

VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of all the members of the Visalia Fire Department, it is my distinct honor to present the 2018 Annual report. This is the sixth annual report I have presented to our community in my tenure as Fire Chief. I am proud to represent the outstanding men and women of our fire department and highlight the major activities, goals, challenges and accomplishments we achieved this past year.

The wildland fire season of 2018 was unprecedented. The Camp Fire in Butte County was the worst fire ever in the state of California. The town of Paradise was virtually destroyed and 86 citizens lost their lives in the catastrophic fire events that occurred. Our OES Engine 375 with a crew of four Visalia Fire

personnel was dispatched to this fire and spent over two weeks on scene. We are proud of the effort our crew, as part of a larger task force, put forth to save lives and property.

For the past five years fire season has become more intense and lasting longer into the year. What is being described as the “new normal” for wildland fire behavior and intensity is something we as a fire department must adapt to as we plan to protect our community and our citizens.

In Visalia we again saw demand for service exceed 15,000 calls for service and our EMS calls stayed steady even with the change to our medical dispatch procedures. We are now going only to higher need priority one and two medical calls regarding medical facilities. We are only responding to low acuity, priority 3 calls when requested by medical providers or our EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) dispatchers. This makes for a more efficient and less redundant EMS system in supplying emergency medical services to those patients in urgent need. It has allowed us to meet the increased demand placed on the overall medical system by using the expertise of qualified medical care givers present on scene. To date it is working well and is meeting the standard of care as outlined by the Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency.

This fall we received our newest fire apparatus, a Pierce Arrow XT Quint Aerial Truck as a second ladder truck. It is housed at Station 55 and as our community continues to grow and we continue to add to our industrial and commercial building, this piece of firefighting equipment will greatly enhance our capabilities for effective fire fighting for years to come. The truck was paid for as part of Measure N as voted by our citizens.

Overall, 2018 was a year of fires and challenges. We survived a hot summer, illegal fireworks and the relentless wildfire season. I greatly appreciate the support of our elected officials and look forward to a highly productive and safe 2019 for our city. This coming year in 2019 will be the 150th Anniversary for our Fire Department to have served our community. It is a true milestone and one we will recognize and celebrate with all our friends and our great community.

I am honored to be the Fire Chief of a caring and committed fire department and could not be prouder of the men and women I am fortunate to serve with. Have a great year, be safe and we will see you in our 150th Year.

Warmest regards,

Doug McBee, Fire Chief

Mission Statement ~

*“Dedicated to Protecting All Through
Excellent Service”*



VISION STATEMENT



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



FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS 2018

CITY OF VISALIA

Founded: 1852

Population: 136,246

Area: 37.49 mi²

Class 3 ISO Rating

* Established: 1869

* Personnel Total: 82

* Shifts: 3-A, B, C

* Schedule: 48/96

* 2017/2018 Budget:
\$14,878,298

* Number of Stations: 6

* Calls for Service
15,229



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Fire Chief
DOUG MCBEE

Sr. Admin Analyst
NANCY RENOVATO

- Finance/ Budget Oversight
- Purchasing Coordination
- Records Management
- Reports
- Personnel

Fire Marshal
KURTIS BROWN

- Fire Inspections
- Department Safety
- Fire Investigations
- Knox Box
- Plan Checks
- New Construction
- Preemption
- Public Education
- Site Plan Review
- Special Events

**Support Services
Battalion Chief**
DUSTIN HALL

- Communications
- Dispatch Liaison
- EMS/EPCR
- RMS/NFIRS
- Infection Control/DICO
- Technology
- Workers Comp/LTD
- Business Plan

Sr. Admin Assistant
HEATHER ROBERTSON

- Assistant to Fire Chief
- Assistant to Operations
- AED Maintenance
- Property Maintenance
- EOC Documentation
Unit Leader
- Tuition Reimbursement

**Administration
Training Captain**
DEREK FRICKE

- Administrative Support
- CFF JAC
- Recruit Academy
- Training

Sr. Office Assistant
STEPHANIE PHIPPS

- Assistant to Support Services
Battalion Chief
- Assistant to Fire Marshal
- Front Office Management
- Website Coordinator
- Prevention
- Special Events Coordinator

**A SHIFT
BATTALION CHIEF**
WRISTEN

- Daily Operations / PIO
- Apparatus / Pump Testing
- EOC / Emergency Prep
- Foam F-500
- Ladders / Maps
- SCBA
- Station Supplies
- Technical Rescue
- Telestaff

**B SHIFT
BATTALION CHIEF**
HUGHES

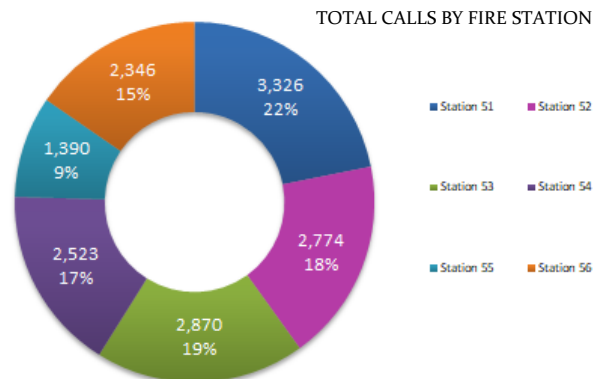
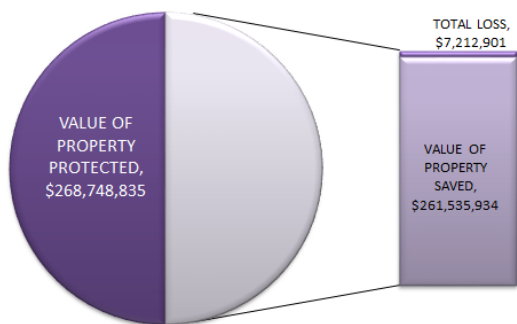
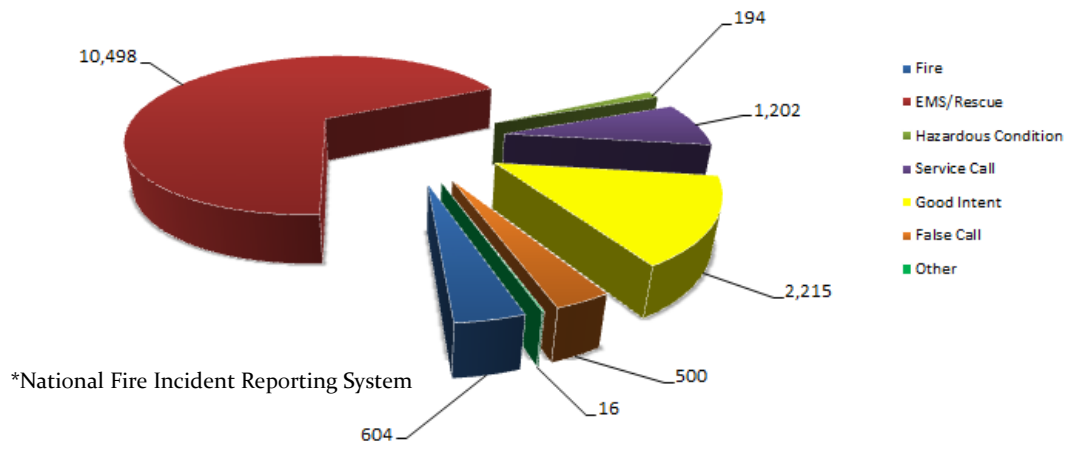
- Daily Operations / PIO
- Fire Extinguishers
- Equipment & Power Tools
- Facilities
- HazMat / Contract
- Honor Guard
- Quartermaster
- SOG / Lexipol

**C SHIFT
BATTALION CHIEF**
ADNEY

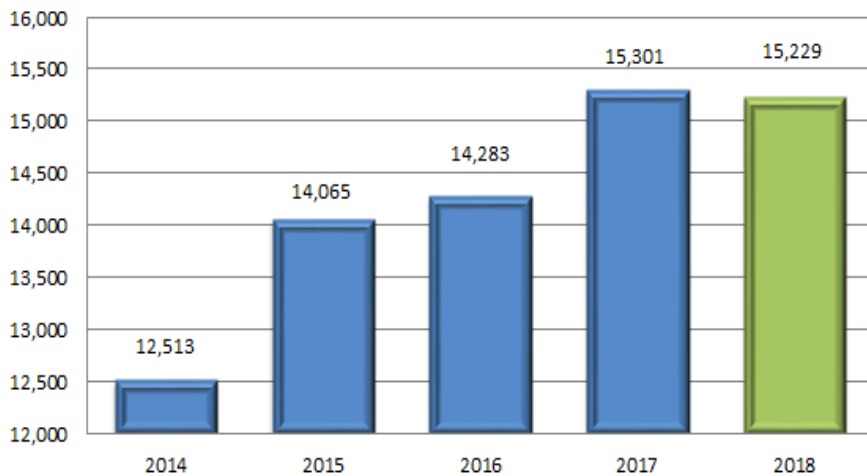
- Daily Operations / PIO
- Accountability
- CISM
- Hose / Nozzles / Fittings
- Pre Plans
- Wildland / Strike Team
- HM Technology
- Computer Programs

OPERATIONS ANNUAL STATISTICAL DATA

TOTAL CALLS BY *NFIRS CATEGORY



YEARLY CALL VOLUME



FIRE AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

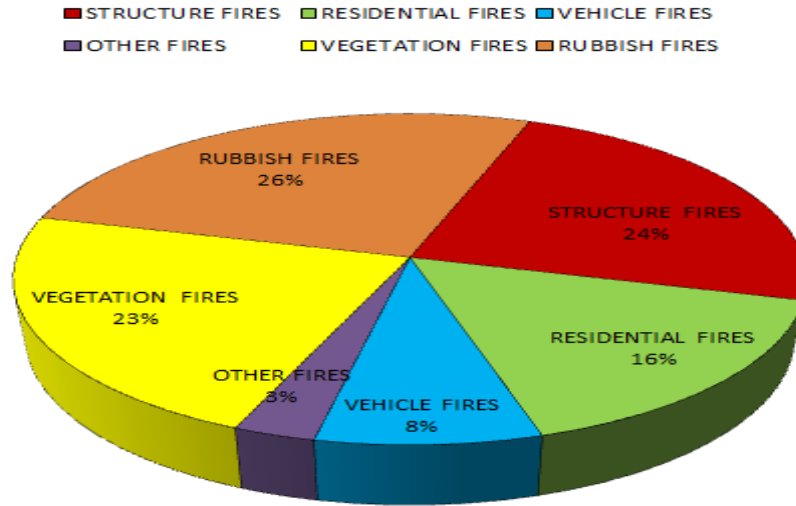
5:37

EMS AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

5:18

FIRE CALL STATS

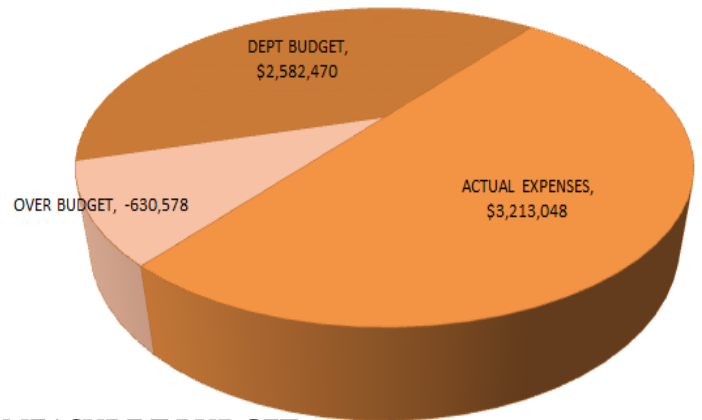
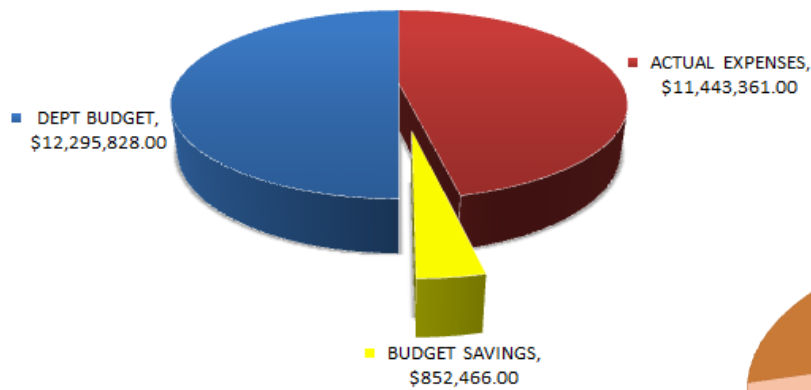
FIRE CALLS BY TYPE



2018 ANNUAL BUDGET

■ DEPT BUDGET ■ ACTUAL EXPENSES ■ BUDGET SAVINGS

GL BUDGET



Measure N

1 Aerial Ladder Truck
1 Air & Light Unit



BATTALION CHIEF HALL—SUPPORT SERVICES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Visalia Fire Department is an “all-risk” agency, prepared to respond to a variety and multitude of incidents. The fire service has progressed from bucket brigades to efficient, multi-disciplined service providers. Along with responded to fires, vehicle accidents, public assist request, hazardous material releases, technical rescues, fire personnel respond to medical emergencies.

The Visalia Fire Department is a regional leader in providing best practice pre-hospital medical care to the sick and injured. VFD deploys highly trained paramedics, with state of the art equipment to mitigate medical emergencies and is dedicated to providing excellent customer service.

Since 2016, as part of a mutual partnership with Kaweah Delta Medical Center (KDMC), medical students and residents have been riding along with fire personnel on the fire engines responding to calls for service. This interaction provides opportunities for department personnel to have a medical resource.

DISPATCH

The fire department shares resources with the Visalia Police Department. Fire department service calls were over 17,000 in 2018. To improve the dispatch process, a two part dispatch training plan was implemented. First, dispatchers were provided an opportunity to ride along with fire department staff to help with their understanding of fire department terminology and the nomenclature of the different types of resources that are used. Second, fire suppression personnel completed “sit along” time with the dispatchers at the dispatch console. This provided an opportunity for fire personnel to gain a better understanding of what the dispatchers have to go through on a daily basis.

2018 brought some much needed changes to VFD Dispatch; here are just a few of the highlights;

- ◆ Update of the following dispatch procedures
 - Alarm Assignments
 - Hazardous Material Response
 - Radio Communication with Fire Resources
- ◆ Improved training related to fire department resource allocation
- ◆ Fire department representative at monthly Senior Dispatcher meetings

EMS HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Dedicated presence of VFD personnel on state, regional, and local committees
- ◆ Conducted 5 Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) classes
- ◆ Conducted 6 Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS) classes
- ◆ Expanded scope of practice for EMTs by training personnel to perform narcan and Epi-pen administration and the use of glucose assessment
- ◆ Successfully completed bi-annual EMT renewal process
- ◆ Trained Visalia Police Department personnel in P.O.S.T C.P.R
- ◆ Improved service delivery by streamlining and standardizing EMS equipment



Battalion Chief Dustin Hall
Serving the City of Visalia since 2000

TECHNOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS

Whether completing reports, conducting life safety inspections, or simply completing the day-to-day tasks, Communication equipment is so critical to the Department’s operations in not only ensuring the department responds to the public’s request for assistance in a coordinated manner, but is paramount in ensuring firefighter safety. Highlights for 2018 are;

- ◆ Five new handheld radios
- ◆ Replaced obsolete Voting Repeaters
- ◆ Transitioned program management



BATTALION CHIEF WRISTEN A-SHIFT

FIRE APPARATUS PROGRAM

Our newest fire apparatus, a Pierce Aerial Ladder and Quint Pumper Truck arrived in October. The truck was purchased with Measure N funding. This is a truly functional multi-use apparatus that will serve VFD for at least the next 30 years. Additionally, the department purchased a new Light and Air Unit through Measure N. Annual fire pump testing was performed in-house on all fire apparatus, saving the City of Visalia thousands of dollars. Further, staff coordinated all fire apparatus repairs and maintenance through the City Shop. This included all 90-day safety inspections.

SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) PROGRAM

All annual and required SCBA Bench Testing was completed in compliance with national standards. Fire personnel performed the majority of necessary SCBA repairs in house, saving the City thousands of dollars in repairs.

OTHER PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ⇒ Completed all required ground ladder and aerial ladder testing through a service provider.
- ⇒ Coordinated all maintenance and repairs for OES-375 through Cal-OES. Coordinated the 90 day safety inspections through the City Shop.
- ⇒ Provided bi-monthly training for the Technical Rescue Team
- ⇒ Maintained and repaired Technical Rescue equipment
- ⇒ Maintained an inventory of F-500 foam product as our fire suppression foam



Battalion Chief Danny Wristen

Serving the City of Visalia since 1992

BATTALION CHIEF HUGHES B-SHIFT

SMALL ENGINE EQUIPMENT & TOOLS (SEET)

The SEET Program (Small Engine Equipment & Tools) was busy throughout the year with continuous ordering, maintenance, and repair of equipment. The program filled approximately 70 Damage/Loss (DL's) requests. These requests range from delivering a roll of caution line tape, to dismantling power equipment and replacing components. The program also completed several larger projects; including purchasing items for the new aerial apparatus, constructing a training tool cache, upgraded thermal imaging cameras, and organizing the biennial Hurst tool service.

The department placed a new 105' aerial truck in service this year. The SEET program worked with the apparatus program to equip the new apparatus with over 100 items, procured from different vendors. These items cost approximately \$44,900; of which, \$32,967 was funded through the Homeland Security Grant. Also, the SEET program purchased a total of five thermal imaging cameras. This purchase was needed to update our aging inventory of current thermal imagers. An outside contractor serviced our current Hurst equipment. A technician spent a day at Station 51 inspecting and tuning our vital extrication equipment. Minor repairs were made during this process.

QUARTERMASTER

The vendor contract was updated to purchase various PPE for personnel. Purchases included new shirts commemorating the department's 150th Year Anniversary, uniform ensembles to outfit seven new firefighters, and coordinating uniform rentals while recruits attended the fire academy.

The department donated surplus PPE to high school programs who teach firefighting as part of Career Technical Education. The department also donated a VFD T-shirt to Santa Rosa radio station KSRO, for a commemorative wall honoring firefighters during the 2017 firestorm in Northern California.

FACILITIES

The Facilities Program had big projects/repairs during the year including Station 51 front sidewalk removed and replaced, HVAC unit for the dorms replaced and the hood system/ducting repaired. Station 52 the LVT project completed, bay door #1 motor/unit replaced. Station 53 irrigation/water leaks addressed and repaired. Station 54 bay door #2 repaired. Station 55 air ducts cleaned. Gym equipment updated for Station 52, 54 and 55. All gates for all facilities were programmed to one remote.

HONOR GUARD

In 2018, the Honor Guard participated in 4 events, Battle of the Badges Blood Drive, NFFF Golf Tournament, VFD Recruit Academy and the Candy Cane Lane Parade.

HAZMAT

In 2018, the HazMat Team responded to three incidents; in Tulare, on HWY 198 at Ben Maddox, and on S. Giddings at W. Noble Avenue. Currently, the department has 15 active members on the HazMat Team. During 2018, we bid farewell to three Team Members; Wendi Pineda, Karl Kassner, and Joey Goforth.



Battalion Chief Darrin Hughes

Serving the City of Visalia Since 1996



BATTALION CHIEF ADNEY C-SHIFT

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Accountability Program oversees the ordering and purchasing of passport tags (name tags), command boards and helmet tags. These items are used for personal and resource accountability within the ICS System on various incidents. Items in this program are purchased as needed.

FIRE PRE-PLANS

Approximately 105 existing Fire Pre-Plans were audited by crews in 2018 to ensure they were up to date. Additionally, all hard copy Fire Pre-Plans were removed from fire apparatus. The reason for this change is that the pre-plans are now loaded into Spillman when completed and can be accessed by the company officer via the apparatus MDT.

HOSE AND APPLIANCES

The department conducts annual hose testing on all fire hose to ensure hoses operate without failure at required pressures. A new contract was negotiated and approved in 2018 with a hose testing company. Annual fire hose testing was completed in 2018. To keep operations organized and efficient, crews re-built the storage at Station 55 that houses the hose and appliances; nozzles, reducers, gated-wyes, etc. Two new intake relief valves, hydrant bags, high rise bundle straps and miscellaneous hose and appliance items were purchased in 2018.

WILDLAND / STRIKE TEAM EQUIPMENT

This program oversees the equipment used for strike team deployment only. When a Visalia Fire Unit or the OES Engine is deployed on a Strike Team, the crews obtain one of three Strike Team boxes that include a variety of items necessary for their assignment. Each year and throughout the year, the boxes are inventoried and or updated to ensure they contain the required items. In 2018, all department Strike Team Gear was inventoried, reorganized and replaced as needed.

STRIKE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

In 2018, the department responded to ten Strike Team Fires throughout California. The following reimbursements have already been received or are anticipated over the next few months:

Manzanita	\$1,847.74
Highway	\$6,134.46
South Fork	\$16,302.48
Wall	\$15,192.11
Alamo	\$50,487.99
Garden	\$14,554.00
Happy Camp	\$58,317.80
Detwiler	\$112,128.91
Railroad	\$46,332.83
Pier	\$106,598.52
Central Complex	\$48,927.88
Tubbs	\$92,113.00
Lilac	\$28,842.63
Thomas	\$91,739.69

TOTAL REIMB. \$689,520.04



Battalion Chief Brian Adney

Serving the City of Visalia Since 1992





PREVENTION DIVISION

OPEN HOUSE

The major highlight of October was the Annual Fire Prevention Week recognition which concludes with our Annual Open House celebration for our citizens. This year VFD Prevention Staff planned a totally new event called "Fire Trucks and Food Trucks" held on Sunday October 14, 2018 in the parking lot of Sears on Mooney. The event was a great success and is estimated to have had 1,000 people attend.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Division conducted 3,301 Fire & Life Safety Inspections. Businesses are assessed a fee for Fire & Life Safety Inspections based on Operational Permits or hazards present at the business. A total of \$126,082 in Operational Permit fees were billed for the year.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The fire department investigates the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires, explosions and other hazardous conditions. Fires classified as high dollar losses, suspicious in nature, complex, or having injuries or deaths are investigated by the department's Fire Investigation Team. During 2018, the Investigation Team performed 75 fire investigations.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Property maintenance cases are started on properties with trash, junk and or debris, weeds and any other items constituting a fire hazard. Throughout 2018, the Prevention Division conducted 3,583 inspections on property maintenance cases, and filed 176 Declarations of Public Nuisance notices with cost recovery fees totaling \$42,126. The department also abated 148 properties.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The fire department provides educational programs tailored to different groups such as schools, in-home trainings, churches and community service groups. In 2018, Engine Company personnel completed 210 tours, visitations, and presentations totaling 15, 765 attendees; 88 people also participated in the ride-a- long program.

Youth Fire Camp is one of the most popular summer camps in Visalia. Approximately 90 campers participated in the 2018 camps. Each Fire Camp they learn fire related activities such as fire hose pulls, practicing STOP, DROP, & ROLL, learning to use a fire extinguisher and much more.

SITE PLAN REVIEW

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. Comments are provided to applicants to assist them with their project. In 2018, fire staff reviewed 238 plans submitted to the committee.

Fire Marshal, Kurtis Brown

Served the City of Visalia from 2007 to October 2018



DEREK FRICKE—ADMINISTRATIVE FIRE CAPTAIN

TRAINING DIVISION



ISO Compliant hours

- 100% of our active line personnel completed their Facility training requirement.
- 100% of our active Company Officers completed their Officer training requirement.
- 95% of our active Engineers completed their Driver / Operator training requirement.
- 95% of our active line personnel completed their Hazardous Materials training requirement.
- 56% of our active line personnel completed 100% of their ISO mandated training.
- 75% of our personnel completed over 90% of their yearly IOS required training.

January 2018 started out with Active Shooter training in concert with the Visalia Police Department. The hazards we may face were made apparent by the training we received. Fortunately we have turned the corner somewhat with the generous donation from the Visalia Police Officers Association who have provided our department with ballistic vests. We look forward to training on our new gear starting in January 2019.

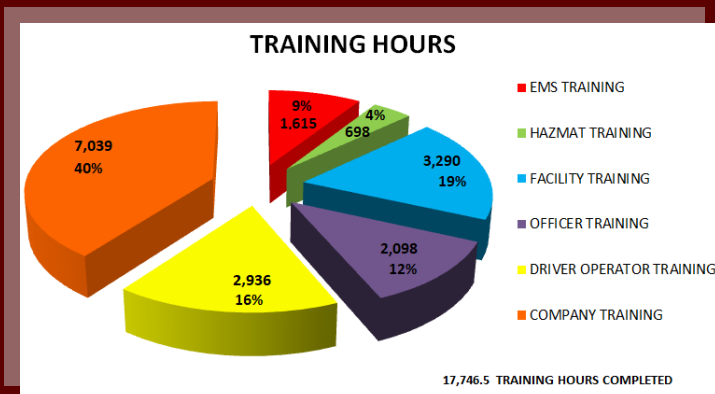
During February we had live fire training in our burn facility. The drills were conducted at night in order to satisfy ISO requirements. Farmersville Fire Department sent 2 units and 8 personnel to participate in the training session.

Our first of two recruit academies started in March and provided training for two new firefighters. We also combined efforts with area departments as we presented Fire Control 3B with attendees from Kings County, Dinuba and Farmersville Fire Departments. The second academy kicked off in September and added 5 new personnel to our ranks. The second academy was headed up by Captain Macumber with assistance of Firefighter Luke MacAlpine. New concepts were added to our department training practices.

During March we had Specialized Truck Equipment Training as we concentrated on cribbing training, lifting and stabilizing heavy objects. The addition of a Port-O-Power to our truck compliment helped in the presentation of the training. We continued specialized equipment training in May with training on shoring, cut table and rescue team support. April saw RT 130 refresher, and June with annual Pump Testing evolutions. July training centered on Building Construction as we toured some of our local residential building sites. We completed the month with a review of elevator emergencies.

August drove a wedge into our training program as we reviewed Forcible Entry Techniques using a new tool called; imagine this, the “wedge.” September took us into Individual Core Evolutions and the latter part of the year with Company Cores, Probationary and Acting Certifications, the completion of Academy 2118, and two promotional processes. We also managed to fit some driving evolutions into the training program with new cone course obstacles.

The close of 2018 was the busiest time in the Training Office. The Fresno Training Symposium along with two promotional processes, company core evolutions, and the successful completion of 3 engineer probations.



Fire Training Captain Derek Fricke Serving the City of Visalia Since 1992



FIRE STATION 51

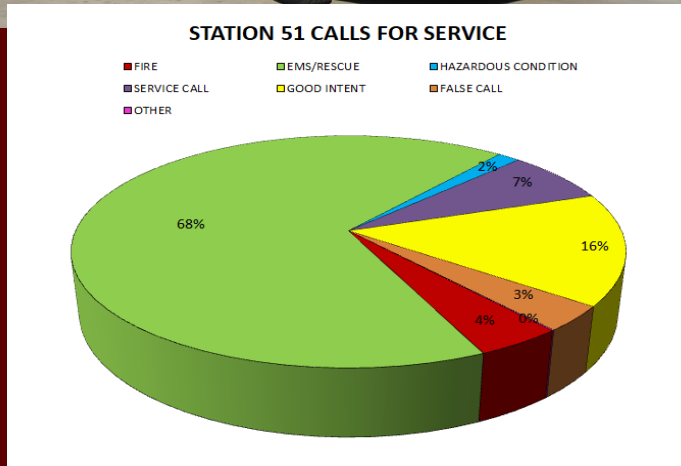
309 S. Johnson Street

TOTAL CALLS 3,313

FIRE 144
 EMS/RESCUE 2,240
 SERVICE CALL 241
 GOOD INTENT 517
 FALSE CALL 117
 OTHER 3
 HAZ CONDITION 51

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

5:16



FIRE STATION 52

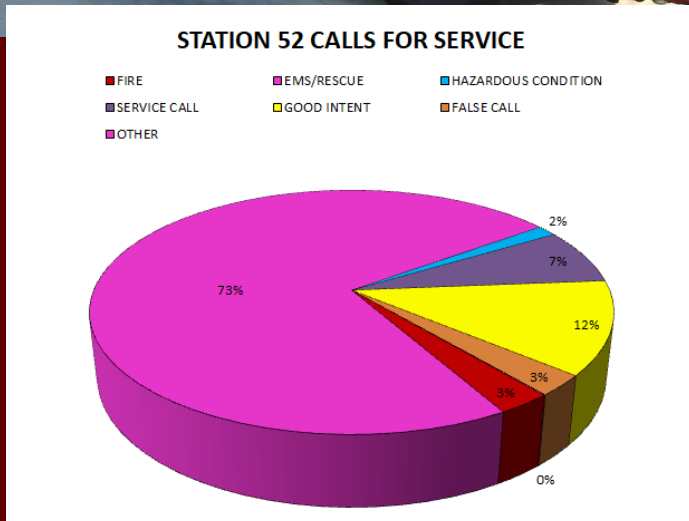
2224 W. Monte Vista Avenue

TOTAL CALLS 2,761

FIRE 79
 EMS/RESCUE 2,021
 SERVICE CALL 202
 GOOD INTENT 341
 FALSE CALL 76
 OTHER 2
 HAZ CONDITION 40

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

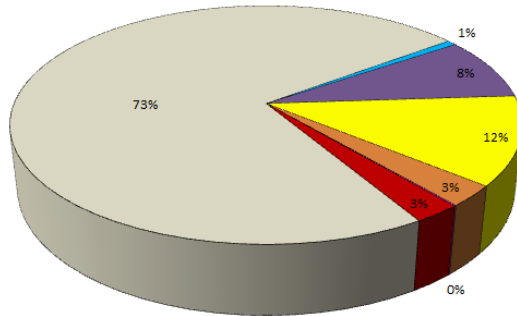
5:18





STATION 53 CALLS FOR SERVICE

- FIRE
- EMS/RESCUE
- HAZARDOUS CONDITION
- SERVICE CALL
- GOOD INTENT
- FALSE CALL
- OTHER



FIRE STATION 53

5025 W. Walnut Avenue

TOTAL CALLS 2,857

FIRE	73
EMS/RESCUE	2,095
SERVICE CALL	242
GOOD INTENT	343
FALSE CALL	81
OTHER	3
HAZ CONDITION	20

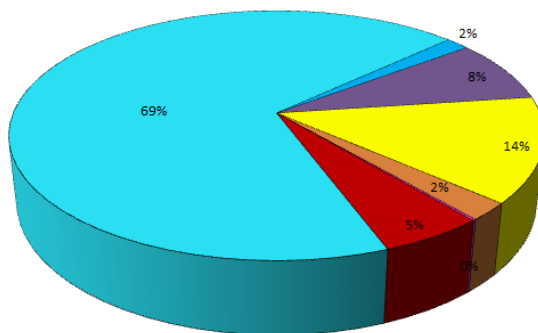
AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

5:03



STATION 54 CALLS FOR SERVICE

- FIRE
- EMS/RESCUE
- HAZARDOUS CONDITION
- SERVICE CALL
- GOOD INTENT
- FALSE CALL
- OTHER



FIRE STATION 54

440 W. Ferguson Avenue

TOTAL CALLS 2,510

FIRE	136
EMS/RESCUE	1,726
SERVICE CALL	204
GOOD INTENT	341
FALSE CALL	57
OTHER	4
HAZ CONDITION	42

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

5:09



FIRE STATION 55

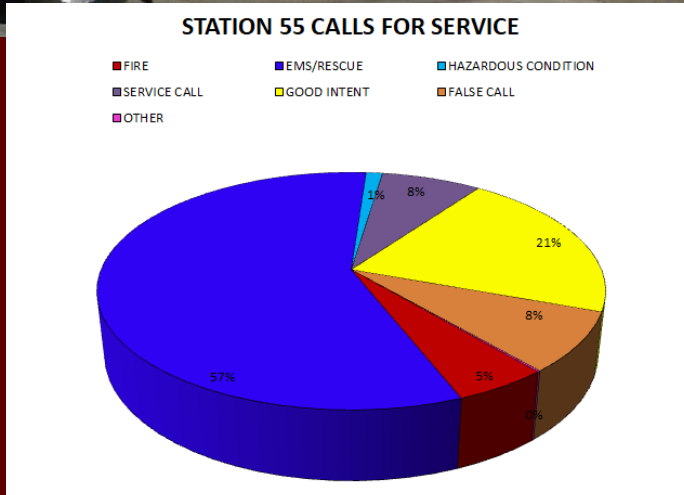
6921 W. Ferguson Street

TOTAL CALLS 1,377

FIRE	71
EMS/RESCUE	786
SERVICE CALL	104
GOOD INTENT	285
FALSE CALL	112
OTHER	2
HAZ CONDITION	17

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

6:06



FIRE STATION 56

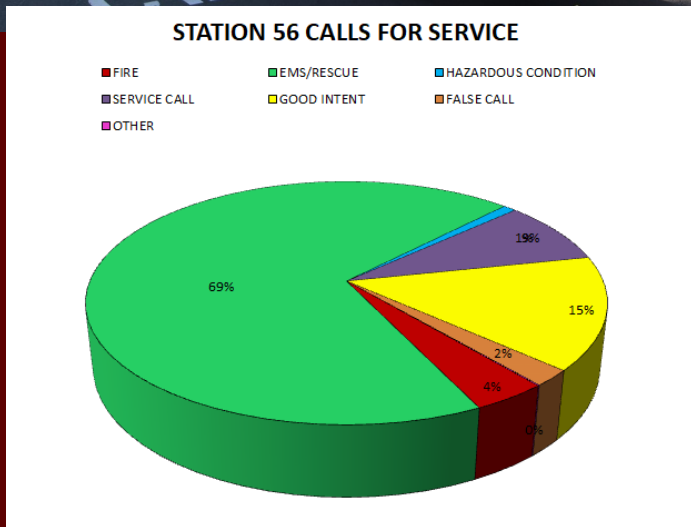
1968 S. Lovers Lane

TOTAL CALLS 2,333

FIRE	93
EMS/RESCUE	1,618
SERVICE CALL	198
GOOD INTENT	350
FALSE CALL	50
OTHER	2
HAZ CONDITION	22

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

5:51



NEW HIRES

Steven Alves
Firefighter Paramedic

Jacob Alvarado
Firefighter Paramedic

Lon Chhau
Firefighter Paramedic

Jaswant Singh
Firefighter Paramedic

William Qualls
Firefighter Paramedic

Tyler Ehresman
Firefighter Paramedic

Steven Delgado
Firefighter Paramedic

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR MIKE CROMER



It is my honor to congratulate you on achieving the distinction of Visalia Fire Department Firefighter of the Year. You go far beyond expectations for your fellow firefighters and our community. Your commitment to mentoring and leading our recruits and seasoned staff is highly commendable and you truly lead by example. As the departments Quartermaster you constantly strive to purchase equipment, uniforms and turn outs that meet all national standards and provide a margin of safety for our crews. You are a lifelong learner and excellent example of the type of leader, instructor and officer the fire service strives to create. I salute you for this well-deserved honor.

Warmest regards,

Doug McBee

CONTINUING EDUCATION
KARL KRAUSS, FIRE CAPTAIN
MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION
ZACH DEMOSS, FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC
CHIEF OFFICER CERTIFICATE

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

KURTIS BROWN
FIRE MARSHAL
2007-2018

JAY MANNING
FIRE CAPTAIN
2000-2018

ANTHONY
GUTIERREZ
FIREFIGHTER
PARAMEDIC
2017-2018

YEARS OF SERVICE—RECOGNITION

2018 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENT LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YRS</u>	<u>RANK</u>
KARL KRAUSS	20	FIRE CAPTAIN
ALLEN WILKINSON	20	FIRE CAPTAIN
ANTHONY COLBERT	15	FIRE CAPTAIN
IGNACIO RUIZ	15	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC
ZACHARY DEMOSS	10	FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC
MICHAEL DURHAM	10	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC
BRYAN GANT	10	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC
GEOFFREY RANDALL	10	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC
JAMES TURNAGE	10	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC
STEPHEN WALKER	10	FIRE ENGINEER PARAMEDIC
MARIBEL VASQUEZ	5	SENIOR FIRE INSPECTOR
DOUG MCBEE	5	FIRE CHIEF



MAIN STREET FIRE OPERATIONS

On Wednesday, December 26, 2018, at 1:22 am, the Visalia Fire Department was dispatched to a report of smoke in the area of Johnson and Main in downtown Visalia. Fire personnel and the Visalia Police Department found smoke showing from Mama K's Diner. Fire crews made entry into the business and found heavy smoke and fire conditions. Additional crews went to the roof and found heavy fire conditions in the attic space, which was a common attic with two additional businesses. Due to the advanced stage of the fire and the construction features of the building, fire crews declared a defensive fire attack and began to fight the fire from the exterior of the building. At the height of the fire 9 fire engines, 3 ladder trucks, 5 chief officers, 1 prevention officer and 1 breathing support unit were on scene with approximately 40 fire personnel. Fire crews used master streams from 2 ladder trucks and multiple large hand lines to fight the fire.

The fire required a large response of city resources, including multiple police officers, police department volunteers, City Building, Streets, and Waste Water Divisions. The fire was declared under control at 4:29 am. There were no injuries reported. The Visalia Fire Department was assisted by several of our Mutual Aid partners, including; Tulare County Fire, Tulare City Fire, Farmersville Fire, Porterville Fire, and the Dinuba Fire Department.

The fire damaged the following businesses:

- ◆ Mama K's Diner, 233 W. Main
- major fire damage
- ◆ Café 225, 225 W. Main
- major fire damage
- ◆ Acapulco Jewelers, 221 W. Main
- major fire damage
- ◆ Exotica Hair Studio, 301 W. Main
- water damage
- ◆ Little Italy Restaurant, 303 W. Main
- water damage
- ◆ Pacific Treasures, 219 W. Main
- smoke damage



BREAKDOWN OF FIRES AND OTHER INCIDENTS

Private Dwelling (1 or 2 family), including mobile homes	78
Apartments (3 or more families)	25
Hotels and Motels	1
All Other Residential (dormitories, boarding houses, tents, etc.)	5
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES	109
Public Assembly (church, restaurant, clubs, etc.)	13
Schools and Colleges	5
Health Care and Penal Institutions (hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc.)	2
Stores and Offices	10
Industry, Utility, Defense, Laboratories, Manufacturing	4
Storage in Structures (barns, vehicle storage garages, general storage, etc.)	6
Other Structures (outbuildings, bridges, etc.)	10
COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRES	50
TOTAL BUILDING FIRES	159
Fires in Highway Vehicles (autos, trucks, buses, etc.)	55
Fires in Other Vehicles (planes, trains, ships, construction or farm vehicles, etc.)	0
Fires outside of Structures with Value involved, but Not Vehicle (outside Storage, crops, timber)	20
Fire in Brush Grass Wildland (excluding crops and timber) with no value involved	153
Fire in Rubbish, including Dumpsters (outside or structures), with no value involved	179
All other Fires	0
TOTAL FOR FIRES	566
Rescue, Emergency Medical Responses (ambulance, EMS, rescue)	10,406
False Alarm Responses (malicious or unintentional false calls, malfunctions, Bomb scare)	498
Mutual Aid Response Given	249
Hazardous Materials Responses (spills, leaks, etc.)	86
Other Hazardous Responses (arcing wires, bomb removal, power, lines down, etc.)	108
All Other Responses (smoke scares, lock-outs, animal rescue, etc.)	3,316
TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS	15,229

BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT



TERESA LOVERO

FIRE CAPTAIN

29 YEARS OF SERVICE



JIM SMITH

FIRE ENGINEER

29 YEARS OF SERVICE



TOMMY JIMENEZ

FIRE ENGINEER

23 YEARS OF SERVICE



BRETT PHILPOTT

FIRE ENGINEER
PARAMEDIC

16 YEARS OF SERVICE



WENDY PINEDA

FIREFIGHTER
PARAMEDIC

29 YEARS OF SERVICE



BOB RICHARDSON

FIRE CAPTAIN

29 YEARS OF SERVICE

PROMOTIONS



TONY COLBERT
FIRE CAPTAIN

ROBERT BRIGGS
FIRE CAPTAIN

SHAUN SPRADLING
FIRE ENGINEER
PARAMEDIC

CHRIS OKLAND
FIRE ENGINEER
PARAMEDIC

GEOFF RANDALL
FIRE ENGINEER
PARAMEDIC

GRADY BROCK
FIRE ENGINEER
PARAMEDIC

JEFFREY HUST
FIRE ENGINEER
PARAMEDIC

**“So as you look at a firefighter with his rake, hose or axe,
His beet red face or ice covered mustache,
You should know why he goes through that smoky front
door,
And is forced to crawl like a baby down on the floor.
He does it to save both lives and property,
All that is precious to you and to me.
So take a good look at this modern warrior who serves
his call proud and true,
And know that he would die just to save me and you.”**

-Robert J. Athans



VISALIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

420 NORTH BURKE STREET, VISALIA, CA 93292

(559) 713-4266 | [HTTP://VISALIA.CITY/VFD](http://visalia.city/vfd)



Coming 2019