



## Community Information Newsletter – December 1, 2022

It's hard to believe that 2022 is now behind us, how fast this past year went! As we wrap up the year, I want to share a few of our accomplishments from 2022, as well as inform everyone of some exciting prospects we are working on for 2023. The first accomplishment I would like to mention is our volunteer staffing. I am very proud to report we have a dedicated staff of **17** volunteer firefighters. It has been a very long time since Lockwood has had this many volunteer firefighters. We can all be proud of this group as they are very special people who hold public service as a core value. Three of these volunteers are relatively new so they will be attending our next Volunteer FF Academy beginning February 4<sup>th</sup>, which will take place every Saturday through the end of April. New volunteers attend the Academy to learn the fundamental fire and emergency medical skills required to allow them to effectively respond to emergencies. Training never stops for the volunteers- after the Academy, volunteers must attend weekly drills to stay current and learn new skills. As you can see, volunteering is a big commitment and not to be taken lightly, without these dedicated individuals and community support, we would have nothing!

Another area I would like to highlight is our fire apparatus. The Lockwood Fire Protection District operates a fleet of 3 Fire Engines, 2 Water Tenders (one WT belonging to AFD) 1 Rescue Squad, and 1 Command Vehicle. All of these vehicles have to be maintained and kept in tip-top condition, ready for response. As such, our apparatus fleet has undergone significant maintenance and repairs in 2022. Each piece of apparatus has had major service work completed as required, including the completion of any necessary repairs. In addition, each piece of apparatus has had its entire tool inventory redone and old worn-out tools and equipment have been serviced and/or replaced where necessary. One of our big purchases this year was new nozzles for all the apparatus, allowing us to standardize our inventory of structural firefighting nozzles. This purchase along with several other equipment purchases would not be possible without the support of our Fire Department Auxiliary and our community. Please know your support is very much appreciated!

Lockwood Fire Protection District responds out of two fire stations (151 and 152) both strategically located throughout the district. Station 151 houses our 4000-gallon Water Tender, a Fire Engine, and our Rescue Squad. Station 152 houses a 2000-gallon Water Tender (owned by AFD) and a Fire Engine. Station 151 has had significant improvements made, including a new bathroom with shower, small kitchen, and the creation of a training room that can accommodate up to 25 students. The station was painted inside and out, the apparatus bay doors have been replaced, and a base station radio was installed allowing us to use Station 151 for a command post during a major emergency. Station 152 received improvements as well, including paint and repairs to the front door, wooden lockers installed for the volunteers to keep their gear, permanent wiring installed to support the swamp cooler in the apparatus bay, and a new refrigerator in the kitchen. The station has also been organized and configured to allow us to quickly convert it to a temporary evacuation shelter, as there is an established agreement in place with the American Red Cross that allows them to use the station for shelter if needed.

Where are we headed in 2023? As stated in previous articles, we have a close working relationship with CAL FIRE and Amador Fire and these relationships are based on providing the best service possible to our community. As part of our working relationship with the Amador Fire Protection District, we are utilizing a Joint Operations Agreement (JOA). This agreement has many benefits and allows us to work closer with Amador Fire to better serve our community. One of the many benefits is the ability to share resources and personnel between our two agencies. As such, I have accepted a position as Deputy Chief with the Amador Fire Protection District, however, I will continue to fulfill my responsibilities as part-time Fire Chief for Lockwood. In light of the two roles being similar in nature, I consulted with the Fair Political Practices Commission and Amador's legal counsel and learned that although it is legal for me to hold both positions, it could create the impression of a conflict of interest. Based on those findings, the Lockwood Board of Directors decided it would be best if I remained an employee of Amador Fire, with Lockwood contracting Chief Officer services through Amador Fire. All of the responsibilities, etc. are clearly spelled out in addendum B of the current JOA.

Another example of this positive relationship is Amador Fire allowing us to keep one of their Water Tenders at Station 151 last summer while our Water Tender was in the shop for maintenance for over a month. As everyone knows, water is very precious during a fire and by having a water tender available at station 151, our volunteers were able to use it to quickly respond to fires. As a result of our robust volunteer response and the mutually beneficial location of station 152, we are currently housing a 2000-gallon Water Tender at that location that belongs to Amador Fire, which we will use for response to fires in either jurisdiction. Over the summer, each agency's volunteers assisted with the staffing of fire stations 123 and 151. The volunteers that participated were allowed to staff those stations as a mutually beneficial opportunity for each agency's volunteers to gain experience working in different areas.

Finally, I encourage anyone who is interested in staying up to speed with district happenings to please go to our website [www.lockwoodfire.org](http://www.lockwoodfire.org) and sign-up to receive news and updates, along with Board Meeting Agendas and information. Just click "Join our Mailing List" at the bottom of the page and enter your information. Thank you for your continued support and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Here is to a healthy, happy new year!!

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