

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
September 17, 2025

**Those Present:**

Chief Scott Lindgren  
Chairman Ben Johnson  
Vice Chair Stacy Noyes

Trustee John Breaux  
Trustee Dan Kruger  
Trustee Ben Ward

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 02:31PM

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Fire Inspector Van De Hey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Noyes, Trustee Breaux, Trustee Ward and Trustee Kruger were all present. A quorum was met.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Vice Chair Noyes made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 5-0

**5. Public Comment**

None.

**6. Trustee Comments**

Chairman Johnson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage across the organization, highlighted the dedication and excellence of staff, and encouraged new trustees to spend time connecting with teams.

**7. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 08/20/2025

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Second: Vice Chair Noyes

Motion approved: 5-0

**8. Consent items moved forward:**

None.

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**9. Special Recognition**

*Fire Chief Scott Lindgren*

Fire Captain Chris Wade 11 Years

Fire Mechanic Ron Allison 3 Years

**10. Discussion of Resolution #011-25, proposing the adoption of the 2024 Lake Tahoe Nevada Fire Code, incorporating the 2024 International Fire Code, prescribing regulations to protect life and property from fire, hazardous materials, and explosions, providing for permits, establishing a Bureau of Fire Prevention, and defining officers' powers and duties. First Reading – no action.**

*Fire Inspector Kris Rowlett*

Fire Inspector Rowlett presented the 2024 International Fire Code and outlined proposed local amendments. The amendments are tailored to local conditions. The goal is to remain as close as possible to base code for consistency, defensibility, and to aid the design and building community.

Chairman Johnson thanked Rowlett for the summary table and the why column, it made review much easier.

Chairman Johnson suggested creating a separate enforceable code for defensible space and fuel reduction work for landowners in the District. Trustee Kruger raised safety concerns regarding landowners and agencies. He emphasized defensible space and neighbor cooperation. Fire Inspector Rowlett explained that this would be a separate ordinance for the team and legal to review and possibly collaborating with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) on this topic.

Chief Lindgren talked about the issue with the county approving the use of a fire hydrant for irrigation and questioned its appropriateness. Chief Lindgren shared Trustee Kruger's ideas that the District needs to address fuels reduction on vacant lots owned by state and federal agencies, particularly adjacent to homes. They support a local ordinance to hold these agencies accountable for protecting the community.

Chairman Johnson stressed the importance of coordinating with NLTFPD to adopt a uniform ordinance and offered to engage Chief Sommers to help align across jurisdictions.

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Trustee Kruger expressed his frustration of the longstanding burn piles on neighboring federal land, noting that they are known to significantly increase fire risk.

Chairman Johnson requested minor edits to the code, including adding district-specific road references and updating enforcement language to reflect a deputy sheriff rather than a police officer.

Fire Inspector Rowlett clarified that Incline approved the first reading of this code this morning and explained the adoption process.

Trustee Ward asked about specifying the location of equipment when the code only says “readily accessible.” Fire Inspector Rowlett explained that flexibility is intentional because every building is different.

Fire Inspector Rowlett brought attention to Table 903.2 and the addition of note J to the code.

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve the addition of note J and the changes suggested by the Trustees.

Second: Ben Ward

Motion approved: 5-0

**11. Discussion of Resolution #012-25, proposing the adoption of the 2024 Lake Tahoe Nevada IWUIC, incorporating the 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code, prescribing regulations to protect life and property from fire, hazardous materials, and explosions, providing for permits, establishing a Bureau of Fire Prevention, and defining officers’ powers and duties. First Reading – no action.**

*Fire Inspector Kris Rowlett*

Fire Inspector Rowlett brought attention to section 109.3.9 “Escalation of Enforcement” which allows the District to take further action if uncorrected or repeated violations occur. Rowlett explained that this is the first time such language has been used, initiating the legal path to be able to create a defensible space ordinance that was previously talked about.

Chief Lindgren noted that discussions are in progress with the new State Fire Marshall and the DA about the proposed enforcement approach and why it is so important here.

Fire Inspector Rowlett explained that Chapter 6 of the WUI code will be adopted in its entirety, requiring all new residential structures in the district to be sprinklered. This aligns with the

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District's current practice and provides clarity for remodels and multi-story definitions. Douglas County Building has been informed and is supportive of the approach.

## **12. District Divisions**

### *Operations - Assistant Chief/Special Operations Kevin Lawson*

Chief Lawson is working closely with First Due to revamp the reporting to include enhanced metrics. Chief Lawson recognized the recent retirement of Captain Chris Peterson, highlighting his 20+ years of service, expertise, and contributions to training. The process to fill his position is underway with two internal candidates, aiming for placement and training by October 13.

Chief Lawson highlighted regional partnerships with East Fork Fire, Carson City Fire, and South Lake Tahoe Fire, including a weekly coordination meeting to align training and operations.

Chief Lawson discussed being able to consolidate training and operational modules in First Due.

Chairman Johnson asked if the District would be losing historical data by switching away from the Emergency Report System software (ERS.) Chief Lawson answered that we would still have access to ERS and First Due will streamline data extraction. Trustee Noyes asked if the District would be able to access ERS after transitioning to First Due. Chief Cranch explained that users would have read-only historical access for a fee per year. Chief Lawson clarified that between First Due and UKG we will have easier access to data, policies, and procedures.

Chief Lindgren explained that First Due is an emergency response platform used to receive dispatch information, track resources and vehicles, access hydrant data, pre-plans, and building hazards. It allows the District to coordinate with surrounding agencies and integrates command of a large incident.

Chief Lawson provided an update on the Wildland Fire and Fuels division. Type 5 and Type 3 engines are deployed in Eldorado, Sierra National Forest, and Wyoming. Also, both Wildland Battalion Chiefs assisted in the recent high rise training.

Chief Lawson discussed the new rescue ambulance that is expected to arrive the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Breaux asked the cost of the new ambulance. Chief Lawson answered that it cost \$350,000 including the gurney.

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Chairman Johnson asked about the Fire/Rescue branding on the new ambulance and asked for clarification. Chief Lawson explained the efforts to standardize the District's apparatus branding and markings. After reviewing vendor proposals, input from local agencies and the apparatus committee, a consistent design and specifications were established and documented for current and future uniformity.

Chairman Johnson asked how long until the new ambulance is in service from when we receive it. Chief Lawson explained that it will go in service as soon as it is serviced with supplies.

Chief Lindgren explained the current plan for expanding from four ambulances to six to meet the anticipated demands from the new Barton Hospital.

Chief Lawson mentioned the water tender that is still in the process to be delivered hopefully before the end of the year.

Chief Lawson added an update on the new candidates that will be attending the Capital City Regional Fire Academy and will go through orientation lead by Captain Chad Baker.

Trustee Noyes inquired about having some Trustee members to be on the interview panel for the Training Captain position. Chief Lindgren confirmed that he will discuss possible dates with the Trustees.

Trustee Breaux asked if the District receives a discount when an apparatus is paid for upfront versus a payment plan. Chief Lawson explained the discounts and payment plan options.

*Fire Prevention Bureau - Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bryce Cranch*

Chief Cranch recognized HR Specialist Vindel for her outstanding work on the recruitment process. Chairman Johnson asked if the District has any applicants applying for the lateral position that are from the area. Chief Cranch responded that there is an applicant from Carson City who is also a US Marine Veteran.

HR Specialist Vindel is managing Spring Academy recruitment and the rollout of updated policies. Chief Lindgren wanted to clarify that the District maintains a family friendly culture and policy aims to balance safety and operations. He noted that a revised draft regarding family visits to the fire station is under review to better align the policy with District values.

Chief Cranch recognized HR Specialist Nalder for her work managing a complex workers' compensation case.

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Chief Cranch also thanked HR Specialist Nalder for managing the exit interviews while remaining approachable to employees.

Fuels Management Officer Schafer was recognized for managing fuels reduction. Schafer will be providing training to the Fire Prevention Bureau team on Defensible Space Inspection at Vacation Home Rentals.

Chief Cranch thanked Fire Inspector Rowlett for leading the code adoption efforts. He also recognized Fire Inspector Turner for the liaison work with the State Fire Marshal and media outreach. He thanked Fire Inspector Van De Hey for organizing and leading the Fire Science Program at George Whittell High School.

Chairman Johnson inquired about the purpose of the Fire Science Program. Chief Lindgren explained that the program is designed to introduce students to the fire service at an early age, providing them with educational opportunities and experiences that may encourage them to pursue firefighting as a career and also fostering the development of future local firefighters.

Chief Cranch played social media reels from the Tahoe Douglas Fire Instagram highlighting what the Fire Science Program students have been up to the past few weeks.

Chief Cranch recounted an incident in which Fire Inspector Van De Hey utilized a fire extinguisher to extinguish a drone fire that occurred during the *Red, White & Brew Festival Drone Show* in the parking lot of the Golden Nugget. Van De Hey received her “first fire” award.

Trustee Noyes asked about the record request process and Chief Lucas explained the extensive process with record requests and how

**13. Review of Monthly Fire District Reports and Activities and Annual Goals and Objectives. No action will be taken**

*Fire Chief Scott Lindgren*

Chief Lindgren discussed the Board of Trustees revenue workshop meeting tomorrow including updates from recent meetings with county officials. The discussions covered the statutory limit on the Ad Valorem tax and the MOU with the county. He also reported LED abatements, noting an expected \$100,000 rebate.

Chief Lindgren has also been focused on the ongoing coordination with regional and Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs and the Tahoe Basin fuels team, including his role as chairman overseeing the 10-year cohesive fuel strategy. He noted recent weather changes reduce the risk of

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catastrophic fires in the basin. Some controlled burning and campfires are being allowed again with careful monitoring. Overall, the basin has experienced one of the first fire seasons in recent years without significant smoke.

Chairman Johnson noted that he received numerous positive calls from the community regarding work that was done on the fuel breaks on Kingsbury Grade this year. Chief Lindgren added that our goal is to have 300 foot fuel breaks around all our communities.

Trustee Breaux asked if there was news on the dead trees in Rabe Meadow. Chief Lindgren explained that he met with the Forest Supervisor, and the Supervisor is working with the District on a plan to mitigate the risk and will make it a priority.

**14. Public Comment**

None.

**15. Confirm next meeting, Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:30pm; possible agenda items.**

Chief Lindgren announced that the Nevada Department of Taxation will give a presentation on Consolidated Tax (CTX) to help the District understand current revenue projections.

Trustee Noyes proposed an agenda item suggesting assigning Board members as liaisons to specific areas such as finance, administration, or HR. The goal would be for Trustees to learn about each area, provide support, and leverage individual strength. This was proposed as a discussion item to explore further.

**16. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM.

**Submitted by:**

Kathy Donovan

Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk