

# Tulare County Fire Department

Department Updates



# Mission Statement

- ▶ The Tulare County Fire Department is committed to providing leadership, coordination and customer-based service through High Quality Fire Prevention, Responsive Suppression and Timely Emergency Medical Services.

# Vision Statement

- ▶ 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 to our citizens.

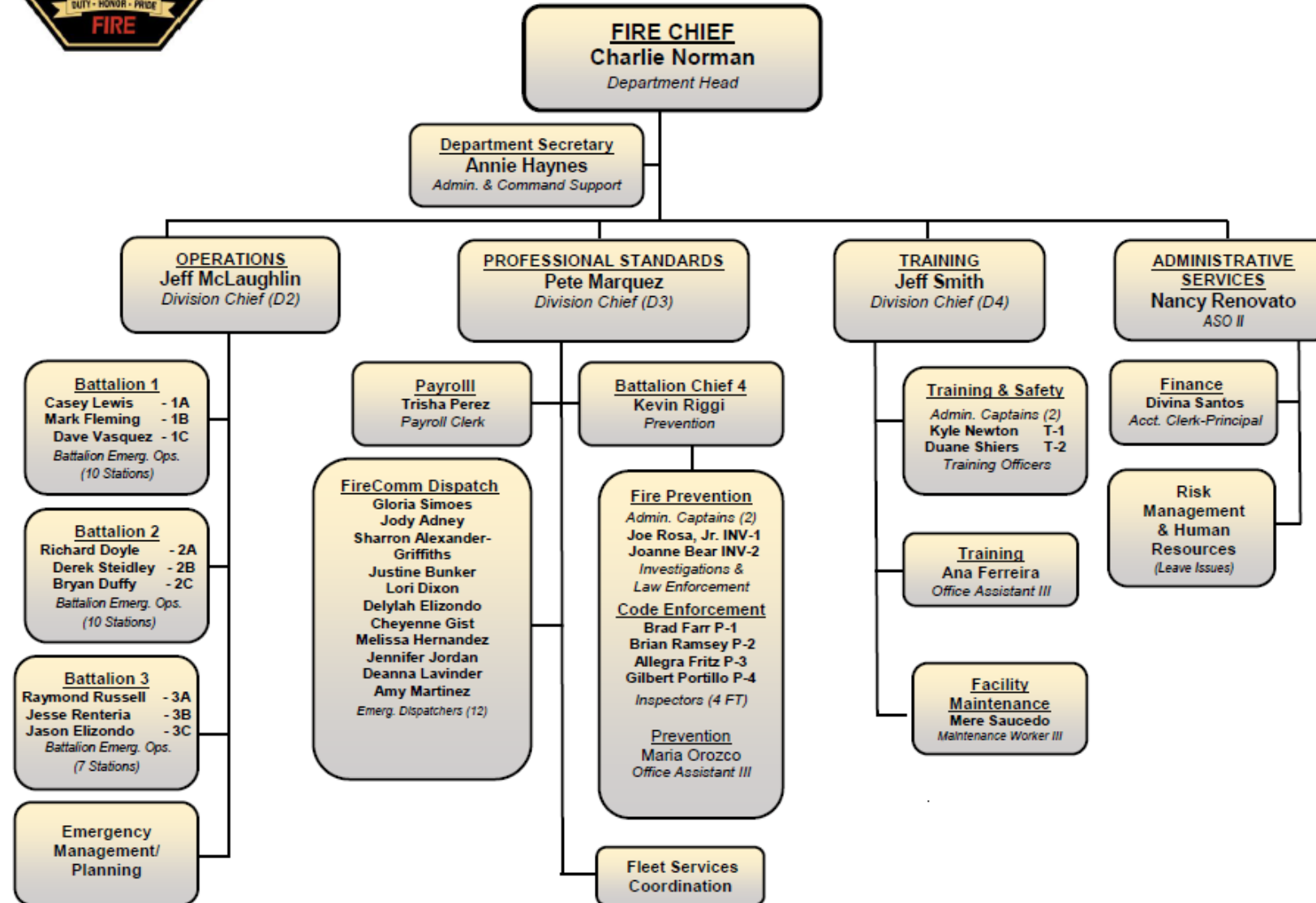
# Core Values

- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Respect
- ▶ Loyalty
- ▶ Teamwork
- ▶ Compassion



# TULARE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Program, Administrative and Command Organization



TCFD has 120 full time and extra help staff and 150 extra help firefighters

# History

- ▶ May 27, 2007 - First day of the academy
- ▶ July 1, 2007 - First day TCFD responded to incidents as an agency
- ▶ July 2007 - Reopened Station 20 (Doyle Colony) and 13 (Lemon Cove) after being closed
- ▶ 2009 - Reopened Station 3 (Dinuba)
- ▶ 2010 - Opened new Station 17 (Badger)
- ▶ May 2015 - Created Battalion 3
- ▶ January 2016 - Staffed Station 21 (Terra Bella) with the first FAE's



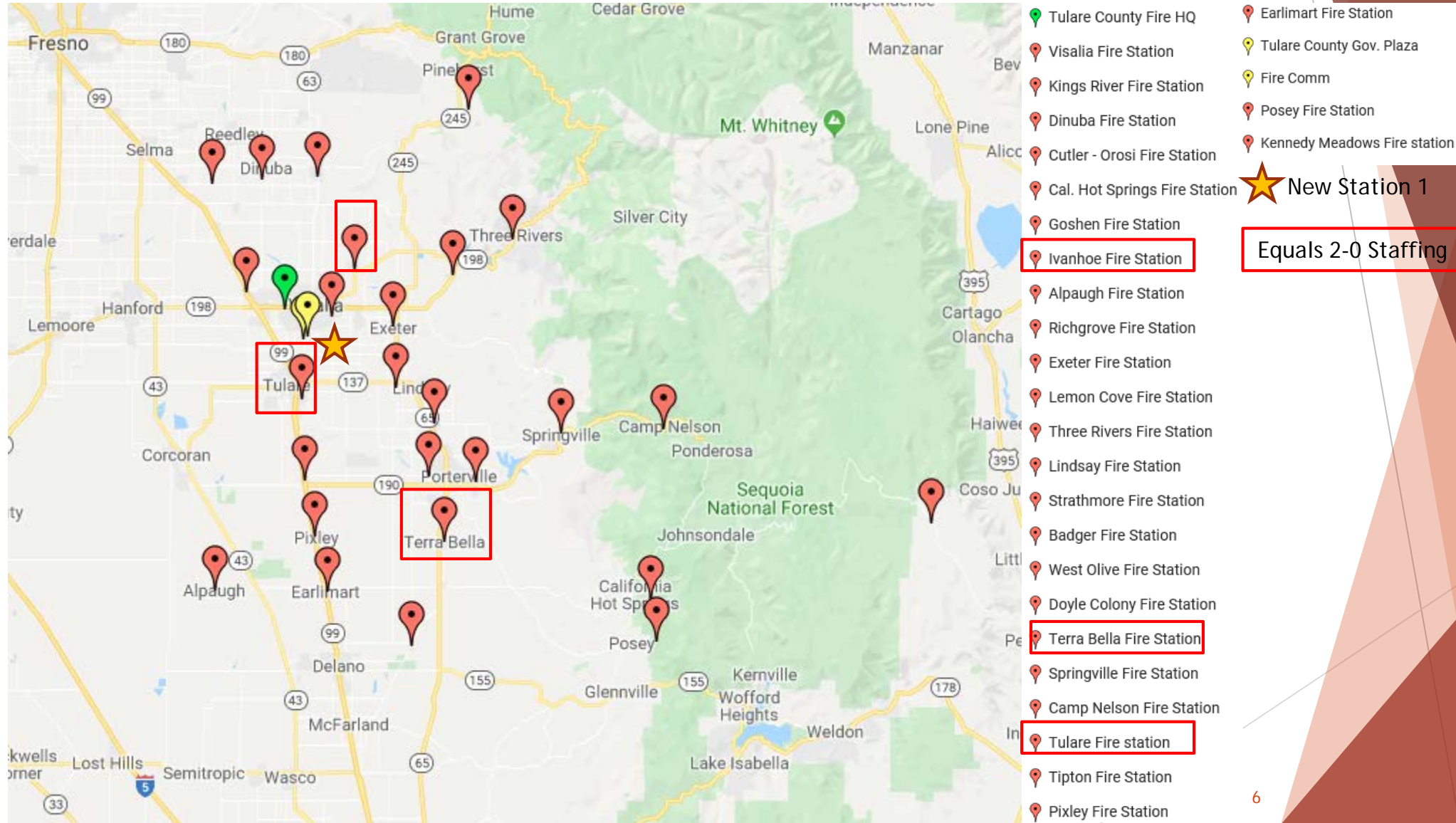
# History cont.

- ▶ September 2017 - Headquarters moved from Farmersville to Visalia Cigna building
- ▶ 2017 Staffed Station 25 (Tulare) with 2-0
- ▶ 2018 Staffed Station 8 (Ivanhoe) with 2-0
- ▶ April 2018 - Started 10 person Fuels Crew (removed 5,000 trees)
- ▶ 2018 - Hired 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Chief (Training)
- ▶ 2019 - Increased Fuels Crew staffing to 20 (removed 6,000 trees)
- ▶ 2019 - Staffed Station 7 (Goshen) and 4 (Cutler-Orosi) with 2-0





# Map of Fire Stations



# Successes/Forward Progress

- ▶ New Headquarters/Admin Facility
- ▶ Fire Station 1
- ▶ Dispatch co-located with TCSO at Akers location
- ▶ 2 Swift Water Rescue Teams
- ▶ Extrication Equipment - change from gas to electric
- ▶ Increased Suppression Staffing
- ▶ Positive Cultural Changes
  - ▶ Local Labor Market
  - ▶ Type III Incident Management Team
  - ▶ Refurbished Command Vehicle (HHSA)
  - ▶ Upgraded Fleet and Apparatus



For Immediate Release  
Fire Chief Charlie Norman  
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November 12, 2019

## Tulare County Fire Department awarded grant to buy new emergency response equipment

Tulare County, Calif. – Tulare County Fire Department was awarded a \$175,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the purchase of new extrication equipment that will be used to rescue crash victims. Known as the “jaws of life,” first responders use these rescue tools to break apart a wrecked vehicle with victims trapped inside. The tools help reduce the time it takes to rescue and treat crash victims.

So far this year, Tulare County Fire Department has responded to 1240 crashes in which 57 required extrication.

“This newer equipment is lighter and easier to use, allowing us to rescue victims faster, which ultimately increases their chances of survival,” said Tulare County Fire Department Fire Chief Charlie Norman. “In many cases, even minutes without treatment can be a matter of life and death, which is why it is important to have reliable equipment that allows first responders to provide care as quickly as possible.”

Delays in extrication can negatively impact the patient’s critical “golden hour” of trauma survivability. The “golden hour” for Emergency Medical Services is the core principle of rapid intervention in trauma cases: 1) get to the patient quickly, 2) treat what can be treated on scene, and 3) quickly get the patient to the right hospital. Anything that can be done to reduce each of these time periods aids in patient survival and recovery.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



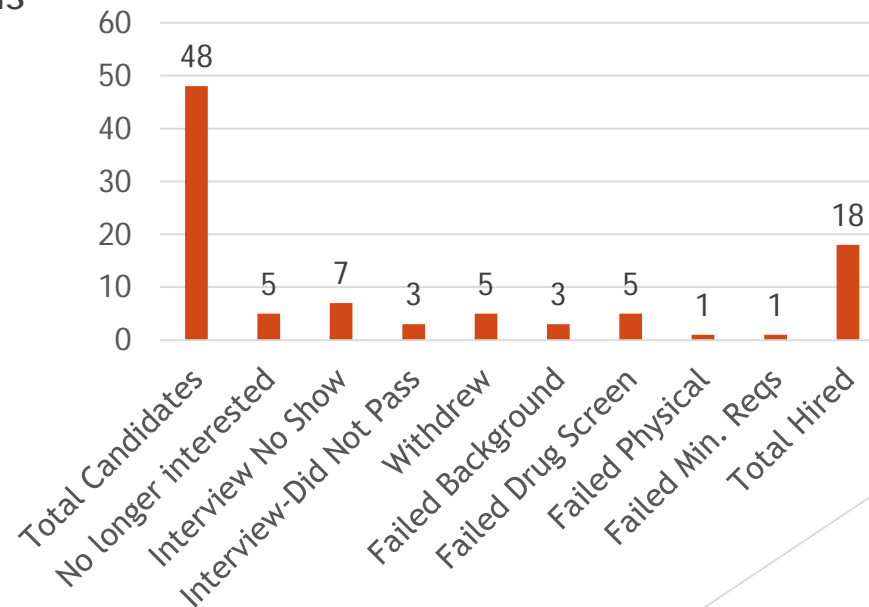


# Challenges

- ▶ Staffing
- ▶ Apparatus Replacement
- ▶ Fire Stations
- ▶ Extra Help (Volunteer) Firefighter Recruitment
- ▶ COVID-19
- ▶ Fire Station Apparatus Dimensions



2018 Extra Help Hiring



37.5% of total applicants were hired



# Major Incidents

- ▶ 2016 Cedar Fire - 29,000 acres burned (TC)
- ▶ 2017 Kings River Flood (TC)
- ▶ 2017 Pier Fire - 36,556 acres burned (TC)
- ▶ 2018 Camp Fire - 153,336 acres burned
- ▶ 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire - 459,123 acres burned
- ▶ 2019 Ridgecrest Earthquake
- ▶ 2019 Redbank Fire - 8,838 acres
- ▶ 2019 Kincadee Fire - 77,758 acres
- ▶ 2019 Briceburg Fire - 5,563 acres
- ▶ 2019 Preposition - Victorville
- ▶ 2019 Preposition - Napa
- ▶ 2019 Walker Fire - 54,612 acres
- ▶ 2019 Strathmore Flooding (TC)
- ▶ 2020 Library Incident
- ▶ 2020 COVID-19



# Operations

## ▶ Staffing

- ▶ 1 Division Chief
- ▶ 9 Battalion Chiefs
- ▶ 29 Captains
- ▶ 49 Lieutenants
- ▶ 12 FAE's
- ▶ 150 Extra Help
- ▶ 20 Seasonal Fire Fighters

## ▶ Focus

- ▶ Preservation of Life and Fire Suppression
- ▶ Emergency Disaster Planning
- ▶ Grant Writing

## 2019 Stats

Local Incidents: 14,589

Out-of-County Incidents: 7

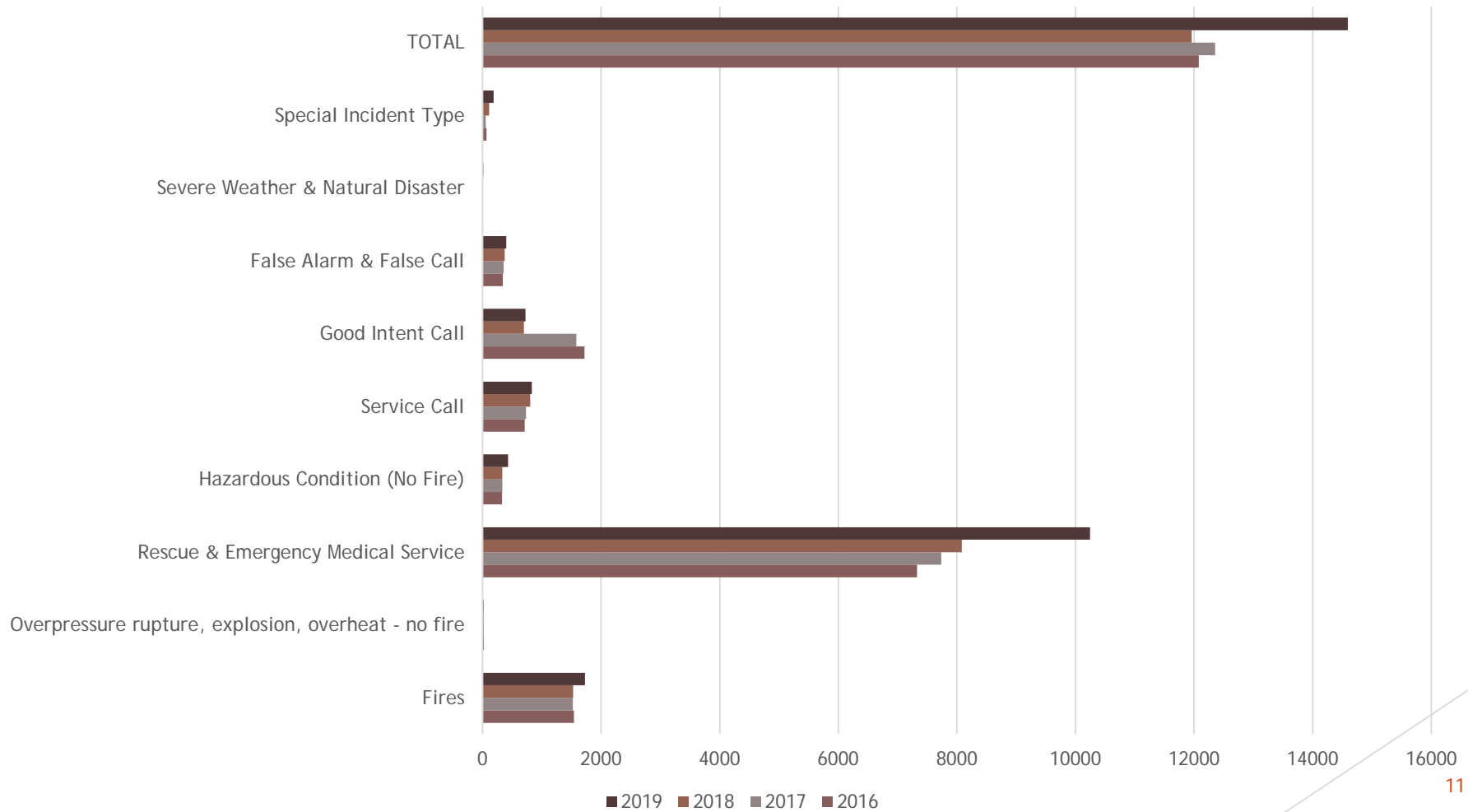
Grants Received: 5

Total Grant Funding: \$492,075



# Overall 17.21% increase in total call volume between 2016 and 2019

Prior Year Incident Comparison





# Professional Standards Unit & Prevention

## ▶ Staffing

- ▶ 1 Division Chief
- ▶ 2 Admin Captains
- ▶ 1 Admin Battalion Chief
- ▶ 4 Fire Inspectors
- ▶ 1 Office Assistant III
- ▶ 1 Emergency Dispatch Supervisor

## 2019 Stats

Hazard Abatement Notifications: 292

Admin Citations: 46

Total Amount of Citations Received :\$14,000

## ▶ Focus

- ▶ Public Education and Outreach
  - ▶ Downtown Heroes
  - ▶ Food Trucks and Fire Trucks
- ▶ Fireworks Safety
- ▶ Building Inspections
- ▶ Hazard Abatement
- ▶ Admin Citations
- ▶ Employee Accountability
- ▶ Pre-Employment Backgrounds



750 lbs. Illegal Fireworks Seized





# Training

- ▶ Staffing
  - ▶ 1 Division Chief
  - ▶ 2 Admin Captains
  - ▶ 1 Office Assistant III
- ▶ Focus
  - ▶ Realistic, Ongoing (Competency) and Verifiable Training driven by Operational Need
  - ▶ Compliance via National Standards and Federal and State Regulations
  - ▶ Disease and Infection Control
  - ▶ Full Time and Extra Help Academy Coordination
  - ▶ Developmental Training Opportunities
- ▶ Insurance Service Organization (ISO)

## 2019 Stats

Total Documented Training Hours for full time personnel: 38,594

Total Documented Training Hours for all Extra Help Suppression Fuels Crew personnel: 2,420

Two Full Time FAE Academies: 17 & 18



# Training Accomplishments

- ▶ Revised Credential Tracking to Insurance Service Organization Standards (ISO)
- ▶ Updated Lieutenant, Captain and Fire Apparatus Engineer Position Task Books
- ▶ Created and implemented a “Return to Work” policy for those coming off extended leave
- ▶ Revised all job descriptions working with Labor and Human Resources
- ▶ Updated FAE’s and Lieutenant Essential Job Function Analysis forms. Included entry level Academy Standards as well as a cognitive/behavioral portion
- ▶ Successfully applied for State Fire Training “Pace II” qualifications for our Driver Operator Instructors
- ▶ Renewed our agreement with National Park Service to host NWCG 100 and 200 level courses for our Department members.
- ▶ Hosted new State Fire Training Chief Officer courses at TCFD Headquarters

# Training Courses Hosted: 2019

## ▶ Open Classes/Courses Hosted

- ▶ O305 (All Hazards IMT Training)
- ▶ Hazardous Materials Incident Commander
- ▶ Driver Operator 1A
- ▶ Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations (LARRO)
- ▶ Swift Water Rescue Operations
- ▶ S270
- ▶ S219
- ▶ Chief Officer Series (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D)



## ▶ Internal Classes/Courses Hosted

- ▶ Public Safety First Aid Refresher x4
- ▶ CPR x4
- ▶ EMS Day x4
- ▶ First Due Command Basics x2
- ▶ Station Management x2
- ▶ Coordinated with TC OES to send 19 people to the following courses for EOC Certification:
  - ▶ IS-230d
  - ▶ IS-368
  - ▶ IS-632
  - ▶ IS-706
  - ▶ G-191
  - ▶ G-626
  - ▶ G-611

# Tree Mortality Task Force

- ▶ 29.2 million dead trees in Tulare County
- ▶ 129 million dead trees statewide
- ▶ 20 person local government task force
- ▶ Removing over 1,000 trees per month
- ▶ Since the start of tree mortality work, various crews have removed approximately 10,000 trees



## Completed Projects:

- Posey
- Parker Pass
- Pierce Valley
- Ponderosa
- Western Divide 2A
  - Balch Park
  - South Fork

## Upcoming Projects:

- Silver City
- Posey
- Camp Nelson





# Partnerships

## ▶ Internal Agencies

### ▶ Resource Management Agency

- ▶ Building Department
- ▶ Permit Center

### ▶ HHSA

- ▶ Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)
  - ▶ Department Operation Center/Joint Information Center
  - ▶ Hazardous Materials (CUPA)

### ▶ Tulare County District Attorney

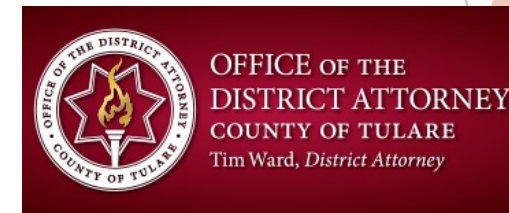
### ▶ Tulare County Office of Emergency Services

### ▶ Tulare County Sheriff

## ▶ Community Groups & Non-Government Stakeholders

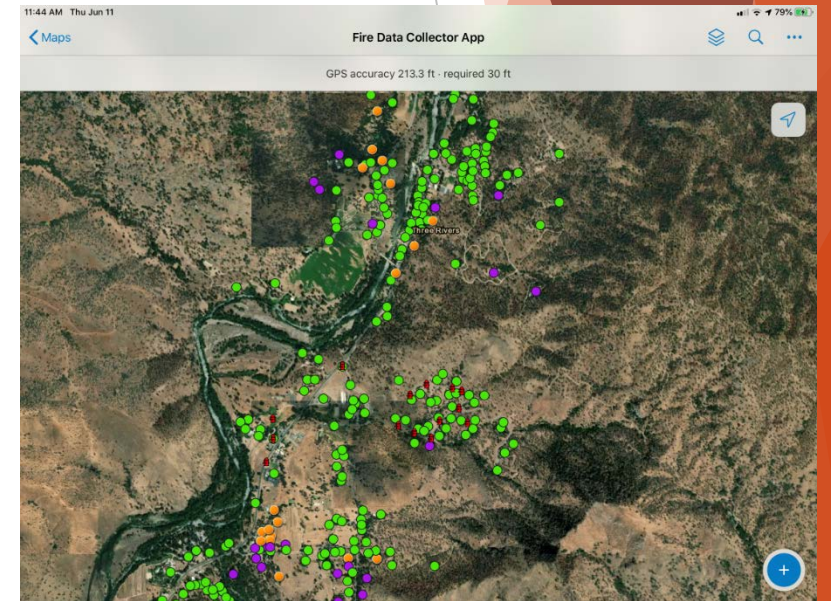
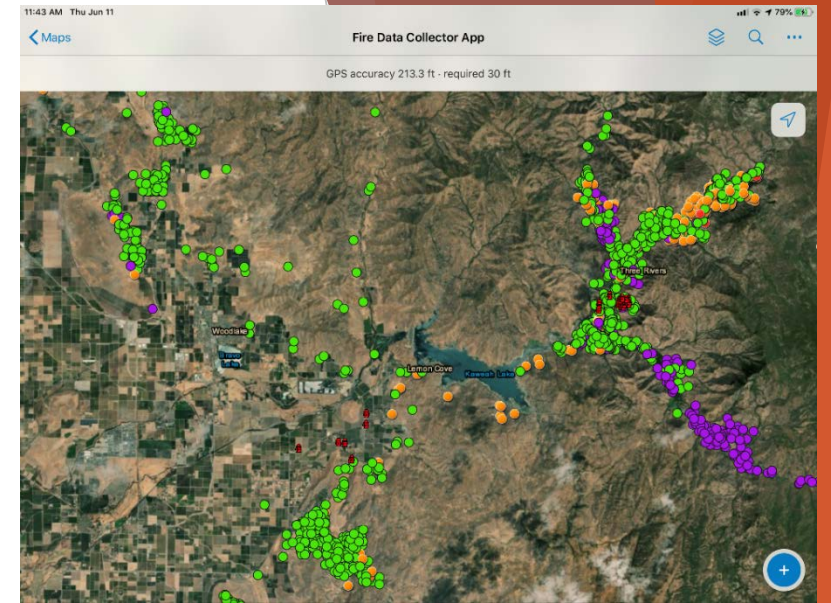
## ▶ Local Fire Agencies

- ▶ Regional HAZMAT Team
- ▶ Fire Investigators Strike Team (FIST)
- ▶ Master Mutual Aid
- ▶ Training Officers Association



# Innovation

- ▶ User friendly Tech
  - ▶ E911 App
  - ▶ Fox Trot Fire App (ESRI)
  - ▶ Situational Map (ESRI)
- ▶ InTime Staffing/Timekeeping
- ▶ Guardian Alliance Technologies - Backgrounds
- ▶ Extrication Equipment - change from gas to electric
- ▶ New Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)
- ▶ Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs)
- ▶ Type III to Station 13 (Lemon Cove)





# Community Service

- ▶ NARCAN
  - ▶ Opioid Epidemic
- ▶ Tree Mortality Crew
- ▶ Public Chipper Days ( X Days)
- ▶ Youth Fire Camps (4 total)
- ▶ Fundraising
  - ▶ March of Dimes
  - ▶ Fill the Boot (MDA)
  - ▶ Relay for Life
  - ▶ Alzheimer's Walk
- ▶ Open House Demos
- ▶ Community Meetings
- ▶ Battle of the Badges
- ▶ Holiday Outreach



Kitten  
safely  
rescued  
from a car  
engine



Earlimart Kids Fire Camp



Cutler-Orosi Kids Fire Camp

# Conclusion and Questions



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.