



OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

A quick summary of our accomplishments and activities during 2021:

- We responded to 520 emergency calls, 13 calls more than 2020.
- Wildfire Smoke and the Covid-19 pandemic again had a significant impact on OVFD's operations and call volume. OVFD staff responded to 273 medical emergency calls, 53% of our overall call volume.
 - ❖ OVFD received Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid 394 times from our neighboring departments, OVFD provided Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid to our neighboring departments 121 times in 2021. OVFD's crews spent a total of 71 days on 3 large campaign fires (Tamarack, Dixie and Caldor Fires) here in Northern California 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 another challenging year in 2021 dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic (both administratively and operationally) and a long arduous wildland season that was a little too close to home for comfort. I credit the great team of firefighters and administrative staff for getting us through the year with minimal difficulties.

The seasonal firefighter program has been working well to offset the staffing challenges related to the pandemic. The seasonal firefighters are not full-time benefited employees, they work full time during a 4-month time frame during our busy seasons. 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. The concern is that our "busy seasons" never really end and we are not seeing much of a drop in demand during the "shoulder seasons". The pandemic has had a significant impact on staffing issues, from quarantine requirements to the ability to get childcare.

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. The local housing problem is significant to our retention concerns as our members are living further away from the district and may seek employment closer to where they live. The seasonal program has been working well and gives our 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. OVFD's Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan is nearing completion. OVFD's contracted Registered Professional Forester, Danielle Bradfield, has taken information from the draft CWPP and has applied for Cal Fire Prevention grants. We look forward to getting some of these fuels management projects done in the near future!

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, Fireworks, Special Events, Tents, LPG, sprinkler, short-term rental inspections and building finals 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, 23 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!



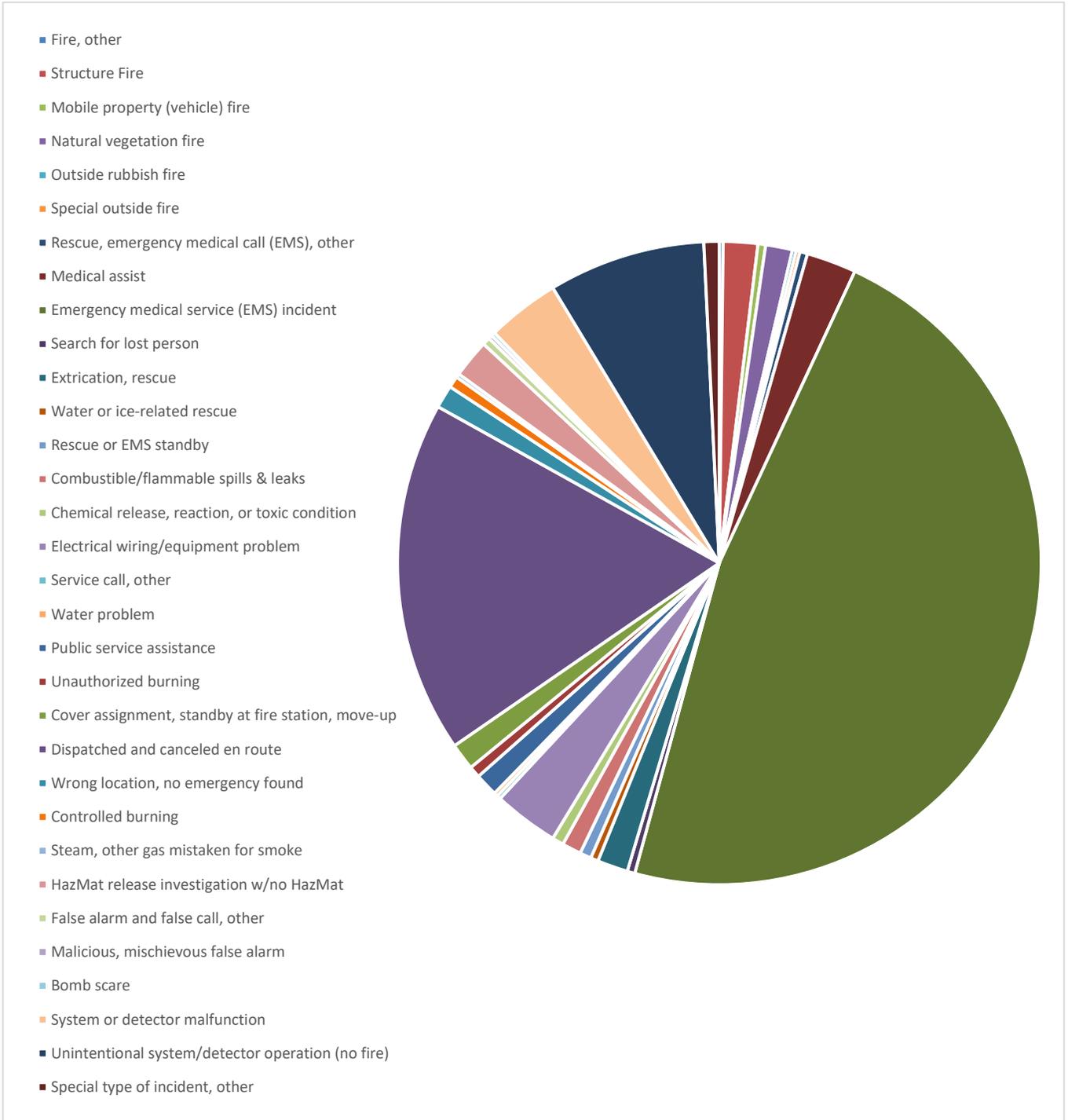
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Emergency Calls by Type – 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Fire, other								1					1
Structure Fire	3	1	1					1		1		2	9
Mobile property (vehicle) fire			2										2
Natural vegetation fire						1	2	2	2				7
Outside rubbish fire	1												1
Special outside fire										1			1
Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS), other			1		1								2
Medical assist	1		1			4	2			1	4		13
Emergency medical service (EMS) incident	43	37	48	16	11	10	16	18	8	10	6	23	246
Search for lost person							1		1				2
Extrication, rescue		3			1		1			1	1	1	8
Water or ice-related rescue					1	1							2
Rescue or EMS standby			1							1	1		3
Combustible/flammable spills & leaks		1	2				1	1					5
Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition			1								1	1	3
Electrical wiring/equipment problem		1			1						1	14	17
Service call, other												1	1
Water problem				1									1
Public service assistance		1	1					1	3				6
Unauthorized burning					1			2					3
Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up	1	2	1			1						2	7
Dispatched and canceled en route	9	9	12	8	2	9	10	6	7	3	3	14	92
Wrong location, no emergency found	1					2				2	1		6
Controlled burning					2						1		3
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke						1							1
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	2	1	1		1		1				1	3	10
False alarm and false call, other					1							1	2
Malicious, mischievous false alarm		1											1
Bomb scare							1						1
System or detector malfunction	2	3	1	1				3	1	2	1	5	19
Unintentional system/detector operation (no fire)	2	1	2	2	3	6	4	3	4	3	3	8	41
Special type of incident, other						1	2	1					4
Total	65	61	75	28	25	36	41	39	26	25	24	75	520

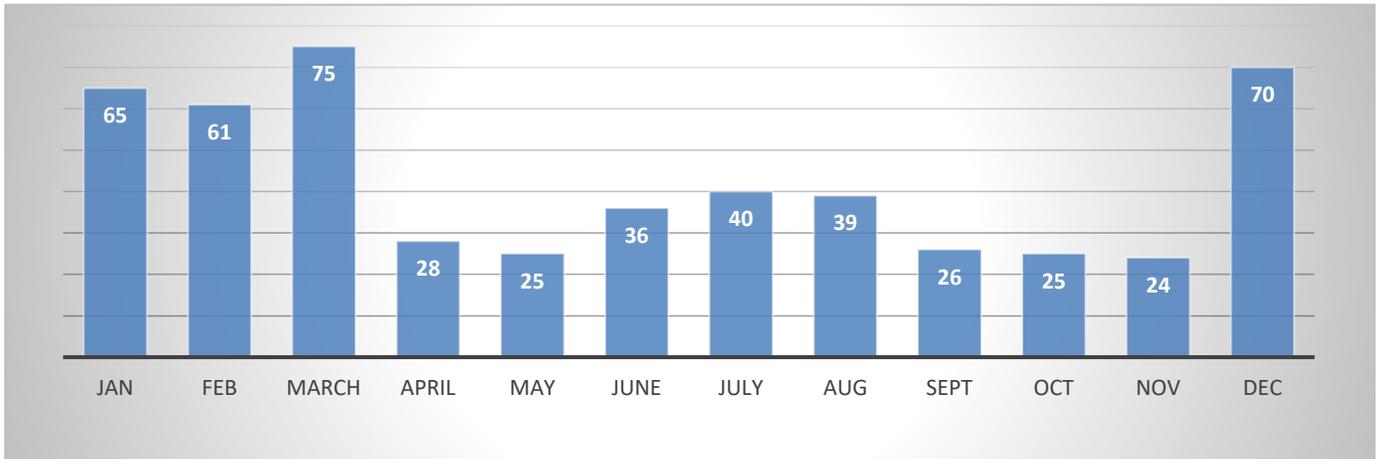
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Emergency Calls by Type – 2021

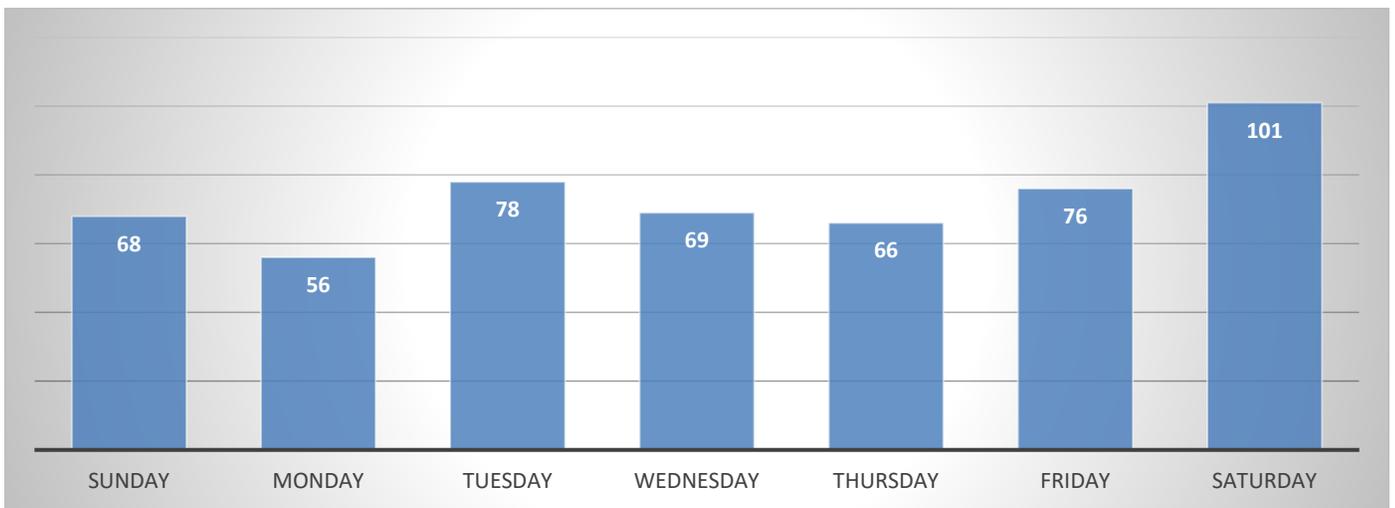


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Emergency Calls by Month – 2021

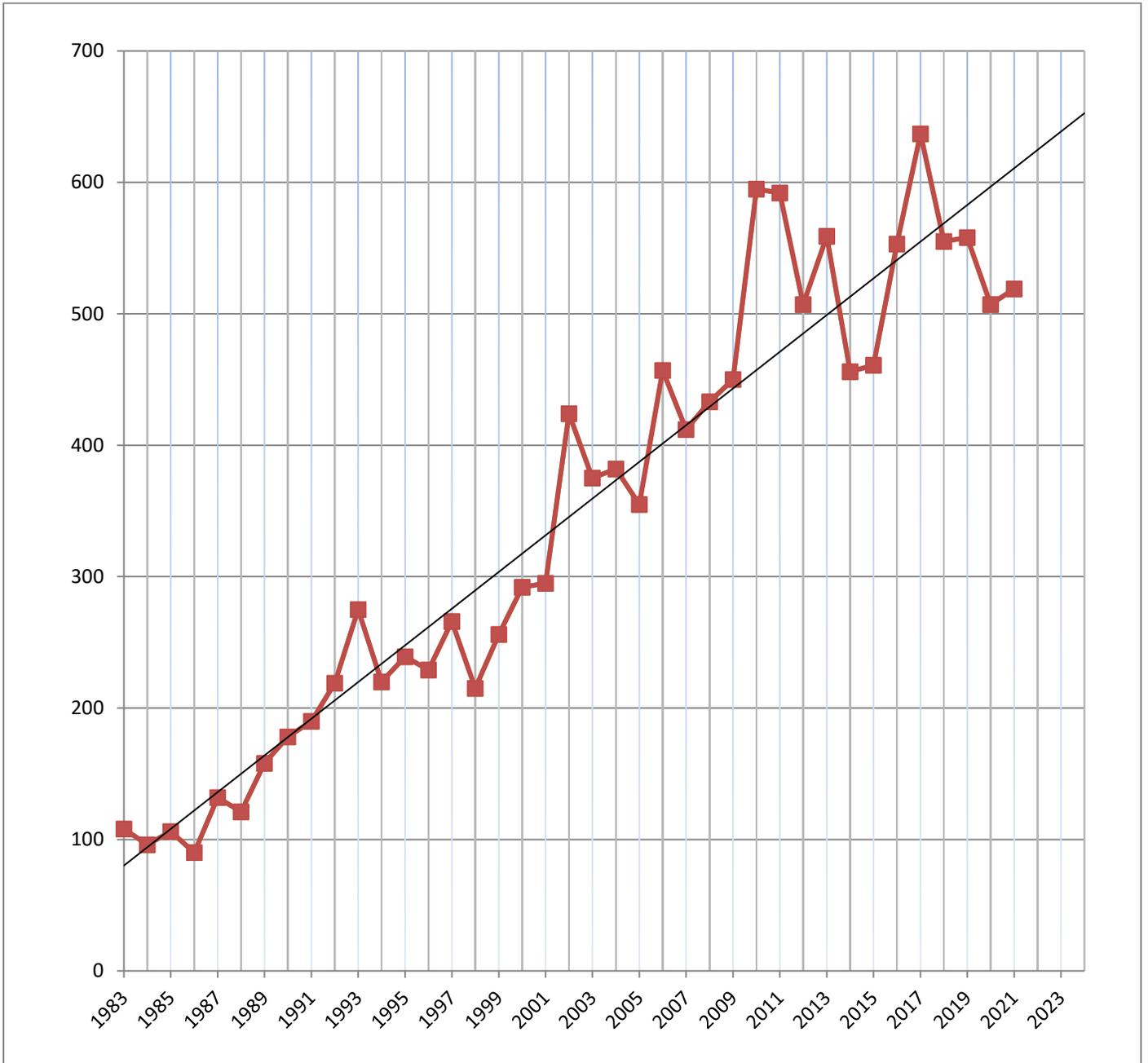


Calls by Day of Week – 2021



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Historic Call Volume 1983 – 2021



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Fire Department Staff - 2021

Name	Years of Service
Chief Allen Riley	28
Captain Chris DeDeo	26
Captain Brad Chisholm	24
Firefighter-Paramedic Travis Smith	21
Firefighter-Paramedic John Rogers	18
Firefighter-Paramedic Kurt Gooding	18
Engineer-Paramedic Hans Walde	16
Engineer-Paramedic Josh Rytter	15
Engineer-Paramedic Jeff Geigle	14
Firefighter-Paramedic Mike Wright	4
Firefighter-Paramedic Keith Erickson	4
Firefighter-Paramedic Scott Halterman	4
Firefighter-Paramedic Leroy Valadez	5
Seasonal Firefighter Jerrad Minnor	2
Seasonal Firefighter Scott Carlson	1
Seasonal Firefighter Andrew Phillips	.5

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2021 ANNUAL EMS, FLEET, AND FACILITIES REPORT

Captain Josh Rytter (A-Shift)

Olympic Valley Fire Department responded to 273 emergency medical services (EMS) incidents last calendar year. Personnel provided timely and professional emergency care to the community and its constituents. The health and well-being of staff, especially challenging during the on-going pandemic is of utmost importance. We were minimally affected by staffing shortages due to Covid. 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.

The fire department is finalizing a regional ambulance transport study by a third-party consultant. The study evaluates the impacts, feasibility, and fiscal liability of providing ambulance service. 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 24 hours of continuing education (CE's) and EMT's need 12 hours annually. These mandatory trainings are incorporated in our daily schedule and are required for our license renewal. We are researching new EMS training mannequins to add to the capital budget for 2022/2023. OVFD will be adding Fireline EMT/Paramedic equipment and training to our personnel for a broader level of service during wildland fire season. 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. Frank Jones Diesel Repair was contracted to provide annual inspections and maintenance on our apparatus. 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. The on-duty crew does not have the time to perform detailed repairs and complete mandatory Fire and EMS training and education. Neighboring departments have full-time mechanics that lend a hand when it is above our capability and Frank Jones is busy. We maintain nine apparatus and numerous tools to remain in a state of readiness. Continue to monitor asset replacement funds and research the most economical replacement options. Water Tender 21 is being replaced by a new tender from Midwest Fire scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2023.

General maintenance of the facility 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. Portions of the interior lighting is slowly being upgraded to LED. Researching options for flooring/carpet replacement and appliance replacement. Continue to monitor fleet and facility maintenance and/or repairs prior to catastrophic failure and maintain our high level of professionalism and readiness for the community.

Sincerely,

Josh Rytter

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Fire Department Fleet - 2021

Designator	Year	Description	Mileage
Engine 21	2016	All-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	18,607
Engine 221	2001	Two-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	36,462
Brush 21	2017	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	16,930
Brush 22	1998	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	35,697
Water Tender 21	1988	2100 gallon water tender/pumper	161,415
Rescue 21	2006	Medium rescue with vehicle extrication	13,294
Utility 21	2011	Ford F150 Crew Cab pickup truck	47,728
Command 21	2016	Ford Interceptor	51,280
Ranger 21	2014	Polaris Ranger Crew 900 UTV	931

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2021 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 70% of the homes were in compliance. However, due to the lack of manpower, second inspections and the river corridor 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. Defensible space cleanup days were coordinated with OVPSD, Friends of Squaw Valley and Palisades Tahoe. Over the five separate clean up days throughout the summer, Olympic Valley homeowners removed 240 cubic yards of green waste! Thank you to all the homeowners that participated and OVPSD, Friends of Squaw Valley and Palisades Tahoe for supporting our communities green waste days.

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”. OVFD worked with members of the Firewise community on their recertification through the 2022 calendar year. We also 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, barbecues, and general fire safe practices and as a result, did not experience any property loss due to wildland fires last year.

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. General plan checks relating to the fire department are done by Chief Riley.

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.

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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.

2022 Objectives

OVFD is now working on a digital platform for all inspections. The focus will remain on dead trees, vacant lots, home hardening 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. We are also in a new fire code adoption year. We have had many meetings with our local fire prevention officers, Placer County, and vendors. Adopting and revising the Uniform Fire Code is a long and tedious process.

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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2021 ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT Captain Brad Chisholm (C-Shift)

Training for Olympic Valley Fire Department in 2021 was a significant and refreshing rebound from the challenges faced in 2020. We continue to see advancement in our members with work towards compliance with mandates, best practices, and industry standards.

Classes:

Most State Fire Marshal classes returned to in-person instruction in 2021, with specific Covid precautions in place. Local classes, however, were still hard to come by. Many classes also continued to be available only remotely.

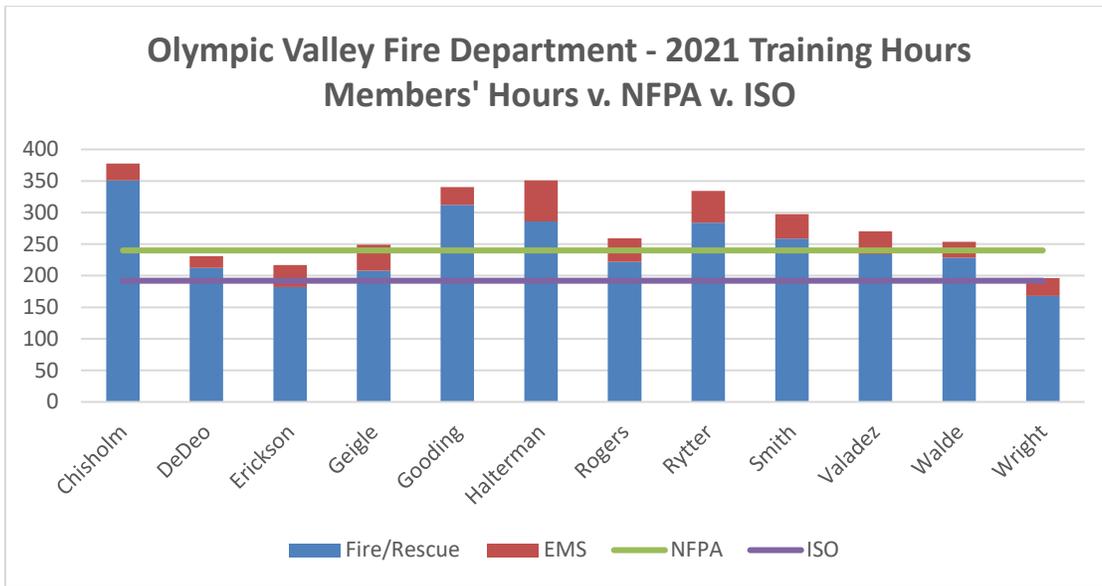
OVFD continues to offer very generous class incentives. In 2021, OVFD personnel attended 20 fire/rescue related classes. While this is a significant increase from the 12 classes attended in 2020, we are still well shy of pre-pandemic numbers. Below charts the fire/rescue classes and hours of OVFD members in 2021. As shown, most hours are from only a few members, while others have a few class hours, and some have no class hours.

Member Name	Classes Attended	Total Hours
Chisholm	5	170
DeDeo	1	32
Erickson	0	0
Geigle	0	0
Gooding	7	141
Halterman	5	136
Rogers	0	0
Rytter	0	0
Valadez	1	40
Walde	0	0
Wright	1	24
TOTAL	20	493

It is vitally important that *all* OVFD members diversify their training in the many ways possible (in-house/company training, on-line/virtual, seminars/symposiums, instructor led classes, manipulative local/regional training) in order to build and maintain KSA, prepare for promotional opportunities and succession planning, understand industry standards and best practices, and to simply stay engaged. While we do well collectively, individually there is room left for improvement.

OVFD strives to meet NFPA standards of 240 hours per person, per year. NFPA recognizes all training hours for a year - fire, rescue, and EMS. ISO however, is not interested in EMS, and requires only 192 annual hours specific to fire/rescue related training. The following graph illustrates the training hours of OVFD members in 2021.

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Our Annual Training Calendar includes training topics that are considered mandatory. Out of the 12 mandatory topics, nine were completed by all of our members. One member missed one and one member missed three. While there is no excuse for not completing these trainings, both of these members had prolonged periods away from work for family related reasons.

Personnel:

Seasonal Firefighters: We continue to staff Seasonal Firefighters. In the past we have conducted “mini-academies” over a couple weekends, but now that we have only three Seasonal Firefighters, and typically one or two return after their initial four-month commitment, running an academy makes little sense. As a result, training these members falls on the shift to which the Seasonal Firefighter is assigned. While this is not an insignificant burden to the shift, it is often refreshing to train newer members and revisit the “bread and butter” tasks associated with the job.

Our Seasonal Firefighters are assigned a task-book that they are expected to complete in their first four-month assignment. This task-book takes the place of the mini-academy. For shifts that have a returning Seasonal Firefighter, we simply include them in the Company Training calendar items the shift performs. With the addition of Seasonal Firefighters, we can typically 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 Seasonal Firefighters are at a certain point, their Captain can assign them to the Rescue for Station 22 shifts.

Firefighters: Our Firefighters are progressing with their Career Track. Of our six Firefighters, four are Acting Engineer qualified, two have their Company Officer Certification, and six are Confined Space Rescue qualified. A diverse and qualified group of Firefighters greatly helps with our ability to meet our Mission.

Engineers: Our most junior Engineer completed his one-year probation and now joins the other Engineers to be qualified as an Acting Captain. This too adds to our flexibility to respond to calls locally and throughout the State.

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Captains: OVFD Captains do their best to stay current on their KSA and to bring that to their shifts. It is important for our Captains to continue to take classes and we are very supportive of any desire they might have to do this. We also encourage our Captains, like all of our ranks, to be comfortable stepping into the role of their supervisor. This allows for members to better understand the roles, responsibilities, and subsequent decision-making process of their superiors, as well as, again, to add to the Department's flexibility in responding to calls.

Our Captains, Engineers and senior Firefighters are among the most seasoned, experienced, capable, and best trained fire personnel in the area.

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

CSFM classes continue to be a very valuable resource for the education of OVFD members. State Fire Training continues to align their requirements with IFSAC and Pro Board to create a national standard. This also includes aligning with NWCG and FEMA-NIMS courses. Most of these classes OVFD members attended are in the greater Sacramento Valley area, but on occasion they are offered locally. Our members use these classes to build their knowledge, for continuing education, and to prepare for promotional opportunities. These classes are critical to strike a proper balance manipulative and classroom-based training.

Truckee meadows Community College (TMCC):

TMCC has also become a valuable and very practical resource for classes. While most of the classes offered at TMCC are wildland focused, which are important, they do also offer a few that relate to municipal firefighting and the Incident Command System.

California Fire and Rescue Training Authority / El Dorado Hills Fire Department

CFRTA, a joint regional training consortium comprised of Cal-OES, Sacramento City FD and Sacramento Metro FD, will be closing its doors. This is a significant loss of a very valuable resource for CSFM courses that our members have used for many years. While many of the classes CFRTA has offered will not be available as frequently in the Sacramento area, El Dorado Hills FD has stepped up and intends to build a training program to fill much of the void left by CFRTA.

North Tahoe Training Officers' Association:

NTTOA meetings only returned to in-person in December 2021. NTTOA essentially picked up where we left off, but it feels like it will take a while to get used to meeting and coordinating training regionally again. Rapid Intervention Crew and High-Rise Cadres along with wildland related classes remain a priority. We are also scheduling live fire drills, technical training opportunities and a wildland drill.

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 a training ground, training is often simply theorizing, not training. Some ideas for such a facility in our district include - 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.

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A motto in the fire service is “train like it’s the real thing.” We make every effort to do this but without a more accommodating facility, we are challenged to achieve this.

Regional:

This continues to be in the talking and planning stages, 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. The latest projection is that we might break ground in Spring of 2022. While we have had similar projections in the past, OVFD members remain engaged, have funds earmarked, and are still working on a buildout timeframe, sight layout, training delivery methods, and regional approaches/cooperation. 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 certainly 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 should only serve to compliment a training facility in our district.

Insurance Services Office (ISO):

A significant part of an ISO audit involves training, and we continue to work to meet these standards. We are successful in most of their requirements, but because we lack a facility that ISO deems appropriate, we come up short on some of their requirements, Facility Training, most notably. Target Solutions continues to be a very helpful tool to coordinate and meet ISO requirements.

2022:

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 in our newly promoted members, our seasonal firefighters as well as in our more senior members. We anticipate, encourage, and support our members taking classes, peruse career advancement opportunities and remain engaged and updated. We will be diligent and creative in our approach to training and remain hopeful that both a local and regional training facility are prioritized.

While Olympic Valley Fire Department does have challenges with training, we also have many successes. We train and work hard to meet the needs of our both our immediate community and the State of California and appreciate the support we receive from Chief Riley, the General Manager, and the Board of Directors in this effort.

Respectfully,
Brad Chisholm