

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014



**VISALIA
FIRE**



"WORKING TOWARD A CURE"
HOPE · LOVE · SUPPORT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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“The Visalia Fire Department would like to thank all the Firefighters before us that faithfully served and protected our community.”

Front cover photo courtesy of Stephanie Manning Photography

FIRE CHIEF



Doug McBee, Fire Chief

It is an honor and privilege to work for the Visalia Fire Department. The men and women of our organization have worked diligently to take care of our community by responding to fires, rescues, and any emergency we were called to mitigate. Our administration and prevention staff served our business community professionally as we addressed safety concerns. This report is an overview of 2014, and highlights some of the department's accomplishments over the course of the year.

In 2014, VFD crews responded to over 12,500 alarms. This is an average of 34.3 calls a day. The total number of calls this year was slightly up from 2013. Approximately 67% of all alarms were medical in nature. There were 133 major structure fires in the city that required the Fire Investigations Team to determine fire cause and origin. There were over 350 additional smaller fires extinguished by VFD.

The 2014 wildland fire season was extreme because of the continued drought throughout California and especially in the Central Valley region. We had fire crews out on several large complex wildfires extending from Southern California to the Oregon border and we are still receiving compensation for the staffing costs we incurred.

Although we were not required to open the Emergency Operations Center for any major emergencies, we participated in regional emergency management training and are active participants in the Tulare County Drought Task Force. The drought has best been described as a slow ongoing emergency that challenges all of our resources. We all hope 2015 is the year the drought comes to an end.

In 2014, City Council approved the purchase of two Pierce Arrow XT fire engines to replace our oldest reserve engines. The fire engines are close to completion and will be delivered to VFD in early 2015. We also received a new Cal-OES fire Engine to replace our 12 year old Cal-OES Engine we have available for state wide All Hazard mutual aid calls. This engine will be predominately used for Wildland fires; however, the department will use it as a frontline engine in 2015. The new engine (OES 375) is in service at Fire Station 56 (Lovers Lane) and is ready for action when requested.

The new Fire Station 53 is close to becoming a reality and construction should begin in the first quarter of 2015. It is located on the corner of Walnut Avenue and Atwood Street. The station was designed by RRM Architects/Engineering and bids for construction were submitted in December. The general contractor and construction firm will be selected in early January and groundbreaking will follow. Construction is estimated to take approximately one year, and we hope to be in the facility and fully operational in early 2016.

Our Fire Prevention Division was also very busy in 2014; combined, fire inspectors and fire crews conducted 4,673 inspections. This is an increase of over 2,550 inspections from the previous year. The number of inspections increased due to the addition of a full-time inspector hired in July and an increase in fire inspections performed by the engine companies. The Fire Prevention Division took over the apartment complex inspections from the Code Enforcement Division in November. Additionally, Prevention handled property maintenance, weeds, and other fire hazards, billing in excess of \$37,000 in cost recovery fees.

FIRE CHIEF CONT'D

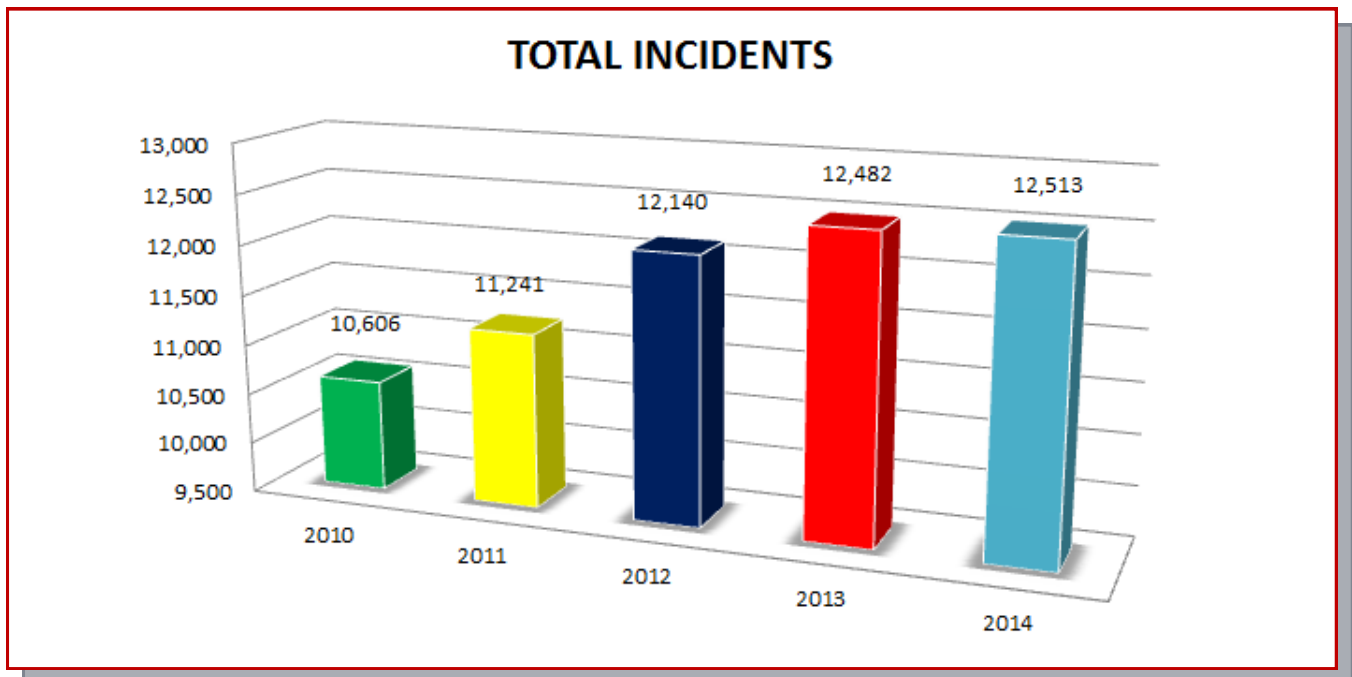
We conducted public outreach and education to approximately 19,000 residents in our community. Our fire crews conducted 215 tours, visitations and group presentations. Fire Prevention inspectors installed over 100 fire smoke alarms and over 100 carbon monoxide detectors for residents throughout the community who are unable to purchase or install their own.

In 2014, the department conducted three youth fire camps in conjunction with Parks and Recreation staff. Even though the drought prevented spraying water, our staff got creative and conducted many fun safety activities with the campers, including a station tour and graduation at the Training Center. We also hosted our Annual Open House at Fire Station 55/Training Center in October at the end of National Fire Prevention Week. Over 600 community members, both young and old came out for safety education in a fun environment. It was an outstanding event.

All members of the Visalia Fire Department look forward to serving our community in 2015. I know our Firefighter Paramedics and staff will rise to the challenge. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being the Fire Chief of an outstanding Department and exceptional community.

On behalf of all the men and women of the Visalia Fire Department –Thank you and be safe in 2015.

Doug McBee,
Fire Chief

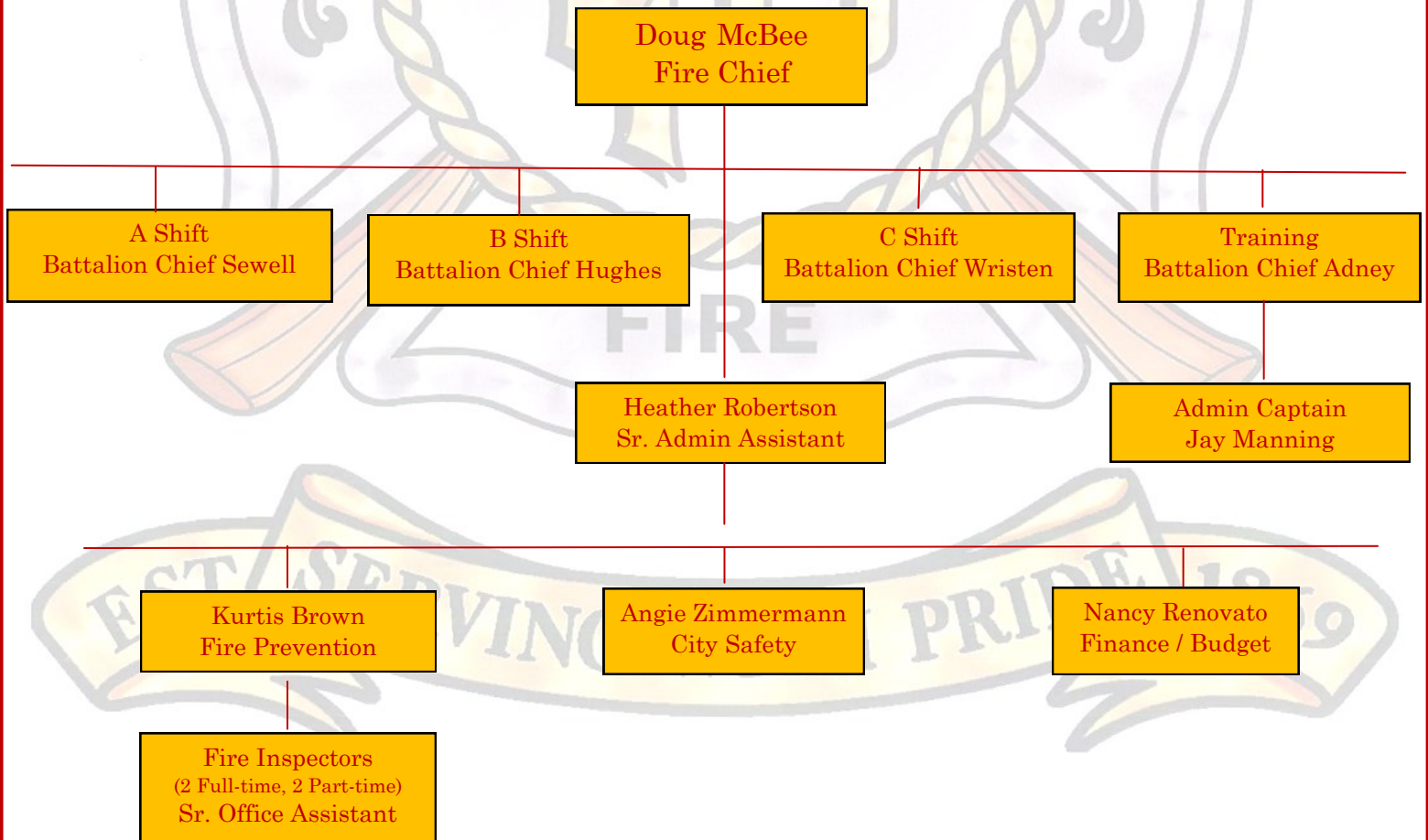


MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to protecting all through excellent service

CORE VALUES

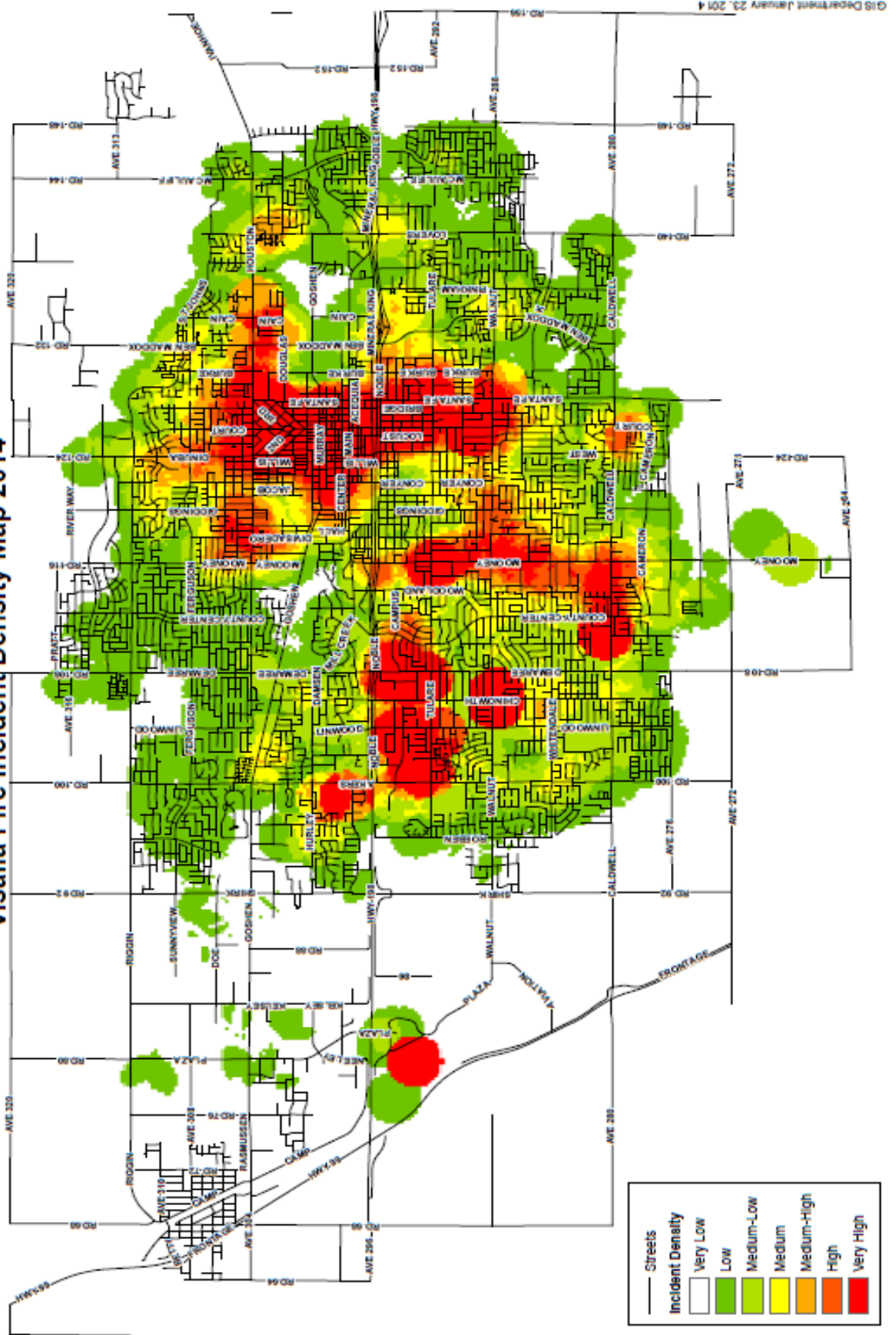
INTEGRITY
PROFESSIONALISM
HONESTY
RESPECT
DIVERSITY
RESPONSIBILITY
VALOR



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VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Visalia Fire Incident Density Map 2014



VISION STATEMENT

WE WILL CARRY ON THE PRIDE OF OUR
PROFESSION
BY PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE THROUGH:
INNOVATION
PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP
COMPASSIONATE CARE

FIRE FIGHTER'S PRAYER

When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rise,
Give me strength to save a life, wherever 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 nearest shout,
And quickly and efficiently to put the fire out,
I want to fill my calling to give the best in me,
To spare my friends and neighbors and protect their property,
And, if according to your will, while on duty I must answer death's call,
Bless with your protecting hand my family, one and all.

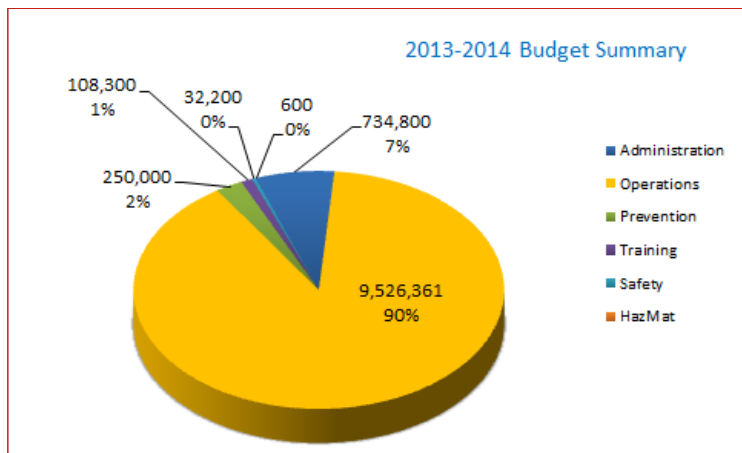
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A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

The Administration Division consists of the Fire Chief, four Battalion Chiefs, Administrative Captain, Fire Marshal, Safety Officer, and administrative support staff. The division provides leadership, departmental oversight and planning. The Administration Division is responsible for the overall management of the Fire Department including fiscal management, strategic planning, personnel matters, labor relations, and special projects. Additionally, the division provides support services for all divisions and customer service to the citizens of Visalia.

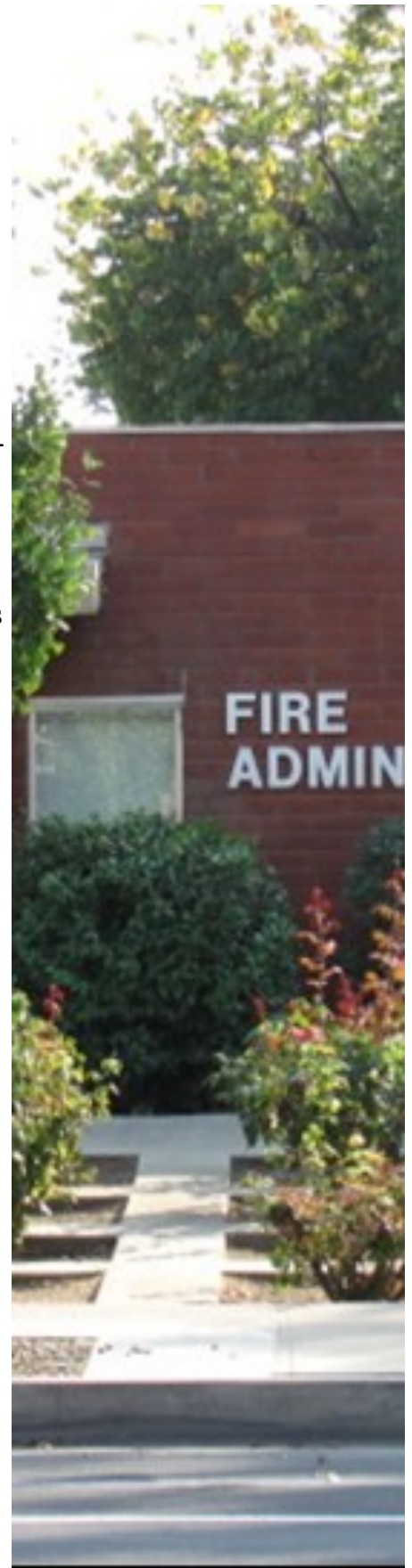
The 2014 year proved to be yet another productive year full of hard work, development, and accomplishments. The division's accomplishments include upgrades to the department's website, new software to streamline and organize standard operating procedures, and planning and prioritizing critical department functions through the budgetary process to ensure fiscal stability while maintaining excellent services to the community.

The 2014 Employee Service Awards presentation was held in December and recognized seven 25 year veterans of our fire department. This speaks volumes to their commitment of the safety of our citizens and their pride to work for such a great city for a lifetime of service.



**FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION
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VISALIA, CA 93291**

(559) 713-4266 FAX (559) 713-4808



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Over the past year, the Fire Department has been working on many projects within the Communications Program. Some of the projects are the CAD/RMS replacement project, the Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC), Fire Station 53 construction project, repeater system upgrades, and new radio equipment. There have also been many upgrades to systems utilized by Dispatch, Fire Prevention, Fire Records, Electronic Patient Care Reporting, Fire Radios, and Repeaters.

In 2014, the Fire Prevention division transitioned into a paperless environment with the implementation of the Mobile Fire Records and Fire Safety Inspections modules. We upgraded FireRMS (software) to give personnel more flexibility with screen size as well as with reporting data to state and federal agencies. All radios were updated as part of the annual Cal-Fire “Channels Changing”.

A new alert system was implemented in 2014 that notifies fire personnel when off duty personnel are needed for staffing during an emergency. The system allows dispatched information to be sent to personal cell phones via text message or via app, and produces a saved message repeating the dispatched transmission. The system was successful and the first call-outs were well received. Response from off duty personnel doubled from previous callout methods.

The DataTech First Responder 911 system in dispatch received a software and connection update. We continue to work with DataTech and TCCAD to enhance the project and improve communication between our dispatchers and TCCAD. The fire department provided Fire Dispatcher Orientation Training for seven dispatchers. The training focused on understanding fire department terminology.

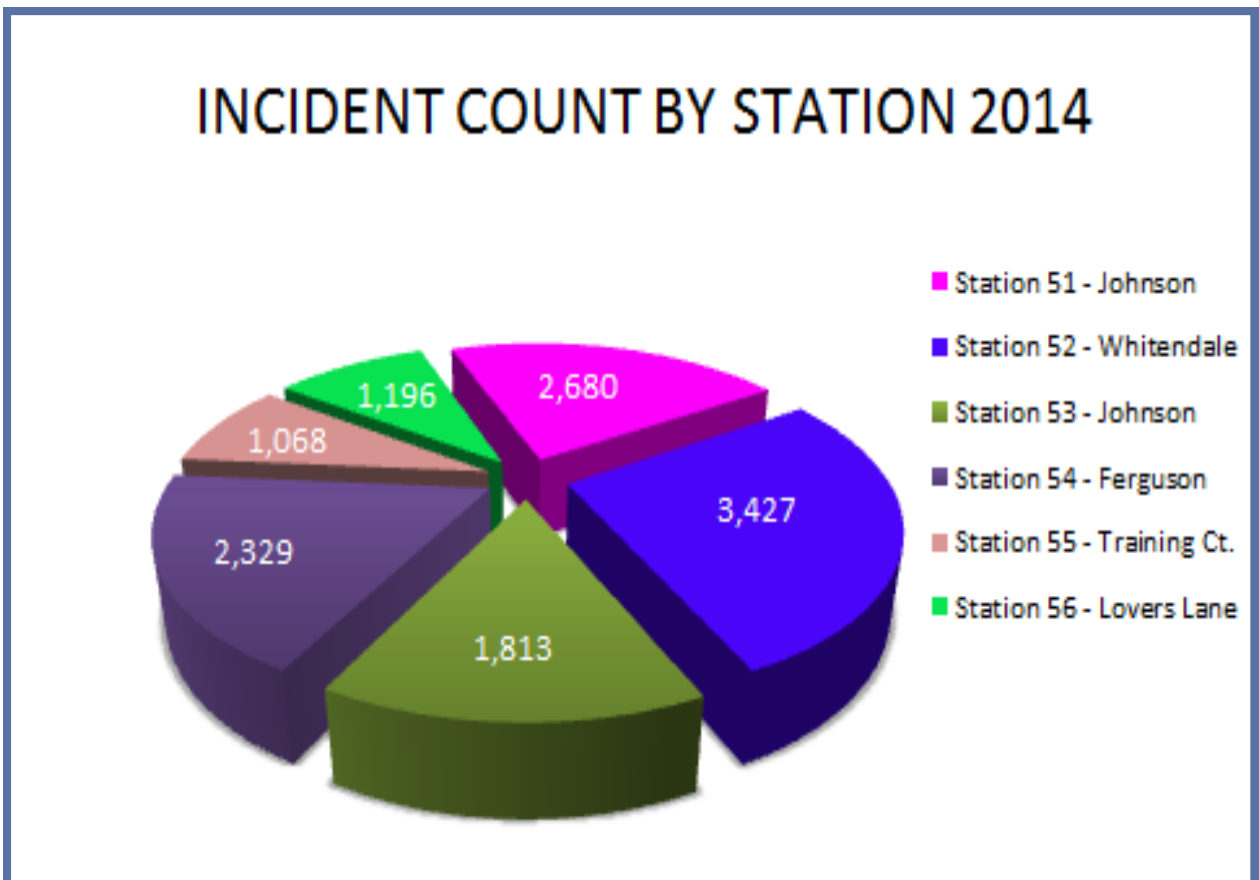
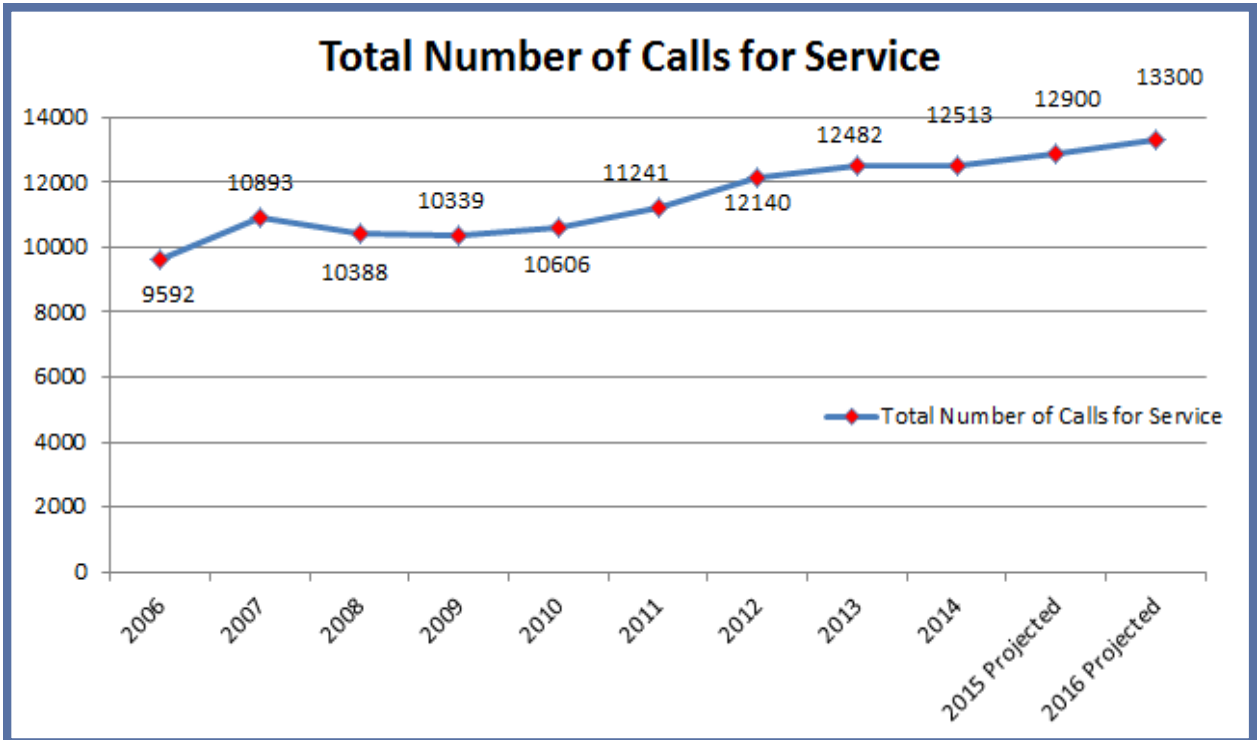
MAJOR FIRES			
DATE	LOCATION	PROPERTY LOSS	CIVILIAN FIRE DEATHS
09/09/2014	4746 W. COUNTRY COURT	\$537,000	0
07/26/2014	1917 S. SHENANDOAH STREET	\$500,000	0
04/02/2014	1428 W. HOWARD AVENUE	\$350,000	0
01/07/2014	1538 W. WALNUT AVENUE	\$55,000	1

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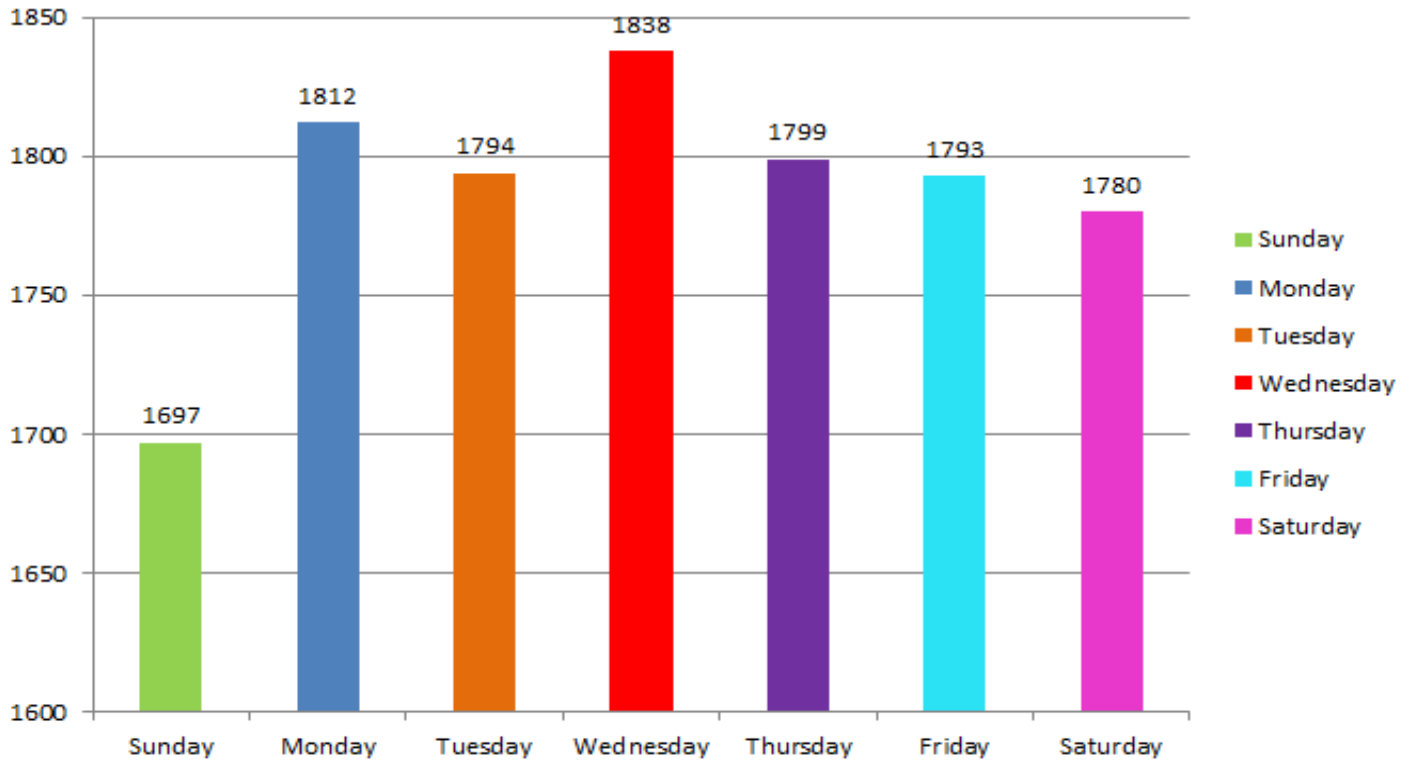
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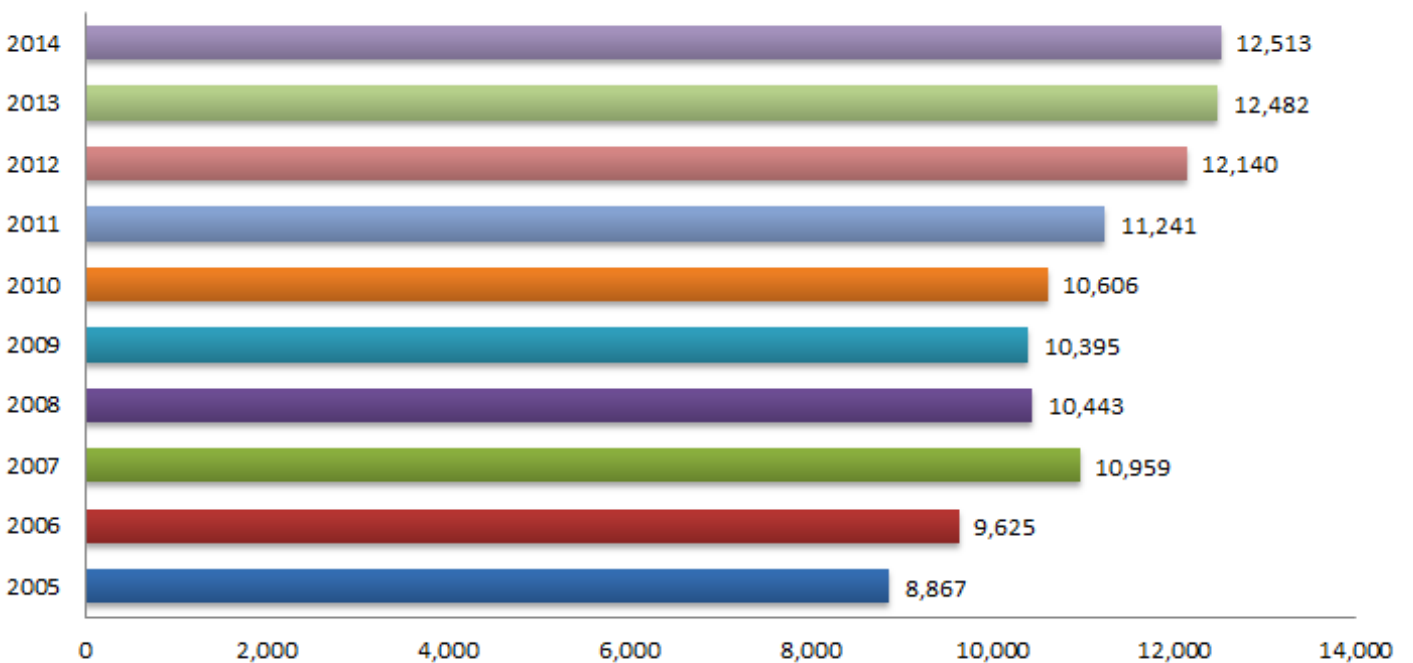


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Number of Incidents by Day of the Week



CALLS FOR SERVICE—TEN YEAR HISTORY



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FIRE PREVENTION

Inspections

In 2014, the Fire Prevention Division and Engine companies conducted a total of 4,673 Fire & Life Safety Inspections; an increase of 2,552 inspections compared to 2013. The increase was mainly due to:

- ◇ The addition of full-time Fire Prevention Inspector.
- ◇ Fire crew's monthly inspections increased from 10 to 12 per month.
- ◇ The Prevention Division took over the Apartment Complex Inspection Program from Code Enforcement.

A total of **\$116,753** in Operational Permits and Fire & Life Safety fees were billed to various entities during 2014.

Property Maintenance

The Prevention Division initiated cases and performed inspections on Property Maintenance cases throughout 2014. Property Maintenance cases are started on properties with trash, junk and/or debris, weeds and any other items constituting a fire hazard. There was a significant decrease in the number of property maintenance complaints in 2014, due to the decrease in foreclosed properties. The department authorized the abatement of 84 properties, issued 139 Declarations of Public Nuisance notices, and billed a total of **\$37,522** in cost recovery fees.

- ◇ 577 Property Maintenance cases were started
- ◇ 591 Courtesy Notices were sent
- ◇ 550 Initial Inspection
- ◇ 552 Follow-up inspections

Fire Investigations

The Fire Investigation Team is responsible for investigating fires to determine cause and origin. Fire Investigators conduct criminal investigations and prosecute arsonists. Fire Investigators also assist outside agencies through 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 with or participated in setting illegal fires.

The Fire Investigation Team is also active in public education, continuing education, and illegal fireworks enforcement details. The team is made up of seven suppression and two prevention personnel trained in fire investigations through the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Investigation Team is overseen by Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown and Lead Investigator Captain Eric Bush.

In 2014, the Fire Investigation Team conducted 133 fire investigations and determined the following; 69 were considered accidental, 23 were incendiary fires, 13 were suspicious, 28 were undetermined.



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Public Education

The Fire Department provides educational programs tailored to different groups such as schools, in-home trainings, churches, and community service groups. In 2014, Engine Company personnel completed approximately 213 tours, visitations, and presentations. The Department provided this service to approximately 18,916 people in the community; 44 people also participated in the ride-a-long program. Additionally, 103 smoke detectors and 100 carbon monoxide detectors were installed in homes throughout the city.

The Fire Department hosts two popular events each year:

- ◇ Youth Fire Camp is one of the most popular summer camps in Visalia. Approximately 90 campers participated in the 2014 fire camps. Each camp is filled with fire related activities such as fire hose pulls, practicing STOP, DROP, & ROLL, learning to use a fire extinguisher and much more. With efforts to conserve water, Fire Camp was moved to Whitendale Park in 2014, so water based activities served a dual purpose.
- ◇ Open House is an event that marks the end of Fire Prevention Week with an open house celebration. Open House is held at Station 55 Training Center. The event enables the Fire Department to share the fire prevention message in a large event setting. The event also gives the community an opportunity to gather information from other public and private agencies as well as other City services.

Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee is designed to ensure successful event planning with consideration and protection of the public's health and safety. The Special Events Committee is comprised of representatives from various City departments; including a representative from Tulare County Health, and managed by the Special Events Committee Chair. In



2014, the Special Event Committee reviewed 116 applications, of these, 99 applications were completed and permitted. Some of these events include; JugFest, Color Vibe, Harvest Run, and Race Against Hunger.



In 2014, **Corbin Reed** was hired as a full-time Fire Prevention Inspector. Corbin was previously an hourly Fire Prevention Inspector and a Reserve Firefighter for Fire Department. During Corbin's time as a part-time Fire Inspector, he showed his eagerness to learn and furthered his education. The addition of inspector Reed is the reason why the department had such a significant increase in inspections. Corbin has become a very valuable asset to the Visalia Fire Department.

In November, we welcomed new part-time Fire Prevention Inspector **Daniel Noe**. Daniel was hired primarily for the apartment complex inspection program. Daniel holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and has an

excellent understanding of fire department operations and the importance of good customer service.



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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The Visalia Fire Department delivers state of the art pre-hospital medical service to individuals in time of critical need. This includes responding to the emergency, assessing the sick and injured, and providing treatment to stabilize for transport by the ambulance company. In 2014, the department responded to **8,350** EMS incidents. This accounts for 67% of the call volume.

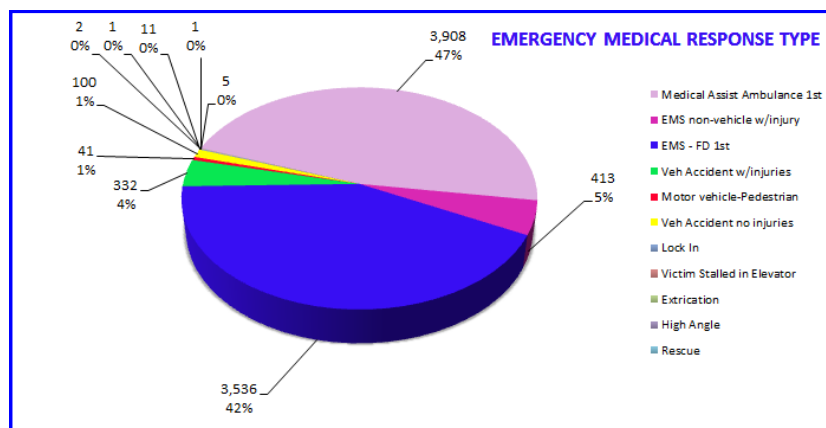
Currently the department staffs 31 EMTs and 41 Paramedics. Every two years each discipline has to renew their respective level credential with the State of California, as well as the local jurisdiction, Central California EMS Agency (CCEMSA). The paramedic level renews their license on an individual basis; however, EMTs; have to renew certifications all at the same time. In 2014 all 31 EMTs renewed their certification.

2014 brought many changes to policies, protocols, and the equipment EMTs and Paramedics use. All department personnel were trained on the appropriate techniques and use of new equipment. The department implemented a new measure to secure the department's controlled medications. The Knox Company's MedVault was purchased and should be fully functional in early 2015. This new vault system is where medications will be stored. The vault tracks entry by personnel through a unique four digit code issued only to paramedics. This minimizes the risk of unauthorized access and liability to the City. We also purchased and installed docking stations for the electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) tablets. The new docking stations keep the tablets secure in the apparatus, as well as keeping them out of the way.



The department made major changes to the management of the EMS Program. In September, oversight of the program transitioned to a "shift" style oversight. Over the last three years, the program has been managed by one person. Since September, the day to day operations have transitioned to a Captain Paramedic who manages different components.

The fire department and Kaweah Delta Medical Center (KDMC) have formed a new educational partnership. This partnership will expand the knowledge of our personnel, as well as provide the fire department and KDMC personnel to have a better understanding of how each other work in their respective pre-hospital and in-hospital environments. The first stage has been confirmed and will take effect in January 2015. These are exciting times as we continue to expand our partnerships and capabilities.



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OPERATIONS

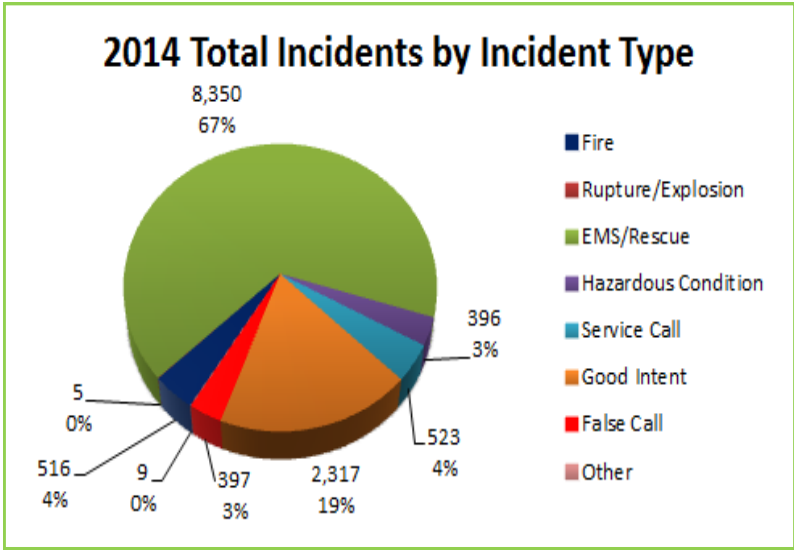
The Operations Division is responsible for responding to any type of emergency that threatens life, property, or the environment. Suppression personnel protect citizens and visitors with well-trained, professional and properly equipped personnel each day. Seventy-two firefighters provide a constant state of readiness from five fire stations 24/7. Although Operations personnel suppresses all types of fires, every fire engine has a minimum of one licensed paramedic, allowing personnel to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) on medical aid calls. Division specialized teams include: Hazardous Materials and Confined Space Rescue. The division participates in the Statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement and responds to emergencies under contractual and automatic aid agreements with surrounding communities. Members of the Operations Division also conduct fire investigations, fire prevention inspections, and public education programs.

In 2014, Visalia firefighters answered 12,513 calls for service. The Fire Department strives to prevent or minimize the loss of life, damage to the environment and loss of property from the adverse effects of fire, and hazardous condition. Firefighters responded to and extinguished 516 fires and answered 8,350 emergency medical calls.

We continue to respond not only to incidents in Visalia, but also to wildland fires throughout the State of California to provide mutual aid to other jurisdictions.



2014 Total Incidents by Incident Type



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OPERATIONS

New Dispatch Center (VECC) and Computer Aided Dispatch Replacement (CAD)

For the last several years, the City of Visalia has been in the initial planning stages of a new Dispatch Center to replace the aging Joint Communications Center shared by the Police and Fire Departments. The current facility was built in 1969 and the Dispatch Center has outgrown the building. In addition, the Dispatch Center is located in the basement, directly adjacent to Mill Creek, and is located in a flood plain. During the 2014 calendar year, the Fire Department participated in the planning and design work of the new Visalia Emergency Communications Center. Staff participated on site visits of existing state of the art centers, various design exercises led by the consulting team the City hired for the project and space needs planning for today and the future. As we enter the new year, the consulting team will be working on developing the construction documents for the facility.

Concurrently, the Police and Fire Departments are working on a project to replace the aging Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD). The CAD system is the foundation of the Dispatch Center and provides the dispatchers with the information needed to process calls, recommend and track resources, and supports the mobile data terminals located in the emergency response vehicles. The current CAD system is 30 years old and does not meet the requirements of a community this size. The CAD Replacement Committee, made up of both Police and Fire representatives, is working with a communications consultant to recommend a new CAD system. In 2015, the CAD Replacement Committee will conduct background checks on the top three vendors, will conduct site visits and make a recommendation to City Council.

Pre-Fire Plans Program

An important component of the fire service is preparing for fires in target hazard buildings. Target hazard buildings include industrial, educational, some commercial and special occupancies. This program is called Pre-Fire Plans and provides site maps and hazard information to fire department personnel. The Fire Department currently has over 100 Pre-Fire Plans, which are carried on all fire apparatus. In 2014, we added 20 new plans to the system and developed a process to load the Pre-Fire Plans on the mobile data terminals.

Emergency Management & Preparedness

The fire department serves as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the entire City organization. Fire personnel are charged with maintaining the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), ensuring the City is current with the National Incident Management System and the California Standardized Emergency Management System, maintaining the City Emergency Operations Plan, providing EOC operation drills and training, and maintaining a relationship with other Operational Area agencies. The City maintains an EOC team of approximately 40 City employees, who serve in the EOC during emergency activation. These team members fill the roles the City needs to manage the impacts of an emergency on our community. In 2014, three City EOC team members participated in a table top drill hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The drill focused on a dam failure and the impacts that would have on our communities. The drill was attended by many local and state agencies. We also attended four Operational Area meetings and discussed Emergency Preparedness issues that impact all agencies in the Op Area. The fire department monitors the weather, and issues weather advisories to all City departments. We provide direction for the opening of the warming or cooling centers, and are a part of the Tulare County Drought Task Force aiming to assist with drought mitigation.

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Apparatus Program

The fire department, with support from the City Fleet Shop, maintains a fleet of nearly 20 emergency response vehicles. Fire personnel conduct daily, weekly and monthly maintenance on all our equipment. During these checks we ensure proper operations, repair minor issues, and request service for major problems. This year fire personnel, along with City shop personnel, developed specifications for two new Pierce fire engines. These new engines will allow older apparatus to move into reserve status, ensuring our fleet is always ready to respond; delivery is anticipated in February 2015. Our department received a new California Office of Emergency Services (OES) fire engine, replacing an older (OES) unit we received two years ago. The State provides these fire engines to local governments to assist in



OES ENGINE 375

providing fire apparatus on large emergency incidents anywhere in the State.

Buildings and Grounds Program

Fire department personnel work closely with the City Building Maintenance Division to maintain our fire station facilities. Fire personnel spend 24 hours per day in the fire stations, and just like your home, require upkeep and maintenance. Fire Station 51, downtown, is an aging facility built in 1969, and has required several large projects this year. Due to age and water damage, the department remodeled the showers in this facility. Additionally, the ceiling in the apparatus bay was deteriorating and had to be remodeled. In an effort to remain within budget, the sheet rock was removed and not replaced. Instead, the wooden structural members were painted, saving the City over \$10,000.

The department also worked with City Engineering Services and the architectural firm on the design of a new fire station to be located at Atwood and Walnut. Construction is estimated to take one year, with a ground breaking scheduled for February 5, 2015.



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TRAINING

In 2014, the Training Division completed a seven-week Fire Academy for four new Firefighter Paramedics. The schedule included physical training, SCBA, salvage & overhaul, the art of reading smoke, forcible entry, and vehicle extrication training to name a few. All four firefighters successfully passed the training and graduated on July 11, 2014. The training division was also very busy with maintaining training and certification records, overseeing various contracts for the Training Center, developing training materials and administering skills testing.

Personnel completed a total of **18,383** hours of training. The division administered an Acting Captain Manipulative test and assisted with the preparation and assessment center process for both the Fire Captain and Battalion Chief recruitment.

Personnel completed Annual Individual Core and Multi-Training Evolutions, Residential Ventilation, and trained at a large industrial building going through demolition. The Rescue and Haz-Mat Teams conducted bi-monthly training, City Safety, EMS and Monthly Tailboard Training, and Highway Safety Training.

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER JOINT APPRENTICE COMMITTEE (CFFJAC)

The Visalia Fire Department is a participating fire department of the California Firefighter Joint Apprentice Committee since 2006. This program allows the fire department to receive reimbursement funds from the State of California for all probationary employees based on their hours of training in their new positions. Currently, the fire department has 36 employees who receive these funds for a period of 3 years or 216 training hours approved by the CFFJAC. The funds reimbursed can be utilized on various training needs.

The Training Division also oversees these programs and projects; Training Facility Business Plan and Marketing, Audio Visual Program, Department Training, JAC Reporting and Certifications, Department Safety, Grants, Recruit Academies, Probationary Employees, Standard Operating Procedures-Lexipol, Communications and Fire Management Reporting Systems.



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Required Programs

Work on Cal/OSHA required programs continued this year with much focus on the Aerosol Transmissible Disease (ATD) Standard, Hazard Communication Standard, Fall Protection, Repetitive Motion, and Noise standards requirements to name a few. An updated version of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program was distributed in September.

Medical evaluation for 100 respirator users was accomplished using the required Cal/OSHA questionnaire and review by the Visalia Health and Wellness Clinic providers.

Conversion to on-line access to safety data sheets (formerly MSDS) was completed. Employees may now access any SDS via a link on the City's Intranet home page. With a regulatory requirement to maintain each employee's SDS for the length of employment plus the next 30 years, electronic access helps to keep inventory relevant and also helps archive old SDS.

Infection Control

Cal/OSHA, and responsible safety practices, requires that an infection control program be provided to first responders, lifeguards, and other types of employees. The City can be proud of an infection control program that other entities in California look to as an example, and seek our infection control staff for training, guidance, and support. In 2014, infection control staff provided an in-depth two-day training program to other cities and counties, and we expect to repeat this training in an expanded form in 2015.

The City's Designated Infection Control Officers (DO) are on-call 24 hours a day 365 days per year to provide services to all City employees that may have been exposed to blood, body fluids which may contain blood, aerosol transmissible diseases (ATD), or other potentially infectious materials. DO staff including, Captain Dustin Hall, Captain Karl Kassner, and Safety Officer Angie Zimmermann, share the duty on a monthly rotation. This year there were 10 exposures reported, with more exposures to ATD than blood.

The required Aerosol Transmissible Disease prevention program vaccination efforts went into full swing in 2014 with 171 immunity tests completed and 101 vaccinations given. Influenza shots must be offered to all first responders and a total of 346 flu shots have been given to staff and family members so far in the 2014-2015 flu season. Vaccinations for flu, MMR, TDaP, Chickenpox, and Hepatitis B will continue to be offered in the future.

Investigations and Evaluations

Safety concerns and suspected hazards reported generated numerous special investigations and evaluations. Evaluations of workplace ergonomics both for office and field environments are a regular occurrence with approximately 25 evaluations occurring this year. Other investigations centered on noise exposure, indoor air quality, falling from heights, medical waste, and pesticide disposal.

Facility Inspections

Again this year, in concert with representatives from City offices and Buildings maintenance staff, City facilities were inspected to ensure that staff has safe working conditions and members of the public have save spaces to conduct City business. Added to our inspection tour this year was the Golf Course and the Rawhide Baseball Complex. Frequent inspection ensures that issues needing correcting and problems-in-the-making are responded to early on.

Safety Awareness

October is Safety Awareness month here at the City. This year the Safety Committee again chose to recognize employees who completed all their safety training with eligibility for prize drawings each day in October.

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SPECIALTY TEAMS

Rescue Team

The Rescue Team collectively completed 446 training hours.

The Rescue Team completed two Confined Space Drills. One of the drills involved training with non-rescue team personnel. Rescue Team members from each shift presented the Confined Space Awareness and Operations materials and drill to members of their own shifts. Additionally, the team trained on High Angle Rope training presented to the crews in August of 2014.

Other training focused on Rope Related topics such as team based victim pick-offs, Rescuer based pick-offs, ascending rope techniques, confined space awareness, operations and entry, and Pickett Anchor Systems.

Hazardous Materials Response

The Visalia Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to several significant hazardous material incidents in 2014. All incidents were successfully mitigated without any injuries to responders or the public. Five outside agencies provide the City with a maintenance fee to support the upkeep of the Haz-Mat Team. In 2014, the City received approximately **\$27,000** in support of the Team.

Each Haz-Mat Team member participated in over 24 hours of Haz-Mat training at the technician/specialist level. Training topics included the use and maintenance of personal protective equipment, stinger operations, chemical identification, decontamination and technical reference. Select team members were also sent to out of town training at the Haz-Mat Continuing Challenge in Sacramento and the Central Valley Chemical Safety Day in Kern County. Members of the Team provided eight hours of Haz-Mat training at the first responder operational level for all members of the Fire Department. Equipment was purchased to outfit the Mass Decontamination Trailer used for large Haz-Mat incidents involving contaminated victims. This equipment has increased the response capabilities of the Team.

The City received approximately \$15,000 in grants to pay for Haz-Mat Team training costs.



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STRIKE
TEAM

With another year of extreme drought conditions, the Visalia Fire Department had a very busy fire season. In 2014, Visalia Fire was deployed to 14 Strike Team Wildland Fires.

Poinsettia Fire — Carlsbad, CA
 San Diego Complex — San Diego, CA
 Basilone Complex – Camp Pendleton, CA
 Hunter Fire – Mariposa County
 Shirley Fire — Kern River Valley
 Monticello Fire — Solano & Yolo Counties
 French Fire — Sierra National Forest

SKU August Cover — Yreka, CA
 Way Fire – Kern County
 Junction Fire — Madera County
 Lodge Fire — Mendocino County
 Oregon Gulch — Oregon/CA Border
 Eiler Fire — Shasta County
 Bald Fire — Shasta County

In 2014, the State reimbursed the City of Visalia a total of \$114,051 for Strike Team Staff time.

RECOGNITION

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2014

Derek Fricke, Fire Captain

NEW HIRES

Robert Aikman

Firefighter Paramedic

Ryan Hetzler

Firefighter Paramedic

Luke MacAlpine

Firefighter Paramedic

Jonathan Sagli

Firefighter Paramedic

RE-HIRE

Robert Briggs

Fire Engineer

Daniel Noe

Fire Inspector

Corbin Reed

Fire Inspector

PROMOTIONS

Brian Adney

Battalion Chief

Mike Durham

Fire Engineer

James Galaviz

Fire Engineer

Larry Garcia

Fire Captain

RECLASSIFICATION

Kurtis Brown

Fire Marshal

Farewell & Best Wishes

Brandon Burruss

Firefighter Paramedic

9/4/12 to 9/30/14



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CERTIFIED EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER Re-designation

Doug McBee, Fire Chief

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE Fire Administration

Jay Manning, Fire Captain

CHIEF OFFICER Certification

John Greenwood
Fire Captain Paramedic
Karl Krauss
Fire Captain

SUPERVISORY ACADEMY

Todd Stalker
Fire Captain
Tom VanGrouw
Fire Captain

FIRE OFFICER Certification

Keith Bowen
Firefighter Paramedic
Nick Branch
Fire Engineer
Jeremy Church
Firefighter Paramedic
Zach DeMoss
Firefighter Paramedic
Mike Herlihy
Firefighter Paramedic
Karl Kassner
Fire Captain Paramedic
Geoff Randall
Firefighter Paramedic
Jonathan Sagli
Firefighter Paramedic
Steve Walker
Firefighter Paramedic

LEADERSHIP VISALIA

Darrin Hughes
Battalion Chief

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*Captain
Lovero*



*Captain
Ramírez*



*Firefighter-P
Pineda-Gregory*



*Battalion Chief
Sewell*



Fire Engineer Vest



*Captain
Richardson*



Fire Engineer Smith



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RESPONSE MAP

Current response areas shown w/Station 53 currently housed at Station 51.

Future location of 53 is under construction at Walnut & Atwood.

