# Tuolumne County Fire Department Monthly Activity Report



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May 2021

## **Tuolumne County Fire Department**

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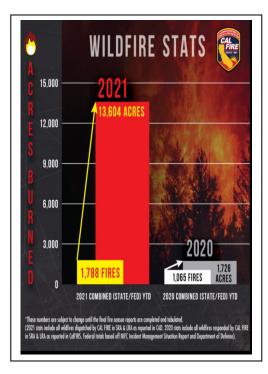


## MONTH IN REVIEW

## May 2021

During the Month of May a few notable events remind us that fire season is just around the corner. Each

year California highlights the importance of wildfire prevention and preparedness by declaring the first full week in May as Wildfire Preparedness Week. This year during the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup> TCFD and fire departments across the state remind residents of the dangers posed by wildfires and the simple steps that should be followed to prepare for and prevent them. Additionally, recent devastating fires in California have reminded us that no community is immune from the threat and Tuolumne County residents should take actions to protect their lives and property from the threat of wildfire. The number of wildfires in the state and on federal lands has increased nearly 700% increase in the number of acres burned in respect to the same time last year. Burn permits were suspended on May 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the dry conditions and fire behavior that would normally be expected later in the season.



Chief Casci and Assistant Fire Chief Murphy presented the Tuolumne County Fire Department 2021-2025 Strategic Plan to the Board of Supervisors at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. A message from Chief Casci introducing the plan reads; "I am proud to present the Tuolumne County Fire Department's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. As the fire environment has rapidly changed over the last several years throughout the County and State of California, the focus on fire preparedness and community resilience has taken a well-deserved front seat. As the County of Tuolumne and the Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) take hold of the environmental changes and future growth in the County, I consider this Strategic Plan to be one of the most important documents ever produced by the Department because it will serve as our guide to create the optimal TCFD starting now and moving into the future.

The Plan goes on to say, "Our key priorities focus on stabilizing the current financial and operational needs of the TCFD, improving service delivery in a safe and efficient manner, implementing advanced technologies, employing sound budgeting practices, enhancing our leadership on a personal and professional level, and also to guide the TCFD into the future in not only meeting the growing demands of the community, but planning ahead for the future on a firm framework." To read the Strategic Plan, go to https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1351/Strategic-Plan.

Volunteer Resident Firefighter Kylie Mantor and Volunteer Firefighters Michael Carillo, Shane Motter, Caleb Smith and Michael Beverlin were hired by the CAL FIRE Tuolumne Calaveras Unit as seasonal Firefighter I's. We wish these them the best as they take the next steps in their career and thank them for their time with TCFD.



TCFD, in conjunction with the Pinecrest Permittees Association, purchased a fire boat several years ago. TCFD Boat 554 serves the Pinecrest Lake community providing fire protection, firefighter and EMS transport, and rescue. Volunteer Firefighters are also PPA employees and through this great partnership, they cover TCFD Station 55 Pinecrest. Personnel conducted maintenance of equipment checking boat equipment and water flow.

Memorial Weekend kept emergency crews busy as visitors and residents celebrated the Holiday. In one incident emergency crews responded to the Grotto, a popular climbing spot on Table

Mountain northwest of Jamestown. Apparently, a boulder came loose injuring three hikers, one seriously, and two had moderate injuries. CAL FIRE TCU, TCFD, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Search and Rescue, Tuolumne County Ambulance, and PHI Med 4-2 all responded. Due to the difficult terrain and seriousness of the injuries, CAL FIRE TCU Columbia Copter 404, the new FireHawk S70i, was called in to perform three hoist rescues to extricate the patients to a landing zone to waiting air and ground ambulances. This was an incredible series of rescues performed with excellence by all responders involved. The value of training and teamwork is exemplified in this incident.

In May there were a total of 523 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 446 during the same month in 2020, and a 12.5% increase from May 2016 total of 465. Of the 523 incidents this month there were 348 medical aids, 80 fires, and 95 other incidents. From January 1 to May 30, TCFD has responded to 2,462 incidents within our jurisdiction compared to 2,212 during that time period in 2020, and an increase of 18% from May 2016.

### **TCFD Station Responses**

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to

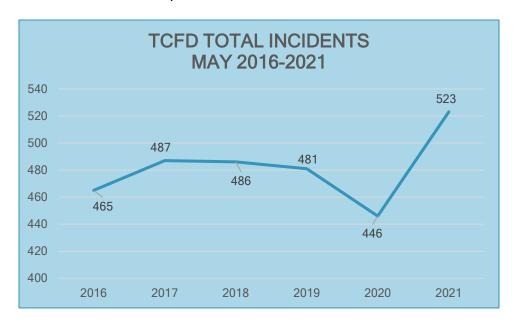


161 incidents in the month of May including 109, medical calls (including 19 vehicle collisions, with 2

pin-ins), 24 public assists, 16 fires, 3 false alarms, and 9 other incidents. 137 incidents were within their primary response area and 24 were not. Volunteers responded to 40 of the 161 incidents, and aid was given to 2 agencies 8 times and received by 3 agencies 6 times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station responded to 147 incidents. Of those 147 incidents, there were 93 medical aids (including 17 vehicle collisions, one being a pin-in), 16 public assists, 21 fires, 2 false alarms, and 13 other incidents. Of the 147 incidents, 120 were within their PRA and 27 were not. Volunteers responded to 2 incidents. Automatic aid was given to 2 agencies 8 times and received from 3 agencies 17 times. Crews responded to 14 homeless related incidents in May.

Twain Harte CAL FIRE responded to 89 incidents in May. Of those 89 incidents, 33 were medical aids (8 vehicle collisions), 33 fires, 12 public assists, and 11 other incidents. 62 incidents were within their PRA and 27 were not. Volunteers responded to 28 incidents.



## Tuolumne County Fire Department Station Incident Responses May 2021

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 186 incidents

Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (3 volunteers) 16 incidents

Long Barn Station 54 (<u>0 volunteers</u>) 7 incidents absorbed by other stations

Pinecrest Station 55 (4 volunteers) 16 incidents

Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 108 incidents

Crystal Falls Station 57 (<u>0 Volunteers</u>) incidents absorbed by other stations

Cedar Ridge Station 58 (12 volunteers) 10 incidents

Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer) 52 incidents

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

Don Pedro Station 64 (3 volunteers) 27 incidents

Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 1 volunteer) 147 incidents

Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters) 44 incidents

Blanchard CAL FIRE Station - 72 incidents

Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station – 91 incidents

Groveland CAL FIRE Station - 53 incidents

Standard CAL FIRE Station - 92 incidents

Green Springs CAL FIRE Station – 83 incidents

### **Significant Incidents**

#### May 1, 2021 – Structure Fire, Paseo De Los Robles

Firefighters arrived to find light smoke showing. Suppression actions were attempted prior to the arrival of firefighters, however the fire had extended into the walls and attic. Firefighters managed to control the flames in a short time by removing walls, ceiling, and insulation saving the rest of the home.



#### May 2, 2021 - Vegetation Fire, Cemetery Road

While fueling apparatus, a loud bang signaled Firefighters to vegetation fire just down the road on HWY 108. The fire ignited after a metallic balloon came into contact with power lines. The fire was contained at one tenth of an acre.

#### May 8, 2021 - Vehicle Fire, Mono Way

Firefighters discovered a fully involved recreational vehicle with extension into the wildland. Firefighters quickly stopped the forward progress to .07 acres and extinguished the recreational vehicle.

#### May 9, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Hwy 108

Firefighters responded to a solo vehicle accident with possible pin-in on Hwy 108 near Green Springs Road. Crews arrived to find one vehicle on its top, blocking both directions of traffic east of La Grange Rd. Both occupants were able to exit the vehicle safely and reported no injuries.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Incident totals include incidents that the fire station was dispatched to, and may have been automatic aid to other agencies through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement\*\*



#### May 9, 2021 - Commercial Alarm, Greenley Road

Upon arrival firefighters discovered a destructed water pipe in the ceiling. The plumbing dispersed significant amounts of water resulting in a flood on the ground level floor of the building. Crews constructed a basin to contain the water then expelled the water to the exterior of the building using a portable pump. This allowed facility crews ample time to make repairs while preventing further damage.

#### May 10, 2021 Debris Fire, Fifth Avenue

Firefighters responded to an extinguished debris fire that had been

ignited by a nearby vehicle. No damage occurred to the vehicle and the vehicle owner was educated on fire safety.

#### May 11, 2021 - Vehicle Collision, Mill Villa Road

A passenger vehicle collided with an oncoming logging truck. The sedan contained a solo occupant. Firefighters used specialized equipment to extricate the patient who was later transported to treat injuries. Crews continued to assist CHP with traffic control and clean up to help relieve traffic.

#### May 12, 2021 - Vegetation Fire, Tulloch Dam Road

Firefighters responded to three roadside vegetation fires in the area of Green Springs.

#### May 17, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Mono Way

Firefighters responded to reports of a vegetation fire behind the CDJR Dealership on Mono Way. A column of smoke signaled a significant fire to firefighters before



arrival. Once at scene, a progressive hose lay tactic was initiated along with an aggressive offensive attack limiting the fire to a 50' x 50' burn.

#### May 22, 021 Multiple Vehicle Fire, Chukar Circle

Firefighters arrived at scene to find four vehicles fully involved with fire and threatening additional adjacent vehicles and occupied apartments. The fire was quickly extinguished while one patient suffered minor injuries attempting to evacuate a second story apartment. The patient was evaluated at scene and denied medical transport to a hospital.



## May 26, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Stockton Road (Camp Hope)

Reports of a vegetation fire led firefighters to another fire at the campsite location off of Stockton Road. The fire was suppressed at a tenth of an acre preventing minimal spread. The cause is under investigation.

#### May 26, 2021 - Vehicle Collision, Draper Mine Road

Firefighters found one vehicle had rolled several times before coming to rest in the center of Highway 108. Three

patients suffered minor injuries. Highway 108 was temporarily closed while emergency crews administered patient care.

#### May 28, 2021 - Vegetation Fire, Stockton Road (Camp Hope)

Upon arrival firefighters discovered a truck and recreational vehicle fully involved with an area of 100' x

100' of vegetation burning. Fire crews remained at scene for several hours containing the fire.

#### May 29, 2021 - Commercial Fire Alarm, Tuolumne General

Firefighters responded to reports of a commercial fire alarm at the storage location for Tuolumne County's surplus items. No smoke or fire was discovered. A fire hydrant was cleared so that it may be easily accessed in the future.



#### **Fleet**

Other repairs included:

- 1. Engine 901 AC Unit was inspected for leaks and recharged.
- 2. Jamestown E761 is out of service again (nearly 160,000 miles) and is awaiting a new oil cooler and radiator. The new E761 should arrive in mid-summer and the current E761 will become a reserve engine.
- 3. Water Tender 768 repairs have been made and is almost ready to be placed back in service. Currently awaiting a new AC Line.

#### **Prevention/Education**

Fire Inspectors completed 56 plans reviews and 16 fire inspections.

#### Including:

- One Group C, Camps-Organized
- Three Group E, Educational Occupancies
- One Group R-2, Residential (Hotel, Motel, Apartments)
- One Fire Sprinkler Inspection
- One Haz-Mat Tank Inspection(s)
- Seven Re-Inspection
- Two Residential Care Home License Inspection

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 for more information on the incidents and additional pictures:

facebook Tuolumne County Fire Department (3,842 followers)

© | Instagram tuolumnecountyfire (2,006 followers)



## **Training**

Firefighters from the Volunteer Firefighter Academy got to "feel the heat," many for their first time, in a "flashover chamber" at Twain Harte CSD Fire's training facility. Fires are started in this controlled environment, with training and safety staff at scene, to simulate a building fire to the point of flashover so that new firefighters recognize the signs and feel the intense heat for when they're in an actual fire. Flashover is a thermal-driven event during which every combustible surface exposed to thermal radiation in a



compartment or enclosed space rapidly and simultaneously ignites. Flashover normally occurs when the upper portion of the compartment reaches a temperature of approximately 1,100 °F for ordinary combustibles. Victims in rooms that flashover rarely survive. This highlights the importance of properly located and staffed fire stations throughout the community.

Tuolumne County Fire Department members along with CAL FIRE attended a sand table excersize to assess and mitigate potential fires at the homeless encampment along Stockton Road.

An Engineer attended a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) training. The Colusa Fire Department put on a



three day class teaching firefighters to work as a designated team that is assigned to incidents for need of rescuing missing or entrapped firefighters.

An Engineer attended a Company Officer 2C Class. The class teaches firefighters how to conduct inspections, identify hazards, how to address violations, how to perform fire investigations and how to determine a preliminary causes of fire as well as securing a scene and how to preserve evidence.

Forcible entry training took place at the Standard CAL FIRE Fire Station. Members of the TCFD assisted with the training put on for the Joint Basic Volunteer Firefighter Academy which teaches firefighters techniques used to gain entry into a locked building or room by using force to open a door or window. The Academy also completed Wildland firefigher survival training and took their final exam.

Current volunteers attended water tender operator training

Firefighting is arduous and difficult in the best circumstances. Stack on 30-50 pounds of gear, heat, steep elevations, and life and death situations, it becomes more difficult and more dangerous. To mitigate that, firefighters train and drill daily. It's not all physical work either. Firefighters need to be able to understand physics, building construction, laws, teamwork, leadership, hydraulics, emergency

driving, and so much more. Pictured here, your neighbors in the Cedar Ridge and Mono Vista areas VOLUNTEER for this arduous hazardous work, training on wildland progressive hose lays. A progressive hose lay is when firefighters extinguish the fire by adding 100' lengths of 1 1/2" hose (carried in those packs on their back) "progressively" onto the end until they contain the fire. The hose lays also have tees at each connection so smaller hoses can be attached for mopup operations.



## **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.



