

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

2011



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VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to protecting all through excellent service

CORE VALUES

- ◆ *INTEGRITY*
- ◆ *PROFESSIONALISM*
- ◆ *HONESTY*
- ◆ *RESPECT*
- ◆ *DIVERSITY*
- ◆ *RESPONSIBILITY*
- ◆ *VALOR*

VISION STATEMENT:

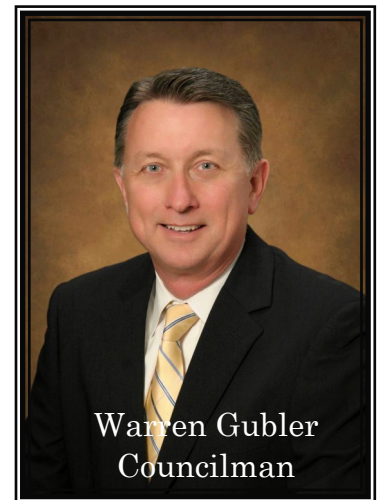
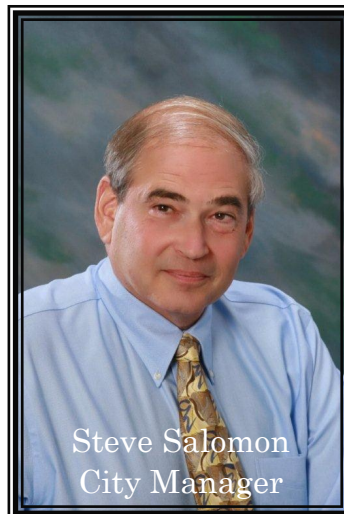
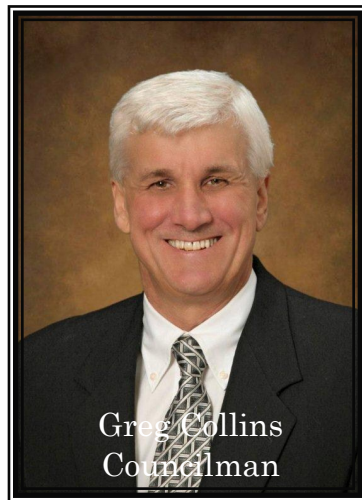
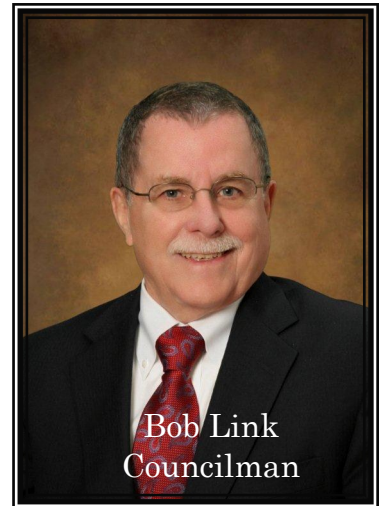
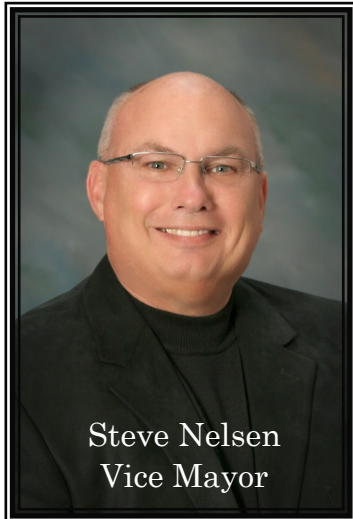
*We will carry on the pride of our profession
By providing excellent service through:*

- Innovation*
- Progressive Leadership*
- Compassionate Care*

“WE ARE VISALIA FIRE”



CITY OF VISALIA CITY COUNCIL





Message from the Chief

On behalf of the members of the Visalia Fire Department, I am pleased to present you with the 2011 Annual Report.

This report to the community highlights the activities, goals, and accomplishments of the Visalia Fire Department for 2011. I am proud of the contributions the members of this organization have made to our community. Labor and management have worked together to continuously evaluate and improve the quality of our core services. We could not have achieved these goals without the support of our elected officials.

In spite of the economic challenges faced by our City, we continue to receive the funding needed to carry out our mission. We stand with our City Council and City Manager in their efforts to make Visalia a safe and prosperous place to live.

Today's fire and rescue service has made significant progress toward the prevention of fires. One of the most important examples of this progress is the recent adoption of statewide requirements for the installation of automatic sprinklers in every residence constructed after January 1, 2011. We have also made strides toward improving emergency response, specifically, in the rescue and hazardous materials disciplines. The Visalia Fire Department was recognized by the California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA) in achieving a Type 1 Hazardous Materials Response Team distinction as well as a Type II – Medium Rescue Team distinction. Both of these teams are now available to respond both locally and statewide for assistance. Another area of success is in our code enforcement efforts. We have worked cooperatively with various City departments such as, police, building and code enforcement, to ensure safety issues in our community are dealt with in a safe and timely manner. These efforts have had a dramatic positive effect in our community, making it a better place to work and live. Here in Visalia, we take pride in keeping up with the latest trends and standards in order to meet our mission to *"Dedicated to protecting all through excellent service"*.

In 2011, we ran over 11,000 calls for service. With the majority of those calls for service being medical emergencies, our ability to provide a paramedic within an average time of 5 minutes has proven to save lives.

The VFD provides all-risk emergency response and a wide array of community services with an authorized staff of 72 professional Firefighters, Fire Inspectors and Support Staff. In the following pages, you will be introduced to the various divisions and programs which contribute to the health and safety of our community. I hope that you find the information contained in this report interesting and useful. It will help you get a better idea of who your firefighters are and what they do for you on a daily basis.

My personal thanks go out to all the members of this Department and to the staff who have worked together during this past year to provide exemplary service to our citizens and contribution to the quality of life in our community.

It is my hope that the next several years are prosperous for the City of Visalia, in spite of our current economic challenges. The members of the Visalia Fire Department sincerely thank you for taking the time to read this report.

Sincerely,
Mark R. Nelson, Fire Chief



From the Editor

Hello, I'm Nancy Renovato, Senior Administrative Analyst for the Visalia Fire Department. I have been with the City of Visalia for eleven years serving in various capacities. In March of 2011, I joined the Fire Department working under the direction of Chief Nelson. In my present role, I am responsible for overseeing budget, purchasing/payables, personnel, reports and special projects.

Since I have been with the fire department I have come to understand a little more about the fire service and the organization. The degree of professionalism, care and dedication every person demonstrates is very admirable.

During these times of economic challenges, where staff continues to do more with less, fire personnel unselfishly continue to offer only the best service to our community. Working in this environment, I realize why the fire department is so well liked and respected by all. Because of the many positive factors, I am very proud to be part of these men and women of honor and courage.

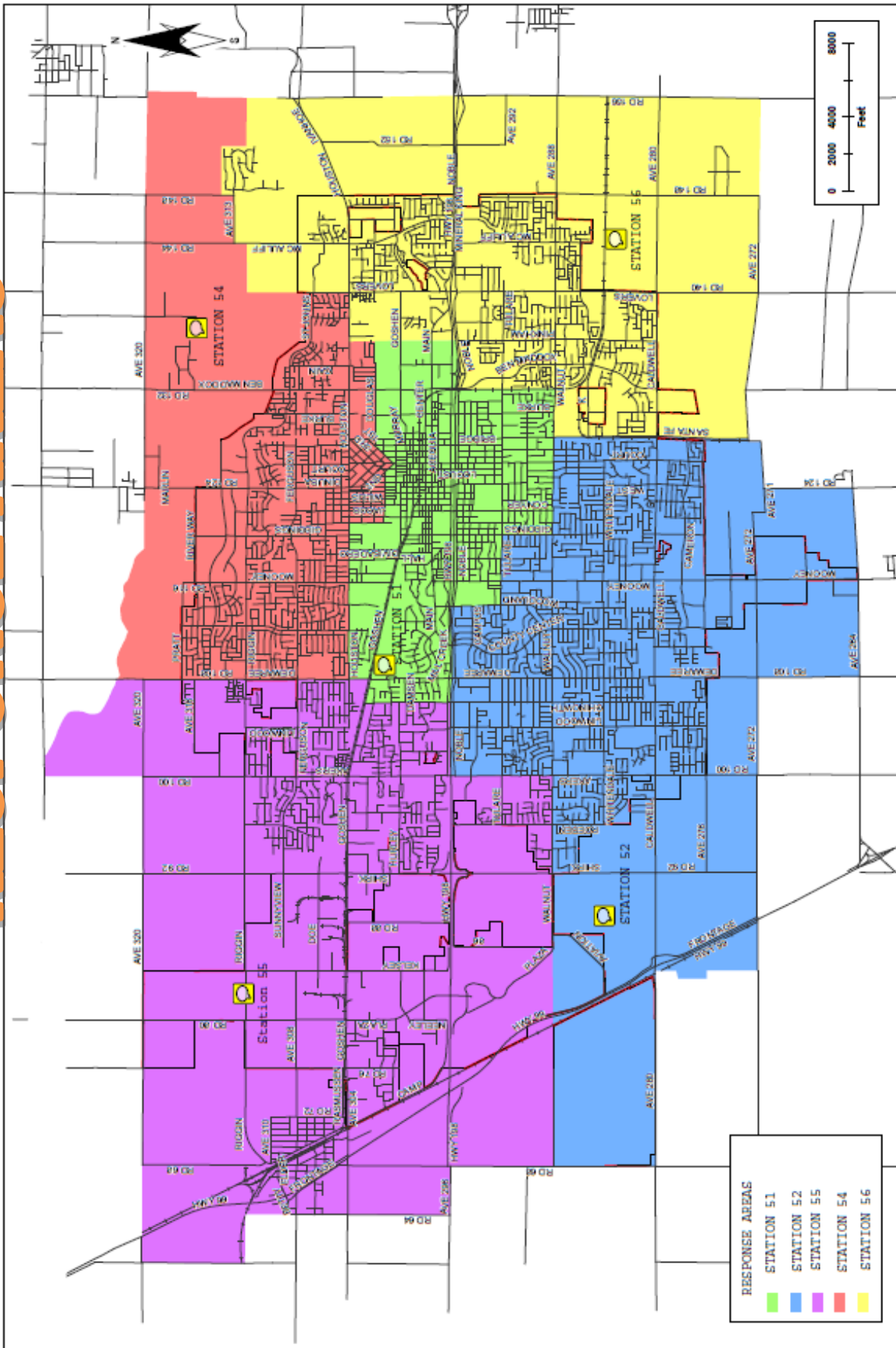
I look forward to another prosperous year, serving the community alongside the fine and dedicated people of the fire department, whose actions and accomplishments can only be defined as remarkable.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this report.

Respectfully,

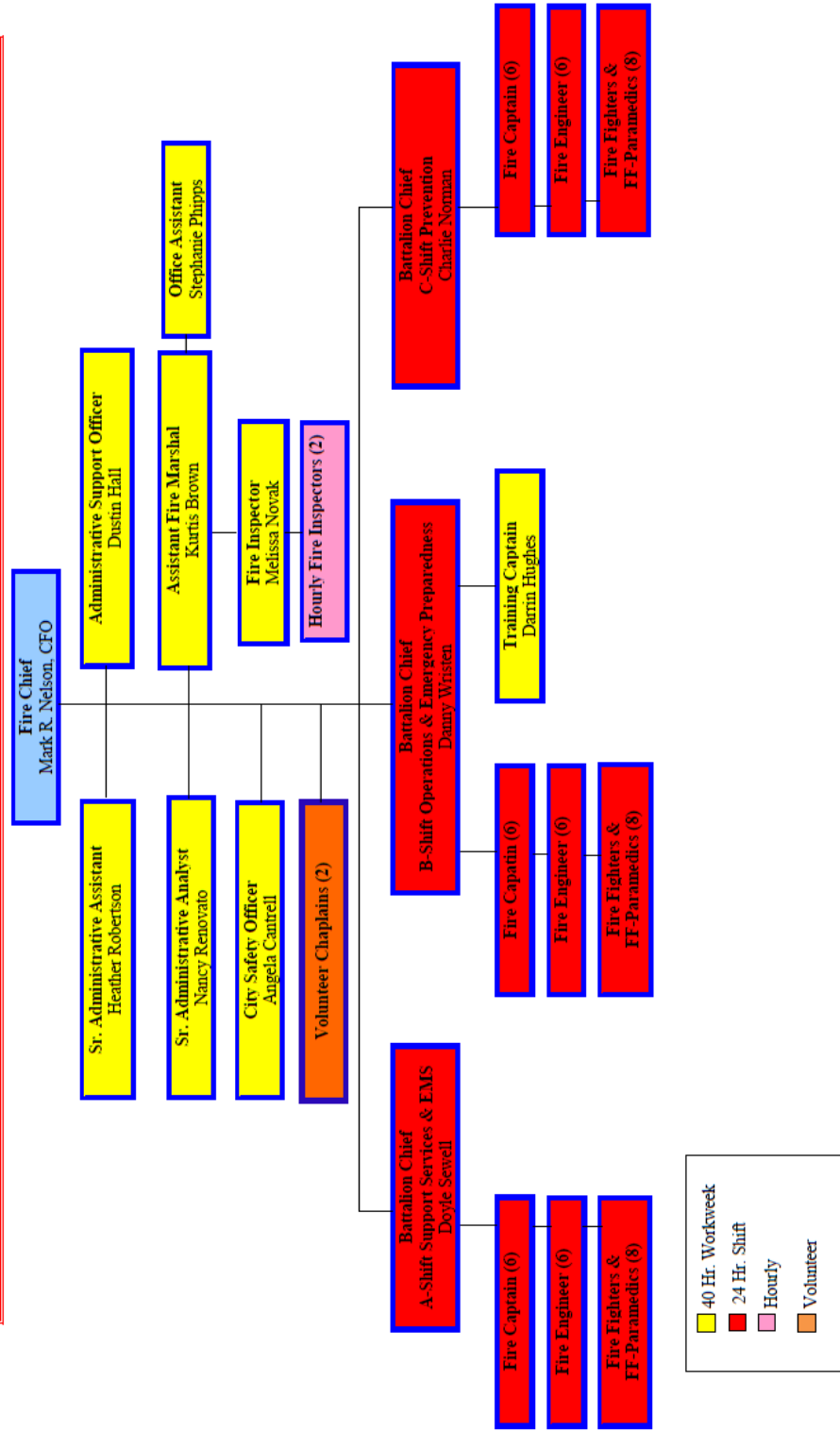
Nancy Renovato

RESPONSE AREAS



VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Visalia Fire Department
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART-ALL PERSONNEL
NOVEMBER 21, 2011



40 Hr. Workweek
 24 Hr. Shift
 Hourly
 Volunteer

Fire & Emergency Management Department

MISSION

Members of the Fire Department guarantee to the People of the City of Visalia that we will provide dependable service in a responsive manner, while showing care and compassion for those in need. We will protect lives, property and the environment through fire suppression, rescue, disaster preparedness, code enforcement, community education, medical care, and hazardous material mitigation.

The members of this Department, working together, will provide a professional and caring environment that is fair, honest, ethical, and treat all individuals with respect and dignity. The Department will provide innovative and effective leadership in developing concepts that will be supportive of and responsive to the needs of City Government in a loyal and cooperative manner.

DESCRIPTION

The Fire and Emergency Management Department consists of five divisions:

- 1) Administration/Support Services
- 2) Emergency Services/Operations
- 3) Fire Prevention
- 4) Training
- 5) Hazardous Materials Response.

The Administration/Support Services Division is staffed by the Fire Chief, Administrative Fire Officer, City Safety Officer, Senior Administrative Analyst and Administrative Assistant and is responsible for the administrative activities of operating the department. Administrative activities include such items as financial coordination to ensure the effective and efficient use of the department's resources; promotions and recruitments; the City Safety Program; productivity measurement; and coordination of the department's programs and policies.

The Emergency Services/Operations Division is staffed by three Shift Battalion Chiefs and is responsible for protecting life and property in emergency situations by providing effective fire, rescue, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical protection. All fire units are staffed with a minimum of one paramedic. The division ensures the maintenance and enhancement of department personnel firefighting and emergency medical skills. This division is also responsible for the Citywide Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Program, which includes ensuring the City has an Emergency Operations Plan and a functional Emergency Operations Center. Other programs managed by the Shift Battalion Chiefs include the Cal EMA Type II Medium Technical Rescue Program, Department Safety, Grants, Staff Reports and Dispatch Liaison. Additionally, the Emergency Services/Operations Division oversees the activities of the Cal EMA Type I Hazardous Materials Response Team within the Haz Mat Division. With equipment acquired largely through State grants and private donations, this team responds to various types of hazardous materials spills or incidents in our community. The team is also under contract to surrounding cities and agencies in Tulare and Kings Counties to respond to their Haz Mat incidents on a cost recovery basis.

The Fire Prevention Division is staffed by the Fire Chief, who also serves as the Fire Marshal and an Assistant Fire Marshal who oversees the day to day operations in the Prevention Division as well as an Office Assistant, one fulltime Fire Inspector and two hourly Fire Inspectors. This division seeks to ensure the safety of life and property within the community by inspecting businesses for potentially hazardous conditions, providing fire and life safety public education by coordinating community relations and public education programs, conducting fire and arson investigations, and assisting with coordination of fire code compliance on State mandated inspections and new development.

The Training Division is staffed by an Administrative Battalion Chief and is responsible for the development and maintenance of a training program to increase and enhance the response capabilities of the Fire Department, as mandated by State and Federal Standards.

DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FIRE ADMINISTRATION—22221

2010-2012 Accomplishments

- The Measure T plan has been revised to build a fire station in the southwest area of the City
- TeleStaff scheduling, time and attendance system has been implemented
- The department added an Administrative Fire Captain, transitioned the Training Captain's position to an Administrative Battalion Chief and transitioned the Senior Fire Inspector position to an Assistant Fire Marshal.
- The department completed 20 Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)
- Staff updated the Haz Mat Response Agreement with five of the eight agencies in Tulare County
- The department evaluated auto and mutual aid agreements and submitted a report to the City.
- Completed the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Staff has completed an analysis of several options for Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport opportunities
- The department applied for the following grants in 2010/11 that will help support the Visalia Fire Department:
 - o LEAP (Local Energy Assurance Plan) - Awarded \$200,000 grant
 - o SAFER Grant for 9 Fire Personnel—two applications have been made; waiting on possible award notification

EMERGENCY SERVICES/OPERATIONS—22222

2010-2012 Accomplishments

- Staff was authorized to purchase one engine with Measure T money; this has been completed
- A new exhaust system has been installed at Station 51
- The department has evaluated and improved communication equipment - this is an ongoing process, much progress has been made with the new radio equipment at Station 56 (Cal Fire facility). New radios and MDTs have been purchased and installed
- Two EOC drills have been conducted, one of which involved the California State Golden Guardian Program
- The EOC has been transitioned to the training room at Fire Station 55; staff is currently working on the installation of the emergency backup power generator.
- The department has successfully transitioned the reverse 9-1-1 system to a new vendor.
- The department fully implemented the Web Based Emergency Operations Center Program (WebEOC) has been completed and will continue to develop. Web EOC was used during the 2010 storms and worked well. The Tulare County OES (COVs portion) data base was completed in 2010, extensive training has been completed
- Staff completed most of the required National Incident Management System (NIMS) training. For the 2010 NIM-SCAST report, we had two Corrective Actions. 1. Assigned a NIMS Coordinator for each department. 2. Developed a Credentialing System. List of training requirement compliance citywide.
 - o Fire Department is 100% compliant
 - o IS 700 – 200 of 250 employees have completed
 - o IS 800 – 10 of 80 employees have completed
 - o ICS 100 – 200 of 250 employees have completed
 - o ICS 200 – 200 of 250 employees have completed
 - o ICS 300 – 29 of 58 employees have completed
 - o ICS 400 – 5 of 20 employees have completed
 - o All six fire units are now staffed with a minimum of one paramedic.
 - o The Technical Rescue Team has been formed with 24 members and a new rescue trailer was purchased. The department has been designated as a Type II medium rescue team through Cal EMA.
 - o Staff completed all National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) required reporting

DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FIRE PREVENTION—22223

2010-2012 Accomplishments

- Staff continues public education activities by expanding and enhancing through fire and life safety training. October is Fire Prevention month; all schools (public and private) receive fire education annually serving over 6000 students
- Annual open houses were held @ three fire stations with approximately 2000 people in attendance
- Four camps were held in 2010/11 with over 150 youth participating
- All mandated fire inspections were completed for 2010/11 and a total of 4034 fire safety inspections and 1006 property maintenance inspections were conducted citywide.
- One Full Time Fire Inspector, Office Assistant and 1 Hourly Fire Inspector were hired and funded primarily through inspection fees
- Staff investigated all suspicious fires for origin and cause, utilizing nine shift Fire Investigation Team members and one prevention staff member. Over 600 fires have been investigated.
- The department has purchased new prefire planning software to integrate with current Fire RMS program

TRAINING—22224

2010-2012 Accomplishments

- All mandated training has been met for Federal, State and local requirements
- The department has evaluated and improved current training program; two year training calendar, monthly training packets and implemented the Target Safety training program
- The department has marketed the training facility and has generated ongoing revenue through user agreements with fire and law enforcement agencies as well as many private companies.
- An annual schedule has been developed and implemented to ensure required training for Haz Mat response and Rescue Team members is met

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE—22226

2010-2012 Accomplishments

- The Haz Mat Team has gone through an 18 month process to improve its response capabilities and has been designated as a Type I Haz Mat Team through Cal EMA
- The department now has new Haz Mat user agreements with five out of the eight agencies in Tulare County
- The department continues to develop stronger relationships with all agencies.

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARIES OVER SIX FISCAL YEARS

City of Visalia Two-Year Budget 2010-11 & 2011-12

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES ALL FUNDS

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
	ACTUALS	ACTUALS	BUDGET	PROJECTION	PROPOSED	PROPOSED
GENERAL FUND						
Fire Administration - 22221	\$ 1,121,284	\$ 998,507	\$ 1,047,460	\$ 1,041,900	\$ 913,710	\$ 927,880
Emergency Services/Operations - 22222	9,087,377	9,532,284	9,894,903	9,174,600	9,888,880	10,114,940
Fire Prevention - 22223	453,801	398,588	522,540	420,100	355,460	366,480
Training - 22224	227,768	329,081	424,356	415,500	259,540	266,740
Hazardous Materials Response - 22226	55,780	63,458	57,600	53,700	74,630	75,720
Total Operating Expenditures	10,946,010	11,321,918	11,946,859	11,105,800	11,470,200	11,751,770
Reimbursements	(41,208)	(32,797)	(139,000)	(62,800)	(70,000)	(70,000)
Net General Fund Expenditures	10,904,802	11,289,121	11,807,859	11,043,000	11,400,200	11,681,770
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS						
Public Safety Tax - Fund 1122	476,131	600,912	616,430	578,880	652,740	674,750
Total Special Revenue Funds	476,131	600,912	616,430	578,880	652,740	674,750
DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$ 11,380,933	\$ 11,890,033	\$ 12,424,289	\$ 11,621,880	\$ 12,052,940	\$ 12,356,520

REVENUES

FIRE						
PROP 172 PS-SALES TAX	194,968	177,790	-	171,000	174,400	180,500
ABANDONED VEHICLE TRUST	39,870	23,861	18,000	-	-	-
STATE GRANTS	-	-	52,356	-	-	-
COUNTY GRANTS	44,441	-	-	-	-	-
STATE-HAZ MAT TRAINING	470	1,252	500	500	1,300	1,300
ADMINISTRATIVE FINES	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
UNIFORM FIRE CODE FEE	10,268	10,713	10,000	9,300	25,000	25,000
FIRE SFTY INSPECTION	1,752	1,286	2,500	400	-	-
FIRE STRIKE TEAM FEES	133,628	471,445	20,000	80,000	20,000	20,000
HAZ MAT CLEANUP-GAP FUNDING	-	-	-	44,000	-	-
WEED AND LOT CLEARING	60,653	68,129	28,000	140,000	200,000	200,000
ADMIN FEE - WEED & LOT	3,460	2,694	6,000	6,000	26,000	26,000
FIRE REPORTS	76	102	100	100	100	100
TRNG FACILITY RENTAL	-	-	-	500	5,000	5,000
MISC REVENUE	27,560	20,150	20,150	22,650	25,600	25,600
TEMP DISABILITY	29,175	19,817	6,000	22,000	19,800	19,800
SUBROGATION RECOVERY	-	150	-	2,000	200	200
FIRE TOTAL	546,321	797,389	163,606	498,450	517,400	523,500

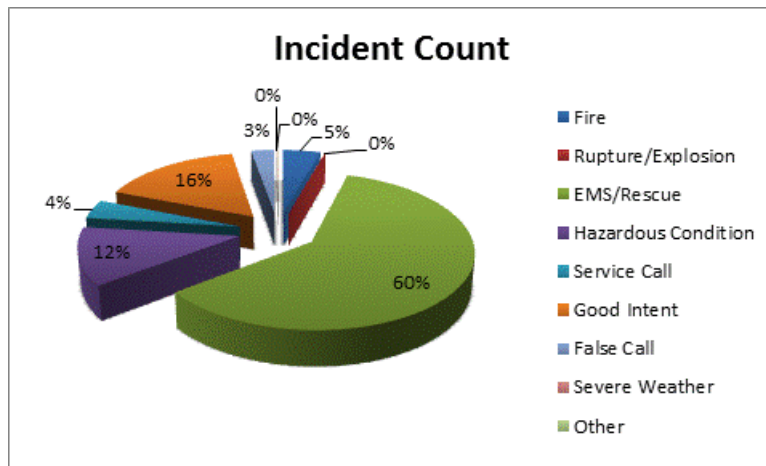
ANNUAL STATISTICS

Incident Summary by Incident Type

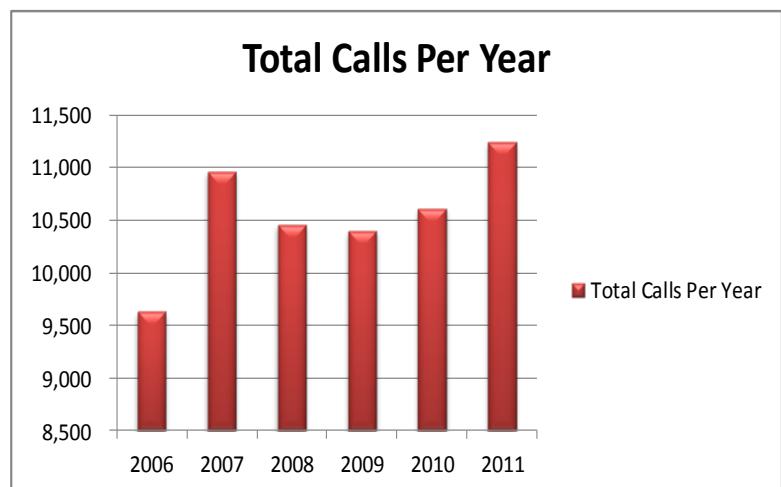
Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011

Incident Type(s) Selected: All

Incident Type	Incident Count	Used in Ave. Resp.	Average Response Time hh:mm:ss	Total Loss	Total Value
Fire	491	416	00:05:50	\$5,639,637.00	\$80,575,506.00
Rupture/Explosion	6	4	00:06:38	\$0.00	\$0.00
EMS/Rescue	6,772	4,834	00:05:12	\$9,250.00	\$2,017,500.00
Hazardous Condition	1,378	132	00:05:56	\$8,800.00	\$1,008,800.00
Service Call	452	162	00:05:15	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good Intent	1,831	230	00:05:42	\$75.00	\$75.00
False Call	299	240	00:06:10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	7	3	00:05:17	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	5	3	00:04:19	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	11,241	6,024		\$5,657,762.00	\$83,601,881.00



YEAR	TOTAL CALLS
2006	9,625
2007	10,960
2008	10,452
2009	10,395
2010	10,607
2011	11,241

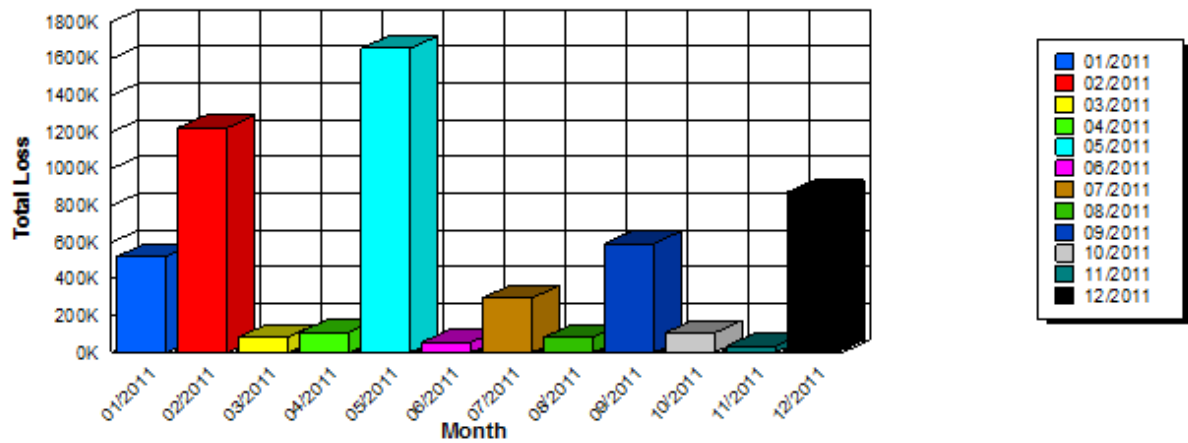


ANNUAL STATISTICS

Total Fire Loss by Month

Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011

Month	Count of Fires With Loss	Total Loss	Total Value
01/2011	10	\$522,620.00	\$3,866,000.00
02/2011	25	\$1,223,400.00	\$4,212,700.00
03/2011	42	\$85,750.00	\$7,905,050.00
04/2011	58	\$110,930.00	\$1,071,610.00
05/2011	79	\$1,655,950.00	\$17,829,800.00
06/2011	107	\$55,525.00	\$1,638,175.00
07/2011	122	\$296,265.00	\$1,030,815.00
08/2011	140	\$81,350.00	\$5,202,450.00
09/2011	162	\$593,310.00	\$26,764,360.00
10/2011	189	\$107,732.00	\$2,802,272.00
11/2011	209	\$34,235.00	\$1,878,450.00
12/2011	232	\$872,570.00	\$3,098,624.00



Fire Department Administration
707 W. Acequia Street
Visalia, CA 93291



Stephanie Phipps
Office Assistant

Responsible for Reception Area/Customer Service, Records Maintenance, Special Projects, Prevention and Management Support



Nancy Renovato
Sr. Administrative Analyst

Responsible for Budget, Purchasing/Payables, Billing, Monthly Newsletter, Records Custodian, Annual Report, Personnel, Cost Recovery, Special Project & Reports



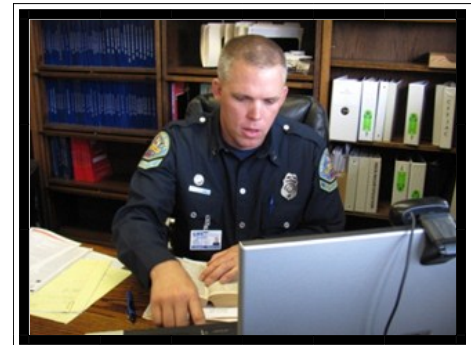
Heather Robertson
Sr Administrative Assistant

Support to Fire Chief, Manage AED & Fireworks Programs, CA Fire Code Permits, Payroll/Personnel, Reporting, Website, and Billing



Angie Cantrell
Safety Officer
City Safety Program

(More on the Safety Program Page 19)



Dustin Hall
Administrative Officer

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
(More on the EMS Program Page 18)

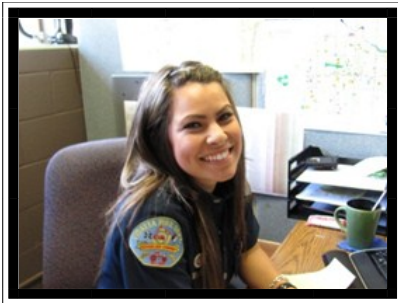
Assistant Fire Marshal Brown



Kurtis Brown

Many may see Fire Prevention as a set of rules and guidelines getting in the way of every day functions. I see Fire Prevention as a tool, that benefits a community by providing a safer environment for its citizens and improving the quality of service provided by the Fire Department. Fire Prevention protects business owners, and ensures we maintain a beautiful community for many years to come.

In 2011, the Inspections Team conducted a total of 4,428 Residential/Commercial Inspections and 1,006 Property Maintenance Inspections.



Melissa Novak —Fire Inspector
Commercial Inspections



Danielle Beasley—Fire Inspector
Property Maintenance



Corbin Reed—Fire Inspector
Residential Inspections

Fire Investigations

In 2011, the Investigations Team conducted 491 Investigations

The Fire Investigation Team is responsible for investigating fires to determine cause and origin. As Peace Officers, Fire Investigators conduct criminal investigations and prosecution of arsonists. Fire Investigators also assist outside agencies with the department's Juvenile Fire-Setter Intervention Program. Through this program we extend fire safety education and awareness to juveniles and other individuals who may have been involved or participated in setting illegal fires.

The Fire Investigation Unit is also active in public education, continuing education, and illegal fireworks enforcement detail. The Visalia Fire Department has six personnel trained in fire investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Investigation Unit is overseen by the Fire Marshal.

Fire Prevention

The Prevention Division covers a wide and varied spectrum of activities and programs to educate the public in Fire and Life Safety.

This division of the Fire Department provides educational programs tailored to different groups from elementary education to in-home training and education for community residents. Their goal is to foster relationships with community entities and the public by communicating the mission, goals, and the performance of the organization at different event functions.

Prevention oversees the Fire Setter Program. This program provides in-home assessments, fire safety intervention and referrals to mental health services for children who exhibit fire setting or fire play behaviors.

Prevention participates in many health and safety community events such as the Children's Festival, Career Fairs, Open House, Carnivals and other community requested events.



FIRE CAMP

One of the biggest and most popular events of the year for Prevention is Fire Camp. Roughly 80 campers participate in a week filled with fire related activities.



In 2011, the Prevention Division, conducted 253 Public Education Presentations to various outside agencies, totaling 29,826 attendees. A total of 60 individuals participated in the Ride-a-Long Program. Additionally, Prevention Staff installed a total of 50 Smoke Detec-



tors in homes throughout Visalia. During Fire Prevention Week the Visalia Fire Department conducts Fire Safety Education to all Second Grade students throughout Visalia Schools. In 2011, a total of 24 Elementary Schools were visited by Fire Personnel.



Captain Dustin Hall

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Since July 2011, Dustin Hall has served the department as the Administrative Officer overseeing the EMS Program. During his tenure in Administration, Captain Hall has improved and created many new processes.

Accomplishments

- Established Cadre of Instructors for ACLS
- Established Cadre of Instructors for PALS
- Implemented new back board system into place
- Meetings with ambulance companies AMR and AMN, discussing cohesive training and working relationships.
- Updated standard for report writing – EMS
- Established standard for yearly core evaluations, skill sign offs completed
- Established standard for direct observation and sign off sheet
- Developed Protocol, Policy, Procedure Manual for each station EMS Coordinator's Office and Battalion Chief's office
- Streamlined bio-hazard

In 2011, the Fire Department responded to over 7,912 Emergency Medical Service calls.

Station	Medical Aid	Vehicle Accidents	Rescues
51	2,177	230	20
52	2,163	191	10
54	1,407	97	4
55	715	83	16
56	699	84	16
Totals	7,161	685	66

Medical Aid response calls include emergencies such as persons experiencing chest pain, abdominal pain, general illness, and general weakness. **Vehicle accidents** include vehicle versus vehicle, vehicle versus pedestrian, and vehicle versus bicyclist. **Rescue incidents** include persons locked out of a vehicle, water rescues, over the side—low and high angle, and confined space incidents.



SAFETY PROGRAM

On September 30, 2011, the City hired Safety Officer, Angie Cantrell to oversee the Safety Program.

The City safety program has been established to promote and support a safe and healthful work environment by providing leadership, training, information, resources, policy development, and consultation services to all City employees and departments. The goal of the City's safety efforts is to provide education and guidance to prevent injuries, illnesses, and exposures while achieving regulatory compliance.

Accomplishments

- Discussions with City Management and Department Heads regarding safety needs
- The Safety Committee, which had been inactive since February 2010 has resumed regular monthly meetings.
- The Safety section of the City Intranet has been updated
- Since review of the City's written programs has begun, significant changes have been made. In particular:
 - * Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan
 - * Sharps Injury Log
 - * Medical Waste Disposal
 - * Emergency Action Plans
- In progress is the crafting or revision of the:
 - * Aerosol Transmissible Disease Exposure Control Plan
 - * Asbestos Management Plan
 - * Personal Protective Equipment evaluation process
 - * IIPP overall
- Safety Hazards reported, investigated, and abated
- Near miss investigations have been initiated. When a close call occurs in one department, an investigation, prospective solution, and recommendation can be made to other departments with similar exposures.
- Water seepage through the basement walls at the Police and Fire Dispatch was detected and remedied preventing the development of mold.
- Inspections have taken place at the Airport, City Hall's East, West & North, Convention Center, Corp Yard, Fire Stations, Parks, Police Stations, Senior Center, and Waste Water Treatment Plant.

TRAINING CAPTAIN



Captain
Darrin Hughes

In April 2009, Captain Hughes elected to leave his Engine Captain assignment to fill the newly formed Training Officer position. During his tenure in the Training Division, he has developed a two year training calendar with a monthly training schedule program, implemented a Firefighter Survival Program for all Visalia Fire Personnel in 2010 and updated instructional materials to enhance the current fire suppression training. Captain Hughes also facilitates many classes at the new Training Facility and classroom with various fire professionals, motivational speakers and outside agencies.

In 2011, Fire Staff had a combined total of 17,284 hours of Mandatory and Required Training.

Visalia Fire Department Training Recruit Academy

As part of the hiring process with the Fire Department, Recruits are required to participate in an eight-week Recruit Academy. The Academy provides recruits with the most current and approved firefighting practices, holding the recruits to the highest standard of conduct to the public and their peers. The Academy emphasizes teamwork, professionalism, personal accountability, and respect for the chain of command within the framework of a paramilitary organization. Recruits are trained in the following areas:

Hoses

Buddy Breathing/RIC Bag
Forcible Entry
Ventilation
Salvage & Overhaul
Wild Land
Safety Survival
Inspections
FF Survival Class

SCBA

Aerial Operations & Testing
adders Training
Chainsaw Maintenance
Paramedic Orientation
Auto Extraction
Thermal Imager Camera
Urban Interface Drills Investigations
Flood Fight

Ropes & Knots

Roof Props
ARFF Ops
Rescue
HAZMAT FRO
Live Fires
Drags & Carries



Recruit Class 2110 Facts

- Recruits are expected to pass exams with 80% or better with only one opportunity to re-take an exam.
- Weekly Skill testing is pass/fail with only two re-take opportunities.
- There is daily homework
- Recruits are engaged in physical activity for one hour every day.
- Class Project – Cadets are given a hand tool or hardware item that is in rusty, poor condition. It is expected each cadet will clean and turn in a shiny tool symbolizing how they see their future career and performance with the fire department.

Four Recruits successfully graduated the eight-week academy on April 25, 2011, as Fire Fighter Paramedics.



Jacob Huffman



Brandon De La Cruz



Michael Herlihy



Christopher Okland



CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM



Jeff Pierce

The mission of the Fire Chaplain is to give aid, comfort and help to firefighters and their families; to work toward the betterment of all areas of the fire and emergency services. As a Fire Chaplain, the work is not limited to the area of fire departments, firefighters, communities nor victims of the devastating ravages of fire or other crisis happenings. Fire Chaplains strive to help ease the suffering of our fellow man wherever that path shall lead.



Steve Harms

Fire Chaplains are also first responder crisis intervention specialists. They are there to listen when the stress of emergency service pushes us beyond everyday coping. Fire Chaplains

are there to assist Chiefs and Administrators with employee assistance program activities and make appropriate referrals when something affects our ability to perform our regular tasks on the job.

Fire Chaplains do this without regard for denominational or faith practices. Fire Chaplains are non-denominational, non-sectarian, here for people of any faith or no faith.



CHIEF OFFICERS



Doyle Sewell
Battalion Chief
Serving the City since 1989



Danny Wristen
Battalion Chief
Serving the City since 1992



Charlie Norman
Battalion Chief
Serving the City since 1992

A SHIFT	B SHIFT	C SHIFT
Battalion Chief Sewell	Battalion Chief Wristen	Battalion Chief Norman
Apparatus /Pump Testing	Communications	Accountability
Buildings & Grounds	Wildland/Strike Team	City PIO
EMS	EOC/Emergency Preparedness	Dept Safety
Foam F-500	Equip & Power Tools (SEET)	Fire Investigations
Hydrants	Fire RMS	Honor Guard
Incident Report Review	Grants	Hose / Nozzles / Fittings
Ladders	Hazardous Materials / Contract	Incident Report Review
Maps	Incident Report Review	Preemption
New Facilities/Future Stations	Quartermaster / Uniforms	Preplans
SOG Review	Technical Rescue	Public Education
48/96 Schedule		SCBA
LMAT Representative		
TeleStaff		

The Emergency Services/Operations Division is staffed by three Shift Battalion Chiefs and is responsible for protecting life and property in emergency situations by providing effective fire, rescue, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical protection.

Each Battalion Chief has responsibility to oversee various work programs within the organization.

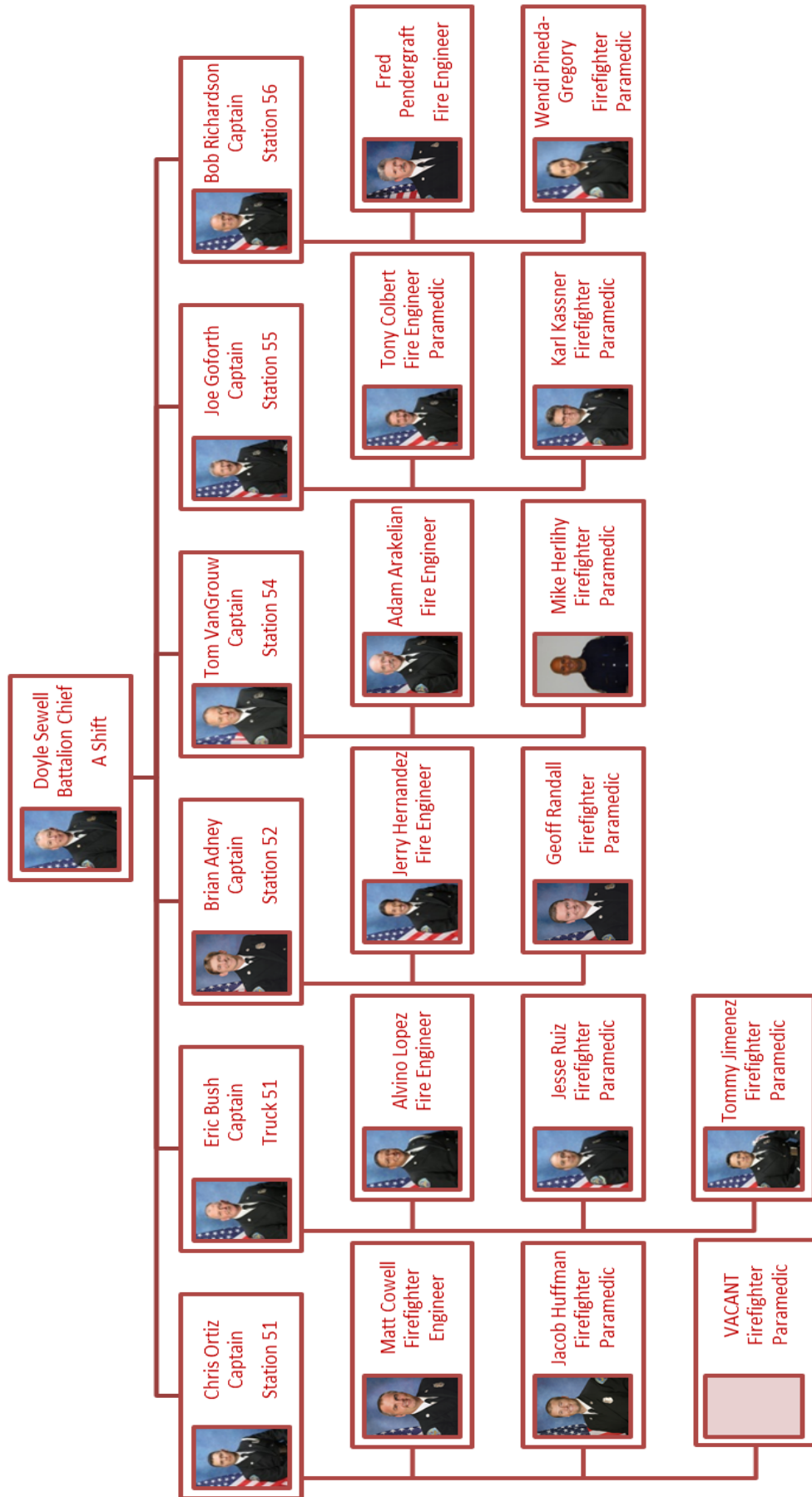
NORTH FIRE ANNEX

440 W. Ferguson
Visalia, CA 93291

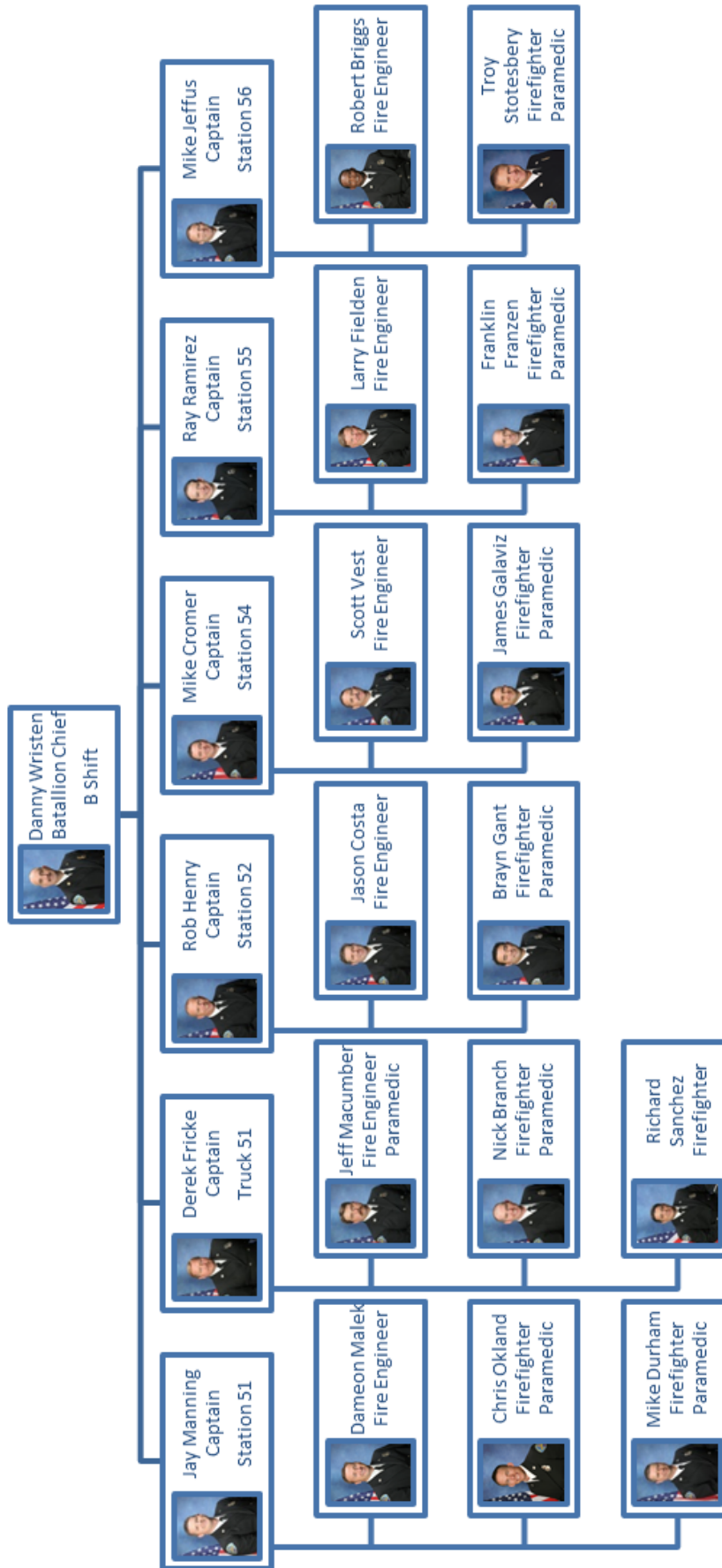


Fire Station 54 was built in 1995. The adjacent office was previously occupied by the Police Department. Currently, the North Fire Annex is utilized as the main office and living quarters for the Battalion Chiefs.

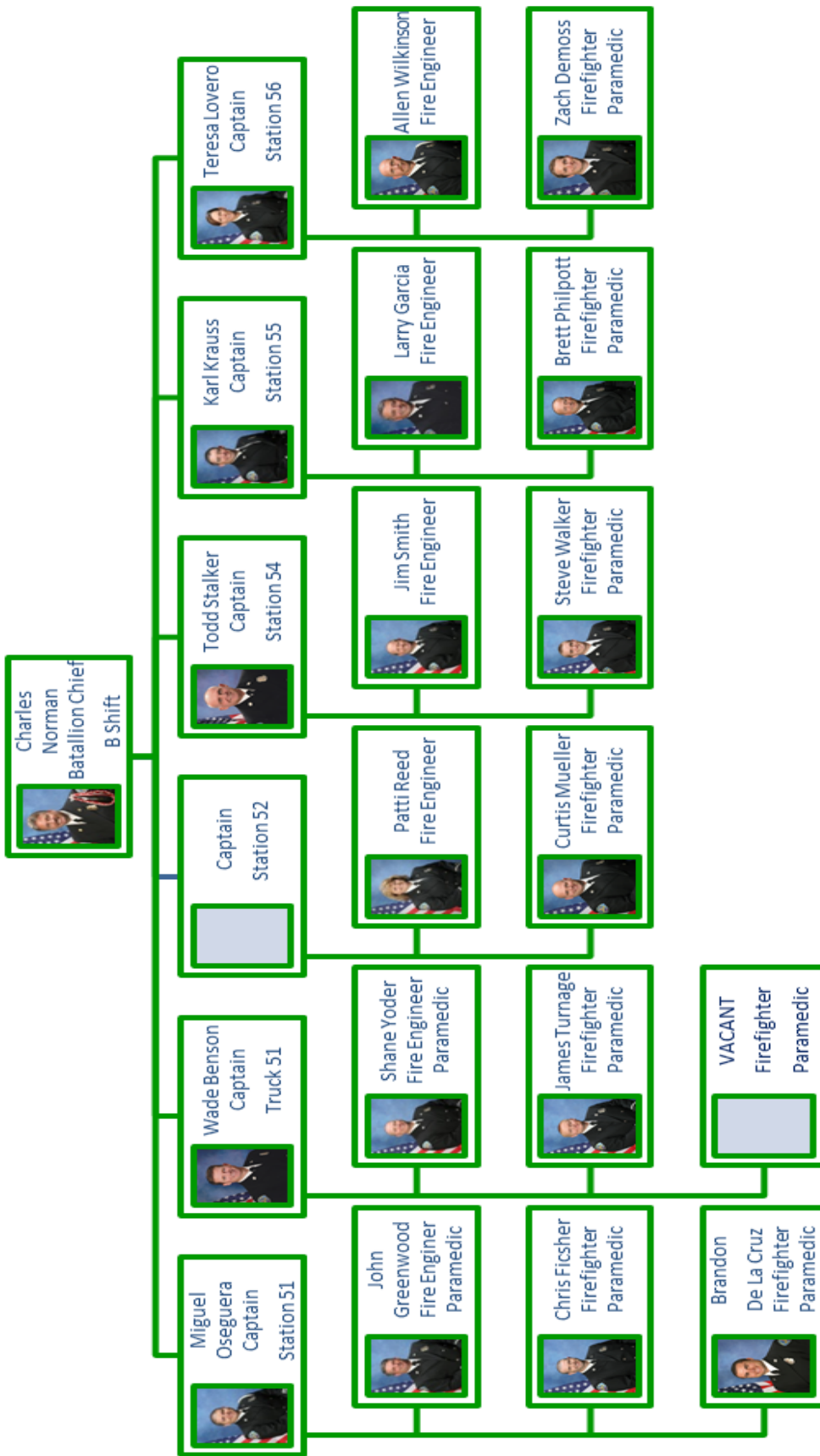
A SHIFT



B SHIFT



C SHIFT



HAZ-MAT TEAM

On December 13, 2011, the Visalia Fire Department was recognized by the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) as a Type I – Hazardous Materials Department. The Visalia Fire Department has been involved with Hazardous Materials emergency response since 1991 and has had a recognized Haz Mat Team since 1992. The current Haz Mat Team is comprised of 21 highly trained members. Over the last 2 years, we have been working diligently to meet the high standards that have been established by Cal EMA to be recognized as a Type I – Hazardous Materials Department. The department held a Press Conference on December 21st to announce this accomplishment.



The Type I status is the highest recognized level of hazardous materials emergency response in California. Only a handful of other California fire departments have reached this level. As a Type I Team, we are able to handle any type of Haz Mat emergency including; terrorism / weapons of mass destruction, transportation emergencies, pipeline leaks, releases at chemical facilities, unknown products in the roadway, agricultural product emergencies and any other type of incident involving hazardous materials.



Cost Recovery

When the Haz-Mat team is activated to respond to a hazardous materials incident, cost recovery may be sought with the responsible party for personnel, equipment and supply cost. Since July 2011, the Haz-Mat Team has responded to seven incidents throughout Tulare County including a refrigeration leak in Cutler and chemical hazard in the City of Dinuba.

In 2011, the City billed a total of \$22,564 in fees to outside agencies, and was reimbursed a total of \$21,156.

HAZ-MAT MEMBERS

**Robert Briggs
Larry Fielden
Larry Garcia
Tommy Jimenez
Alvino Lopez
Brett Philpott
Patti Reed**

**Tony Colbert
Franklin Franzen
Joe Goforth
Karl Kassner
Jeff Macumber
Wendi Pineda-Gregory
Shane Yoder**

**Matt Cowell
Derek Fricke
Rob Henry
Karl Krauss
Chris Ortiz
Ray Ramirez
Richard Sanchez**

TECHNICAL RESCUE

On June 23, 2011, the Visalia Fire Department was recognized by the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) as a Type II-Medium Rescue Department. In August of 2010, the Visalia Fire Department formed a Technical Rescue Team comprised of 23 department members. The Team was formed in order to provide the community with a high level of expertise in the area of advanced rescue situations. In 2011, the VFD Technical Rescue Team worked to secure the equipment and training necessary to meet the high standards that have been established by Cal EMA to be recognized as a Type II-Medium Rescue Department.



RESCUE TEAM

Chris Ortiz
Rob Henry
Matt Cowell
Bryan Gant
Tom VanGrouw
Joe Goforth

Jay Manning
Derek Fricke
Robert Briggs
Nick Branch
Scott Vest
Ray Ramirez

Franklin Franzen
Alvino Lopez
John Greenwood
Chris Fischer
Steve Walker
Eric Bush

James Turnage
Curtis Mueller
Zach DeMoss
Larry Fielden
Shane Yoder
Dustin Hall

STATION 51

309 S. Johnson St.
Visalia, CA 93291



Incident Type Response Summary by Station

Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011

Incident Type Station ID	Incident Count	Used in Ave. Resp.	Average Response Time HH:MM:SS	Total Loss	Total Value
Station: S51					
Fire	129	117	00:05:36	\$2,463,425.00	\$31,238,155.00
Rupture/Explosion	2	1	00:05:05	\$0.00	\$0.00
EMS/Rescue	2,007	1,356	00:04:50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hazardous Condition	62	43	00:05:56	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Service Call	116	34	00:04:28	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good Intent	608	68	00:05:24	\$0.00	\$0.00
False Call	75	60	00:05:28	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	1			\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	1	1	00:06:39	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	3,001	1,680	00:04:58	\$2,464,425.00	\$31,239,155.00

Units Assigned to Fire Station 51



Engine 51 – Lead Engine for Station 51's response area. Responds to all emergencies; including medical aids, traffic accidents, structure & trash fires to name a few. Assists in Public Education and is Paramedic & Extrication Equipped.



Truck 51 – Lead truck responding to all 1st Alarm Assignments, Heavy Rescues, CO Alarm, Vehicle Roll Overs & "Pin-In" traffic accidents, vehicles into buildings and is Paramedic & Extrication Equipped.



Reserve Truck 251 – Is placed in service when needed to replace Truck 51. T251 is also available to be staffed on call back incidents or multiple alarms.



Reserve Engine 251 – Is utilized to replace lead engines that are out of service due to mechanical or when responding to a “Strike Team” Assignments. Engine 251 is also used on call back incidents or multiple alarms.



Utility 51 – Responds to Arson Investigations. Utility 51 pulls Rescue & Air Trailers, is equipped with a generator & some lighting, Rehab and Arson Equipment.



Air Support Trailer - Housed at Station 51 and is used to re-fill SCBA tanks for all Stations. The Trailer is mobile and can be transported to scenes to fill bottles on long term incidents. It has its own generator to be self-sufficient at scenes or can be plugged into station electrical.



Rescue Trailer – Is housed at Station 51. It is fully equipped to handle confined space emergencies, trench rescues, hi and low angle rescues, and swift water emergencies. The Trailer meets type II Medium Rescue Capabilities.

Interesting Facts – A Fire Engine weighs 42,740 pounds, the equivalent of 3.6 adult male elephants. The difference between an Engine and a Fire Truck is the Fire Truck carries a ladder on top. A Truck weighs 66,000 pounds, the equivalent of 5.5 elephants. The Aerial ladder extends to 105 feet high.

STATION 52

2224 W. Monte Vista
Visalia, CA 93277



Incident Type Response Summary by Station

Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011

Station: S52

Fire	96	84	00:05:21	\$441,602.00	\$9,395,311.00
Rupture/Explosion	3	2	00:07:25	\$0.00	\$0.00
EMS/Rescue	2,072	1,471	00:05:04	\$9,250.00	\$2,017,500.00
Hazardous Condition	47	32	00:05:40	\$7,800.00	\$1,007,800.00
Service Call	130	53	00:05:28	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good Intent	475	66	00:05:31	\$75.00	\$75.00
False Call	75	60	00:05:40	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	1			\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	2	1	00:00:41	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	2,901	1,769	00:05:09	\$458,727.00	\$12,420,686.00

ENGINE 52



RESERVE ENGINE 252



STATION 53

9500 Airport Drive
Visalia, CA 93277



Station 53 provides support to the Visalia Airport. At least one person is on standby for all commercial flights fifteen minutes before each scheduled landing and fifteen minutes after the departure time. The Station is equipped with two Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting units. (ARFF).

In 2011, Fire Staff provided a total of 1,460 Standby Support to the Visalia Airport.

ARRF 53



RESERVE ARRF 253



Station 53 – Airport Rescue Firefighting Rigs are used in aircraft emergencies for suppression and extrication. These Rigs are capable of applying water, foam or dry chemical powder in an aircraft emergency. ARFF 53 carries 1,500 gallons of water, 210 gallons of foam and 450 pounds of Purple K dry powder chemical and is equipped with a generator and extrication tools. Both rigs are designed to operate either inside or outside the cab. ARFF 253 carries 1,585 gallons of water and 205 gallons of foam.

STATION 54

440 W. Ferguson St.
Visalia, CA 93291



Incident Type Response Summary by Station

Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011

Station: S54

Fire	123	100	00:05:04	\$1,292,410.00	\$5,425,640.00
EMS/Rescue	1,343	1,033	00:04:57	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hazardous Condition	43	30	00:05:47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Service Call	115	49	00:05:02	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good Intent	252	40	00:05:08	\$0.00	\$0.00
False Call	41	29	00:06:04	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	2	2	00:05:10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	1			\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	1,920	1,283	00:05:00	\$1,292,410.00	\$5,425,640.00

Engine 54

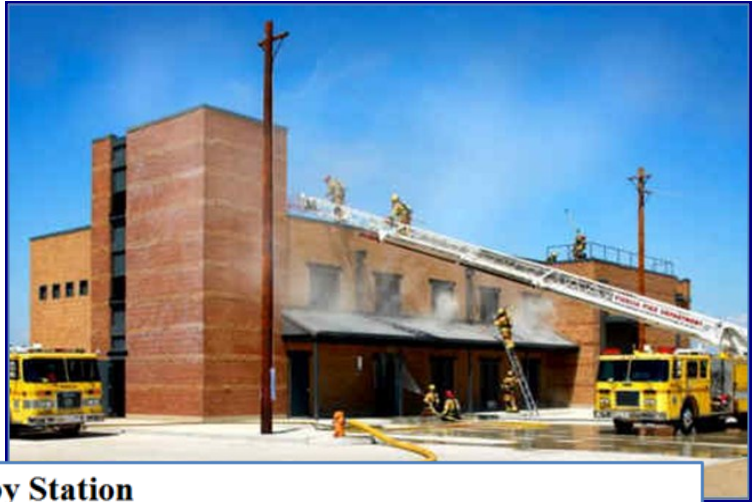


RESERVE Engine 254



STATION 55 & TRAINING CENTER

6921 W Ferguson Avenue
 Visalia, CA 93291



Incident Type Response Summary by Station

Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011

Station: S55

Fire	70	64	00:07:17	\$1,385,700.00	\$6,309,350.00
EMS/Rescue	654	439	00:06:38	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hazardous Condition	1,208	17	00:06:17	\$0.00	\$0.00
Service Call	34	12	00:06:11	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good Intent	306	28	00:06:49	\$0.00	\$0.00
False Call	78	71	00:07:09	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	2			\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	2,352	631	00:06:45	\$1,385,700.00	\$6,309,350.00



Station 55 is the largest training facility between Bakersfield and Modesto. It has a fully functional Class B (Propane fueled) fire props to simulate training and 16 smoke machines to simulate zero visibility training. The classroom has the most up to date audio-visual equipment with a seating capacity of up to 40 people. Various agencies such as Cal Fire, Department of Transportation, Skylife Air, American Ambulance, Visalia Police Department and other law enforcement agencies have used Station 55 Training Center



to conduct training, presentations and/or meetings.

STATION 56

1968 S. Lovers Lane
Visalia, CA 93292



Incident Type Response Summary by Station

Station: S56

Fire	73	51	00:06:52	\$169,000.00	\$28,207,050.00
Rupture/Explosion	1	1	00:06:39	\$0.00	\$0.00
EMS/Rescue	696	535	00:05:47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hazardous Condition	17	10	00:06:33	\$0.00	\$0.00
Service Call	56	14	00:06:13	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good Intent	190	28	00:06:30	\$0.00	\$0.00
False Call	30	20	00:06:28	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	1	1	00:05:32	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	1	1	00:05:39	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	1,065	661	00:05:56	\$169,000.00	\$28,207,050.00
Total Incident Count:	11,241			\$5,770,262.00	\$83,601,881.00

ENGINE 56



Visalia Fire Department in Action



Real Fresh Fire – May 26, 2011
Estimated Property Loss \$1,000,000

TOTAL CALLS IN 2011
Incident Summary by Incident
Date Range: From 01/01/2011 To 12/31/2011
Incident Type(s) Selected: All

Incident Type	Incident Count
Fire	491
Rupture/Explosion	6
EMS/Rescue	6,772
Hazardous Condition	1,378
Service Call	452
Good Intent	1,831
False Call	299
Severe Weather	7
Other	5
Totals	11,241



Visalia Fire Department battles a house blaze in the 500 block of North Powell Court. Total loss \$700,000



Visalia Firefighters put out a fire at a home in the 2500 block of South Divisadero Street. Total loss \$125,000.

Fire Sprinkler stops the spread of fire in Z's Day Spa in the Key West shopping center

On Friday, December 2, 2011, the Fire Department was dispatched to a commercial fire alarm at 5201 W. Goshen Avenue. Upon arrival, no smoke or signs of fire were seen from the dispatched address; however, upon further investigation crews were alerted to smoke in the Chapala Grill Restaurant, 5113 W. Goshen. While searching for the source of the smoke, fire personnel discovered water flowing from a rear door of 5109 W. Goshen Avenue, Z's Day Spa. Crews made entry into the building and quickly located and extinguished a fire located in a utility room, originating from a dryer filled with towels

Firefighters Rescue Victim of Solo Vehicle Pin-In

On Saturday, December 03, 2011, the Visalia Fire Department responded to Main and Floral for a solo vehicle accident with pin-in. Upon arrival, crews found one vehicle into a tree. The passenger had been ejected and was lying in the roadway while the driver was pinned in the vehicle.

Fire Department personnel utilized the "Jaws of Life" to extricate the trapped victim.



Dinuba Distribution Center Evacuated



On September 11th, the Fire Department's Strike Team, comprised of one Engine and four personnel was deployed to assist with firefighting efforts at the Comanche Complex Fire in Kern County. Captain Adney, Engineer Cowell, Firefighter Paramedics' Randall, and Ruiz were among first responders to provide protection to homes in the foothills, just outside Bakersfield.



Fire, Smoke causes \$650,000 in damage at Visalia Laser Center



Smoke forces 2 Visalia restaurants to close; Main Street Café, Café 225 reopen in time for dinner



1116 W. Dove (\$100,000)



Visalia Haz-Mat Team Clean Up Spill



3916 W. Four Creeks (\$50,000)

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

On April 11, 2011, nine employees were presented with a Circle of Excellence Award and recognized for Outstanding Leadership, Dedication & Commitment to Excellence.

Karl Kassner
Administrative Officer
Prevention

Fire Captain Karl Krauss
Haz-Mat

Fire Captain Eric Bush
Investigations

Fire Captain Dustin Hall
EMS

Fire Captain Derek Fricke
Rescue

Fire Captain Joe Goforth
Haz-Mat

Fire Captain Jay Manning
Records Management

Fire Captain Ray Ramirez
Haz-Mat

Darrin Hughes
Training Captain
Training

COMINGS & GOINGS 2011

PROMOTIONS

Kurtis Brown
Assistant Fire Marshal

Chris Ortiz
Fire Captain

Shane Yoder
Fire Engineer

NEW HIRES

Melissa Novak
Fire Inspector

Angie Cantrell
City Safety Officer

Jacob Huffman
Firefighter Paramedic

Mike Herlihy
Firefighter Paramedic

Chris Okland
Firefighter Paramedic

Brandon DeLaCruz
Firefighter Paramedic

IN 2011, THE DEPARTMENT BID FAREWELL TO

Russ Ordonia
Firefighter Paramedic

James Williams
Firefighter Paramedic

Rayeann Kliss
Senior Administrative Analyst

IN MEMORY OF



A FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

*WHEN I AM CALLED TO DUTY, GOD
WHEREVER FLAMES MAY RAGE
GIVE ME STRENGTH TO SAVE A LIFE
WHATEVER BE ITS AGE.*

*LET ME EMBRACE A LITTLE CHILD
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE
OR SAVE AN OLDER PERSON FROM
THE HORROR OF THAT FATE.*

*ENABLE ME TO BE ALERT
AND HEAR THE WEAKEST SHOUT,
AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY
TO PUT THE FIRE OUT.*

*I WANT TO FILL MY CALLING
TO GIVE THE BEST IN ME,
TO GUARD MY FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR
AND PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY.*

*AND IF ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL,
I HAVE TO LOSE MY LIFE,
PLEASE BLESS, WITH YOUR PROTECTING HAND,
MY FAMILY AND MY WIFE.*