

# Tuolumne County Fire Department Monthly Activity Report

## November 2020



### Tuolumne County Fire Department

Phone: (209) 533-5100  
18440 Striker Ct., Sonora, CA 95370  
[www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/717/Fire-Department](http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/717/Fire-Department)



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# MONTH IN REVIEW

## November 2020

November is a month of Thanksgiving and honoring our Veterans. Tuolumne County Fire Department wishes to send our thanks for the service and sacrifice of the many Veterans in our community and in the fire service.

As most of us celebrate the holidays in different ways this year, it's still important to note that celebrations around the holidays are the days of the year when most home fire starts. A few Thanksgiving fire facts to keep your Holiday memories happy while you are preparing for the Christmas holiday: Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, Easter, and Christmas Eve. In 2018, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,630 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires. Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths. Cooking caused almost half of all reported home fires and home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths in 2014-2018. Please be careful with fire as you prepare for your holiday celebrations.

As mentioned last month, Tuolumne County Fire Department is recruiting for Volunteer Firefighter, Volunteer Water Tender Operator, and Volunteer Emergency Medical Responders. Everyone that successfully completes this Academy will receive the following certificates:



California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI)  
 Hazardous Materials First Responder  
 State Fire Marshal (SFM) Confined Space Rescue Awareness  
 Emergency Medical Responder (possibly Public Safety First Aid-working on that)  
 SFM Firefighter Survival

SFM Low Angle Rope Rescue  
 SFM Auto Extrication  
 National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) L-180 Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service  
 NWCG S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior  
 CAL FIRE Chainsaw Roof Ops/A Sawyer  
 CAL FIRE 219

Call Training Captain Nick Shawkey at 209-352-2595 for information. The training classes are open to all fire agencies in the County and begin in January 2021 following all COVID precautions.

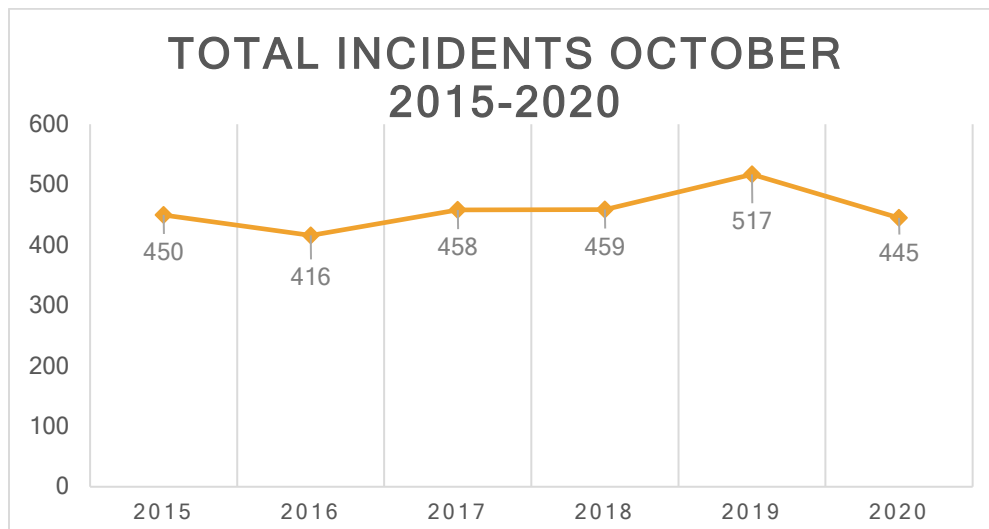
Several soon to be graduates from Columbia College Firefighter 1 Academy have come by to drop off resumes and interview for a position as a Resident Volunteer Firefighter (aka Intern) with Tuolumne County Fire Department. Potential candidates have studied and prepared for the interview process as well as conducted ride-alongs with the engine crew at Station 76.

As the seasons turn and the nights get longer and colder, Firefighters are responding to more flue fires. This is a timely reminder, as the seasons change and wood burning appliances are put in use, make sure the flue is cleaned and the flammable creosote residue is removed. A failure of the flue exhaust system will result in a residential structure fire or damage to the chimney.



A few other notable events during November: A new Outpost Landing Zone was designated due to original LZ being closed in the Soulsbyville area; CAL FIRE opened door-yard burning with permits; with the change of seasons, precipitation, and reduced daytime heating hours (we call the “burn window”), CAL FIRE reduced seasonal staffing at two-engine stations to one-engine; E511 from Mono Village Station 51 responded 13 times in two months for an alarm sounding at the same residence. All 13 incidents ended in a false alarm.

In November there were a total of 445 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 517 in 2019, and a slight decrease from the five-year average of 459 incidents. Of the 445 incidents in November 2020, there were 314 medical aids, 54 fires, 9 hazardous materials/fire menace standby, and 68 other incidents in TCFD jurisdiction. Between January 1 and November 30, 2020 there have been 5,035 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 5,450 incidents during that period in 2019.



## TCFD Station Responses

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to 146 incidents in the month of November including 101 medical calls (of which 11 were vehicle collisions), 18 public assists, 11 fires, 9 false alarms, and 7 other incidents. 127 incidents were within their primary response area and 19 were not. Volunteers responded to 30 of the 146 incidents and through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement, aid was given to one agency eight times and received by two agencies seven times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station responded to 115 incidents in November including 79 medical aids (of which 9 were vehicle collisions), 8 public assists, 10 fires, 10 smoke-checks, and 8 false alarms. Of the 115 incidents 97 were within their primary response area and 18 were not. Volunteers responded to two incidents. Automatic aid was given to one agency eight times and received from two agencies nine times. Station 76 responded to one residential care facility 14 times.

## Tuolumne County Fire Department Station Incident Responses

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers)	164 incidents
Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (1 volunteer)	0 incidents
Long Barn Station 54 ( <u>0 volunteers</u> )	12 incidents
Pinecrest Station 55 (6 volunteers)	6 incidents
Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers)	74 incidents
Crystal Falls Station 57 ( <u>0 Volunteers</u> )	Incidents absorbed by other stations
Cedar Ridge Station 58 (12 volunteers)	16 incidents
Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer)	26 incidents
Smith Station Station 63 ( <u>0 Volunteers</u> )	Incidents absorbed by other stations
Don Pedro Station 64 (3 volunteers)	9 incidents
Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 3 volunteers)	121 incidents
Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters)	43 incidents

*\*\*Incident totals include incidents that the fire station was dispatched to, and may have been automatic aid to other agencies through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement\*\**

## Tuolumne County CAL FIRE Station Incident Response Information

Blanchard CAL FIRE Station	- 35 incidents
Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station	- 76 incidents
Groveland CAL FIRE Station	- 35 incidents
Standard CAL FIRE Station	- 50 incidents
Green Springs CAL FIRE Station	- 26 incidents

## Significant Incidents

### November 3, 2020 – Vegetation Fire, Stanislaus County

Very early in the morning TCFD assisted CAL FIRE TCU and Stanislaus County on an early morning grass fire off 28-Mile Road near Sonora Road.

### November 5, 2020 Vegetation Fire, Chicken Ranch Road

Firefighters responded and found a fire threatening a structure. As crews protected the structure, additional crews extinguished the fire. No structures were damaged and the fire was contained at 1 ½ acres.

### November 6, 2020 – Structure Fire, Wagon Wheel Road

Firefighters responded to reports of flames coming out of the top of a chimney. The fire was mitigated upon arrival by residents and firefighters utilized a specialized piece of equipment, called a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), to

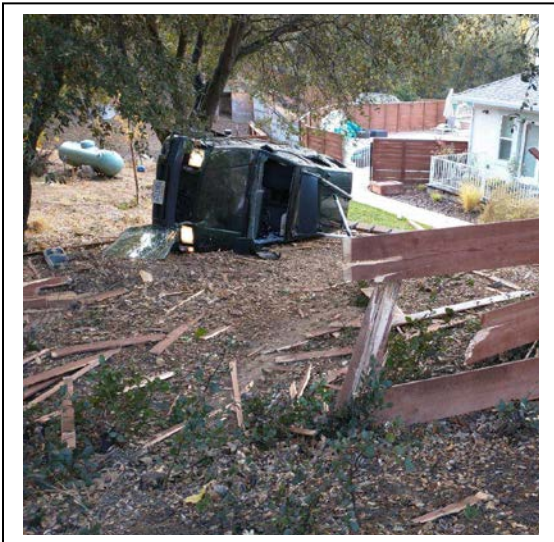
check for extension to the residence from the chimney. None was found. *Pictured above is an image from a training utilizing a TIC. TICs help firefighters see heat of victims as well as the seat of a fire inside burning buildings where there is no visibility.*



### November 7, 2020 – Vehicle Collision, Phoenix lake Road

Firefighters responded to a single vehicle rollover down an embankment. Upon arrival, one patient was trapped inside the vehicle, which was laying on the driver side. Components of another piece of specialized equipment, called a Rescue 42 (Stabilization System), were used to prevent the unstable vehicle from rolling over, which could injure firefighters and complicate the extrication. A reciprocating saw was then used to remove the windshield and the patient was assisted from the vehicle with minor

injuries and transported by ground ambulance to the hospital for further evaluation.



### November 8, 2020 – Structure Fire, Jamestown Road

Firefighters arrived and found a working residential structure fire located at the Starr Mobile Home Park off Jamestown Road at 6:29 AM. First arriving units at scene found a double wide mobile home with heavy smoke coming from the eaves and front door. After the fire was extinguished, firefighters spent many hours performing extensive overhaul removing multiple layers of steel roof

sheeting and ensuring all hot spots were extinguished. Three residents were displaced due to the fire.

#### November 9, 2020 – Vehicle Fire, Via Redonda Road

Upon arriving at scene firefighters discovered a vehicle fully involved with spread to the vegetation. Units at scene were able to extinguish the blaze and contain the fire to the vehicle and only a 20 by 20 foot spot in the grass. No injuries were reported.

#### November 11, 2020 – Vehicle Fire, Phoebe Lane

Firefighters responded to a report of a vehicle that caught fire while in operation. The victim was able to exit the vehicle and firefighters were able to extinguish the fire with no reported injuries.

#### November 13, 2020 – Structure Fire, Wildcat Ridge

Firefighters arrived and found two detached sheds on fire. The fires were quickly knocked down by responding units and Tuolumne County Fire Department Volunteers.

#### November 14, 2020 – Public Assist, Mono Way

Firefighters were dispatched to a person locked out of their vehicle on Mono Way. They were able to use the BigEasy lock-out kit (A tool used to actuate the door handle, manual lock button, or electric lock button), without causing any damage to the vehicle.



#### November 15, 2020 – Public Assist, Mono Way

Firefighters responded to a broken water line at the Les Schwab parking lot. A vehicle had backed into and damaged an above-ground water pipe. While at scene, the leak was isolated and the water system was shut down, stopping the leak. The businesses affected were notified of the damages, actions taken to mitigate the situation, and were delegated as Fire Watch in the chance that there were any potential effects on the fire suppression systems in the event of a fire until the system was restored.

#### November 22, 2020 – Debris Fire, Highway 108 x Rawhide Road

As debris burning was allowed with a permit after the rains, firefighters were called to an illegal burn pile. Firefighters found a 20 by 20-foot debris fire out of compliance with local regulations regarding restricted burning (max 4'x4').

#### November 23, 2020 – Vegetation Fire, Nogales Road

Firefighters were dispatched to an escaped debris burn near Nogales Road at Don Pedro Reservoir. Once at scene firefighters found a 3-acre rapidly burning fire with structures threatened and requested additional resources and aircraft from Columbia Air Attack Base. This is a reminder that even with recent rains and cool temperatures we always need to be careful with fire. Year-round. The fire was contained with no damage to the structures at less than 6 acres.

#### November 27, 2020 – Debris Fire, Ivy Lane

Firefighters were dispatched for a possible residential structure fire visible from Highway 108. The fire was not a residential structure but instead two burn piles far out of compliance with Cal Fires burn permit parameters. The piles were then reduced in size and divided by the home owner with the help of Engine 4485. Once the home owner was educated, issued an LE-38 (violation notice) and the piles were made to be in compliance with the burn permit, all units were released and returned to quarters.

## Fleet

On November 1, Jamestown Engine 761 suffered a mechanical failure and required a new rear-end installed. Thanks to the due-diligence of our mechanic, the rear-end was replaced at the state-of-the-art CAL FIRE Altaville Shop and several other smaller repairs were made including fixing water line leaks. Engine 761 was back in service within 48 hours. This engine is set to be placed into reserve status when the new Engine 761 arrives in mid-2021. Additionally, our mechanic continued to work with the vendor on the design of the new breathing support, arranged for the repair of E511 turbo actuator, which was covered by warranty, and performed other minor and routine maintenance on the fleet.



## Prevention/Education

On November 18, fire crews attended a Birthday drive-by for a 7-year-old named Jeremiah in the Jamestown area (pictured on cover). Due to COVID 19 restrictions, birthday parties have taken on a different approach this year. Several Tuolumne County entities came to support Jeremiah on his special day.



Despite COVID restrictions, Fire Investigators/Inspectors were able to conduct 4 site inspections during the month and 57 plans reviews.

Social media continues to provide a great opportunity to spread the fire prevention/education message and keep the community informed on events occurring within County Fire's jurisdiction. If you haven't already, follow us:

**facebook** Tuolumne County Fire Department (3,414 followers)

📷 | Instagram tuolumnecountyfire (1,746 followers)

🐦 @tuolumnecofire (897 followers)

## Training

This November we finished the training calendar for 2021, finished the joint basic volunteer firefighter academy schedule, completed fit testing on the new Scott SCBA, and completed Haz Mat First Responder Operations training.

One of the Fire Captains was selected to represent the CAL FIRE Southern Region as an adjunct in the Firefighter Academy's (FFA) 7 week course at the CAL FIRE Training Center in Lone. The assignment involved secondary instruction/assistance to the students during field exercises and evening study/drill.



One of the Fire Apparatus Engineers attended a Rapid Intervention Crew course in Rancho Cordova. The class teaches

firefighters to rescue injured, unconscious, and disoriented firefighters in environments that are Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health and require a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The course is 24 hours, spans 3 days, and the final skills evolution simulates a structure collapse. Rescuers work in pairs of two and are lowered by a team, floor by floor, using hose lines or rope. Once on the appropriate level of the structure, rescuers must navigate, with almost no visibility, a 3-dimensional Confined Space Maze with wires, netting, tubes, and obstacles, some as small as 20" x 20". Once they locate the 200 lb. mannequin (which is wearing another 50 lbs. of turnouts and SCBA) they must remove any debris trapping the victim, identify any issues, secure SCBA air supply, and

extricate the mannequin through all of the same obstacles, mazes, and back to the top story of the building, floor by floor, where the rescue is complete. The rescue takes upwards of 2 hours and 16 rotations of personnel to complete.

## Tuolumne County Fire Department Muster Association

The TCFD Muster Association is a benevolent non-profit organization that receives donations to support the firefighters of the TCFD in need and supports firefighters in obtaining additional training. The TCFD Muster Association is proud to offer "We Support TCFD" t-shirts in children's and adult sizes and Tuolumne Co. FD Richardson snapback hats for a donation. Children's shirts have been reduced to \$10 and adult sizes are \$15. Hats are \$20 and both items are pictured below and can be ordered from [TCFDMuster@gmail.com](mailto:TCFDMuster@gmail.com) or by calling 209-533-5118.



