Tuolumne County Fire Department

Monthly Activity Report



SEPTEMBER 2019

Tuolumne County Fire Department

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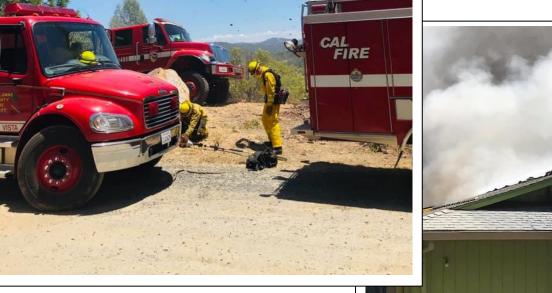
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MONTH IN REVIEW

September 2019

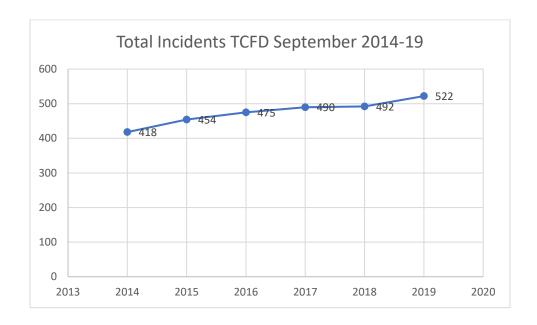
September was a momentous month in the history of Tuolumne County Fire Department. First, several grants were awarded or acknowledged to the County of Tuolumne through its Fire Department, including:

- FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant: \$554,090.90 for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (10% match);
- CAL FIRE Volunteer Assistance Grant of \$8,442 for the purchase of structural firefighting personal protective equipment (50% match);
- California Fire Foundation / PG&E Grant of \$15,000 for the hiring of part-time temporary Defensible Space Inspectors (no match);
- CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Grant of \$98,535 to purchase a track loader for use in Tuolumne County creating/improving fuel breaks (no match).

The County allocated \$700,000 for the purchase of a new fire engine. The new engine, once ordered, will take approximately 15-18 months to be delivered and will be the pride of the fleet with a properly sized engine, cab and chassis, and will deliver 1,500 gallons per minute.

The Board approved staff to continue to develop additional services and fees for the department. First and foremost a proactive Fire Code and Life Safety Inspection Program and associated fire inspection fees. This program will dramatically increase the safety of the public, employees, business owners, and public safety personnel. The Board also approved the study and development of possible Growth in Government development fees to help offset the impact that new commercial development will have on an already stressed fire protection program, and false fire alarm and other fees.

There was a total of 522 calls for service in the TCFD jurisdiction, an 5.8% increase from to 492 incidents during the same period in 2018, and 11% above the five-year average of 466. Of the 522 incidents in September 2019, there were 381 medical aids, 43 fire calls, 72 public assists, and 26 other calls.



Fire season continued to be relatively mild, especially compared to the previous devastating years. From January to September, statewide, CAL FIRE reported 372,507 total incidents dispatched by 21 CAL FIRE units with 5,420 wildland fires burning a total of 43,365 acres in State Responsibility Area (SRA). In 2018, during the same period, there were 361,210 incidents dispatched statewide of which there were 5,647 wildland fires and 836,371 acres burned in SRA.

Recruitment and retention of Volunteer Firefighters and Resident Volunteer Firefighters is a continuous challenge for fire departments throughout the county. Staff are considering a variety of additional incentives to maintain a sufficient number of volunteer staff as funds are made available.

Station Responses

Station 51 Mono Village

Station 51 responded to 169 calls for service in September including 108 medical aids, 13 fires, 23 public assist or fire menace standbys, and 14 motor vehicle collisions. Through the County automatic aid agreement, Station 51 provided automatic aid to three agencies a total of 13 times and received aid from four agencies a total of 11 times. Of the 169 incidents, volunteers also responded 57 times. 148 incidents were within Station 51's primary response area and 21 incidents were not.



Station 76 Jamestown

Station 76 is staffed in cooperation with the Jamestown Fire Protection District (JFPD). Engine 761 responded to 137 calls for service during the month including 77 medical aids, 15 fires, 21 public assist, and 16 motor vehicle collisions (including two pin-ins). Through the County automatic aid agreement, Station 76 provided automatic aid to one agency a total of 4 times and received aid from two agencies a total of eight times. 110 incidents were within their primary response area and 27 were not. There were no volunteer responses during the month.

TCFD Station Responses

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

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 183 incidents

Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (3 volunteers) 26 incidents

Long Barn Station 54 (no volunteers) 5 incidents

Pinecrest Station 55 (8 volunteers) 16 incidents

Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 60 incidents

Crystal Falls Station 57 (1 volunteers) 40 incidents

Cedar Ridge Station 58 (16 volunteers) 7 incidents

Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteers) 41 incidents

Smith Station (above Groveland - no volunteers) 0

Don Pedro Station 64 / Blanchard CAL FIRE (2 volunteers) 17 incidents

Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 8 volunteers) 141 incidents

Columbia College Station 79 (4 student firefighters) 53 incidents

Significant Incidents

September 5, 2019 Residential Structure Fire, Red Chestnut Lane

^{*}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.

Firefighters arrived on scene to find a fully involved attached garage residential structure fire. The fire was impinging on the living quarters of the fire building and a neighboring home. A combination of a

quick response and aggressive firefighting extinguished the fire in a relatively short amount of time and minimized property loss.

September 21, 2019 Residential Structure Fire, Tuolumne Road

Firefighters arrived on scene to a manufactured home 75% involved with fire. Neighbors reported two entrapped victims on arrival and crews immediately went into rescue mode. A search of the home was initiated until later confirmed the occupants were safely out of the building at a neighbor's home.



September 22, 2019 Vehicle Accident State Highway 120 near Moccasin

Firefighters responded to a passenger vehicle rollover with possible victims trapped approximately 70 off the roadway and down an embankment.

September 23, 2019, Vegetation Fire, Lake Tulloch South Shore

Firefighters battled an 83-acre vegetation fire with an air and ground assault containing the fast-moving fire.



We Will Never Forget you Eva.

September 12, 2019 - This date marks the 15th anniversary of the death of our beloved Eva Marie Schicke. Eva was a dedicated firefighter and member of the elite Columbia Helitack Crew and perished on the Tuolumne Fire on the Stanislaus National Forest outside Groveland. A remembrance ceremony was held at the overlook on State Highway 120 with Eva's mom, aunt, and a contingent of firefighters and a moment of silence was observed at all fire stations throughout the Unit.

Fleet

As was mentioned, staff are in the process of securing bids to purchase a new 1,500 gallon per minute fire engine with funds allocated during the budget process by the Tuolumne County Board of

Supervisors. Staff were unsuccessful in an attempt at a FEMA AFG grant to replace a 1999 mobile breathing support unit and will be making that a priority request in next year's budget cycle. All 90-day compliance inspections were completed on the entire fleet. A compliance inspection is a safety and mechanical inspection completed at regular intervals to ensure the apparatus is in working order and any mechanical or safety issues are fixed, along with lube, oil, and filter changes as necessary.

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 which brings in a small amount of reimbursement to the County Fire fund.

Prevention/Education

<u>September 9, 2019</u> - Personnel attended an educational event at the Cornerstone Calvary Chapel on Soulsbyville Road for a Field Day for local students.

<u>September 10, 2019</u> - Station 51 hosted a 1st Responder presentation to inform nursing students of the capabilities of first responders for the pre-hospital treatment of the ill and injured before being transported to the emergency department.

<u>September 20, 2019</u> - Staff participated in the Sonora City Fire/Columbia College Career Day at Sonora City Fire Department. Students interested in career or resident/intern positions with local fire departments participated in interview and physical activity stations to not only gain experience for future career opportunities, but also to listen to opportunities to gain experience through local fire departments.

<u>September 30, 2019</u> - Fire personnel attended a fire drill at the Tuolumne County Public Health Department on Cedar Road in Sonora. TCPHD staff executed their site pre-plan successfully.

TCFD's social media presence continues to grow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. With over 2,258 followers on Facebook, 1,127 on Instagram, and over 505 on Twitter, the fire prevention, safety, and education message is reaching over 30,000 impressions each month.





Fire Inspectors conducted 28 site inspections during the month of September and 119 individual plan reviews.

Training

September 28, 2019 - Battalion 5 held a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Operations training at the

former Sonora CAL FIRE Station. RIC Operations include skills specific to firefighter rescue, typically during a fire. At the scene of structure fires, firefighters are specifically assigned to be able to rescue firefighters (also known as 2-in 2-out) if there is a catastrophic event that occurs during the ongoing emergency.

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





