# Tuolumne County Fire Department Monthly Activity Report



# OCTOBER 2019

# **Tuolumne County Fire Department**

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# **MONTH IN REVIEW**

#### October 2019

October proved to be another busy month for your fire department. Several utility company public safety power shutoffs affected most of the county resulting in an increase in calls for service. During one period, Station 76 Jamestown responded to 20 calls for service in a two-day period. In preparation for the power to be shut off, TCFD purchased two medium-sized generators to get through the series of public safety power shutoffs for the two all-electric career staffed fire stations. These generators provided a short-term solution to be able to provide power to these critical community facilities. We are currently working on securing permanent solutions to handle likely future events.

We said goodbye to two county-funded CAL FIRE Captains as they moved on to other state-funded assignments at Columbia Air Attack Base and welcomed two transfers from within the Unit to fill the positions. Long term Tuolumne Calaveras Fire Captain Nick Shawkey joined us to fill the spot left open by departing Fire Captain Casey Deal. Captain Shawkey's last assignment was at the CAL FIRE Copperopolis Fire Station and will be responsible for all volunteer related training including conducting the annual Joint Basic Fire Academy, Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Medical training to new recruits and providing monthly and annual training to County volunteer firefighters. Captain Shawkey will also provide Unit safety officer coverage. Captain Cole Periera accepted the position vacated by Captain Chris Morse. Captain Periera's last assignment was at the CAL FIRE Groveland Station. Captain Periera will be responsible for the administration of the Columbia College fire station mentoring TCFD Volunteer Firefighters/Columbia College Student Firefighters at TCFD Station 79 on the Columbia College campus. We thank Captains Deal and Morse for their dedicated service and look forward to the contributions of Captains Shawkey and Periera.

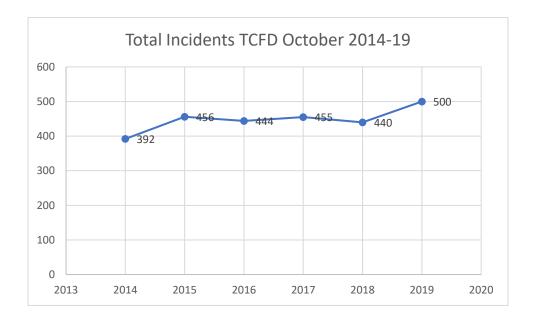
There were many public education events your fire department participated in during the month including Fire Prevention Week/Open House, First Responder's Day with CAL FIRE and Groveland Community Services District, the Tuolumne County Adult Health Fair, Smoke Detector installations in Columbia with the American Red Cross, the Drug Store Project with the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, County employee open house, and Trunk or Treat at Les Schwab Tires.



Additionally, your fire department continues to work on securing as many grants as possible including and initiating several grants that were recently awarded: the California Fire Foundation grant for defensible space inspections in the spring of 2020, the purchase of a track loader for fuel break maintenance this month through the CCI grant program, purchase of two sets of personal protective equipment through the CAL FIRE VFA grant, and readying for the purchase of 115 self-contained breathing apparatus to replace equipment nearing the end of its service life through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant. All told your fire department has secured over \$800,000 in grants in the last 13 months.

Additional steps were taken to secure communications capabilities for Tuolumne County fire agencies. First the Tuolumne Command Tone 3 mountain top repeater was moved to a permanent secured location inside the State of California radio vault at Fowler Peak. This location provides repeated communications for resources in the northwestern part of Tuolumne County. Also, through an agreement with Hetch Hetchy Water and Power, we're continuing to move through the process to add a Tuolumne Command permanent repeater to replace a CAL FIRE temporary repeater at Moccasin Peak in southern Tuolumne County.

There was a total of 500 calls for service in the TCFD jurisdiction in October, a 12% increase from 440 incidents during the same period in 2018, and 12.7% above the five-year average of 437. Of the 500 incidents in October 2019, there were 331 medical aids, 70 fire calls, 86 public assists, and 13 other calls.



# **Station Responses**

#### Station 51 Mono Village

Station 51 responded to 169 calls for service in October including 99 medical aids, 19 fires, 23 public assist or fire menace standbys, 13 alarm soundings, 2 hazardous materials incidents, and 13 motor vehicle collisions (including 2 pin-ins). Through the County automatic aid agreement,



Station 51 provided automatic aid to one agency a total of 17 times and received aid from two agencies a total of 10 times. Of the 169 incidents, volunteers also responded 18 times. 141 incidents were within Station 51's primary response area and 28 incidents were not.

#### Station 76 Jamestown

Station 76 is staffed in cooperation with the Jamestown Fire Protection District (FPD). Engine 761 responded to 155 calls for service during the month including 85 medical aids, 22 fires, 25 public assist, and 17 motor vehicle collisions. Through the County automatic aid agreement, Station 76 provided automatic aid to two agencies a total of eight times and received aid from one agency a total of three times. 126 incidents were within their primary response area and 29 were not. There were two volunteer responses from Station 76 volunteers during the month.

Jamestown FPD through staff recently purchased much needed rescue equipment. Former Sonora resident Lyle Scott designated part of his estate to the Jamestown FPD when he passed in 2006. Mr. Scott served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army and moved to Sonora in 1966. The long time Sonora resident was best known as the owner of the Mother Lode Barber Shop on Stewart Street and was a popular barber with local firefighters. Funds were utilized to purchase new e-draulic vehicle extrication tools (Jaws of Life), vehicle stabilization equipment (struts), rope rescue hardware, a thermal imaging camera (for zero visibility environments to see trapped residents or heat from the seat of the fire), and various water supply appliances to serve the need of the citizens of Jamestown and Tuolumne County.

### **TCFD Station Responses**

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

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 192 incidents
Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (3 volunteers) 28 incidents
Long Barn Station 54 (no volunteers) 2 incidents

Pinecrest Station 55 (8 volunteers) 5 incidents

Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 48 incidents

Crystal Falls Station 57 (1 volunteers) 32 incidents

Cedar Ridge Station 58 (16 volunteers) 13 incidents

Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer) 45 incidents

Smith Station (above Groveland - no volunteers)

Don Pedro Station 64 / Blanchard CAL FIRE (2 volunteers) 10 incidents

Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 8 volunteers) 159 incidents

Columbia College Station 79 (4 student firefighters) 38 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

#### October 4, 2019 Residential Structure Fire, Saratoga Acres

Firefighters responded to a reported garage fire that had quickly extended into the main home and threatened adjacent homes. Even with dangerous powerlines down on the ground, crews were able to knock the fire down saving over half of the home.

October 19, 2019 Vehicle Accident, Seco Street
Firefighters responded to a traffic collision at the intersection of Seco and Campo Streets. The driver lost control and collided with a power pole, fire hydrant, and parked vehicle. When engines arrived at scene the Jeep was resting against the dwelling on its driver's side. The parked vehicle came to a rest approximately 100' from where it left the roadway. There were no injuries and



power was disconnected to approximately 90 residents for a short time.

#### October 20, 2019, Vehicle Accident, State Highway 108 west of Yosemite Junction

Firefighters responded to a serious traffic collision on State Highway 108 west of Yosemite Junction. Highway 108 was closed in both directions for a short time while an air ambulance was landed on the highway. After packaging one patient was loaded on the waiting air ambulance and transported to a trauma center in Modesto and one was transported by ground ambulance.



#### October 24, 2019 - Vegetation Fire, Cavalieri Road

Firefighters responded to a vegetation fire between Cavalieri Road and Mono Way. The fire was contained to just over an acre and a large rubbish pile. No structures were damaged.

October 25, 2019, Commercial Structure Fire, Sylva Lane
Thirteen engines from several agencies were part of a large response to a reported working fire in a large residential care facility with over 150 residents and staff in the early morning hours. Crews arrived to light smoke showing and stretched a hoseline up the stairs to the locked kitchen where they had to force entry to extinguish the fire. The fire was isolated to a trash receptacle. No injuries were reported.

#### October 26, 2019 - Structure Fire, Twist Road

Firefighters responded to a structure fire off Twist Road. Despite the long travel distance for all incoming resources, due to an aggressive initial attack, a large portion of the residence was saved. With the help of air and ground resources, the vegetation was limited to a small spot.

#### October 28, 2019 - Commercial Generator Fire, Main Street Jamestown

During the public safety power shutoff, firefighters responded to a possible commercial structure fire behind a restaurant on Main Street in Jamestown. On arrival, firefighters found an extinguished generator fire that was installed improperly to a local restaurant. Firefighters stayed to ensure there was no extension to the facility.

#### **Fleet**

A vital tool was added to the TCFD fleet maintenance program this month. Mr. William Cosby of Navistar Corporation and Peterson Caterpillar of San Leandro donated a new heavy-duty dealer diagnostic computer with the most up to date software available that will help diagnose issues with fire equipment and aid in the rapid repair of our fleet. With 42 pieces of equipment in the fleet with an average age of 23 years, this will be one of the most utilized tools in the program. This vital asset will aid in our

continued goals of reducing costs, increasing efficiency and protecting the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of Tuolumne County.

Our Heavy Equipment Mechanic (HEM) was kept busy with several repairs during the month including replacing the air conditioner compressor, spacer brackets and replacing the front tire on Engine 761. On reserve Engine 901 our HEM replaced the radiator and brakes and drums. And on Engine 511 the turbo speed sensor was replaced. Additionally, the HEM was assigned for 10 days to the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County. With the depth in coverage that the cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE provides to the County, backfill was provided for the position for County fire fleet needs by Tuolumne Calaveras Unit HEM's at no cost to the County.

Several times throughout the month, TCFD fire engines and utility vehicles were leased to CAL FIRE and staffed by CAL FIRE personnel through a local Assistance by Hire agreement. Additionally, Engine 513 responded as part of Strike Team XST4202C with engines from Mi Wuk Sugar Pine Fire

Protection District (FPD), Modesto Fire Department, Turlock Rural Fire FPD, Denair FPD, and Ceres Fire Department to the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County for 12 days. The strike team was sent as part of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (California's mutual aid system with forest agencies) to assist CAL FIRE and worked along-side more than 300 other state and local government agencies from around the country to fight the 77,758-acre blaze that destroyed 374 structures.



## **Prevention/Education**

TCFD is proud to announce that Fire Inspector Caleb Flanagan has met the requirements to promote to Fire Inspector II. Many hours of additional training and state certifications are required to meet the requirements of the position. Fire Inspector II Flanagan has been able to achieve this step in just two years and continues to provide excellent service to the community through his fire inspections and has been the lead fire cause investigator on several high-profile cases during this time. Congratulations Caleb!

October 12, 2019 - Station 51 Mono Village and Station 76 Jamestown staff opened the station doors for their annual Fire Prevention Week Open House. This year's NFPA sponsored event theme was "Not Every Hero Wears A Cape, Plan And Practice Your Fire Escape." The goal was to remind and educate the public on the importance of planning and practicing escape from the home in the event of

a fire. The stations also provided tours of the facility and fire engines.

October 15-16, 2019 - County Fire staff joined healthcare providers from throughout the County at the annual Tuolumne County Adult Health Fair at the fairgrounds. We had over 1,000 contacts over the two-day period and were able to discuss fire safety and prevention methods with a very engaged public audience.



October 19, 2019 - TCFD volunteers and career staff

joined CAL FIRE at a smoke detector installation event held by The American Red Cross in Columbia. The event focused on several mobile home parks in the Columbia area. Staff went door-to-door throughout the communities and installed smoke detectors where needed. Many great contacts were made throughout the day.

October 21, 2019 - E511 visited Soulsbyville Preschool to educate the students in fire safety and give engine tours.

October 23, 2019 - County Fire, CAL FIRE, County EMS, and Tuolumne County Ambulance staff hosted a County Employee Open House at Striker EOC and CAL FIRE's Standard Fire Station adjacent to the EOC. Staff exhibited equipment used by first responders, a tour of both facilities, hands only CPR refresher, and active fire extinguisher training to the approximately 60 county staff that arrived during the two-hour event. This was a great opportunity for County employees to see what their first responders do every day and also for staff to meet each other.

October 24, 2019 - Station 76 Jamestown hosted over 50 Jamestown Elementary School students and provided a station tour and fire safety reminders to the students and hopefully spark an interest to future firefighters.

October 27, 2019 - E511 attend the annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event hosted by Les Schwab Tires. This fun event provides a safe environment for trick or treat activities and gives firefighters the opportunity to meet the community and spread the fire prevention and education message.

October 29, 2019 - TCFD career and volunteer staffed were joined by CAL FIRE and many other agencies in an event known as The Drug Store Project coordinated by the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools. This event provided a program similar to the "Every 15 Minutes" program but focuses on drug deterrence and the dangers and realities of drugs to 7th and 8th grade students from throughout Tuolumne County.

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:



(a) Instagram tuolumnecountyfire



Fire Investigators/Inspectors conducted 29 site inspections during the month of October and 84 individual plan reviews along with investigating the cause of several fires.

# **Training**

October 7-9, 2019 - Staff attended the CAL FIRE Intermediate Firing Methods class (C234) held as part of the Crooks Vegetation Management Program (VMP) controlled fire/fuels modification project in the Groveland area. This VMP treated 420 acres of grass/oak woodland.

October 22, 2019 - Battalion 5 with Twain Harte Fire and student firefighters and volunteers from Columbia College Fire / TCFD Station 79 participated in training on fire behavior. Firefighters were able to utilize live fire evolutions at CAL FIRE and Twain Harte CSD's joint fire training facility to refresh on their fire attack skills in a controlled environment.



In continuing to reach for our goal of increasing efficiency and reducing costs, TCFD recently subscribed to an online fire training forum from Fire Engineering Videos. This program provides online video training from well-respected and nationally known

instructors to supplement hands-on training to your career and volunteer firefighters. For a sample guide your web page to <a href="https://fireengineeringvideos.com/#Home">https://fireengineeringvideos.com/#Home</a>.

Resident Firefighters and Volunteers received several hundred hours of training through a multitude of hands on training with fire hose evolutions, ladders, and ventilation.





