

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

APRIL 2017 MONTHLY REPORT



April was an incredibly busy month with numerous activities especially the Grand Opening of Miki Park and Earth Day on April 22nd and hosting the delegation from Miki, Japan who came to Visalia for all the festivities. They toured our Fire Training Center and examined our apparatus and equipment. All seemed to enjoy the experience.

The month started off with the Sequoia Classic Bike race on April 2nd in downtown Visalia followed by Measure N going to Council for the first reading of the ordinance to adopt Measure N on April 3rd. The second reading of the ordinance was held on April 17th and passed. We will be ordering our new aerial apparatus from Pierce later this month; the first purchase of our Measure N equipment.

Our two new recruit firefighter's, Mathew Rush and Anthony Gutierrez were hired and began the academy on April 3rd. We are excited to get them on board after they complete an in house eight-week fire academy. They will be a welcome addition to our operations staff, filling vacancies created by previous retirements.

This month we also hosted a major fire prevention activity with the American Red Cross installing smoke detectors in homes in north Visalia. On April 8th, 69 volunteers installed 655 smoke detectors in 218 homes that didn't have them previously. The event was a great success. Thanks to all the fire department and Red Cross personnel along with all the volunteers from the community who participated in the event.

Fire Prevention Division also took a new fireworks ordinance to City Council and after the two required readings passed the ordinance unanimously. This will make enforcement of illegal fireworks and the associated fines consistent from today forward. This should be a major deterrent to those who break the law and purchase or use illegal fireworks in our community.

April was the month selected for the spring "Chat with the Chief" meetings held for all shifts and stations. I truly enjoy getting out and talking with our fire personnel in the station environment to discuss our department, operations and the direction the City is going on major topics that are important to all.

Lastly, I had the privilege of teaching an evening session on developing leadership goals and gave a tour of our Station 55 Training Complex to Leadership Visalia. Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes provided the participants a tour of the training building and props. The students seemed to really enjoy the tour. I would like to thank him for his assistance in this worthwhile program.

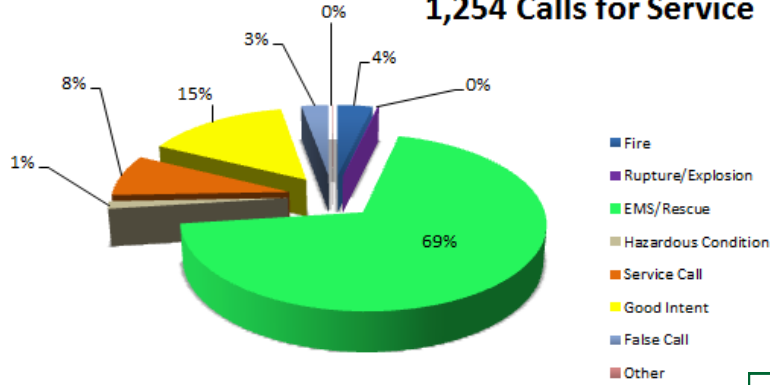
Summer and the associated heat are soon to be with us so stay hydrated and be safe.

Doug McBee,

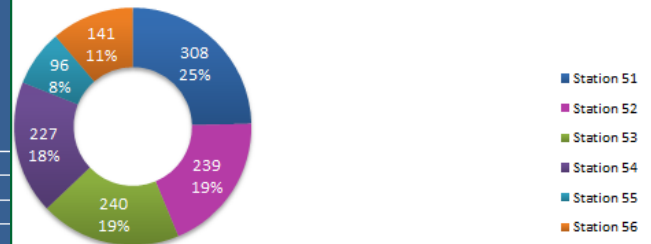
Fire Chief

APRIL

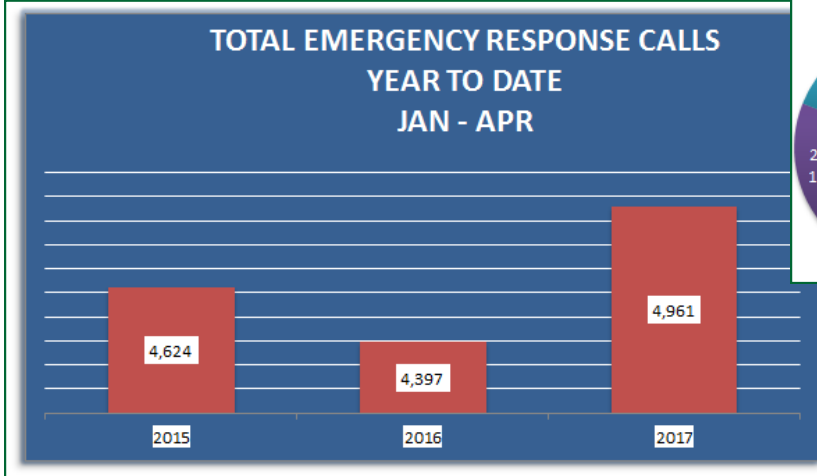
**April 2017 Incident Count
1,254 Calls for Service**



**Number of Incidents by Station
Calls for Service
APRIL 2017**



**TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CALLS
YEAR TO DATE
JAN - APR**



Visalia Fire Department
April 2017 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	Salary Savings	Total		
July	3	79,788	161,589	(61,510)	(10,640)	(72,150)	89,439	(9,651)
August	2	53,192	199,954	(119,000)	(10,853)	(129,853)	70,101	(16,909)
September	2	53,192	198,032	(126,000)	(10,853)	(136,853)	61,179	(7,987)
October	2	53,192	89,751	(17,688)	(11,553)	(29,241)	60,510	(7,318)
November	2	53,192	113,842	(11,414)	(16,426)	(27,840)	86,002	(32,810)
December	3	79,788	155,320		(20,521)	(20,521)	134,799	(55,011)
January	2	53,192	78,194		(10,853)	(10,853)	67,341	(14,149)
February	2	53,192	59,792		(10,853)	(10,853)	48,939	4,253
March	2	53,192	64,882		(10,853)	(10,853)	54,029	(837)
April	2	53,192	61,843		(5,427)	(5,427)	56,416	(3,224)
May	2					0	0	0
June	3					0	0	0
YTD Totals	27	\$585,112	\$1,183,199	(\$335,612)	(\$118,832)	(\$454,444)	\$728,755	(\$143,643)

FROM THE DESK OF DANNY WRISTEN

A SHIFT BATTALION CHIEF

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

During the month of April, we began the fit-test process for all suppression employees. Fit-testing is required by OSHA for all employees who wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). We maintain a fit-testing machine and have employees trained in conducting the annual fit-testing. This saves a substantial amount of money each year being able to conduct this process ourselves. In addition, we set up the annual service of the air trailer with Bauer Compressor. We also conducted the required hydrostatic testing of five SCBA cylinders and updated two quotes for the annual bench testing process.

Emergency Preparedness

This month we continued to work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan with Tulare County and all the other cities in the Operational Area. In addition, we attended two planning meetings with Kaweah Delta Medical Center to assist them with the planning process for an upcoming disaster drill at their facilities.

Apparatus

In April there were 6 rigs sent to the shop for repairs. Notable repairs are as follows;

- E54 had a new Kussmaul charger installed, plumbing for the foam system was repaired, the intake relief valve was rebuilt and a leaking fuel line was repaired.
- T251 had the 25 hour inspection/maintenance completed, and two items from the annual ladder testing were addressed. The driver's door latch was repaired and the A/c was serviced.
- E251 had the Kussmaul eject plug replaced, a new foot pedal for the siren was installed on the captain's side, both cross-lay valves were rebuilt and the brakes were inspected.
- T51 was sent to Sacramento to have the Tak 4 suspension mounts welded. After it returned a wiring short to the tip of the ladder was repaired and a proximity switch for the ladder cradle was replaced.
- OES 375 was repaired on two different occasions. Once for a water leak at the engine cooler and the other to have all batteries replaced.

Work continued on specs for a new engine and aerial. Next month the plans will be finalized for the engine and the build will start at the factory. Delivery for the engine is October/November this year. The City Council approved the purchase of the new quint aerial ladder truck on April 17th. Due to an influx of orders at Pierce the estimated delivery of the aerial is mid-year next year, possibly June/July. All rigs are current with their 90 day DOT inspections.

Maps / Ladders / Foam / Station and Office Supplies

During the month of April, we updated the gate code list for all gated subdivisions and businesses in the City. This process allows for quick access for all first responders during emergency response. Office and station supplies were ordered and distributed to all fire stations. We also worked on establishing a new contract for ground ladder and aerial ladder testing. A purchase requisition was processed and turned into finance for approval.

Annual Wildland Refresher Training

During the month of April, we conducted the annual wildland fire refresher training for the department personnel. This training is required by the California Incident Command and Certification System and prepares our personnel for the special hazards associated with wildland firefighting. We reviewed structure defense, fire behavior, entrapment avoidance and conducted manipulative exercises.



FROM THE DESK OF DARRIN HUGHES

B SHIFT BATTALION CHIEF



Small Engines Equipment Tools Program (SEET)

During the month of April the SEET program was busy with continued maintenance and repair of equipment. Notable items include:

- Repaired the Circle-D light on Engine 56
- Streamlight battery replaced on Engine 53 box light
- New SL 20 battery placed in Engine 52's flashlight
- Damaged bar was replaced on Engine 54's chainsaw
- Pull cord replaced on Engine 54's chainsaw

In addition, all arrangements were finalized with the TNT service technician. He will be here May 4-5 to service all of our TNT equipment. Engine 52 purchased supplies needed to service all of the small engines. To date we have completed the following units: 423, 426, 428, 429, 432, 435, 438, 439, and OES 375. The plan is to complete the remaining units in the beginning of May.

Quartermaster Program

The quartermaster program in April logged and distributed uniforms and personal protective equipment. Captain Cromer made contact with vendors LN & Curtis, Cascade, Lords Uniforms, and ECMS regarding orders, invoices, and deliveries. Financial work was completed for payment of invoices in order to update the current budget balance prior to the end of this year's budget cycle.

Hazardous Materials Program

A representative from Industrial Scientific stopped by Station 55. He checked our equipment and covered maintenance issues. He stated that we currently need to replace the two calibration gas regulators for ammonia and chlorine. The corrosive gases break down the rubber regulator diaphragms in about five years. Ours' are five and seven years old. He also stated that we should be replacing our LEL sensors sooner than is currently being done due to progressive loss of sensitivity. That means we currently need two LEL sensors and two oxygen sensors. Preparation for FRO Decontamination training on May 1 was done toward the end of April.

Facilities Program

Service Requests- Submitted

Station 51—Men's bathroom sink not draining properly.

Station 51- Men's bathroom sink not draining properly.

Station 54- Gate not functioning properly, refrigerator ice machine not working.

Station 55- Training room water spigot needs repair, oven not working, refrigerator ice maker not working.

Station 56- Refrigerator needs new filter.

FROM THE DESK OF BRIAN ADNEY

C SHIFT BATTALION CHIEF

Pre-Plans

During the month of April, there were no assigned pre-plans submitted. Updated address changes in the data index are in the process to submit to dispatch to improve efficiency.

Accountability

The accountability program is running smoothly with no issues and is under budget. We made one order this month for name tags for the new hires which will be assigned when the order is received.



Strike Team

Crews reviewed Strike Team Equipment Changes. We are finalizing the inventory list and the pre-departure instructions and will move all the equipment back to station 51 for storage. We will re-evaluate any needs after the first deployment and make any necessary changes.

Hose and Appliances

Discussed future equipment needs with LN Curtis. All paperwork from hose testing was completed and evaluated.



FROM THE DESK OF DEREK FRICKE

TRAINING FIRE CAPTAIN

Training Report

April saw the beginnings of some new history at Visalia Fire Department. It started with the addition of a Recruit Academy on April 3rd. And for me it was the first time being a full time Training Captain also being a full time academy coordinator, evaluator, curriculum reviewer and shot caller.....but it's been fun. I still love coming to work every day. And hopefully we've added two new Firefighter Paramedics who will call Visalia Fire their home for the next 30 or so years. Exciting stuff.

And training didn't slow down for the crews in April despite the Recruit Academy. Visalia Line personnel reported over 1200 hours for the month of April Training and included RT130 and EMS. What really caught my attention this month was the number of hours reported as offsite training. Over 220 hours of offsite training was reported. Again, for me this attests to the professionalism that you all positively reinforce both within our department and to the public as you contact people on the street. I am very proud to be a part of this department.

Several members of our department had the opportunity to participate in the Fire Control 3A class offered in Kings County on the 22nd and 23rd. It was a positive experience for me and I believe that it was a positive experience for those folks. There will be more opportunities in the future as the High Speed Rail is being planned and additional homes will need to be removed in the future. If you would like to attend one of the trainings please let me know. I can then let you know what is needed, and what the parameters of attendance will be. Please be aware that some of these trainings are put on the fast track in order to accommodate the SJVAPCD requirements so notifications can be short at times. Please understand that it is a different training venue that depends greatly on the air quality and government regulations. It is not the training cadre's issue but rather an APCD issue.

I've received plenty of help this month and I want to say "Thank You" to all those involved. The academy is on the back side of the hump at this point. I want to share my gratitude for the help I've received. Special thanks to Captain Ramirez, FRO WMD. Captain Goforth, FRO Decon, Captain Macumber and crew for hose, auto extrication, ladders and ventilation. Captain Manning and crew for aerial ops and auto extrication. Captain Wilkinson for fire streams, EMS and Paramedic Orientation. Captain Malek for EMS and Paramedic Orientation. Captain Henry and crew for assisting with master streams, search and RIC Bag deployment. And finally, I would like to thanks Firefighter Gant, Firefighter Okland and Firefighter Hetzler for planning and coordinating the PT that's making these two new recruits tough as irons. And I apologize because I'm sure I'm missing a name or two. You've all been a blessing to me these last 5 weeks. Remember.....

"Don't train till you get it right. Train until you can't get it wrong!"

(Drew Smith, Deputy Chief, Prospect Heights FPD)



TRAINING



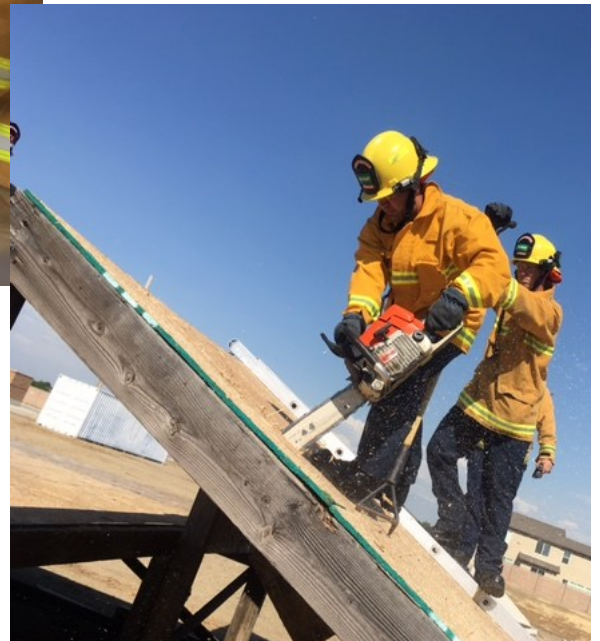
ROPE TRAINING



VENT TRAINING



AUTO EXTRICATION



FROM THE DESK OF KURTIS BROWN

FIRE MARSHAL



Inspections

During April, the Prevention Division and engine companies conducted a total of 205 inspections. A total of \$8,768 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. In April, the Prevention Division conducted 58 initial and 24 follow-up inspections on property maintenance cases. Prevention Staff also filed three Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recovery fees totaling \$733. Staff also authorized the

department's contractor to abate seven properties.

Fire Investigations

During April, members of the Fire Investigation Team investigated 3 Fires. Additionally, company personnel performed nine preliminary origin and cause investigations.

Public Education

Engine company personnel completed 20 tours, visitations, and presentations. The department provided this service to approximately 6000 people in the community. One community member participated in the department's ride-a-long program. Also, 66 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. In April, Fire Staff reviewed 21 plans submitted to the committee.

Special Events

Fourteen Special Events took place during April:

Back the Badge

Ribbons for Child Abuse Awareness

Rockin Run for Hope

Budweiser Sequoia Cycling Classic

Parenting Network

SPCA Flea Market

Blues, Brews & BBQ's

Renaissance Fair

Tax Rally

Wine Walk

Earth Day

PAL Easter Egg Hunt

COV Mother & Son Campout

COV Día de los Niño's

AMERICAN RED CROSS HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN



Saturday, April 8th the Visalia Fire Department joined forces with American Red Cross to provide a valuable home fire safety education program. The campaign was an all-day event, located in the neighborhoods surrounding Fire Station 54. The campaign focused on home fire safety and also offered smoke alarm installation for homes that needed smoke alarms or were lacking in proper coverage of alarms. The campaign was a success with 69 volunteers that came together to canvas over 1,000 homes. We were able to educate over 921 people on home fire safety, visited over 209 homes and together we installed 638 smoke alarms.

The Visalia Fire Department's Fire Engine 54C crew, Mike Cromer, Brandon De La Cruz and Luke MacAlpine and Fire Engine 55C crew, Karl Kassner, Brett Philpott, Jose Madrigal participated in the campaign installing over 83 smoke alarms. Fire Chief Doug McBee, Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes, Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown and Fire Inspector Maribel Vasquez also took part in the home fire safety campaign.



FROM THE DESK OF DUSTIN HALL

SUPPORT SERVICES BATTALION CHIEF



ADMINISTRATION

Station 53- Repairs to the trench drain behind the fire station were cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Staff is expecting work to begin after the first of May and take approximately two weeks to complete.

Dispatch- Over the last several months, I have had the opportunity to work closely with not only dispatchers, but I have been afforded the privilege to work with our partners in the management of dispatch. I was invited to participate on the interview panel for new dispatchers with Police Captain Phillips, Support Services Manager Veronica McDermott, and Communication Manger Darlene Friend. It was a great experience and I look forward to partake again as this provides a voice to fire personnel and a broader perspective of what our dispatchers have to be able to handle.

In some jurisdictions, a dispatcher may be a single disciplined dispatcher and only dispatch fire, police/law enforcement, or EMS resources. Here in Visalia, dispatchers provide service to fire and police resources and are required to be knowledgeable in both skills. Every dispatcher should be proud of the service they provide.

Staff continued to work on processes designed to improve fire department responses to incidents. All those involved are working towards the same goal to keep personnel who are responding safe and informed of any changes with the incident. This will be an on-going topic that is being well received within our partners in the Emergency Dispatch Center.

INFECTION CONTROL

Staff continued to work on preparations for June's DICO class. Current registration anticipates 20 participants.

EMS

April's training focused on EMS skills; A and C shifts completed the training successfully. B shift personnel will complete the training during May.

The co-hosted training with KDMC continues to grow, KDMC has added additional resident doctors on staff that will be participating in the training as well as completed their required ride along time in the prehospital setting. This has been a good venture between the fire department and KDMC.

Ten personnel successfully completed an ACLS class in April. The next class is not scheduled until after the first of the year, 2018.

CQI Committee- A continuous quality improvement (CQI) meeting was conducted in April to finalize the response study that is being conducted. In all, a total of 26 fire departments across the state responded back to a survey on how they respective respond to medical aid type incidents. It is expected that a final report will be completed by June 1, 2017.

CAD/RMS Committee - Staff met with a representative of Spillman in late March and worked with him through the month of April. I am happy to report that the biggest issue that was plaguing the fire department has been resolved.

SUPPORT SERVICES BATTALION CHIEF

EMS Equipment - Continued repair/replacement continued in April. Staff continues to evaluate all EMS equipment to ensure that it is still safe to use, dependable, and in a state of readiness when the time arises where it is needed. The Department continues to work with its vendors to ensure the highest quality of equipment at the best price.

Bio Hazard - The Department Staff continues to work on the internal process and guidelines of collecting and properly disposing of bio-hazard waste that is created in the course of providing care to the public. Staff was able to get all of the bio hazard waste properly disposed of.

COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY

The month of April brought good progress related to the new communications tower and associated equipment at the new communications center. The new tower is up! Progress continues to move quickly and the excitement continues to grow for the fire department and dispatch's new home.

Radios- Staff received the new radio equipment for the new apparatus. It will be programmed and then sent to Peirce where it will be installed. Staff has received a new dual-band Motorola radio and will begin testing for operability.

Fire COM- Several headsets were repaired in house at a cost savings to the Department.

Fire Pagers- Staff is currently reviewing different pagers and styles of pagers as there has been an increase in failures with our current pager. More to come....



CHIEF MCBEE

MILESTONE

40 YEARS IN THE FIRE SERVICE