

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

Fire Station 51
309 S Johnson

Fire Station 52
2224 W Monte Vista

Fire Station 53
309 S Johnson

Fire Station 54
440 W Ferguson

Fire Station 55
6921 W Ferguson

Fire Station 56
1968 S Lovers Lane

FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Doug McBee,
Fire Chief

Doyle Sewell,
Battalion Chief

Danny Wristen,
Battalion Chief, Training

Charlie Norman,
Battalion Chief

Darrin Hughes,
Battalion Chief

Dustin Hall,
Administrative Captain

Kurtis Brown,
Assistant Fire Marshal

Angela Zimmermann,
Safety Officer

Nancy Renovato,
Sr. Admin Analyst



The month of May continued the trend of increased alarms for both fire suppression and EMS calls for service. Administration continued to work with Finance to finalize the two year budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16 and address staffing and overtime issues as we conclude this fiscal year.

The highlights for the month included hiring four new recruit firefighter/paramedics and start of their seven week academy. Battalion Chief Wristen and Captain Goforth have established a rigorous physical training and academic curriculum that will be both challenging and fast paced, imparting the knowledge necessary to be a functional member of our fire department and serve our citizens at the level we have established. All the recruits are considered lateral entries with varying degrees of experience in fire and EMS. All are highly qualified and committed to the fire service.

We also said farewell to Battalion Chief Charlie Norman who retired May 15th. We wish him well in this next chapter and appreciate his service to our department and the community. He will be missed. In the interim, Captain Todd Stalker will be serving as Acting Battalion Chief. Promotional testing will take place for Battalion Chief and Captain in late June.

The department conducted a presentation to City Council on EMS delivery in Visalia, presented by Captain Hall with representatives from both American Ambulance and AMR.

We saw two major deployments of our personnel to assist the state with wild-fires in both Southern and Central California. To date there have been twice as many wild fires in the state as compared to last year and conditions are even more extreme in terms of temperature and lack of moisture.

Several regional training classes are planned in early June as well as the on-going academy so our training center will be a very busy place.

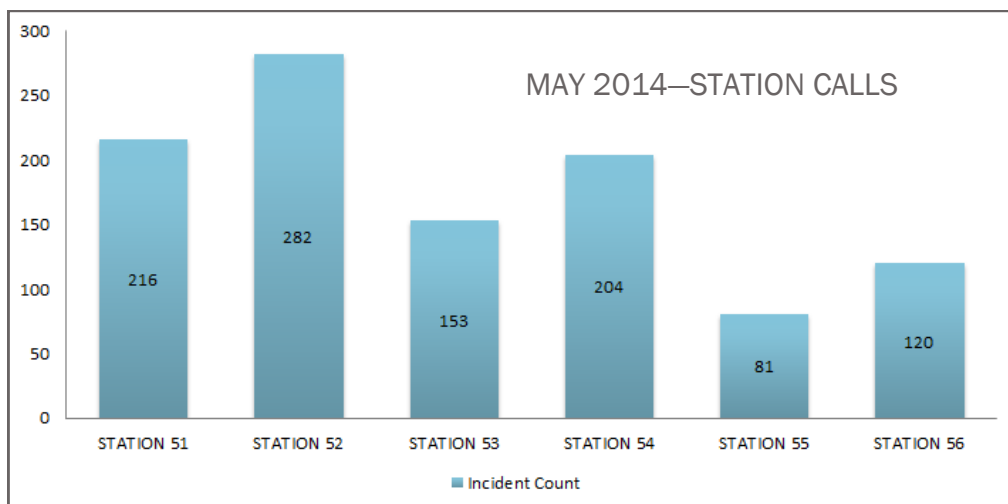
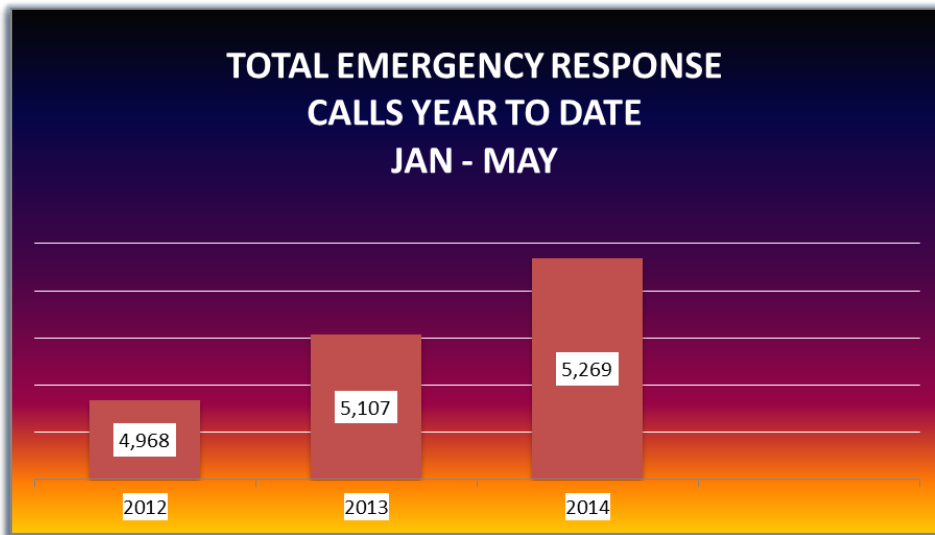
Take care and be safe.

Doug McBee,
Fire Chief

MAY 2014 STATS

Visalia Fire Department
May 2014 Monthly Overtime Report
 (All \$ Amounts in Thousands)

Month	# of Pay Periods	Monthly OT Budget Amount	Monthly Actual OT	Adjustments/Reimbursements to OT				Budget Variance under(over)
				Strike Team /Training	Salary Savings	Total	Net OT	
July	2	50	80	(12)	(16)	(28)	52	(2)
August	3	75	102	(30)	(10)	(40)	62	13
September	2	50	91	(51)	(10)	(61)	30	20
October	2	50	48	(2)	(10)	(12)	36	14
November	2	50	51	(2)	(16)	(18)	33	17
December	2	50	58	(4)	(21)	(25)	33	17
January	3	75	93	0	(21)	(21)	72	3
February	2	50	48	0	(21)	(21)	27	23
March	2	50	50	0	(21)	(21)	29	21
April	2	50	61	0	(21)	(21)	40	10
May	2	50	75	0	(21)	(21)	54	(4)
June	2	50					0	50
YTD Totals	26	\$650	\$757	(\$101)	(\$188)	(\$289)	\$468	\$182



MAJOR APRIL INCIDENTS

Kitchen Fire in South Visalia home

On May 3rd, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a home on Princeton for a report of smoke coming from inside the structure. Upon arrival, fire fighters encountered smoke coming from the front entrance of the residence. The owner stated a fire had occurred on the stove and spread to the remaining area of the kitchen. Visalia firefighters made entry and extinguished a kitchen fire with no extension to the attic and other areas of the structure. No injuries occurred to occupants and fire personnel during this incident.

A total of 13 Visalia fire personnel responded to this incident; one Battalion Chief and four engines. Visalia Police Department arrived on scene to assist with the flow of traffic. The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental, and property loss was estimated to be about \$10,500.00.

Multiple Vehicles Catch Fire in Tow Yard in East Visalia

On May 24th, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a report of a possible commercial structure fire on E. Mineral King Boulevard. The first fire unit that arrived observed heavy fire coming from behind a business, but they went around the block to Main Street to check on a better access point to the fire. Fire units were able to access the fire utilizing a long driveway off Mineral King that lead back to multiple vehicles on fire in a vehicle storage area owned by R & R Towing.

While the main body of fire was being knocked down, other fire crews were able to keep the fire from spreading to nearby businesses located in the 1800 block of East Main Street. No buildings caught on fire, but at one point they were threatened. Five fire units and one Battalion Chief responded for a total of 16 personnel.

Dumpster Fire Scorches Fresno Bee Building in Downtown Visalia

On May 25th, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a report of a dumpster fire that was threatening a structure.

The first fire unit that arrived observed heavy fire coming from a dumpster near the Fresno Bee building located at 525 W. Main Street in downtown Visalia. Fire units were able to quickly contain the fire and check the building for any possible extension from the fire.

Visalia Elementary School Effectuated by Bus Crash

On May 27th, the Visalia Fire Department responded to the intersection of W Hurley Ave and Marcin for a reported traffic accident involving a City Transit Bus. Three Engines, One truck, two Battalion Chiefs along with the Fire Chief responded to the incident after it was reported that CNG gas was leaking from the bus. Hurley Elementary School, located next to this intersection was placed on lock down as a precaution until the incident was deemed safe.

When fire and police personnel arrived on scene they reported that the bus had left the roadway and traveled down the sidewalk damaging several trees and light poles. A total of 6 riders and the driver were able to walk off the bus with only the driver receiving injuries. He was transported to Kaweah Delta Hospital for evaluation. The bus which operates on CNG or Compressed Natural Gas developed a leak in one of the 8 storage tanks due to the accident. The area, including the School, was secured until fire crews were able to control the leak. Edison, the cable company and City crews were called in to assess the damage and to shut off the power to the lighting equipment. No other vehicles were involved in the accident.

School locked down after bus accident and gas leak

On May 27th, a Visalia City bus was involved in a single vehicle accident on Hurley just East of Hurley Elementary School. The Driver of the bus was transported to the hospital for evaluation. The other five passengers were unharmed. The school was placed on lock down for a short time due to the release of (CNG) compressed natural gas from the bus. The Visalia Fire Department rendered 7 of the 8 fuel storage tanks safe. The one 80 pound cylinder with the broken line was allowed to bleed off. The bus was safely towed away. The Visalia Fire Department responded to a first alarm consisting of 3 Engines, 1 Truck, 2 Battalion chiefs, and The Chief for a total of 15 personnel, due to the nature and location of the incident.

BATTALION CHIEF WRISTEN



Communications Program and FireRMS

During May, staff continued working on the VECC and CAD replacement projects. The City Council confirmed the VECC location on the property and City staff continued to fine tune the draft floor plan for the building. The CAD replacement project is moving to the next level, with a week of design workshop time in early June.

Emergency Preparedness Program

Chief McBee attended another Southern California Edison workshop that discussed reliability and the plan for rolling blackouts if needed. In order to be more prepared to manage the City of Visalia EOC, Chief Wristen attended an intermediate Incident Command class, ICS-300. Two weeks later, he served as instructor for the same class. In addition, Chief Wristen served as Strike Team Leader on the wildland fire incidents that occurred in Southern California. These opportunities allow our personnel to become more familiar with managing large scale incidents. The fire in Carlsbad served as a great example on the impacts a medium size city has when dealing with a disaster incident.

Training Program

Chief Wristen attended the Tulare-Kings Fire Training Officers meeting and the Wildland Spring Exercise committee meeting. The Spring X was cancelled due to the wildland fires in Southern California. In addition, Recruit Academy 2113 began on May 27th, with four new Recruit Firefighter-Paramedics. Captain Goforth is the Academy Coordinator and will lead the Recruits through a grueling seven-week schedule.

This month company training focused on EMS Continuing Education, Large Area Search Techniques and Hash Oil Hazards. All EMT's will be recertified in June and skill testing has been conducted in preparation of this.

One of the many difficult situations we encounter in the fire service is the need to search large buildings for victims during fires. All fire crews learned the proper strategies and tactics to conduct large area searches during fire conditions. One new hazard we face in the fire service is the production of Hash Oil from marijuana. This process produces a very hazardous and flammable atmosphere, which can greatly challenge fire crews.

In addition, the Haz Mat Team conducted by-monthly training, which consisted of Technical Reference, which is the research and classification of hazardous materials. Fire personnel also completed the monthly Department Safety Training and the City Safety Training. Visalia Fire Department personnel completed 1,150 hours of training.

PREVENTION—KURTIS BROWN, ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL

Inspections

During May, the Prevention Division and Engine companies conducted a total of 266 inspections. A total of \$4,886.75 in Operational Permit fees were billed during the month.

Property Maintenance

The Fire Prevention Division initiates cases and performs inspections on Property Maintenance cases throughout the entire year with a heavy emphasis during the summer months. Property Maintenance cases are started on properties with trash, junk and or debris, weeds and any other items that can constitute a fire hazard. Many properties where cases are started are vacant undeveloped lots, but cases can also be started on vacant or occupied homes and commercial properties. Throughout May, the Prevention Division conducted 161 initial and 133 follow-up inspections on Property Maintenance cases. Prevention Division staff also filed 76 Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recover fees totaling \$18,544. Staff also authorized the department's contractor to abate 21 properties.



Fire Investigations

The Fire Investigation Team investigated 8 Fires. In addition, engine company personnel performed 11 preliminary origin and cause investigations.

Here is a brief synopsis of the significant incidents:

- * 1912 E. Mineral King (Vehicle): Undetermined, \$29,000 loss. 5-24-2014
- * 1908 W. Meadowbrook (Vehicle): Suspicious, \$25,000 loss. 5-15-2014
- * 2702 S. Burke (Dwelling): Suspicious, \$4,000 loss. 5-21-2014

Public Education

Engine Company Personnel completed approximately 19 tours, visitations, and presentations.

The Department provided this service to approximately 973 people in the community. One community member also participated in the department ride-a-long program. Additionally, seven smoke detectors were installed in homes throughout the city.

Site Plan Report

The Visalia Fire Department is a member of the Site Plan Review Committee. The committee reviews plans and operational statements, for proposed businesses, operations and future constructions projects throughout our community. Lists of comments are provided to applicants from each member of the committee to assist the applicants with their project. For the Month of May, Visalia Fire Department staff reviewed 22 plans that had been submitted to the committee.

The site plan review submittals ranged from a Remodel of a body shop, a new beauty salon, a tentative parcel map, an addition to a restaurant, and a new industrial building.



EMS—DUSTIN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE CAPTAIN

EMS

To prepare all departmental EMTs for renewal, personnel completed skills evaluation during May. All paperwork will be completed in early June, with submission of all applications and supporting documentation by the middle of June.

In May, Stephanie Phipps and I attended the Zoll training summit. This provides a learning opportunity for end users like the Visalia Fire Department on programs such as FireRMS, ePCR, and Mobil. Participants are allotted time to ask questions of Zoll employees and experts in different fields, not having to “learn the hard way” is a great benefit as it saves the City time and resources related to the management and operations of said programs. As technology continues to become an important part of our business practice fabric, the more beneficial these types of learning opportunities become. The classes ranged from developing business practices to learning new standards and practices associated with the individual programs.

EMS Week is in May and on Monday May 19, 2014, the Visalia City Council received a presentation on the current status of EMS, current capabilities and the agencies who represent Tulare County and the City. It was a good opportunity for the City Council to ask questions and gain knowledge on how the system has developed since the County saw its first paramedic practice in the pre-hospital setting nine years ago.

Annual TB testing for all department personnel started this month. All personnel shall have completed their TB testing by the end of June.

INFECTIOUS CONTROL

In April and May, the City’s infectious control personnel worked on the current measles outbreak that has been deemed by the Center for Disease Control, as the worst in 20 years. As of late May there has been 288 measles cases reported in the U.S., with 60 reported in California.

Two reports of exposure were related to City employees; proper follow up was completed and both cases were closed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events was busy in May, there were several large events that took place, to name a few; Color Vibe where approximately 2,500 people participated in the Downtown Annual Car Show, as well as the Jug Fest with an estimated 12,000+ who took advantage of the free concerts. There are a lot of opportunities for community members to participate in events that range from running, art, concerts, food, parades, etc.; typically there is something for everyone.

BATTALION CHIEF SEWELL

Apparatus / Fleet Program

During May, rigs were sent to the shop for the following repairs;

- E51 was in the shop twice this month. The first time the intake temperature, pressure and turbo sensors were replaced. The Opticom emitter was checked and both front tires were replaced. The second trip to the shop the front brake pads and rotors were changed. The front seats were re-upholstered too.
- T51 went to Fresno for warranty work on the motor, 3 items were repaired.
- E52 was hard to crank over to start, both batteries were replaced.
- T55 wouldn't start; it required installation of a new ignition switch, starter switch and the main battery switch.
- E56 had brake pads and rotors installed on the front axle, several discharge valves were leaking and were rebuilt, the pump out put shift was lubed, the oil pump hose at the pump transmission was replaced and the radiator was blown out.
- E251 had a broken front hub sight glass. The shop made a service call and replaced it at Station 51
- E252 had the power inverter go out. The shop installed a new unit.
- ARFF 253 had the pump primer and its solenoid replaced, the pump panel switch had no power so new wiring was run to the switch, new battery cable ends were installed and the batteries were replaced.
- OES 261 is currently in Tulare for repairs. The rig is pulling to the left while driving and when applying the brakes it pulls significantly harder, there's an exhaust leak with fumes entering the cab and the volt meter gauge on the dash isn't working.



All rigs are current with their 90 day BIT inspections

ACTING BATTALION CHIEF STALKER



SCBA Program

The new firefighter recruits were fit-tested and issued SCBA mask(s). The new employees will be given instructions on a later date of the air-packs use and maintenance the department utilizes.

Standard Operating Guidelines

Personnel are continuing to work on the new Lexipol program. Training has been provided by the company to help staff understand how the program operates and how it will improve the current SOG's that are in place.

Accountability

Several new name tags were ordered for the new Firefighter Recruits for the accountability boards. These tags will be used to track personnel while on the scene of emergency traffic.

Hose and Appliances

The department received the results from hose testing. A total of 42,640 linear feet of Hose was tested with only 700 linear feet failing. Due to budget constraints no hose will be purchased from the fiscal year 2013/2014 to replace the lost hose. We will try and make this replacement from the 2014/2015 budget year. Quotes have already be requested and received in preparation of this purchase.

Monthly Tailboard

Monthly tailboard training continues to focus on the down town area. This training has consisted of building construction, special considerations and issues that would cause concern for Firefighter safety. Power point programs with information and pictures are being used to highlight the buildings in the downtown area. This information has been very useful not only for training but also for preplanning any future incidents that may occur in the downtown area.

City Safety

The committee continued discussions with the City Safety Officer on the need for lock-out/tag-outs for the department's apparatus. It was decided to look for options that will work or to create new kits that will fit the needs of the department.

Strike Team

The OES unit with three personnel was activated during May in the San Diego area for the Carlsbad and Camp Pendleton fires. When the unit returned from the incident the inventory was checked and only one item was damaged and needed to be replaced.

BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES

Hazardous Materials Response Team

During May, the Visalia Hazardous Materials Response Team conducted team training on technical reference. The emphasis of the training centered around the use of CAMEO, ALOHA and MARPLOT software. CAMEO is a computer chemical database, ALOHA is a plume modeling software and MARPLOT is a mapping software that can overlay the modeled plume onto maps. This software is vital in determining the potential exposure downwind as a result of a chemical release.

Small Engines – Equipment – Tools Program (SEET)

Personnel spent the majority of their time on the annual servicing of all small engines in the Fire Department. Thanks to the flexibility and hard work of the crews we were able to accomplish this assignment in a timely manner and without the use of any overtime.

Technical Rescue Team

Rescue team members worked on setting up the June drills that will be conducted at Western Milling in Goshen.

Quartermaster Program

In May Captain Cromer met with uniform and personal protective equipment vendors regarding end of the year purchase and invoices. Fitting appointments were set up for personnel in the Department that needed a Class A uniform or alterations made to their current one. He also reviewed the budget for the quartermaster program which includes Measure T purchases with the department's finance personnel.

Other Items

- Attended Leadership Visalia day and evening sessions
- Attended Management meeting with Union Executive Board
- Attended meeting concerning Social Media policy
- Attended Introduction to New Recruits
- Chair of the Hazardous Materials Working Group



Angie Zimmermann, Safety Officer



While Tulare County has not reported any cases of Measles so far, the current measles outbreak in California now numbers at least 60 cases, reported over 13 counties. I've continued safety program efforts to offer employees with potential exposure an opportunity to be immunized for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (German measles) (MMR). Employees in the Fire department began the immunization process in April, and Police Department personnel were targeted in May. Other departments were included in May as well and we are moving forward with the process.

Since many people may already be immune to MMR, we offer antibody testing first to establish immune status. While the City is required to offer these immunizations, employees are not required to consent to antibody testing, or the vaccinations. Eighty-three percent of Fire Department employees consented to determine their immune status; of those tested, 48% were found to lack immunity to MMR. Once the immune status is determined, staff still has the opportunity to choose whether or not to have the vaccination series. The majority of those not immune have elected to have the vaccine series so far. Once we move through the MMR I'll begin moving down the list of other required immunization offerings.

The ceiling in Fire Station 51's apparatus bay project continues to move toward completion. While the department hoped to finish up the project in May, the availability of vendors to complete repairs to make doorways weather resistant caused a delay. The department is hopeful that as part of the improvements to the apparatus bay we will be able to install new more energy efficient lighting. We hope to take advantage of lights that are available from a retro-fit project at other city facilities.

The Safety Committee held its monthly meeting on May 14th discussing its regular agenda topics of employee injuries, illnesses, and near misses as well as other ongoing issues such as developing standards for the purchase of employee safety footwear.

The May City Safety training topic was Hands Only CPR and First Aid.

Other safety program efforts included work with purchasing for an RFP for a new contract for out hearing test provider, investigating vehicle accidents, employee injuries, providing ergonomic evaluations, training, continuing to work on written safety programs and a planned revision of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

On May 31 the Fire Department was without a lost time injury for 35 days.

Farewell Battalion Chief Charlie Norman

The Fire Department thanks Chief Norman for his dedication and Years of Service to the City of Visalia Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Norman retired from the City of Visalia on May 15, 2014. He began his Career with the Visalia Fire Department on January 20, 1992 as a Firefighter. He was promoted to Fire Engineer in 1995, Fire Captain in 1999 and Battalion Chief in 2002.

Effective May 16, 2014; I am officially retiring from the Visalia Fire Department. The time I have been here has truly been the best period of my life. The City of Visalia and its personnel have been the epitome of professionalism and I consider my tenure here as both an Honor and Privilege.

Charlie Norman



Why Do Fire Engines Respond to Medical Calls?

Many residents ask why fire engines respond to emergency medical calls. The answer is quality of care! The Visalia Fire Department endeavors to give our residents the best care possible and always provides the closest Fire Engine to the emergency with staffed, competent Firefighter Paramedics-EMTs. Since ambulances transport patients to the hospital throughout the day, it is not uncommon for the Fire Department to arrive at a medical emergency call first.

Upon arrival, the Fire Paramedic on the engine can assess the patient, take vital signs, perform an EKG, start an IV, administer oxygen, and other life-saving medications prior to the arrival of the ambulance. As the ambulance arrives, the additional personnel can assist the crew with loading the patient and the ambulance can begin transport within minimal time. These minutes saved by the response of the engine can very well make a difference in whether a patient lives or dies.