

VISALIA FIRE MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2015



August was a very busy month for the fire department. Firefighters were deployed to three fires during the month, the Willow, Anza, and Rough Fires. Over 138,000 acres have burned from the Rough Fire in the Sierra National Forrest, making it the largest active fire burning in California. Three Visalia Strike Team Leaders, one structure engine with four personnel and the OES engine with three personnel are currently deployed to this fire. Our thoughts and prayers are with the firefighters who continue to assist with containment efforts, and wish for all a safe return home.

As part of the Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC) Project, the City Council authorized a contract with Spillman Technologies for a Computer Aided Dispatch, Mobile Computing, Automated Field Reporting, and Records Management System. The Council also authorized a contract with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of radio consoles, the supporting infrastructure, including a tower and shelter. The VECC continues to move forward with the groundbreaking anticipated in early 2016.

National Night Out was celebrated on August 4th. The event is coordinated by Visalia Police but other departments, such as Code Enforcement and the Fire Department are also part of this highly successful event. This year, our engine crews, Battalion Chief Sewell and I participated and visited five sites. We are proud to support our law enforcement brothers and neighborhoods that actively participate in neighborhood watch.

The Visalia Fire Department also serves as a member of the Tulare County Operational Area Drought Task Force. The Task Force meets once a month to discuss the impacts on agencies throughout the County and how to best serve our neighborhoods that are out of water throughout the county. Visalia is fortunate to have few areas that are without water at this time.

The department has started the recruitment process to hire two new firefighters to fill vacancies we presently have. Written testing and interviews will be held during August and September with final selection in mid-month September. It is anticipated the fire academy will begin in early November.

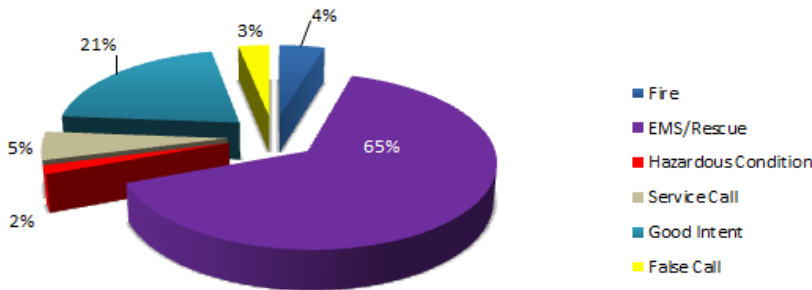
Fire Station 53 continues to become a reality with drywall and stuccoing set to begin in September. The station is still on schedule and budget as we move forward.

Until next month please stay safe and take care.

Doug McBee, Fire Chief

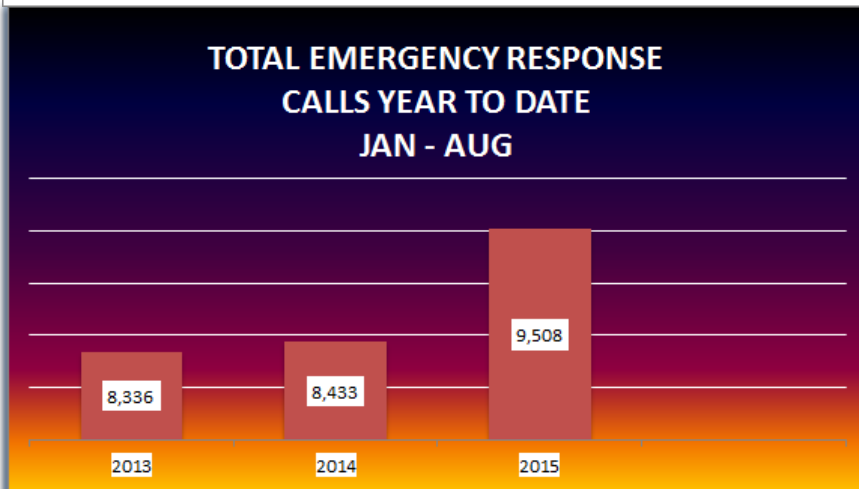
AUGUST MONTHLY REPORT

August 2015 Incident Count



During the month of August, the Visalia Fire Department responded to 1,096 calls for service. Of these calls, 709 were for medical service. This calendar year so far, the department has responded to 9,508 calls for service. That's approximately 1,100 more calls than in 2014 during the same time period.

TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CALLS YEAR TO DATE JAN - AUG



Over the last two months, Strike Team Fire Staff has responded to five wild land fires so far this year. The Rough Fire continues to burn and the department currently has several employees deployed and assisting with this fire. At this time, the department anticipates over \$100,000 in reimbursements from the state for staff time.

Visalia Fire Department
August 2015 Monthly Overtime Report
 (All \$ Amounts in Thousands)

Month	# of Pay Periods	Monthly OT Budget Amount	Monthly Actual OT	Adjustments/Reimbursements to OT			Net OT	Budget Variance under(over)
				Strike Team	Other*	Total		
July	3	80,135	73,246	(7,000)		(7,000)	66,246	13,889
August	2	53,423	179,810	(111,000)		(111,000)	68,810	(15,387)
September	2					0	0	0
October	2					0	0	0
November	2					0	0	0
December	2					0	0	0
January	2					0	0	0
February	2					0	0	0
March	3					0	0	0
April	2					0	0	0
May	2					0	0	0
June	2					0	0	0
YTD Totals	26	\$133,558	\$253,056	(\$118,000)	\$0	(\$118,000)	\$135,056	(\$1,498)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The department's newest firefighter paramedics are nearing the end of their probation. Their EMS skills, knowledge, and capabilities are where the need should be and no issues are anticipated prior to the end of probation.

During the month, there were several incidents in which firefighter paramedics were instrumental in treating individuals suffering from cardiac/respiratory arrest. Through training, procedures and proper use of protocols and equipment, fire department staff made the difference between life and death.

Department Designated Infectious Control Officers completed the final preparations for the upcoming class that will start the last day of August and end September 2nd. The class will provide a basic understanding of infection control, infectious materials/diseases, Federal, State, and local regulations and standards pertaining to infection control. Currently, there are 27 people registered.

TRAINING

August training focused on trauma assessment of adult and pediatric patients, as well as, needle thoracostomy, managing cardiac arrest in traumatic situations, and how and when to discontinue resuscitative efforts. The CQI committee continues to do a great job in updating and refining the department's EMS training.

CQI

Continuous Quality Improvement members met in August and discussed several items, including updating of the 3rd trimester EMS probation test and drafting a "how to" guide on the proper and expanded use of the department ePCR system.

EQUIPMENT

- The department ordered and received 11 new AEDs. The AEDs have been prepped and are ready for department staff to be trained on. The new AEDs will be placed on the following units: reserve apparatuses, command staff vehicles, and the OES engine. The department's CQI Committee will be assisting with the training.
- Department staff has prepared what we are calling the "CDC bag". In this bag are Tyvek suits, P100 masks, and gloves that will be used in circumstances where there is a perceived serious communicable disease issue. The department's CQI Committee will be assisting in this training.

Staff will be evaluating new equipment related to updating the needleless system to decrease the opportunity of injury.

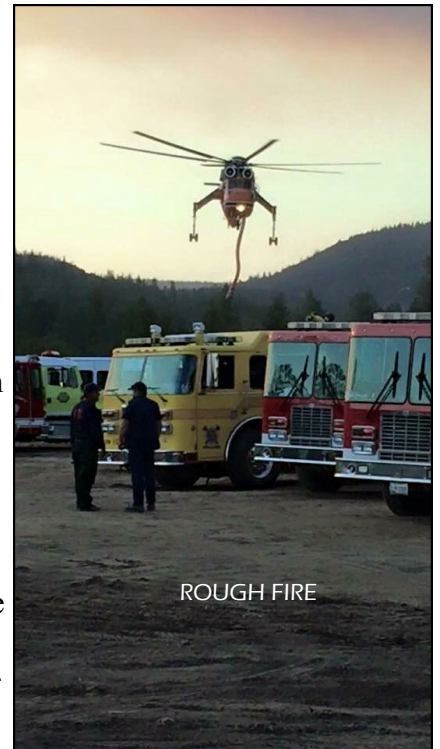
OPERATIONS

Wildland – Strike Team

During August, the Visalia Fire Department had a busy month with Strike Team deployments. Ten fire department employees responded to the Willow Fire near Bass Lake. The Willow Fire threatened several mountain communities and burned almost 6,000 acres over ten days. The Visalia Fire Department assisted with two engine companies, one Strike Team Leader, and two Strike Team Leader Trainees. On August 17th, Visalia Firefighters were deployed to the Rough Fire in Fresno County and assisted with two engine companies, and two Strike Team Leader Trainees. The Rough Fire started on July 31st from a lightning strike, threatened the Hume Lake area, and has burned over 70,000 acres. On August 30th, an additional Strike Team Leader Trainee was sent to assist with the incident.

Hazardous Materials Program

In August, the Hazmat Team welcomed the California Highway Patrol to Fire Station 55. The CHP was training some of their officers to the hazmat first responder operational level and as part of their training; they came to the hazmat station. They were given a tour of the facility and they were also shown the hazmat response vehicle



ROUGH FIRE

and all of its equipment. The purpose of the training was to educate the officers in the resources available to them and the response capabilities of the Visalia Hazardous Materials Response Team.



ST JOHNS RIVER

Training Facility

The Visalia Fire Department conducted a Highway Safety Training class and hosted an Emergency Vehicle Operations Train-the-Trainer class to recertify some of its personnel.

Multiple agencies participated in the class. Tulare County Probation utilized the training grounds for monthly training. Visalia Fire Department hosted a Designated Infectious Control Officer class. The class was attended by fire department personnel and personnel from multiple surrounding agencies. VPD Staff utilized the training facility for room search operation. A Fire Safety and Workshop program was conducted at the training facility and sponsored by the Visalia Fire Department. MIS utilized the Training Classroom for training.

Training Program

Visalia Fire personnel completed 1,330 total hours of training for the month of August.

Congratulations to **Firefighter Paramedic Jeremy Church** who successfully completed the Acting Engineer Certification process.

PREVENTION

Inspections

The Prevention Division and Engine Companies conducted a total of 446 inspections. A total of \$11,585 in Operational Permit fees was 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. During August, the Prevention Division conducted 38 initial and 34 follow-up inspections on property maintenance cases. Prevention Division staff also filed seven Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recovery fees totaling \$1,846. Staff authorized the department's contractor to abate three properties.

Fire Investigations

Members of the Fire Investigation Team investigated ten Fires and performed nine preliminary origin and cause investigations.

Public Education

Engine Company personnel completed approximately 20 tours, visitations, and presentations. The department provided this service to approximately 532 people in the community. Four community members participated in the department's ride-a-long program. The department also installed 12 smoke detectors 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 the community. Lists of comments are provided to applicants from each member of the committee to assist the applicants with their project. In August, Fire staff reviewed 19 plans submitted to the committee.

Special Events

Two Special Events took place during August, the Pioneer Pride March, and the Farmers Film.

COMMUNICATIONS

During August, the City Council approved the following:

1. A contract with Motorola Solutions for the acquisition of Dispatch Radio Consoles, supporting radio infrastructure, including a communications tower and equipment shelter.
2. A contract with Spillman Technologies for the acquisition of a Computer-Aided Dispatch, Mobile Computing, Automated Field Reporting, and Records Management System.
3. Awarded software and hardware purchases for the Computer Aided-Dispatch / Records Management and City Server Replacement projects to X-10 and AMS.net.

Air Trailer

A purchase order was processed to repair the Air Trailer until we have the available funding to replace the unit. In August, Bauer Compressor staff will be onsite to replace the fill station with a mechanical fill station and remove one of the large H tanks under the compressor. This will allow the placards to be removed and the trailer pulled to incidents. By replacing the fill station a new electronic control board was ordered and will be mounted in the rear above the fill station. Bauer Compressors will be conducting the repair on Sept. 15th.

Fire Reporting Management System (RMS)

In late September MIS staff and EF Recovery will roll out the New 5.0 upgrade for FireRMS on all fire department computers.

FROM BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES

Fire Personnel:

Nancy Bennett called this morning and wanted to say thank you and commend the Engine 56A crew of Bob Richardson, Tommy Jimenez, and Geoff Randall who helped her husband, Dan Bennett, last Monday morning at Barnes Welding at approximately 8 a.m. The call came in as an unconscious male inside of the business and upon arrival Mr. Bennett was in a full cardiac arrest and due to the life saving measures of the crew he was resuscitated and is now at home recovering from a few broken ribs, but is expected to make a full recovery. This is just another example of the great service that everyone in our department provides on a daily basis. Keep up the good work out there.

FROM THE SAFETY OFFICER

Facility safety inspections continued in August with inspections including City Hall East, all fire stations, fire houses, the Truli building, and the City Health and Wellness Clinic. Since the facility safety inspection program was initiated several years ago fewer and fewer safety “violations” are found resulting in safer workplaces for us all. Inspections will continue through the fall and winter.

Another inspection program was begun in response to a request by the City Manager. After reports of an uncovered well opening, Mike Olmos requested that I inspect each well that the City owns to determine its condition. To date I have inspected 33 City wells and believe that other than 18 two-inch monitoring wells that surround the Water Conservation Plant, I have looked at all that we are aware of. Overall the wells looked safe with few requiring any recommended action.

The Safety Committee meeting was held August 12, and included the usual business of discussing injuries and illnesses experienced by staff members. The upcoming October Safety Month drawings were discussed and prizes are being collected for that drawing.

The drawing for the monthly movie tickets contest was held – all employees who completed the July safety training were eligible to win the drawing which was won by Melissa Tracy.

August was a busy month for vehicle accidents and property damage reports. In all about 8 vehicle accidents or property damage incidents were investigated. It should be noted that not all of these incidents were the fault of City employees.

Infection control staff, Captains Dustin Hall, Karl Kassner, and I prepared for a Designated Infection Control Officer training class that we provide to other agencies. The Class began on August 31 and included about 25 attendees from emergency response agencies all around California.

More routine safety division activities included ergonomic evaluations, regulation interpretation, and meetings with department heads and safety representatives about safety program requirements.

The training topic for August was the Eye Safety.

As of August 31, the Fire Department was without a lost-time injury for 17 days.

In Memory Of

FIRE CHAPLAIN STEVE HARMS



Pastor Steve Harms began volunteering as a Fire Chaplain for the Visalia Fire Department in August 2011. He was very proud and honored to wear a Fire Department uniform and badge. Steve enjoyed dropping by the fire stations just to check in on the crews. He enjoyed having dinner with the crews and just talking with them. When a member of the community experienced a loss, our firefighters would call upon Steve to visit the family and offer comfort; likewise, when firefighters responded to a difficult call, Steve was always there providing words of comfort and encouragement. Steve was loved by all who knew him; this is a devastating loss for the Fire Department. Steve will be greatly missed but never forgotten. With all of our love, rest in peace Pastor Harms.

