



MOSQUITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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July 15, 2020

It is an honor and privilege for me to serve as your fire chief for the Mosquito Fire District. I was fortunate to arrive in an organization with so much positive momentum moving forward. I would like to thank Interim Chief Mark Schwegler for his leadership during this transitional and challenging time, made even more challenging because of the pandemic crisis. Chief Schwegler will continue to be an important part of our operations.

I have been involved in the fire service most of my life, starting out as a fire explorer, similar to the young people currently involved in the District's Explorer/Cadet program. I still hold those memories which formed the excitement for the fire service and service to the community, which I have to this day. In my years of public service I have not experienced a more engaged and supportive community as I have right here. This is a community that reaches out and helps one another. The Fire District is definitely a reflection of its community and there are great things ahead.

One of the best reflections of this community is the Fire District's Support Group. This is a collection of residents from diverse backgrounds who desire to give back with their expertise in support of the District's response and administrative operations. These great people donate their time and energy under any conditions, which is vital in our overall service to you.

The recent closure of the Mosquito Bridge for repairs has created a serious situation if a wildfire forces an evacuation of the community. Rock Creek Road is the main access for responding fire engines. We are currently updating planning to be prepared in the event a fire forces an evacuation. The key component of an evacuation of our community is the use of the Swansboro Airport as an evacuation staging area. There is plenty of room for residents to park in a safe area pending an orderly evacuation out of the area by the Sheriff's Office. It cannot be overstated that vehicles leaving the area in a panic, rushed fashion will create a hazardous situation for both residents leaving and incoming fire engines. The ability to get fire engines in quickly is vital in saving lives and property.

Fire District Support personnel and members of the pilot community will be present to direct residents into the airport, including a gate which can accommodate RVs and animal trailers. This will be the safest location until Sheriff's deputies can lead vehicles out on Rock Creek Rd. It will also be important for us to note where your residence is and that you and your loved ones have safely evacuated. This will assist deputies and firefighters who are looking for anyone trapped and needing assistance. Additional preparedness and evacuation information can be found at www.mfpd.us or by stopping by the fire station.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of your community. The Fire District is moving forward in a very positive direction despite financial and other challenges, which have not slowed us down. This is a Fire District you can be proud of. I will have updates regarding the things we are doing in my monthly Chief's report.

Jack Rosevear
Mosquito Fire Protection District