

EAST ZION FIRE UPDATE:

May 23,2022

Hi All,

Just wanted to update you on what is going on in the fire district and current fire updates.

- As per this email a recent fire order has gone into effect (please see attached order). Our fire conditions are deteriorating fairly quick, without any significant rain and unusually windy conditions. What this email means is no open burning of any kind, unless in an approved and inspected fire pit. I can perform those inspections by appointment; however, I suspect all burning will be closed fairly soon in the entire state (even in inspected and approved fire pits). This order could happen in a couple of weeks, if we do not get substantial rain. Sorry about the bad news, but in the long run, good for the safety of property owners in yet another year of unprecedented drought.
- I am pleased to announce the improvements made to the Observation Point Trailhead. Mark Fulkerson and many other neighbors have worked tirelessly in making that whole situation a lot better. The park Service came and put fencing in to limit the parking to designated areas only. Julie has really stepped up with the new shuttle service, and signage on Twin Knolls Rd. Many rocks ropes, and “no trespassing signs” have been put up along the way to deter vehicles from parking on the dry grass. The BLM is enforcing the “No overnight camping rule” at the trailhead. All these improvements have made that area so much more “firesafe.” There is still some work left there, and on social media - to inform people of the enforcement of parking on the road or on private property.
- We have placed a 5000-gallon water tank out in Little Ponderosa just south of Twin Knolls Road and Beaver Rd. It is up on a hill hidden in the trees. The tank will be able to refill firetrucks, fighting fire out in that area. It could also fill a portable dip tank for helicopter operations out there. The tank is full of water and is in service. This will be a pivotal part of fire suppression out there.



5,000-Gallon Tank set in place

- We also had an 8,000-gallon tank loaned to us from Wes Lamb. It has been placed on Mark Fulkerson property and will also be in service shortly. This tank is located on the far north end of Little Ponderosa Ranch. It will give us another water supply for firefighting.
- We had two of our firefighters just finish and pass the wildland certification training. Steve Schmidt and John Maseng. Congratulations on this 40-hour course and physical. These certifications will be a big help in our efforts to control a fire.
- The station addition is moving slower than I would like. They just finished the electrical, and are preparing for drywall. I have been trying to “light a fire” under the contractor to speed things up. Some things have been out of his control, however he assured me it would be completed by the end of June. We are keeping our fingers crossed.
- We are still struggling with a man-power issue. My proposed “Captains on-call idea” is still on hold until we get all our trained firefighters back from winter break. We will then have those eligible to apply for the position. We will choose those that would suit our needs at this time. As for now, we do not have constant coverage.
- It has been rough finding an adequate water tanker that has been approved in this year’s budget. Prices of used equipment has gone through the roof, as with new vehicles. We were negotiating on a

truck that was ideal for our needs, when it was sold out from under us. I will keep looking and keep you posted.

- We have been getting our trucks fixed and ready for the fire season. I'm happy to report that all our front-line vehicles are now up and running.
- We are currently working on "Engine 612" to retrofit it with a new pump and a leak free tank. This truck will be placed down at the ZMR area when finished.
- We have now gone to "once a week training," from every other week. We have some great devoted personnel, that donate their own time to make our mountain safe.

Well, there you have it. Things are moving forward on my goals- "to keep our mountain safe from fire, another year." The summer fire for-cast is fairly bleak again this year. The State has already had some major fires. We assisted Kanab on a mutual aid call of a fire down in their neck of the woods. We all have to be vigil and play a part in policing our mountain for fire hazards and illegal burning as you all did last year. Thank you for all your support and what you do for this vital service.

Chief Freeman