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ConFire officials warn against complacency as fire season winds down

By Nick Marnell



ConFire crew puts out vegetation fire in June
Photo courtesy ConFire

October 2019 Pleasant Fire, which destroyed the Lafayette Tennis Club and prompted the evacuation of thousands near Highway 24, got the attention of city residents.

"As we near the traditional height of the fire season here in Contra Costa County, it is obvious this has already been an exceptionally challenging one across the region and the western U.S.," Fire Chief Lewis Broschard said. "Here at home we have had, thus far, good fortune in spite of a significant uptick in vegetation fires. We make our own luck, however, and the combined efforts of our fire agencies and our residents have helped protect us all."

This is not the time to take anything for granted, Hill said, as the county is one red flag warning away from a major catastrophe.

"There is more unburnt fuel on the ground in the county than in any recent year," Deputy Fire Chief Aaron McAlister said. "The moisture levels of that fuel are historically low. With a combination of high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds, we are at tremendous risk for a devastating wildfire."

Broschard doubled down on the need for citizen awareness. "We can't do it alone and so we are counting on every resident's continued vigilance to help see us through what can still be a very dangerous remaining few weeks of fire season 2020," he said.

On that note, the district Fire Prevention Bureau is helping neighborhoods organize the first Lafayette Firewise Community.

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