

DRAFT

For Review and Comment Only

Report to the Community



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Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue
Washoe County, Nevada

A dramatic night scene of a large fire burning in a wooded area. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames rising from the ground. Several firefighters are silhouetted against the fire, standing in the foreground. The background is filled with the dark silhouettes of trees, some of which are partially illuminated by the fire's glow. The overall atmosphere is one of a major emergency response at night.

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Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners, we are pleased to present this report on your fire and EMS services status. The District has made significant improvements that include a new force of wildland firefighters working to reduce hazardous fuels. We have added to the fleet by acquiring a new ladder truck, new brush trucks, and new structural engines. We have accomplished this while ensuring a sustainable fiscal future.

This past year was undoubtedly one of the most difficult in the County's history, notwithstanding the Nation as a whole. As the global pandemic hit home and afar, we extend our heartfelt condolences to all those impacted and who have lost loved ones. As a result of the pandemic, our responders had to modify some duties to reduce the virus's spread. Our community and public outreach were put on hold until circumstances improve. The Fire Commissioners are united in our overall response to ensuring we reduce the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to provide a high level of EMS and emergency services throughout the Fire District.

We are in this together, and we will defeat this global pandemic. I am very proud of the dedicated service from Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue's men and women. I hope you find this report informative. Please reach out to the fire staff if we may be of assistance to you.

Bob Lucey, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue



Board of Fire Commissioners, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District



Message from the Fire Chief



On behalf of Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue's professional and volunteer staff, I am pleased to tell you about our Fire District staff's exceptional work and commitment in its service to you, our citizens. We endeavor to provide you the best possible service in all types of emergencies. Our professional staff includes those trained in para-medicine, structural and wildland fire suppression, hazardous materials, technical rescue, and fire code administration. When we arrive on the scene, we come with the tools, equipment, and skills necessary to resolve the emergency.

We have been challenged as a fire district, community, and nation this last year. I am confident that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead. We invite you to be active participants in your own safety and the safety of your local community by working to keep the area around your home free of excessive vegetation and other combustibles. In our dry and wind-prone climate, we are here to partner with you and help you create defensible space around your property. Wildfire is a significant risk to our region. Fire embers can create as much hazard as direct flame contact, and limiting combustible material around your home reduces your home's potential exposure.

The staff and Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue can advise you on steps you can take to reduce your risk, with assistance in Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the Green Waste Collection Program that helps make disposal of dry vegetation easier. Please take a moment to read about your Fire District and our services.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue



District Operations

A key component of service delivery is the tools and equipment firefighters use to extinguish fires, to deliver emergency pre-hospital care, and rescue trapped persons. Equipment, especially fire engines, are expensive. TMFR staff takes great pride in the equipment provided by our taxpayers and we endeavor to make them last. Our fire engines will see front line service for 10+ years, and another 5-7 years as reserve engines.

In July 2020, the District acquired a 2008 100 foot aerial platform which saved over \$1M as opposed to purchasing a new one. Later this year, the District will take delivery of five new structural engines that will ensure our fleet is modern and reliable for years to come. The District has put into service, five new wildland engines and in 2021, will receive five new structural engines.

Because some rural areas do not have fire hydrants available, the District responds with water tenders to rural addresses. Each water tender carries 3000 gallons of water and responds with a fire engine whenever a fire is reported in a rural area.





District Operations

The District serves its residents from eleven career stations and seven volunteer stations. We serve all of unincorporated Washoe County areas, not including Incline Village. TMFR serves incorporated portions of Washoe County not in the corporate boundary of TMFR. The District also serves the California side of Verdi through an Inter-local Agreement where the residents pay for service through a contract with Sierra County, California.

Eleven (11) career stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a minimum of one Advanced Life Support paramedic on each fire engine. Many times, an engine may be staffed with more than one paramedic. Paramedics are the most highly-trained class of Emergency Medical Technicians working in the U.S. They provide advanced life support procedures before a patient is transported to a medical facility.

Paramedic Fire Stations

30

Bowers Station 30 is located at 3905 Old Highway 395 in Washoe Valley.



32

East Washoe Valley Station 32 is located at 1240 Eastlake Boulevard.



33

Foothill Station 33 is located at 470 Foothill Road. It houses the District's ladder truck.





Paramedic Fire Stations

36

Station 36 is located at 13500 Thomas Creek and serves the Arrowcreek area



37

Station 37 is located at 3255 W Hidden Valley Drive and serves Hidden Valley and the east I-80 corridor



39

Station 39 is located at 4000 Joy Lake Road and serves the Galena and Saint James areas



40

Station 40 is located at 10201 W 4th Street and serves Verdi, Mogul and upper Caughlin Ranch



42

Station 42 is located at 3680 Diamond Peak Drive and serves Cold Springs



44

Station 44 is located at 10575 Silver Lake Blvd and serves Golden and Lemmon Valleys





Paramedic Fire Stations

45

Station 45 is located at 110 Quartz Lane and serves Sun Valley.



46

Station 46 is located at 500 Rockwell Blvd and serves Spanish Springs



ADMIN

Headquarters for the District is located at 3663 Barron Way. Logistics and Fleet Maintenance are also located here



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Each station is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a minimum of one Advanced Life Support certified paramedic on each fire engine. Often, more than one paramedic is available on an engine.

Station 40 in Mogul and station 33 on Foothill are staffed with four firefighters. All other stations are staffed with three. As the COVID pandemic continues to impact our community, the District has added an ambulance at station 45 Sun Valley to assist REMSA with a significant medical transport volume increase and a cross-staffed ambulance in Washoe Valley.



Our Responders

Total Full Time Employees:

155

Total Paramedics:

90

Total Volunteers:

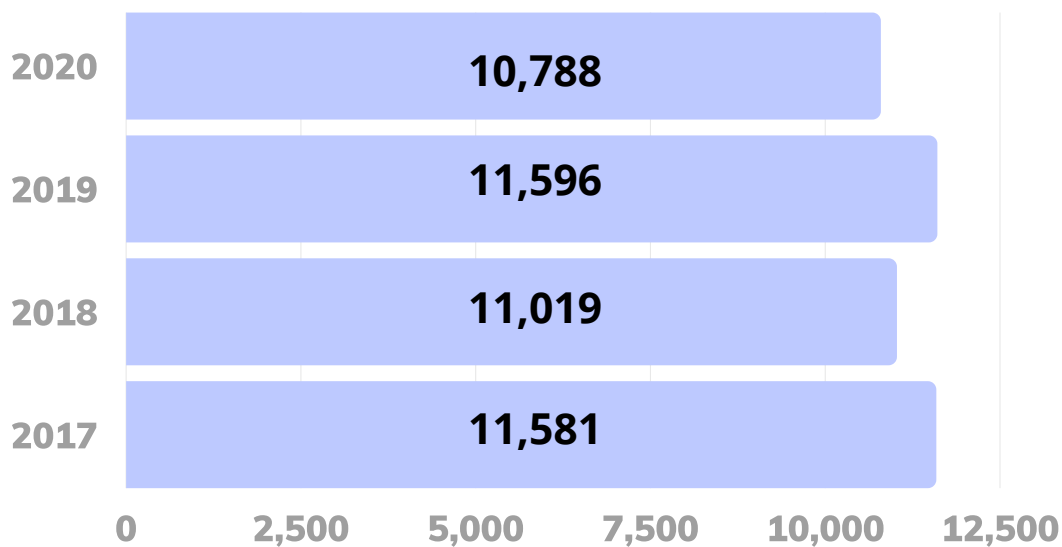
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Incident Summaries

Total Aggregate Responses by Year 2017 to 2020



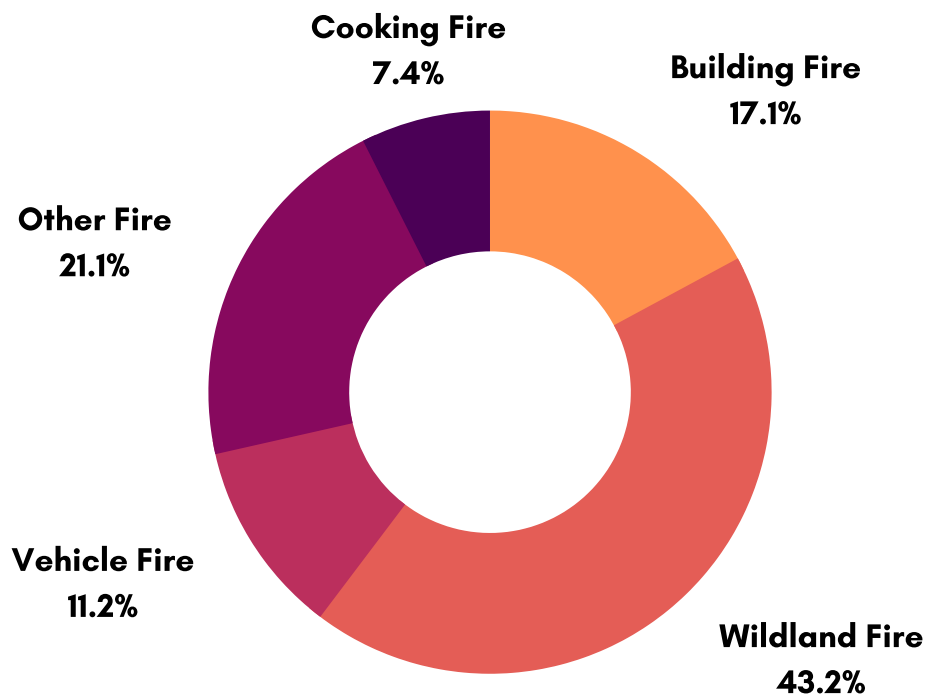
This graph represents the total call volume by year. It includes all incident types, including fire, EMS, rescues, hazardous conditions and materials, false alarms, and other types of responses.

Despite the rapid growth of the area, it is worth noting that total call volume decreased over the three prior years.



Fires in 2020:

403 total responses, which equal 3.7% of all responses



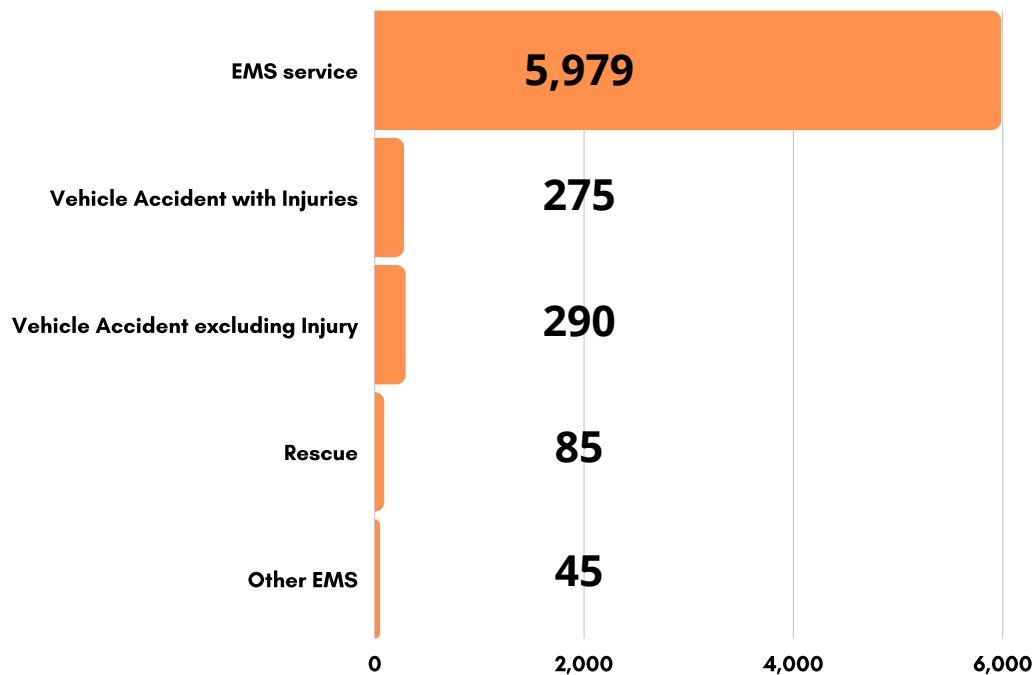
This graph represents the total number of fires (403) in 2020, of all types, in the 2020 calendar year. The frequency of wildfires increased significantly in 2020 for a total of 174. The total number of acres burned was XX,XXX

Structure fires account for just 1/2 of 1% of all calls.



Emergency Medical & Rescue Services in 2020:

6,689 total responses, which equal 62% of all responses



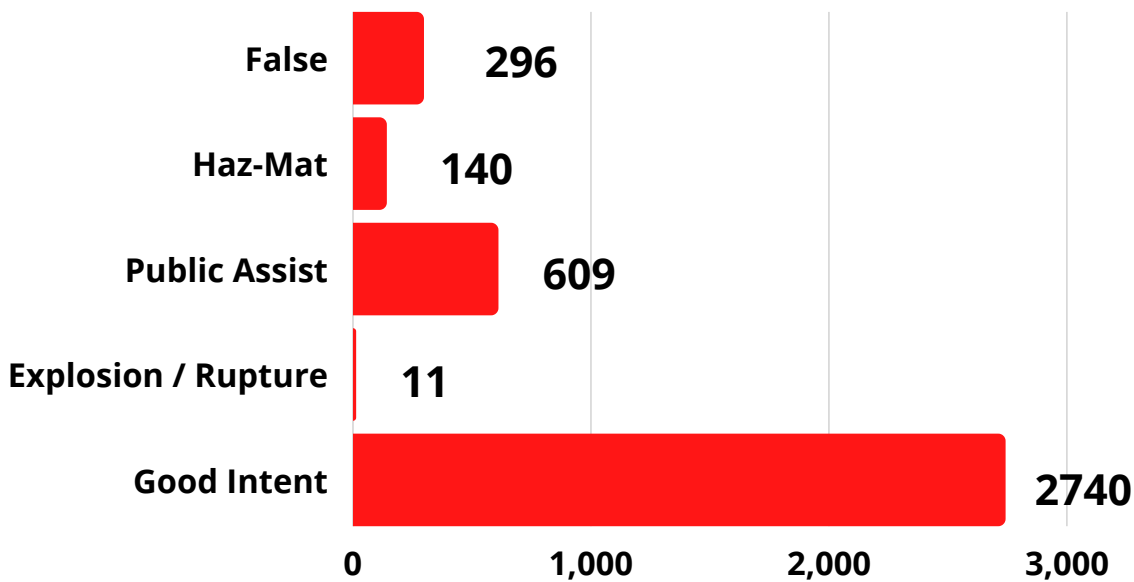
The emergency medical response makes up the largest percentage of the District responses. Paramedics are based at each of the eleven career fire stations throughout the District. Paramedics are the highest emergency medical technician, and the District's Physician Advisor approves our medical protocols. Paramedics can stabilize many life-threatening conditions before transport to a medical facility.

In one case, an off-duty paramedic assisted in a sudden cardiac arrest event, along with a Washoe County Sheriff's Deputy. Through their efforts, he revived the individual and saved his life.



Other Types of Responses in 2020:

3796 total responses, which equals 35.2% of all responses



Other types of responses include hazardous materials, explosions, and good intent calls. Good intent calls include steam or smoke mistaken for structure fires or other fires. These calls also include public assist and good intent calls. These calls are where citizens may need special assistance with mobility or have local smoke or carbon monoxide detectors sounding for unknown reasons.

Other types of responses account for approximately 35% of the total.



Fire Prevention & Programs

The Fire Prevention Division is vital to the mission of the District. The division provides technical reviews of new construction plans for compliance with District Fire Codes. Modern building codes provide substantial built-in safety and life safety for building occupants.



The Division has helped establish several Community Wildfire Protection Plans in communities. These plans help communities reduce fuels and reduce the risk of damaging wildfires. Communities with CWPP's are eligible for grant funding for fuels reduction work. If your community is interested in creating one of these plans, please contact our fire prevention division.

An important component of fire prevention is public education about possible causes of fire and actions needed to prevent a fire from starting. One example is that many people are not aware of the dangers of fireplace ash and oily rags. After several significant fires from these two causes, a program to provide metal fire safety cans to the public, free of charge, was created to increase awareness. The program has provided X, XXX cans to the public over several years and reduced the number of fires related to fireplace ash and oily rags. When supplies are available, they are available to all residents of Washoe County.



Fuels Division & Defensible Space

Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue launched a new fuels reduction division in 2020. The wildland fuels reduction team consists of 15 wildland firefighters and a Division Chief tasked with clearing targeted areas that present a significant threat to wildfires. Currently, priority areas consist of clearing hazardous wildland fuels that rest under power lines. Working in partnership with NV Energy who is paying for wildland fuel reductions around their utility infrastructure, the team ensures a minimum clearance of ten feet radius around poles and increasing to 30 feet depending on the type of line.

Fuels are either reduced to a 1-inch height or bare mineral soil. We appreciate the public-private partnership with NV Energy as we work towards measures to reduce the wildfire threat in Washoe County. It is a failed strategy to rely only on an emergency response when wildfires occur. The best approach is to make maximum use of advanced preparation and prevention.

The fuels reduction team is also a critical resource to support the Fire District and regional fire partners in wildfire suppression operations. Additionally, as the program expands, the crew can address residential projects to reduce the fire threat if certain criteria are met.

The team also responds to wildland fires and serves as a force multiplier to those firefighters based at fire stations.





Peer Support

Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue now has a fully trained peer support team. The program, spearheaded by Truckee Meadows Battalion Chief Derek Reid, the District has fully embraced endeavors by the International Association of Fire Fighters and Truckee Meadows Firefighters Association IAFF 2487 in developing a peer support program that will serve to benefit the mental health and spiritual needs of Truckee Meadows Firefighters and support personnel. And through collaborative efforts with the newly formed Northern Nevada peer Support Network, the program will also serve to support many fire agencies in northern Nevada.

The stresses faced by firefighters and paramedics throughout their careers – tragedies such as the events of September 11, 2001, the Boston Marathon bombing, and everyday emergencies such as house fires and car accidents – can have a cumulative impact on mental health and well-being. Our local region has experienced its share of tragedies involving first responders, including the Reno Air Race crash and Carson City IHOP shooting, both in 2011. Mass casualties or loss of friends can severely traumatize fire personnel. In the past, the fire service's general culture has made it difficult for firefighters to seek emotional support.



In one study, 92 percent of firefighters said that stigma was a barrier to behavioral health treatment. Approximately 20 percent of firefighters and paramedics have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD can have devastating consequences if untreated and is often associated with other behavioral health problems, such as depression, substance abuse, family dysfunction, violence, and increased risk of suicide. Peer support programs have been demonstrated to be an effective method for providing support to occupational groups, including firefighters. An active peer support program has created a support network for our first responders' mental and physical health, with trained assistance. Strong mental health translates to improved public service.



Improvements to Service

Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue has implemented several improvements to service over the last several years. In 2019, two bulldozers were acquired at no cost, except for costs to add certain equipment for wildfire use. Bulldozers are used to cut a fire line in front of advancing wildfires to break the continuity of vegetation.

A new force of wildland firefighters has been added, consisting of 15 firefighters, a heavy equipment operator, and a Division Chief tasked with clearing targeted areas that present a significant threat to wildfires. Currently, priority areas consist of clearing hazardous wildland fuels that rest under power lines. Working in partnership with NV Energy who is paying for wildland fuel reductions around utility infrastructure.





Improvements to Service

As mentioned previously, the District added a new ladder truck in 2020, plus five (5) new brush engines (refurbished 3 brush engines and five (5) new structure engines that are scheduled to arrive in April of 2021.

A new force of wildland firefighters has been added, consisting of 15 personnel, a heavy equipment operator, and a Division Chief tasked with clearing targeted areas that present a significant threat to wildfires. Currently, priority areas consist of clearing hazardous wildland fuels that rest under power lines. We are working in partnership with NV Energy, which pays for wildland fuel reductions around utility infrastructure.

The wildland fuels team has accomplished the following objectives in the first two-quarters of operations:

- Provided 20 days of operations at 10 locations of Green Waste Collection events equally approximately 15,000 cubic yards of dry vegetation
- Treated 230 power poles - removing fuels from the base of each.
- Fourteen responses, equally 70 days of wildfire response.

The District expanded its fleet maintenance division to a total of four, with the addition of two full-time mechanics to keep all of its 110 pieces of equipment in good repair.

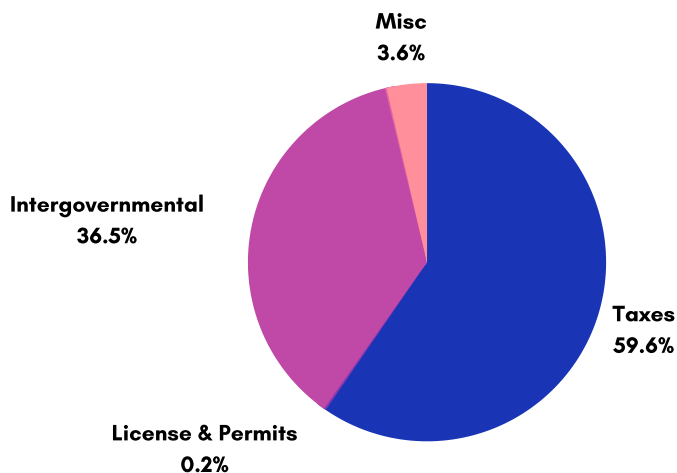




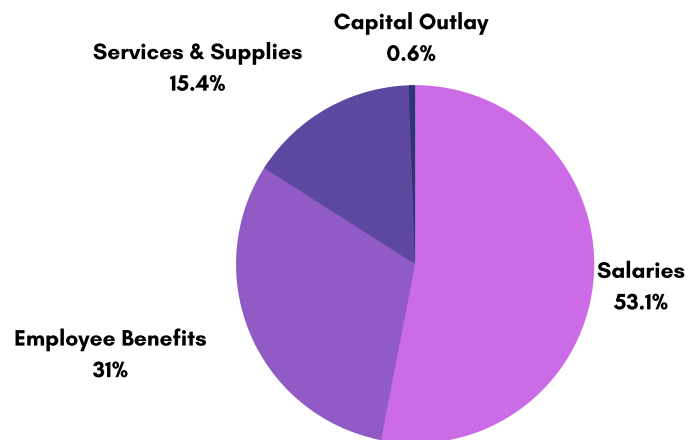
Financial Summary

General Fund Summary

For Fiscal Year Ending June 2020



Revenues \$33,456,526



Expenditures \$30,077,160

Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue's finances are stable. The General Fund balance as of June 30, 2020, was \$11,475,006, an increase of \$2,479,366 or 27.6% from the prior year. This increase was primarily caused by active efforts to control costs at the end of the year to mitigate unknown impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The total fund balance of \$11,475,006 equates to 27.6% or approximately 4.6 months' worth of expenditures (excluding transfers out to fund Capital Projects and Sick and Annual Comp Benefits costs) compared to the prior year's ending fund balance of \$8,995,640 equates to 15.35% or approximately 3.8 months' worth of expenditures. In FY 19-20, the total General Fund expenditures were \$30,077,160 which was \$1,078,633 or 3.5% under budget. The General Fund revenues and other sources were over budget by \$2,449,954 or 7.9%.



2020 Review

Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue experienced an unprecedented year for wildfire, both in the total volume of calls and severity of fires. Precipitation for the summer was negligible and that caused early curing of fine fuels and made medium to heavy fuels more susceptible to burning.

Several large wildfires threatened hundreds of homes through the wildfire season. The significant fires in 2020 were the North Fire in Red Rock, the Poeville Fire on Peavine Mountain, and the Rock Farm Fire in the Arrowcreek area. Total acres burned in the District boundary equaled ###,###.



The Rock Farm Fire was caused by a structure fire that spread into the brush and was pushed by the wind to the Arrowcreek subdivision. The initial fire and a second residential structure were destroyed.



2020 Review

In March 2020, the global pandemic required significant changes in response protocols and station operations. All public outreach, station tours, and ride-a-longs remain suspended until precautions are no longer necessary. In December, the Fire District partnered with the Washoe County Health District to ensure all firefighting personnel received a vaccination. The second vaccination will take place in early 2021.

A TMFR ambulance has been placed into service at Station 45 - Sun Valley to assist REMSA with surge capacity and an abnormally high level of responses.



Hidden Valley Fire Station Redevelopment

Approvals to redevelop the Hidden Valley Fire Station have been obtained, and construction is anticipated to begin in June 2021. The fire station redevelopment will consist of a new truck bay and residential quarters. The residential portion is now served by a modular home, which will move to the corner in an existing residential structure connected to the new truck bay.

insert Architect's rendering