



# 2016

## VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



# VISALIA FIRE

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# DEPARTMENT

This is my fourth annual report since becoming the Chief of VFD. Each year we have faced challenges that seemed monumental at the time such as the budgetary issues that were pervasive after the great recession to the severe drought of the last 5 years. 2016 continued both themes from the previous years and we faced an additional obstacle.

For the first time in VFD modern history, our labor group, IAFF 3719 worked for the year without a current contract as negotiations between labor and management became protracted. For many organizations this would have been catastrophic and resulted in many unpleasant side effects. The professionalism our firefighters displayed on the job as they continued to protect our citizens was greatly appreciated and spoke to the sincere belief that the oath taken to protect life and property is paramount. It was great to have closure and a signed contract with the association and City management and I commend all of VFD for staying focused on our mission to best serve our citizens.



In 2016, we exceeded our previous record of calls for service by over 200. Our previous high mark was 14,065 in 2015, and this year we went to 14,283 calls for service or an increase of over one percent. The department responded to 9,321 medical related requests, 65% of the total number of incidents.

In April of 2016, we officially opened our newest fire station. It is Fire Station 53 located at Walnut Avenue and Atwood Street in the Southwest corridor of our city. It is well-built to essential standards of construction; aesthetically pleasing designed to complement the surrounding southwest motif and designed to serve our citizenry for at least the next 75 years. It will improve our service delivery to the area and decrease our response times for emergencies.

The highlight of the year was the passage of Measure N, the ½ cent sales tax increase that goes into effect in the second quarter of the year. This will allow for future revenue to come into the city and VFD will share in future dollars allocated. We wish to thank all who supported this measure and promise to use the revenue wisely. All divisions of our department added to a very successful year and look forward to a bright future as we move into 2017. The men and women of the Visalia Fire Department are second to none and I am truly proud and honored to be Chief of this excellent organization. We wish all our citizens the best in 2017 and will continue to “Serve with Pride like we have since 1869”.

On behalf of all of VFD be safe and take care.

*Doug McBee*  
Fire Chief

# VISION

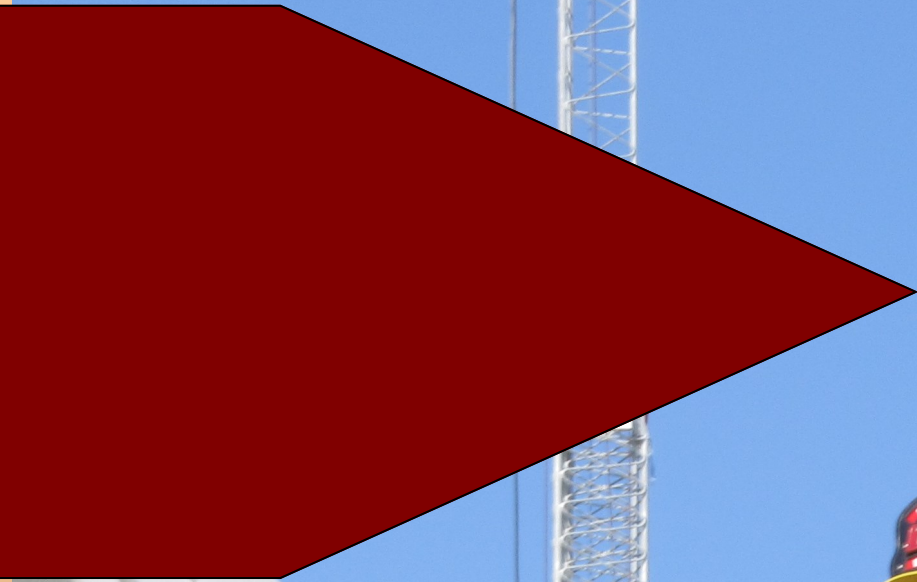
WE WILL CARRY ON THE PRIDE OF OUR PROFESSION  
BY PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE THROUGH  
INNOVATION | PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP | COMPASSIONATE CARE

# MISSION

DEDICATED TO PROTECTING ALL THROUGH EXCELLENT SERVICE  
CORE VALUES  
INTEGRITY | PROFESSIONALISM | HONESTY | RESPECT | DIVERSITY  
RESPONSIBILITY | VALOR







# CITY OF VISALIA HISTORICAL SIZE & POPULATION

# ECONOMIC & DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF VISALIA



## POPULATION

State of California

Tulare County

**39,255,883**

**466,339**

Year	Population	Sq. Miles
2000	91,877	29.26
2001	93,209	29.26
2002	95,812	29.26
2003	98,875	30.00
2004	103,536	32.50
2005	111,168	33.07
2006	113,216	35.36
2007	116,867	35.40
2008	119,643	36.16
2009	122,111	36.41
2010	124,442	36.86
2011	125,342	36.94
2012	127,061	37.09
2013	128,443	37.16
2014	129,481	37.24
2015	128,447	37.31
2016	130,231	37.48

**City of Visalia** **130,231**  
**(2016)**

Median Household Income (2016 Est. )	\$52,157
Visalia Labor Force	62,100
Employed (2016)	55,921
Unemployed (2016)	5,355
Visalia Unemployment	8.7%
Average Home Sales	\$207,800

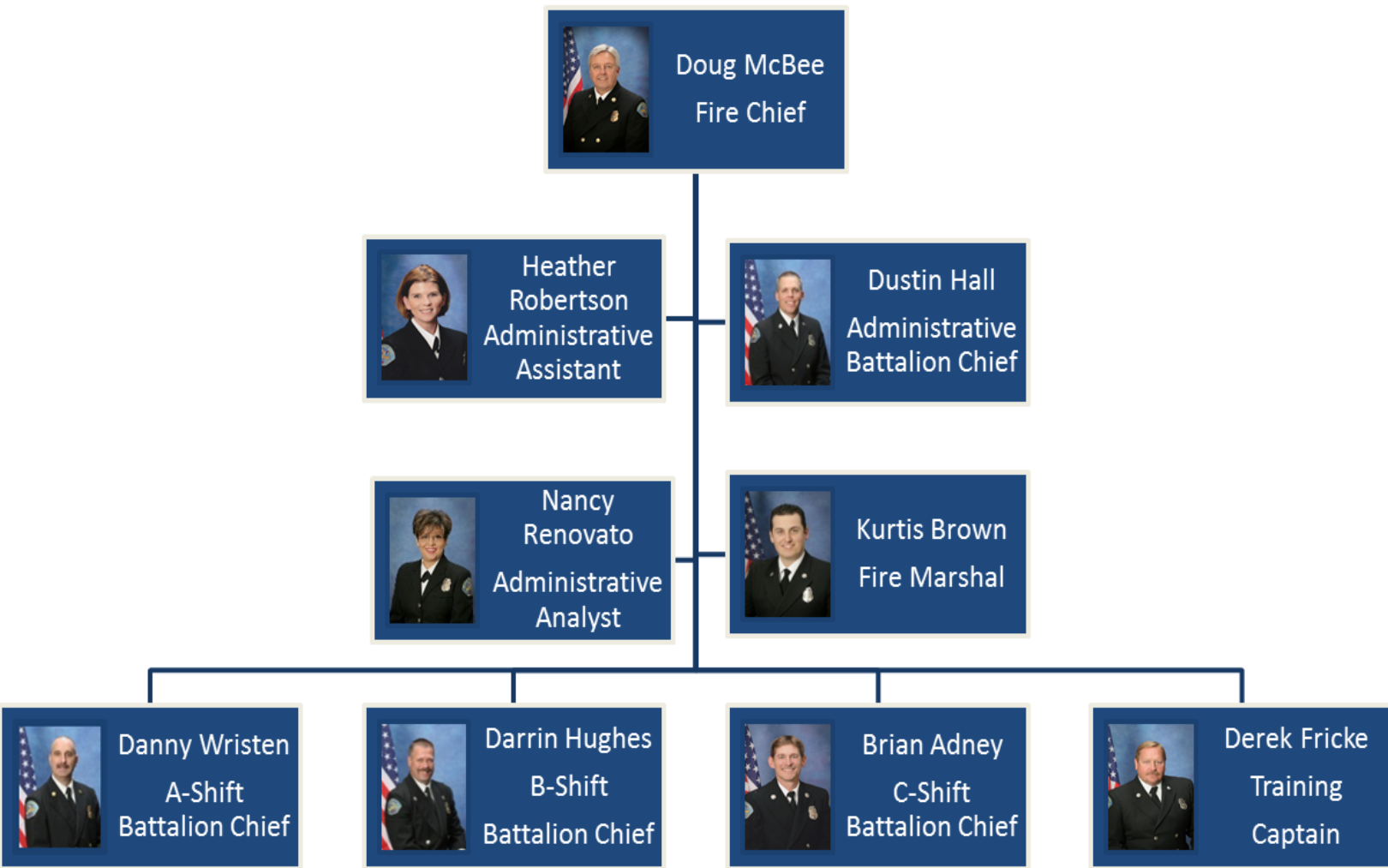
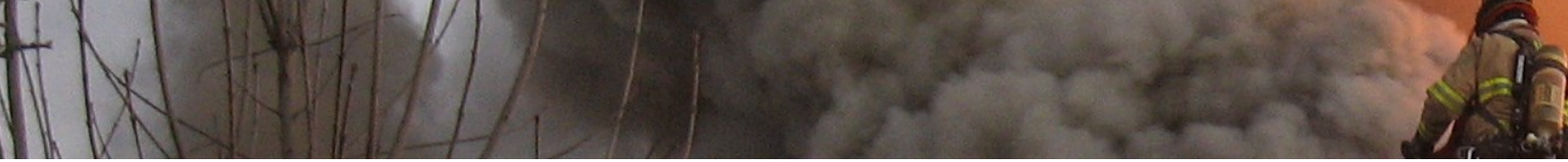
Sources:

State of CA Finance Department | City of Visalia Economic Development Corporation

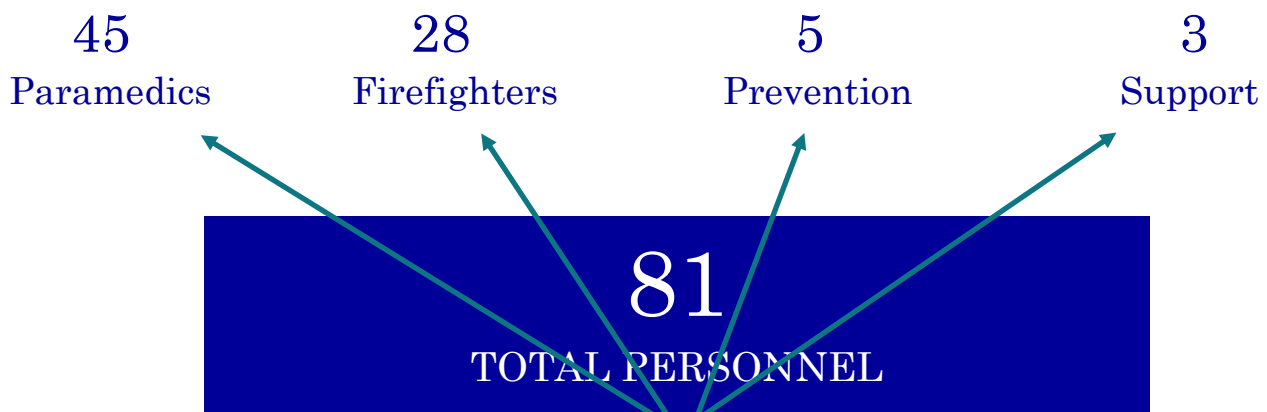




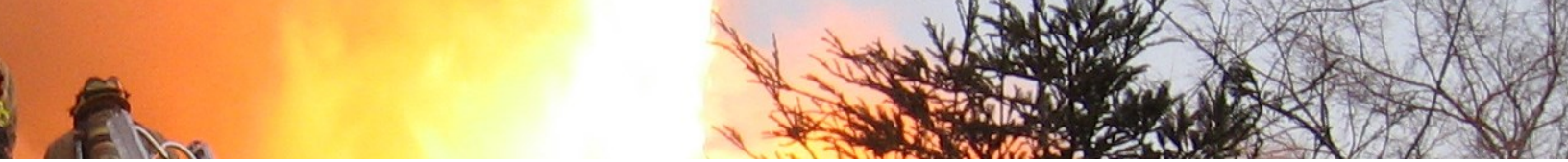




## 2016 VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





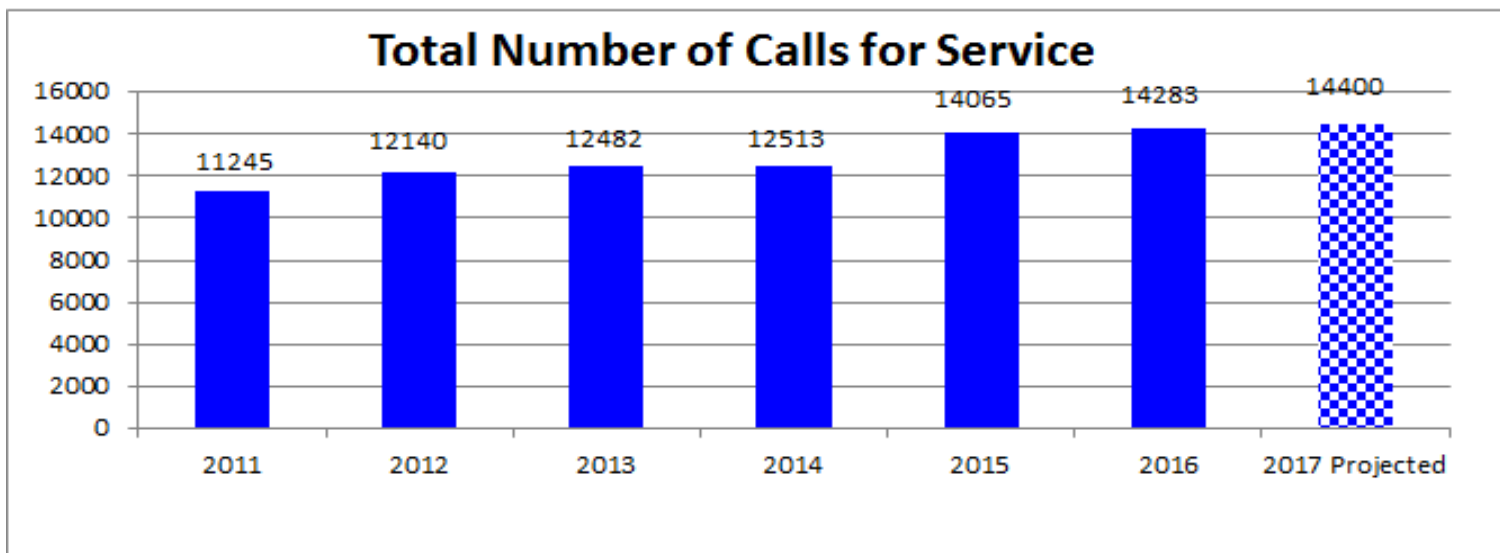


# 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Visalia Fire Department

# 14,283

TOTAL INCIDENT RESPONSE 2016





# CALLS FOR SERVICE *by type*

**598**

FIRE

**10**

RUPTURE/  
EXPLOSION

**9,322**

EMS/  
RESCUE

**202**

HAZARDOUS/  
CONDITION

**1,002**

SERVICE  
CALL

**2,741**

GOOD  
INTENT

**401**

FALSE  
CALL

**7**

SEVERE  
WEATHER

# CALLS FOR SERVICE *by month*

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1,037	1,034	1,180	1,147	1,250	1,193	1,269	1,281	1,120	1,258	1,168	1,349



# FIRES IN STRUCTURES BY FIXED PROPERTY USE

Private Dwellings (1 or 2 family), including mobile homes	98
Apartment (3 or more families)	22
Hotels and Motels	2
All Other Residential (dormitories, boarding houses, tents, etc.)	2
<b>TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES</b>	<b>124</b>
Public Assembly (church, restaurant, clubs, etc.)	8
Schools and Colleges	2
Health Care and Penal Institutions (hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc)	3
Stores and Offices	13
Industry, Utility, Defense, Laboratories, Manufacturing	2
Storage in Structures (barns, vehicle storage garages, general storage, etc.)	2
Other Structures (outbuildings, bridges, etc.)	14
<b>COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRES</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>TOTAL BUILDING FIRES</b>	<b>168</b>
Fires in Highway Vehicles (autos, trucks, buses, etc.)	70
Fires in Other Vehicles (planes, trains, ships, construction or farm vehicles, etc.)	1
Fires outside of Structures with Value involved, but Not Vehicles (outside storage, crops, timber, etc.)	25
Fires in Brush Grass Wildland (excluding crops and timber), with no value involved	140
Fires in Rubbish, including Dumpsters (outside of structures), with no value involved	134
All Other Fires	0
<b>TOTAL FOR FIRES</b>	<b>538</b>
Rescue, Emergency Medical Responses (ambulance, EMS, rescue)	9,228
False Alarm Responses (malicious or unintentional false calls, malfunctions, bomb scares)	401
Mutual Aid Responses Given	284
Hazardous Materials Responses (spills, leaks, etc.)	80
Other Hazardous Responses (arcing wires, bomb removal, power line down, etc.)	118
All Other Responses (smoke scares lock-outs, animal rescue, etc.)	3,634
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>14,283</b>

# NEW FIRE STATION FOR VISALIA



A major accomplishment in 2016 for the Visalia Fire Department was the construction of a new fire station that opened in April 2016. This project was nearly five years in the making and from inception to completion the project was largely overseen by fire and engineering staff.

The new fire station serves the southwest quadrant of the City of Visalia and is staffed 24 hours a day by an engine company consisting of a Fire Captain, Fire Engineer, and a Firefighter Paramedic. Visalia citizens petitioned for the creation of a new fire station and as a result not only was the station added but in turn the new addition helped improve Insurance Service Office (ISO) scores because of the added suppression operations.

The building was designed by RRM Design Group and constructed by Cooper Chase Construction. The cost of the project was approximately \$2.9 million from multiple funds.







# ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division of the Visalia Fire Department, headed by Fire Chief Doug McBee is responsible for support services for the fire department.

The Administration/Support Services Division is staffed by the Fire Chief, Support Services Battalion Chief, Senior Administrative Analyst, Senior Administrative Assistant, and Senior Office Assistant.

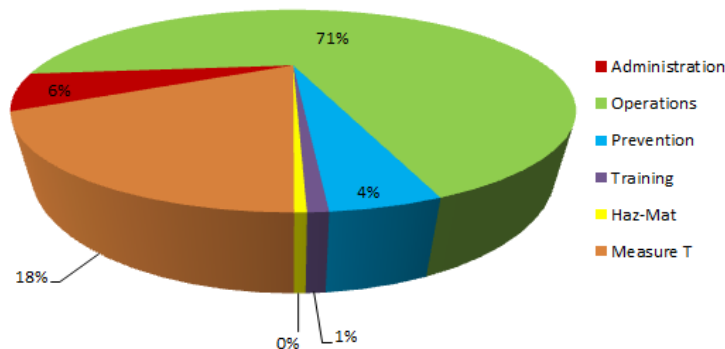
The division is responsible for the overall management of the fire department including fiscal management, strategic planning, personnel matters, labor relations, promotion and recruitments, leadership, oversight, and planning of the department's programs and policies. The Support Service Battalion Chief oversees the Training Division, Communications, EMS, Infection Control/DICO, Dispatch, and Training Certifications.

Additionally, the division provides support services for all divisions and customer service to the citizens of Visalia. Other services include:

- ◇ Developing, managing, and implementing the overall fire department budget
- ◇ Payroll
- ◇ Weed Abatement
- ◇ Public Education
- ◇ Special Events
- ◇ Website Management
- ◇ Purchasing
- ◇ Records Management
- ◇ Grants



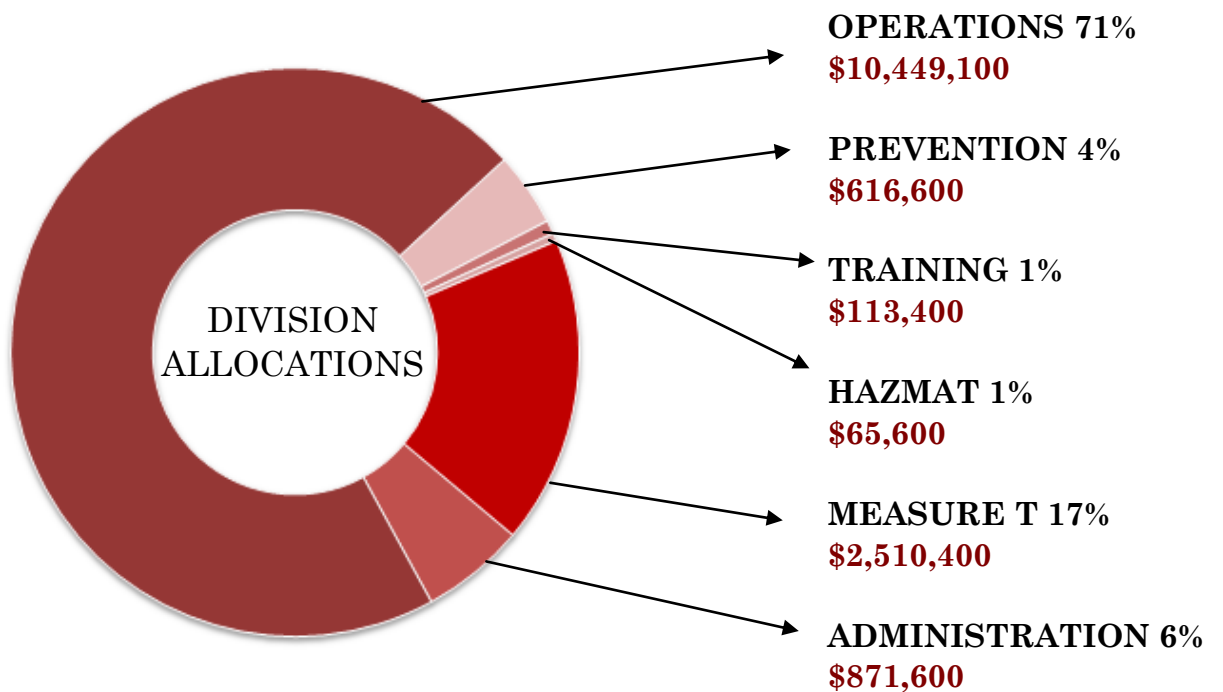
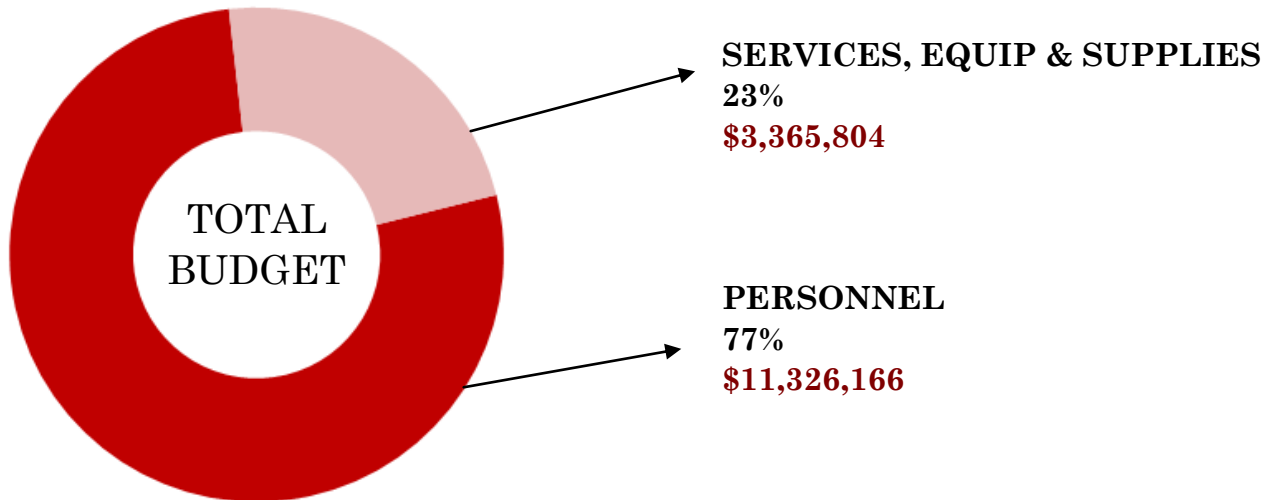
**FY2015/2016 Division Breakdowns**  
**Adopted Budget \$14,691,970**





# VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

## \$14,700,000



# FIRE STATIONS



## Station: S51

Fire	164
Rupture/Explosion	1
EMS/Rescue	2,269
Hazardous Condition	55
Service Call	246
Good Intent	742
False Call	106
Severe Weather	1
Other	2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,586</b>



## Station: S52

Fire	82
Rupture/Explosion	1
EMS/Rescue	2,021
Hazardous Condition	37
Service Call	251
Good Intent	560
False Call	77
Severe Weather	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3,030</b>



## Station: S53

Fire	43
Rupture/Explosion	1
EMS/Rescue	1,719
Hazardous Condition	18
Service Call	157
Good Intent	408
False Call	53
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,399</b>





**Station: S54**

Fire	142
Rupture/Explosion	3
EMS/Rescue	1,717
Hazardous Condition	42
Service Call	160
Good Intent	450
False Call	62
Other	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2,577</b>



**Station: S55**

Fire	76
EMS/Rescue	639
Hazardous Condition	28
Service Call	70
Good Intent	246
False Call	65
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,124</b>



**Station: S56**

Fire	80
Rupture/Explosion	4
EMS/Rescue	953
Hazardous Condition	19
Service Call	115
Good Intent	313
False Call	38
Other	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,523</b>

# OPERATIONS

The Operations Division 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 is staff by three Battalion Chiefs, and 75 (at full strength) emergency response personnel. Response personnel work a 48 hours on, 96 hours off schedule with shift change occurring at 8:00a.m. The main responsibility of the Operations Division is to provide effective all hazard emergency response as well as to ensure that personnel are trained to local, state, and national standards to provide safe and effective response.

Visalia firefighters respond to a wide variety of emergency and non-emergency calls including; structure fires, wild land fires, motor vehicle accidents, vehicle extrication, emergency medical responses, hazardous material incidents, and technical rescue incidents. 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. Shift Battalion Chiefs also serve as Public Information Officers for the department and oversee daily operations and various programs including the Cal OES Type II Medium Technical Rescue Program, Safety, Cal OES Type I Haz-Mat Team, Quartermaster, Training, Apparatus, Facilities, Equipment & Power Tools, Strike Team, Accountability, and Hose. Some of the services outlined fall within their own division and have achieved much in the past year. These accomplishments are detailed within the following pages.



## APPARATUS

- Developed new specifications for Aerial Ladder Truck
- Ensured completion of all apparatus safety inspections
- Provided repairs for apparatus in a timely and cost effective manor

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Completed the annual Emergency Operations Center training and drill
- Participated in the development of an updated All-Risk Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Assisted with the development of the Visalia Emergency Communication Center (VECC) planning process for the Emergency Operations Center
- Monitored weather forecasts and provided advanced warning to City personnel for all potential hazardous weather



## SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)

- Completed in-house repairs on numerous SCBA units, saving thousands of dollars in repair charges
- Ordered and received new OSHA required SCBA Fit-Test Machine

## LADDERS

- Ensured the completion of the annual OSHA and NFPA required ladder testing for all ground ladders and aerial ladders

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- Completed the CIP funded concrete extension at the rear of Fire Station 51
- Removed ten hazard trees at Fire Station 55





# OPERATIONS

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS—CAL OES TYPE I

- Completed bi-monthly team competency training
- Specialized equipment maintenance and repair
- AgEx2 drill participation in January
- Biological drill with Tulare County Public Health in January
- Review of visual capabilities, considering Go Pro type equipment and Skype
- Set up two tank props at Station 55.
- Several personnel attended Hazbomb training conducted by the FBI in Bakersfield
- Two personnel were sponsored to attend the Continuing Challenge Conference in Sacramento



## QUARTERMASTER PROGRAM

- Issued new PPE, uniforms, and equipment to five new recruits
- Ordered, purchased, received, issued, tracked, and stored numerous pieces of PPE and uniforms
- Ordered, purchased, and tracked all Quartermaster-issued equipment for Recruit Academy; worked with several vendors to measure and order correct equipment for new recruits; ordered, received, tracked, and returned rental PPE for recruits
- Worked with two T-shirt vendors on department shirts; changed logo on T-shirt, added long-sleeve shirts due to city tattoo policy, changed brand of T-shirt due to inability to get previous brand
- Oversight of City contract regarding Uniform Laundry bid for fire department
- Completed Quartermaster budget for FY2016/17 & FY 2017/18
- Worked on fire department upgrade and design of patch



## SMALL ENGINE, EQUIPMENT, AND TOOLS PROGRAM

In addition to the continued maintenance, repair and replacement of all the small engines and tools in the department the following are major accomplishments for the SEET program:

- Purchased new Bullard TMAX 4 thermal imaging camera
- Hi-Tec Serviced all Hurst extrication equipment
- Purchased new Hurst power unit for Truck 51
- Flushed all Hurst fluid and replaced with new compatible fluid



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS PROGRAM

- Ongoing tracking and completion of service requests which included: leaking roofs, HVAC units out of service, generator repair, water heater service, flooring replacement, and garage door repairs.

## HONOR GUARD PROGRAM

- Participated in many community and fire service events.



# OPERATIONS

## LEXIPOL PROGRAM

- Continued work with E-53 and E-56 B-shift crews to convert older SOGs into Lexipol format
- Issued multiple Lexipol SOGs to personnel for review in new Online Policy manual

## TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

- Completed bi-monthly team competency training
- **Fire Engineer Briggs** returned to the Rescue Team in February
- Replaced five, 200 ft. lifelines on frontline apparatus

## ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

- The Accountability Program was streamlined in 2016. The Battalion Chiefs now share a set of 3 Personnel Status Boards at each shift change. New Passport Identification tags were ordered and/or replaced for new and existing personnel. Dashboard Commander ICS Command Boards were purchased for each Battalion Chief. These boards are used to keep track of personnel, vehicles, etc. at emergency incident scenes.

## FIRE PRE-PREPLANS

- Crews completed 17 assigned Fire Pre-plans of high Target Hazard/Occupancy Buildings in the downtown Main Street Corridor. This allowed crew to become familiar with many of the downtown Main Street buildings. Each Building was drawn out and specific hazards and utilities shutoffs and other pertinent information was notated in the event an incident occurs in one of these buildings. Also in 2016, we began transitioning all completed Fire Pre-Plans to the Spillman Cad System.

## HOSE AND APPLIANCES

- The department is required to conduct hose testing on all of its fire hose annually. During the 2016 hose testing, the department lost approximately 1,725 feet of various sizes of hose. Staff was able to ensure all apparatus were ready for service by replacing the out of service hose with hose the department keeps in stock. During 2016, the department was able to replenish its reserve hose supply. In an effort to keep operations organized and efficient, crews re-built the storage at Station 55 that houses the hose and appliances such as nozzles, reducers, gated-wyes, etc. The department placed in service smooth bore nozzles on both quick attack lines and high-rise packs on each apparatus. These nozzles allow for a more penetrating water stream and reach. Large Diameter Intake Valves were replaced on two fire apparatus.

## STRIKE TEAM PROGRAM

- All department Strike Team gear was inventoried, downsized and replaced as needed. Some equipment was found to be worn and was replaced. All Strike Team gear is ready for immediate deployment. Several Strike Team assignments occurred in 2016. Engine Crews were sent out as part of various strike teams as well as multiple assignments of Battalion Chiefs' Adney and Wristen as strike team leaders. **The State will reimburse the City approximately \$463,000 for staff and vehicle time.**

## TAILBOARD TRAINING PROGRAM

- Station 54-C Shift is assigned with providing monthly tailboard training to department personnel. In 2016, they successfully put out monthly training items covering a variety of specific topics. Including, Proper use of departmental tools and equipment, hazards encountered on specific incidents, building construction and hazards to various buildings to mention a few.





# TRAINING

The Visalia Fire Department Training Division was very busy this year in producing and presenting training on a monthly basis. A big thank you goes out to the truck crews who were instrumental in the success of the Training Program. Visalia fire personnel recorded 16,460 training hours in 2016 with 13,965 of those hours being recorded as in house training. 2,495 hours of outside training was recorded. The outside training hours recorded reflects positively on the professionalism and commitment our personnel continue to show in improving our organization.

In addition to the coordination and presentation of training, the Training Division was responsible for maintaining certification and training records, developing training materials and coordinating training facility scheduling. The Training Center continued to be a valuable training asset to the local area, being utilized by the Tulare County Probation Department, Visalia Police Department, City of Visalia, as well as the Visalia Fire Department. It functions as the current EOC and will remain as a functioning back up EOC after it is replaced by the new EOC being constructed within the VECC.

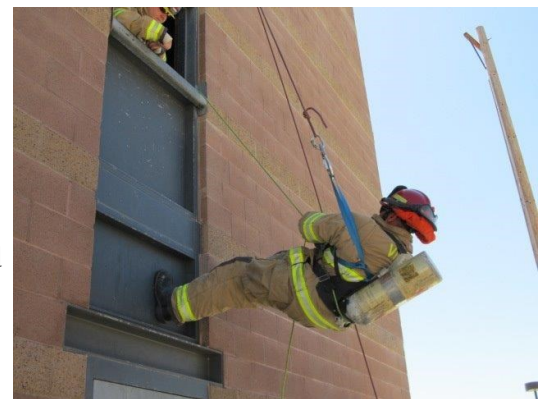
The Visalia Fire Training Facility was proud to host live fire exercises earlier this year. The training was presented by the California State Firefighters Association on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 40 area firefighters took part in the training that was offered free of charge through grant funding coordinated through the California State Firefighters Association. The Hazardous Materials Team and Rescue Teams continued with bi-monthly training and our annual RT 130 was the subject of training in April in order to renew Strike Team certification requirements for 2016. Look forward to additional RT130 training in April of 2017.

Five new firefighters; **Bailey, Sybesma, Madrigal, Binder, and Kaperonis** completed a recruit academy in May 2016, being trained by **Fire Captain Paramedic Chris Ortiz and Engineer Robert Briggs**. The academy consisted of physical training, SCBA, salvage & overhaul, forcible entry, hose evolutions, ladder evolutions, auto extrication, rescue and EMS. Captain Ortiz and Engineer Briggs held the recruits to high standards as is evidenced by the probationary firefighters continued success in the Visalia Fire Department. Improved training documentation procedures were developed late in 2016 to better track training required by the Insurance Services Office. Hopefully issues with recorded training hours will not be of concern during future ISO audits.

Fire personnel completed annual individual core testing, and annual Company Core Evolutions took on a slightly different twist with objective based evolutions rather than our ordinary company cores. The goal was to allow the company officer to decide on how best to accomplish the task presented rather than going through the motions of a typical evolution.

## **California Firefighter Joint Apprentice Committee (CFFJAC)**

The Visalia Fire Department has been a participant of the CFFJAC Program since 2006. The 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 department has 15 employees who receive funds for a period of 4 years and are required to train for a minimum of 144 hours per year. Four of our firefighters completed their California Professional Firefighter sponsored Joint Apprentice Committee requirements and were promoted to Journey Level in 2016. Firefighters who graduated to the Journey Level were: **Jeff Hust · Brian Jones · Shaun Spradling · David Yancey**



Two of our personnel, **Dameon Malek** and **Allen Wilkinson**, were promoted to **Captain** in 2016 and will start their Fire Officer Apprenticeships in January of 2017, for a 3-year program and **Brandon De La Cruz**, **Mike Herlihy** and **Ignacio Ruiz** will be starting their 2-year Fire Engineer Apprenticeship.

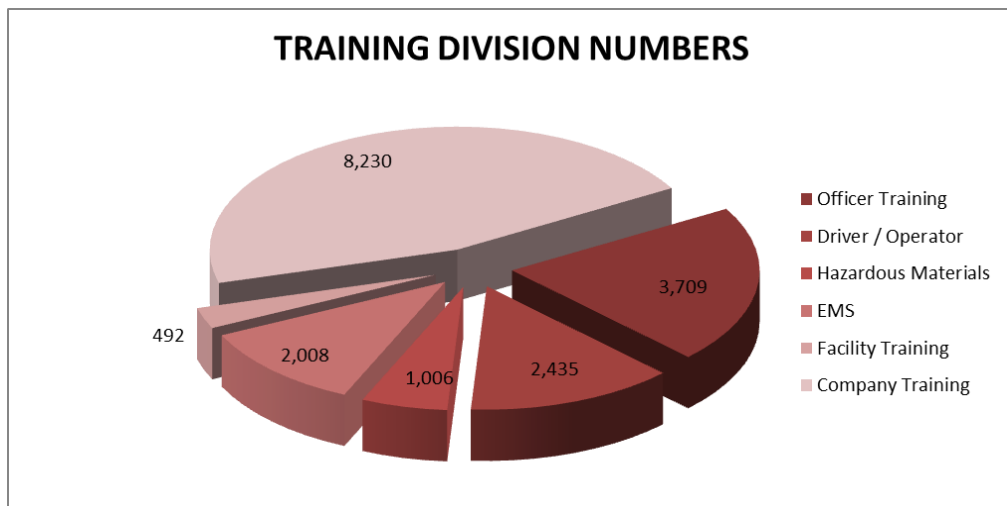
### TRAINING GOALS FOR 2017

In 2017, the Training Division hopes to complete a revised Engineer Task Book that incorporates the operation of all VFD Fire apparatus and eliminates old evolutions involving ARFF units. We will solidify and present fit for duty testing for those who are subject to long term absence as a service to both the fire department and the employee. We will also produce material and task books geared toward the successful completion of probationary employees who have returned to VFD after seeking employment in other departments.

Also, look forward to more frequent use of our facility’s live fire training props in 2017. As always, if you have an idea for improved training, please contact Captain Fricke. We are always looking to enhance our training program.



- \* Officer Training includes, ICS, management / supervision, safety, etc.
- \* Driver Operator includes pumping, driving, aerial operations.
- \* Facility training is training that includes a drill that requires the use of the training building. We weren't very good and reporting facility training properly last year so 2017 should be significantly higher than 2016. Most of our training is conducted at the facility however classroom trainings don't count as "facility" training. This year we are making it a point to get hours reported properly.
- \* Company training includes all of the other things we training on such as ropes and rescue, hose evolutions, ladders, forcible entry, rapid intervention crews, SCBA etc.





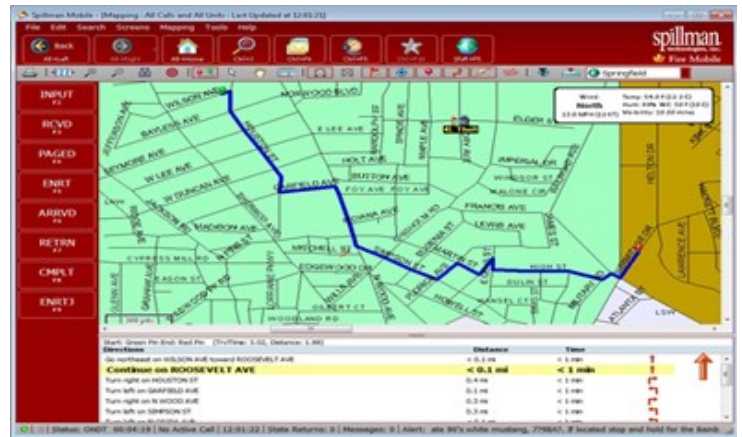
# COMMUNICATIONS

During the first few months of 2016, the Communications program was extremely busy preparing for the final construction of the Fire Station 53 voter receiver site and tower as well as the implementation and training for the new Spillman CAD system. There were many large scale projects that the Fire Communications Program was involved in like the Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC), Motorola radio replacement and tower for the VECC, the Spillman CAD upgrade, 911 replacement project, and MDT replacement for fire and police.



The Fire department acquired 6 new Motorola multi-band interoperable portable radios from funding from the Tulare County Office of Emergency Services and placed in service in early 2016. We also installed an additional voter receiver site at the new Fire Station 53 providing for better radio coverage on the south/west side of Visalia. Staff processed and reprogrammed all radios for the 2016 wildland fire season in June allowing for interoperable communications state wide. Staff tested a new Kenwood mobile radio that has been selected as the next generation of radio to be installed into future fire apparatus.

The Fire Records Management System (RMS) received a software upgrade in 2016, and the fire department sponsored two personnel to attend the training conference in Denver, CO. Having staff attend such a conference is vital in the ongoing training that can be brought back and shared with other users within the organization.



One major upgrade the fire fleet received during 2016, was a replacement of all Sierra Wireless modems that communicate with Dispatch. We were able to fund and replace all of the devices with Cradlepoint 4G allowing staff to easily manage the devices remotely providing live GPS for the new Spillman CAD with very little down time due to device failure.

It was an extremely busy year for the Communications program with the sheer number of projects that have been worked on and completed during 2016. Many of the projects will extend into 2017, as we attempt to enhance the capabilities of the Visalia Fire Department Communications.



# SUPPORT SERVICES

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE**

The Visalia Fire Department responds to all incidents within the City of Visalia and surrounding areas. The different types of request for service includes medical emergencies, fires, hazardous materials and conditions, technical rescues, and public assistance requests. Today, the fire industry responds to approximately 75 to 85% medical related requests; for the Visalia Fire Department, this percentage is lower. In 2016, the fire department responded to 9,321 medical related requests; 65% of the total number of incidents. Compared to 2015, there were 128 more requests in 2016. Over the last five years, the fire department has seen an increase of 2,549 requests, 38%, for medical assistance.

The men and women of the fire department pride themselves on providing the highest level of care with the most up to date equipment and the recognized best practices to the citizens who request medical assistance. The fire department provides advance life support (ALS) from six Engine Companies and one Truck Company with 45 paramedics and 28 EMTs. In 2016, all EMTs had their certifications renewed.

EMTs receive approximately 150 hours of training in the administration of oxygen and oral glucose, as well as skills in bandaging and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Paramedics receive approximately 1,500 hours of training. Paramedics receive extensive training in topics such as anatomy and physiology, cardiology, medications, and a variety of medical procedures. Paramedics are trained in cardio defibrillation, intravenous access, needle thoracostomy (chest decompression), and placement of advance airways (breathing tube), to mention a few.

The Visalia Fire Department continues to strive in providing cutting edge technology for data collection, best practices for medical care, as well as the latest and greatest equipment used to provide the treatment that is required in the pre-hospital setting. In 2016, the fire department secured funding to purchase three LifePak 15 cardiac monitor/defibrillators and new suction units.

In the past few years, public safety has had to adapt and train to special situations with the increase of attacks in public areas such as shopping malls, airports, and places of worship; these events have been identified as “active shooter” situations. In conjunction with the Visalia Police Department, the fire department continues to work towards adopting the recognized state standard as it relates to this type of incident. In 2016, the police and fire departments held a second active shooter training, where both agencies trained on how to handle these situations. The fire department has purchased three sets of body armor and equipment for these types of incidents.

## **INFECTION CONTROL**

Employers who have emergency response employees (EREs) are required by law to have an infection control program in place. Part of the responsibilities of the City is to identify designated infection control officers (DOs) who are trained in infectious materials such as bloodborne pathogens (BBP), aerosol-transmissible diseases (ATDs), and other potentially infectious materials (OPIMs). Examples of infectious materials include HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and influenza. The DO’s responsibility is to identify the employees who are at risk of potential exposure to any of the BBP, ATD, or OPIM.

Over the last four years the Infection Control program has grown from two DOs to three. Over this same time period, there have been 70+ cases that have been worked. It is through active participation with our allied agencies like Kaweah Delta Medical Center and local ambulance companies that this program has been successful.

Staff continues to strive to improve the reporting process as well as finding ways to increase efficiency with our local partners. It is our priority that everyone who is at risk for potential exposure be active in their own protection from transmission. The City’s DOs are available to answer your call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



# Dispatch

After many years of research and preparation, the Visalia Police/Fire Dispatch received a new dispatch CAD system. This year, the Spillman Dispatch CAD was installed. The new system is more robust compared to the previous system and will help to improve response times and efficiency of Fire Department resources. One of the major upgrades for the Fire Department is closest unit dispatching. Prior to the change, fire resources were dispatched on a response district model; meaning that a specific station was assigned a defined portion of the City. In the new system, the dispatch program is able to determine which fire resource is the closest the request for service and dispatch accordingly.



With any new program, there are some “bugs” that will need to be worked out. Staff is hopeful this will take a minimal amount of time. We are excited to see what 2017 has for our dispatching process.



California firefighter is being praised for saving a life while off-duty. Fire engineer and paramedic **Dameon Malek** had just finished the End of the Trail half-marathon in downtown Visalia Saturday morning when he saw another race participant lying on the ground with no pulse and not breathing. He jumped in to help ambulance personnel by performing CPR at the scene and on the trip to the hospital. ABC13 (3/16/16)



## Incident by Incident Type With Detail

Date Range: From 01/01/2016 To 12/31/2016

Incident Type	Incident Count
<u>EMS/Rescue</u>	
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	4
Medical Assist-Ambulance On Scene 1st	4,094
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	336
Emergency Medical-FD on Scene 1st	4,311
Vehicle accident with injuries	362
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	69
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	114
Lock-in (if lock out , use 511 )	7
Search for person in water	1
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	3
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	10
Trench/below grade rescue	3
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery	4
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1
Swift water rescue	1
<b>Total EMS/Rescue:</b>	<b>9,321</b>





# FIRE TRAINING CENTER





# 75 CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTERS

Are also certified in the following specialized disciplines



# FIRE PREVENTION

## INSPECTIONS

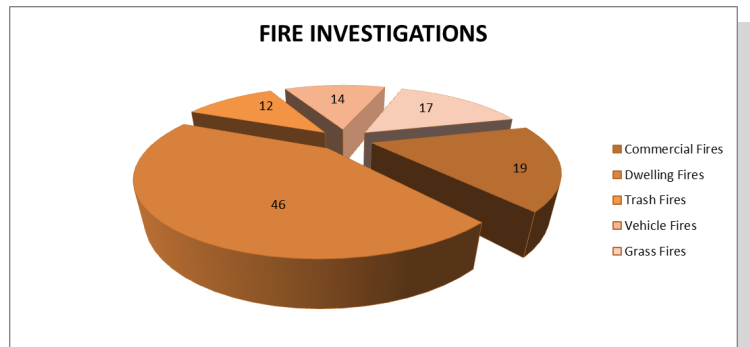
In 2016, the Fire Prevention Division and Engine companies conducted a total of 4,274 Fire & Life Safety Inspections and billed a total of \$119,859 in Fire & Life Safety Operational Permits.

## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Prevention Division initiated cases and performed inspections on property maintenance cases throughout 2016 with a heavy emphasis during the summer months. Property maintenance cases were started on properties with trash, junk and or debris, weeds and any other items that constitute a fire hazard. Many cases are vacant undeveloped lots, but some are vacant and occupied homes and commercial properties.

## FIRE INVESTIGATIONS TEAM

The Fire Investigation Team is responsible for investigating fires to determine their origin and cause. As Peace Officers, Fire Investigators conduct criminal investigations and prosecute arsonists. The Fire Investigation Team is also active in public education, continuing education, and illegal fireworks enforcement details. The Investigations Team is made up of four suppression and two prevention personnel trained in fire investigations by the State Fire Marshal's Office. In 2016, the Investigations Team conducted more than 108 fire investigations. The Fire Investigation Unit is overseen by Fire Marshal Kurtis Brown and program manager Captain Tom Van Grouw.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Visalia Fire Department provides educational programs tailored to different groups from schools, in-home trainings, churches and community service groups. In 2016, Engine Company Personnel completed 234 tours, visitations, and presentations. The department provided this service to approximately 26,000 people in the community. 50 community members also participated in the department ride-a-long program. Additionally, 106 smoke alarms were installed in homes throughout the city. The Visalia Fire Department hosts two popular events each year:

- \* Youth Fire Camp workshop is one of the most popular summer camps in the City of Visalia. Approximately 120 campers participated in the 2016 workshops. Each workshop is filled with fire related activities such as fire hose pulls, practicing STOP, DROP & ROLL, learning to use a fire extinguisher and so much more.
- \* Open House an event that marks the conclusion of Fire Prevention

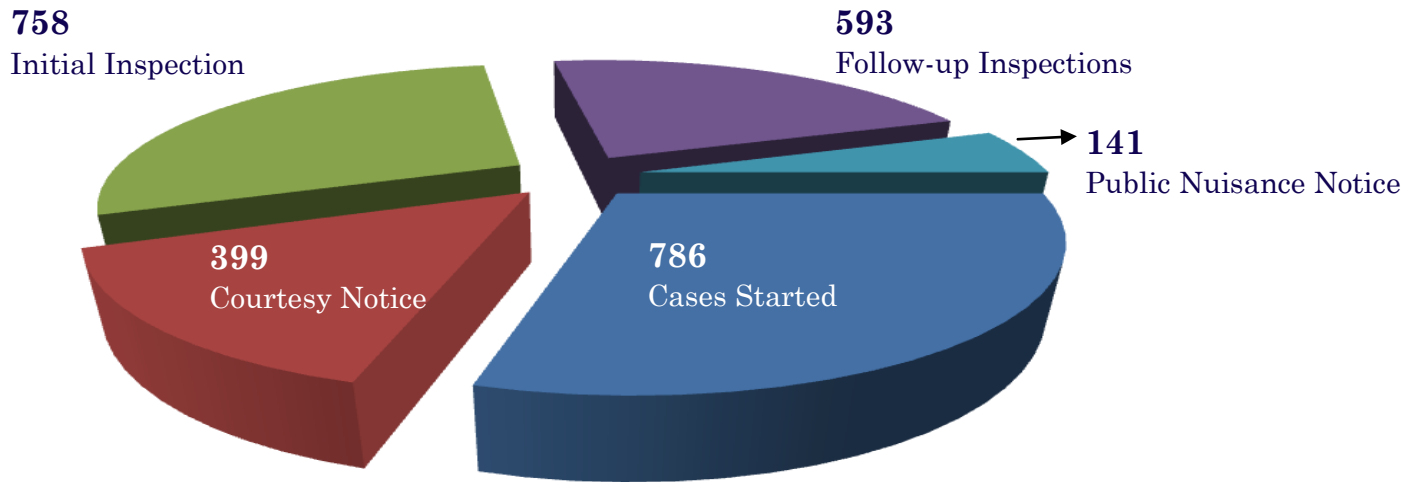


Week with an open house celebration. The Open House event is located at 5025 W. Walnut (Fire Station 53). The event provides the Fire Department the opportunity to continue sharing the fire prevention message in a large event setting. Also the event provides the community the opportunity to gather information from other public agencies and other City services provided at the event.





# PROPERTY MAINTENANCE



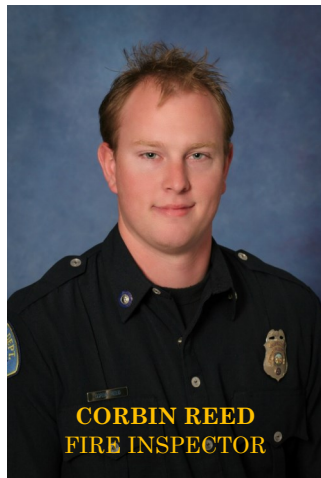
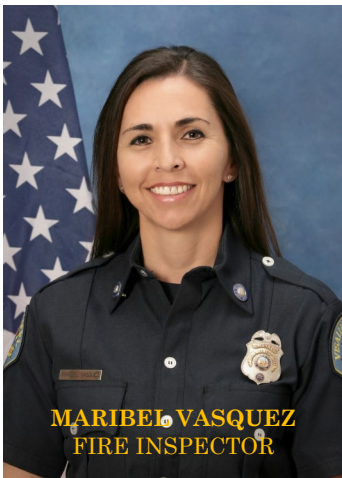
## SITE PLAN REVIEW

The Visalia Fire Department is a member of the Site Plan Review Committee. The committee reviews plans and operational statements, for proposed businesses, operations and future constructions projects throughout our community. Lists of comments are provided to applicants from each member of the committee to assist applicants with their project. For the 2016, Visalia Fire Department staff reviewed 197 plans that had been submitted to the committee for comments.

## SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Special Events Committee was put together by the City of Visalia and designed to ensure that an event is successful while taking into consideration the protection of the public’s health and safety. A Special Event defined by the City of Visalia is any organized activity involving the use of or having an impact on public property – public parks and facilities, streets, sidewalks or any other public right of way. The Special Events Committee is comprised of representatives from various departments, and managed by the Special Events Committee Chair. The Special Events Committee is comprised of representatives from City Departments including, Fire, Police, Engineering, Recreation, Natural Resource, Transit, Public Works, Business Tax, Planning, and a representative from Tulare County Health.

In 2015 the Special Event Committee reviewed applications for 103 events within our community. Out of the 103 events reviewed, 92 completed the application process and were permitted. Some of the special events approved in 2016 were Project Homeless Connect · Farmers Market · St. Patrick’s Day Parade · Blues, Brews & BBQ · PALS Easter · Earth Day · Fill the Boot · Color Vibe · Visalia Car Show · Waiter’s Race · Taste the Arts · Candy Cane Parade



## NEW HIRES

**CHRIS BAILEY**  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC  
**WILLIAM BINDER**  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC  
**GEORGE KAPERONIS**  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC  
**JOSE MADRIGAL**  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC  
**MICHAEL SYBESMA**  
FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC



## SEPARATIONS

JACK ALVORD  
KEITH BOWEN  
KATIE CICHY  
DANIEL NOE  
JONATHAN SAGLI

**PROMOTION**  
**DUSTIN HALL**  
Battalion Chief  
1/9/2016

**RETIREMENT**  
**ERIC BUSH**  
Fire Captain  
1993-2016

## 2016 Employee Service Awards Recipients

Name	Position	Years
GOFORTH, JOEY	FIRE CAPTAIN	20
HUGHES, DARRIN	BATTALION CHIEF	20
OSEGUERA, MIGUEL	FIRE CAPTAIN	20
FRANZEN, FRANK	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC	15
GARCIA, LARRY	FIRE CAPTAIN	15
LOPEZ, ALVINO	FIRE CAPTAIN	15
BRANCH, NICHOLAS	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC	10
GALAVIZ, JAMES	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC	10
ROBERTSON, HEATHER	SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	10
VAN GROUW, THOMAS	FIRE CAPTAIN	10
DE LA CRUZ, BRANDON	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	5
HERLIHY, MICHAEL	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	5
HUFFMAN, JACOB	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	5
OKLAND, CHRISTOPHER	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC	5

**TOTAL SERVICE YEARS** 165



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

*David Yancey*  
Fire Officer

*Karl Kassner*  
Chief Officer

*Robert Aikman*  
Fire Officer

*Ray Ramirez*  
Chief Officer

*Grady Brock*  
Fire Officer

*James Galaviz*  
Fire Officer

*Dustin Hall*  
Chief Officer

*Brian Jones*  
Fire Officer

*Robert Briggs*  
Fire Officer

*Tony Colbert*  
Fire Officer

*Bryan Gant*  
Fire Officer

*Joe Goforth*  
Chief Officer

*Tom VanGrouw*  
Chief Officer

*Chris Clow*  
Fire Officer

*Larry Garcia*  
Chief Officer

**FIREFIGHTER OF  
THE YEAR  
DAMEON MALEK**  
Fire Captain

**LEADERSHIP VISALIA**

**BRIAN ADNEY**  
Battalion Chief

**SUPERVISORY ACADEMY**

**MARIBEL VASQUEZ**  
Fire Inspector  
**KARL KRAUSS**  
Fire Captain



VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
707 WEST ACEQUIA AVENUE  
VISALIA, CA 93291  
(559) 713-4266



[www.ci.visalia.ca.us/depts/fire](http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/depts/fire)