

# Tuolumne County Fire Department

*“At-A-Glance”*



February

2024

**Tuolumne County Fire Department**

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# Tuolumne County Fire Department Call Totals

## February 2024

### **Incident Totals:**

Total Incidents: 620

Medical Aids: 413

Structure Fires: 6

Vegetation Fires: 0

Other Type Fires: 69

Hazardous Conditions: 42

Other Incident Types: 90

### **Tuolumne County Station Call Totals:**

Mono Village Station 51: 203

Ponderosa Hills Station 53: 13

Long Barn Station 54: 5 Calls absorbed by other Stations

Pinecrest Station 55: 11

Mono Vista Station 56: 73

Phoenix Lake Station 57: Calls absorbed by other Stations

Cedar Ridge Station 58: 22

Chinese Camp Station 61: 22

Don Pedro Station 64: 11

Jamestown Station 76: 142

Groveland Station 63/78: 52

Columbia Station 74: 3 calls ran by Station 79 personnel

Columbia College Station 79: 63

### **Prevention Division:**

Plans Reviews: 81

Inspections: 38

*\*\*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

2/4/2024

During a winter storm at the start of February, the Tuolumne County Fire Department had extra resources staffed in anticipation of numerous weather-related calls for service. During this period Tuolumne County Fire resources responded to over 60 incidents over 48 hours all across the County. On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuolumne County Fire Engine 553 responded to assist the Sonora City Fire Department with numerous trees down and onto vehicles inside the City limits. Crews assisted in removing the fallen trees and clearing the roadways. Thankfully no injuries were reported and no powerlines were taken down by the trees.



2/9/2024

On Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:50 pm, Tuolumne County Fire Department Engine 631 responded with Groveland Community Services District Engine 781 and CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Engine 4476 to the Pine Mountain Lake Airport for a reported airplane down. On arrival resources found a single-engine aircraft on its roof. All occupants of the plane were able to self-extricate and reported no injuries. No other aircraft were involved in the incident, and due to the debris on the runway the airport remained closed for several hours. What caused the plane to crash remains under investigation.



2/18/2024

On Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at approximately 5:45 am, Tuolumne County Fire Department resources responded with CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit and the Sonora City Fire Department to a residential structure fire in the 10000 block of Mount Brow Road in Sonora. On arrival, firefighters found a residential structure with heavy smoke showing from the exterior of the residence. Firefighters quickly ensured all occupants were out of the home and the fire was extinguished. Due to the aggressive firefighting efforts, approximately 60% of the home and contents were saved. No occupants or pets were injured and the cause of the fire is under investigation.



### **TCFD Special Incidents**

Tuolumne County Fire Department/CAL FIRE and other local fire agencies in the county, in coordination with state and local Office of Emergency Services (OES) representatives, staffed additional fire engines in the county in preparation for forecasted significant weather.

Tuolumne County Fire Department / CAL FIRE staffed a type three 4-wheel drive fire engine with four personnel for emergency response, in addition to the five career engines that are staffed every day along with County Fire volunteer resources.



CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit has multiple personnel and resources available for mission-tasking through CAL OES to assist the local agencies in the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit. This includes overhead (incident management) personnel, firefighters on fire engines, bulldozers, and our Vallecito Camp and Stockton-Delta California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews.

The areas of concern were pooling water on roadways, flooding of small streams and creeks and poor drainage areas, and the potential for many days of wet weather. Of course, we also always encourage our neighbors and visitors to drive safely and allow extra time when traveling, no matter how far.

The CAL OES Fire and Rescue Branch facilitates the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, which includes moving more than 270 fire engines from 60 local government resources across the state in support of all-risk emergency response on behalf of local, state, and federal government fire organizations. CAL OES assigns local government fire agencies with fire apparatus to maintain surge capacity during day-to-day duties and major emergencies.

## **Prevention Division News**

The Tuolumne County Fire Department Fire Prevention Division is responsible for performing various tasks throughout the county. Some of these duties include Plan Reviews, Regulated Occupancy Inspections, Permit Inspections, Fire Cause Investigations, and Specialty Inspections.

The plan review aspect of the division involves the Fire & Life Safety components of new building construction or the renovation or alteration of an existing structure/building. This will include water supply requirements, fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, egress and egress components, structural regulations, road widths, lot line requirements, and verification of these identified items in the form of site inspections.

Site inspections have two main phases during the construction process. The rough inspection involves looking at specific items being installed, (e.g.) fire sprinklers, fire alarms, panic hardware, etc. when walls and ceiling framing are still exposed. This will be compared to the approved plans on the permit.

The final inspection, as the name implies, is the final signoff for that item or items, for that building. This is performed when the building is completed and is preparing to get signed off for a Certification of Occupancy.

Recently, a fire sprinkler system final inspection failed on a new construction project. During the inspection, a recessed pendant, fire sprinkler head cover plate was found with a wall, not on the original approved plans, butted up touching the corner of the recessed sprinkler head cover plate. This would prevent the sprinkler head from deploying during a fire incident, allowing the fire to spread. Pendant sprinkler heads are required to be 6"

inches away from all walls for this exact type of issue. The building owner and/or contractor will need to move the wall or move the sprinkler head for clearance before this sprinkler final will be approved.

There's much that goes into having a fire department, and the first step is to prevent the fires from happening. When they do occur, to keep them from spreading unabated. Your TCFD Fire Prevention Division is there to ensure businesses follow the fire code and provide a safe environment for clients and employees, and help protect the owners' investments.



## TCFD Fleet News

During February, the Tuolumne County Fire Department completed annual pump testing of the fire apparatus used by the Department. This includes all 21 engines and water tenders that make up the majority of the County Fire fleet. Pump testing is an integral and vital part of apparatus safety and maintenance. Think of an annual pump test as a test run of what could happen if the apparatus were called to a multiple-alarm fire where water in maximum volumes had to be moved and pressures had to be maintained for more than an hour. An annual service pump test is a documented procedure to prove your apparatus can perform at its rated capacity from draft. The chassis drivetrain, pump, pump transmission and associated plumbing are run through a progressive series of tests that are designed to prove the system is in sound working order.

