



## North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



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*Michael S. Schwartz, Fire Chief*

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December 26, 2018

Re: North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Partnership Fund

Dear Lake Tahoe Resident:

Are you looking for ways to help make your community safer through charitable contributions? Did you know that 100% of funds donated to the North Tahoe Fire Partnership Fund go toward marine and land-based fire and rescue apparatus dedicated to our Fire District?

**Getting Started:** North Tahoe Fire has raised half the funding necessary to purchase its first Fire and Rescue Boat. In 2015, the District Board of Directors approved the establishment of a public private partnership that would allow the District to utilize a combination of tax-deductible contributions from the community and other funds available to the District in order to acquire specialized apparatus including Fire and Rescue Boats to protect families and visitors living and recreating on the 37 miles of shoreline we serve. The North Tahoe Fire Rescue Boat Fleet will protect the shoreline from Crystal Bay to Emerald Bay – 49% of Lake Tahoe’s shoreline!

**Protection 24/7/365:** Ultimately, the Fire District plans to fund a Fire and Rescue Fleet of two boats through the Partnership Fund to stage in our North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire Districts 24/7/365. On September 11, 2001, NYC fireboats were used to pump river water to firefighters battling flames at Ground Zero and surrounding buildings after Manhattan’s water infrastructure was rendered inoperable. Developing a fleet of Fire and Rescue Boats provides water capabilities and rescue operations throughout the north and west shores, in addition to serving as an available resource for neighboring agencies on Lake Tahoe.

**Emergency Evacuation Vessels:** Did you know that during the September 11 terrorist attacks, over 500,000 people in Manhattan were evacuated by boat in just 9 hours? While our Fire and Rescue Boat Fleet may not accommodate large numbers of people at once, having the fleet with our partner agencies will provide the ability to design an evacuation shuttle program for evacuees who cannot safely escape the area by road to gather at designated safety zones clear of timber, where emergency evacuation vessels can pick up evacuees and shuttle them to the nearest safe transit center.

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**Mutual Aid:** The boats will be compatible and interoperable with fire and rescue boats in Incline and Tahoe Douglas. The boats will not only serve as floating fire hydrants for fighting fires on the water and shoreline and re-supplying water to engines fighting fires in the forest, the fleet will also serve as a valuable asset for search and rescue missions. Designed with state-of-the-art GPS, sonar and infrared radar technologies that are vital to locating heat signals from victims, this fleet will fill a vital gap by being available year-round when other agencies' boats are not available or are out of service during the winter.

**The Partnership Fund:** In 2015, the North Tahoe Fire Protection District adopted a Private Public Partnership Fund (Partnership Fund) to provide funding for acquisition, operation and maintenance of alternative water delivery systems, including fire and rescue boats and water tenders to protect our Fire District. Please contact us at [FFIPartnershipFund@ntfire.net](mailto:FFIPartnershipFund@ntfire.net) or 530-583-6911 for more information.

Charitable contributions made to the Partnership Fund may be tax deductible, please consult with your tax professional for details. Developers may also have the option to make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund in lieu of traditional water main construction in some cases.

I personally would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous new year. If we can be of further service on this or other related issues, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Schwartz".

Michael S. Schwartz  
Fire Chief