



# VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2012



# Table of Contents

❖ Mission Statement.....	3
❖ City Council.....	4
❖ Message from the Interim Fire Chief.....	5
❖ Department Mission & Description.....	6
❖ Organizational Chart – All Employees.....	7
❖ Annual Statistics.....	8
❖ Fire Administration.....	12
❖ Budget Summaries.....	14
❖ City Safety Program.....	14
❖ Emergency Medical Services.....	15
❖ Prevention Division.....	16
❖ A Shift Battalion Chief.....	18
❖ B Shift Battalion Chief.....	19
❖ C Shift Battalion Chief.....	20
❖ Training Battalion Chief.....	21
❖ HazMat & Rescue Teams.....	23
❖ VFD in Action.....	25
❖ Station Statistics.....	26
○ Station 51.....	26
○ Station 52.....	27
○ Station 54.....	28
○ Station 55.....	29
○ Station 56.....	30
❖ Awards, New Hires, Promotions.....	31
❖ Service Awards, Departures.....	32
❖ Management Team Organizational Chart.....	33
❖ Through the Year.....	34
❖ A Firefighter’s Prayer.....	35



# 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”***



# VISALIA CITY COUNCIL



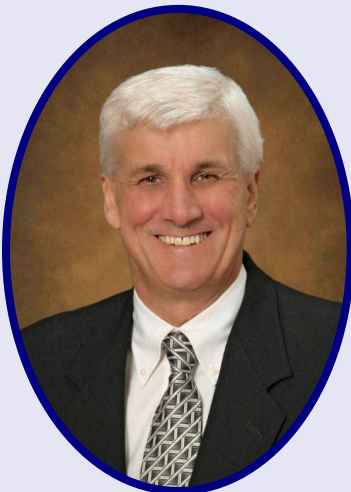
**Vice Mayor**  
Steve Nelsen



**Mayor**  
Amy Shuklian



**Councilman**  
Bob Link



**Councilman**  
Greg Collins



**City Manager**  
Steve Salomon



**Councilman**  
Warren Gubler



## WORD FROM THE INTERIM FIRE CHIEF



This past year, the department saw Fire Chief Mark Nelson make the decision to retire after four years of service to the City of Visalia. Chief Nelson did an outstanding job leading the Department through what can only be described as the most difficult financial times most of us have ever witnessed. Through this challenging period, with the support of the City Council and City Manager, Chief Nelson was able to keep the City and its citizens safe while caring for and improving the fire department's capability. We all thank Chief Nelson for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

The Visalia Fire Department had an exciting and successful 2012. With the vision and leadership of the Visalia City Council, and the support of the City Manager, the department has made great strides in improving the quality of life through better fire and life safety.

The main achievement for the department in 2012, was the addition of an engine company to its firefighting fleet. In these times of fiscal constraints, adding an entire firefighting company is a very significant accomplishment. The new engine company consists of a Fire Captain, Fire Engineer, Firefighter Paramedic, a fire engine and all supporting equipment. This unit is in service around the clock every day of the year. The primary mission of this new company is to improve the fire and life safety in the southwest portion of the city while adding to the overall strength of the City's fire suppression fleet.

In order to place this staffed unit in service, the City hired, trained, and assigned ten new Firefighter Paramedics to the fire department staff. These young people are today serving our community and adding to the strength of the fire suppression force. This great accomplishment is yet another example of our City Leaders' foresight and commitment to public safety.

As some of you may know, this is my second time serving as Interim Fire Chief for the City of Visalia. I have had the honor of being the Fire Chief in three other California cities; and based on my experience, I can truly say the City of Visalia is expertly lead, expertly managed, and blessed to have top quality people throughout its ranks.

The fire department is simply a reflection of the rest of this excellent city. The women and men who make up this department are top-notch professionals who have chosen to live a life of service dedicated to the care and protection of this city, its citizens and guests.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Visalia Fire Department for contributing to the high quality of life in Visalia.

Respectfully,  
*Gregory H. Glass*  
Interim Fire Chief

# 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, and 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 six divisions:

1) Administration/Support Services; 2) Emergency Services/Operations; 3) Fire Prevention; 4) Training; 5) Hazardous Materials Response; and 6) City Safety

The Administration/Support Services Division is staffed by the Fire Chief, Administrative Captain, City Safety Officer, Senior Administrative Analyst and Senior 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.

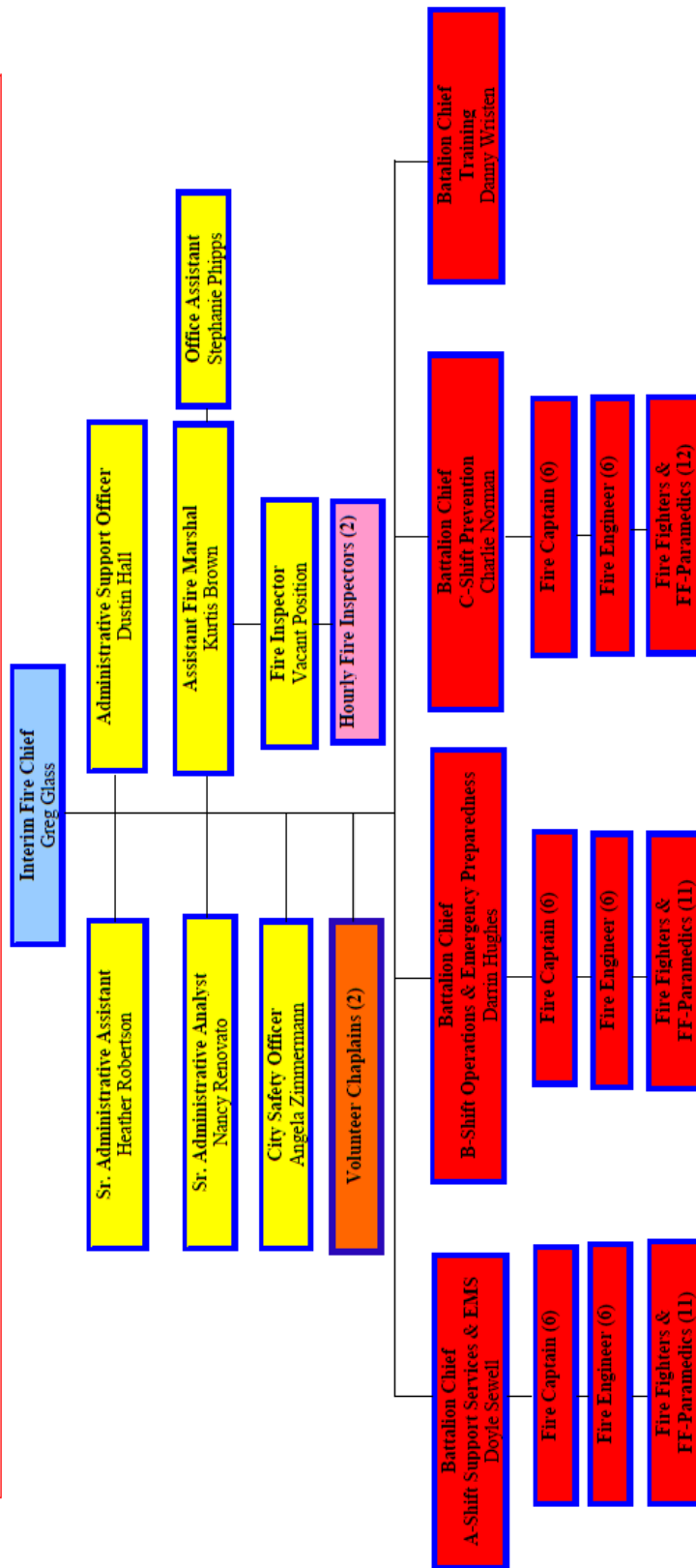
The Fire Prevention Division is staffed by the Fire Chief, who also serves as the Fire Marshal and an Assistant Fire Marshal who oversees the day to day operations in the Prevention Division as well as an Office Assistant, one full-time Fire Inspector and two hourly Fire Inspectors. This division seeks 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.



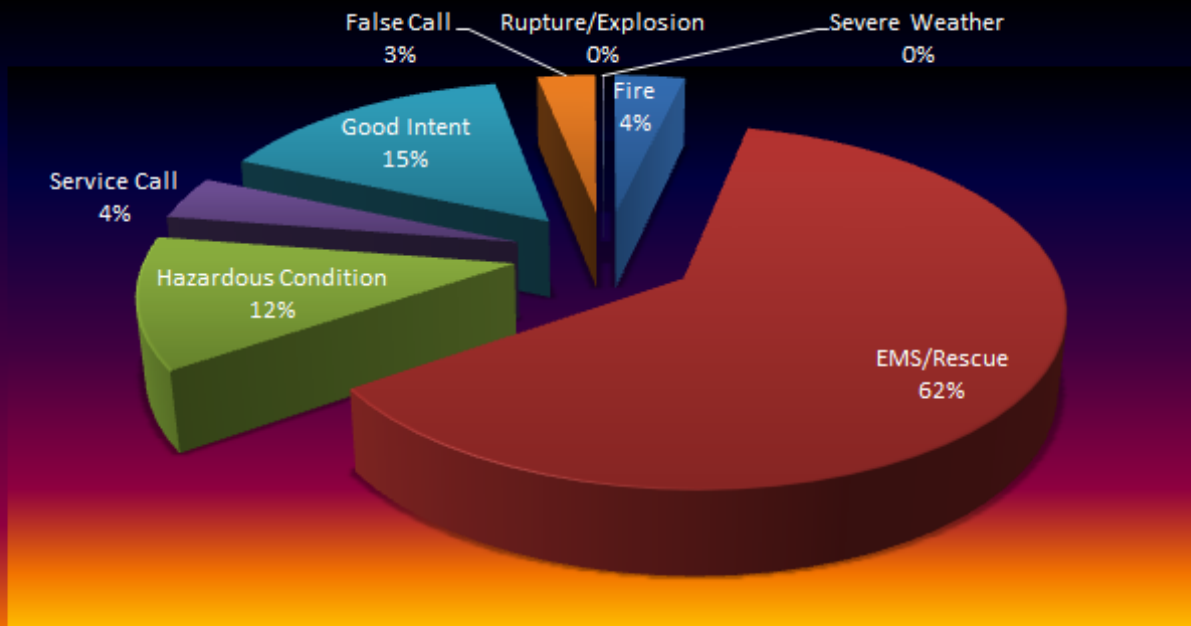
# VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

*Visalia Fire Department*  
**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART-ALL PERSONNEL**  
**December 27, 2012**



# 2012 ANNUAL STATISTICS

## TOTAL INCIDENTS BY TYPE



### Incident Summary by Incident Type

Date Range: From 01/01/2012 To 12/31/2012

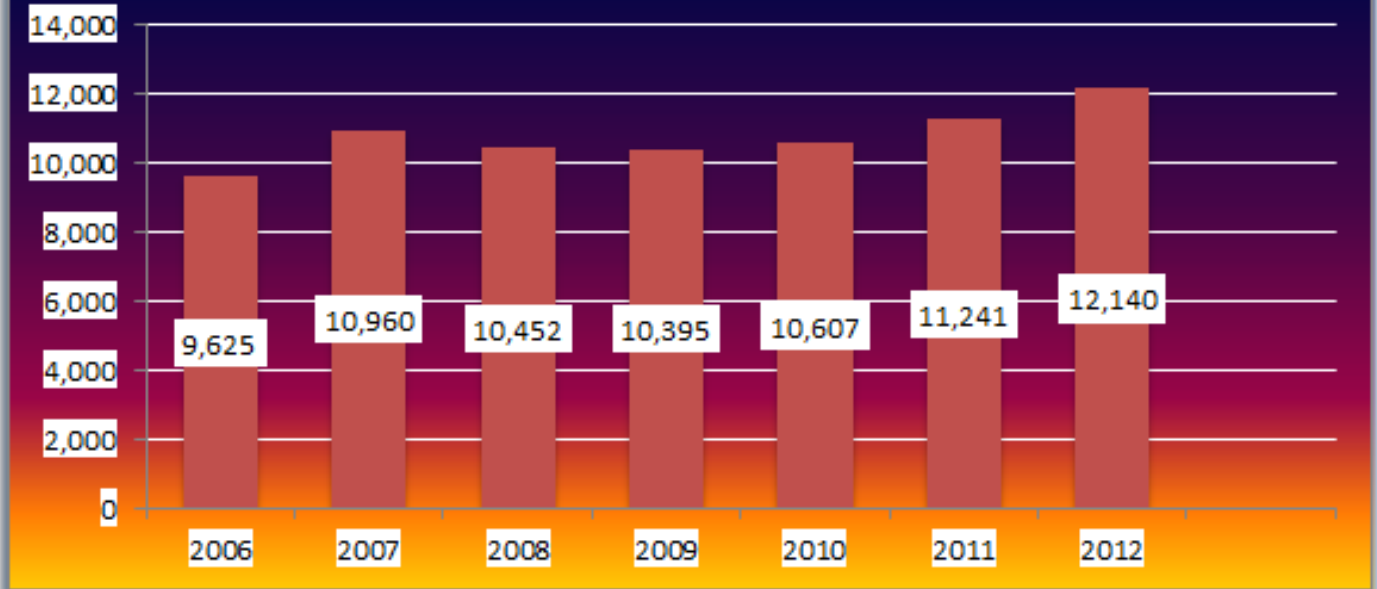
Incident Type(s) Selected: All

Incident Type	Incident Count	Used in Ave. Resp.	Average Response Time hh:mm:ss	Total Loss	Total Value
Fire	442	387	00:05:39	\$2,504,193.00	\$25,546,913.00
Rupture/Explosion	8	8	00:05:42	\$0.00	\$0.00
EMS/Rescue	7,497	5,522	00:05:16	\$12,700.00	\$152,200.00
Hazardous Condition	1,462	136	00:05:56	\$3,100.00	\$851,750.00
Service Call	488	197	00:05:34	\$9,200.00	\$203,700.00
Good Intent	1,866	286	00:05:44	\$1,800.00	\$302,000.00
False Call	364	291	00:06:25	\$0.00	\$0.00
Severe Weather	6	2	00:06:05	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	7	1	00:07:07	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,140</b>	<b>6,830</b>		<b>\$2,530,993.00</b>	<b>\$27,056,563.00</b>

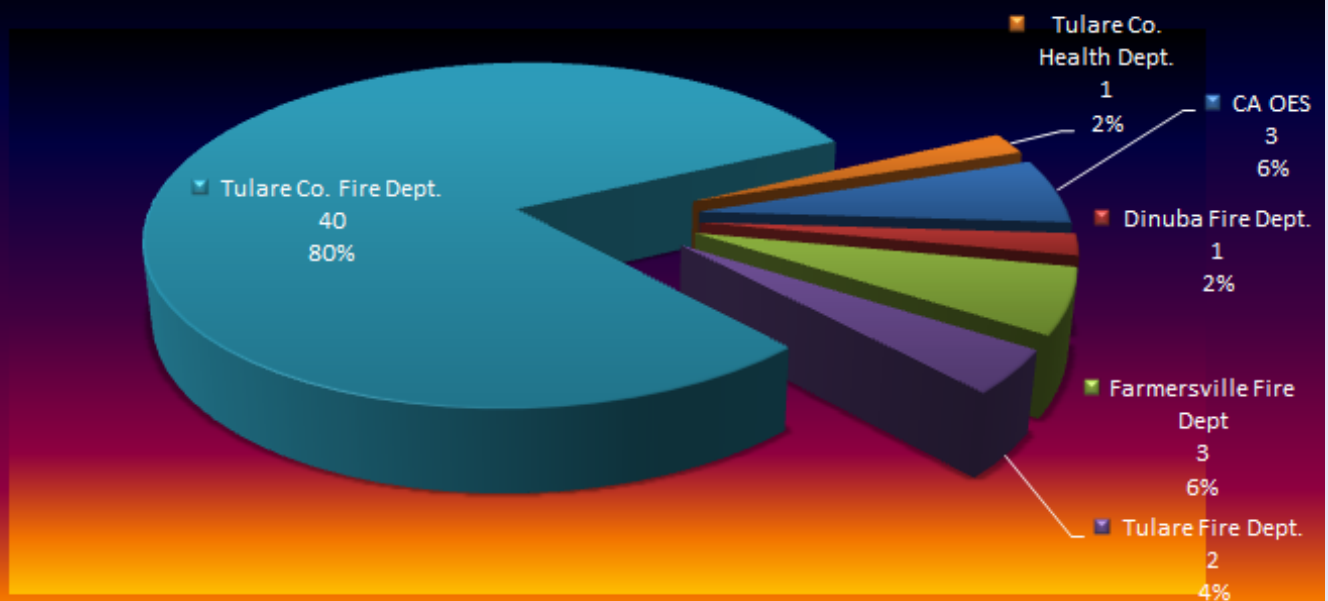


# 2012 ANNUAL STATISTICS

## TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CALLS PER YEAR

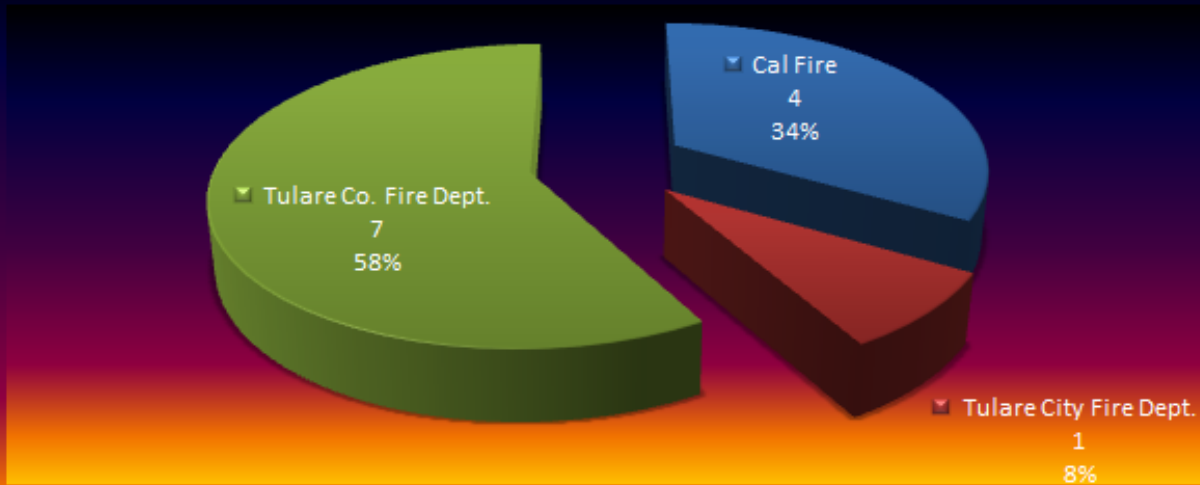


## MUTUAL AID GIVEN

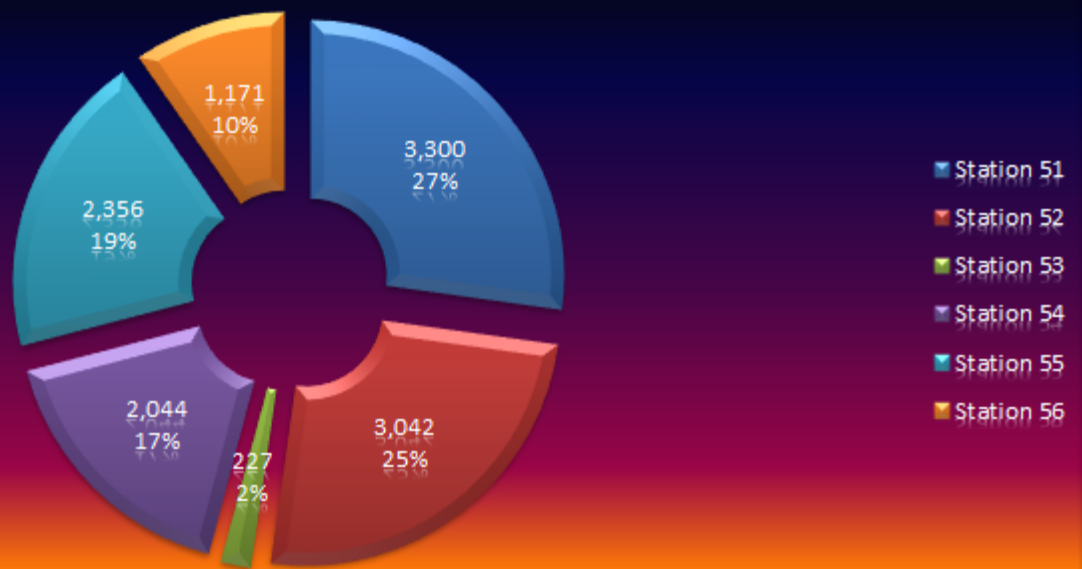


# 2012 ANNUAL STATISTICS

## MUTUAL AID RECEIVED



## INCIDENT COUNT BY STATION



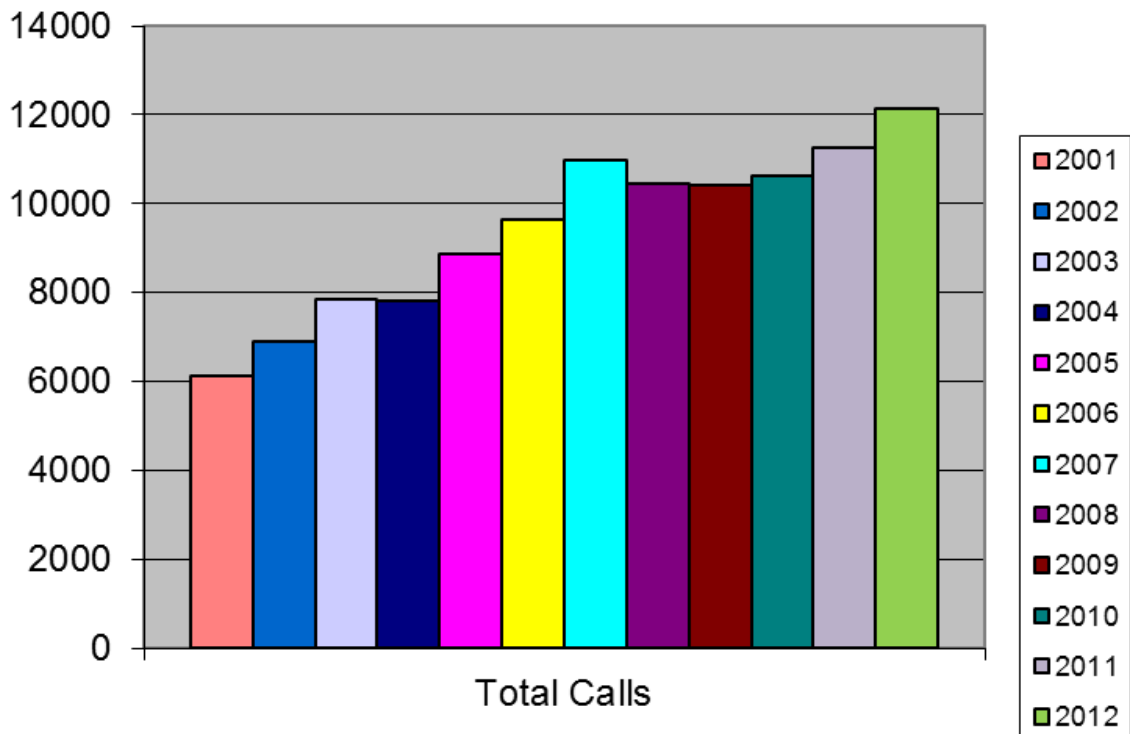


# 2012 ANNUAL STATISTICS

## Total Incidents by Year Comparison

Report Period: From 2001 to 2012

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Calls</u>
2001	6132
2002	6905
2003	7849
2004	7810
2005	8867
2006	9625
2007	10959
2008	10443
2009	10395
2010	10606
2011	11241
2012	12140



# ADMINISTRATION



Nancy Renovato  
Senior Administrative Analyst

It is an honor to present the Visalia Fire Department 2012 Annual Report. The Annual Report highlights the operations, activities and accomplishments of the Visalia Fire Department, offering the reader a synopsis of our organizational makeup, and financial status.

Calendar year 2012, was a very busy and memorable year, a year of transition and many changes as the department bid farewell to Chief Mark Nelson and welcomed Interim Fire Chief Glass on September 17, 2012.

The year began with a recruitment process for new Firefighter Paramedics (FFP). Over 300 applications were received. Three FFP's were hired to begin February 6, 2012, and ten to start the recruit Academy on September 4th to form a new engine company. The department promoted 14 staff members and lost five to retirements and resignations. In 2012, the department re-

sponded to 12,140 calls for service, an increase of 7.4 percent over 2011. Of these, 7,497 were Emergency Medical calls.

In Fiscal Year 2011-12, total expenditures for the fire department were under budget by 7.8 percent. Overtime was also under budget by approximately \$64,000. Off-setting the overtime were strike team reimbursements totaling \$14,000, HazMat response cost recovery \$24,000 and salary savings totaling \$48,000.

Operating Expenditures	2011-12 Budget	2011-12 Actuals
General Fund		
Fire Administration 22221	\$ 933,730	\$ 729,085
Operations 22222	\$ 9,989,710	\$ 9,624,430
Fire Prevention 22223	\$ 475,310	\$ 226,572
Training 22224	\$ 85,250	\$ 70,594
Safety Program 22225	\$ 10,000	
Hazardous Materials 22226	\$ 75,120	\$ 20,156
Total Expenditures	\$ 11,569,120	\$ 10,670,837

Currently the Operations Team consists of four Battalion Chiefs, 21 Fire Captains, 20 Fire Engineers, and 26 Firefighter Paramedics. The Administration/Support Services Division consists of the Fire Chief, Administrative Captain, Assistant Fire Marshal, City Safety Officer, Senior Administrative Analyst, Senior Administrative Assistant and Senior Office Assistant who are responsible for the administrative activities of the department.

## Accomplishments at a Glance

- Administrative **Captain Dustin Hall** was honored by the Knights of Columbus as “Firefighter of the Year.” Captain Hall was also appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Tulare County Emergency Medical Care Committee.
- The fire department completed the 2012/2014 Budget & Capital Improvement Process.
- Promoted 14 personnel (One Battalion Chief, five Fire Captains, seven Fire Engineers) and bid farewell to five employees.
- VFD was recognized for exceptional leadership and service devotion and received a plaque for Advocates of the Year 2012.



# ADMINISTRATION

- VFD hosted and provided training for two Miki City, Japan Firefighters.
- Three personnel; Larry Garcia, Nancy Renovato, and Angie Zimmermann completed Supervisory Academy Spring 2012—Cohort III.
- VFD participated in Fill the Boot for MDA, Open House, Fire Prevention Week, and 9/11 Commemorative Ceremony.
- Three personnel were presented with the “Circle of Excellence” award; Kurtis Brown, Mike Cromer, Danny Wristen.
- Purchased and received one Measure T Funded Engine.

**Administration** - Office of the Fire Chief: Supports fire suppression and emergency services; reviews and develops objectives, goals, policies, and procedures; compiles statistical information; prepares, monitors, and manages budget; coordinates all support services for the Fire Department including personnel management, labor relations, procurement, and payroll; provides customer service to internal and external customers.

**Heather Robertson**, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Chief has served the City of Visalia for six years. Heather started her employment with the City in November 2006, as an Office Assistant and was promoted to Senior Administrative Assistant in 2010.

Along with her role in supporting the Fire and Battalion Chiefs, Heather also serves as the Documentation Unit Leader for the Emergency Operations Center, and is responsible for managing the AED and Fireworks Programs, payroll/personnel, permits, tax roll and liens.



**Stephanie Phipps**, Office Assistant, has served the City of Visalia for two years and was recently flexed-promoted to Senior Office Assistant.

Along with providing excellent customer service and serving as the department's primary point of contact to the public, she is responsible for managing the front counter reception area in Fire Administration, the Weed Abatement Hotline, and coordinates the Apartment Complex Inspections and Public Education Programs. Stephanie serves as the Department's Core Team Representative and is certified as a Notary Public. She is credited with modifying several department forms to streamline processes.

# VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARIES OVER SIX FISCAL YEARS

## City of Visalia Two-Year Budget 2012-13 & 2013-14

### FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES ALL FUNDS

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2009-10 ACTUALS	2010-11 ACTUALS	2011-12 BUDGET	2011-12 PROJECTION	2012-13 PROPOSED	2013-14 PROPOSED
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>						
Fire Administration - 22221	\$ 862,136	\$ 875,579	\$ 933,730	\$ 912,040	\$ 730,800	\$ 734,800
Emergency Services/Operations - 22222	9,255,367	9,993,058	9,989,710	10,044,440	9,881,100	9,966,900
Fire Prevention - 22223	495,842	446,424	475,310	472,540	507,900	540,400
Training - 22224	414,089	253,025	85,250	110,900	113,000	113,800
Safety Program - 22225	-	4,581	10,000	18,000	138,800	143,800
Hazardous Materials Response - 22226	78,769	154,561	75,120	62,700	83,800	75,300
Total Operating Expenditures	11,106,203	11,727,228	11,569,120	11,520,620	11,455,400	11,575,000
Reimbursements	(89,996)	(69,996)	(70,000)	(70,000)	(121,600)	(121,600)
<b>Net General Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>11,036,207</b>	<b>11,657,232</b>	<b>11,499,120</b>	<b>11,550,620</b>	<b>11,333,800</b>	<b>11,453,400</b>
<b>SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>						
Public Safety Tax - Fund 1122	624,725	692,996	3,466,691	1,487,060	1,953,100	2,229,800
Reimbursements	-	-	-	-	(26,700)	(26,700)
<b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>	<b>624,725</b>	<b>692,996</b>	<b>3,466,691</b>	<b>1,487,060</b>	<b>1,926,400</b>	<b>2,203,100</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,660,932</b>	<b>\$12,350,228</b>	<b>\$14,965,811</b>	<b>\$13,037,680</b>	<b>\$13,260,200</b>	<b>\$13,656,500</b>

## CITY SAFETY



Angie Zimmermann  
City Safety Officer

Committed to providing a safe and healthful workplace, Angie's area of responsibility includes compliance with all State and Federal regulations relating to occupational safety and health. Angie provides leadership, training, information, resources, policy development, and consultation services to all City employees and departments.

### Accomplishments 2012

- Monthly Safety Committee meetings
  - Intranet safety training
  - Supervisory Academy
  - Facility inspections
  - Expanded Heat Illness program
  - Annual Hearing Tests
  - Bloodborne Pathogens and Infection Control programs revised
  - Ergonomic evaluations
  - Vehicle accident/property damage review process expanded
  - Emergency Evacuation Drills for City Hall West and the Convention Center
  - Certified Playground Safety Inspector
- Designated Infection Control Officer

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



### Accomplishments 2012

- Implemented the use of Duo Dote Auto Injectors, used for the treatment of organophosphate poisoning. The treatment is used only on fire personnel to affect assistance to the general public as a whole.
  - Purchased all new EMS equipment for the new fire engine
  - Established a cadre of four instructors to teach BLS/CPR (Basic Life Support/Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation)
  - Established a CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) committee. This committee is required by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Quality Improvement is defined as “methods of evaluation that are composed of structure, process, and outcome evaluations which focus on improvement efforts to identify root causes of problems, intervene to reduce or eliminate these causes, and take steps to correct the process.” The Fire department has eight members actively involved in ensuring a high quality service is provided to the citizens we protect.
- Completed the renewal of all 33 EMT-B certifications
  - Applied for AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) to replace eight cardiac monitor/defibrillators. The grant application was submitted in June and we are still in the process with a “favorable” review.
  - Developed a FRALS (First Responder Advance Life Support) fee of \$315 per medical incident. This fee is considered a “user fee” and will only be charged to private insurance. This fee is expected to assist in recouping expenses of providing a higher level of service to the public.
  - Purchased Zoll ePCR (electronic Patient Care Report) Suite – This will be used to gather and document patient personal information as well as document the treatment given to the public that calls the Visalia Fire Department for assistance. This new tool will assist in meeting the department’s mission of providing high quality, efficient medical treatment to the public.
  - Implemented department wide annual core evaluation of EMS skills. This is something that is new to the organization and will help to continually be proactive in providing high quality care as well as ensure department members maintain a high skill and knowledge level.
  - Completed specialty training – LVAD (Left Ventricular Assistance Device) this was a partnership between Community Medical Center of Fresno and the Visalia Fire Department as a proactive measure in response to the device being implanted in patients who live in the Visalia area.

### *INFECTIOUS CONTROL ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

- Implemented and updated reporting procedures for City employees who may have been exposed to a communicable disease either from a bloodborne pathogen (BBP) or aerosol transmissible disease (ATD)
- Completed training in the Fire and Police departments
- Updated the Exposure Control Plan (ECP)
- Continue to update the City’s Aerosol Transmissible disease (ATD) plan
- Establishing relationships with the local pre-hospital providers and local hospitals
- Developed and established a way the public can dispose of used sharps (needles) in a lawful manner
- Added a third Infectious Control Officer, also known as a DO (designated officer)



# PREVENTION DIVISION



**Kurtis Brown**  
**Assistant Fire Marshal**

## Fire Prevention

In 2012, the Visalia Fire Prevention Division conducted over 1,056 Fire & Life Safety Inspections and over 761 Follow-up Inspections. The Visalia Fire Department administers an Operational Permit program, which provides a permit for businesses that may conduct or produce a specific hazard. During 2012, the Prevention Division billed approximately \$32,120 in Operational Permits to various businesses.

Fire Suppression staff also conducts Fire & Life Safety Inspections of commercial buildings. In 2012, the fire suppression staff conducted 1,717 inspections with over 1,720 Follow-up Inspections.

The Prevention Division in 2012, had a dedicated part-time Fire Inspector that performed Property Maintenance Inspections through-



**Danielle Beasley**  
**Fire Inspector**

out the City of Visalia. A Property Maintenance Inspection is an inspection of a

## Fire Investigations

**In 2012, the Investigations Team conducted 330 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 Battalion Chief Charlie Norman.

## Public Education

The Department provides educational programs tailored to different groups from schools, in-home trainings, churches and community service groups. Our 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.

residential, commercial or vacant property of which the Visalia Fire Department has received a complaint regarding weeds, trash and any other condition that may constitute a fire hazard. During 2012, inspections were performed on over 1,660 properties. Of these, 126 were abated by the department. The Property Maintenance Program operates on a cost recovery system. A total of \$46,279 in administrative fees was billed to different entities in 2012.



**Corbin Reed**  
**Fire Inspector**



# PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Department participates in many health and safety community events such as the Children's Festival, Career Fairs, Open House, Carnivals, and other community requested events. In 2012, the Visalia Fire Department conducted 318 Public Education Presentations to various outside agencies, totaling over 27,120 attendees. A



total of 58 individuals participated in the Ride-a-Long Program. Additionally, fire department staff installed a total of 80 smoke detectors in homes throughout Visalia.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

During Fire Prevention Week the Fire Department

conducted Fire Safety Education presentations to all Second Grade students throughout Visalia Schools.

## FIRE CAMP

One of the biggest and most popular events of the year is the Kids Summer Fire Camp. Approximately 80 campers participate in a week filled with fire related activities. Activities include tying knots, using fire hoses, practicing STOP, DROP & ROLL, learning to use a fire extinguisher and so much more.



## OPEN HOUSE

Each year the Visalia Fire Department concludes Fire Prevention Week with an open house celebration. The Open House event is

located at 6921 W. Ferguson (Fire Station 55). The event provides the



Fire Department the opportunity to continue sharing the fire prevention message in a large event setting. Also the event provides the community the opportunity to gather information from other public agencies and other City services provided at the event. For example: Police Department (free children ID program), Parks & Recreation, Natural Resource Conservation, Graffiti Abatement, American Medical Response & American Ambulance.

In 2012 the Visalia Fire Department was pleased to have record attendance of over 1,000 community members.



# BATTALION CHIEF SEWELL



**Battalion Chief Doyle Sewell** began his career with the City of Visalia Fire Department in 1989, as a Firefighter. He was promoted to Fire Engineer in 1992, Fire Captain in 1996 and Battalion Chief in 1999. Chief Sewell is assigned to A Shift Platoon and is responsible for Apparatus, Building & Grounds, EMS, EOC, Hydrants and Ladders.

As the department's fire engines and trucks near the end of their shelf life, it has become necessary to service them more frequently. During the course of the year, the rigs made over 70 trips to the shop for various repairs. The Fleet Shop has evaluated two rigs and made a recommendation to retire one of the open cab engines.

Thanks to the Measure T initiative the Visalia Fire Department was able to purchase a new Crimson Fire Truck. The truck was delivered in July and has since been equipped and placed in operations.



New Measure T Fire Engine



Over the next two years, the Fire Department will be purchasing two additional new engines.



Together with Neighborhood Church, Community Residents, and Cal Water, the Visalia Fire Department painted 137 hydrants through "Serve Visalia". Cal Water donated over \$2,000 worth of paint.



# BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES



**Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes**, began his employment with the City in January 1996 as a Firefighter. He was promoted to Fire Engineer in 2002, Fire Captain in 2006 and Battalion Chief on February 25, 2012.

Chief Hughes is assigned to B Shift Platoon and is responsible for the Hazardous Materials, Quartermaster, Honor Guard, Grants, and Technical Rescue Programs.

Accomplishments in 2012:

## **Quartermaster Program**

- Purchased all new personal protective equipment for the 10 most recent probationary firefighters
  - Scheduled fitting appointments with PPE vendors for personnel that needed replacement equipment
  - Maintained surplus uniform and personal protective equipment to replace as needed for personnel
- Maintained turnouts that needed repair throughout the year

## **Small Engine, Equipment and Tools Program**

- Purchased new equipment for the new Crimson fire engine
- Purchased new equipment for the new training vehicle
- Maintained all small engines and power equipment on all apparatus
- Supplied equipment that was needed to conduct the 2012 fire recruit academy

## **Hazardous Materials Team Program**

- Updated the Tulare County Hazardous Materials Area Plan
- Conducted bi-monthly hazardous materials team training
- Attended monthly Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings
- Purchased hazardous materials equipment needed for emergency responses
- Conducted Hazardous Materials First Responder training for the 2012 recruit academy
- Purchased hazardous materials decontamination equipment for the decontamination trailer
- Responded to Waste Connection in Kingsburg in October for a material off-gassing phosphine
- Responded to Highway 99 for a 2000-3000 gallon asphalt spill in August
- Received a grant for \$48,000 to send 4 personnel to Hazardous Materials training
- Worked with the Tulare County Public Health Laboratory for specialized training

## **Technical Rescue Team Program**

- Conducted bi-monthly technical rescue team training
- Completed the outfitting of the Type II rescue trailer
- Outfitted all team members with personal protective rescue gear
- Built a confined space rescue prop at Fire Station 55
- Conducted a Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations course for the 2012 recruit academy
- Purchased ropes and equipment to enhance rope rescue operations
- Purchase a 6500 watt generator for the rescue trailer

# BATTALION CHIEF NORMAN



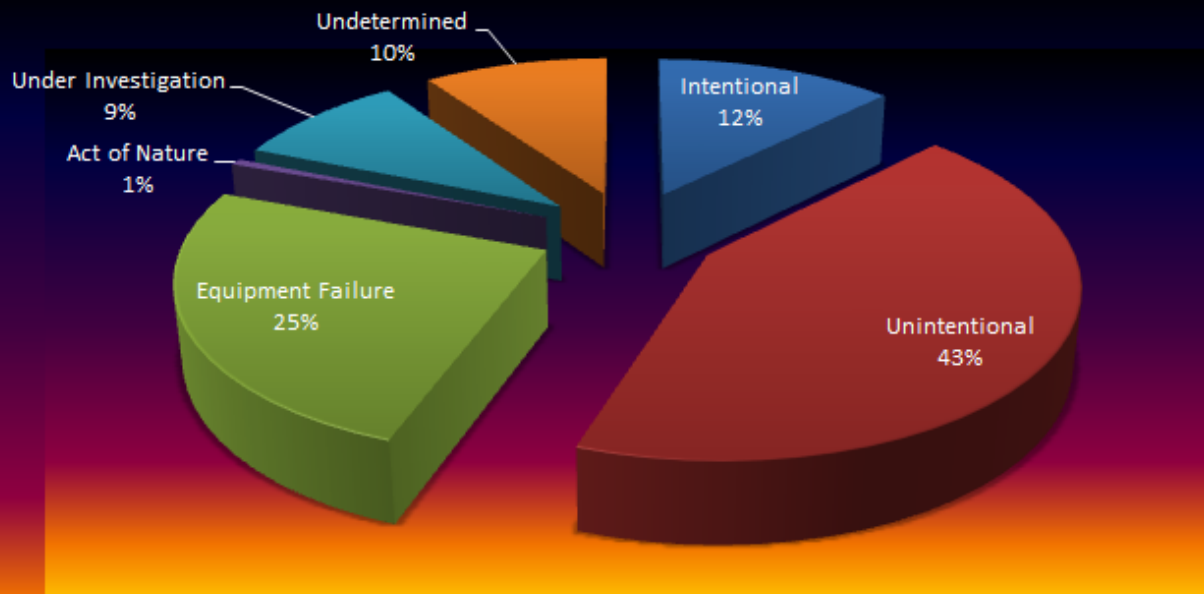
Battalion Chief Charlie Norman began his employment with the City of Visalia Fire Department in 1992 as a Firefighter . He was promoted to Fire Engineer in 1995, Fire Captain in 1999 and Battalion Chief in 2002.

Chief Norman is assigned to C Shift Platoon and serves as the Department's Public Information Officer. Chief Norman is also responsible for Accountability, Department Safety, Fire Investigations, Preemption, Standard Operating Guidelines.

Public Education—During 2012, engine company personnel completed 318 tours/presentations/visitations. These services were provided to approximately 27,120 people throughout the community. Additionally, a total of 58 people participated in the department's Ride-along Program.

The department also placed 80 smoke detectors in homes throughout Visalia.

In 2012, the Investigations Team conducted 330 Fire Investigations.





# BATTALION CHIEF WRISTEN



Battalion Chief Danny Wristen began his employment with the City of Visalia Fire Department as a Firefighter in 1992. He was promoted to Fire Engineer in 1995, Fire Captain in 1998, and Battalion Chief in 1999.

Chief Wristen oversees the Training Program and is also responsible for Emergency Preparedness, Wildland/Strike Team, Communications and Employee Certifications.

## Accomplishments in 2012

- Transitioned from Shift BC to Training BC
  - Completed the LEAP Grant Process
  - DataTech System installed in Dispatch
  - NAS Lemoore Drill
  - Station 55 Voter Repeater Installed
  - Recruit Academy 2112
- Received OES Engine 261
  - Received Homeland Security Grant for Haz Mat School
  - Successful added E-53 into the CAD dispatch system

## Emergency Preparedness

During April 2012, the department had several weather related issues. On April 11th, a significant thunderstorm impacted Visalia, producing heavy rain and cloud-to-ground lighting. During an approximate one hour time frame, the department responded to 14 weather related emergencies. On April 25th, another thunderstorm rolled into the City, causing isolated problems throughout the community.

On May 23rd, the department participated in the Tulare County EOC Drill. The drill included the County EOC Team and representatives from various



cities, special districts and utility companies in Tulare County.



In June, the department, ambulance, and Kaweah Delta Hospital staff participated in an emergency preparedness mock multi-casualty drill. The drill was designed to test both first responder and hospital personnel in dealing with a large number of victims.

On October 18th, approximately 200 emergency responders from various agencies participated in a Naval Aircraft Mishap Drill. This was a full scale field exercise hosted by Tulare County OES and Naval Air Station Lemoore. The drill simulated the crash of an F-18 Naval aircraft and included an aircraft fuselage fire, building fire, multi casualty incident and a debris field. Approximately 700 people attended the training exercise.



As part of the hiring process with the Fire Department, Recruits are required to participate in an eight to ten 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:

- Paramedic Orientation
- Safety Survival
- Drags & Carries
- Inspections
- Investigations
- FF Survival Class
- Ventilation
- Thermal Imager Camera
- Flood Fight
- Forcible Entry
- Wild Land Fires
- Live Fires
- Auto Extraction
- And other safety operations



## TRAINING SIMULATION





# HAZMAT TEAM



*Engineer Colbert*



*Captain Cowell*



*Fire Paramedic  
De La Cruz*



*Engineer Franzen*



*Captain Fricke*



*Engineer Garcia*



*Captain Goforth*



*Captain Henry*



*Engineer Jimenez*



*Captain Kassner*



*Captain Krauss*



*Captain Ortiz*



*Captain Lopez*



*Captain Macumber*



*Fire Paramedic  
Okland*



*Engineer Philpott*



*Fire Paramedic  
Pineda-Gregory*



*Engineer Reed*



*Captain Ramirez*



*Fire Paramedic  
Ruiz*



*Engineer Sanchez*



*Engineer Yoder*



# RESCUE TEAM





# ACTION SHOTS

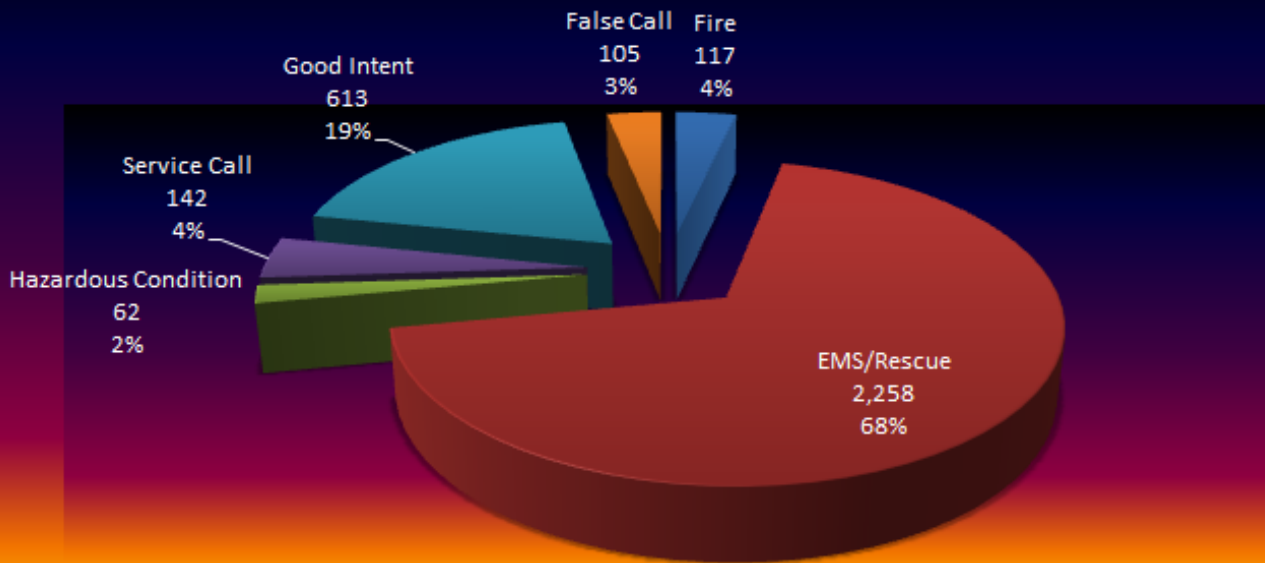




**STATION 51**  
**309 S. JOHNSON STREET**  
**VISALIA, CA 93291**



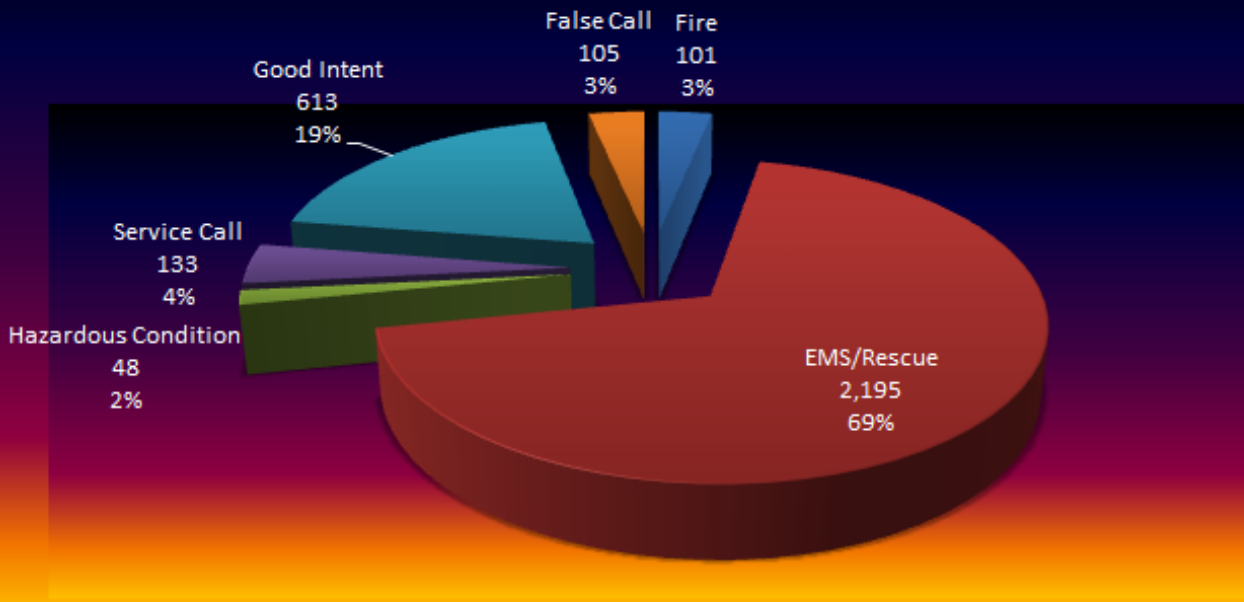
**Incident Type Summary Station 1**



**STATION 52**  
**2224 W. MONTE VISTA**  
**VISALIA, CA 93277**



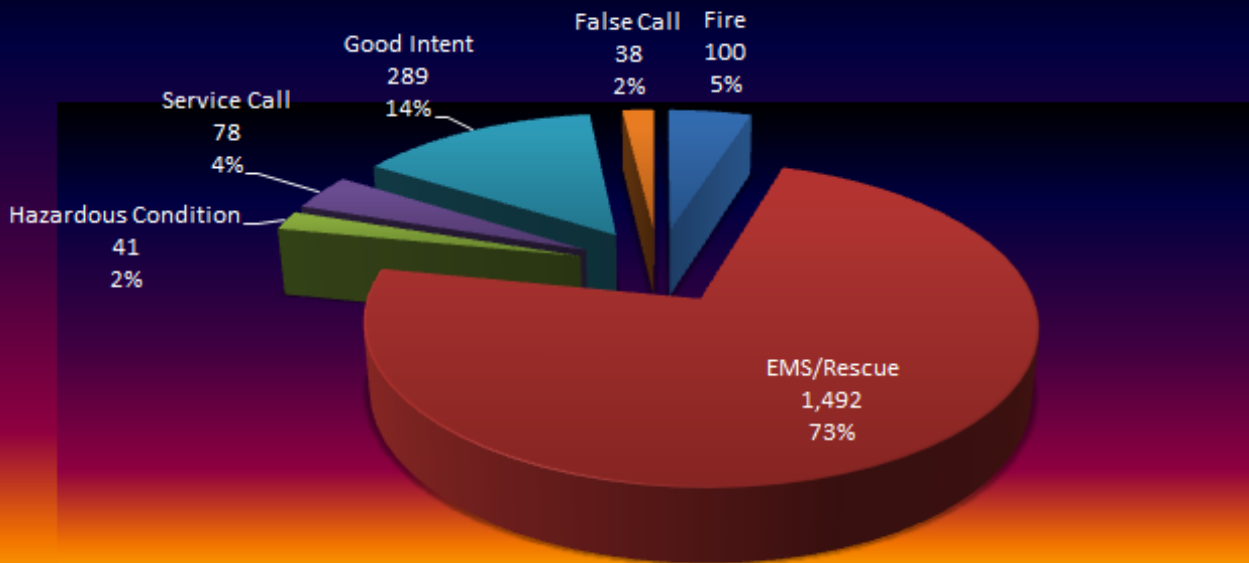
**Incident Type Summary Station 2**



**STATION 54  
440 W. FERGUSON STREET  
VISALIA, CA 93291**



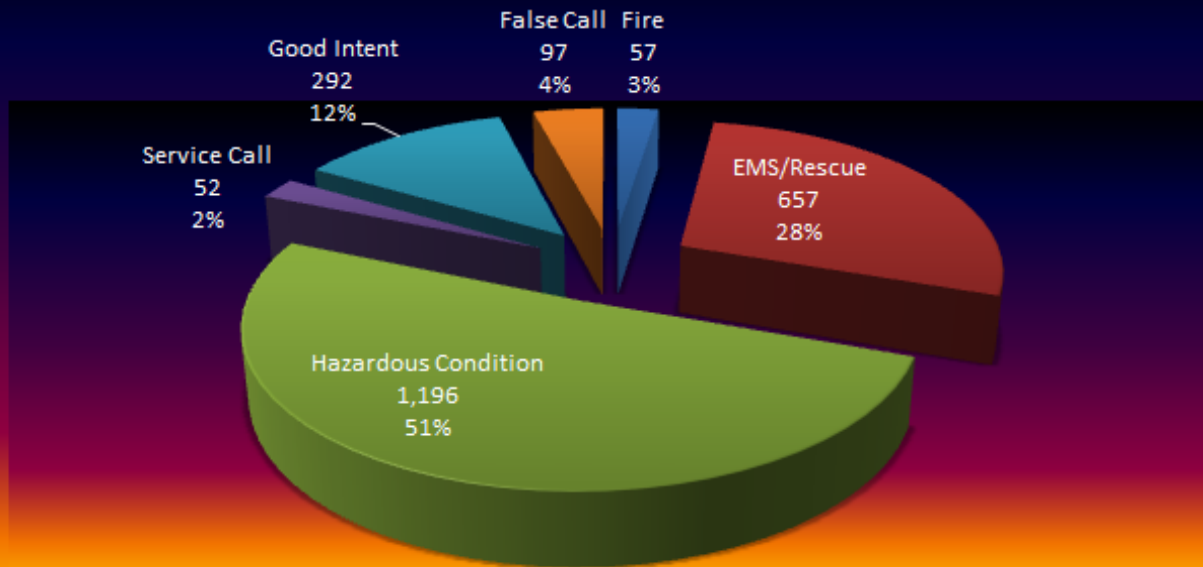
**Incident Type Summary Station 4**



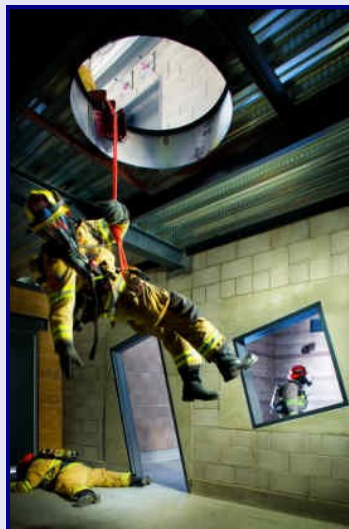


# STATION 55 & TRAINING CENTER 6921 W. FERGUSON AVENUE VISALIA, CA 93291

## Incident Type Summary Station 5



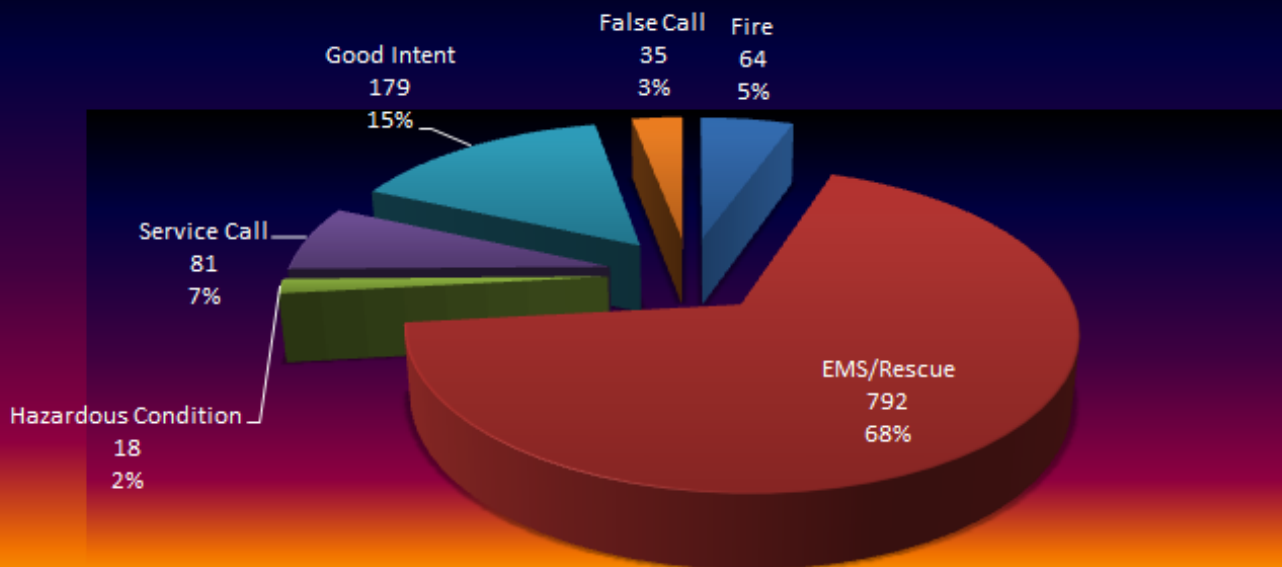
Station 55 is the largest training facility between Bakersfield and Modesto. It has a fully functional Class B (propane fueled) fire props to simulate training and 16 smoke machines to simulate zero visibility training. The classroom has the most up-to-date audio-visual equipment with a seating capacity of up to 40 people.



STATION 56  
 1968 S. LOVERS LANE  
 VISALIA, CA 93292



Incident Type Summary Station 6





# AWARDS, NEW HIRES, & PROMOTIONS

## CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE



The **Circle of Excellence** award is an honor earned by employees who have demonstrated excellence in their profession.

In 2012, **Assistant Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown, Fire Captain Mike Cromer, and Battalion Chief Danny Wristen** were all recognized for outstanding dedication and exceptional contributions

that reflect the values of the City of Visalia Fire Department.



## NEW HIRES

- Jack Alvord**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Brandon Bencomo**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Keith Bowen**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Grady Brock**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Brandon Burruss**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Jeremy Church**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Katie Cichy**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Jeffrey Hust**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Brian Jones**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Nathan Moncibias**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Steven Shelton**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- Shaun Spradling**  
Firefighter Paramedic
- David Yancey**  
Firefighter Paramedic

## PROMOTIONS

- Nick Branch**  
Fire Engineer Paramedic
- Matt Cowell**  
Fire Captain
- Chris Fischer**  
Fire Engineer Paramedic
- Franklin Franzen**  
Fire Engineer Paramedic
- John Greenwood**  
Fire Captain

- Darrin Hughes**  
Fire Battalion Chief
- Tommy Jimenez**  
Fire Engineer
- Karl Kassner**  
Fire Captain Paramedic
- Alvino Lopez**  
Fire Captain

- Jeff Macumber**  
Fire Captain Paramedic
- Brett Philpott**  
Fire Engineer Paramedic
- Richard Sanchez**  
Fire Engineer
- Troy Stotesbery**  
Fire Engineer Paramedic
- James Turnage**  
Fire Engineer Paramedic

# EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

EMPLOYEE	SERVICE YEARS	JOB CLASSIFICATION
KURTIS BROWN	5 YEARS	ASSISTANT FIRE MARSHAL
DAMEON MALEK	10 YEARS	FIRE ENGINEER
BRETT PHILPOTT	10 YEARS	FIRE ENGINEER
TROY STOTESBERY	10 YEARS	FIRE ENGINEER
RICHARD SANCHEZ	15 YEARS	FIRE ENGINEER
BRIAN ADNEY	20 YEARS	FIRE CAPTAIN
ADAM ARAKELIAN	20 YEARS	FIRE ENGINEER
MICHAEL CROMER	20 YEARS	FIRE CAPTAIN
DEREK FRICKE	20 YEARS	FIRE CAPTAIN
ROBERT HENRY	20 YEARS	FIRE CAPTAIN
CHARLES NORMAN	20 YEARS	BATTALION CHIEF
TODD STALKER	20 YEARS	FIRE CAPTAIN
DANIEL WRISTEN	20 YEARS	BATTALION CHIEF
PATTI REED	25 YEARS	FIRE ENGINEER

## FAREWELL & BEST WISHES



Fire Engineer Larry Fielden  
Aug 1984 to Dec 2012



Fire Captain Mike Jeffus  
Feb 1984 to Nov 2012



Fire Engineer Robert Briggs  
Nov 2006 to Aug 2012

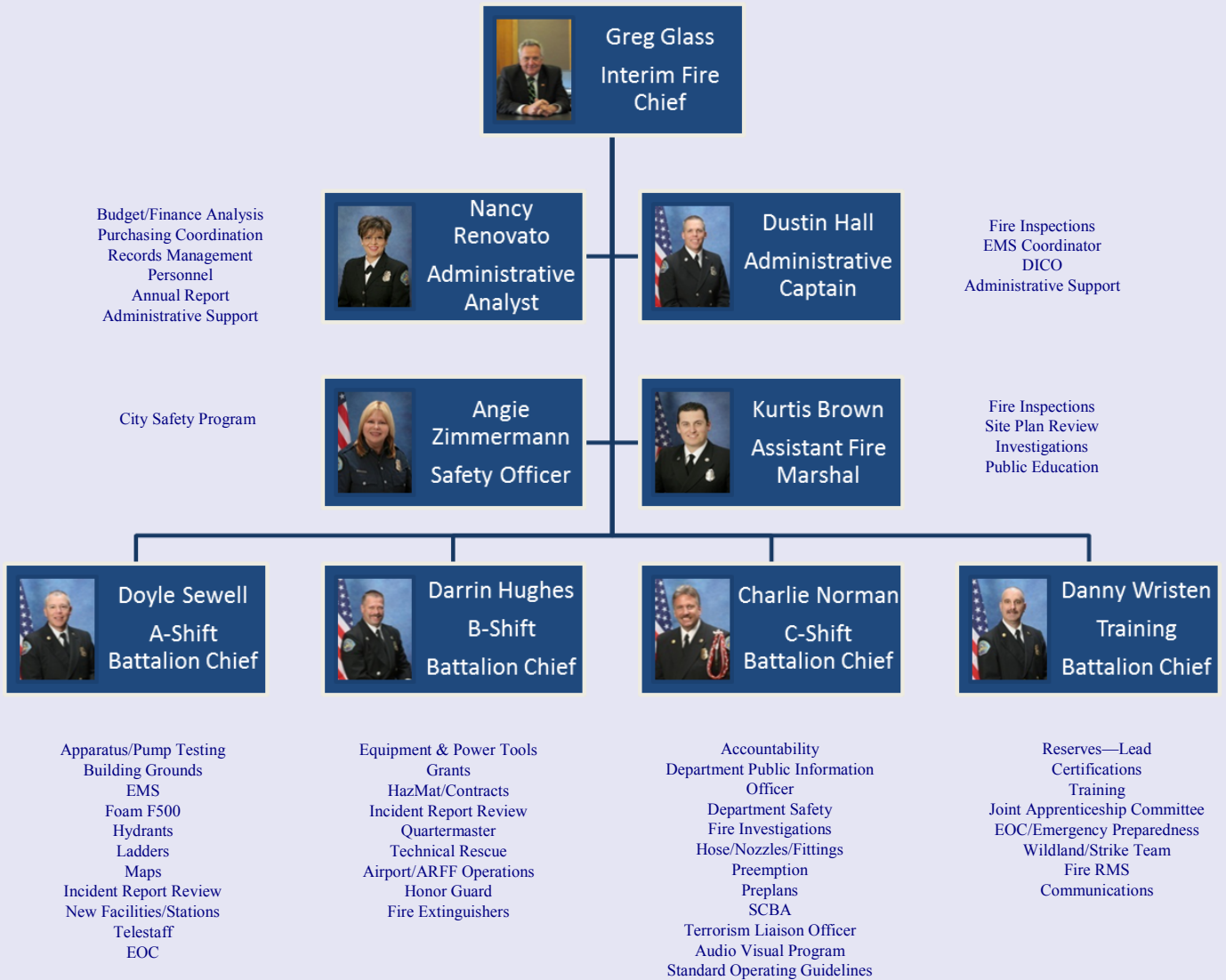


Fire Inspector Melissa Novak  
Jan 2011 to Dec 2012

Fire Chief Mark Nelson  
Jun 2008 to Sept 2012



# FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAM



The Fire Chief is responsible for planning, organizing and directing the Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression and Emergency Management, and Occupational Safety activities of the City to protect lives and property from a variety of physical hazards.

The Management Team performs professional administrative and managerial duties for the fire department and serve as key members of the department in support of department objectives.







## 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.*