

2022 Annual Report

TULARE COUNTY FIRE



"Firefighters never know what they will encounter on each call but proceed with the same level of commitment and service."

~Byron Pulsifer, Motivational Speaker



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am privileged to have served the esteemed residents of Tulare County as your Fire Chief for the past seven years. I work with over 200 of the best trained and dedicated fire service professionals in the industry. Our team of outstanding individuals provides high quality fire suppression, prevention, and emergency medical services to 442,000 residents in a 4,839 square mile response area. The Fire Department is getting close to celebrating its sixteenth (16) year of service. It has been a wonderful experience to watch the department grow into a full service, all risk Fire Department that provides phenomenal customer service to our communities.

2022 was a busy year of growth for the Fire Department. We were able to host the grand opening of the co-located TCFD/TCSO Dispatch Center, we added the position of Deputy Fire Chief, and we started the remodel of the Terra Bella Station #21 and are in the pre-engineering phase for the Goshen Station #7. We received a total of nine (9) new apparatus which range from a Training Van to Type 1 Engines. We were also able to utilize the Homeland Security Grant to purchase additional Thermal Imaging Cameras

With the addition of the Deputy Fire Chief position, we were able to create opportunities for growth and development within our department with several in-house promotions to backfill the openings this new position created. This position will help to create a seamless response to community needs and to even out the workload for a few of our positions. Jeff McLaughlin was promoted to the Deputy Fire Chief position, and we look forward to all the great things he is sure to accomplish. As the Operations Division Chief for the department for over six (6) years, he has brought a wealth of knowledge to the new position and has already started shaping the position into one of success.

We were able to start attending events again to increase our involvement in our communities. After the long hiatus from community events due to COVID, we were eager to get back to the schools and connect with our community members. We attended approximately 33 events which included two fire camps, fireworks safety events and several parades throughout the County. These events are important to us as a department, as they allow us to meet with our community members and make lasting connections.

Sincerely,
Charlie Norman
Fire Chief



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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



Larry Micari,
District 1—
Vice Chair



Pete Vander Poel III,
District 2



Amy Shuklian,
District 3



Eddie Valero,
District 4



Dennis Townsend,
District 5—
Chairman



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

VISION

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 (TCFD) was established on July 1, 2007. Prior to 2007, the County of Tulare contracted with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known today as CAL FIRE, to provide fire protection for the County. Through the agreement, CAL FIRE provided personnel to staff the County's fire apparatus and fire stations as well as administrative staff to manage the Department.

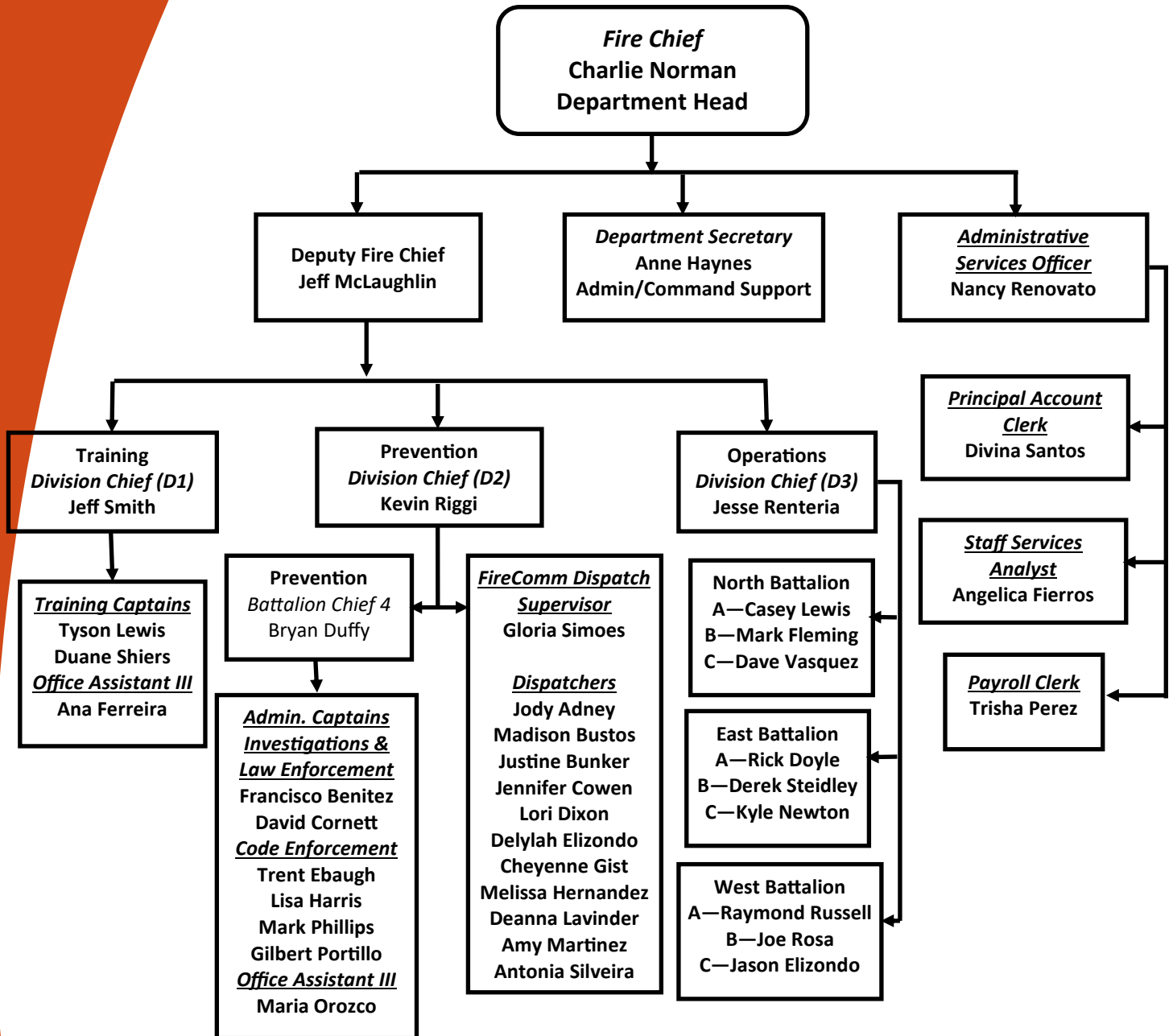
The current Fire Chief was appointed by the Board of Supervisors in January 2016 and is the Department's third Chief. The Department's original Command Staff included three Division Chiefs as well as the Fire Chief. The Department embraced field operations and reduced the Division Chief positions to two during the economic recession. A third Division Chief was added to the Department's Command Staff in November 2018. The Department currently has an Operations, Training and Professional Standards division.

The Department's fire stations were originally staffed with one person. Paid Call Fire Fighters, who later became classified as Extra Help Fire Fighters, supplemented staffing. Today, the Department staffs four of its stations with two personnel on each shift and continues to rely on Extra Help Fire Fighters to supplement staffing.

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

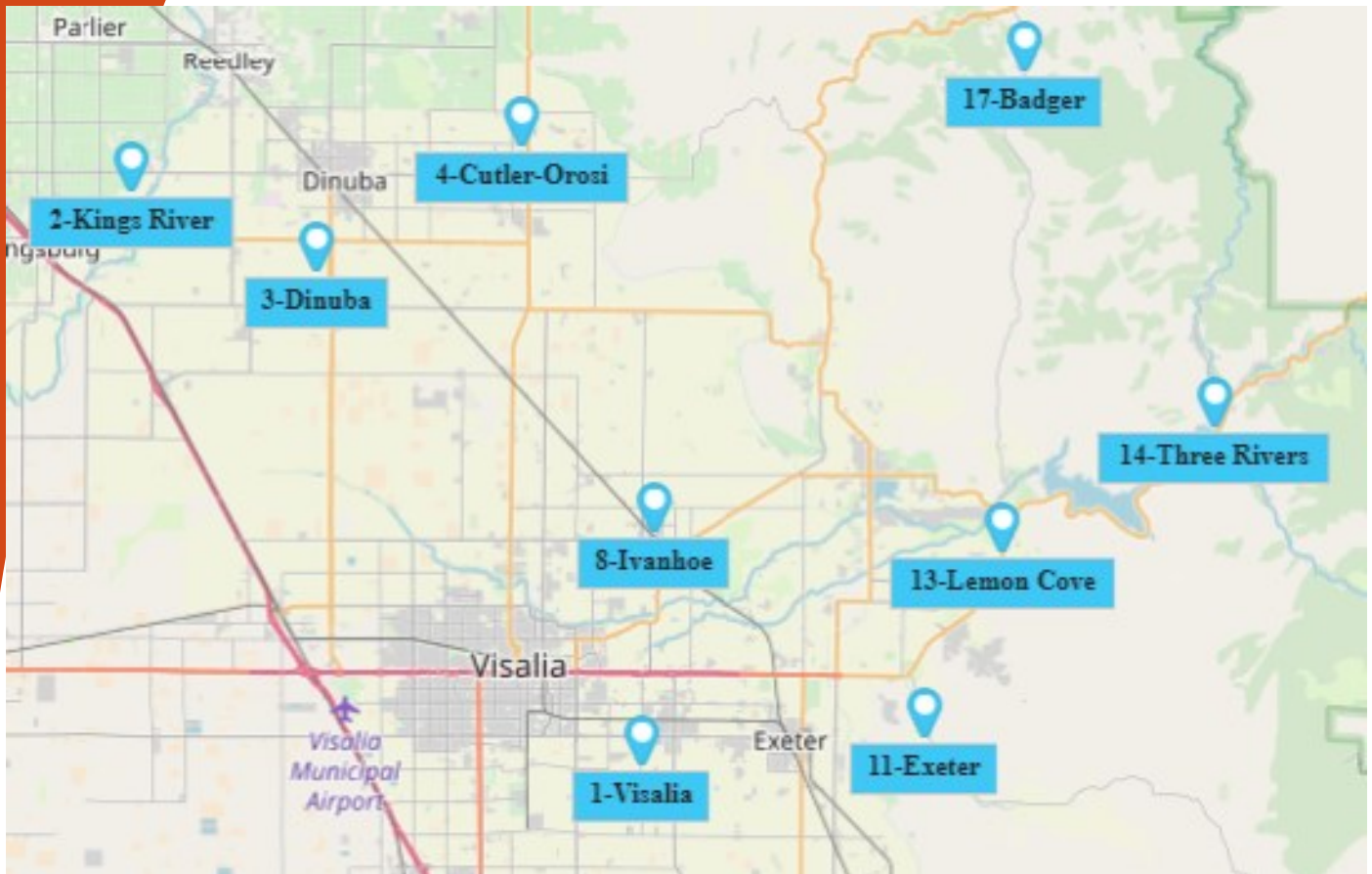


Organizational Chart



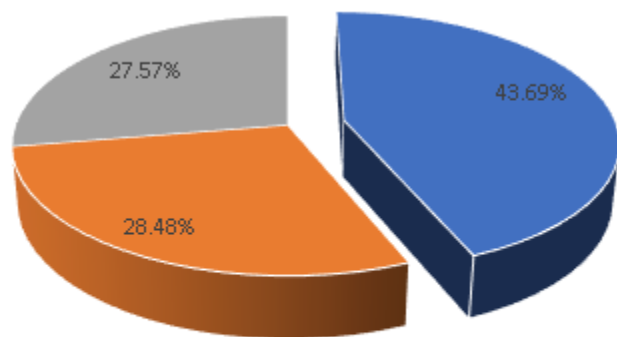
Positions as of 12/31/2022

North Battalion



North Battalion has a total of 9 stations.

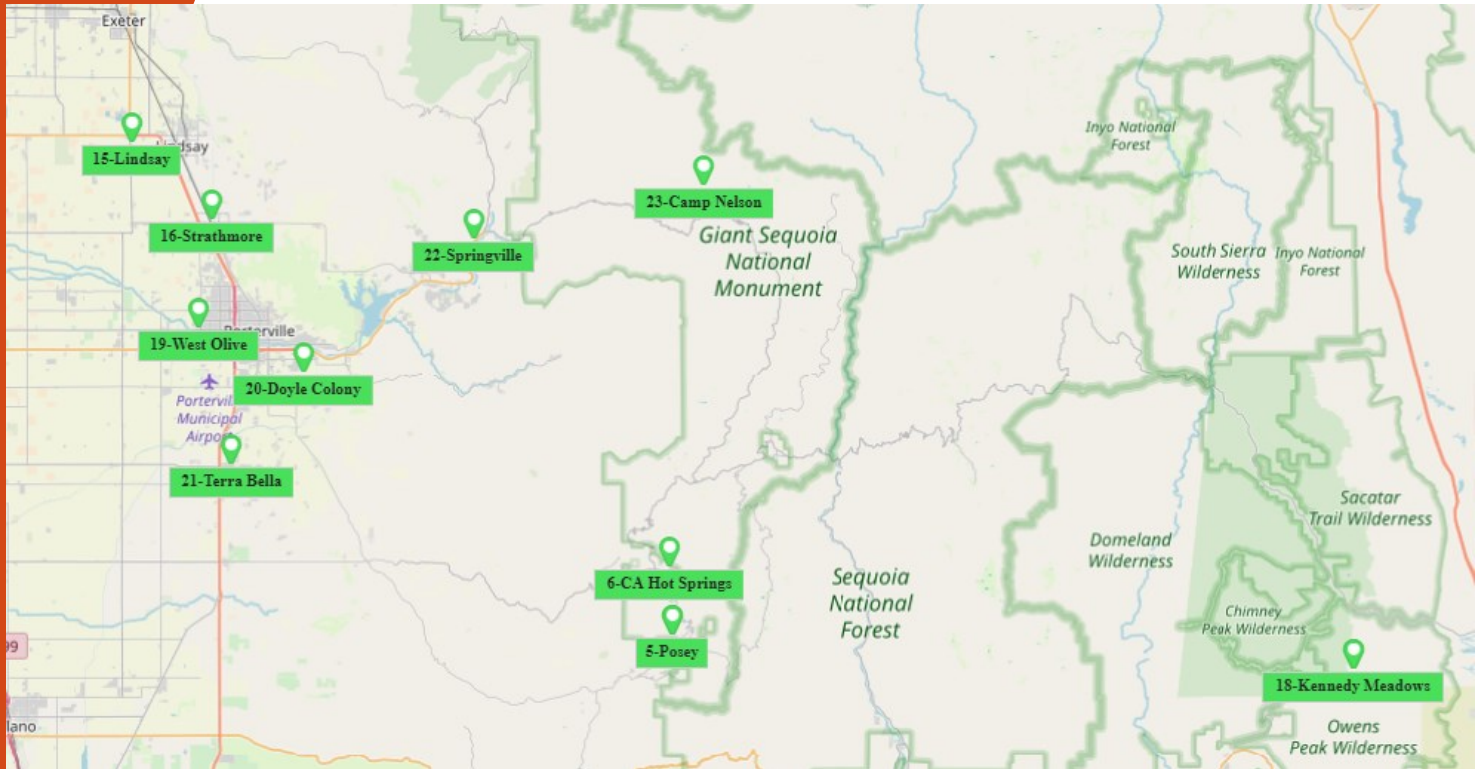
2-0 Staffed Stations:
Station 1—Visalia
Station 4—Cutler/Orosi
Station 8—Ivanhoe



■ North ■ East ■ West

North Battalion accounted for 43.69% of our calls for service.

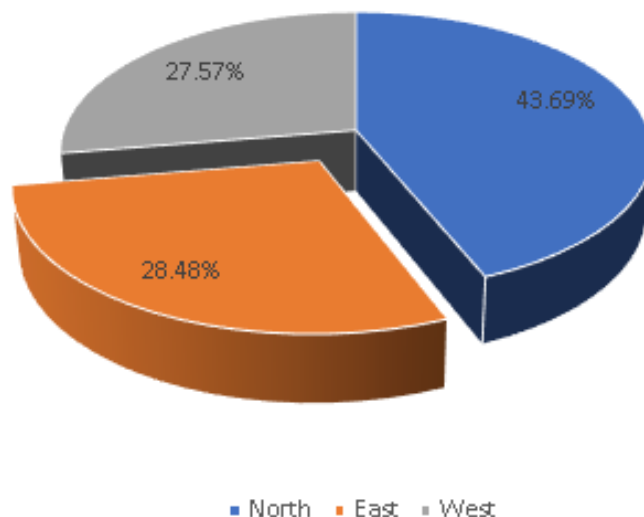
East Battalion



East Battalion has a total of 10 stations.

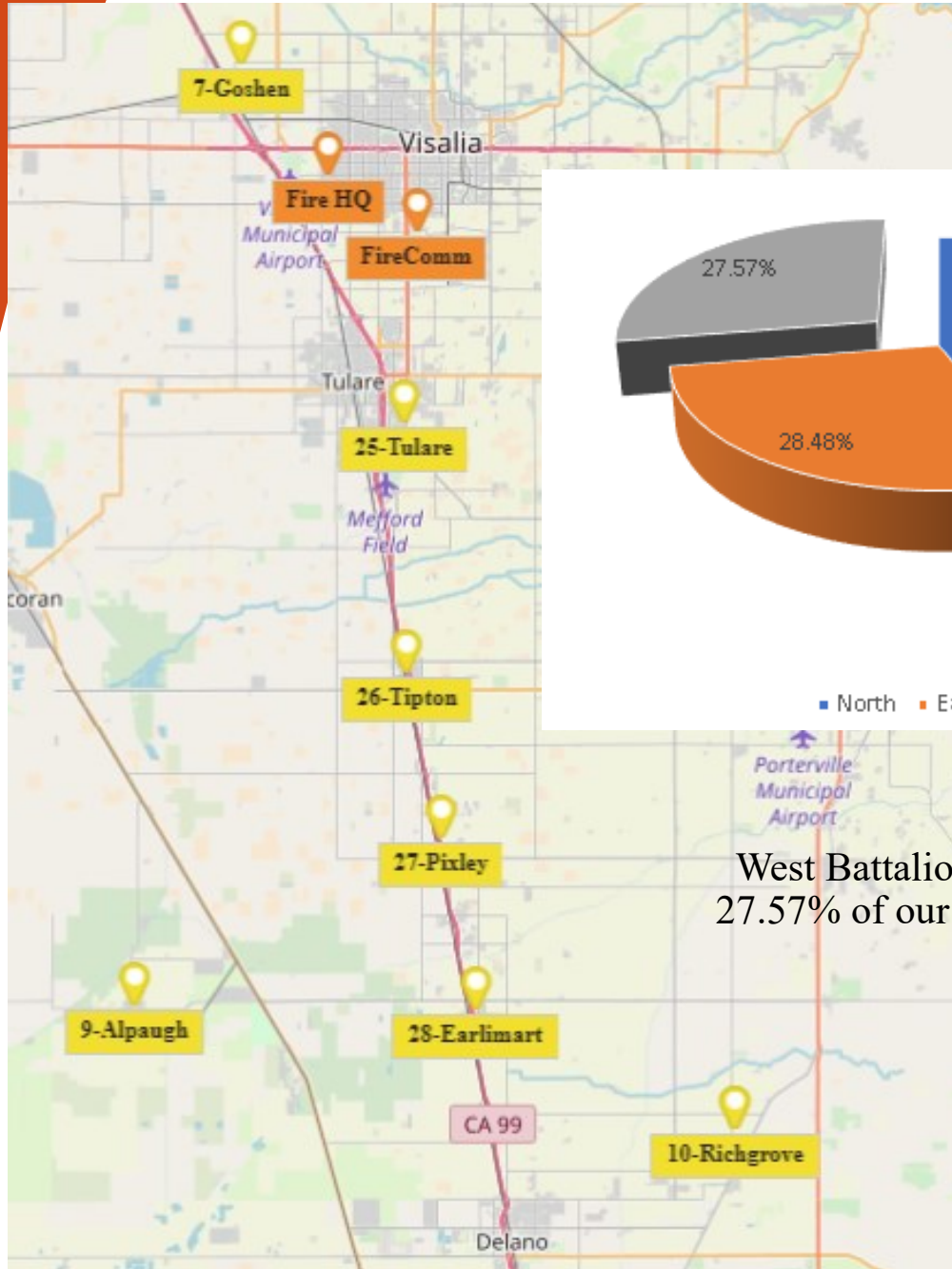
Kennedy Meadows (18) is a community volunteer station.

2-0 Staffed Stations:
Station 21—Terra Bella



East Battalion accounted for 28.48% of our calls for service.

West Battalion



West Battalion accounted for 27.57% of our calls for service.

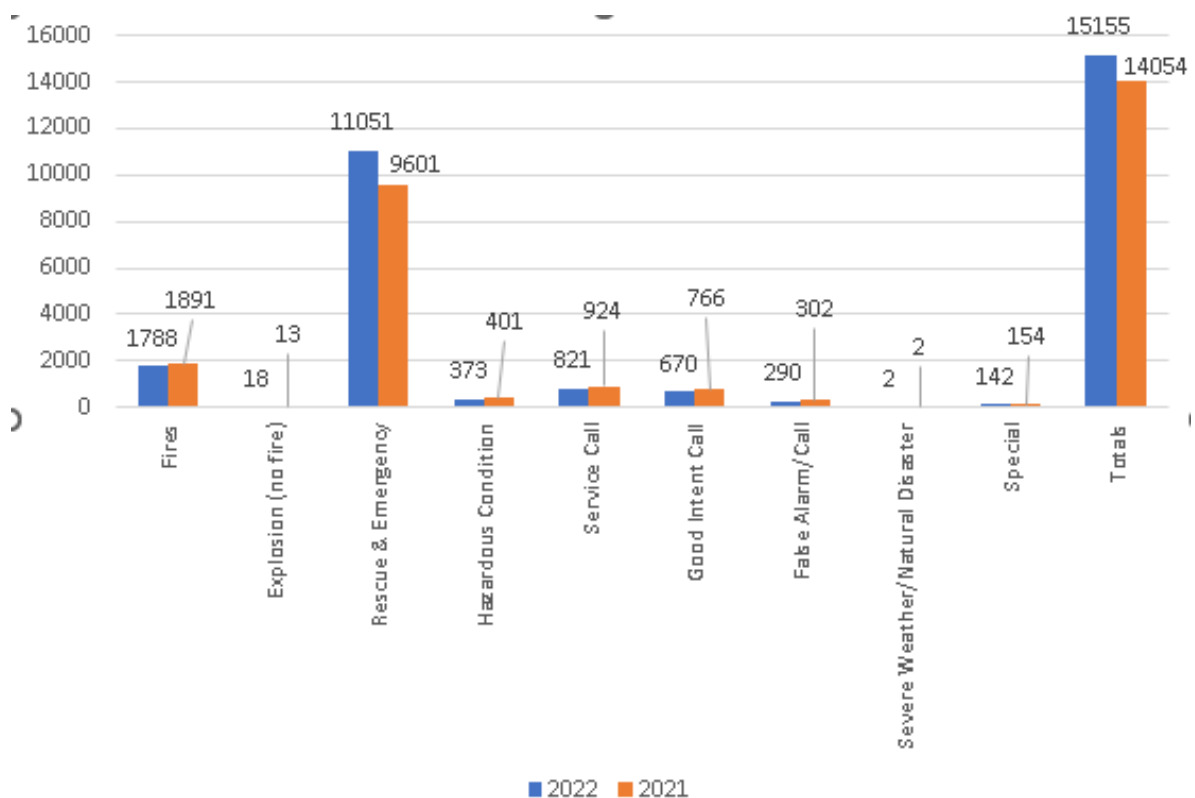
West Battalion has a total of 7 stations.

2-0 Staffed Stations:
Station 7—Goshen
Station 25—Tulare

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Grants

- ♦ **CalFire Rural Fire Capacity Program**—\$29,000 for 12 portable water pumps
- ♦ **Homeland Security Grant**—\$90,916 for 14 Thermal Imaging Cameras



In 2022, we completed purchase of one (1) Ford Training Van, three (3) Ford Expeditions, two (2) Type I Engines, two (2) Ford F250's, and two (2) Swift Water Rescue Boat. By replacing five apparatus we were able to increase our fleet efficiency by 10%.

The Homeland Security Grant allowed us to purchase additional Thermal Imaging Cameras. We improved our vehicle extrication deployment time for vehicle entrapments by 25%. We improved our ability to communicate in remote locations with satellites and improved personnel accountability through GPS and handheld radios.

PREVENTION UPDATE



| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Fire Alarms | 65 |
| False Alarms | 184 |
| Public Service Assists | 369 |
| Fires | 1759 |
| Medical Aids | 8533 |
| Vehicle Accidents | 1613 |
| Public Hazard | 324 |
| Hazardous Materials | 13 |
| Burn Complaints | 349 |
| Other | 86 |
| Other Agency Assists | 644 |
| Flooding | 24 |
| Swift Water Rescues | 11 |
| Technical Rescues | 11 |
| Total | 13985 |

Inspections

| | |
|--|-----|
| Schools (E) | 148 |
| Hotels/ Motels (R-1) | 38 |
| Apartments (R-2) | 128 |
| Business & Mercantile | 308 |
| Fire Finals (New Con- struction) | 465 |
| Other Occupan- cies | 65 |
| Safe and Sane Fire- work Stands | 24 |

FireComm also provides dispatch service for the Tule River Reservation, Woodlake Fire Service and Farmersville City Fire Department.

Prevention Statistics:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Total Admin Citations: | 26 |
| Fireworks | 6 |
| Illegal Burning | 20 |
| Illegal Fireworks Citations | 8 |
| Arrests | 15 |
| Hazard Abatement Cases | 146 |

Public Outreach:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Total Events: | 33 |
| Est. Attendees: | 4,000+ |

Events included two fire camps, fire-works safety, several parades through-
out the county.

TRAINING UPDATE

- Facilitated 31,235 hours of training to all personnel.
 - Training included:
- One 11-week Full Time entry-level academy (672 hours)
- One Extra Help Academy (192 hours over 3 months)
 - Two 80 hour truck academies
 - Tesla EV Course
 - Confined Space Training (SFT)
- NFPA 1851 (PPE Maintenance Class)

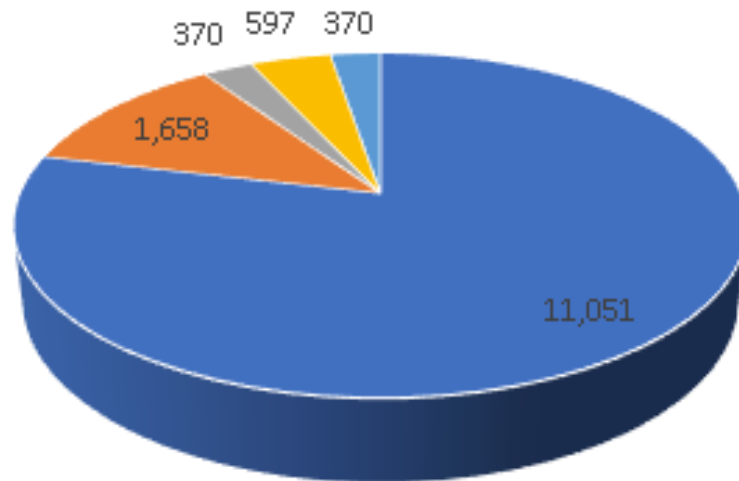
EH Firefighter Interviews

| 2022 Extra Help Candidate Selection Process | |
|---|--------|
| Total Started With | 100 |
| Live out of the County | 23 |
| No Response to Messages | 24 |
| Moving on to Interviews | 53 |
| | |
| Interview Process | 53 |
| No Show to Interview | 5 |
| Not Chosen after Interview | 6 |
| Withdrew from Process | 11 |
| Moving on to Backgrounds | 31 |
| | |
| Background Process | 31 |
| No Response to Messages | 2 |
| No Show to Background Meeting | 3 |
| Withdrew from Backgrounds | 3 |
| Failed Backgrounds | 10 |
| | |
| Candidates Moving on to Hiring | 13 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| % of Candidates Potentially Hired | 13.00% |

In 2022, 13% of the Extra Help candidates that were interviewed, passed the background process and moved on to hiring.

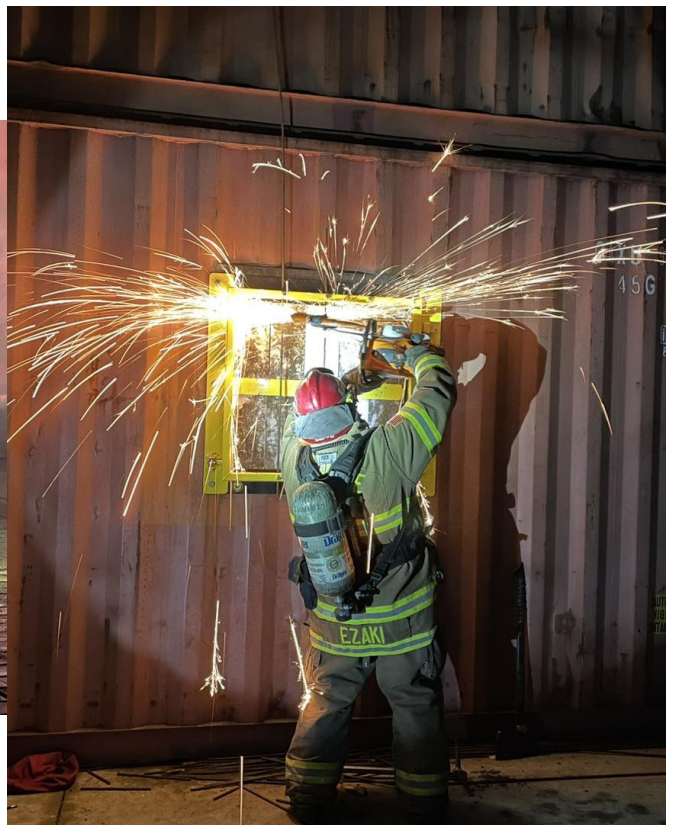


Incident Breakdown



15,155
Total calls

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Building Fires
- Vegetation Fires
- Public Service Assist



California Fire Service

Local Incidents & Mutual Assistance

- Wishon
- Agua
- Power
- Electra
- McKinney
- Mosquito
- Sheep
- Washburn
- 2022 SRF Lightning Complex

Prepositions

- XYU Preposition

Out of State Responses

- New Mexico—2 times
- Alaska—Minto Lakes



Pipeline Fire—Phoenix, AZ

Promotions

Deputy Fire Chief
Jeff McLaughlin



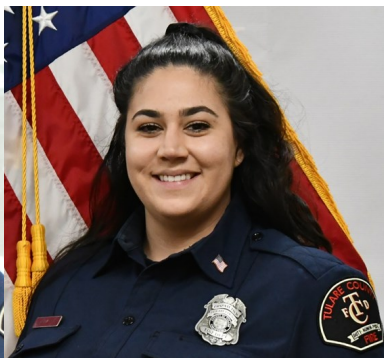
Division Chief
Jesse Renteria



Battalion Chief
Joe Rosa



Captain
Jason Moule



Emergency Dispatcher II
Nia Silveira



Lieutenant
Juan Calderon



Lieutenant
Wyatt Figueira



Lieutenant
Esteban Infante



Lieutenant
Joseph Rodriguez



Lieutenant
Daniel Sanchez

New Hires

Emergency Dispatchers



Alexis Jones



Nayely Barajas

Fire Inspectors



Lisa Harris



Mark Phillips

Staff Services Analyst I



Angie Fierros

FAE Academy 21



From left to right: Armando Carlos, Esteban Infante, Kyle Martel, Rafael Torres, Jose Ramos, Pedro Figueroa

Extra Help Academy



Dispatch New Building



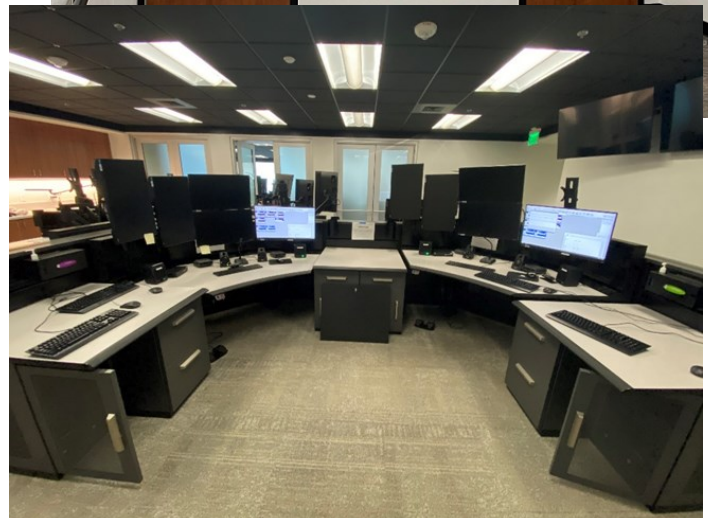
Information on Dispatch Upgrade



Old Location



New Location



New Equipment

Two (2) new Type 3 Fire Engines from Emergency Vehicle Group and Spartan Fire. Type 3 Fire Engines are commonly referred to as Wildland Engines and are specifically designed to assist in fighting fires in the mountain areas, but are also designed to handle all type of emergencies. These 2 new Wildland Engines already have numbers and have been assigned to Springville Station #22 and Alpaugh Station #9.



Tree Mortality

- The crew returned with 17 members in 2022
- Oak Valley Crew 8 completed half of the Mineral King project.
 - Cleared 4.5 miles of roadway

Crew Boss:

Jose Porras (R)

Crew:

Xavier Campos

Manuel Cervantes

Angel Chambers (R)

Damion Daly

Esteban Maciel-Gonzalez

Zackary Martinez

Luis Melendez (R)

Juan Meza, Jr.

Luis Nunez

Saul Palomo

Andrew Ramos

Chris Ramos

Jacob Razo (R)

Marisol Santillan (R)

Travin Webb

Trenton Webb

R=Returning Crew Member

FT = Hired for Full Time

Mineral King—Before and After



Recognition



Luis Magana—Visalia Knights of Columbus



Jason Moule—Exeter Knights of Columbus



Tim Franks—Porterville Exchange Club



Nancy Renovato—TCFD
Employee of the Year

Not Pictured:
• Rosamber
Ambriz—
Lifesaving
Medal



Maria Orozco—TCFD
Support Employee of the
Year



Derek Bontrager—TCFD Fire
Operations Employee of the Year



David Drum—
Bill Rodat Award

Community Involvement



Little Lambs Preschool



Rawhide Touch a Truck



Rocky Hill Elementary



Sequoia Crest Tree Planting

