Visalia Fire Department

JULY 2011

VISALIA FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

Fire Station 51
309 S Johnson

Fire Station 52
2224 W Monte Vista

Fire Station 53
9500 W Airport Drive

Fire Station 54
440 W Ferguson

Fire Station 55
6921 W Ferguson

Fire Station 56
1968 S Lovers Lane

FIRE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mark R. Nelson,
Fire Chief

Doyle Sewell,
Battalion Chief

Danny Wristen,
Battalion Chief

Charlie Norman,
Battalion Chief

Darrin Hughes,
Training Captain

Karl Kassner,
Administrative Officer

Nancy Renovato,
Sr. Administrative Analyst

Fire Chief's Corner

Well, I am happy to announce that our monthly newsletter is back online. We have been busy this month with various events, meetings and recruitments.

I met with all members of the Haz-Mat and Rescue Response Teams to discuss staffing, training and response models to improve our operational capabilities to those we serve. There was good discussion and recommendations provided to improve our programs. I will be meeting with Team Member representatives in September to finalize new response procedures.

Additionally, Fire Administration is working with the Firefighter's Association on evaluating the types of calls the department is responding to; the goal is to cut 1,000 calls for service annually. The joint committee will be reporting back to me by the end of August and hope to implement changes in September of 2011.

Chief Sewell, Captain Hall and I interviewed 15 candidates this month for the position of Firefighter Paramedic. From the interviews, two have been forwarded to the background investigator for review. We anticipate hiring two and hosting a Fall Academy this year.

On July 17th, I participated in Food Link's "Fight Against Hunger" cooking competition. It was an extremely fun event and helped raise money for an important cause.

Also, this month eight members of our department participated in the Fire Captain's Assessment Center. I wish all candidates the best of luck in the process.

Lastly in July, we held our second Kids Fire Camps at Station 55. I want to thank the personnel that participated in this very popular program and the leadership of Battalion Chief Norman that made it so successful. The camp is highlighted in the Prevention portion of this month's newsletter.

- Mark R. Nelson, Fire Chief

Administration

Visalia Fire Department

July 2011 Monthly Overtime Report

(All $ Amounts in Thousands)

Month	# of Pay Periods	Monthly OT Budget Amount	Monthly Actual OT	Adjustments/Reimbursements to OT: Estimated Strike Team	Budget Salary Savings	Other*	Total	Net OT	Budget Variance under(over)
July	2	53	62	0	(29)	0	(29)	33	20
August							0	0	0
September**							0	0	0
October**							0	0	0
November							0	0	0
December							0	0	0
January							0	0	0
February							0	0	0
March							0	0	0
April							0	0	0
May							0	0	0
June							0	0	0
YTD Totals	2	$53	$62	$0	($29)	$0	($29)	**$33**	**$20**

*Other adjustments to OT may include Haz Mat recovery costs, Grant reimbursements, Training reimbursements, Workers Comp reimbursements, prior year adjustments and miscellaneous reimbursements

Year to date budget shows $20,000 under budget when adjustments are made for strike team reimbursements and significant salary savings.

Operations

Incident Summary by Incident Type

Date Range: From 07/01/2011 To 07/31/2011

Incident Type(s) Selected: All

Incident Type	Incident Count	Used in Ave. Resp.	Average Response Time hh:mm:ss	Total Loss	Total Value
Fire	50	43	00:05:53	$296,465.00	$1,550,815.00
Rupture/Explosion	1	1	00:05:05	$0.00	$0.00
EMS/Rescue	627	468	00:05:03	$0.00	$0.00
Hazardous Condition	135	9	00:04:39	$0.00	$0.00
Service Call	44	19	00:05:03	$0.00	$0.00
Good Intent	168	21	00:05:14	$0.00	$0.00
False Call	34	28	00:06:12	$0.00	$0.00
Other	2	1	00:00:41	$0.00	$0.00
Totals	**1,061**	**590**		**$296,465.00**	**$1,550,815.00**

The time it takes staff to be in the fire engine, leaving the station from the time a call comes in is referred to as the "Reaction/Turnout Time".

REACTION /TURNOUT TIMES					Jul-11
	A-Shift		B-Shift		C-Shift
E-51	1:18		1:04		1:18
T-51	1:15		1:17		:47
E-52	1:30		1:29		1:09
E-54	1:05		1:09		1:09
T-55	1:19		1:49		1:10
E-56	1:26		1:33		1:39
		24 Hr. Avg.		1:18	

Operations

Over the past year, the Technical Rescue Team, comprised of 23 department members, have worked to secure the equipment and training necessary to meet the high standards that have been established by Cal EMA to be recognized as a Type 2 – Medium Rescue Department. Last month, the department was recognized by Cal EMA as meeting these requirements. The Rescue Team was introduced to the City Council on July 18th.

As a Type II – Medium Rescue, the Department will provide a higher level of service to the community. The department may also be called to assist anywhere in the State of California to provide confined space rescue, trench rescue, swift water rescue, high and low angle rope rescue, and collapse rescue.

Rescue Team Members include:

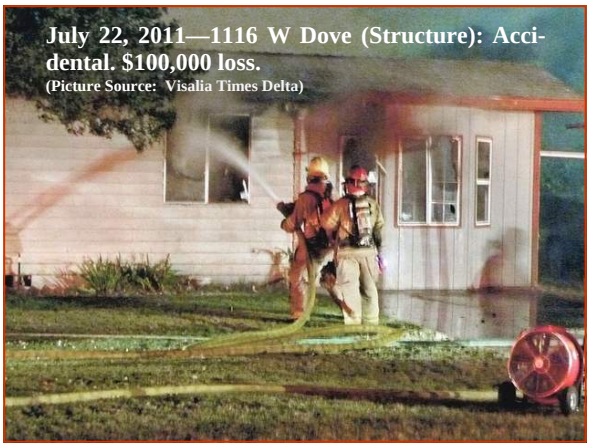
Dustin Hall
Eric Bush
Derek Fricke
Nick Branch
Rob Henry
Bryan Gant
Scott Vest
Ray Ramirez
James Turnage
Curtis Mueller
Zach Demoss
Alvino Lopez
Matthew Cowell
Joe Goforth
Larry Fielden
Franklin Franzen
Robert Briggs
John Greenwood
Chris Fischer
Chris Ortiz
Shane Yoder
Steve Walker
Russ Ordona

July 21, 2011 — 3916 W Four Creeks (Structure): Incendiary, $50,000 loss.
(Picture Source: Visalia Times Delta)

Significant Incidents

On July 22, 2011, a fire damaged a home in northeast Visalia at 3916 E. Four Creeks Court. When fire crews arrived, they found smoke coming from the single-story home. Thirteen firefighters responded and were able to confine and extinguish the fire in approximately 20 minutes. The residents were not at home at the time of the fire and there were no injuries. Damage was estimated at $70,000.00.

On Friday, July 15, 2011, at 1222 hrs, the Visalia fire Department was dispatched to a possible drowning in the 2500 block of West Walnut Avenue. Upon our arrival, we found two, one year old twin boys, who had been found in the family pool. Both toddlers were pulseless and not breathing and were treated at the scene by Fire Department and American Ambulance Paramedics. Both children were transported to Kaweah Delta Medical Center, where they were pronounced dead.



July 22, 2011—1116 W Dove (Structure): Accidental. $100,000 loss.
(Picture Source: Visalia Times Delta)

July 21, 2011 — Fire Departments help each other to ensure safety for communities.
(Picture Source: Visalia Times Delta)

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF WRISTEN

Emergency Preparedness Program

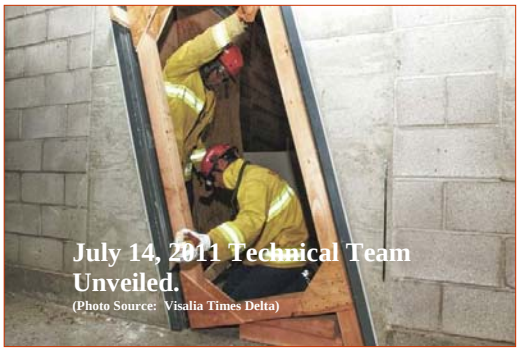
In partnership with Tulare County and other various surrounding agencies, the department participated in a countywide Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan is pending State review; however, staff is already working on a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant.

Hazardous Materials Response Team

In July, the Haz-Mat Team responded to a Mutual Aid Haz Mat Incident in the community of Orosi. The incident involved an ammonia leak at a cold storage facility.

Technical Rescue

The department received press coverage by VTD and also made an appearance on Visalia Today to introduce members of the Rescue Team and equipment. The Rescue presentation included a confined space rescue, a collapse rescue, and high and low-angle rope rescues.



July 14, 2011 Technical Team Unveiled.
(Photo Source: Visalia Times Delta)

FROM THE DESK OF TRAINING CAPTAIN HUGHES

Training Program

During the month of July, the Visalia Fire Department completed 1055 hours of training, of which 416 qualified for California Firefighter Joint Apprentice Committee reimbursement. Focus areas included 311 hours of Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic training for all personnel and 136 hours of Supervisor techniques and simulator training during the completion of the Fire Captain promotional exam process. All fire personnel completed 69 hours of monthly OSHA safety and post incident analysis training.

Fire personnel completed 108 hours of public education training during the second of two Fire Camps that the department and Parks & Recreation hosted.

Reserve Firefighter Program

Reserve Corbin Reed completed three hours of on-scene time at the Four Creeks structure fire.
Reserve Mike Parks completed 12 hours of public education during the Fire Camp and painted 29 hydrants.
Reserve Isaac Mendoza completed 29.5 hours of ride-a-long time.

On July 28th, Fire Chaplains throughout the State attended a two-day Fire Chaplains Academy hosted by Station 55.

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF NORMAN

Prevention

Fire Investigations

During July, a total of seven Fire Investigations were conducted; four were considered accidental, three were incendiary.

Other Fire investigations:

- 1116 W Dove (Structure): Accidental, $100,000 loss. 7-22-11
- 3916 W Four Creeks (Structure): Incendiary, $50,000 loss.7-21-11
- 1218 S Watson (Vehicle): Incendiary, $18,500 loss 7-3-11
- 2314 S Linda Vista (Structure): Accidental, $1400 loss 7-11-11

On July 4th, the Investigation Team performed an illegal fireworks enforcement detail. The Team consisting of Fire Investigators and Police personnel confiscated approximately 20 pounds of illegal fireworks, down from 40 pounds last year.

Public Education

This month, the department conducted 18 tours, visitations, and presentations to approximately 2,340 people in the community. Approximately 13 community members participated in the department ride-a-long program. In addition, four smoke detectors were installed in homes throughout the city.

Site Plan Review

During the month of July, the Prevention Division completed 17 site plan reviews to ensure new construction complies with California Fire Codes and City of Visalia standards for fire hydrants, fire department access, and fire sprinkler systems. This figure is the down from 32 in June.

Honor Guard

Two new members; Fire Captain Ray Ramirez and Firefighter Paramedic Nick Branch have been selected to join the Honor Guard. In August the Honor Guard will meet to discuss the upcoming September 11 Ceremony at Visalia First Assembly.

Fire Camp was held on July 25th. This is a four day camp including ladders, hose, drills, search and rescue procedures, and first aid. The camp was attended by approximately 40 Visalia area youths.

From the Desk of Doyle Sewell, Chief Sewell

DICO—New procedures were presented to the DHG on July 19th. Currently the City has two Designated Infectious Control Officer's; Karl Kassner and Dustin Hall. We will start the roll out of training on the new procedure over the next month.

Certifications —By the end of this month, three employees will be certified to instruct ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support).

Annual Certification - The annual pump test was completed with all apparatus passing the test and in good order.

From the Desk of Karl Kassner, Administrative Officer

Inspection and Enforcement

During the month of July, inspectors conducted two- 850 licensing inspections. These inspections are required by the State and include inspections to daycares, senior group homes, etc.

A total of **123** apartment complex (R-2) inspections were conducted, **41** new weed abatement cases were opened as well as **51** new property maintenance cases opened. Of these, a total of **159** cases remain open and **48** were closed.

Occupancy	# Inspected
Assembly (A-1, A-2, A-	8
Businesses (B)	35
Education (E)	0
Fabrication (F-1, F-2)	15
High Hazard (H-2)	0
Institution (I)	1
Mercantile (M)	2
Apartment complexes	123
Adult Care Facilities	2
Shops (S-1, S-2)	13
Vacant properties	1

Engine Company Inspections

The Engine Company inspection program is designed to augment the prevention division to ensure that Life Safety Fire inspections are conducted annually. Staff proposes that each engine company conducts 10 inspections monthly. This month, Engine company personnel completed a total of **164** inspections.

Re-inspected	# Inspected
Assembly (A-1, A-2, A-	30
Businesses (B)	99
Education (E)	0
Fabrication (F-1, F-2)	4
High Hazard (H-2)	2
Institution (I)	1
Mercantile (M)	23
Apartment complexes	4
Adult Care Facilities	1
Shops (S-1, S-2)	47

Revenue

Staff generated a total of $14,943 in Administrative Fees this month.