/Passing Livorna
So Bay Point Annex, Bpo

Loitering
3400 Block School St.
Surveillance
St. Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.

Threats
El Nido Ranch Rd./Wb Sr 24
El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.

20 Block Bacon Ct.
3200 Block Elvia St.
Trespass
800 Block Carl Rd.

Unwanted Guest
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Violation Custody Order
Police Department

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 21 - May 4

Alarms	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	12
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	40
Patrol Req./Security Check	33
Supplemental Report	3



Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 5

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
Alta Mesa Dr./Alta Mesa Ct.

Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo

Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
Rheem Elementary School

Tc - Property Damage
Fayhill Rd./Fay Hill Rd.

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
1000 Block Sanders Dr.

Grand Theft
Police Department
Grand Theft From Vehicle
Alta Mesa Dr./Paseo Bernal

Identity Theft
100 Block Natalie Dr.
Shoplift
Safeway (2)

Warrant Arrest
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-fight
Police Department

Loud Music
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
1200 Block Rimer Dr. (3)

300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Not Available
Loud Noise
Hacienda
100 Block Donald Dr.

100 Block Ascot Ct.
Loud Party
Not Available
1600 Block Camino Pablo

Eileen Ct./Camino Pablo
Public Nuisance
1100 Block Rimer Dr.

Vandalism
Moraga Commons Park (2)
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd., Laf

Other
Indecent Exposure
10 Block Natividad Ln.

Litter
St Marys Rd./Alemany Dr.
Loitering
Campolindo Dr./Calle La Montana

Ordinance Violation
1100 Block Rimer Dr. (2)
400 Block Tharp Dr.

Moraga Commons Park (3)
Skate Park
Surveillance
200 Block Corliss Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 26 - May 2

Alarms	12
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	3
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	35
Patrol Req./Security Check	44
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	1
Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	14
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
50 Block Don Gabriel Way	
Reckless Driving	
San Pablo Creek/Orinda Way	
Glorietta Elementary School,	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
50 Block Via Farallon	

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
30 Block Orinda Way

Identity Theft
20 Block Parkway Ct.

Misc Burglary
200 Block Lomas Cantadas
Residential Burglary
400 Block Lomas Cantadas

200 Block El Toyonal
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
10 Block La Fond Ln.

Vandalism
100 Block Stein Way
Vandalism - Felony
200 Block Holly Ln.

Other
Barking Dog
10 Block Cascade Ln. (2)

Battery
Rabble Rd./Wild Rye Way
Prom Shoot
Knickerbocker Ln./Stein Way

Trespass
Manzanita Dr./Acacia Dr.