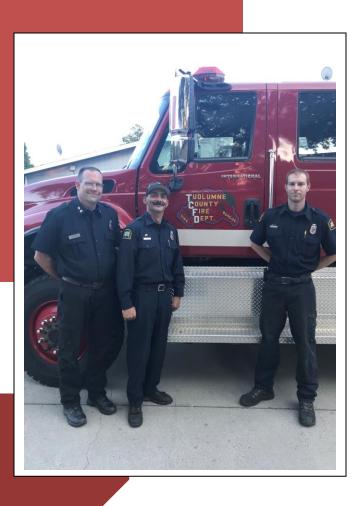
Tuolumne County Fire Department Monthly Activity Report



June 2020

Tuolumne County Fire Department

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Month in Review	3
Station Responses	4
Significant Incidents	7
Fleet	g
Prevention/Education	10
Training	10







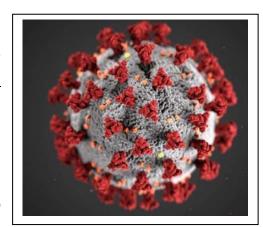


MONTH IN REVIEW

June 2020

The month of June continued to focus on the COVID worldwide pandemic. State of emergencies remain in effect and towards the end of the month confirmed cases of COVID in Tuolumne County were on the 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</u> bubble!
- 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.



The budget continues to be a challenge for TCFD. Expenses have outpaced revenue for many years and appropriate funding measures have not been able to be secured. Your fire department has managed the unequal expense:revenue challenge by eliminating positions, deferring maintenance on facilities, deferring replacement of outdated fire apparatus, grants, and heavily depending on state and federal fire reimbursement. Recently the reliance on funds from the County General Fund have increased substantially thus having an effect the rest of the County budget. In order to stabilize your fire department, reduce the impact on the General Fund, ensure safe apparatus and specialized equipment for the career and volunteer firefighters, and to have funds in place so we don't have the same issue in the future, permanent funding sources need to be secured as soon as possible.

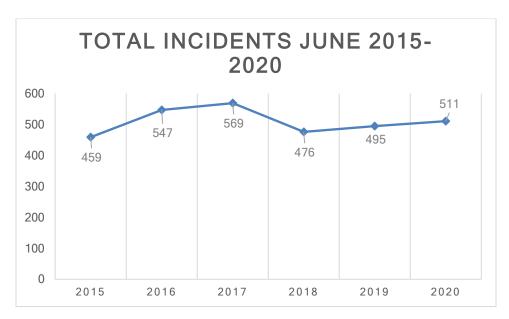
Wildfire season is in full swing with many small fires occurring throughout the county. As witnessed by the Walker Fire in mid-June in neighboring Calaveras County, the brush and grass components are ready to burn. Please ensure you're doing your part in the fight against wildfire and ensure your properties have defensible space. For more information on how you can do that check out www.readyforwildfire.org and https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1162/Wildfire-Preparedness. While you're on the County website, make sure you sign up for Everbridge, Tuolumne County's emergency notification program at https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832200/login.

Over 100 sets of structural and wildland firefighting gear have been retired after being deemed unsuitable for live fire or emergency response. This gear was happily repurposed by donating to the Columbia College Fire Academy for up and coming firefighters in the community to use while training. Cadets had previously been required to rent or purchase gear to use in the academy for training. The gear was purchased between 10 and 18 years ago but will be a great benefit to our future firefighters while learning the demands of the job.

Incidents increased in June over the previous months and there was a significant increase in fires. Overall, there was an increase of 65 incidents last month and 154 more than April for a total of 511 incidents within TCFD jurisdiction in the month of June. That was an increase of 16 incidents from June 2019, a 3.2% increase, and a 1.8% decrease from the 5-year average of 520 incidents. Of the 511 incidents, there were 356 medical aids, 79



fires, 14 hazardous materials/fire menace standby, and 62 other incidents in TCFD jurisdiction. Between January 1 and June 30, 2020 there have been 2,722 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 2,815 during that period in 2019.



TCFD Station Responses

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to 149 incidents in the month of June which included 97 medical calls (including 3 vehicle collisions), 17 public assists, 23 fires (including 9 residential structure fires, 6 vegetation fires, 4 vehicle fires, 3 debris fires, and 1 commercial structure fire) and 12

other incidents including alarm sounding, odor investigation, and smoke checks. 130 incidents were within their primary response area and 19 were not. Volunteers responded to 34 of the 149 incidents and through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement, aid was given to three agencies 10 times and received by three agencies 8 times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station responded to 122 incidents in June including 82 medical aids (including 9 vehicle collisions and 1 CPR incident), 10 public assists, 22 fires (including 8 structure fires, 6 vegetation fires, 3 debris fires, 3 vehicle fires, and 2 commercial structure fires), and 8 other incidents including alarm sounding, hazardous materials, odor investigations, smoke checks, and powerlines down. Of the 122 incidents 100 were within their primary response area and 22 were not. Volunteers responded to six incidents. Automatic aid was given to one agencies 8 times and received from two agencies 8 times.



Tuolumne County Fire Department Station Incident Responses

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 173 incidents

Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (1 volunteer) 11 incidents

Long Barn Station 54 (0 volunteers) 14 incidents

Pinecrest Station 55 (6 volunteers) 17 incidents

Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 94 incidents

Crystal Falls Station 57 (0 Volunteers) Incidents absorbed by other stations

Cedar Ridge Station 58 (12 volunteers) 29 incidents

Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer) 51 incidents

Smith Station Station 63 (0 Volunteers) Incidents absorbed by other stations

Don Pedro Station 64 (2 volunteers) 15 incidents

Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 3 volunteers) 127 incidents

Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters) 60 incidents

Tuolumne County CAL FIRE Station Incident Response Information

Blanchard CAL FIRE Station (7 career) 60 incidents
Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station (12 career) 103 incidents
Groveland CAL FIRE Station (12 career) 61 incidents
Standard CAL FIRE Station (15 career) 74 incidents
Green Springs CAL FIRE Station (7 career) 70 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.

Groveland CSD Fire Department

GCSD funds a career engine at Station 78 in Groveland through an agreement with CAL FIRE. GCSD responded to a total of 50 incidents including 38 medical aids (including 3 vehicle collisions and 1 with

extrication), 7 public assists/fire menace standby, and 5 fires. 46 responses were within the GCSD jurisdiction and 4 were in the TCFD area.

GCSD also was awarded the California Fire Foundation/PGE Grant for Defensible Space Inspectors. They completed 122 defensible space inspections within the District, starting in the Big Oak Flat area working towards Groveland. Our Inspectors educate and inform residents how to create defensible space



and harden their home to increase the chance of surviving a wildfire while also protecting the firefighters defending the home.

Congratulations to Station 78 Fire Captain Kevin Siville on his transfer to the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. Kevin's priority was to provide the highest level of service to the public and served the Groveland Community for over six years. He was instrumental in several key programs especially the Grant Writing Program. Kevin wrote several grants that saved the District tens of thousands of dollars in purchasing



a new SCBA Fill Station, Personal Protective Gear, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Kevin is a true firefighter at heart, and we wish him well in his new assignment.

His replacement will be newly promoted Fire Captain Travis Chunn who has been with us as a Fire Apparatus Engineer at GCSD since 2014. Travis' initiative, hard work, and diligence has prepared him well for this promotion. He brings over 18 years of

valuable experience and will continue to lead, making a positive impact to the Department.

GCSD has several Resident Firefighter opportunities available. If interested contact GCSD or look on their website at https://www.gcsd.org/current-openings.

Significant Incidents

June 5, 2020 - Structure Fire, Black Oak Road

Firefighters responded to reports of a fire in an attached garage. Quick actions kept the fire confined to the garage with significant damage to an exterior wall. Firefighters also provided horizontal ventilation to remove smoke in an attempt to salvage the contents from the living quarters.

June 6, 2020 - Structure Fire, Eureka Drive

Firefighters responded and found the fire and contained it to the deck of the residence.



June 7, 2020 - Structure Fire, Summit Drive

Firefighters responded to a confirmed structure fire in with extension into the vegetation and live power lines on the ground. Forcible entry was required due to reinforced doors and an offensive coordinated interior and exterior attack kept the fire from extending to surrounding residences. The structure sustained major damage and there was damage sustained by nearby residences due to radiant heat.

June 7, 2020 - Structure Fire, Olive Drive

Firefighters responded to their second residential fire of the day. On arrival firefighters discovered a covered storage area was on fire and had spread to an adjacent vehicle and fencing. Quick action by



firefighters prevented the fire from spreading and the fire was quickly contained.

June 7, 2020 - Structure Fire, Maple Street

Responding to their third residential structure fire of the day, firefighters responded to reports of a vehicle on fire with extension to a residence. An offensive attack was used to contain the fire to the detached work shop and vehicle.

June 8, 2020 - Structure Fire, Blackberry Pond Lane

Firefighters responded to a two-story residential structure fire. Arriving units confirmed that there was fire in the attic and that all occupants had been evacuated without injury. A coordinated attack with hose lines and vertical ventilation was used to control the fire. The offensive strategy was rapidly followed up

with salvage operations to minimize water damage and additional operational damage to furniture and components of the structure while firefighters checked for extension in the walls and ceilings.

June 9, 2020 - Structure Fire, Oakside Drive

Responding to their 7th working residential structure fire in five days, firefighters assisted Sonora City Fire Department on a residential structure fire. Arriving units confirmed the attic was involved in fire. TCFD personnel were assigned to (R.I.C) Rapid Intervention Crew, a dedicated crew of firefighters that are assigned for rapid deployment to rescue lost or trapped members.

June 18, 2020 - Structure Fire, Terrace Drive

Firefighters arrived at scene to find a residential structure 75% involved which spread to the vegetation with power lines down. A dangerous but necessary search of the remaining lower level with heavy fire and collapsed roof and walls of the story above was conducted to confirm no victims remained inside. Resources remained at scene throughout the night extinguishing the blaze.

June 20, 2020 - Vegetation Fire, Mono Way

Firefighters responded to reports of a vegetation fire. Upon arrival firefighters confirmed there was a fire threatening two 2,000-gallon propane tanks and a two-story multi-family residence. With quick actions and a



progressive hose lay, firefighters contained the fire to less than 1/10th of an acre.

June 20, 2020 - Vegetation Fire, Mono Way

Responding to their second vegetation fire on Mono Way of the day, firefighters responded to a vegetation fire behind the Dodge dealership in Sonora. Quick actions by the first responding units kept the fire to less than 1/10th of an acre. Extensive mop-up was performed due to the overgrown vegetation and homeless encampments in the area.

June 21, 2020 - Vegetation Fire, Willms Road

TCFD responded to assist CAL FIRE and Modesto Fire with a large vegetation fire in the Knights Ferry area near Willms Road in Stanislaus County.

June 27, 2020 - Vegetation Fire, Mono Way

Firefighters responded to a vegetation fire behind the Dodge dealership in Sonora. The fire jumped the railroad tracks and threatened multiple vehicles and one structure. A progressive hose lay and quick actions by first responding units mitigated the threat and kept the fire to less than 1 acre of vegetation in 100-degree heat.



June 29, 2020 - Alarm Sounding, Hess Avenue
Firefighters responded to reports of a commercial
alarm sounding at a senior apartment complex. A
thorough walkthrough of the complex confirmed that
there was no fire but a malfunction of the sprinkler
system that activated the alarm. After approximately
two hours of the alarm sounding, firefighters and a
sprinkler representative were able to silence the
alarms of the damaged system. A fire watch was
mandated and put in place until the alarm system was
fully restored.

Fleet

The TCFD Heavy Equipment Mechanic continued to spend a large amount of time on our older fleet.

This month further inspection on our out-of-service breathing support (BS795) showed low to no compression on all cylinders and the high-pressure fuel pump not working. In addition to a new motor being needed, we've been experiencing several other major issues including a needed transmission. BS795 is 1998 Ford F550 Super Duty with 148,195 miles. Unfortunately,

the cost to repair this essential apparatus exceeds the value of the vehicle. This spring your firefighters applied for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace this vehicle and we're awaiting the award announcement. This vehicle is assigned to respond to every structure fire in Tuolumne County as well as other emergency incidents within the greater Columbia area.



Additional equipment worked on includes: Water Tender 768 (tires), Water Tender 618 (air conditioner), and annual preventive services on Engine 513 and Engine 553.

Prevention/Education

Through the \$15,000 California Fire Foundation/PGE Grant the TCFD that was awarded in late 2019, TCFD was able to hire two part-time temporary Defensible Space Inspectors in this month. 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. The inspections are occurring throughout the county using the requirements of California Public Resources Code 4291 and using the CAL FIRE guidelines and forms. This month, Inspectors completed 169 inspections in the following areas: South Lake Tulloch, Wards Ferry, Kanaka, Harney, Mammoth Mine, Jacksonville, rural La Grange, Lulu Mine, and Park Avenue.

Despite COVID restrictions, Fire Investigators/Inspectors were able to conduct 24 site inspections during the month of June and 47 plans reviews. Building and planning continues on a good pace and the brief respite from the COVID restrictions have diminished and plans reviews are at pre-COVID levels.

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

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.

FAE Altamirano completed his apprenticeship as a Fire Apparatus Engineer. The FAE apprenticeship is a 36 month long program comprised of 540 hours of "On the Job" training topics and 13 formal classes. Apprentices are tested through a series of manipulative skills and a written exam in their first and third years. Upon successful completion of third year testing Apprentices become Journeyed Fire Apparatus Engineers.

FAE Altamirano completed his Field Observer (FOBS) taskbook on the Melones VMP Project. Field Observers map fires, act as lookouts, record



weather and announce changes for incidents. FOBS bring information back to Incident Commanders so they can plan objectives and give accurate updates for the next day.

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 as well. 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 reduce 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.





