Visalia Fire Department

AUGUST 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

The Fire Department participated in the annual National Night Out on August 3. All on duty engine and truck companies as well as all Chief Officers attend several neighborhood meetings. There was good feedback from the crews and community on this event.

On August 12, I attended the north west Town Hall Meeting which was facilitated by Vice Mayor Shuklian.

On August 25, Chief Wristen and Admin. Officer Kassner facilitated the mid year EOC Drill at Station 55's Training Center. The focus was on the benefits of Web EOC and a review on the City of Visalia's Emergency Operations Plan.

Lastly, we said farewell to a longtime employee, Captain Mike Silsby on August 30. We wish Mike well in retirement and greatly appreciate all of the contributions he made to our department.

Thank you,
Chief Nelson

Emergency Preparedness

This month we attended the PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Advisory Committee meeting and discussed upcoming trainings and grant opportunities. We also conducted an EOC Drill and Training and focused on Web EOC and a review of EOC procedures. The drill was well attended and allowed the EOC Team to view of Web EOC.

Operations

During the month of August, the Visalia Fire Department Operations Division responded to 916 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		**50**
Building, In a Building, or In a Mobile Home	22	
Vehicles / Equipment	10	
Grass, Vegetation, Brush	7	
Trash, Rubbish, Dumpster, Other	11	
RUPTURE / EXPLOSION		**0**
EMS / RESCUE		**571**
EMS Call, Medical Assist	529	
Vehicle Accident w/Injuries, Vehicle/Pedestrian	39	
Extrication or Rescue from Vehicle, Building, Other	3	
HAZARDOUS CONDITION		**94**
SERVICE CALL / PUBLIC ASSIST		**32**
GOOD INTENT		**139**
FALSE CALL / OTHER		**30**
SEVERE WEATHER		**0**
TOTAL		**916**

Significant Incidents

On Tuesday, August 3, 2010, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a reported residential structure fire. Upon arrival, fire crews found smoke and fire coming from a front room of the single family dwelling with all occupants out of the structure. Twelve fire personnel were able to bring the fire under control in approximately ten minutes upon arrival. The structure sustained approximately $60,000 worth of damage, no civilians were injured and the occupants three dogs were saved. The cause of the fire is under investigation and has been undetermined at this time.

On Saturday, August 14, 2010, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire. Upon arrival, fire crews found multiple vehicles and the carport fully involved with fire, with fire extending to the apartment building. Fire personnel were able to bring the fire under control in approximately 20 minutes after arriving on scene. The total dollar loss is estimated to be $50,000. No civilian or fire personnel were injured during the incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation and has been undetermined at this time.

On Sunday, August 15, 2010, the Visalia Fire Department responded to a reported residential structure fire. Upon arrival, fire crews were informed the fire had been extinguished, even though large amounts of smoke was still present. Upon further investigation, crews discovered a hair appliance had caught fire inside the bathroom. A power fan was utilized to remove the smoke. One ambulance was requested to the scene to treat one occupant for possible smoke inhalation. The structure sustained approximately $500 worth of damage. Once civilian was treated and transported to Kaweah Delta Medical Center for treatment. No fire personnel were injured during the incident. The cause of the fire was an unattended hairdryer located in the bathroom.

Prevention

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
Weed Abatement													
Complaints Received	2	45	95	90	101	72	86	23					514
Self Abatements	0	5	14	27	15	38	14	35					148
Department Abatements	1	1	25	19	24	46	59	14					189
No Action Taken	3	4	9	21	5	33	19	8					102
Pending								35					35
Property Maintenance													
Complaints Received	13	10	23	13	15	25	27	53					179
Self Abatements	1	2	1	12	2	2	6	11					37
Department Abatements	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	2					9
No Action Taken	5	6	4	18	2	22	16	16					89
Pending								55					55
Inspections													
Staff													
Life Safety Inspections	25	97	43	89	112	118	115	82					681
Follow up Inspections	56	65	66	83	59	59	32	26					446
Engine Companies													
Life Safety Inspections	236	263	330	321	191	191	106						1744
Follow up Inspections													

Public Education

The Visalia Fire Department completed a total of 11 Public Education sessions. This service was provided to approximately 283 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 August, the Visalia Fire Department completed 1082 hours of training, of which 390 qualified for the California Firefighter Joint Apprentice Committee reimbursement. The different focus areas were 204 hours of ground ladders, ropes and knots, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, pump theory and hydraulics in preparation for upcoming core competency testing in the month of September. All personnel were trained in 192 hours of confined space training techniques and familiarization with the Rescue team's specialized equipment. Hazardous Material personnel received 80 hours of training and familiarization with specialized equipment. Three fire personnel attended 139 hours of a Fire Management 1 class in Hanford and all personnel maintained 46 hours of monthly safety and post incident analysis training.

The Visalia Fire Department hosted the Fresno City College Fire Academy on August 21, 2010, during a Fire Control 3B class at our training facility.