

Tuolumne County Fire Department

Monthly Activity Report

April
2021



Tuolumne County Fire Department

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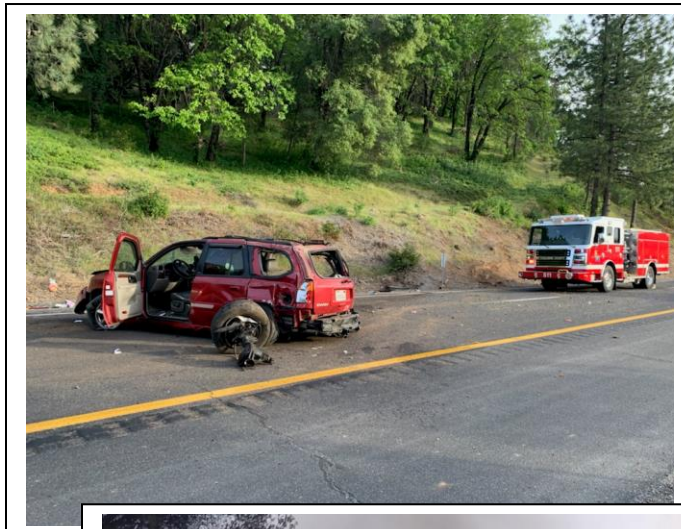
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MONTH IN REVIEW

April 2021

A stark reminder of the dangers firefighters face is in the annual Wildland Firefighter recertification training firefighters participate in each year to maintain their ability to respond to fires. On the cover of this month's Report is a group of Volunteer Firefighters practicing the use of a fire shelter. Fire shelters are used as a last-ditch attempt to survive a burnover. A burnover is when a fire moves so quickly through an area or overtakes personnel or equipment where there is no opportunity to use escape routes or safety zones. Burnovers usually result in personal injury, equipment damage, or even death. Firefighters drill continuously on their use in different scenarios, including sometimes using a strong fan (ventilation fan) to simulate extreme wind.

In December of 2020, after several years of collaboration and efforts, the County of Tuolumne voted to become a member of the Tuolumne County Fire Authority. The Tuolumne County Fire Authority was formed to allow the member fire departments to join as a separate legal entity with the ability to levy a uniform and specific fire tax on parcels within its boundaries. The Fire Authority is most simply a legal means to seek voter approval to levy a separate special fire tax that secures funding only to be spent on fire services. The Fire Authority Board meetings are open to the public and the Authority must file annual reports on the amount of fire special tax levied, collected and spent. Frequently Asked Questions are available on our website <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1358/Measure-V>. More information on the Tuolumne County Fire Authority is also available at <https://www.gcsd.org/tuolumne-county-fire-authority>.



On April 19, the Amador period ended and CAL FIRE staffed all stations in Tuolumne Calaveras Unit were staffed. The Amador period is the time from when CAL FIRE reduces staffing for the winter period. The County funded partial staffing of Twain Harte, Blanchard, and Groveland CAL FIRE stations during the winter months. These Amador engines at times are the only fire engines responding to emergencies throughout the County and together responded nearly 700 different incidents during this winter's Amador period in Tuolumne County. These engines make the difference in lives and property saved!

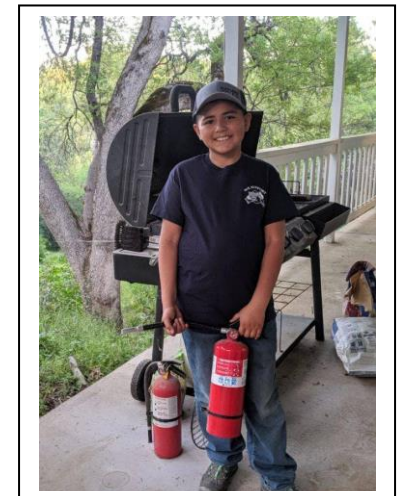
Volunteer Resident Firefighters Evan Waite, Dominick Gross, Sam Guthrie, and Tanner Diehl were hired by the CAL FIRE Tuolumne Calaveras Unit as seasonal Firefighter I's. We wish these new Firefighter 1's the best in the next step in their career and thank them for their time with TCFD.

County Fire has posted its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan to our website. Please take a look and get an insight as to the path we're planning for your TCFD! The Plan was presented to the Board on May 4, 2021 and will be discussed in greater detail in next month's Report. The Plan can be found at this link.
<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1351/Strategic-Plan>

Annual testing of tools and equipment continued in April. Personnel conducted fire extinguisher testing and maintenance for all TCFD apparatus and facilities. TCFD tested a total of 88 fire extinguishers. Hose testing started and will continue into May. All fire hose is tested annually as per NFPA 1962. Fire attack hose is tested to a pressure of 300psi for a total of 3 minutes. All supply hose is tested to 200psi for a total of 3 minutes.



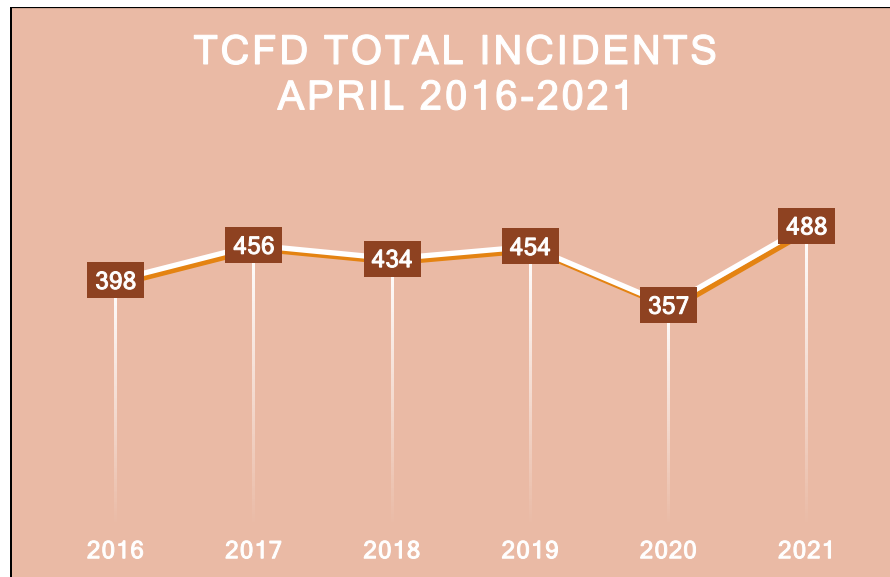
TCFD would like to recognize 11-year-old AJ for his quick thinking and action. After a grease fire melted and ignited a propane hose, AJ quickly reacted by retrieving the fire extinguisher in their home and put the fire out. Only two weeks ago AJ asked his father how to use the fire extinguisher. AJ prevented loss of life and property which could have led to a different ending of this story. This real event shows us the importance of safety first, educating our family members, having a plan in place for emergencies and maintaining safety equipment. Please join us in appreciating Honorary Firefighter AJ for his brave actions.



As we end National Volunteer Week we want to express our gratitude, as a Department and individually as neighbors, for the selfless dedication and service of all the Volunteers serving Tuolumne County fire departments. If you're interested in being a volunteer firefighter, water tender operator, or medical responder call 209-533-5118 or email fire@co.Tuolumne.ca.us.

In April there were a total of 488 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 357 during the month in 2020, and a 16.2% increase from the five-year April average of 420. Of the 488 incidents this month there were 337 medical aids, 60 fires, and 91 other incidents. From January 1 to April 30, TCFD has

responded to 1,939 incidents within our jurisdiction compared to 1,766 during that time period in 2020, and a five-year average of 1,797 (a 7.4% increase year to date).



TCFD Station Responses

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to 138 incidents in the month of April including 90 medical calls (13 vehicle collisions), 23 public assists, 11 fires, 6 false alarms, and 8 other incidents. 115 incidents were within their primary response area and 23 were not. Volunteers responded to 22 of the 138 incidents, and aid was given to 3 agencies 10 times and received by 3 agencies 7 times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station responded to 153 incidents. Of those 153 incidents, there were 110 medical aids (including 2 CPR incidents & 20 vehicle collisions), 21 public assists, 12 fires, 4 false alarms, and 6 other incidents. Of the 153 incidents, 132 were within their PRA and 21 were not. Volunteers responded to no incidents. Automatic aid was given to 1 agency 6 times and received from 3 agencies 10 times. Crews responded to one residential care facility 7 times.

Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station is funded for two personnel by Tuolumne County for response when CAL FIRE is not staffed. This year that period ran from December 9, 2020 until April 19, 2021. During the month of April, Twain Harte CAL FIRE responded to 65 incidents of which 38 were medical aids, 14 fires, 9 public assists, and 7 other incidents. Volunteers responded to 20 of the 65 incidents.



Tuolumne County Fire Department Station Incident Responses

April 2021

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 161 incidents
 Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (3 volunteers) 14 incidents
 Long Barn Station 54 (0 volunteers) 13 incidents absorbed by other stations
 Pinecrest Station 55 (7 volunteers) 8 incidents
 Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 88 incidents
 Crystal Falls Station 57 (0 Volunteers) incidents absorbed by other stations
 Cedar Ridge Station 58 (12 volunteers) 19 incidents
 Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer) 39 incidents
 Smith Station Station 63 (0 Volunteers) incidents absorbed by other stations
 Don Pedro Station 64 (3 volunteers) 18 incidents
 Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 1 volunteer) 156 incidents
 Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters) 63 incidents
 Blanchard CAL FIRE Station – 50 incidents
 Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station – 73 incidents
 Groveland CAL FIRE Station – 43 incidents
 Standard CAL FIRE Station – 59 incidents
 Green Springs CAL FIRE Station – 24 incidents

Incident totals include incidents that the fire station was dispatched to, and may have been automatic aid to other agencies through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement

Significant Incidents

April 6, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Lazy Z Lane

Firefighters responded to a vehicle accident reported as an ATV rollover with a victim trapped underneath. Upon arrival, first responders removed the ATV from the patient and began life saving efforts including CPR. Sadly, the patient succumbed from their injuries and did not survive.

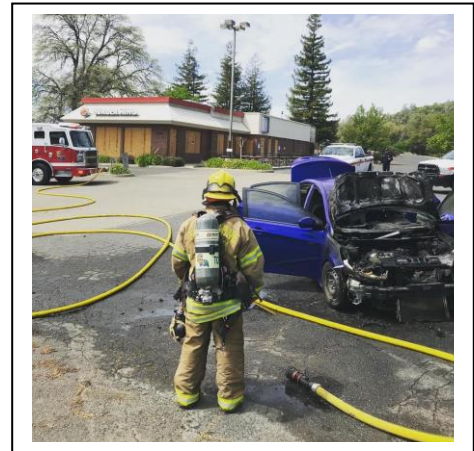


April 7, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Longeway Road

Firefighters responded to a vehicle versus pedestrian at the intersection with Soulsbyville Road, reported as an elderly male struck by a garbage truck. Upon arrival responders found one critical patient in the roadway. Lifesaving efforts were initiated and the patient was flown to a valley trauma center.

April 7, 2021 – Vehicle Fire, Mono Way

Crews responded to the former Burger King parking lot and found one unoccupied sedan fully involved with fire. Firefighters initiated an aggressive fire attack and were able to contain the fire to the vehicle of origin.



April 9, 2021 – Medical Rescue, South Tulloch Road

Crews responded to a fall victim in the Stanislaus River drainage, one mile south of Goodwin Dam. Responders hiked approximately 1/4 mile down into the river drainage where they located the victim still in a water hole held afloat by a family member. The victim suffered from serious traumatic injuries. Resources packaged and removed the victim from the water and began immediate medical treatment. Upon arrival of the roadway the victim was transported to a nearby landing zone for the air ambulance to transport to a valley trauma center.

April 11, 2021 – Residential Structure Fire, Peppermint Creek

When firefighters arrived, the double-wide mobile home was well involved with fire and all occupants had exited the home with assistance from the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office. An aggressive defensive attack was utilized to subdue the fire and prevent extension to nearby residences. Water supply was a challenge as the fire hydrants were not able to maintain the gallon per minute demands of two hose lines but TCFD water tenders were used to successfully supplement the water supply.

April 11, 2021 – Agency Assist, Railtown

CHP was at scene and two occupants were asking that the vehicle be stabilized before exiting fearing it would tip. Firefighters arrived at scene and used a piece of specialized equipment called a ratchet strap for the Rescue 44 struts to assist with the vehicle from tipping. Both occupants exited the vehicle safely and were not injured.

April 11, 2021 – Vehicle Fire, Wards Ferry Road

Firefighters arrived approximately one-mile South of the Wards Ferry Bridge, 200 feet down a two-track dirt road and found a fully involved abandoned vehicle fire with minimal extension into the vegetation. Firefighters quickly contained the fire.

April 11, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Soulsbyville Road

Firefighters arrived at scene of an altered patient in a vehicle that went off the roadway and hit a tree head on. The patient did not have significant injuries but did need assistance out of the vehicle and to the roadway where paramedics evaluated them.

April 14, 2021 – Recreational Vehicle Fire, Stockton Road (Camp Hope)

Fire crews arrived to find the RV fully involved. The fire spread to the nearby vegetation and burned 1/8 of an acre before it was contained.

April 15, 2021 – Medical Aid, Carmelita Drive

Firefighters found an elderly male fall victim with serious injuries. Crews provided medical aid and after arrival of paramedics, an air ambulance was ordered after the patient started to deteriorate. The patient was flown to a valley trauma center.



April 17, 2021 – Residential Structure Fire, Pine Mountain Drive

Firefighters were dispatched to assist Groveland CSD Fire Department in the early morning hours. Crews found the single-family residence over 50% engulfed with fire. The one resident was able to exit the home safely and was not injured.

April 18, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Forest Road 5N07

Firefighters responded to a vegetation fire near Camp Menzinger Boy Scout Camp. The fire burned unusually hot and fast in the timber and understory. Unfortunately, this is likely a pre-cursor to the long fire season ahead. The fire was contained at 9 acres.

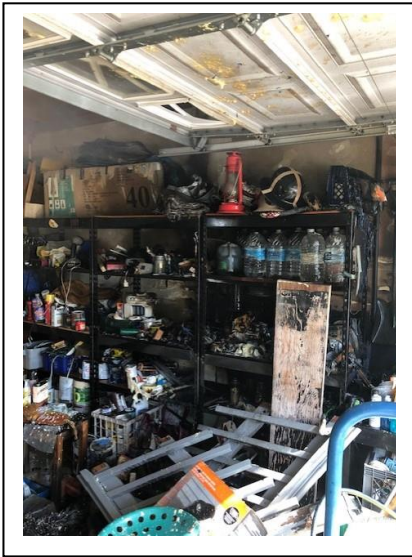
April 22, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Sanguinetti Road

Firefighters arrived the scene of a three-vehicle traffic collision, which was blocking multiple lanes. Patients were able to self-extricate and were assessed by paramedics at scene.

April 23, 2021 – Structure Fire, Vista Drive

Firefighters responded to reports of a garage on fire and upon arrival found the homeowner spraying smoking shelves with a garden hose. Firefighters deployed a hose line then ensured the fire was completely extinguished with a (piece of specialized equipment called a thermal imager) and had not extended into the residence. A positive pressure ventilation fan, another specialized piece of equipment, was utilized to reduce the chance of smoke damage by ejecting the smoke within the residence.





April 24, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Jalisco Road, Mariposa County

Firefighters from CAL FIRE TCU and TCFD were dispatched to assist CAL FIRE MMU and Mariposa County Fire. On arrival crews found a fire burning in grassy-oak woodlands at about 1.5 acres in size. Crews quickly contained the fire at less than 2 acres.

April 24, 2021 – Residential Structure Fire, Coulterville, Mariposa County

Firefighters from CAL FIRE TCU were dispatched to assist CAL FIRE MMU and Mariposa County Fire for the second time today. Crews found a small home and ¼ acre of vegetation burning. Crews quickly contained the spreading wildland fire and took defensive actions on the building to prevent further spread. A TCFD water tender was requested to assist for several hours. TCFD Station 61 Water Tender 618 arrived and kept the fire engine's tanks full for the remainder of the incident.

April 29, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Tuolumne Road

Firefighters responded to a reported rollover in the area of Buckhorn Grade. Upon arrival, crews found one vehicle over the side, on its roof, with major damage. The first engine assumed command and requested the balance of an auto extrication response. Trapped in the vehicle was one critical patient. Crews used another piece of specialized equipment, the “Jaws of Life,” and other extrication techniques were used to free the patient from the vehicle. The patient was transported to a valley trauma center via air ambulance.

April 30, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Mono Way

While firefighters were en route to a lift-assist, an oncoming vehicle went off the roadway and overturned multiple times. Firefighters protected the scene from oncoming traffic and, despite significant damage and compartment intrusion, the patient was able to self-extricate with minor injuries.

April 30, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Highway 108 x Oman Drive

Firefighters responded a single vehicle rollover with three patients. The patients were assessed at scene and one was transported to a trauma center by air ambulance while the remaining patients were transported by ground to a local hospital.



Fleet

Our lone fire mechanic continued to stay very busy with multiple repairs, including the use of several CAL FIRE funded mechanics for several days to isolate and repair the out of service reserve Engine 901. You'll read below, but both the front-line engine E761 out of Jamestown, and the reserve E901 both went out of service in March due to items mentioned below.

Other repairs included:

1. Chinese Camp W/T 768 has been out of service for a few months due to difficulty in locating parts because of its age. However, the parts were finally located and are being repaired in May.
2. Jamestown E761 (nearly 160,000 miles) transmission - found bad electrical wiring to transmission. Repairs will be scheduled with a transmission shop. Additionally, the three-month preventative maintenance was completed and the worn-out seats were replaced.
3. As mentioned above, E901 (nearly 180,000 miles) electrical faults caused it to be out of service. E901 broke down again and CAL FIRE mechanics were called but not able to fix at the fire station and was towed to the shop. It took two mechanics 130 plus hours to trace every wire in the electrical system, and three hours on the phone with engine support tech and were finally able to diagnose the problem that turned out to be a faulty tachometer on the pump panel. It took a lot more time to track down the part that is no longer being manufactured, but one was found and the engine will soon be back in service again. E901 is County Fire's only reserve type 1 fire engine.
4. TCFD funded mechanic assisted in repairs and demobilization for several days on the Campo Fire in Calaveras County.



Prevention/Education

Fire Inspectors completed 31 plans reviews and 44 fire inspections.

Including:

- One Group A, Assembly Occupancy
- Three Group C, Camps-Organized
- Five Group E, Educational Occupancies
- Five Group R-1 & R-2, Residential (Hotel, Motel, Apartments)
- Six County Buildings

- One Fire Sprinkler Inspection
- Eleven Haz-Mat Tank Inspections
- Twelve Re-inspection

One of the inspections fire inspectors do is above-ground Hazardous Material (Haz-Mat) tank inspections. These are required to be conducted annually for fire and life safety purposes for any tank dispensing fuels. One important requirement is proper signage and information placed on the tank(s). Signage is the design or use of signs and symbols to communicate a message.



The signage provides two vital roles, one is for the user of the dispensing tank. This includes signs that indicate “No Smoking”, “Flammable or Combustible Liquids”, and what is in the tank itself: Diesel, Gasoline, Kerosene. The other role signage plays are used by emergency responders if an incident were to occur. This includes the maximum gallons of fuel a tank can hold and usually the Haz-Mat placard sign for the fuel involved. The pictures provided of a recent inspection show a 10,000-gallon and 1,000-gallon fuel tank without any required signage on the tanks. The most concerning part of this is there is a sign on one of the tanks. The sign indicates diesel fuel; however, the tank is filled with gasoline. Gasoline and diesel have two very different flash points and mitigating a tank incident with one type of fuel will most likely be different than with another type of fuel. If the information provided to emergency responders is not accurate this could have serious consequences. The owners are now working to correct the issues.

Fire resistant rated construction is the use of proven materials with accepted construction and design procedures in place that will effectively restrict the spread of a fire and maintain the structural integrity of a building. Types of fire rated construction include Fire Walls, Fire Barriers and Fire Partitions. Pictured here is a kitchen/storage room in a local building that was built in the early 80's and is used as an elderly care facility. The ceiling, which is fire rated has large diameter piping that has shifted over time most likely due to structural settling. This shifting has opened the annular space around the piping. The original fire caulking colored red is approximately 4-6 inches down from its original position. The second bead of gray caulking, which is not fire rated was applied at some point over the past 40 years to fill the open annular space that was created from the shifting pipes. This second application of caulking has also separated from the annular



space creating a fire passage point into the plenum, (space between floors) in the building. This open annular space has compromised the fire rated continuity of this room and the building. A fire in this room would easily spread into the plenum through the non-protected annular space and spread through the building creating a severe fire hazard. The building owners are working to have this issue properly corrected.

Fire Inspectors are also staying busy with the rebuild of Camp Berkeley, east of Groveland, that was destroyed during the Rim Fire. Frequent fire inspections are occurring as building progresses with staff checking for fire safety features and construction. Pictured below, is an image of a thrust block. Thrust blocks are smaller wharf hydrants that are being added throughout the camp in addition to the standard dry barrel fire hydrants.



Social media continues to provide a great opportunity to spread the fire prevention/education message and keep the community informed on events occurring within County Fire's jurisdiction. If you haven't already, follow us for more information on the incidents and additional pictures:



Tuolumne County Fire Department (3,842 followers (+129))



tuolumnecountyfire (1,917 followers (+39))



@tuolumnecofire (982 followers (+38))

Training

Training and skills development are an integral part of keeping safe and reducing destruction from fire. This month, one of our Engineers attended the CAL FIRE four-week Emergency Command Center Academy in at the CAL FIRE Training Center in Lone. The Academy is designed to provide training to students on 9-1-1 call taking for emergencies, dispatch and assign resources based on pre-planned response criteria, coordinate interagency incident activities, support the incident as needed, provide internal/external information, and document the activity.

Two Engineers attended an ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command and General Staff Complex Incidents training class in Modesto. This class was sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security. This course is designed for those emergency response personnel who would function as part of an Area Command, Emergency Operations Center, or Multiagency Coordination System during a large,

complex incident or event or those personnel who are or would likely be part of a local or regional Incident Management Team during a major incident, whether single agency, multiagency, or Unified Command.

Another Engineer attended a State Fire Marshal Company Officer 2B class in Oakdale. This course provides information on general administrative functions and the implementation of department policies and procedures and addresses conveying the fire department's role, image, and mission to the public.



Volunteer Firefighters continued their Confined Space and HazMat, and trained on Heat-Related Incidents online and several stations completed their Annual Wildland Refresher training. Monthly multi-company training will be Forcible Entry and Structural Search/Rescue. The Ventilation training prop use was postponed due to lumber prices.

Tuolumne County Fire Department Muster Association

The TCFD Muster Association is a benevolent non-profit organization that receives donations to support the firefighters of the TCFD in need and supports firefighters in obtaining additional training. The TCFD Muster Association is proud to offer "We Support TCFD" t-shirts in children's and adult sizes and Tuolumne Co. FD Richardson snapback hats for a donation. Children's shirts have been reduced to \$10 and adult sizes are \$15. Hats are \$20 and both items are pictured below and can be ordered from TCFDMuster@gmail.com or by calling 209-533-5118.



