

# SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

A quick summary of our accomplishments and activities during 2019:

- We responded to 558 emergency calls, 3 calls more than 2018.
- Our staff responded to 295 medical emergency calls, 53% of our overall call volume.
  - ❖ We continue to participate in a region-wide prehospital care-provider group involving all of the area fire departments as well as the Tahoe Forest Hospital emergency department staff, Truckee-Tahoe Medical Group, Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows Ski Patrol and our local air ambulance providers. This group meets periodically to review specific calls and to collaborate in an effort to improve pre-hospital care and coordination throughout the area.
  - ❖ The working relationship between our personnel and the physicians who operate Truckee-Tahoe Medical Group is similarly mutually respectful, cooperative and complementary. TTMG's physicians are increasingly comfortable allowing our paramedics to handle cases that will be transferred to Tahoe Forest Hospital or Renown's trauma center.
  - ❖ SVFD received Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid 334 times from our neighboring departments, SVFD provided Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid to our neighboring departments 146 times in 2019. When we have staffing of 4 personnel or more, we are able to split the personnel and send one crew to our neighbors and keep one crew in our own district for calls and coverage.
- SVFD has a few members on the Truckee Tahoe Regional Technical Rescue Team that has proven to be a very valuable resource for our entire region. Our highly skilled members have been involved in some very unusual, often complicated technical rescues.
- Chief Riley will continue to provide assistance to the State of California Office of Emergency Services as the first alternate Operational Area Coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Basin Operational Area (XTB) as part Cal OES Region IV.
- The Fire Department staff continues to provide a very high level of service in a number of non-emergency services:
  - ❖ Commercial occupancy inspections are provided to 100% of businesses annually and are followed up with repeat inspections until any problems found are corrected.
  - ❖ Our defensible space program continues to be the most thorough and comprehensive of any fire department in the region. See Captain DeDeo's Prevention Report in the following pages.
  - ❖ We continued to provide Community CPR classes as well as delivering CPR and First Aid training to a number of local businesses including Plumpjack/Squaw Valley Inn, Squaw Valley Resort, Squaw Valley Academy, Red Wolf Lodge, Creekside Charter School and others. 22 different classes were taught in 2019 by SVFD.

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- ❖ Our child passenger safety program continues to be one of the most active and accessible agencies in this area.
- ❖ SVFD is working with members of the community and representatives of National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) to establish our district as a Firewise Community. The Firewise Program gets the community more involved in taking action and ownership for protecting their homes and community against the threat of wildfire.

When financially feasible, we recognize the need to get back to our minimum staffing level of 4 personnel, that we dropped down to minimum levels of 3 during the economic downturn of 2008, saving the department approximately \$100,000 in overtime costs. The minimum staffing level has never been more important, with members living further from the district and not available for callback. This is also true of our mutual aid neighbors, which is why we respond out of district more often and for longer periods of time.

United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) policy 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)(i) mandates 4 people on scene before a firefighter is allowed to enter an IDLH (immediately dangerous to life or health) atmosphere or fire. Staffing of 4 also gives us the ability to split crews, to run multiple apparatus or calls, for example sending 2 on an engine for mutual aid while 2 remain available in our own District.

Recruitment and retention is a challenge in the fire industry as a whole and we are very aware of the problem here at SVFD. Since implemented the financial plan to help our part time firefighters go to paramedic school, we currently have 2 part time firefighters taking advantage of the program. Succession planning is an ongoing process for every agency that strives to meet and exceed the expectations of its constituents and it is our goal to be prepared to meet the needs of our community. We anticipate hiring more part time firefighters this spring as well as promotional testing for all ranks in the FD. See Captain Chisholm's Training Report in the following pages.

2019 saw an ongoing demand for fire prevention for plan reviews, site inspections, code review/adoption and consultation with the Planning Department and Placer County with written comments and meetings regarding the 2019 California Fire Code Adoption as well as Placer County's new regulations on Short Term Rentals (STRs) and Vacation Home Rentals (VHRs). 2019 was a very busy year with several new and remodel residential homes as well as the Palisades Development and the Resort at Squaw Creek Phase II construction.

I am very proud of the organization that you have trusted me to lead. We have a great group of people and our skills and capabilities are better than ever and make a real difference in the life of the community we serve. (Our community often thanks us verbally, with snack treats or occasionally with letters of appreciation; please see some examples at the end of this report.) I am grateful to the Fire Department staff for their professionalism and enthusiasm, my talented and hard-working colleagues at the District, General Manager Mike Geary and your Board, which has shown tremendous support and confidence in the Fire Department. We love our jobs and appreciate your support and trust!

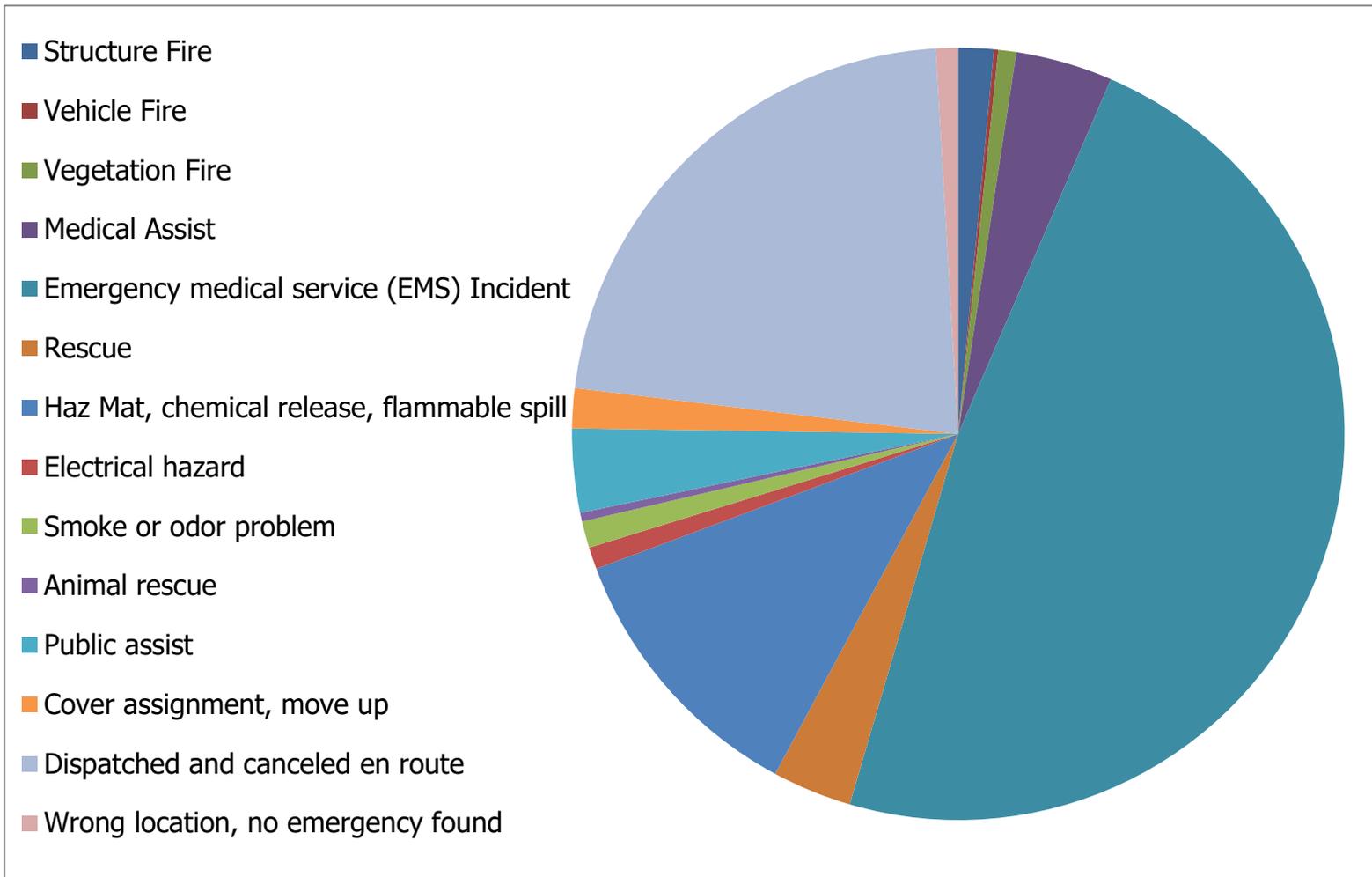
Thank you for another great year!



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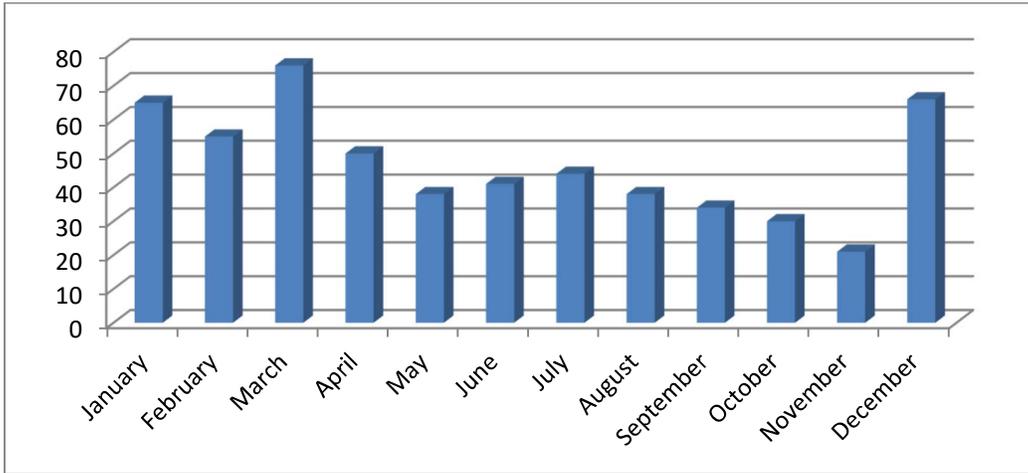
## Emergency Calls by Type – 2019

Structure Fire	8
Vehicle Fire	1
Vegetation Fire	4
Medical Assist	22
Emergency medical service (EMS) Incident	260
Rescue	18
Haz Mat, chemical release, flammable spill	62
Electrical hazard	5
Smoke or odor problem	6
Animal rescue	2
Public assist	19
Cover assignment, move up	9
Dispatched and canceled en route	120
Wrong location, no emergency found	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>

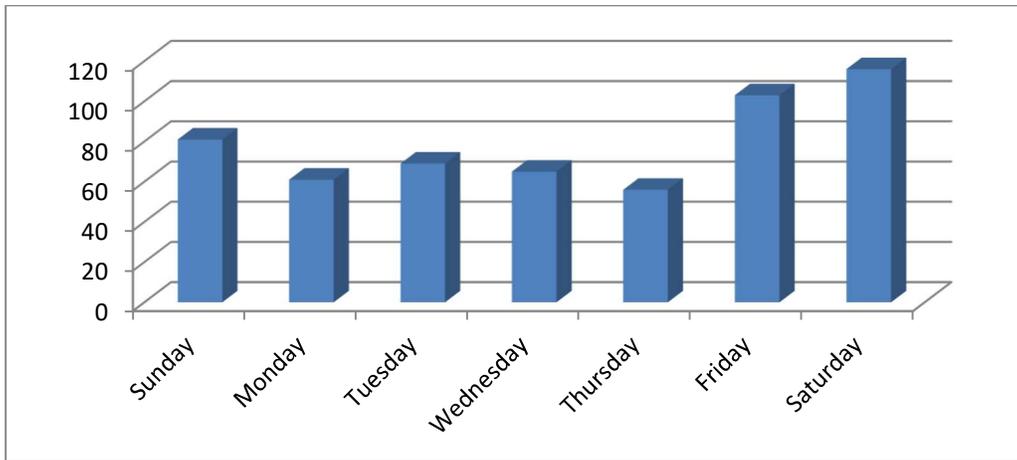


# SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

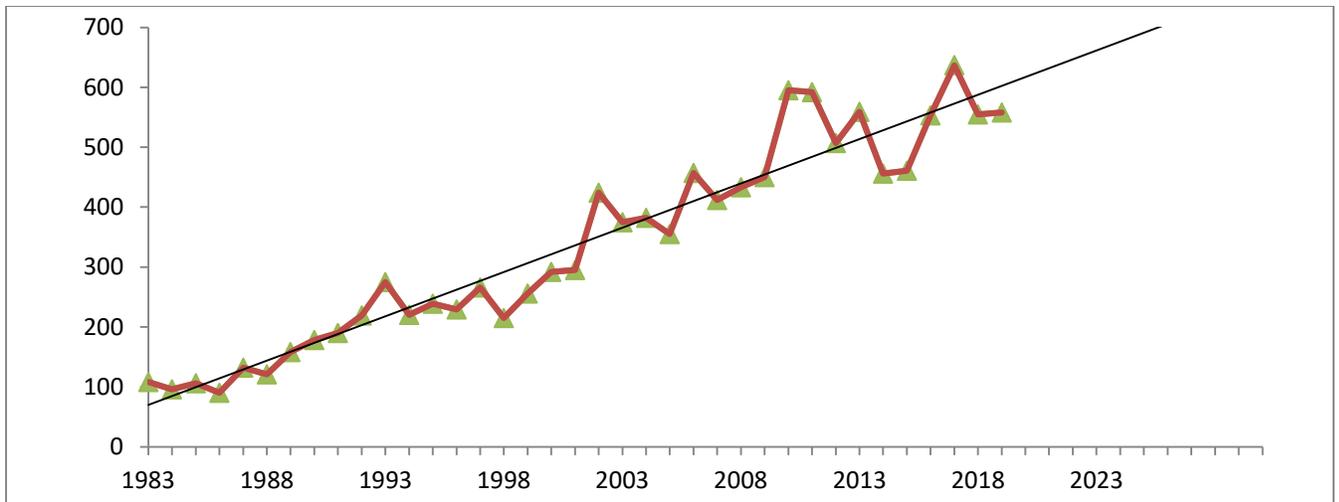
## Emergency Calls by Month – 2019



## Calls by Day of Week – 2019



## Historic Call Volume 1983 – 2019



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### Fire Department Fleet - 2019

Designator	Year	Description	Mileage
Engine 21	2016	All-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	10,296
Engine 221	2001	Two-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	21,060
Brush 21	2017	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	9,039
Brush 22	1998	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	35,555
Water Tender 21	1988	2100 gallon water tender/pumper	161,143
Rescue 21	2006	Medium rescue with vehicle extrication	10,296
Utility 21	2011	Ford F150 Crew Cab pickup truck	39,920
Command 21	2016	Ford Interceptor	42,403
Ranger 21	2014	Polaris Ranger Crew 900 UTV	858

### Fire Department Staff - 2019

Name	Years of Service
Captain Sal Monforte	38
Chief Allen Riley	26
Captain Chris DeDeo	24
Captain Brad Chisholm	22
Firefighter-Paramedic Travis Smith	19
Firefighter-Paramedic John Rogers	16
Firefighter-Paramedic Kurt Gooding	16
Engineer-Paramedic Hans Walde	14
Engineer-Paramedic Josh Rytter	13
Engineer-Paramedic Jeff Geigle	12
Firefighter-Paramedic Mike Wright	1.75
Firefighter-Paramedic Keith Erickson	1.5
Firefighter-Paramedic Scott Halterman	1.5
P/T Firefighter Leroy Valadez	3
P/T Firefighter Nicholas Cherne	1.5
P/T Firefighter Hunter Simons	1.5

## ***SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT***



### **2019 Annual Training Report**

Training for Squaw Valley Fire Department in 2019 continued the tradition of being thorough, resourceful and in-depth.

#### **Personnel:**

Part-Time Firefighters: We have three part-time firefighters who are all currently in various phases of paramedic school. Two of the three have selected to accept the Squaw Valley Fire Department paramedic incentive funds. All three will be eligible to test in our next round of hiring for full-time Firefighter. All part-time firefighters participated in the weekly training topic as they picked up shifts.

Firefighters: Our three junior firefighters all completed their probation in 2019. Two are now officially qualified to drive Class B apparatus with the other close behind. Once approved to drive Class B apparatus, they may begin preparing for the Acting Engineer test. All of our Firefighters qualify to take the next Engineer test.

Our senior Firefighters have been at this rank for many years, have tested multiple times for the Engineer position and are very well qualified for promotion. Given that our junior Firefighters will be eligible to test, it will allow for a broad group from which to compare KSA.

#### Engineers:

Similarly, all of our Engineers qualify to take the Captain test. In comparison to other local agencies, our members testing for the Captain promotion are exceptionally well suited.

#### Captains:

Our Captains have participated in a variety of significant classes in 2019. Of most significant were Captain DeDeo continuing to take Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement classes that have already proven very valuable for the Department, and I attended a Chief Officers Symposium in Fresno, helping me to better understand the many challenges that face the fire service today, as well as those specific to a "small" agency such as ours. I also completed a Fire Control 3A (Acquired Structure) instructor series which should lend itself well for our Department to play a role in our expanding regional training. It is nice to see officers continue to take classes to aid them in maintain their KSA.

We continue to use Target Solutions as a training platform to build, deliver, track and report training. A comprehensive training calendar that encompasses ISO, NFPA and CSFM was assigned to ensure consistency and uniformity in training.

**California State Fire Marshal:**

Over the past decade, State Fire Training has been working to bring their training into alignment with the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). As such, many changes occur every year and it can be challenging to keep up with. One place we've put in a lot of effort is in-house task books. These are intended to ensure our personnel meet state and federal standards, as well as meet Squaw Valley Fire Department progression and promotion standards, job descriptions and policies.

**Classes:**

Squaw Valley Fire Department personnel continue to take advantage of our generous class budget. In 2019, our personnel attended 35 Fire classes for a total of 861 hours. (Captains averaged 56 hours each, Engineers averaged 29 hours each, and Firefighters averaged 94 hours each).

**North Tahoe Training Officers' Association:**

After five years, on December 31<sup>st</sup> I stepped down as the North Tahoe Training Officers' Association (NTTOA) president. However, I'm still the Squaw Valley Fire Department representative to NTTOA.

NTTOA added two new training cadres this year - High Rise and Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC). The idea is to continue the successful regional approach used with Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue and Critical Incident Stress Management. High Rise and RIC were added to get a regional approach in place ahead of the proposed Regional Training Facility (see below) that will likely force the regional approach for these and many other topics. The other reason for these cadres is because we are seeing more two-person engine companies on incidents, yet many of the assignments necessitate more than two firefighters. So, training together, to the same guidelines and standards, is necessary.

NTTOA coordinated multiple regional trainings in 2019, including a regional wildland drill in Tahoe Donner that gathered regional fire and law enforcement agencies, members from the Town of Truckee, Tahoe Donner Association and local Community Emergency Response Teams.

**Training Facility:**Local:

While SVFD personnel continue to be diligent about performing manipulative training, being creative on where to train is often the biggest challenge. In that past we had been able to use 1810 (training props in bay four, or use the upstairs rooms), but those are no longer available. We recently conducted a training to simulate extricating a victim from a second story room onto a ladder. Because improvising is something we are always forced to do during training, we employed a structure that, after an initial inspection, turned out not to be structurally sound. This resulted in a partial collapse of a railing on which the ladder was resting. Had the precaution of tying off the ladder not been taken, the ladder would have fallen to the ground while a firefighter was on it. To stay relevant and effective in our profession, we must perform manipulative training on many topics. The problem is, without any type of training facility on which to throw ladders, pull hose, flow water, breach walls, extricate victims, force entry, ventilate windows or roofs, etc., we are

simply theorizing, not training. We are desperately in need of a place, with a variety of simple props, on which to conduct realistic training evolutions. Some ideas that would help address this include putting the LPG tanks at 305 underground and placing shipping containers there; shipping containers on the utility garage at 305; shipping containers at the backside of 1810; and restored access to bay four at 1810.

A fire industry motto is “train like it’s the real thing.” We are currently unable to do this. As a result, we do not serve our constituents to the industry standard and we risk the safety of our personnel during training and on incidents.

#### Regional:

This is still in the talking phase, but Truckee-Tahoe Airport is very supportive and are working with local fire agencies to facilitate bringing online a large, modern multi-use regional training facility. If (yes, that’s a big IF) everything comes together, there is a chance we’ll begin excavating this summer. Even once we break ground, this will still be a multi-year project.

The vision of build-out would be a three-story tower that accommodate Class A and Class B fuels, high angle rescue props, roof/ceiling props, FDC, etc., with ground level props including aircraft, railroad, trench, confined space and LPG. We also envision a fully functional classroom, lockers, storage dedicated apparatus, equipment and props.

This facility would be a game changer for local fire Departments. It would allow for routine multi-company/multi-agency trainings, local fire academies and to even host State Fire Training classes.

#### **Insurance Services Office (ISO):**

2019 was interesting in the fact that Squaw Valley Fire Department was audited by ISO. ISO collects and evaluates information on public fire protection and the adoption and enforcement of building codes for insurance underwriting.

A significant part of the ISO audit is centered around training. As a result of this audit, we learned some important and beneficial strategies that helped us in this and future audits as well as collecting annual training hours. We are confident in our training platform and are eager to see what rating ISO assigns.

#### **2020:**

In the year ahead we will continue to use Target Solutions as our training platform to log, track, build and assign training. We will work to build KSA in our newly promoted personnel as well as our soon to be hired part-time firefighters. We will continue to encourage and support our members to take State Fire Marshall classes and peruse career advancement opportunities. We will remain diligent and creative in our approach to training and remain hopeful that a regional training facility breaks ground over the summer.

While we do have challenges with training however, we recognize the accommodations we are afforded as well. We are grateful for the support of Chief Riley, the General Manager and the Board of Directors. We work hard to meet the needs of our community and appreciate the support we receive in this effort.

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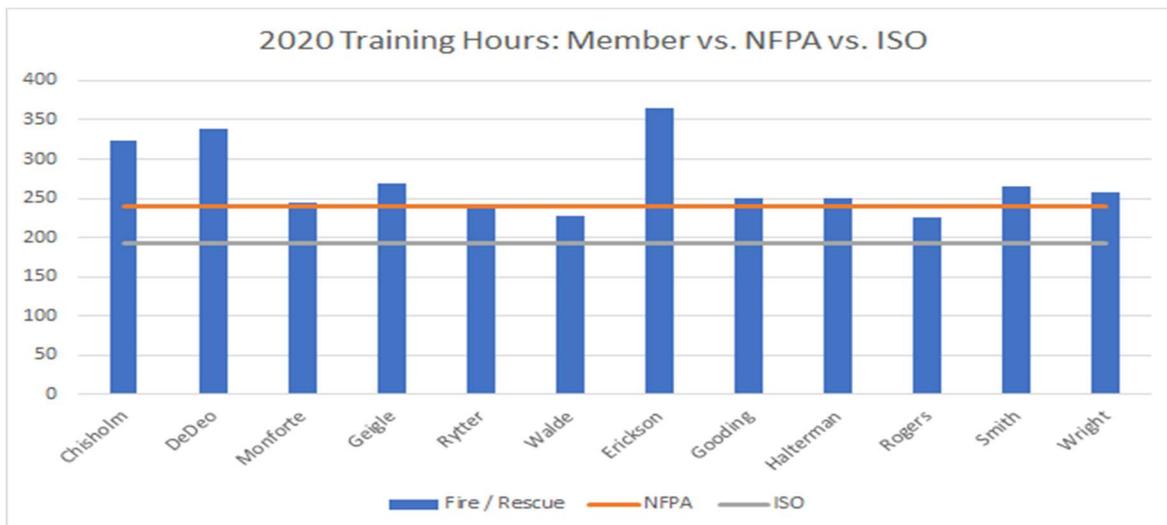


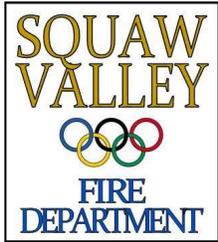
★ TRAINING ★

## SVFD Training Hours vs. Mandates:

ISO: Requires 192 hours annually of fire related training.

NFPA: Requires 240 total hours of training.





# SQUAW VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVENTION REPORT

A quick summary of our fire prevention and community activities during 2019:

### **Defensible Space Inspections**

Squaw Valley Fire Department - working at the engine company level - inspected 100% of our residential community for defensible space. After the first round of inspections and mailed notices, 70% of the homes were in compliance, increasing to about 82% following the second notice.

We had wildland fire information at the annual pancake breakfast, the District website and information on social media such as Facebook. We coordinated a defensible space cleanup day in June that was well attended. We wrote a number of letters and did specific home inspections to help property owners maintain their homeowners insurance. We have been encouraging home owners, HOA's and property management companies over the last few years to work towards becoming a Firewise Community. I am happy to say that we are now in the application phase and hoping to become a Firewise community by late spring. We have great support for our long-standing and successful defensible space program. As a result of our Defensible Space Program and the awareness of the informed citizens of our community regarding open fire pits, barbeques and general fire safe practices our community did not experienced any property loss due to wildland fires last year.

### **Commercial Occupancy Inspections**

The Squaw Valley Fire Department fire prevention program includes annual and periodic inspection of all buildings used for commercial purposes, education, places of assembly, apartments, condominiums and hotels within the SVFD service area. The goal of the program is to identify and abate any unsafe conditions, promote a safer environment within these establishments and also allowing SVFD line personnel to familiarize themselves with the layout of the buildings in the event of an incident. We also inspect temporary tent structures, firework displays, underground and above ground propane tanks installations, residential and commercial sprinkler installations, and standpipe systems. Most of the residential and commercial plan checks relating to the fire department are done by Chief Riley. Squaw Valley Fire Department engine company inspections covered every commercial business in the district, (over 130) helping to keep our pre-fire plans up to date and fire losses to a minimum. Multiple fire alarm evacuation drills were performed at Squaw Valley Academy as well as Creekside Charter School including the addition of nighttime drills. SVFD currently has 5 CPR instructors

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who spent 58 hours teaching 22 classes for a total of 83 students. SVFD also held a fire extinguisher class for a group of Resort at Squaw Creek employees.

We maintain positive and cooperative working relationships with business owners and property management companies in the District and we work hard to be a resource for them and the public.

### **2020 Objectives**

We will continue to focus on dead trees, vacant lots and maintaining properties once in compliance. All commercial occupancies will again be inspected and updated on pre-fire plans. We are currently using a digital platform for all commercial inspections and wildland defensible space inspections. Captain De Deo and Engineer Jeff Geigle are now California State Fire Inspector 1 certified. We will continue to support the Firewise committee in their goal to becoming a registered Firewise community. The increasing focus and demand on Prevention is requiring more man hours and training that are necessary to continue to provide our community with the current level of fire prevention and community services. The shift crews are able to do engine company inspections working around their daily routine, training and running of emergency incidents, a lot of the prevention work around permits and special events are time sensitive and can be difficult to accomplish in the requested timeframes. One possible solution is the allocation of overtime for line staff to come in off duty to help complete this prevention related work. This would allow more time during regular duty hours for daily maintenance, shift training, daily tasks, special projects and responses to emergency incidents. The best solution and the norm with most fire departments would be to have a full-time Fire Prevention Officer on staff.

To My Amazing Rescuers!

I cannot express my feelings of relief once I saw your team come up the trail to help me! you immediately made me feel I was in good hands + all would be taken care of. Professional, caring - reassuring - exactly what I needed!

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I'm sorry I don't remember all of my rescuers names - I think Jessie was the first + who started the IV + pain relief. Thank you to all of you! My boyfriend, ... + I are most grateful to you. I'm on the mend after surgery + 2 nights at the Kanoe Forest Hospital. I hope to be hiking again in not too distant future. I hope this small token of gratitude can be put to use!

Sincerely,  
(8/1/19 - Shirley Lake Trail)

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## Mt. Shasta Rescue 8-31-19

[REDACTED]@CHP [REDACTED]

Tue 9/3/2019 1:26 PM

To: Allen Riley <ariley@svpsd.org>

Chief Riley,

Scott Halterman assisted us with a rescue on Saturday, August 31, 2019 on Mt. Shasta. Without his assistance, the packaging and subsequent hoist would have been significantly more difficult. Below is the activity log for our management. Normally, we would make a Facebook post about the incident, thanking Scott, but since the subject passed away we elected not to.

**\*Siskiyou County Sheriff's Deputy Burns requested H-16 crew for a rescue on Mt. Shasta at Casaval Ridge. Two hikers came upon a member of their party who had suffered an unwitnessed fall and had major injuries to his head. H-16 crew launched from Benton with Officer Hatcher as a three person crew. H-16 arrived overhead, located the party, and landed at Mercy Mt. Shasta to configure for the hoist. H-16 launched from Mercy, returned to the scene and lowered Officer Hatcher with the Baumann Bag down to the patient. An off-duty Squaw Valley Fire Department Paramedic, Scott Halterman [REDACTED] happened to be on scene and provided limited BLS care. Due to the acute slope, the patient, Baumann bag and flat board had to be anchored via webbing to an ice axe to keep from sliding down the slope. Officer Hatcher packaged the patient with the assistance of Medic Halterman and H-16 hoisted the patient from the scene at approximately 11,000 feet MSL. H-16 transported the patient to Mercy Mt. Shasta and returned to collect Officer Hatcher.\***

I want to commend him for his willingness to assist a person in need, his composure in an intense situation and his capacity to work with me in an arena that may or may not be inside his comfort zone. I even tried to get him to come to the dark side and join the CHP, but he stayed strong! I want to personally thank him again and let you know he represented The Squaw Valley Fire Department extremely well.

Jeff Hatcher, Training Flight Officer



California Highway Patrol  
Northern Division Air Operations  
2651 Gold Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
530-225-2040

To Chief Riley and the fire department,

On December 14<sup>th</sup> I had a surprise heart attack. With the help of my Apple watch and my wife's 911 call, the Squaw Valley fire department rapidly responded. Recognizing I was in trouble and monitoring my vitals, the decision was timely made that I should be flown to Renown Hospital from Tahoe Forest Hospital. My wife, who had been given directions to Renown by the department as a potential destination, drove to Reno. The care given by the Squaw Valley fire department and Renown was impressive.

Thank you Squaw Valley fire department for your life saving efforts. Captain Sal and his crew were quick and efficient responders and excellent with emergency care.

*THANK YOU*

Dear Firefighters & EMS,

Thank you for helping us last night when my husband was ill. We greatly appreciate your timeliness in getting to us and getting him safely to Tahoe Forest Hospital. He is doing just fine & we are so grateful.

\$ 5.00



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

TO:

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■ KI-22 - Kate Abraham