



OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

A quick summary of our accomplishments and activities during 2020:

- We responded to 507 emergency calls, 52 calls less than 2019.
- The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on OVFD's operations. March, April, and May saw a large drop in call volume during the "stay at home orders". Our staff responded to 245 medical emergency calls, 48% of our overall call volume.
 - ❖ OVFD received Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid 376 times from our neighboring departments, OVFD provided Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid to our neighboring departments 128 times in 2020. OVFD's crews spent a total of 67 days on 9 large campaign fires throughout the state as part of the Master Mutual Aid Program.
- OVFD 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.

Olympic Valley Fire Department had a challenging year in 2020 dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic (both administratively and operationally), a long arduous wildland season and an unexpected and sudden name change. I credit the great team of firefighters and administrative staff for getting us through the year with minimal difficulties. When you see us out on the street you will notice new patches, badges, door logos and lettering on the back of our "turnouts", reflecting our new name.

We implemented a seasonal firefighter program this winter that has been a great success and look forward to extending that program into the summer season. The seasonal firefighters are not full-time benefited employees, they work full time during a 4-month time frame during our busy times. The main goal of the program is to have 5 people scheduled on shift with a minimum on 4 people on duty (5/4 staffing). 5/4 staffing means even if one person is out (class, sick, vacation, etc.) there is still a minimum of 4 people on duty to comply with federal staffing standards and the ability to split the crew for running multiple calls at the same time.

Recruitment and retention are a challenge in the fire industry as a whole and we are very aware of the problem here at OVFD. 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. This seasonal program gives the crews the opportunity to get to know the employee's knowledge, skills, and abilities as well as their overall fit with the organization. We are looking forward to training and mentoring these seasonal firefighters for potential future full-time positions.

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OVFD is aware and shares the Board's and community's desire to implement a fuels management program and fuels project work. These programs are labor intensive, and our resources are being stretched to take on more work. The three shifts share a lot of the department administrative duties on top of their first responder operational duties.

- Captain Josh Rytter (A-Shift) is OVFD's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director, making sure all personnel are up to date and compliant with all regulatory agencies with policy, protocols, and EMS trainings. Captain Rytter is also the Fleet and Facilities Manager, keeping our buildings and equipment in service and maintained.
- Captain Chris DeDeo (B-Shift) is OVFD's Prevention Officer overseeing much of the prevention work of the department. Captain DeDeo assists the Chief in Plan Review, LPG, sprinkler, building finals and short-term rental inspections for residential homes. Captain DeDeo also schedules and inspects (with assistance from the other 2 shifts) over 100 commercial business as well as defensible space inspections (approximately 900 single family residences, 22 residential hotel/timeshare/condominium complexes, all vacant parcels and open spaces) in the Valley and Truckee River Corridor, all of which often take multiple inspections before meeting compliance.
- Captain Chisholm (C-Shift) is OVFD's Training and Safety Officer and makes sure we are complying and up to date with a wide variety of state and federally mandated trainings and coordinates with outside agencies to implement mutually beneficial trainings. Captain Chisholm updates all monthly and yearly trainings, task books and career track and specialty training guidance for all OVFD staff members.

See their reports on the following pages. The crews work 48 hour shifts followed by 4 days off (48/96 work schedule), the shifts first priority is to train for and respond to emergencies. Much of their day is planned for training (average 2 hours per day to meet minimum standards), routine station and equipment maintenance and cleaning, engine company inspections, shift specific projects, individual collateral duties, community trainings or classes, running calls and writing reports (every fire and/or medical call requires a written report to be submitted to oversight agencies). OVFD crews stay very busy during their 48 hours shifts and make the most of the available time getting the department's needs met.

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. 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!

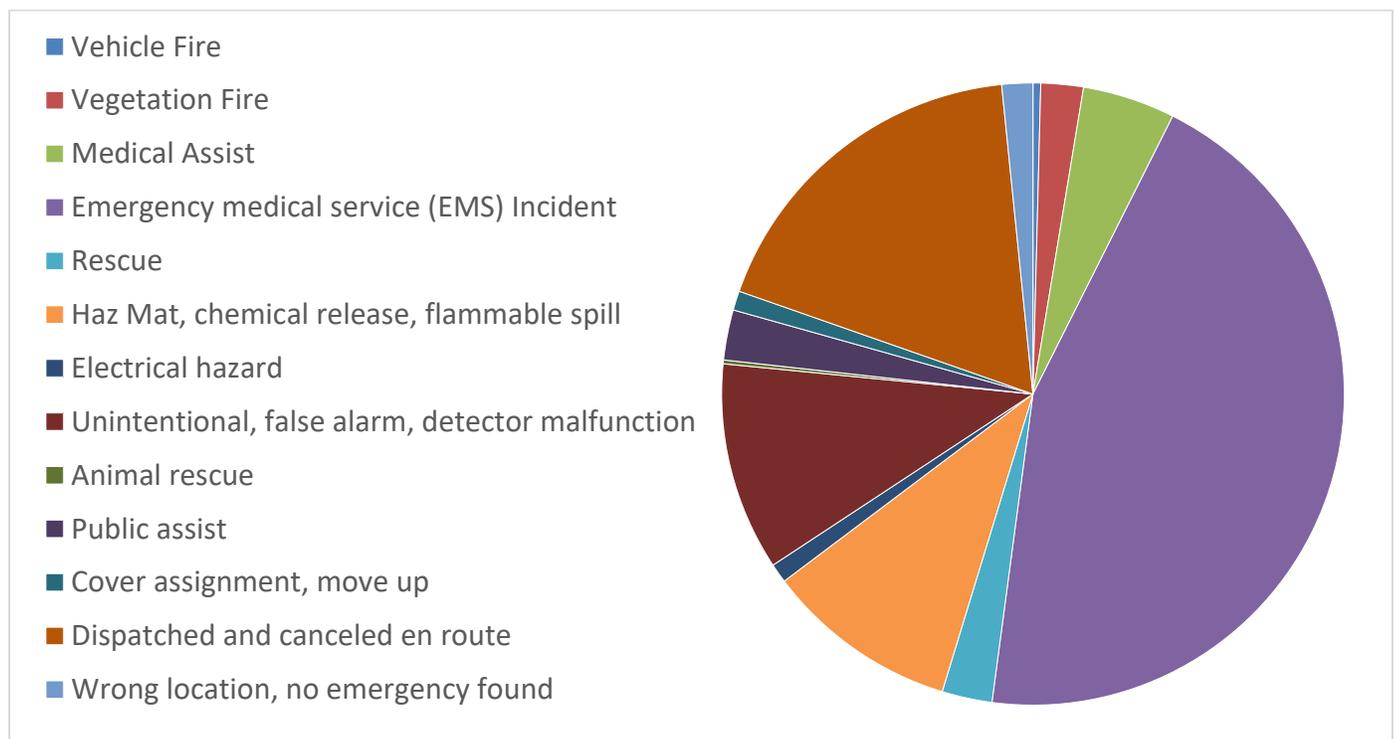
Thank you for another great year!



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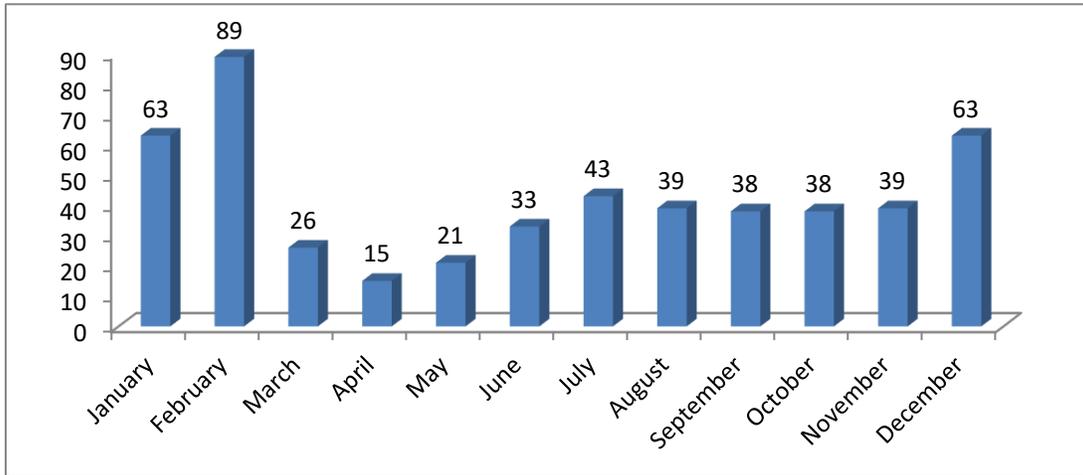
Emergency Calls by Type – 2020

Structure Fire	8
Vehicle Fire	2
Vegetation Fire	11
Medical Assist	23
Emergency medical service (EMS) Incident	222
Rescue	14
Haz Mat, chemical release, flammable spill	50
Electrical hazard	5
Unintentional, false alarm, detector malfunction	54
Animal rescue	1
Public assist	12
Cover assignment, move up	5
Dispatched and canceled en route	90
Wrong location, no emergency found	8
Total	507



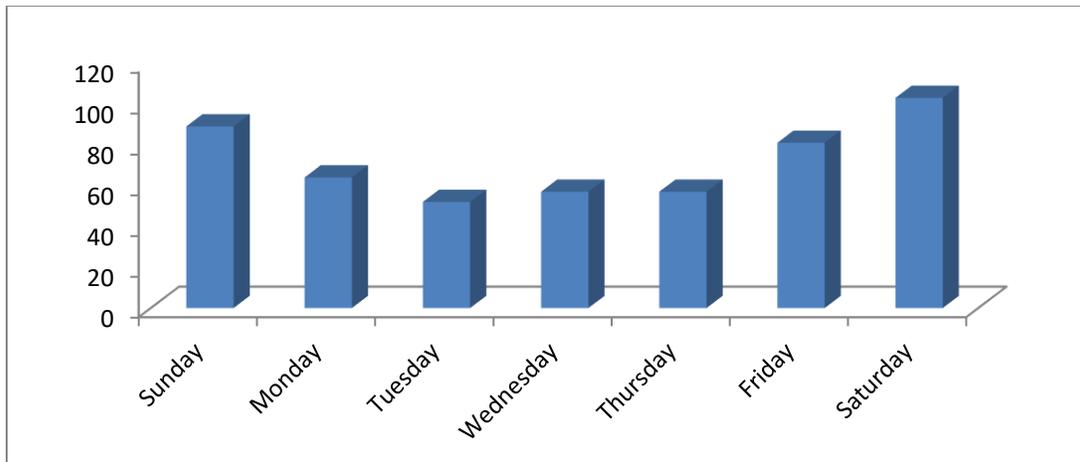
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Emergency Calls by Month – 2020



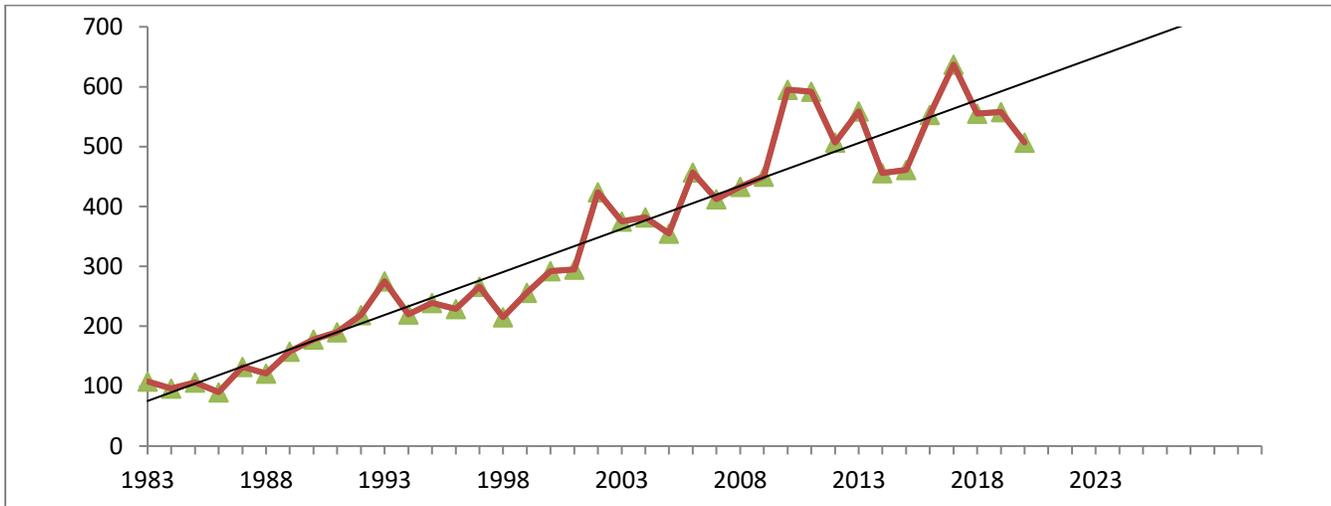
Notice the drop in call volume starting in mid-March, at the beginning of the initial “Lockdown” during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Calls by Day of Week – 2020



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Historic Call Volume 1983 – 2020



Fire Department Staff - 2020

Name	Years of Service
Chief Allen Riley	27
Captain Chris DeDeo	25
Captain Brad Chisholm	23
Firefighter-Paramedic Travis Smith	20
Firefighter-Paramedic John Rogers	17
Firefighter-Paramedic Kurt Gooding	17
Engineer-Paramedic Hans Walde	15
Engineer-Paramedic Josh Rytter	14
Engineer-Paramedic Jeff Geigle	13
Firefighter-Paramedic Mike Wright	3
Firefighter-Paramedic Keith Erickson	3
Firefighter-Paramedic Scott Halterman	3
Firefighter-Paramedic Leroy Valadez	4
P/T Firefighter Nicholas Cherne	3
P/T Firefighter Hunter Simons	3
Seasonal Firefighter Jerrad Mionnor	.5
Seasonal Firefighter Luke Daum	.5
Seasonal Firefighter Nick Kushner	.5

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2020 Annual EMS, Fleet, and Facilities Report

Captain Josh Rytter (A-Shift)

Olympic Valley Fire Department responded to 245 emergency medical services (EMS) incidents last calendar year. Personnel provided timely and professional emergency care to the community and its constituents. All this while maintaining the health and well-being of staff, especially challenging during the current pandemic. Supplies and medications were in high demand and shortages were routine. We were able to maintain our high level of service and most of the shortages did not have an impact on the fire department. We continue to participate in a region-wide prehospital care-provider group involving all the area fire departments as well as the Tahoe Forest Hospital emergency department staff, TFH Medical Clinic, Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows Ski Patrol, and our local air ambulance providers. This group meets periodically to review specific calls and to collaborate to improve pre-hospital care and coordination throughout the area. TTMG was absorbed by Tahoe Forest Health System, staffing remains much the same as it was under TTMG. The working relationship between our personnel and the physicians who operate Tahoe Forest Medical Clinic is similarly mutually respectful, cooperative, and complementary. OVFD, along with our FD neighbors, continues to work with Placer County, Nevada County and Tahoe Forest Hospital to help facilitate the Regional Vaccination Clinic at Sierra College in Truckee.

The fire department continues to research ambulance transport options for the near future. Providing ambulance transport will elevate our level of service to the community and provide our medics with more time to perform interventions and interact with patients. Olympic Valley Fire Department works under Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS agency (SSV) for medical direction. SSV updates the region with current policies, protocols, and practices. The fire department EMS Coordinator distributes and provides training to personnel on the constantly changing material. Our paramedics need a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education (CE's) and EMT's need 12 hours annually. These mandatory trainings are incorporated in our daily schedule and our required for our license renewal and are in addition to the required fire training hours. The fire department was able to stay updated and current during dynamic times and stay within budget for our EMS/Paramedic program.

Fleet and Facility maintenance ensure the highest quality of service, efficiency, and reliability of vehicles and equipment. Most of the repairs and preventative maintenance occur in-house by fire department personnel. Neighboring departments have full-time mechanics that lend a hand when it is above our capability. We maintain nine apparatus and numerous tools to remain in a state of readiness. The fire department has an annual inspection program by an independent mechanic. His report includes trends and a detailed list of items that need to be addressed prior to failure. This program is cost effective in catching items for repair prior to catastrophic failure. We continue to monitor asset replacement funds and research the most economical replacement options. Water Tender 21 is 33 years old and scheduled to be replaced next fiscal year. Numerous manufactures have been contacted to inquire about inventory that would fit our needs and capabilities. General maintenance of the facilities is continually ongoing. Like fleet maintenance, most of the repairs occur by shift personnel while working around their daily routine and in between emergency incidents. Sections of the interior lighting has failed and is slowly being upgraded to LED. The goal is to retrofit all the lighting to LED in the future.

Sincerely,
Josh Rytter

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Fire Department Fleet - 2020

Designator	Year	Description	Mileage
Engine 21	2016	All-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	16,060
Engine 221	2001	Two-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	35,937
Brush 21	2017	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	13,850
Brush 22	1998	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	35,590
Water Tender 21	1988	2100 gallon water tender/pumper	161,297
Rescue 21	2006	Medium rescue with vehicle extrication	11,314
Utility 21	2011	Ford F150 Crew Cab pickup truck	43,167
Command 21	2016	Ford Interceptor	46,462
Ranger 21	2014	Polaris Ranger Crew 900 UTV	916

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2020 Annual Prevention Report

Captain Chris De Deo (B-Shift)

Defensible Space Inspections

Olympic Valley Fire Department - working at the engine company level – completed our first round of defensible space inspections on 100% of our district's single family and condominium residences in Olympic Valley proper in June. After the first round of inspections and mailed notices, approximately 75% of the homes were in compliance. However, due to the lack of manpower, second inspections and the river corroder were not 100% completed and followed up selectively. Our defensible space program continues to be one of the most thorough and comprehensive programs of any fire department in the region.

OVFD supported residents by writing letters to help property owners maintain their homeowner's insurance. Additionally, OVFD reached out to the community residents by posting wildland fire information on the District website, in local newspapers and on social media. The fire danger rating sign was staged in front of the station to inform the public of the day's fire danger. OVFD also worked with members of the community and representatives of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) to establish our district as a Firewise Community. A defensible space cleanup day was coordinated with the Firewise members in June that was well attended.

The Firewise Program gets the community involved in taking action and ownership for protecting their homes and community against the threat of wildfire, with a focus on defensible space and “home hardening”. David Stepner and Mike Carabetta were the driving force in our district's certification along with the efforts of many other community members. OVFD worked with several condominium associations to meet the Firewise recommendations on vegetation management and fire resistive construction. OVFD's Fire Prevention and Defensible Space Program educated the community regarding open fire pits, barbeques, and general fire safe practices and as a result, did not experience any property loss due to wildland fires last year.

OVFD also worked with Placer County and other local fire departments on short-term rental (STR) and defensible space ordinances and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for both programs. STR inspections began this winter, and we anticipate the need to complete approximately 150 inspections this year. Because inspections are done at the engine company level, we are only scheduling four STR's per day on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Commercial and Residential Occupancy Inspections

The Olympic Valley Fire Department – working at the engine company level – is responsible for: inspecting ALL buildings used for commercial purposes, places of assembly, apartments, condominiums, schools, and hotels within the OVFD service area. We are also responsible for: inspecting temporary tent structures, firework displays, underground and above ground propane tank installations, residential and commercial sprinkler installations, and standpipe systems. All plan checks relating to the fire department are done by Chief Riley.

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The goal of our inspection program is to identify and abate any unsafe conditions and promote a safer environment within the establishments. Additionally, it also allows OVFD line personnel to familiarize themselves with the layout of the buildings in the event of an incident and to update Pre-Fire Plans. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, from March to December, our inspection program was limited to the CA State Fire Marshal's Office mandated occupancies.

In addition to our Prevention Program duties, OVFD conducted fire alarm evacuation drills with Lake Tahoe Preparatory School and Creekside Charter School. We teach classes to the public and have five certified instructors that teach CPR, Heart Saver, Heart Saver BLS, First Aid and AED. OVFD is also the only fire department in the Tahoe-Truckee area certified for car seat installations. We continue to remain a reliable resource for the community while maintaining positive and cooperative working relationships with business owners and property management companies in the District.

2021 Objectives

OVFD is working on using a digital platform for all inspections. We will be starting a new wildland defensible space inspection platform this spring, managed by Cal Fire. The focus will remain on dead trees, vacant lots and maintaining properties once in defensible space compliance. All commercial occupancies will be scheduled for inspections this year and updated on our pre-fire plans. OVFD will continue to support the Firewise committee in their goal to better prepare our community against wildfire threats.

Prevention Officer workload

With the continuing increase and demand on Prevention it is evident that more labor hours and training are necessary to provide our community with the current level of service. OVFD Prevention Program often falls behind our expected goals due to the lack of a dedicated Prevention / Risk Reduction Officer (RRO).

Chief Riley approves the allocation of overtime for line staff to come in off-duty to complete prevention related work however, family, and personal commitments have proven this difficult for the line staff to accomplish.

A full-time Fire Prevention / RRO could be tasked with the majority of commercial inspections, STR's, defensible space, and help Chief Riley with the many types of residential inspections listed above. A Prevention / RRO would also be the department coordinator for all on-going, long-term projects with Firewise, USFS and Cal Fire, to name a few. Additionally, the Prevention / RRO position would benefit the line staff by freeing up time for their ongoing station projects, vehicle and equipment maintenance, education as well as the continuous addition of company trainings that contribute to our Insurance Services Office (ISO) 2 rating.

Sincerely,
Chris De Deo

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2020 Annual Training Report Captain Brad Chisholm (C-Shift)

Training for Olympic Valley Fire Department in 2020 was challenging, but we were resourceful and remained productive.

COVID-19:

Manipulative Classes:

COVID-19 had a significant impact on our approach to training. Up until very recently, we have only been able to participate very limited remote training. This has forced us to perform in-house training almost exclusively.

Classroom Settings:

While some very select classes were offered virtually, the large training symposiums we frequent for in-person classes were cancelled. A few organizations such as IAFF, IAFC, WFCFA and Lexapol, offered webinar discussions, but taking a SFM class was essentially not possible.

Classes:

In 2020, 15 OVFD personnel attended only 12 classes - see below. This is far fewer classes than what we would have in a normal year. Although we are seeing more classes being offered again, we need to be prepared should we see another round of cancelled classes. We were able to absorb one year of limited classes, but we need to ensure our members get the classes and training they need. We should also consider what the "new normal" might mean for our Department, and Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and plan accordingly.

January:

- Fire Control 3A: Chisholm, Walde, Wright, Halterman
- AIARE II: Gooding

February:

- I-300: DeDeo
- Single Resource Refresher: DeDeo, Walde
- Child Car Seat: Halterman
- Company Officer 2B: Erickson

March:

- Fire Control 3A: Chisholm
- Live Fire: Wright

August:

- HazMat IC: Halterman

September:

- Company Officer 2D: Wright

October:

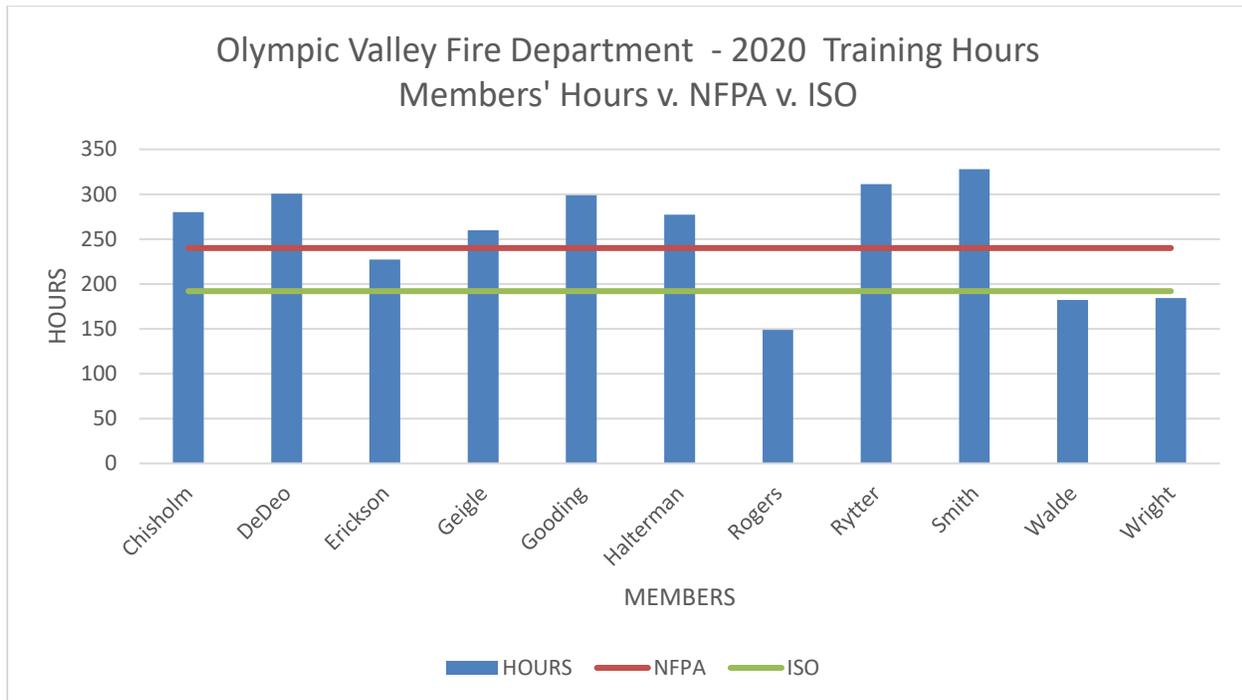
- Company Officer 2E: Wright

December:

- AIAR Avalanche Rescue: Halterman

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The following graph illustrates the training hours of OVFD members in 2020. We adhere to National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards of 240 hours per person, per year. NFPA recognizes all training hours for a year - fire, rescue, EMS, etc. ISO, however, is not interested in EMS, and requires only 192 annual hours specific to fire/rescue training.



Personnel:

Seasonal Firefighters: We tested seven firefighters and hired three, all of whom have completed their paramedic credentials. Adding Seasonal Firefighters (SFF) required us to rework our task books, previously geared for Part-Time recruitments. While each shift will still work to complete scheduled Company Training, the initial priority is to focus on completing the items in the SFF task book. With this additional member, we can provide two staffed apparatus. This allows us flexibility to respond to simultaneous incidents in our district, as well as mutual aid incidents while still maintain coverage of our district. Once the SFF are at a certain point, their captain can assign them exclusively to the Rescue.

Firefighters: Our senior firefighters are progressing with their career track. All but two of the junior firefighters have completed their requirements to work as an Acting Engineer. This allows us greater flexibility locally as mentioned above, but also extends that to state mutual aid requests.

Engineers: One of our firefighters was promoted to Engineer. After a successful one-year review, he will be eligible to begin his Acting Captain task book. This individual is already taking/registered for classes relevant to his promotion.

Captains: Our captains do their best to stay current on industry standards and best practices and bring that to their shifts. While this is a challenge with the many cancelled classes and seminars, our Captains look to other resources to get this information.

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California State Fire Marshall / State Fire Training (SFT):

While many STF classes were cancelled in 2020, we are seeing many classes coming back, as the providers of these classes are claiming an “education” exemption. We already have members signed-up for and/or taking classes. I will work with Chief Riley and the North Tahoe Training Officer’s Association (NTTOA) to determine what are appropriate class settings for our members to engage. State Fire Training (SFT) continues to align their requirements with International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and Pro Board to create a national standard. This also includes aligning with National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses. These adoptions will be effective on June 30, 2021. These NWCG/FEMA changes are exclusive to NIMS Incident Command System (ICS) and S courses relative to Planning, Logistics and Finance, and I-200. This will be largely unimpactful for us, but I will frequent the SFT website to stay up on the transition.

North Tahoe Training Officers’ Association (NTTOA):

Expectedly, NTTOAs meetings, role and usefulness was minimized this year. Although there is a move back to more normal meetings, continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 still exists. NTTOA could play a valuable role in coordinating local/regional training opportunities that allow for more controlled exposure than traveling to classes that host students from across the state. We would have to develop guidelines and get buy-in from the JPA, but it seems like a comprehensive needs analysis is a good place to start, followed by a plan to move forward. NTTOA might also consider what the new normal means to our JPA and develop a strategy for the long game. This might include contingency plans for SFT classes, projections for a regional training facility, developing instructors within our JPA and contracting out for instructors. NTTOA was formed initially to support the JPA fire academy. Since that academy no longer exists, the purpose of NTTOA has been unclear. This could be a good opportunity for NTTOA to reestablish itself, take the lead on what training and classes look like in this new setting.

Training Facility:

Local:

A training facility is a place where firefighters can throw ladders, pull hose, flow water, breach walls, extricate victims, force entry, and ventilate windows and roofs. With our lack of any type of training facility, we are significantly limited in our ability to perform meaningful training and are instead simply theorizing, not hands on training. There are certainly significant challenges involved with securing a facility, but there is space in our PSD, suitable to our needs, but is instead prioritized for equipment storage. We have needed some type of training area for years, and the COVID-19 situation has only compounded this need. I am happy to share ideas that would help address this - Station 21: modify the northeast stairwell: move the LPG tanks underground and place shipping containers there; shipping containers on the roof of the utility garage. Station 22: shipping containers out back; conversion of part of the apparatus bays. A motto in the fire service is “train like it’s the real thing.” The fact that we are unable to do this compromises our readiness, challenges our efforts to fulfill our mission statement, and jeopardizes the safety of our members.

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Regional:

This is still in the talking phase, but Truckee-Tahoe Airport executives continue to be supportive and are working with local fire agencies to bring a large, modern, multi-use regional training facility to fruition. COVID-19 has dashed the hope of breaking ground in 2021. When we do break ground, however, it will be a phased, multi-year project. The vision of build-out would be a three-story tower that accommodates Class A and Class B fuels, high angle rescue props, roof/ceiling props, FDC, etc. Ground level props including aircraft, railroad, trench, confined space, and LPG/LNG. We also envision a fully functional classroom, lockers, storage as well as dedicated apparatus, equipment, and props. While this facility would be a game changer for local fire Departments - allowing for routine multi-company/multi-agency trainings and drills, local fire academies and to host SFT classes - it does not lessen the need for some type of training facility in our district.

Insurance Services Office (ISO):

A significant part of an ISO audit involves training. As a result of their 2019 audit, we learned some important and beneficial strategies that were applied in 2020 and will continue to do so going forward. Target Solutions continues to be a very helpful tool to coordinate and meet ISO requirements.

2021:

In the year ahead we will continue to use Target Solutions as our training platform to build, assign, track, and log training. We will work to build KSA (knowledge, skills, abilities) in our newly promoted members, as well as in our new seasonal firefighters. We anticipate our members taking more SFT classes and once again peruse career advancement opportunities. We will be diligent and creative in our approach to training and remain hopeful that a local and regional training facility are prioritized. While we do have challenges with training, we also have many successes. We recognize the accommodations we are afforded, and 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.

Respectfully,
Brad Chisholm