

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

Fire Station 51
309 S Johnson

Fire Station 52
2224 W Monte Vista

Fire Station 53
309 S Johnson

Fire Station 54
440 W Ferguson

Fire Station 55
6921 W Ferguson

Fire Station 56
1968 S Lovers Lane

FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Doug McBee,
Fire Chief

Doyle Sewell,
Battalion Chief

Brian Adney,
Training Battalion Chief

Danny Wristen,
Battalion Chief

Darrin Hughes,
Battalion Chief

Dustin Hall,
Administrative Captain

Kurtis Brown,
Assistant Fire Marshal

Angela Zimmermann,
Safety Officer

Nancy Renovato,
Sr. Admin Analyst



It was a good month overall for our Department. Brian Adney was promoted to Battalion Chief filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Charlie Norman. Also, the promotion of Larry Garcia to Captain and Corbin Reed to Fire Inspector from his part-time fire inspector position filled our openings. We know all three will do very well as they take on their new responsibilities.

On August 15th we appointed Captain Jay Manning to the Administrative Captain position that will be open when Captain Dustin Hall returns to operations at Station 51 B shift on September 9th. Captain Manning's first day in Admin will be September 6th. We would like to thank Captain Hall for his hard work and dedication to making the EMS division and Special Events Committee function smoothly. He will take many of his assignments in EMS with him on shift and Assistant Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown will continue the efforts put forth in Special Events. We know that Captain Manning will do well with his new assignments as we prepare for a new CAD system and communication projects.

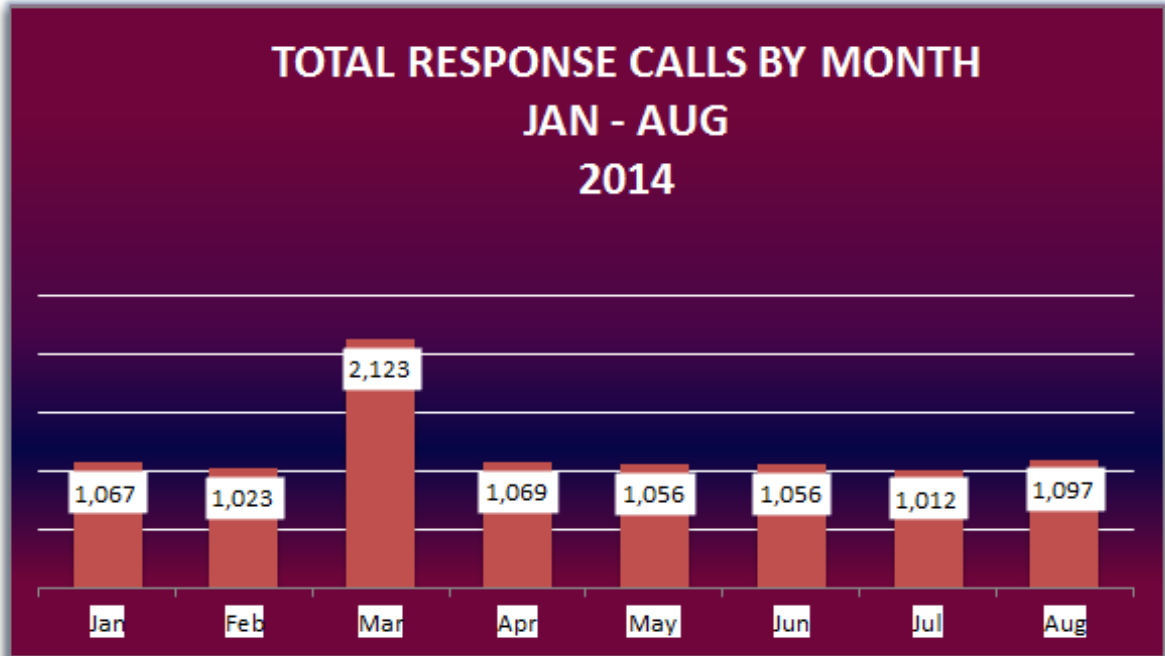
August continued the 2014 wildfire season that extreme drought conditions have contributed to. We received orders to deploy the OES Engine with three personnel and a request to send a structure engine with three additional personnel out to fires within the state. We also sent out single source resources as a division supervisor and two strike team leaders as requested. Our personnel fought fires throughout the Central Valley and Northern California. All returned by month's end healthy, safe and with valuable experience. They also received excellent reviews for their performance.

We continued with the Station 53 planning process. The construction documents are now complete and Mike Porter, Doyle Sewell and I went to the Planning Commission on August 25 for approval of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The CUP was granted and plans will be submitted in early September for plan approval. We are on schedule and hope to have the Request for Proposals (RFP) out within the next month and the bid awarded to a general construction contractor by December. We are hoping to break ground by year's end.

As we end August there are officially three weeks of summer remaining and hopefully an end to triple digit heat is near. Have a good month and take care.

Doug McBee
Fire Chief

August 2014 STATS



In August, overtime costs were over budget by approximately \$67,700, mainly due to coverage for Strike Team Deployments. Since May 2014, the fire department has been deployed to 12 incidents throughout the State. It is anticipated the State will reimburse the City approximately \$100,000 in staff time costs.

Month	# of Pay Periods	Monthly OT Budget Amount	Monthly Actual OT	Adjustments/Reimbursements to OT			Net OT	Budget Variance under(over)
				Strike Team /Training	Salary Savings	Total		
July	2	53,423	90,143			0	90,143	(36,720)
August	3	80,135	147,423			0	147,423	(67,288)
September	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
October	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
November	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
December	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
January	3	80,135				0	0	80,135
February	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
March	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
April	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
May	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
June	2	53,423				0	0	53,423
YTD Totals	26	\$694,500	\$237,566	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$237,566	\$456,934

BATTALION CHIEF WRISTEN



C-Shift Operations

August was a transition month for C-Shift. Battalion Chief Danny Wristen moved from the Training Division to the C-Shift BC position, Larry Garcia was promoted to Captain and assigned to Engine 52, Robert Briggs rejoined the Visalia Fire Department as an Engineer and was assigned to Engine 56C.

On August 14th, C-Shift responded to a 2nd Alarm Structure Fire at Demaree and Caldwell that damaged both a commercial and residential structure.

Chief Wristen was deployed as a Division-Group Supervisor Trainee to northern California for a series of lightning caused Wildland Fires from August 5th through August 19th. During his two-week deployment, Chief Wristen was assigned to six different lightning caused incidents.

Emergency Preparedness Program

Emergency Operations Center staff monitored all weather related issues. In addition, we began to evaluate our National Incident Management System compliance for the annual NIMS compliance reporting process.

Hose, Nozzles and Fittings

Staff ordered several wildland pieces of equipment and began the process to update our wildland hose compliment to a more universal system. This will allow us to better integrate with other response agencies, especially when on Strike Team assignments.

Wildland – Strike Team

August was a very busy month for the State of California with regards to wildland fires and strike team deployments. The Visalia Fire Department participated in three engine strike team deployments and three overhead assignments. Our personnel responded to incidents in several different parts of the State and contributed to the overall success of the California Mutual Aid System. Since May 2014, the fire department has responded to 12 Strike Team incidents.

TRAINING BATTALION CHIEF ADNEY



Communications Program and FireRMS

During August, the assessment of the new radio system for the VECC started. This will also include the determination for the required height of the radio tower associated with the project.

The CAD-RMS Committee met with vendors. We are waiting for RFP's and vendor selection and demos.

It was determined that the Hardware at Fire Station 56 failed and a new system has been purchased. Additionally, a new purchase order for the new repeater that will go on the Cal-Fire Tower has been submitted. Installation completion is expected to be November 1, 2014. In regard to the office move at Station 56, the wiring and radio system components should be transferred over within a week.

A Purchase Order has been submitted for 10 new Motorola Apex 7000 portable radios.

Training Center Business Plan

The current Rental Agreement, Fee Schedule Matrix and Release of Liability forms for the Station 55 Training Center was reviewed and updated. All documents have been submitted to the city attorney for review.

Training Program

During August, Chief Adney began his transition into the Training Officer Position. He has been working with Chief Wristen during the transition process.

The Rescue Team conducted bi-monthly training. Fire personnel also completed the monthly Department Safety, Tailboard Training and the City Safety Training. Visalia Fire Department personnel completed 1286.75 total hours of training.

The Training Division assisted in the preparation and assessment center process of both the Fire Captain and Battalion Chief testing processes. Five candidates participated in the Fire Captain process and ten in the Battalion Chief process

Other Items

Secured City Annexed Andrade Property for Ventilation Training to take place in September.

BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES

Hazardous Materials Response Team

On August 1st, the Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to a milk processing plant, in the center of the city, for a tote containing 300 gallons of a cleaning agent that was undergoing a chemical reaction and venting into the atmosphere. The plant was evacuated and the Hazmat Team worked with Tulare County Environmental Health to allow the incident to self-mitigate. It took approximately three hours for the reaction to slow to the point it was not an immediate threat to employees. There were no injuries to responders or to the public. The cause of the reaction was unknown.



Small Engines – Equipment – Tools Program (SEET)

During August the major activities for the SEET Program were continued maintenance and repairs.

In addition, the inventory list was finalized for the equipment purchase for the two new apparatus.

Technical Rescue Team

Captain Derek Fricke completed the instruction of two confined space drills for rescue team members and along with his Truck crew provided rope training for all shift personnel. Positive feedback on the training was received from all personnel who participated.

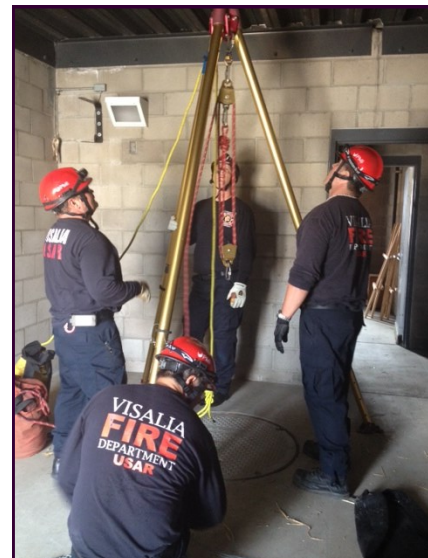
Quartermaster Program

The Quartermaster crew ordered, received, and issued new personal protective equipment and uniforms to fire personnel. Discussions began with the Finance department regarding a city-wide contract for one T-shirt vendor.

The donation process of expired personal protective equipment was completed and items were given to the Valley ROP program which is a local high school vocational program.

Other Items

- Attended Command Staff meeting
- Attended National Night Out Block Parties
- Conducted Public Education Tour for World Link students
- Attended City Manager Informational meeting with B-shift personnel
- Conducted B-shift Captains meeting
- Attended B-shift shift rope rescue training
- Evaluated vacant property for personnel training purposes



Angie Zimmermann, Safety Officer



The Safety Committee held its regular monthly meeting on August 13th discussing the standing agenda topics of employee injuries, illnesses, and near misses as well as other ongoing issues. The Committee welcomed new safety representatives, discussed the City's reorganized departments, roles and responsibilities of safety representatives, and received a draft copy of the updated Injury and Illness Prevention Program for comment and review.

The August safety training topic was Ladder Safety, meeting Cal/OSHA's requirement that any employee using ladders be aware of proper use and limitations. As with all Cal/OSHA required training, we must have documentation to serve as proof employees have been provided information and our training records is that documentation.

I continued working through the requirements of the Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) regulations and worked with the City's Health and Wellness Clinic and City staff involved in the vaccination process. Fifty Fire Department personnel have been tested for immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) with 48% of those finding that they were not immune to one of the three diseases covered by the MMR vaccine. Seventy-seven Police Department personnel have been tested with 55% of those finding they were not immune. While it is not required by the regulations that employees follow through with vaccinations the City is required to offer, most employees are choosing to be immunized once they understand their non-immune status.

California's Pertussis (Whooping Cough) epidemic continued to grow and increased to 7,503 cases. Tulare County remains relatively unaffected although our reported cases increased to 18; still below the state's average. I have advised the safety representatives to make certain to discuss the potential for exposure with staff that may be exposed. I provided training to Code Enforcement staff relating to exposure reporting for blood borne pathogens and ATD and offered those staff members the opportunity to be included in the vaccination program.

I continued work on evacuation drill planning, selected the new hearing test provider, investigated vehicle accidents, employee injuries, updated the City's written Hazard Communication program, and obtained a status report on the development of the Police Department's Laboratory Hygiene Plan. I provided several ergonomic evaluations and consultations with managers on a variety of safety related issues.

On August 31 the Fire Department was without a lost-time injury for 127 days.

Kurtis Brown, Assistant Fire Marshal

PREVENTION

Inspections

During August, the Prevention Division and Engine companies conducted a total of 507 inspections. A total of \$11,135 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 stated are vacant undeveloped lots, but cases can also be started on vacant or occupied homes and commercial properties. Throughout August, the Prevention Division conducted 41 initial and 37 follow-up inspections on Property Maintenance cases. Prevention Division staff also filed one Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recover fees totaling \$258.75. Staff also authorized the department's contractor to abate five properties.



Fire Investigations

Members of the Fire Investigation Team investigated six Fires. In addition, engine company personnel performed 11 preliminary origin and cause investigations.

Here is a brief synopsis of the significant incidents:

- * 3745 W. Caldwell (Commercial): Suspicious, \$550,000 loss. 08/14/2014
- * 1023 E. Sweet (Dwelling): Accidental, 3,000 loss. 08/19/2014

Public Education

This August Engine Company Personnel completed approximately 18 tours, visitations, and presentations. The Department provided this service to approximately 1,199 people in the community. Three community members also participated in the department ride-a-long program. Additionally, six smoke detectors were installed in homes throughout the city.

Site Plan Report

The 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 August Fire staff reviewed 20 plans that had been submitted to the committee. The site plan review submittals ranged from a new Sierra Brewing Company, a shell office building and a Costco fueling facility expansion.



EMS—DUSTIN HALL ADMINISTRATIVE CAPTAIN

With the end of August, also comes the end of my time in Administration. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff in administration for the investment they made in me during my time. Your investment was not in vein. Over the next several months we will be transitioning the EMS program management to a shift basis. With this change comes some new faces, I will still take lead in the overall management of EMS but the department will have two additional Fire Captains that will be assisting in the responsibility of the day to day operations and oversight.

We believe that we have designed a good plan to ensure all necessary requirements are covered and ongoing operations will be resolved in a professional and efficient manner. We also know there will be some “transition hurdles”, but have no doubts they will be overcome in the professional manner the citizens have come to expect from its Fire Department.

Emergency Management Services

At the beginning of August, staff participated in training associated with a new “Standard Operating Guidelines” (SOPs) program. Related to EMS, this new program will help to streamline and make efficient the task of continual updates to SOPs within the Fire Department.

A PALS class was provided to department staff to ensure continued compliance with certifications.

Staff continues to work diligently on issues related to major changes to the medical industry with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. In the pre-hospital and hospital settings alike, changes are occurring almost on a weekly basis. A way that we can ensure our continued success in EMS is to remain vigilant in updated information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The transition of the Special Events Chair to Asst. Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown was completed in August. The entire month was devoted to ensuring the transition was seamless, whereas citizens and city employees alike were not negatively affected by the change.