

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

Todd Stalker,
Acting Battalion Chief

Darrin Hughes,
Battalion Chief

Dustin Hall,
Administrative Captain

Kurtis Brown,
Assistant Fire Marshal

Angela Zimmermann,
Safety Officer

Nancy Renovato,
Sr. Admin Analyst



July was predictably hot and noisy as we celebrated the 4th of July and dealt with both legal and illegal fireworks. The fireworks spectacular located at Giant Stadium was well attended; although, falling debris started a fire in the creek area next to the ball fields at Redwood High. Engine 53 and 51 crews had the fire out quickly and with no serious damage. This was a great reminder of why we do fire watch at events and the need to be prepared for this type of event in particular.

July has been incredibly busy in all aspects. We graduated our four newest firefighters, Robert Aikman, Ryan Hetzler, Luke MacAlpine and Jonathan Sagli from Academy 2113. Captain Joey Goforth and Battalion Chief Danny Wristen did an excellent job of preparing them for their new career and we welcome them to the Visalia Fire Family. Many of our fire crews assisted with training at the academy as well.

We also became reacquainted with Engineer Robert Briggs who returned to VFD after a venturing down to Southern California. It is great to have Robert back with us. He has been assigned to the Training Division for a week then will be reassigned to shift duty in early August.

We completed the Battalion Chief and Captain assessments and all candidates did exceptionally well. Captain Brian Adney was selected to be promoted to the open Battalion Chief position and Fire Engineer Larry Garcia will be promoted to Captain. Promotions will be effective August 9, 2014. We also completed testing for a Fire Inspector position and Corbin Reed was selected to fill this position. Congratulations to Brian, Larry and Corbin.

Progress on Station 53 continues with the City's conditional use permit process complete and continued work on the construction drawings. The next step is going to the Planning Commission in late August. Repair work at Station 51 is complete with the apparatus bay ceiling sealed and painted.

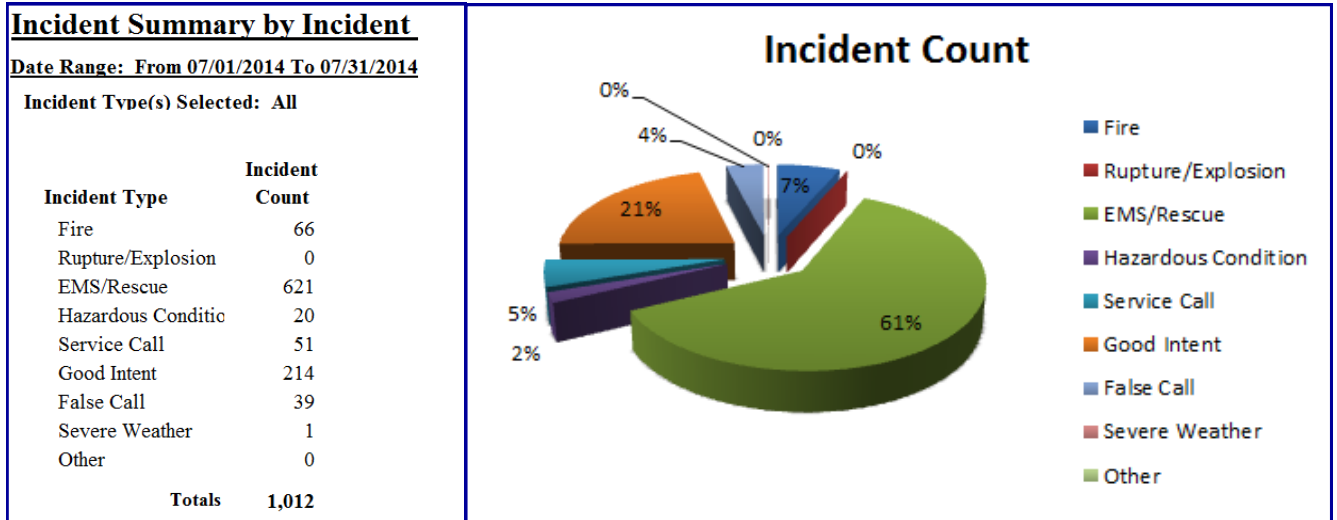
Wildfire season continues in full force and numerous fires are burning throughout the state. As of the end of July we have no crews or assets out on strike teams, but it is only a matter of time before we are called to participate.

Take care, stay well hydrated and have a great month!

Doug McBee

Fire Chief

JULY 2014 STATS



Overtime was over budget in July by approximately \$36,700, mainly due to coverage of personnel during training at the Recruit Academy and coverage for a light duty employee. The department should be fully staffed over the next few months, and we anticipate a significant reduction in over-time costs.

Visalia Fire Department
July 2014 Monthly Overtime Report

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	53,423	90,143			0	90,143	(36,720)
August	3	80,135				0	0	80,135
September	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
October	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
November	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
December	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
January	3	80,135				0	0	80,135
February	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
March	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
April	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
May	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
June	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
YTD Totals	26	\$694,500	\$90,143	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,143	\$604,357

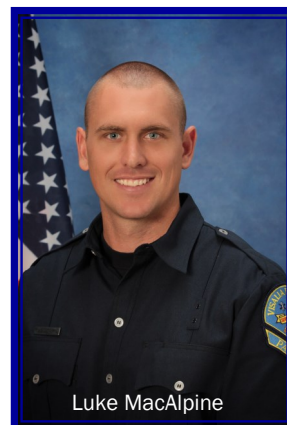
PERSONNEL

CONGRATULATIONS!

Captain **Brian Adney** has been promoted to Battalion Chief, Fire Engineer **Larry Garcia**, promoted to Captain, and Fire Inspector **Corbin Reed** has been hired full-time. These promotions will be effective August 9, 2014.



THE VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES FIVE NEW MEMBERS



ACTING BATTALION CHIEF STALKER



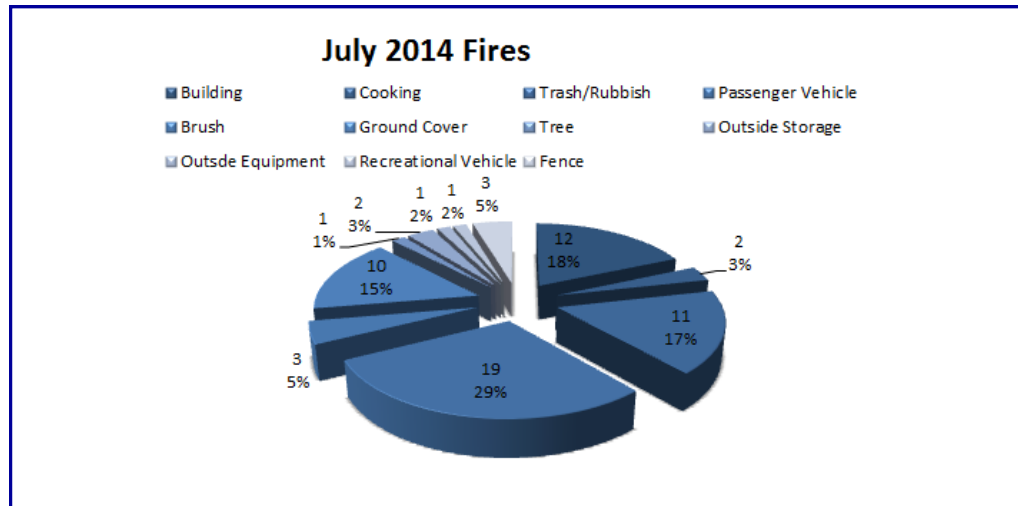
Wildland/Strike Team

On July 5th, Captain Stalker was deployed on Strike Team assignment to Yolo County in Northern California to assist on the Monticello Dam Fire. The fire burned 6,488 acres and required more than 1,000 fire personnel at its peak. Since May of this year, the Visalia Fire Department has been requested to at least eight Strike Team Assignments.

Other Strike Team efforts included inspection and replacement of damaged equipment.

Fire Investigations

In July, the Fire Department responded to 66 Fires, with a total property value of approximately \$93,127,050 and a total loss of approximately \$916,100. Some of the fires include, 12 building fires, 19 passenger vehicle fires, and 11 trash fires.



Monthly Tailboard Training

September's training will focus on some of the unique features of Engine 51, including visual indicators showing brake wear and some features of the pump that make it unique.

Hose & Appliance Program

The crew of Engine 54 is requesting quotes from various vendors to purchase equipment for the two new engines. The goal is to have the equipment here before October when the new Engines are scheduled to arrive.

BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES

Hazardous Materials Response Team

In July, the Hazmat Team participated in chemical identification training utilizing the HazCat and Heinz 5-Step chemical identification kits. The kits allow Hazmat Team members to identify unknown chemicals in the field. Team members also trained in identifying explosives and PCB's. Supplies were also ordered and received to restock and update the HazCat and Heinz 5-step chemical identification kits.

In addition, a significant amount of time has been spent putting together a complete inventory list of the SEET equipment that will be placed on the two new Pierce Engines. Firefighter Randall has been instrumental in overseeing this project and making the proper contacts with vendors. We should have a final list with pricing by the end of next month.



Technical Rescue Team

Fire Engineer Nick Branch completed the workbench on the inside of the Rescue team trailer and the next step is to add storage racks for the pickets and the pinch bars that are currently unsecured.

Captain Fricke has prepared training materials for all personnel in the area of rope training that will take place in August. There will be some team based high angle training with the crews taking place as well.

Quartermaster Program

In July Captain Cromer ordered, received, and issued new personal protective equipment and uniform pieces to fire personnel.

Other Items

Attended Command Staff meetings

Participated in Battalion Chief promotional interviews

Participated in Fire Captain promotional interviews

Angie Zimmermann, Safety Officer



The Safety Committee held its monthly meeting on July 16th discussing the regular agenda topics of employee injuries, illnesses, and near misses as well as other ongoing issues. The Committee discussed the City's reorganized departments, safety representatives, roles and responsibilities of safety representatives, and received a draft copy of the revised Code of Safe Practices for comment and review.

The June safety training topic was on the City's Revised Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). Cal/OSHA requires that all employees know that the City has an IIPP and where to obtain a copy. We are also required to have documentation to serve as proof that employees know this information; our training records can act as that receipt.

I recommended to HR that we discontinue the practice of providing the entire copy of the voluminous IIPP to new employees during new employee orientation. As we continue to commit our safety practices and procedures to writing, this document continues to grow. My recommendation instead was to provide a copy of the IIPP Policy and Code of Safe Practices along with information of where to obtain an IIPP once the employee is settled into their work reporting location. Since we provide a copy to each employee via the intranet, and a hard copy at work reporting locations where employees don't have computer access, I believe we meet our requirement to provide employees with that information. This practice will save the City over 100 pages in printed material per new employee who are inundated with new information at their orientation session. HR was very receptive to this change in practice.

In July, California's Pertussis (Whooping Cough) epidemic continued to grow surpassing June's 3,458 total cases and increased to 6,170 cases. Tulare County remains relatively unaffected as our 14 reported cases only increased to 16; however Fresno's 303 reported cases are greater than the state's average. I continued to make progress working the City's staff through the immunizations required by Cal/OSHA's Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard.

Other safety program efforts included taking the duty as the Designated Infectious Control Officer (DO) responding to calls from employees exposed to blood or other potentially infectious body fluids and infectious airborne pathogens. I also worked on evacuation drill planning, the hearing test provider RFP which is closing soon, investigating vehicle accidents, employee injuries, training, continuing to work on written safety programs. As usual, I provided several ergonomic evaluations which prior to my arrival here were contracted out to a provider charging the City about \$700.00 each.

On July 31 the Fire Department was without a lost-time injury for 96 days

PREVENTION—KURTIS BROWN, ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL

Inspections

During July, the Prevention Division and Engine companies conducted a total of 557 inspections. A total of \$16,566.75 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 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 constitute a fire hazard. Many properties are vacant undeveloped lots, but cases can also be started on vacant or occupied homes and commercial properties. In July, the Prevention Division conducted 47 initial and 65 follow-up inspections on Property Maintenance cases. Prevention Division staff also filed 13 Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recovery fees totaling \$3,368.75.



Fire Investigations

During July, members of the Fire Investigation Team investigated 14 Fires. In addition, engine company personnel performed 19 preliminary origin and cause investigations.

Here is a brief synopsis of the significant incidents:

- * 1917 S. Shenendoah (Dwelling): Accidental, \$500,000 loss. 07/26/2014
- * 3521 S. West (Dwelling): Accidental, \$250,000 loss. 07/02/2014
- * 5935 W. Robin (Dwelling): Accidental, \$100,000 loss. 07/05/2014

Public Education

Engine Company Personnel completed approximately 19 tours, visitations, and presentations. The Department provided this service to approximately 755 people in the community. Two community members also participated in the department's ride-a-long program. Additionally, 15 smoke detectors were installed in homes throughout the city.

Site Plan Report

The Fire Department is a member of the Site Plan Review Committee. The committee reviews plans and operational statements for proposed businesses, and future construction projects throughout the community. Lists of comments are provided to applicants from each member of the committee to assist the applicants with their project. In July, Fire Department staff reviewed 19 plans submitted to the committee. Submittals ranged from a Greenway Trail, Parcel Maps, New Warehouse Facility, and a Carport Solar System.

Other Projects

The Fire Department hosted the final two fire camps of the summer, July 8th through the 10th and July 21st through the 23rd. Staff also conducted fire inspections of both the Country Clubs 3rd of July fireworks show and the City's 4th of July fireworks show. Fire Investigators, Fire Prevention staff, and Police officers formed a joint task force to combat illegal fireworks throughout our community. Fire Prevention staff issued \$5,500 in Administrative Citations.



EMS—DUSTIN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE CAPTAIN

There is change on the horizon; during the first week of September, I will be transitioning from my administrative assignment back to shift/operations. Fire Administration is working diligently to ensure minimal disruption to EMS operations, Special Events, and Infectious Control. Although most details are not finalized, we do know that Special Events will be transitioned to Assistant Fire Marshal, Kurtis Brown and Infectious Control will be overseen by City Safety Officer, Angie Zimmermann. Both of these individuals will with no doubt continue to improve both of these programs and ensure minimal disruption to the public and City staff.

A transition plan for EMS operations is currently underway.

EMS

During the last week of the recruit academy, the four new firefighter paramedics were exposed to three days of EMS Training. The information provided to the recruits is to help build a foundation of success as firefighter paramedics for the City. They were provided with the history, the process, and our expectations of them. Of the four new employees, three needed additional training and evaluation to obtain their local CCEMSA paramedic license/certification. These employees should have their permanent paramedic license by the first week in August.

All other CCEMSA EMT renewal certifications were received, copied in the tracking system, and then delivered to all department EMTs.

One of the controlled medications the department uses, Midazolam, was set to expire at the end of July. All expiring medications have been replaced to ensure all supplies are current. During the first week of August, the expired medication will be sent to a third party company who will complete legal destruction in accordance with Federal law.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Now that summer is nearing an end, parents and children are preparing to go back to school, and cooler weather is on the horizon, applications for new events are increasing. Staff continues to work diligently to make sure the public's experience is as pleasant as possible.

Staff continues to finalize the plans for the upcoming Peter Frampton concert that will be held August 29th at the Lincoln Oval Park. This event is part of the Visalia Recue Mission's efforts to revitalize the park. We wish the Visalia Rescue Mission the best of luck with this event.

BATTALION CHIEF SEWELL

Apparatus / Fleet Program

During July, the rigs were sent to the shop nine times for the following repairs;

- E51 had all batteries replaced.
- T51 had the right torque rod on the seconds axle replaced as well as shocks on the second and third axles. A new transmission cooler was installed, a leak in the A/C condensation collection pan was repaired, the FF cab door on the right side was adjusted, the cab tilt lock solenoid was repaired and the aerial intercom has been removed and is being sent in for repairs.
- E251 blew a radiator hose requiring a service call from the shop, a new hose and clamps were installed. On a second trip to the shop the right front brake pod diaphragm was replaced, a major leak in the #4 discharge was repaired and two new scene lights were ordered.
- E53 had a broken leaf spring pack on the right side rear axle, it was replaced and new pins were installed. A chip in the front windshield was repaired by Auto Glass Central.
- ARFF 253 failed to start. The shop sent a service call to the station to replace batteries, once they got there it was discovered the battery tender wasn't working and the alternator wasn't charging the batteries – replacement parts are on order.
- E54 was checked for a low voltage issue, while in the battery cut off switch was about to fail and it was replaced.
- E252 had the A/C serviced, the ignition switch was replaced, the alternator was replaced and a fuel leak was found on the rear of the motor. The head had to be removed to get to the leak to make repairs.
- E52 is currently in Fresno for a transmission rebuild.



Annual pump testing of the fleet has been completed and all paperwork has been returned to the program manager. All rigs passed without issue!

All rigs are current with their 90 day BIT inspections.