Tuolumne County Fire Department Monthly Activity Report



January 2020

Tuolumne County Fire Department

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MONTH IN REVIEW

JANUARY 2020

As we rang in the New Year on January 1st, Unit Chief/County Fire Chief Josh White was appointed as an interim Assistant Southern Region Chief for CAL FIRE. As a result, TCU Deputy Chief Nick Casci was appointed as acting Unit Chief/County Fire Chief. During the month Chief Casci has had several opportunities to meet with staff and present at a January Board of Supervisors meeting.

Early in the month TCFD Station 51 Mono Village Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) Scott Pittman and TCFD Station 76 Jamestown FAE Paul Lombardi promoted to Fire Captain. Fire Crew Captain Pittman will be working out of the Baseline Conservation Camp outside of Jamestown and Captain Lombardi will be transferring to the Mariposa-Madera-Merced Unit of CAL FIRE and working at Merced County Station 81 in Merced. Congratulations to both and we all sincerely thank you for the contributions you have made to the fire service in Tuolumne County. We wish you all the best in the years ahead.

As a result of the vacancies from the above-mentioned promotions, within days of appointment of the two new Fire Captains, two new FAE's were selected to fill the vacancies; FAE Joe Radanovich (Stn. 51) and FAE Manual Meirinho (Stn.76). We welcome both with open arms and look forward to the

many contributions they will have in the years ahead.

The Tuolumne County Fire Department Annual Awards Banquet was held on January 11 at the Elks Lodge in Sonora. The gathering allows the members, family, and the Department the opportunity to acknowledge service above and beyond the day to day amazing work the members do and the service and sacrifice of the families of firefighters. The awards that are given include the following:



Volunteer Firefighter of the Year: TCFD Station 58 Cedar Ridge Firefighter Allan Vega Career Firefighter of the Year: TCFD Station 51 Mono Village Fire Apparatus Engineer Danny Hasauer

K.T. Farmer Award: TCFD Station 55 Pinecrest Acting Lieutenant Dan Sedlmeyer

Mike Spear Award: CAL FIRE TCU Safety/Training Bureau Fire Captain Christa Covert

Early in the month your TCFD received a print of a painting that was sent by students at BayArt Academy. In part, their letter said, "We are a group of teen artists from BayArt Academy in Sonoma County. We were very recently affected by the Kincade Fire; but thanks to the work of firefighters like you, our homes were saved.

"We want to show our appreciation for your acts of bravery, so a total of 17 of us gathered and created a large painting portraying the way the firefighters saved our community. We understand that firefighters from this station assisted us during these times and to show our gratitude we wanted to gift you a print of our painting."

Thanks to many weeks of fundraising and donations the students were able to send a print of their painting to all 506 fire agencies that responded to the Kincade Fire. In their closing words, the students wrote, "We hope



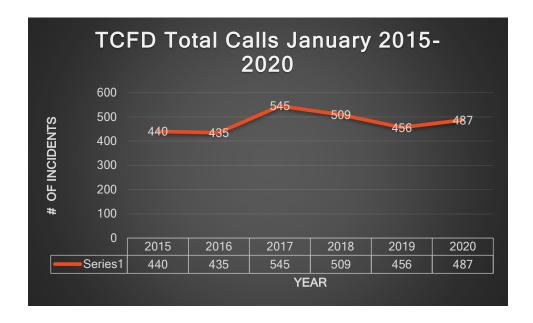
our painting will remind you every day how grateful we all are for your continuous hard work and bravery."

Team members from Tuolumne County Departments continued having community meetings to connect and educate the public about County services. Come out and meet us at one of the many locations that started in January and carrying on through April throughout the County. For more information visit www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/forums. #WeAreTuolumneCounty

There were 487 incidents within TCFD's jurisdiction in January, a 6.4% increase from 2019 and nearly even with the 5-year average of 486. Of the 487 calls in January 2020, there were 364 medical aids, 26 fires, 16 hazardous materials/fire menace standby, and 81 other incidents in TCFD jurisdiction.

TCFD Station Responses

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to 163 incidents in the month of January.119 medical calls (including 4 vehicle collisions), 27 public assists, 7 fires, and 10 other call types. 150 incidents



were within their primary response area and 13 were not. Volunteers responded to 47 of the 163 incidents and through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement, aid was given to one agency four times and received by four agencies five times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station 76 responded to 112 incidents in January including 80 medical aids (including 5 vehicle accidents), 20 public assists, 3 fires, and 9 other incidents. Of the 112 incidents 105 were within their primary response area and 7 were not. Volunteers responded to one incident. Automatic aid was given to two agencies four times and received from one agency eight times.

CAL FIRE Amador Stations are staffed through a cooperative fire protection agreement allowed in the California Public Resources Code known as an Amador Agreement. In an Amador agreement, the local agency pays for coverage at a CAL FIRE fire station at a much-reduced cost from what it would normally be for a staffed station during the time of year the station would not be staffed by CAL FIRE. By sharing the cost of the facility, it benefits the local agency and the State by making an additional engine available for both missions when the need arises.

The Blanchard CAL FIRE Station (near Lake Don Pedro) is part of the Amador Agreement. TCFD and Mariposa County Fire share the cost of the Amador Agreement each year. During the month of January, Blanchard Station responded to 24 incidents; 13 incidents were in Mariposa County and 11 were in Tuolumne County. Of the 24 incidents there were 18 medical calls (including 3 vehicle collisions), 3 fires, 2 public assists, and 1 call to land an air ambulance.

The Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station is also part of TCFD/CAL FIRE Amador Agreement. The Twain Harte Station responded to 61 incidents, including 41 medical calls (including 5 vehicle collisions), 12 public assists, 2 structure fires, and 6 other incidents. Automatic Aid was given to 2 agencies three

times and received by those same two agencies a total of four times. 54 incidents were within their primary response area and 7 were not. Volunteers responded to 31 of the 61 incidents.

Tuolumne County fire stations are located in the following communities*:

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 187 incidents

Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (1 volunteer) 32 incidents

Long Barn Station 54 (no volunteers) 6 incidents

Pinecrest Station 55 (6 volunteers) 12 incidents

Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 78 incidents

Crystal Falls Station 57 (no volunteers) 49 incidents

Cedar Ridge Station 58 (14 volunteers) 12 incidents

Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer) 13 incidents

Don Pedro Station 64 (2 volunteers) 9 incidents

Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 3 volunteers) 120 incidents

Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters) 48 incidents

Blanchard CAL FIRE "Amador" Station (7 career) 23 incidents

Twain Harte CAL FIRE "Amador" Station (7 career) 59 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 and the Groveland CAL FIRE Amador station. There was a total of 52 calls out of the GCSD including 40 medical aids (including 2 vehicle collisions), 7 public assists/fire menace standby, and 5 other call types. 46 calls were within the GCSD jurisdiction and 6 calls were in the TCFD area.

Both Groveland engines continue to work on the Jones Hill Shaded Fuel Break on the District's property. They burned over 75 piles constructed by Baseline Crews from felled bug killed timber, brush, and slash debris. Fire crews monitored and maintained the piles ensuring complete consumption.





Environmental and Historical reviews of the CCI Grant have been completed and Staff is currently working on the next phase in preparation of masticating 111 acres.

Significant Incidents

January 8, 2020 - Structure Fire, Hidden Valley Road Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke showing from a 1200 square foot shop on the property. A quick fire attack resulted in minimal damage and saved various equipment stored inside.

January 15, 2020 - Structure Fire, Del Parque Court Firefighters were dispatched to a working residential structure fire in the Phoenix Lake Estates subdivision. An aggressive and coordinated fire attack limited fire



damage to a single bedroom and the residence was saved. A joint investigation with our Fire Prevention Bureau and Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office resulted in an arrest for arson.

January 18, 2020 - Rescue, Table Mountain Trail, Shell Road

Firefighters from Jamestown and Standard CAL FIRE responded to a hiker with an injury on Table Mountain Trail off the trailhead from Shell Road. Crews contacted the hiker and brought him down the trail to the waiting ambulance.

Fleet

Breathing Support 795 (BS795), stationed at Fire Station 79 Columbia College, continues to present challenges with fleet maintenance. During the month of January, BS795 was in the shop for malfunctioning head lights, worn out ignition switch, and coolant leaks. All repairs were made and BS795 is back in service. Additional vehicle repairs consisted of a wiper motor replaced in Utility 903, Engine 761 crank pressure sender was replaced, and E772 is at the shop for excessive oil consumption and extreme crank case pressure. Also, E552 is heading to a shop in the valley for a water leak in the water tank.



Prevention/Education

<u>January 22, 2020</u> - Our Resident Firefighter coordinator presented the TCFD Resident Firefighter program to Oakdale High School's Fire Science Program. Recruitment presentations inform the public

about opportunities with TCFD and those selected as Resident Firefighters gain valuable experience to start their careers.

<u>January 28, 2020 -</u> Continuing our recruitment efforts, staff presented the TCFD Resident Firefighter program to Modesto City School's Fire Science Regional Occupational Program and Beyer High School's Work Experience class.

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:



Fire Investigators/Inspectors conducted 28 site inspections during the month of December and 38 individual plan reviews (including 15 new single-family dwellings) and conducted several fire cause investigations.



Training

Jamestown Station 76 coordinated January's multi-company training, forcible entry, at Sonora CAL FIRE Station. Those in attendance included Jamestown Station 76, Mono Village Station 51, Columbia Fire, and Sonora City Fire. Forcible entry is a skill that is used when attempting to make

access to burning structures while trying to reduce damage to the building. Tools that may be used are: Halligan Tool, axe (together called "Irons"), K-tool, and various hooks and rams, and several other tools

This is the time of year when staff complete their annually required training including topics such as: Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials, and performance exams such as raising ladders and pumping apparatus. The Fire Captains from Station 51 and 76 were also requested as guest instructors to instruct our local unit employees on municipal fire protection tactics.



One of our FAE's attended CAL FIRE Incident Management

2 training at the Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside County. The course is designed to prepare company officers for rapidly expanding incident command and control. The course is also part of the California Joint Apprenticeship Program. This FAE also completed Supervision 2 training at the same location this month. This course is designed to instruct company officers on employee supervision principles, personnel management and leadership fundamentals. The course is also part of the California Joint Apprenticeship Program. All CAL FIRE line personnel are required to attend these trainings to enhance their understanding of the fundamentals of incident command and supervision. Each year CAL FIRE makes hundreds of classes available to the employees on many different subjects.

Our Fire Captain from Station 51 attended a leadership seminar, Decisive Engagement, presented by John "Jocko" Willink. Jocko Willink is an acclaimed American retired Lieutenant Commander of the US Navy and author. Willink co-authored several books including "Extreme Ownership" and "The Dichotomy of Leadership" Located at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, the event covered leadership strategy, tactics and fundamentals.

In addition to the normal monthly skills refresher training, volunteers received an additional 328 hours of specialized training in Intermediate Incident Command, Confined Space Awareness, and Emergency Medical Refresher. Also, Dan Sedlmeyer (Stn. 55) continued his advanced fire officer training by attending State Fire Marshal Instructor 1A and Fire Command 2A, both 40-hour weeklong classes.

Fuels Reduction

Your TCFD continues in our efforts to participate in fuels reduction efforts throughout the county. In addition to participating in numerous monthly collaborative meetings, the purchase through a grant last year of a Caterpillar 299D2 XHP Compact Track Loader tractor has enabled us to work cooperatively with CAL FIRE to work on the Wagner Ridge Fuel Break near the community of Groveland.





Additionally, CAL FIRE Baseline crews continue to work with Tuolumne County Roads Department and recently performed roadside brushing work on Twain Harte Drive. Below are some before and after photos.











