

2019 Annual Report

TULARE COUNTY **FIRE**



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

2019 has been a year of unique activities and challenges. As we moved forward with Station 1, we switched from the planning phase to the construction phase and have been moving towards our goal of opening the new station in Spring 2020. We also started planning for the co-location of our dispatch center with Tulare County Sheriff's Office dispatch at our headquarters on Akers. These are positive changes that will allow us to continue to serve Tulare County for many years to come. These projects are new and include innovative ways to positively serve our public as well, such as an upgraded Motorola CAD system for both Fire and Sheriff.

The Tree Mortality Fuels Crew was able to remove approximately 6,000 hazard trees while working on the 3 projects. We will continue to work on these projects through 4 additional grants awarded by CalFire for work to be completed from 2019 to 2021. The next of these projects will start in Spring of 2020.

January was a busy month for TCFD with foggy days and three storm events that produced significant precipitation. TCFD activity remained busy with the associated tree and power line issues due to these storms. Tulare County utilized the CAL OES pre-positioning system to strategically place resources in high hazard areas for three separate weather events.

March brought two significant flooding events in East Porterville and Strathmore. The accumulated storm water caused damage to several residential structures but there were no injuries or life safety issues. April was a historic month for the TCFD as we held our groundbreaking ceremony for Station 1. The entire Department is anticipating its opening in Spring of 2020.

Summer temperatures began in May and continued to bring flooding concerns to the community. In preparation for fire season, TCFD and CAL Fire met to discuss the upcoming fire season readiness in the State and Local Responsibility Areas. As always, the summer months are packed with community events from fireworks shows to Hot Dog festivals, it's always a fun time.

While June brought an increase in calls for service of approximately 14% over the prior year, it also brought a return to our Kids Fire Camps; starting in Cutler-Orosi and followed by Earlimart. Kids from 1st to 6th grade learned about what it takes to be a firefighter. We hope to increase the number of kids participating next year!

During the month of July, our Prevention Division was BUSY! They conducted an illegal fireworks detail which resulted in the collection of over 750 lbs of illegal fireworks and two subsequent arrests.

The latter part of the year, has included out of county events to Southern California and to Napa and Sonoma Counties. TCFD (among other responding departments) were gifted with a print from the Bay Art Academy for our work on the Kincade Fire.

November and December always keep us hopping from community event to community event as soon Veteran's Day rolls around. 2019 was no exception. We attended many parades and holiday events throughout the county. December also provided some cooler weather and precipitation which helped create some snow pack to last through early 2020.

On behalf of the men and women of the Tulare County Fire Department, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,
Charlie Norman
Fire Chief, Tulare County Fire Department

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer for their ongoing support.



Pictured left to right:
Amy Shuklian—Vice Chair, Supervisor District 3; Pete Vander Poel—Chairman, Supervisor District 2; Dennis Townsend, Supervisor District 5; Eddie Valero, Supervisor District 4; and Kuyler Crocker, Supervisor District 1.



County Administrative Officer
Jason Britt



MISSION STATEMENT

The Tulare County Fire Department is committed to providing leadership, coordination and customer based service through fire prevention, suppression, and emergency medical services.

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY
RESPECT
LOYALTY
TEAMWORK
COMPASSION

CORE VALUES

We are committed to excellence through professionalism and trustworthiness achieved through our daily operations. We will continue to expand our public service delivery model through innovative and fiscally-responsible practices. We will strive to offer our workforce the best opportunities available for training and education to further enhance the public service we provide.

HISTORY

The Tulare County Fire Department was established on July 1, 2007. Prior to 2007, the County of Tulare contracted with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF), through a cooperative agreement, to provide fire protection for the County. This agreement was established in 1929. CDF provided personnel to staff fire stations and apparatus, which are owned by the County, as well as administrative staff to manage the Department.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) hired Steve Sunderland in February 2006 as its first Fire Chief in anticipation of having their own fully operational Fire Department on July 1, 2007. Chief Sunderland hired three Division Chiefs, Ted Mendoza, John Crivello and Joe Garcia to assist him with the transition to a Department independent of CDF. Chief Mendoza was responsible for the operations of the Department, Chief Crivello was responsible for the Training Division and Chief Garcia managed the Fire Prevention Division.

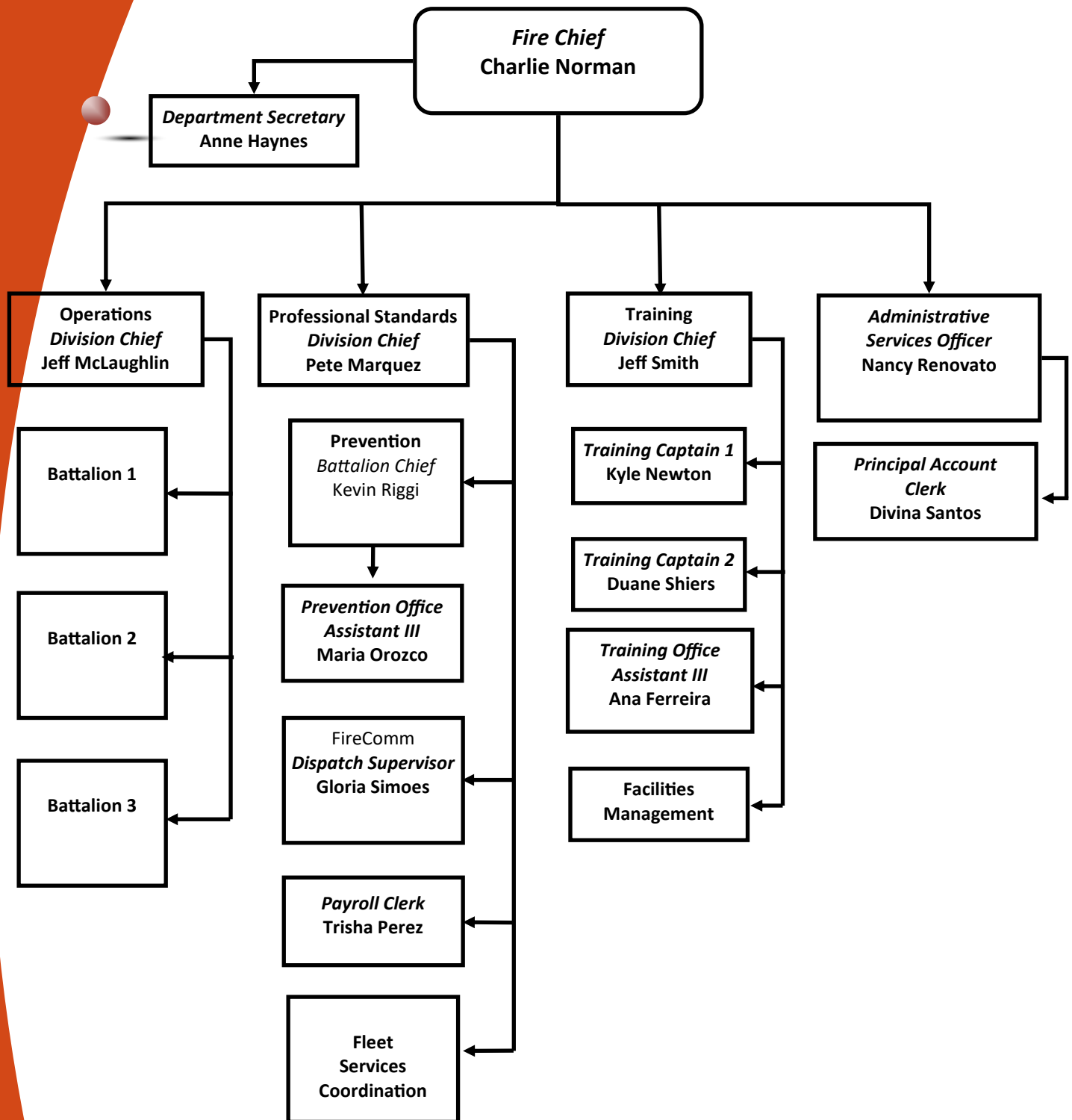
In October 2011, the BOS appointed Division Chief Garcia as their second Fire Chief after Chief Sunderland retired. Chief Garcia hired Clay Smith as the Support Services Division Chief and Charlie Norman as the Operations Division Chief after Division Chief Mendoza retired and Division Chief Crivello was hired as the Fire Chief of the Farmersville Fire Department. The BOS appointed Division Chief Norman as its third Fire Chief in January 2016. Chief Norman promoted Jeff McLaughlin, who began as a Captain with the Department in 2007, from Battalion Chief to Division Chief of Operations in 2016.

Pete Marquez was hired as the Division Chief for Support Services in 2016 when Division Chief Clay Smith was appointed as the Fire Chief for the Kings County Fire Department. Division Chief Marquez is currently responsible for the Professional Standards Division. Chief Norman promoted Battalion Chief Jeff Smith, who began as a Lieutenant with the Department in 2007, to Division Chief in November 2018. Division Chief Smith is the Department's third Division Chief and is responsible for the Training Division.

The Department moved its headquarters from Farmersville to a new facility in Visalia, which is located at 835 S. Akers St., in September 2017. The Tulare County Emergency Operations Center is located in Fire Department Headquarters which is next to the Sheriff's Department. The co-location of the County's Emergency Services allow for collaboration between the three Departments to improve services for the residents of the County.



2019 HEADQUARTERS STAFF





2019 **OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**Operations
Division Chief
Jeff McLaughlin**

**Battalion 1
A Shift
Casey Lewis**

**Battalion 2
A Shift
Richard Doyle**

**Battalion 3
A Shift
Raymond Russell**

**Battalion 1
B Shift
Mark Fleming**

**Battalion 2
B Shift
Derek Steidley**

**Battalion 3
B Shift
Jesse Renteria**

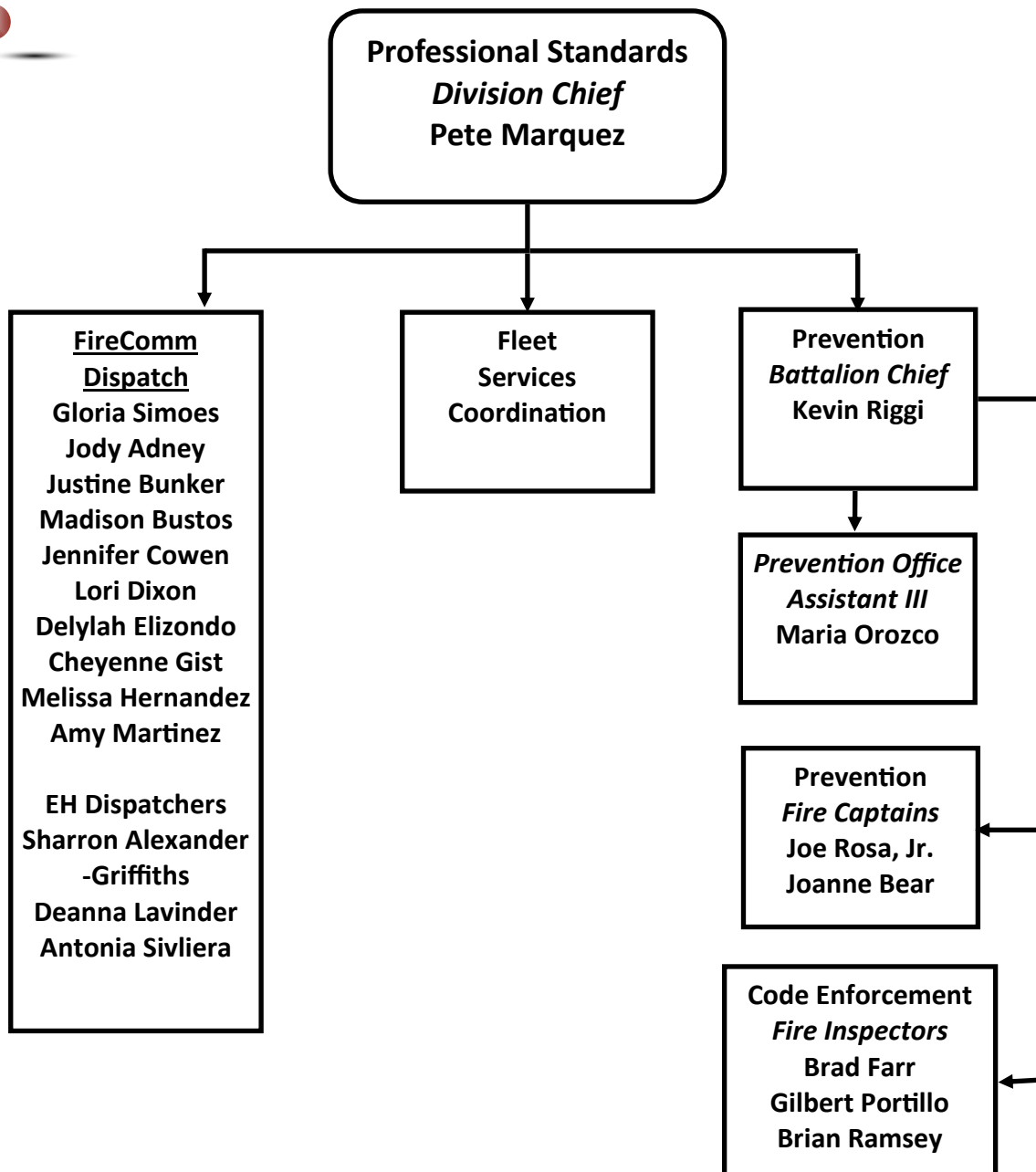
**Battalion 1
C Shift
David Vasquez**

**Battalion 2
C Shift
Bryan Duffy**

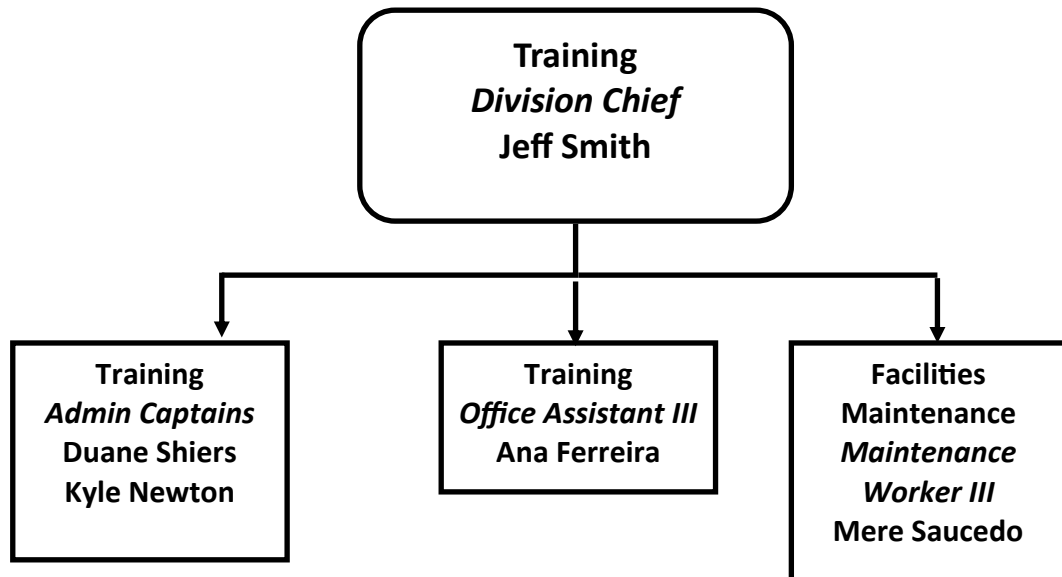
**Battalion 3
C Shift
Jason Elizondo**

**Emergency
Management/
Planning**

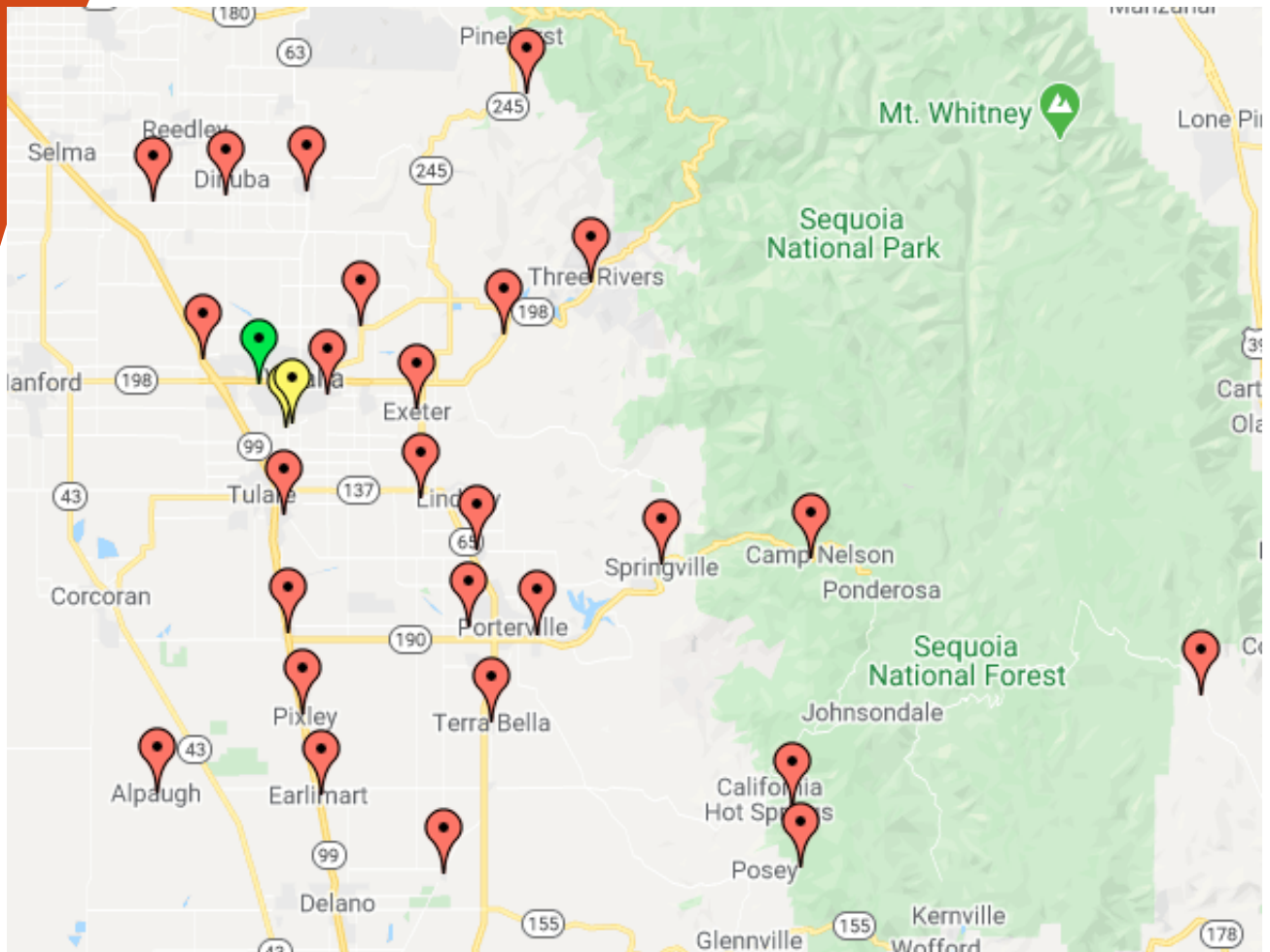
2019 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



2019 TRAINING DIVISION

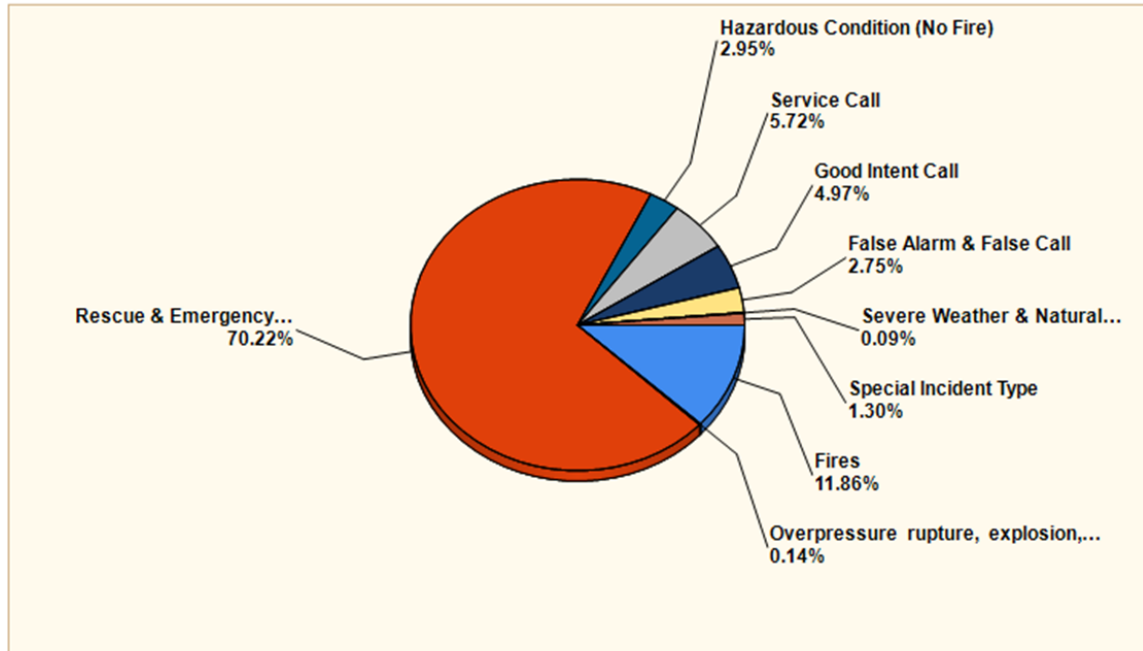


Station Map



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tulare County Fire HQ | Lemon Cove Fire Station | Tipton Fire Station |
| Visalia Fire Station | Three Rivers Fire Station | Pixley Fire Station |
| Kings River Fire Station | Lindsay Fire Station | Earlimart Fire Station |
| Dinuba Fire Station | Strathmore Fire Station | Tulare County Gov. Plaza |
| Cutler - Orosi Fire Station | Badger Fire Station | Fire Comm |
| Cal. Hot Springs Fire Station | West Olive Fire Station | Posey Fire Station |
| Goshen Fire Station | Doyle Colony Fire Station | Kennedy Meadows Fire station |
| Ivanhoe Fire Station | Terra Bella Fire Station | |
| Alpaugh Fire Station | Springville Fire Station | |
| Richgrove Fire Station | Camp Nelson Fire Station | |
| Exeter Fire Station | Tulare Fire station | |

2019 Incident Breakdown



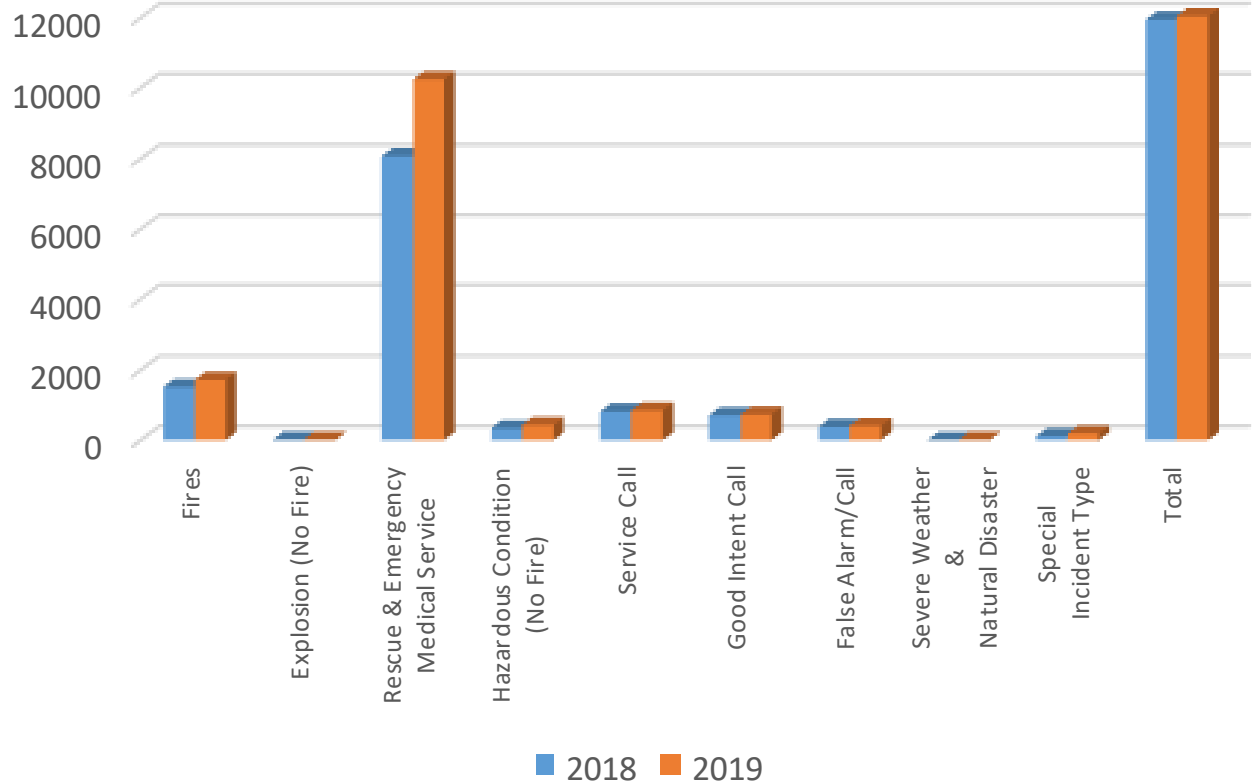
Annual calls for service in 2019 increased approximately 16% over calls for service in 2018.

The increase has been seen across all incident types, not just medical aids.



2018 vs. 2019

Incident Breakdown



There has been an overall increase in calls for service between 2018 and 2019. One of the biggest increases has been in the Rescue & Emergency Medical Service calls. These went from 8,079 in 2018 to 10,245 in 2019.

The majority of the Rescue & Emergency Medical Services calls were to provide first aid & check for injuries and to provide basic life support.

There was also a significant increase in Hazardous Condition (No Fire) calls which went from 333 in 2018 to 431 in 2019.

Local Incidents

- **Strathmore Flooding**
(Strathmore)
- **HAZMAT Incident** (Dinuba)
- **Avenue 196 Fire** (Exeter/
Woodlake)



Out of County Assignments

- **Ridgecrest Earthquakes—July 4th 6.4 earthquake/July 6th 7.1 earthquake**
- **Walker Incident—Plumas County—54, 612 acres**
- **Briceburg—Mariposa County—5,563 acres, 1 structure destroyed**
- **Kincade Fire—77,758 acres; 374 buildings destroyed**
- **Tick Fire—Los Angeles County—4,615 acres, 22 structures destroyed and 27 structures damaged**
- **Getty Fire—Los Angeles County—745 acres, 12 homes destroyed and 5 homes damaged**
- **Easy Fire—Ventura County—1,806 acres, 3 buildings destroyed**



Promotions and Retirements



Promotions

Battalion Chief

Casey Lewis

Captain

Javier Elizaldi
Thomas Marino



Retirements

Fire Inspector—Jimmy Herrera

Fire Lieutenant—Mark Johnson

Fire Inspector—Cyndi Adney



F&E Academy 17



From Left: F&E Dakota Schieler, F&E Jason Blankinship, F&E Alexander Gong, F&E Jose Andrade.

F&E Academy 18



From Left: F&E Derek Vanderstoel, F&E Antonio Mendoza, F&E Scott Miranda, F&E Joseph Rodriguez, F&E Justin Elizondo, F&E Cody King, F&E

Recognition



Chad Branch (EH Engineer)
Knights of Columbus—
Exeter Firefighter of the Year



Robb Hubbard
Three Rivers
Historical Society Firefighter of the Year



Jonathan Roberts
Knights of Columbus— Visalia Firefighter of the Year



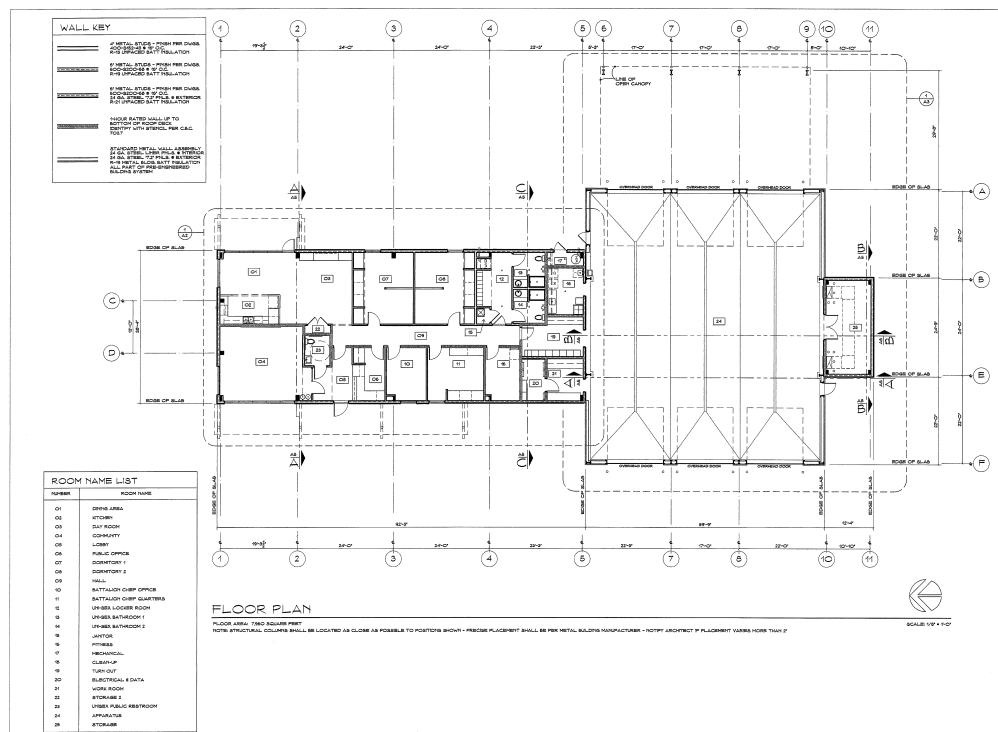
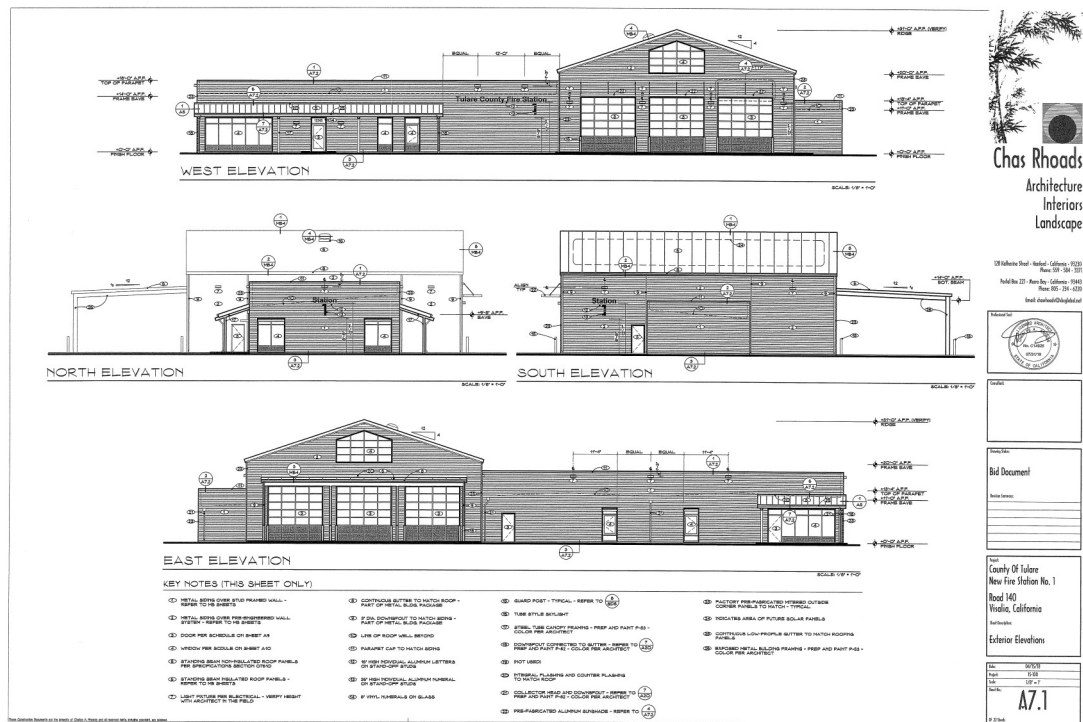
Mathew Whitendale
Exchange Club of Porterville
Firefighter of the Year



Brian Ramsey
TCFD Dispatcher of the Year



Chris Ellorin and Derek Bontrager
TCFD Employees of the Year



Station 1

Station 1 is targeted to open in Spring of 2020.



Station 1 Ground Breaking

From Left to Right:
Supervisor Valero,
Supervisor Townsend,
Supervisor Crocker,
Supervisor Shuklian,
Fire Chief Charlie Norman



Tree Mortality

- The crew expanded to 20 members and two crews in 2019
 - 2 Projects—Highway 190 and Hartland
 - Approximately 6,000 trees removed in 2019
 - 2 public chipper days



Crew Boss:
Rafael Torres
Nedda Bakhtminoo
Juan Calderon
Angel Chambers
Rogelio Chavez
Oscar Cibrian
Cole Frazier
Ian Girling
Esteban Infante
Keylan Liles
Matthew Marin
Josh Morris
Alec Pierce
Kyle Pinedo
Jose Porras
Daniel Ramos Ruiz
Celso Sanchez
Zachary VanDerKooi
Luke Villarreal



TCFD New Equipment

Type 6 Patrols—2
Type 3 Engine—1



Hurst Tools
("Jaws of Life" acquired through Office of Traffic Safety Grant.



Community Events



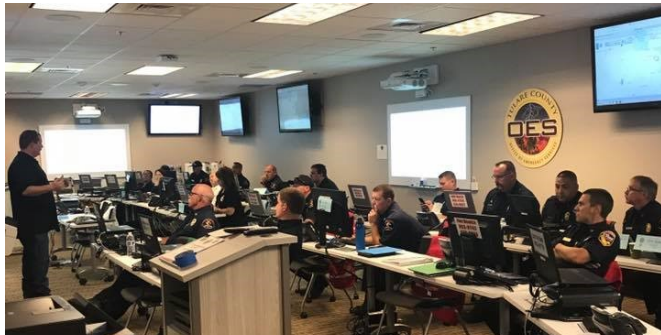
Cutler-Orosi Kids Fire Camp



Training



Swift Water Rescue
Training



SCOUT Training

Auto Extrication Training



O-305 All Hazards
Incident Management

Thank You's



Tulare County Fire Department received a special Thank You, from a group of teen artists from Bayart Academy, in Sonoma County. This group of teens were affected by the Kincade Fire in October of 2019.

The original painting is 7ft by 6ft, and was created to show their appreciation for the never-ending acts of bravery by the firefighters who came to assist. Tulare County was just one of many agencies that responded to this fire. The students raised funds to send each responding agency (over 500 of them) a print of this painting.