

Update to Con Fire Statement – Public Safety Related to Arrest of District Personnel

While investigation into this matter continues, we are providing the following additional information regarding our immediate review of, and actions to ensure, public safety.

Our extensive preliminary investigation has found that public safety has not been compromised in any way. Further, we have taken immediate steps to ensure safety is not compromised in any way going forward, as a result of this issue.

To date, and out of an abundance of caution, our actions have included:

- We have removed and inspected all controlled substances located on every operational fire apparatus – engines, trucks, rescue squad vehicles, etc.
- These inspections revealed no sign of tampering with any of these operational medical stocks
- While off the apparatus for inspection, we have made arrangements with our emergency transport Alliance sub-contractor to ensure all required medications are available at the scene of each incident to which we respond
- We are in process, again out of an abundance of caution, of replacing all operational controlled substance stocks on every apparatus
- While we are confident no compromise of public safety related to these medications has occurred, we have immediately put in place safeguards to ensure no future compromise can occur

To preclude compromise of our, or Martinez Police Department's ongoing investigations, we are withholding further comment on the investigations themselves pending their conclusions.

Original Con Fire Statement – Arrest of District Personnel

Con Fire employee Richard Stephenson was arrested by Martinez Police on the morning of Sunday, January 6, 2019, charged with alleged violations of California Health and Safety Codes [11350](#) and [11351](#) regarding possession of controlled substances.

In addition to the ongoing criminal investigation being conducted by the Martinez Police Department, Con Fire has placed Stephenson on administrative leave and initiated an internal investigation.

“Preliminary investigation indicates this is an isolated incident that did not involve the public or affect our services provided to the public,” said Jeff Carman, Fire Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Stephenson is a 19-year employee of the District and, until being placed on administrative leave, worked in the Emergency Medical Services Division.

As a matter of policy, we do not comment on the details of ongoing investigations and expect no further comment pending their completion.