

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

Brian Adney,
Training Battalion Chief

Danny Wristen,
Battalion Chief

Darrin Hughes,
Battalion Chief

Jay Manning
Administrative Captain

Kurtis Brown,
Fire Marshal

Angela Zimmermann,
City Safety Officer

Nancy Renovato,
Sr. Admin Analyst



October is the real start of fall and ends with the fun of Halloween. In the fire service, October is known for Fire Prevention Week which focuses on fire safety education. This week was selected because back in 1876 the tragedy known as the “Great Chicago Fire” consumed over seventy percent of all the structures in Chicago with loss of life and property.

Today, we at VFD visit every elementary school in the city and teach fire prevention and safety techniques to all third graders. Our fire crews and the students have the opportunity to interact in a positive way and the life-saving messages and skills taught stay with the child well into adolescence. Fire Prevention week is capped by our Annual Fire Station and Training Center Open House at Station 55 where families and firefighters can have fun in a learning environment while we showcase our skills and training facility. We have opened the event up to other departments, safety, nonprofit and law enforcement agencies to participate in this great program, giving them a venue to provide outreach to our citizens for safety education as well. This year we had over 600 participants and hope to see the numbers grow in the future.

October was a training month for Emergency Management as we participated in the Army Corp of Engineers table top exercise for area flooding from Terminus and Success Dams. In the midst of the drought it is difficult to imagine this scenario, but being well prepared for this type of emergency is always prudent. We also continue to be active participants in the Tulare County Drought Task Force as this ongoing emergency unfolds. We are aware of several private and community wells that have gone dry in the city and are attempting to assist our citizens with getting a reliable water source for the future. We are working with Cal Water to do what we can to mitigate this crisis and aid our community.

We have worked with Community Development and RRM, the engineering firm for Fire Station 53 to get the final design documents complete and ready for bid. We are excited to bid this project in November and get a General Contractor selected as soon as possible so we can begin construction in early 2015.

These are exciting times for VFD and I’m very proud of our personnel for stepping up and meeting all the challenges we face as well as providing exceptional emergency service to our citizens.

Enjoy the cooler weather and until next month take care and be fire safe.

Doug McBee,
Fire Chief

OCTOBER 2014 STATS

Overtime Budget

Each month, the department compiles an overtime report that provides an overview of actual overtime costs versus budgeted overtime. Currently the department has one vacancy, and one longer term sick leave employee. Salary savings, cost recovery and strike team reimbursements help the department offset overtime costs. To date, overtime is under budget by approximate \$42,000.

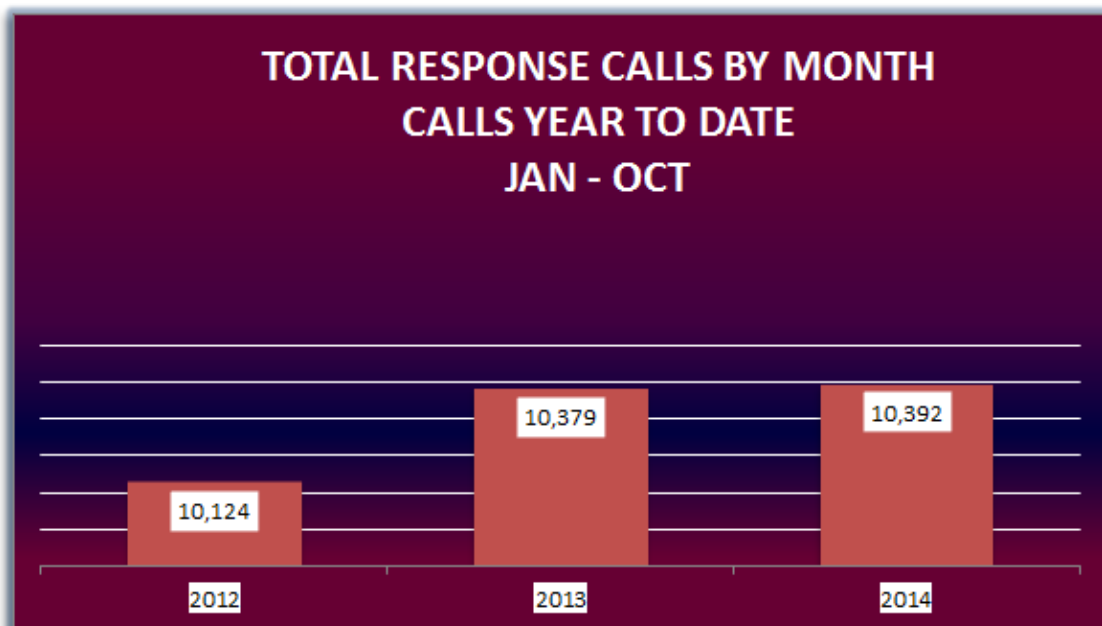
Visalia Fire Department October 2014 Monthly Overtime Report								
Month	# of Pay Periods	Monthly OT Budget Amount	Monthly Actual OT	Adjustments/Reimbursements to OT			Net OT	Budget Variance under(over)
				Anticipated Strike Team/Training	Salary Savings	Total		
July	2	53,423	88,979	(14,279)		(14,279)	74,700	(21,277)
August	3	80,135	147,423	(75,050)		(75,050)	72,373	7,762
September	2	53,423	35,523			0	35,523	17,900
October	2	53,423	21,329	(458)	(5,400)	(5,858)	15,471	37,952
November	2					0	0	0
December	2					0	0	0
January	3					0	0	0
February	2					0	0	0
March	2					0	0	0
April	2					0	0	0
May	2					0	0	0
June	2					0	0	0
YTD Totals	26	\$240,404	\$293,254	(\$89,787)	(\$5,400)	(\$95,187)	\$198,067	\$42,337

Salary savings

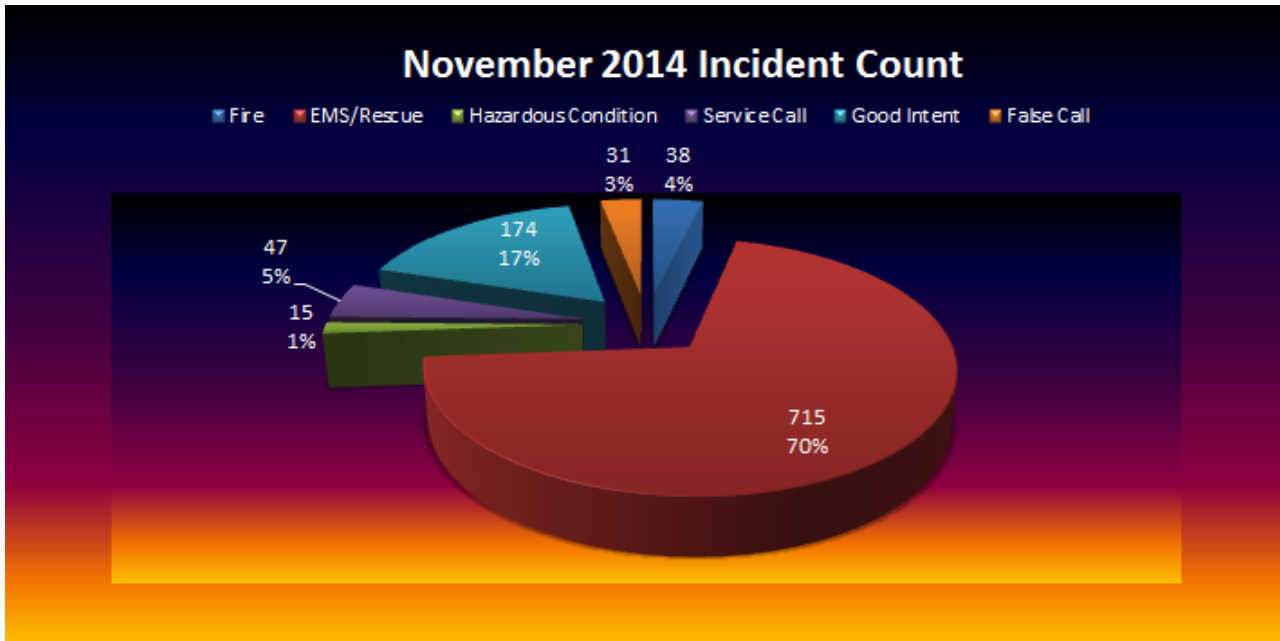
Although vacant positions provide salary savings, vacancies may also increase overtime costs. This is because the department continues to maintain minimum staffing levels to ensure safety, quality and efficient services to the community.

Strike Team

Since May 2014, Strike Teams have been deployed to 14 Fire incidents throughout California. To date, CalOES (California Office of Emergency Services) has reimbursed the City \$14,268 and a total of \$129,343 is still anticipated.

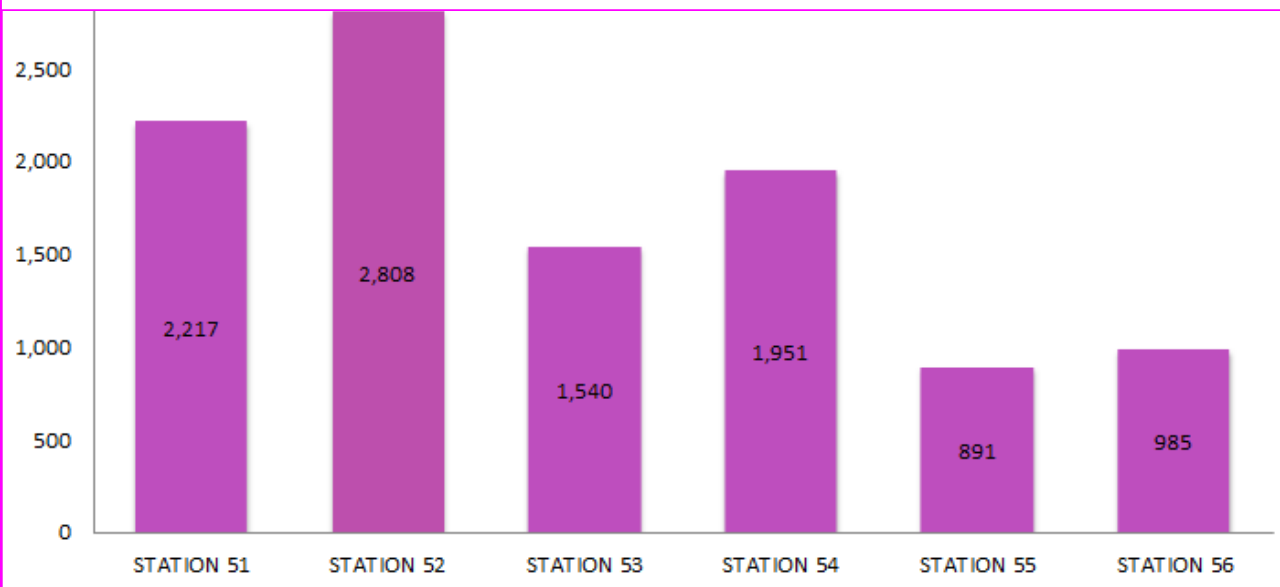


OCTOBER 2014 STATS CONTINUED



Over the last ten months, the department has responded to 10,392 calls for service. Of these, 453 were fire related calls, and 6,851 were medical response calls.

INCIDENT RESPONSE BY STATION JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2014



TRAINING BATTALION CHIEF ADNEY



Training Program

During October, Fire Department personnel completed make-up sessions of Annual Individual Core Testing Evolutions. Crews completed Residential Ventilation Training at the Andrade Property. The Rescue Team conducted bi-monthly training. October City Safety, EMS and Monthly Tailboard Training topics were also completed. Highway Safety Training was conducted for fire department personnel by Battalion Chief Wristen.

Truck 51-A Crew attended a facility orientation and training session at the Visalia Mall with Mall Staff and Maintenance Personnel.

Visalia Fire Department personnel completed a total of 1,424 hours of training in October.

Other Items

- Assisted Tulare County Fire Department with their Battalion Chief Testing Process.
- Dinuba City Fire Department utilized our Hard Suction Hose for a day to complete their annual apparatus pump testing.
- A new code was created in Telestaff for Training Rescue
- One Fire Captain was sent to Fullerton for an S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Behavior) Class.
- “Training in Progress” Barricade Signs were completed for the Fire Department by Public Works.
- IFSTA Books were ordered and received. (Aerial & Pumping Apparatus Diver/Operator)
- 2 Fire Engineers successfully completed their Acting Captain Certification Program.
- 15 Fire Personnel participated in a California Joint Apprenticeship Committee survey.

Training Facility

An updated version of the Training Station User Agreement and Fee Schedule have been placed on both the City’s Internet and Intranet sites for easy access by departments and outside agencies. Any City department or outside agency who would like to use the training facility should print a copy of the agreement and return a completed copy to Battalion Chief Adney.

The new User Agreement and Fee Schedule has been presented to the Tulare/Kings County Training Officers and to the COS Fire Academy Director, two of the agencies who frequently use the training facility. A tentative agreement is underway with the KDMC Doctor Residence Program to provide valuable monthly training to our personnel and outside agencies beginning on a trial basis in January 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPTAIN JAY MANNING

In September 2014, Captain Jay Manning accepted a temporary assignment as Administrative Captain. In this role, Jay is charged with many projects and his expertise in Communications and Information Technology will be very valuable. Jay will be supporting the Fire Chief and the Training Division.

Captain Manning began his fire career at the age of eighteen with the Tulare County Fire Department as a Paid Call Firefighter. He attended the College of the Sequoias Fire Academy in 1998, after realizing he had a love for the job. Captain Manning worked for Cal Fire in Monterey County for two seasons prior to being hired by the City of Visalia as a Firefighter in August of 2000. Captain Manning promoted to Fire Engineer in March of 2006, and promoted to Fire Captain in March of 2009. Jay holds a Bachelor of Science Degree, and is a certified Chief Officer.



Communications

Radio Management

- Mobile Radios—Program lists are being development and updated. Staff will begin testing a new Motorola Mobile in the upcoming weeks that will enable us to move to single program development to assist with easier annual updating.
- Station Radios—Station 56 wiring and speaker project was completed the second week of October and is ready for the office move once we receive word from Cal Fire. MIS staff has completed their switch install and is ready for the cut over as well. Station 55 received new speakers in the bathrooms this month as well as a speaker volume control in the training room for Visalia Fire Radio traffic. The North Annex BC Quarters received a complete sound system with radio upgrade allowing clear communication with dispatch. A new antenna was installed on the roof and speakers throughout the offices, bathroom and living quarters.
- Pager—Pagers are currently up to date and old pagers have been packaged and processed as surplus items.
- Repeaters—Staff is waiting for word on the lease agreement with Cal Fire for the use of their tower as well as space in the communications vault. We have identified a need for digitized communications back to Visalia Dispatch. We have identified a need for digitized communications back to Visalia Dispatch. This site should go online in the next 60 days. Discussions with MIS staff about the need for connectivity with our IT infrastructure from the Holiday Inn Voter site have begun.

ANGIE ZIMMERMANN, CITY SAFETY OFFICER



October was a particularly busy time for infectious control staff (Fire Captains Dustin Hall, Karl Kassner, and I). The continuing presence of the Enterovirus D68, the recent Ebola outbreak in western Africa and the subsequent Ebola cases that developed in the United States prompted numerous questions from City employees about the presence of these viruses and possibility for occupational exposure.

Infectious control staff continues to develop response guides for the city and personnel as it relates to pandemics. The most recent communicable diseases we have had inquiries about are the avian flu, swine flu (H1N1), Enterovirus D68, and Ebola. Staff is continuing to work to ensure that the appropriate measures are implemented; these measures include a variety of measures from hand washing to specialized personal protective equipment. More information will come in future weeks and months.

I continued to work with departments progressing through the requirements of the Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) regulations. In October I provided training to Public Works Water Conservation Plant Collection Division staff member regarding aerosol transmissible diseases and the potential for occupational exposure.

In October, the safety training topic was Hazard Communication and GHS, again meeting Cal/OSHA's requirement that employees be made aware of and trained in the hazards that exist in their workplaces.

I attended a training meeting on electrical safety provided by Southern California Edison. Specific focus was on downed power lines and how to respond safely. I plan to work in concert with Edison to develop a training session on this topic for our employees.

The Safety Committee held its regular monthly meeting on October 10th discussing the standing agenda topics of employee injuries, illnesses, and near misses as well as other ongoing issues. The Committee included discussion on the upcoming annual hearing tests, the recent Employee Benefits Fair, and this year's safety incentive program drawing. Prizes will meet the criteria and the IRS guidelines we received from Finance.

The Safety Committee also decided to hold a contest for next year's safety slogan. Employees were asked to submit entries for the committee's consideration in order to win a prize for the slogan selected. The winner will be announced at the December employee party.

KURTIS BROWN, FIRE MARSHAL—PREVENTION

Inspections

During October, the Prevention Division and Engine companies conducted a total of 447 inspections. A total of \$9,632.25 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 October, the Prevention Division conducted 40 initial and 31 follow-up inspections on Property Maintenance cases. Prevention Division staff also filed 2 Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recover fees totaling \$555.50. Staff also authorized the department's contractor to abate 4 properties.

Fire Investigations

During October, the Fire Investigation Team investigated 7 Fires. In addition, engine company personnel performed 9 preliminary origin and cause investigations.



Here is a brief synopsis of the significant incidents:

- *1028 W. Howard (Dwelling): Suspicious, \$100,000 loss. 10/24/2014
- * Hwy 198 / Shirk (Vehicle): Accidental, \$9,000 loss. 10-08-2014

Public Education

Engine Company Personnel completed approximately 37 tours, visitations, and presentations. The Department provided this service to approximately 4,596 people in the community. Three community members also participated in the department ride-a-long program. Additionally, ten 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 October, Visalia Fire Department staff reviewed 19 plans that had been submitted to the committee. The site plan review submittals ranged from a 13 unit retirement addition fore Quail Park Retirement Village, a weight loss clinic, new playground fencing for First Christian Church, and a new beauty shop.

Special Events

The Fire Marshal is the Chair of the Special Events Committee, with assistance of Senior Office Assistant Stephanie Phipps. Both are responsible for guiding community members through the Special Events application process.

There were five special events discussed at the, October 2nd, Special Events meeting and 17 events that took place in October.

Barrier Awareness Day, Harvest Run, Child Safety Fair, Visalia Fire Department's Open House, Run for Hope, Taste the Arts, 5th Annual Healthy Visalia Festival, Skate Competition, Valley Super Adoption, St. Mary's Our Lady of Fatima, Night of Warship with John McMillian, Dia de los Muertos, Howl-o-ween Pet Costume parade and contest, October Festival, Spooky Sprint, Visalia Band Review, and Fill the Boot.

BATTALION CHIEF SEWELL



Critical Incident Stress Management

On October 21 the CISM Team responded to a mutual aid request from the Dinuba Fire Department for an incident that occurred on October 19. Due to the length of time since the incident and scope of the incident it was determined it fit the requirements for a Debriefing.

Tulare County Mental Health, Tulare Fire department, Visalia Fire Department, and Dinuba Fire Department all responded. A total of seven people conducted the Debriefing for fourteen fire and police personnel. During follow up with the first responders they have reported the experience was positive and very helpful.

Tim Inouye from Tulare County Mental Health; who has been working with the CISM Team, has announced his retirement at the end of the year. His supervisor will be naming a lead contact to replace him as the liaison with our team.

New Cal OES Engine

In May 2012, the City accepted a fire engine from Cal OES in support of the Statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement. Since then the Fire Department has utilized this engine on numerous assignments throughout California. Cal OES will replace the existing engine with a newer, state of the art model. (See Picture)

Crews started preparing OES 261 to be returned to Sacramento for replacement. During the first part of November, Chief Wristen and Engineer Jimenez will complete the transfer of OES 261 for the new rig. The new rig will be out of service until radios, MDT and other equipment can be mounted.

Staff will receiving training in early December, and once training is completed, the new engine will be placed in service.



All rigs are current with their 90 day BIT inspections.

Staff is currently working with personnel from KDMC to develop a partnership for continuing education opportunities by taking advantage of the medical doctor residency program KDMC has in place. More information to come.

Emergency Medical Services

Through this budget CIP process, staff successful justified the need for a new narcotic safe to be placed in all apparatus to secure medial narcotics. The Knox Company, maker of the MedVault and MedVault Mini, has been award the purchase order for 12 MedVault Minis and one MedVault. These new safes have a digital key pad and every paramedic will receive a unique PIN. The safes also come with an audit trail program that will keep track of who opens the safe and it also documents how long the safe was open. This information will help to limit the liability to the paramedic as well as the City.

BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES

Hazardous Materials Response Team

In October, B-shift continued to outfit and organize the Mass Decontamination Trailer. It was discovered that the diesel powered space heater was not operational. It was repaired by a local business and is now fully functional and a monthly maintenance plan is being developed.

Firefighter **Brandon De La Cruz** successfully obtained his Class A driver's license and is now qualified to drive the Hazardous Materials Response Unit. The Hazmat unit is a tractor trailer vehicle and all members of the Hazmat Team are encouraged to obtain a Class A license to maximize the number of qualified drivers ensuring immediate response when dispatched.

Small Engines – Equipment – Tools Program (SEET)

During October, staff continued maintenance and repairs to departmental equipment.

Technical Rescue Team

October Rescue team training concentrated on setting up windlass picket systems and low angle rescue techniques which was instructed by Engineer Franzen.

Captain Fricke is currently researching palm tree rescue procedures and specialty equipment used by the Glendale Fire Department in Arizona after a recent incident in Visalia involving the recovery of a palm tree trimmer who got trapped by a loose palm tree skirt and died due to his injuries. This equipment and training would prepare personnel in the event we have another incident of this type. Training in this area of rescue techniques may be conducted sometime in the spring of 2015.

Rescue members are planning to purchase some hardware and additional harnesses to our current complement on the rescue trailer. The current harnesses we have meet NFPA 1983 Standards, however due to the two-piece break apart configuration; they do not meet American National Standards Institute fall protection standards. The four new harnesses will meet both NFPA and ANSI Standards.

Quartermaster Program

In October the Quartermaster crew ordered, received, and issued new personal protective equipment and uniform pieces to fire personnel.

Other Items

- Attended Command Staff meeting
- Attended Fixed Asset Overview meeting
- Attended Fire Prevention Open House
- Attend Airport transition meeting with Airport Manager
- Conducted Captains meeting
- Attended Rescue team training



BATTALION CHIEF WRISTEN



C-Shift Operations

During October, C-Shift responded to 331 calls for service and completed 389 hours of training. Significant incidents during the month included one residential structure fire and the recovery of a tree trimmer trapped in a palm tree. The annual Fire Prevention Week Open House occurred on a C-Shift day, and two companies assisted with the event.

Chief Wristen continued to transition the Training Program to Chief Adney and continued with the management of the VECC and CAD Replacement Projects. Chief Wristen attended the Tulare-Kings Fire Training Officers meeting on October 23rd.

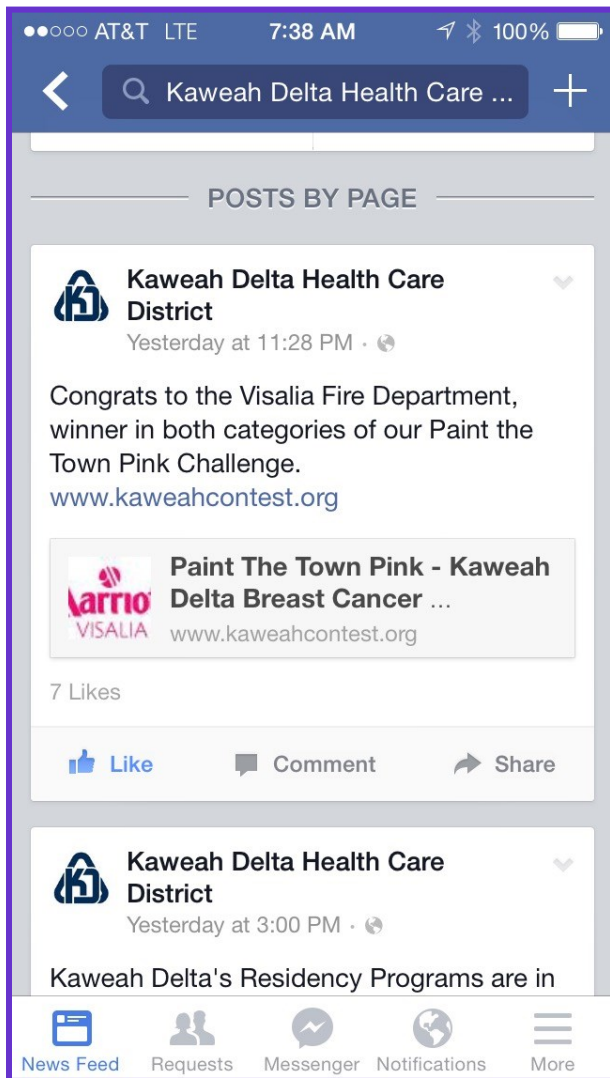
Emergency Preparedness Program

During the month, staff began to prepare for winter storm season. Public Works crews prepped the storm drain system and waterways, and ensured sand bags and sand supplies are adequate. The first storm of the year arrived the evening of October 31st and dropped over an inch of rain. The storm drain system was able to handle the water with no issues. We continued to monitor the Ebola situation and are working to ensure that our organization is prepared.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Visalia Firefighters swapped their blue T-shirts for pink ones during the month of October in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as part of the Kaweah Delta Hospital “Paint the Town Pink” campaign. This marks the fourth year Visalia Firefighters have worn pink T-shirts through the month of October.

Firefighters sold T-shirts at \$10 each and raised a total of \$1080 with all profits going to the Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation Lost Girls Fund.



OPEN HOUSE 2014





FROM THE COMMUNITY



City Manager 559/591-5904	City Attorney 559/437-1770	Administrative Services 559/591-5909
Development & Engineering Services 559/591-5906	Dinuba Vocational Center 559/596-2170	Fire / Ambulance Services 559/591-5931
Community Services 559/591-5948	Police Services 559/591-5914	Public Works Services 559/591-5924

FIRE / AMBULANCE SERVICE

October 22, 2014

Engineer/ Paramedic Tony Colbert
 City of Visalia Fire Department
 707 West Acequia Ave.
 Visalia, CA 93291

Dear Engineer Colbert,

I would like to express my gratitude to you for facilitating the recent critical incident debriefing for the City of Dinuba Fire and Police Departments. You and the team's professionalism and compassion are playing a vital role in the healing process for our personnel. I deeply appreciate you taking the time out of your schedule to provide this service to the firefighters and police personnel in their time of need. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you need our assistance in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Thompson", with a long, sweeping underline.

Chad Thompson
 Fire Chief
 City of Dinuba Fire Department

CT
 Cc: Chief Mcbee; Visalia Fire Department