

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Sapien, Jr.

**SUBJECT: SAN JOSE FIRE DEPARTMENT
PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED
AID TO FIGHT CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRES**

DATE: August 3, 2018

Approved

D. D. S. L.

Date

8/3/18

INFORMATION

The 2018 Fire Season is off to an early and dangerous start with wildfires burning throughout the State. Sadly, several lives have been lost and wildland fires have damaged hundreds of thousands of acres of land. San José Fire Department (SJFD) is working diligently to aid in controlling these fires and ensuring the City remains at normal service levels. SJFD Engines 9, 13, and 16 are assigned to Type 1 Strike Teams at the Medocino Complex, along with a Battalion Chief and a Fire Captain. An additional Battalion Chief is assigned to the Carr Fire. SJFD Engines 2 and 14 are currently assigned to the CalFire Santa Clara Unit providing coverage at the CalFire Smith Creek and CalFire HQ Stations.

During these deployment periods, the Department maintains normal in City staffing levels by requiring firefighters to work additional shifts. The California Mutual Aid System is the model for the rest of the nation, but with local resources stretched thin, out of state resources mobilize and continue to arrive to provide support. As agencies progress to contain these wildfires, we all hope that no additional fires break out and that conditions become favorable for fire control.

For current California fire information, go to: http://www.fire.ca.gov/current_incidents

Statistics show that approximately 95% of wildfires are caused by human activity and are easily preventable by practicing proper safety procedures when using outdoor equipment, extinguishing campfires, and ensuring vehicles are well maintained. We encourage the community to view the "One Less Spark" Public Service Announcement at https://youtu.be/G_49sPmg1vg Visit <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/> and <https://sccfiresafe.org/> for additional resources and information on how to prepare and prevent wildfires.

/s
ROBERT SAPIEN, JR.
Fire Chief, Department

For questions, please contact Captain Robert Herrera, Wildland Officer, at (408)794-7011.