

Firefighters called upon to distribute COVID-19 vaccine

By Nick Marnell

Acknowledging that the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout has moved slowly, Contra Costa Health Services announced Jan. 11 that it will use firefighter-paramedics to help distribute the vaccine within the county.

Since mid-December, the county had administered 36,000 doses of the vaccine as of Jan. 15. At that rate, with the county's professed goal of vaccinating 725,000 residents within six months in order to achieve herd immunity levels, the job would not be completed for two years. CCHS says it will require a major escalation of vaccinations to reach the county goal, jumping from approximately 1,200 vaccinations a day to 7,000 a day.

"We continue to redirect every resource available to getting shots in arms," Dr. Ori Tzvieli, Contra Costa County Deputy Health Officer and COVID Operations Chief, said in a statement. "At the same time, we are developing partnerships and networks that will ensure every pharmacy and healthcare provider in the county can provide the vaccine as more and more people are eligible to receive it."

To that end, along with opening more vaccination sites and activating its medical reserve corps, the county will enlist the aid of firefighter-paramedics to ramp up vaccination efforts.

Both the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District are on board to

help administer the vaccine. "ConFire is working closely with Contra Costa Health Services to determine how and when our cadre of 300-some EMT and paramedic firefighters can support distribution plans for the COVID-19 vaccines," said Steve Hill, district public information officer. "We are eager to leverage our frontline patient care providers to further the health and safety of the communities we serve across the county."

"Anything we do to assist vaccine distribution will be done in support of County Health's plan," said MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker, though as of mid-January it was too early to say exactly what will be asked of the county fire agencies. The likelihood was that fire per-

sonnel would assist with inoculations at the county health sites rather than at independent fire agency locations, the chief said.

The county expects to have administered all of its 72,000 allocated vaccine doses to most members of Phase 1A and 1B priority groups "in the coming days and weeks," Tzvieli said on Jan. 15. Into early January, healthcare workers, employees and resi-

dents of long-term care facilities, and people aged 75 and over were eligible to receive the COVID vaccine in Contra Costa County.

On Jan. 13, the state added people 65 and over to the eligibility list, further straining the county distribution network. "We've been getting about 1,000 requests per hour on our website," said Anna Roth, Contra Costa County Health Director.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Upcoming Community Wildfire Prevention Plan meetings

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District released a draft of its Community Wildfire Prevention Plan in December and

plans to host community meetings throughout the district to take feedback. The meetings are scheduled for

Orinda Jan. 21, Canyon Jan. 28 and Moraga Feb. 4. All meetings will be held via online conference at 6 p.m.

For more CWPP information, go to the MOFD website: <https://www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/community-wildfire-protection-plan-cwpp>

Thousands of dead trees pose extreme fire risk in Lamorinda

... continued from Page A1

Adding to the nuisance value of Monterey pine trees, the U.S. Forest Service says that Monterey pine wood is light, soft, and coarse grained, with little commercial value in the United States except as fuel wood.

According to the fire district, the red needles from Monterey pines will dry as summer approaches. The needles are highly flammable, and when fire climbs into the tree, the needles can detach and become firebrands or embers, capable of igniting downwind fires. These spot fires can start anytime, with burning embers landing in fuel beds and carrying as far away as a mile.

Trees die largely due to old age, lack of water or "forest pests," Isaacs said. When Monterey pines get dehydrated, the pine bark beetles attack, setting the stage for the trees' demise.

"Dead trees can overwhelm the system come spring and summer," Isaacs said. "Dead trees unattended are a violation of the fire code. They can make fire season even worse."

To keep the dead tree problem from spiraling out of



Dying Monterey pines in an Orinda backyard. Photos Nick Marnell

control into fire season, fire district employees will begin their annual vegetation man-

agement inspections in the spring and issue citations for properties that are not in



Removal of eucalyptus tree on Camino Pablo in Orinda Jan. 11.

compliance. Isaacs urged residents to assess their property for pines with telltale red

needles and arrange for tree removal as soon as possible before demand spikes in the spring and summer.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary

Report Dec. 27 - Jan. 9

Alarms	33
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	20
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	21
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	36
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	28
Vacation House Check	19

Welfare Check 18

Ordinance Violation 1

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary 3500 Block Brook St.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Olympic Blvd./Olympic Oaks Dr.

900 Block Moraga Rd.

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Upper Happy Valley Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.

Laurel Dr./Deer Hill Rd.

1st St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.

Vehicle Theft 1000 Block 2nd St.,Laf

30 Block Chapel Dr.

3500 Block Brook St.,Laf

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity

Fraud False Pretenses 3600 Block Madrone Dr.

Identity Theft 3200 Block Andreasen Dr.

3300 Block Springhill Rd. (2)

Petty Theft 400 Block Helen Ave.

3100 Block Sunridge Ct.

Petty Theft Veh Parts 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3500 Block Terrace Way

Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Theft Access Card 3200 Block Driftwood Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic 3600 Block Brook St.

100 Block Greenbank Dr.

3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

Disturbing The Peace 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Police Department

Loud Noise 200 Block Lafayette Cir.

Orchard Rd./Oak Hill Rd.

2Nd St./Golden Gate Way

Loud Party 1000 Block Carol Ln.

1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Public Nuisance 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

3200 Block Stanley Blvd.

900 Block Acalanes Rd.

3500 Block Golden Gate Way

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

1200 Block Warner Ct.

Eb Sr 24 At El Curtola Blvd.

Other

Covid-19 Violation 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fireworks 3100 Block Lucas Dr.

Harassment Acalanes Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.

Surveillance El Curtola Blvd. Overpass (7)

Threats 900 Block East St.

3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Trespass 3300 Block Sweet Dr.

Violation Custody Order 3300 Block Springhill Rd. (2)

Violation Restraining Order 3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Moraga Police Department

Incident Summary

Report

Dec. 29 - Jan. 11

Alarms	12
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	31
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	27
Patrol Req./Security Check	20
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Public/School Assembly Check	1

Vehicle violations

Excessive Speed	
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.	
Old Moraga Trail/Sanders Range	
Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.	
Canyon Rd./Sanders Dr.	
Moraga Way/Viader Dr.	
Moraga Way/School St	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (5)	

Reckless Driving

Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.	
School St./Country Club Dr.	
Campolinoo Dr./Moraga Road	

Vehicle Theft

Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
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Other criminal activity

Burglary	Not Available
Grand Theft	90 Block Brookfield Dr.
Identity Theft	Police Department
	50 Block Ashbrook Pl.
	20 Block Fleuti Dr.
	1300 Block Larch Ave.



Petty Theft 100 Block Calle La Mesa

Rape St Marys College

Residential Burglary Not Available (2)

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic 2100 Block Donald Dr.

Drunk In Public 1300 Block Camino Peral

Loud Party Not Available

Other criminal activity

Fireworks Tharp Dr./Deerfield Dr.

2000 Block Ascot Dr.

H&S Violation Safeway

Ordinance Violation Ivy Dr./Miramonte Dr.

Other Infraction 500 Block Butterfield Pl.

Possession Of Burglary Tools St Marys College

Possession Of Stolen Prof. Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Unwanted Guest 1400 Block Moraga Way



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time