# Tuolumne County Fire Department Monthly Activity Report



July 2020

# **Tuolumne County Fire Department**

Phone: (209) 533-5100

18440 Striker Ct., Sonora, CA 95370

www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/717/Fire-Department



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Month in Review	3
Station Responses	
Significant Incidents	Ę
Fleet	
Prevention/Education	8
Training	9









# MONTH IN REVIEW July 2020

As residents in the county quietly celebrated the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the cases of COVID continued to increase. It is important that we <u>all</u> follow guidelines and recommendations from the Tuolumne County Health Department and they include:

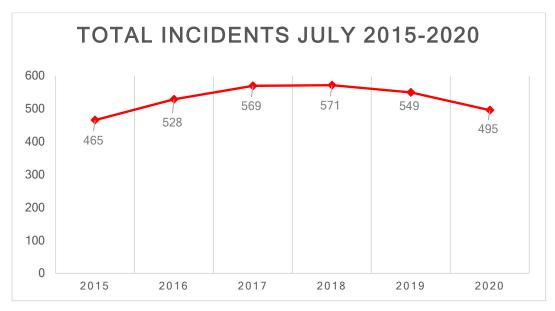
- Practice physical distancing at all times. Keep 6 feet space between yourself and others who are not part of your household. <u>Stay in your household bubble!</u>
- Wear a face covering in public.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid unnecessary travel and limit your outings to essential tasks.

On July 11 the annual Come-In-Unity Event at the fairgrounds was modified due to COVID-19. With the efforts of the amazing community members organizing and modifying the event, pick-up and delivery of dinners were provided for Tuolumne County First Responders and their immediate families.

Wildfire season is in full swing with many small fires occurring throughout the county. All of the fuels (timber, brush and grass components) are ready to burn. Please ensure you're doing your part in the fight against wildfire and ensure your properties have defensible space. For more information on how you can do that check out <a href="www.readyforwildfire.org">www.readyforwildfire.org</a> and <a href="https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1162/Wildfire-Preparedness">https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1162/Wildfire-Preparedness</a>. While you're on the County website, make sure you sign up for Everbridge, Tuolumne County's emergency notification program at <a href="https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832200/login">https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832200/login</a>.



In July there were a total of 495 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction, a decrease of 54 incidents (-10.2%) from the same time period last year, and a 7.7% decrease from the 5-year average of 536 incidents. Of the 495 incidents in July 2020, there were 353 medical aids, 52 fires, 27 hazardous materials/fire menace standby, and 63 other incidents in TCFD jurisdiction. Between January 1 and July 31, 2020 there have been 3,217 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 3,364 during that period in 2019.



## **TCFD Station Responses**

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to 104 incidents in the month of July which included 65 medical calls, 13 public assists, 12 fires, and 10 other incidents. 97 incidents were within their primary response area and 17 were not. Volunteers responded to 30 of the 104 incidents and through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement, aid was given to one agency five times and received by four agencies twelve times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station responded to 130 incidents in July including 97 medical aids, 7 public assists, 10 fires and 15 other incidents. Of the 130 incidents 111 were within their primary response area and 19 were not. Volunteers responded to four incidents. Automatic aid was given to one agency four times and received from two agencies eight times. Of note, Station 76 responded to one residential care facility 14 times in the month of July.



Residential care facilities have an increased impact on the emergency services that are provided to the community. In calendar year 2018, five residential care facilities accounted for over 500 incidents, over 25% of one station's incidents. We are very proud and honored to serve our community wherever they reside. However, when projects are being considered, it is important to properly mitigate all new development and their impacts to emergency services and to ensure those private facilities have the staff and equipment to limit the impacts on publicly provided services.

### **Tuolumne County Fire Department Station Incident Responses**

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 132 incidents

Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (1 volunteer) 23 incidents

Long Barn Station 54 (<u>0 volunteers</u>) incidents absorbed by other stations

Pinecrest Station 55 (6 volunteers) 29 incidents

Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 85 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) 41 incidents

Smith Station Station 63 (<u>0 Volunteers</u>) Incidents absorbed by other stations

Don Pedro Station 64 (3 volunteers) 26 incidents

Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 3 volunteers) 138 incidents

Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters) 44 incidents

### **Tuolumne County CAL FIRE Station Incident Response Information**

Blanchard CAL FIRE Station - 71 incidents
Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station - 89 incidents
Groveland CAL FIRE Station - 63 incidents
Standard CAL FIRE Station - 79 incidents
Green Springs CAL FIRE Station - 68 incidents

\*Incident numbers above may not match actual engine responses. These numbers above indicate calls that the station was dispatched to, but another resource responded or were in other jurisdictions

# **Significant Incidents**

### July 2, 2020 – Structure Fire, Livermore Court

Firefighters arrived to find a melted trash can on the side of a house that had been extinguished by a neighbor. Firefighters de-energized a portion of the residence that had damaged electrical components and used a thermal imaging camera to ensure the fire had not extended into the residence's smoke damaged walls or attic space.

#### July 7, 2020 - Vehicle Collision with Extrication, Highway 108 x Tulloch Road

Firefighters arrived to find two patients. One patient was able to self-extricate and the other needed to be extricated. Using rescue tools, firefighters stabilized the vehicle and using hydraulic cutters removed the roof from the vehicle. Both patients were transported to Adventist Health by ground ambulance.

Crews arrived to find five patients, four with minor injuries and one patient was trapped in the vehicle with significant injuries. Hydraulic spreaders ("Jaws of Life") were utilized to remove the driver side door to gain access. He was transported to a Sonora area hospital.

# <u>July 15, 2020 – Structure Fire/Hazardous</u> Materials, Soulsbyville Road

Crews arrived on scene to find a large commercial-size shop containing flammable liquids and heavy equipment fully involved with fire. The fire spread to the vegetation but was quickly contained. One patient was found with major burn injuries and was flown by helicopter to a burn center after receiving medical care by firefighters on scene. The fire was contained to the initial building and immediate



surrounding area. Aggressive tactics prevented fire spread to multiple exposures. The fire was declared a hazardous materials incident due to the amount of unknown contents and bulging large liquid storage containers, requiring a CAL OES Hazardous Materials Team, staffed with City of Modesto firefighters, to respond to assist in identifying and isolating the materials.

### July 16, 2020 – Vehicle Collision with Extrication, O'Byrne's Ferry Road

On arrival firefighters found one patient with major injuries trapped in the vehicle. The patient was removed from their vehicle after a technically challenging extrication and was flown to a trauma center.



### July 22, 2020 - Vehicle Fire, Highway 108 x Soulsbyville Road

Crews responded to an engine compartment fire in a motorhome that ignited while driving on Highway 108. The occupants reported they were traveling to the Pinecrest area for a vacation.

### July 23, 2020 - Vegetation Fire, Mono Way

A vegetation fire started in a transient encampment in a remote location near Sonora Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. The fire was contained to one quarter acre. This was the third vegetation fire originating in the transient camp since June 20.

July 26, 2020 – Medical Aid - Near Drowning, Moccasin Point Boat Launch

Firefighters responded to Moccasin Point Boat Launch area for a near drowning victim. 1 patient was transported to a landing zone, where their care was transferred to the awaiting air ambulance.

#### July 29, 2020 – Vegetation Fire, Standard Road

Firefighters responded to a fast-moving vegetation fire threatening the community of Standard. Engine 511, staffed with two personnel, was the first engine on scene and initiated fire attack and incident command. A wind shift and associated ember cast impacted the nearby businesses, ultimately causing the fire to spot across Standard Road. Firefighters contained the fire to just over 5 total acres. Thanks to quick and aggressive action by firefighters, no structures were damaged.



#### July 31, 2020 – Vehicle Collision with Extrication/Fire, Highway 108

Many resources were dispatched to this incident west of Jamestown when a passenger vehicle collided with a commercial truck. A fire started and spread to the vegetation. In addition to the fire, firefighters discovered two patients. One of the patients was suffering from a minor injury and the driver of the passenger vehicle did not survive. The fire that spread to the vegetation was quickly contained at less than one acre.

### **Fleet**

Our Heavy Equipment Mechanic continues to keep busy with a fleet of 50 vehicles. Items of note this month: E772's oil dip stick broke off in the engine. This required a removal of the starter and hydraulic

lines to get to the oil dip stick.; Jamestown E761 pump plumbing was leaking, and on investigation the water pipes were rusted out - had to replace numerous pipe fittings; Mono Village E511 was leaking coolant – heater hoses were replaced. Columbia College E791 went to Hi Tech in Oakdale to repair similar rusted out parts of the water tank. E761 and WT618 each received new rear tires and all 90-day safety compliance inspections have been completed.

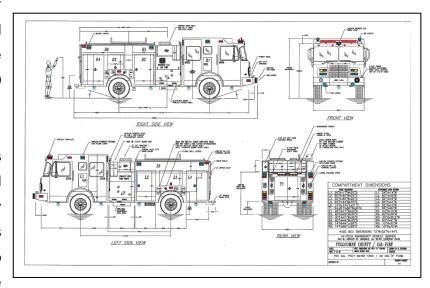


Speaking of the new engine to replace E761, we received the final schematic of the buildup and some other details of the engine that we'd like to share. The new E761 is a 2021 Spartan Gladiator type 1

fire engine. It has a Cummins 500-horsepower diesel engine with an Allison 4500 transmission. It has a Waterous main (midship) fire pump capable of pumping 1,500 gallons per minute, a Waterous Kubota

diesel auxiliary pump capable of pumping 275 gallons per minute and a poly water tank (to eliminate corrosion) with a capacity of 750 gallons.

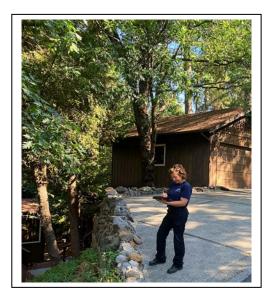
Some of the most important reasons to update the fleet and keep it rotated every 15 years (max) is the safety features and technical upgrades this new engine will have compared to the current engine. New fire



apparatus, such as this one, meet or exceed National Fire Protection Association recommendations with advanced and efficient emergency warning and lighting devices, advanced occupant protection system, an ABS/ATC Sgl axle braking system, and many other improved and advanced crew safety standards. In regard to warranties, this 'Made in the USA" fire engine is being completed by Hi-Tech of Oakdale and has a 2-year chassis, lifetime frame, 7-year paint, 2 year pump, lifetime water tank, 5 year motor and transmission, 10 year/100,000 mile body and cab, and 5 year plumbing warranty.

## **Prevention/Education**

As mentioned last month, the \$15,000 California Fire Foundation/PGE Grant the TCFD that was awarded in late 2019, allowed us to hire two part-time temporary Defensible Space Inspectors. The goals of the program are to educate and inform residents about how to ensure their home has protection from wildfire by reducing vegetation buildup around their homes. This month, staff completed <u>565</u> inspections in the greater Twain Harte and Long Barn communities. We have also started re-inspections in Lake Tulloch and the Jacksonville Road area. We were pleasantly surprised to see



some of the biggest violations were completely mitigated within 30 days. The community remains very receptive and glad to see the fire department doing inspections with the property owners are happy to get the education and clarification for the work they have completed to protect their home and community.

Despite COVID restrictions, Fire Investigators/Inspectors were able to conduct 21 site inspections during the month and 69 plans reviews. Building and planning continues on a good pace and are remaining at pre-COVID levels.

TCFD investigated the Monte Fire, a large commercial size shop fire that ignited on July 15 (details above). To help determine the cause of the fire, investigators conducted a thorough site investigation and then traveled to a Sacramento



trauma/burn center to question the property owner. After the investigation was complete it was determined that the cause of the fire was an appliance (hot plate).

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:



# **Training**

After seven months and 300+ hours of night and weekend training, 10 new volunteers completed the annual Basic Volunteer Firefighter Academy. The challenges of COVID also affected this class. There was several weeks of delay and students were able to complete most of the lecture portion of the training online, and all 10 students were able to participate in a modified graduation ceremony in mid-July. Congratulations to the new Volunteers and THANK YOU for stepping up.

One of our Fire Apparatus Engineers assisted the CAL FIRE Training Center in Ione as a guest instructor during the week of July



20. He instructed students on structural firefighting tactics, including numerous live fire exercises.

Personnel from E761 and E511 assisted the TCFD Volunteer Academy. TCFD held a graduation ceremony for their Volunteer Academy at Striker Court on July 23<sup>rd</sup> following social distancing guidelines.

Firefighters are keeping up to date with the latest safety measures to protect the citizens and TCFD personnel during the current viral pandemic. These efforts are keeping Tuolumne County First Responders healthy and ready to serve Tuolumne County in any situation.

# **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 or by calling 209-533-5118.

















