Visalia Fire Department

MARCH 2010

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 ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Mark R. Nelson
Fire Chief

Doyle Sewell
Battalion Chief

Danny Wristen
Battalion Chief

Charlie Norman
Battalion Chief

Fire Chief's Corner

This has been another busy month with meetings and presentations.

The newly formed Haz Mat subcommittee has been meeting, discussing options for possible funding for the Haz Mat program. However, on March 23, 2010, Steve Salomon and I met with Tulare County Administration and were informed Tulare County would not be interested in funding the Visalia Haz Mat Team through the CUPA or through a county-wide fee ordinance. They further stated the county would be contracting services with the City of Fresno and Bakersfield for Haz Mat Response Services.

This was discouraging news, but City Staff is looking into other opportunities to partner with local agencies to fund the Haz Mat program. We will be going to City Council on April 19th to present an update on the funding and seek direction from Council on how to proceed.

Lastly, I have been meeting with various civic groups, the Chamber of Commerce and the Citizens Advisory Committee. I have been discussing the proposed Measure T Revision Plan; to build a new fire station in the southwest section of the city. The feedback, so far, has been very positive with no negative comments.

Thank you,
Chief Nelson

Emergency Preparedness

During the month of March, the Visalia Fire Department continued to work on the preparation for the Kaweah Dam failure project and started the annual review process of the Emergency Operations Plan. We issued several weather advisories to keep Visalia City Officials informed of any potential weather emergencies. Karl Kassner worked diligently on the WEB EOC resource tracking process and is now complete with the project. We also worked with Tulare County OES on the new funding model for Alert TC and will take the project to the Visalia City Council in early March for approval. In addition, we were informed by the Federal Government that we will be receiving the LEAP Grant to complete an Energy Assurance Plan for the City of Visalia.

Operations

During the month of March, the Visalia Fire Department Operations Division responded to 937 calls for service, with a current average of 792 calls per month. For Press Release information please go to www.ci.visalia.ca.us and click on Fire Department.

FIRES		**37**
Building, In a Building, or In a Mobile Home	8	
Vehicles / Equipment	13	
Grass, Vegetation, Brush	4	
Trash, Rubbish, Dumpster, Other	12	
RUPTURE / EXPLOSION		**1**
EMS / RESCUE		**583**
EMS Call, Medical Assist	551	
Vehicle Accident w/Injuries, Vehicle/Pedestrian	32	
Extrication or Rescue from Vehicle, Building, Other	0	
HAZARDOUS CONDITION		**97**
SERVICE CALL / PUBLIC ASSIST		**43**
GOOD INTENT		**148**
FALSE CALL / OTHER		**28**
SEVERE WEATHER		**0**
TOTAL		**937**

Significant Incident

On March 15, 2010, at 1301 hrs, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire in the area of Thomas Ct. and Sweet St. Three fire engines and a fire truck, along with a Battalion Chief, responded to the residence at 1514 N Thomas Ct. and it was actively involved with fire. The fire, which started from a deep fryer that boiled over, caused the hot oil to ignite, The deep fryer was being used in an enclosed patio area to the rear of the residence. The fire spread quickly engulfing everything in its path. The two occupants, who were both in the home at the time of the fire, were able to escape without any injuries.

Fire crews responded quickly and were able to protect the neighboring home from any damage. When the fire was finally brought under control, a total of five engines and a truck company were on scene. A total of 22 fire personnel and command staff were used to battle this incident.

The home, estimated at $160,000, sustained major damage and most of its contents were destroyed by the fire. The financial loss with this incident, has been estimated at $90,000; this includes the damage to the structure and its contents.

Prevention

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Weed Abatement													
Complaints Received	2	45	95										47
Self Abatements	0	5	14										19
Department Abatements	1	1	25										27
No Action Taken	3	4	9										16
Pending			50										50
Property Maintenance													
Complaints Received	13	10	23										46
Self Abatements	1	2	1										4
Department Abatements	2	1	2										5
No Action Taken	5	6	4										15
Pending			41										41
Inspections													
Staff													
Life Safety Inspections	25	97	43										165
Follow up inspections	56	65	66										187
Engine Companies													
Life Safety Inspections	236	263	330										829
Follow up inspections													

Public Education

The Visalia Fire Department completed a total of 14 Public Education sessions. This service was provided to approximately 3600 Visalia citizens.

The Public Education Program's focus is to educate our community on fire safety. Our firefighters visit elementary schools and after school programs weekly. Scheduled tours of the fire stations are also an important aspect of Public Education.

To schedule a visit to your school or tour please call 559-713-4266

Training

During the month of March, the Visalia Fire Department completed 2,057 hours of training, of which 550 qualified for CFFJAC reimbursement. The different focus areas included 563 hours of Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) procedures for all personnel. Both technical and manipulative skills were covered in order to rescue an injured or trapped firefighter. There were 249 hours of Emergency Medical training completed by fire personnel in the month of March. Hazardous Material personnel conducted 191 hours of training, which included a full day of Terrorism Training at the Tulare Agri-Center. There were 50 hours of monthly safety topic training and post incident analysis training conducted by fire personnel.

Senior Fire Inspector Kurtis Brown and Fire Captain Jay Manning instructed all fire personnel in the use of the new FireRMS Fire Prevention data entry. We dedicated 117 hours of training in this area.

City Safety Program

During the month of March, a Health and Safety audit was conducted at all city facilities, resulting in 190 safety violations. Safety Officer Karl Kassner met with the department heads and their managers to present a corrective action log for each of their designated areas. Individual meetings were held to develop solutions on the correction action logs in order to become compliant with OSHA Regulations. Captain Dustin Hall and Safety Officer Karl Kassner both attended the Basic and Advanced Infection Control Officer Class in Merced, California. Upon return, they began updating the City of Visalia Exposure Control Plan and developing an Infection Control Plan and Aerosol Transmissible Disease Exposure Plan.