



## Cable Fire in Camino

July 26, 2022

The 20-acre Cable Fire, which started at 4:21 PM on July 26, 2022 in the area of Cable Road and White Mountain Ranch Road, which has since been fully contained. The forward progression of the fire was stopped in a few hours by an aggressive and coordinated attack utilizing air and ground resources.

Early on, a family was reported to be trapped at a residence at the end of White Mountain Ranch Road. El Dorado County Fire Engine 19 and Water Tender 21 were in perfect positions to peel away and address this developing rescue scenario. Fire was burning actively on both sides of White Mountain Ranch Road, requiring a mobile attack while driving through the burn area. As both units were advancing near the head of the fire, a new paint job from a welcome tanker drop was inevitable. The family of five, including a pregnant woman and two children, ages one and five, were all found to be well and without injury. The family did an amazing job protecting their home with limited resources and without protective gear.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**\*SAFETY MESSAGE\*** Please be aware that we are seeing extreme fire behavior, critical rates of spread, and long-distance spotting during this season's Northern California fires. Yard debris burning is suspended statewide. Any outdoor work (mowing, chainsaw work, welding, etc.) should be done in the early morning hours and with a water source directly at hand. Avoid these activities altogether, if possible. With the current weather and low fuel moistures, a fire in the grass and brush will immediately grow beyond your ability to control it.

Your health and safety are our priorities!



Engine 19 along with Water Tender 21 took a hit from air tanker(s) during the Cable Fire.



## County Fire welcomes new Accelerant K9 Denali to our ranks

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District welcomed Accelerant Detection Canine Denali to the organization during a badge pinning ceremony at the regular Board of Directors meeting Thursday. Fire Chief Tim Cordero conducted a badge pinning and swearing in ceremony for Denali and K9 handler Captain Jamie Preston. Denali has been serving the District for just over a month and has already been active on several fire investigations.

Denali is a two-year-old yellow lab. She recently completed 8 weeks of initial accelerant detection training followed by 2 weeks of additional handler training alongside Captain Preston. Denali was the only accelerant detection K9 in a class of other working dogs who were destined for explosives detection and other roles. She received her certification as an accelerant detection K9 through the American Police Canine Association (APCA). Denali will accompany handler Captain Preston, a fire investigator, to fire scenes where they will conduct fire investigation tasks. Both will complete regular training in order to maintain competency and to annually re-certify. The District is also a member of the Sacramento-Sierra Arson Task Force which will provide for some additional fire investigation opportunities for Captain Preston and Denali.

In addition to fire investigation work, Captain Preston is a full-time shift captain on a fire engine in Pleasant Valley. Captain Preston has been a full-time employee of the District for over 15 years and had many years of volunteer firefighter experience prior. Captain Preston is also licensed as a paramedic. When it's time to go to work, Denali accompanies Captain Preston there too. She has been a welcome addition to station life and has already worked shifts at all of the District's stations. Although she does not go out on routine emergency calls she is happy to wag her tail and greet the firefighters as they return from calls on the fire engines and medic units. At the end of each shift, she returns home with Captain Preston and his family where she gets to enjoy life as a dog with her other lab "siblings".

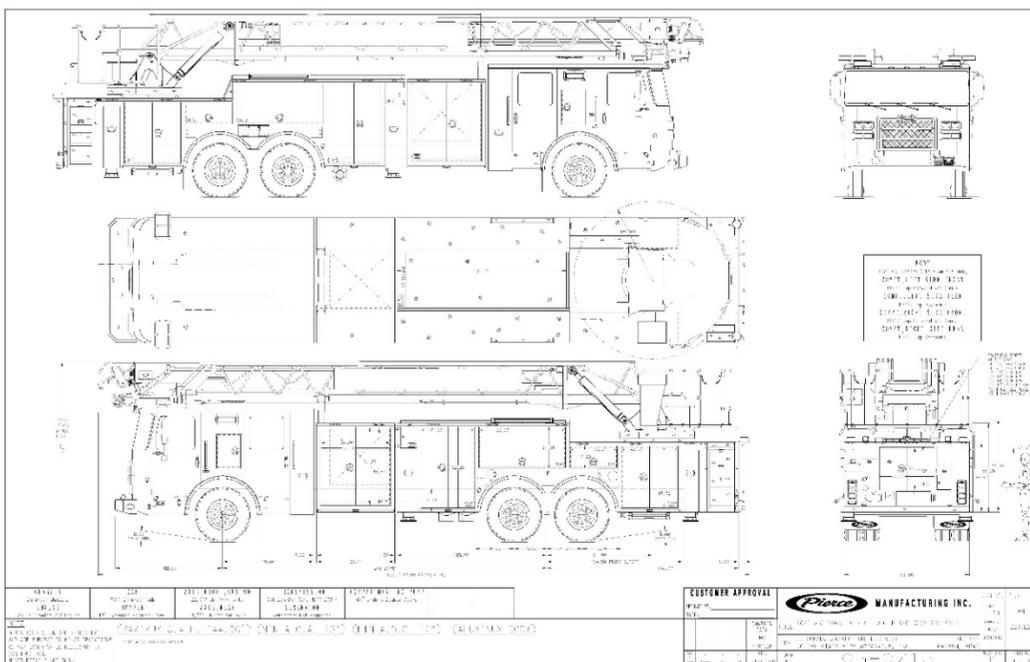
The Accelerant Detection K9 program is entirely funded by private donations to a designated canine fund through the El Dorado County Professional Firefighters Association - International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3556.

## County Fire Board of Directors Approves First Responder Fee

At the July Board of Directors meeting, the District unanimously approved a First Responder Fee. The Fee will be phased in over the next few months. This fee will be collected from anyone that receives medical services from one of our fire engines. This fee is intended to access funds that insurance companies already set aside for such purposes. The District will offer compassionate billing for those without insurance or medical coverage that will pay the fee on the patient’s behalf. Fees like this help to diversify the District’s funding to better cover ever increasing Emergency Medical Services delivery costs without additional taxation.

We anticipate that the community and especially our medical patients will have questions regarding the fee. The District website has a page specific to the First Responder Fee that has information on how the Fee originated and frequently asked questions (FAQs). Feel free to review the FAQs and refer those with questions to

[eldoradocountyfire.com/first-responder-fee](http://eldoradocountyfire.com/first-responder-fee)



Conceptual drawings of the proposed new Ladder 28.

## County Fire prepares to purchase new ladder truck for Station 28

During the recent contract renewal with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians / Red Hawk Casino and County Fire, funding for a new ladder truck was discussed. The Tribe has once again shown tremendous support for our District and firefighters with a generous donation towards the purchase of a new ladder truck.

The apparatus specification committee has been working with Chief Lohan to develop a spec that will meet our needs.

The drawing above is a draft depiction of the ladder truck we are planning to purchase, 107’ Peirce Ascendant. The final details will be worked out with the spec committee at pre-build.

The approval to purchase the ladder truck will be requested at the August 18, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

More to follow...

## County Fire Promotes an Engineer, Captain and Division Chief

On July 8, 2022, the El Dorado County Fire District held a promotion ceremony at the Red Hawk Casino Administrative Building. The promotions included Justin Chima to the rank of Engineer, Engineer Chima completes the process of upgrading all of our engine companies with a dedicated engineer. The process of promoting 15 engineers has been a heavy lift for our Training Division and Training Cadre, however, we now have completed this goal – great job by all our personnel!

Firefighter-Paramedic Derek Duncan was also promoted to the rank of Fire Captain. Captain Duncan has been very involved with numerous programs such as, Tactical Medics, Swift Water Rescue, FTO and JPA programs. Congratulations to Captain Duncan.

Captain Stirling has been the Interim Fire Marshal for the past year, and we are proud to promote Captain Stirling to the rank of Division Chief – Fire Marshal. Chief Stirling also participates in numerous programs outside of the Prevention Bureau, including radios, apparatus and OES tracking.



Left to Right: Engineer Chima, Captain Duncan and Division Chief Stirling sworn in to their new positions.



## County Fire Crews Respond to Several Fires in California

The fire season in California has begun to pick up in activity and our crews have been up to challenge. County Fire has seen several deployments for resources so far this year. OES 4103 responded to the Oak Fire as part of an OES Strike Team. Chief Lohan was also deployed as overhead to the Oak Fire.

Engine 328 was part of a local government strike team sent to the Electra Fire for several days before returning safely to the District.

We also recently have Engine 317 deployed as part of another local government strike team to the China 2 Fire, which was in Northern California near the McKinney Fire.

In looking at the previous few fire seasons, things may appear to be a little slower this year, but I would encourage all of us to not be lulled into complacency. Typically, the height of our fire season, locally, is August and September, even spilling into October. This week we are under a high heat advisory, so it is imperative that we all remain diligent and prepared. If and when these fires occur, either locally or across the State – we are ready to respond.



## Social Media Messaging!

Our Communications Manager, Jacob Poganski and PIO Jason Snyder have really turned up the volume on County Fire's social media presence! Our outward messaging is across our website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok. The enhanced presence not only serves to keep the public informed on the day-to-day activities and challenges our crews face, but also provides valuable information to various events taking place within the District and County. For example, our recent posts regarding the Cable Fire reached 64,800 on Facebook! If you have any photos and content send it their way and if you aren't already "follow us on the 'gram'!"



County Fire is currently present on numerous social media platforms.



Captain Poganski sprung into action, despite being off duty to help the victim of a vehicle accident.

## Firefighters are never truly "off duty"

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District's own, Captain/Paramedic Jacob Poganski, jumped into action on the evening of Sunday, July 10, pulling the unconscious driver of an SUV to safety even as flames engulfed the vehicle. Jacob and his wife, Christy, were returning from an evening out when they happened upon the accident on Eastbound Interstate 80 near Antelope. Jacob noticed that the driver was slumped over the steering wheel and that the vehicle's engine compartment was on fire. Wearing only flip flops and a Hawaiian shirt, Jacob raced to the vehicle, pried the door open, and pulled the driver to safety as flames pushed through the dashboard and into the footwell.

The El Dorado County Fire District is proud of—but not surprised by—Captain Poganski's selfless act of heroism Sunday night.

Captain/Paramedic Poganski has proudly served the residents of El Dorado County since 2007. He is the president of the International Association Of Fire Fighters - Local 3556, is an American Heart Association CPR instructor, and functions as a public information officer for the District.

Please click the following link to read the Mt. Democrat article by Krysten Kellum, detailing the events of that evening: <https://www.mtdemocrat.com/.../fire-captain-always-on.../> KOVR 13, CBS Sacramento, will air a piece about the incident during tonight's 10 PM broadcast: <https://www.facebook.com/CBSSacramento>