

# Visalia Fire Department

## 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

NOVEMBER 2010

## Fire Chief's Corner

On November 1, we kicked off the annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive luncheon. It was that time of year again when the fierce competition began between Fire and Police to see who could donate the most amount of blood. I want to thank Captain Teresa Lovero for coordinating the blood drive for the VFD and a special thank you to the Firefighters Association for the awesome Tri-Tip BBQ. As always, it was a first class job.

On November 17, I attended the Home Builder Association Luncheon, with Chief Norman, Inspector Brown,

Admin. Officer Kassner, which featured guest speaker Tonya Hoover, Acting CA State Fire Marshal. Chief Hoover spoke on the upcoming new code requiring fire sprinklers in all residential occupancies.

On November 22, Karl Kassner, Doug Damko and I traveled to Sacramento and met with representatives from CA State OES on Multi-Hazard Mitigation planning and grant opportunities. The meeting was very positive and we received excellent information on the planning and processes for future grants.

Thank you,  
Chief Nelson



## Emergency Preparedness

During the month of November, we began working on the EOC Drill scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. The drill will test the use of the Web EOC tracking system and continue to evaluate our preparedness for a Kaweah Dam failure. Staff attended the Emergency Council meeting and received updates on many different Emergency Preparedness projects taking place in Tulare County. The Operational Area is very busy with three major projects currently taking place, the Evacuation Planning Project, the Local Hazard Mitigation Project and the planning for the Golden Guardian Statewide Drill next year. We are actively involved with all three projects. The Emergency Council will also be working on developing a 3-5 year training plan, to ensure that all jurisdictions are able to comply with any required training mandates and recommendations. This month, we also conducted our fall Ditches and Waterways meeting. We discussed the summer irrigation run and the upcoming winter water releases. All of the participates in this group continue to share information well and we find many important topics come-up during the meeting. We also met with DCE Electric and discussed the need to add emergency power to the Training Room at Station 55 for use as an EOC.

# Operations

During the month of November, the Visalia Fire Department Operations Division responded to 845 calls for service, with a current average of 792 calls per month. For press release information, please go to [www.ci.visalia.ca.us](http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us) and click on Fire Department.

<b>FIRES</b>		<b>33</b>
Building, In a Building, or In a Mobile Home	13	
Vehicles / Equipment	10	
Grass, Vegetation, Brush	3	
Trash, Rubbish, Dumpster, Other	7	
<b>RUPTURE / EXPLOSION</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>EMS / RESCUE</b>		<b>521</b>
EMS Call, Medical Assist	483	
Vehicle Accident w/Injuries, Vehicle/Pedestrian	35	
Extrication or Rescue from Vehicle, Building, Other	3	
<b>HAZARDOUS CONDITION</b>		<b>78</b>
<b>SERVICE CALL / PUBLIC ASSIST</b>		<b>27</b>
<b>GOOD INTENT</b>		<b>150</b>
<b>FALSE CALL / OTHER</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>SEVERE WEATHER</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>845</b>

## Significant Incident

### Residential Structure Fire Destroys One Home and Damages Second

A residential structure fire was reported at 922 W. Hemlock at 0551 hours on November 22, 2010. 20 firefighters on 4 engines and 2 trucks responded to the fire and a call-back of off duty personnel was activated to cover the city. The first unit on scene reported heavy fire through the roof with more than 50 percent of the structure involved. The roof of the residence to the west of the fire was also ignited, due to the radiant heat. The residents of the house were not home at the time of the fire. Fire crews were able to extinguish the fire on the house to the west with minimal damage to the roof. Fire personnel made an aggressive exterior and interior attack on the fire and were able to salvage many of the residents personal belongings. 2 cats were also rescued and recovering from smoke exposure.

The damage to the structure and contents is estimated at over \$400,000, and the residence was a total loss. The cause of the fire was electrical in nature and the origin was in the garage. There were no injuries to firefighters or civilians.

# Prevention

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
<b>Weed Abatement</b>													
Complaints Received	2	45	95	90	101	72	86	23	20	6	8		548
Self Abatements	0	5	14	27	15	38	14	35	9	2	0		159
Department Abatements	1	1	25	19	24	46	59	14	12	7	2		210
No Action Taken	3	4	9	21	5	33	19	8	7	8	1		118
<b>Pending</b>											32		32
<b>Property Maintenance</b>													
Complaints Received	13	10	23	13	15	25	27	53	68	41	18		306
Self Abatements	1	2	1	12	2	2	6	11	26	14	7		84
Department Abatements	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	5	6	4		24
No Action Taken	5	6	4	18	2	22	16	16	29	28	4		150
<b>Pending</b>											58		58
<b>Inspections</b>													
<b>Staff</b>													
Life Safety Inspections	25	97	43	89	112	118	115	82	112	86	26		905
Follow up Inspections	56	65	66	83	59	59	32	26	56	26	34		562
<b>Engine Companies</b>													
Life Safety Inspections	236	263	330	321	191	191	106	170	118	45	121		2198
Follow up Inspections													

# Public Education

The Visalia Fire Department completed a total of 19 Public Education sessions. This service was provided to approximately 3,632 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 November, the Visalia Fire Department completed 1500 hours of training, of which 844 qualified for California Firefighter Joint Apprentice Committee reimbursement. The different focus areas were 417 hours of outside training attended by personnel at the Fresno Training Officers Symposium the week of November 15th thru 19th, 2010. Personnel attended classes in different areas of expertise ranging from fire ground command and control, strategy and tactics, vehicle extrication techniques, to wildland fire behavior.

All fire personnel attended 161 hours of bi-monthly emergency medical training specializing in infant and children emergencies and medication administration.

Fire personnel also accumulated 295 hours in multi-company core evolutions that included fire attack, ventilation techniques, forcible entry, and searching for victims in a zero visibility conditions.

All fire personnel maintained 31 hours of monthly safety and post incident analysis training.

# Safety Training

Safety training for the month of November was on the Injury Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP). California Occupational Safety Health Administration (CalOSHA) requires employers to develop and train employees on an IIPP. Supervisors and managers should have reviewed the accident reporting procedures with employees and the hazard identification found in the facility inspection. Finally, employees should have reviewed the appropriate Safe Codes of Practice. The Safety Committee met to discuss the further development of the City of Visalia IIPP.