

Sonoma County Fire Response

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
MARCH, 2018



TPW on a “normal” day

- Road Maintenance
- Integrated Waste
- Transit
- Charles M. Schulz
– Sonoma County
Airport
- Communications



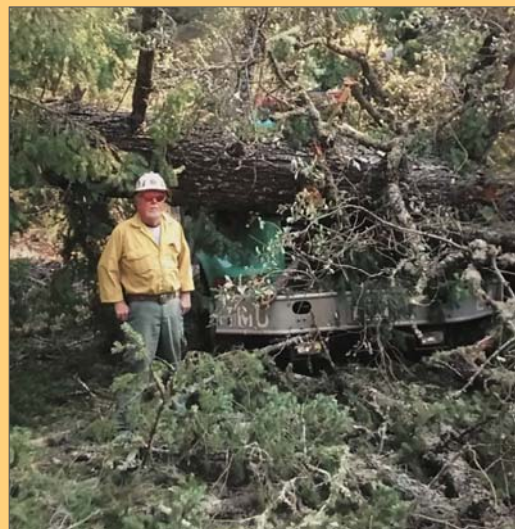
Road Fire Response: Initial Response

- Cleared trees blocking evacuation routes
- Provided traffic control during the fires
- Used water trucks, road side sprayers, and airport fire fighting equipment to assist fire operations, including spot fires and refilling fire engines
- Cut back roads for emergency access to inaccessible areas



Road Fire Response: Opening Roads

- Opened approximately 90 miles of 'burned' roads
- Coordinated with CalFire, Bureau of Land Management, and National Guard for a fast and effective approach
- Hired \$1.2 M in tree removal and erosion control contracts



Road Fire Response: Watersheds

- Staff and contractors stabilized critical slopes and installed erosion control measures in the right-of-way
- Installed filtration BMPs at storm drains
- Evaluated and replaced culverts



Road Fire Response: Road Repairs

- Replaced signs and traffic safety devices
- Preparing contracts for guardrail replacement
- Working on addressing pavement damage from debris hauling and construction with CalOES



Roads Fire Response: Trees

- Hired ACRT to assess trees that could threaten the 90 miles of roads in burned areas
- 10,733 trees were documented – 949 trees are above moderate risk
- TPW is working with FEMA to fund the removal of trees in our Right of Way.



Integrated Waste Fire Response: Debris

- Lead on the County Debris Task Force
 - Debris management options: Government Sponsored vs. Private Cleanup
 - Worked with Environmental Health and partners to enroll 3,731 properties in the Gov. program, and approve 1159 for private cleanup
 - Evaluating abatements for those who opted for private cleanup but haven't started
 - Contractor Assistance
 - Assistance with challenges such as staging sites and vehicle management
 - US Army Corps managed the contractors, while the County assisted guiding them to local departments and permitting agencies

Integrated Waste Fire Response: Landfill

- Landfill Capacity and Operation
 - Completed a new cell before the fires, and have already started construction on a new cell
 - Estimate that we will lose a few years off the total life of our landfill. Prior to the fires we estimated 28 years left.
 - Worked with the County's landfill operator to help them manage an increase of approximately 16 times the normal daily tonnage.



Transit Fire Response

- Evacuation shuttles
 - From Sutter Hospital, Kaiser Hospital, Sonoma State University, Sonoma County Youth Detention Center, and more
 - Suspended service while assisting with evacuations
- Suspended fare collection from October 9th – 22nd



Airport Fire Response

- Provided generators to support county road operations, and CAL FIRE retardant pumps
- Airport fire fighting staff used an airport fire truck to fight fires
- Assisted the National Guard with supply deliveries
- Monitored flight activities which included the CAL FIRE air attack base
- Staff assisted members of the public whose flights had been cancelled
- Functioned with limited staff as a result of evacuated employees



Communications Fire Response

- Communications staff was assigned full-time in the Joint Information Center
- In one month, the Joint Information Center:
 - Managed 25,000 hotline calls from the community
 - Organized 40 community meetings
 - Wrote 65 press releases
 - Developed 45 sets of talking points



Lessons Learned

- Redundancy in:
 - Communications
 - Staff training and contact information
 - Generators
- Update on call procurement contracts and landfill agreements
- Learn your Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and colleagues' roles
- Know your community partners

