



# OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

A summary of OVFD accomplishments and activities in 2023:

- Emergency calls: 678 - a new record, and 93 calls more than 2022
- EMS calls: 372 (71% of calls in district)
- Calls to Palisades Tahoe: 38%
- Mutual Aid
  - ❖ Received: 420, accounting for 81% of calls in our district (NTF: 395; TRK: 25),
  - ❖ Provided: 155
- California saw a mild fire season with OVFD participating in a 15-day Preposition-Flood Assignment in the central valley. No strike team deployments.
- Winter of 2023 proved to be a considerable challenge, testing the cooperation of fire agencies, snow removal contractors, ski areas, Operations department, utility purveyors and County and State agencies. It resulted in six Nixle notifications and an avalanche impacting Shirley Lake Condominiums
- Brad Chisholm was promoted from Captain to Fire Chief in June and assumed the role in July.
- Chief Chisholm was elected to the Lake Tahoe Regional Fire Chiefs' Association Vice-Chair position in August and will assist this organization to continue its important and impactful work to support fire and law enforcement, local, regional, county and state agencies, and private organizations.
- We continue to have very productive relationships with allied agencies, Palisades ski patrol and mutual aid cooperators.
- Our Firefighters Association, with a great deal of community support, hosted the Fire Ball, a grown-up version of the historic Firefighters' Halloween Ball. This provided an opportunity for our department to bring the community together in a relaxed and enjoyable setting as well as an opportunity for OVFD to share information about the fire department, raise awareness, and do a little fundraising.

Olympic Valley Fire Department had a year with challenges and rewards.

After serving Olympic Valley since 1994, Chief Allen Riley retired in July. He departed amongst a retirement party with great fanfare, a hint of raucousness and a bit of emotions. With his retirement, and the resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Wright, we spent much of the year down two fulltime positions. As is being experienced by the industry, recruitment, and to some extent, retention, are major challenges for OVFD. We will continue to be persistent in our efforts in these areas, but we will not compromise finding the right person just to fill a vacancy.

In August we scaled back our Seasonal Firefighter program. What was intended to be a pilot program ahead of providing ambulance services became a revolving door of recruitment, onboarding, and training on the basics. Instead, we pivoted and employed them to fill our two FF/Medic vacancies. These two

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members had each spent one season with us. If we are again unsuccessful at filling our fulltime positions, I will consider extending this program.

Innovate or die. We hear this common phrase in business, but it is just as important to apply that to the fire service. One of my focuses has been to better understand OVFD's Business Model and Brand Strategy. In the past, we were well served by volunteer, part-time and call back-labor to meet the unique demands of our community. A brief recaption of past efforts to innovate and remain competitive and relevant are as follow:

- 1998: Construction of fire station at 1810 property.
- 1998-2001: Purchased two Type I fire engines and one Type III brush engine.
- 2000: BOD approved the addition of three firefighter/EMTs to achieve 3-0 staffing.
- 2000: BOD agreed to a 75-percentile wage/benefit contract with Labor.
- 2004: District opened the 305 OV Rd campus, housing all Departments under the same roof.
- 2005: With the help of a FEMA SAFER grant, BOD approved a 4-0 staffing model.
- 2005: BOD gave the direction and approval to go to an ALS non-transport service model.

Over the course of these five short years OVFD made very significant strides in keeping up with regional trends and industry standards. OVFD was competitive, engaged, and participated meaningfully at a local and regional level. We were able to recruit exceptionally talented personnel, provide industry leading training opportunities and provide extensive participation in OES deployments, all while not compromising the level of service to the community.

In the coming years however, subtle changes presented challenges OVFD had not previously experienced, most notably funding and recruitment/retention. These should have been more prominent red flags; warning that our business model was faltering. Assuming these were temporary changes and challenges, OVFD maintained the existing path. Today, OVFD has no volunteer, part-time or call-back labor. While this is not necessarily bad, it is a fundamental change with implications that need to be recognized, understood, and addressed. It demands a change in our business model that ensures our community receives the level of service they deserve and expect.

Another area where we need to be aware is Brand Strategy. For many years we were stationed out of what was one of the most envied firehouse locations in the country - south facing, small enough to be quaint and inviting but large enough to be accommodating, on a street that saw lots of foot traffic allowing for frequent public interactions, and an unparalleled view of an iconic mountain. The public would see Firefighters on the apron - training, rolling hose, washing apparatus - and would inquisitively stop by. It was a priceless recruitment tool that wasn't recognized until we lost that station. Another significant strategy is Name Branding; what one does with their name and how do they leverage it. Around the region and around the state, our Fire Department was known, and the Valley was known. On strike team assignments, we had a reputation as the hardest working engine on the hardest working strike team on the fire. On our off days, Firefighters would come up to us and ask about us, about the Department, and about the Valley. When we changed our name to Olympic Valley FD, we lost our Brand Recognition and our ability to leverage that Brand. On strike teams now, people either don't know where we are from or think we are from the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state. It's heart breaking.

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Another factor is simply the change in the demographics in Olympic Valley, driven by real estate prices, the short-term rental industry and a change in the ski industry. A Valley famous for producing Olympians and producing elite athletes that defined the cutting edge of industry innovation, skier/rider accomplishments and straight up fun, resulted in people flocking here for that lifestyle. OVFD directly reaped the benefits of this young and talented diaspora. Our name recognition and identity have been minimized and so has our ability to leverage those. This has led to recruitment challenges because we must now recruit by more traditional means - competing on the same playing field as agencies with the ability to offer attractive salary/benefit packages, experience and advancement opportunities, often in much more affordable communities.

What does this mean and how do we get there? As with any need to innovate, it will come with a lot of work to understand the issues and determine the best path forward. With an open mind, we must consider things unique to OVFD including our community, funding, regional agreements and ability to deliver service, as well as things more general and industry related such as demographics, generational changes, economies of scale and industry trends. It is welcoming to see that this conversation has recently been happening at the management and BOD levels. Staff is working to provide BOD with data, scenarios and options to make intelligent decisions and provide direction for a sustainable business model.

Recruitment and retention are a challenge in the fire industry as a whole and we feel it firsthand 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. Response time requirements to Station 21 are likely to create challenges for Fire Chief recruitment.

With considerable help from Jessica Asher, the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan is being put into practice. OV-1 broke ground in 2023 and, along with OV-3, is expected to be completed in summer 2024. OV-4 also is moving forward with an outreach campaign that resulted in universal approval by all private parcel owners as well as a possible collaboration with the Washoe Tribe and Placer County, who own adjacent parcels. A Cal Fire Prevention grant application was submitted for OV-5. There are rumors that CAL FIRE may pause funding of future grant requests due to the State's budget, so we are very hopeful for a favorable decision, otherwise it might be a prolonged period where no state funds are available for such projects.

OVFD sponsored a regional grant consisting of 126 SCBA units, of which OVFD would receive 22, enough to replace our current stock. The grant request is for \$997,000 and includes Olympic Valley FD, Truckee FPD, Northstar FD and Fallen Leaf Lake FD. Award notifications are expected to begin in late spring 2024 and last through the summer. If unsuccessful, OVFD will have to immediately replace 24 SCBA cylinders at a cost of \$55,000 and plan a full SCBA replace in 2029 at an estimated cost of \$225,000.

OVFD took delivery of a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe to replace the 2014 Ford Explorer as the Department Command Vehicle. This will provide a vehicle more suitable for the job given our climate. Fleet vehicles are exceptionally difficult to procure, as we are experiencing with our Utility vehicle replacement efforts, which we have been attempting for three years now. We have a request in for a 2024 Ford F-250.

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The crews continue to 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), physical fitness (90 minutes) 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 busy during their 48-hour shifts and maximize their time to ensure department and community needs are met.

The three shifts shoulder significant responsibilities ranging from response readiness and training to public education and classes, to general operations and administration. Our staffing model often requires the shift Captains, who the industry typically identifies as leading the engine company on an incident, to also assume the role of incident commander, either from the seat of a fire engine or while in operational mode. While we have practiced this for many years it does compromise proper command and control of an incident. If the Fire Chief is in the Valley, this may change depending on availability. If there is a significant incident the Fire Chief will respond from home in Truckee when available, and our dispatch will request a Chief Officer from a neighboring agency, but both of these come with a delay at a critical time in the incident. This burden therefore trickles down to the other firefighters on scene who must assume additional roles.

The shifts do what they can to balance and prioritize jobs, but inevitably the administrative duties interfere with duties that should take priority. Examples of these administrative duties per shift are as follows:

- A-Shift: Captain Josh Rytter is OVFD's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator. With help from A-shift, he works to ensure all personnel are up to date and compliant with regulations, policies, protocols, and EMS training. Captain Rytter is also the Fleet and Facilities Manager, keeping our buildings and equipment in service and maintained. We are fortunate that Captain Rytter is a knowledgeable mechanic and is often able to perform repairs in-house. Performing some in-house mechanics comes with a level of liability with not having work completed by a certified mechanic. Captain Rytter is aware of this and aims to only perform work on problems that would not result in a driver safety issue, otherwise he looks to outsource the work.
- B-Shift: Captain Chris DeDeo is OVFD's Prevention Officer and oversees much of the prevention work of the department. Captain DeDeo, with help from B-shift shift, assists the Chief with plan review, and inspections including fireworks, special events, tents, LPG, sprinkler, short-term rental, and residential construction. Captain DeDeo also coordinates the inspection for the three shifts of commercial properties (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 Olympic Valley and the Truckee River corridor, all of which often take multiple inspections before meeting compliance. His prevention work also includes frequent communication with Placer County and a close collaboration with Nicole Whiteman, who has proven to be critical for the success of our Prevention efforts. While OVFD crews do an impressive job with this, performing prevention duties with members who are not

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dedicated prevention officers does come with an element of risk from lack in knowledge in code interpretation and enforcement, identifying violations and following up on violations.

- C-Shift: Congratulations to Hans Walde for his well-deserved promotion to Captain. Captain Walde now oversees OVFD's Training responsibilities. He also represents OVFD at the North Tahoe Training Officers' Association to arrange for beneficial regional training. Captain Walde assigns, logs, and updates all monthly and yearly training, task books and career-track guidance for all OVFD members. Captain Walde has also carried over many of his previous responsibilities of managing our platforms for shift scheduling/payroll, incident response, and inspections. Engineers Gooding and Halterman have been contributing to this as well to help provide Captain Walde achieve a manageable workload. Captain Walde's training responsibilities also include ensuring we comply with mandates, standards and best practices. This is a very important and time-consuming responsibility that directly results in member competency and ability to deliver necessary services.

These three Captains have provided annual reports, as provided at the end of this report.

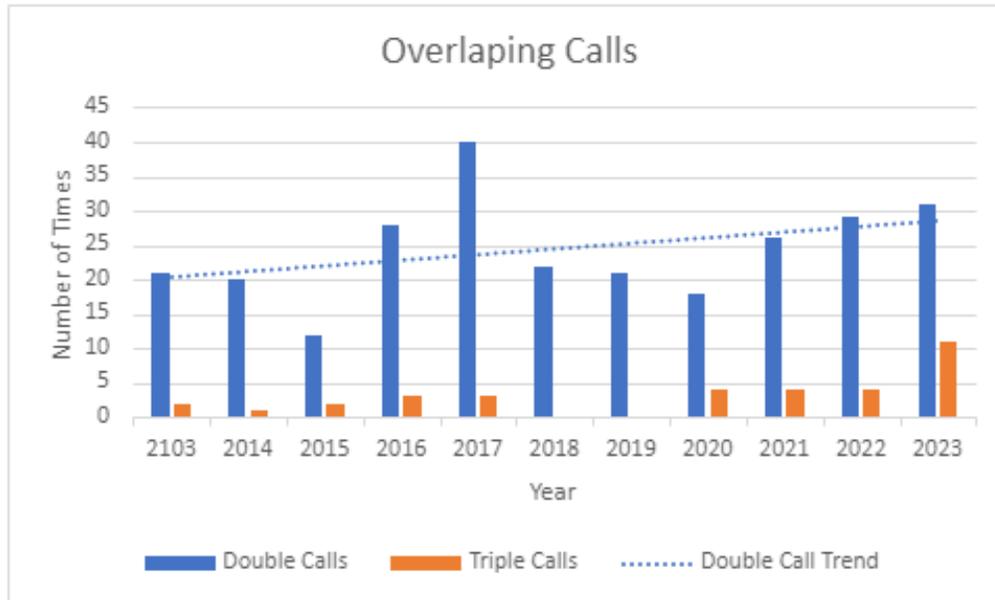
I am very grateful and humbled to be the Olympic Valley Fire Chief. I am proud of this organization and our dedicated members. We have a group of members who are skilled and knowledgeable and always work with the communities' best interest in mind. I am grateful to the exceptionally capable and helpful administrative staff who all work tirelessly to help me succeed in serving Olympic Valley. And thank you, to OVPSD Board of Directors, for your confidence and support.

Onward!

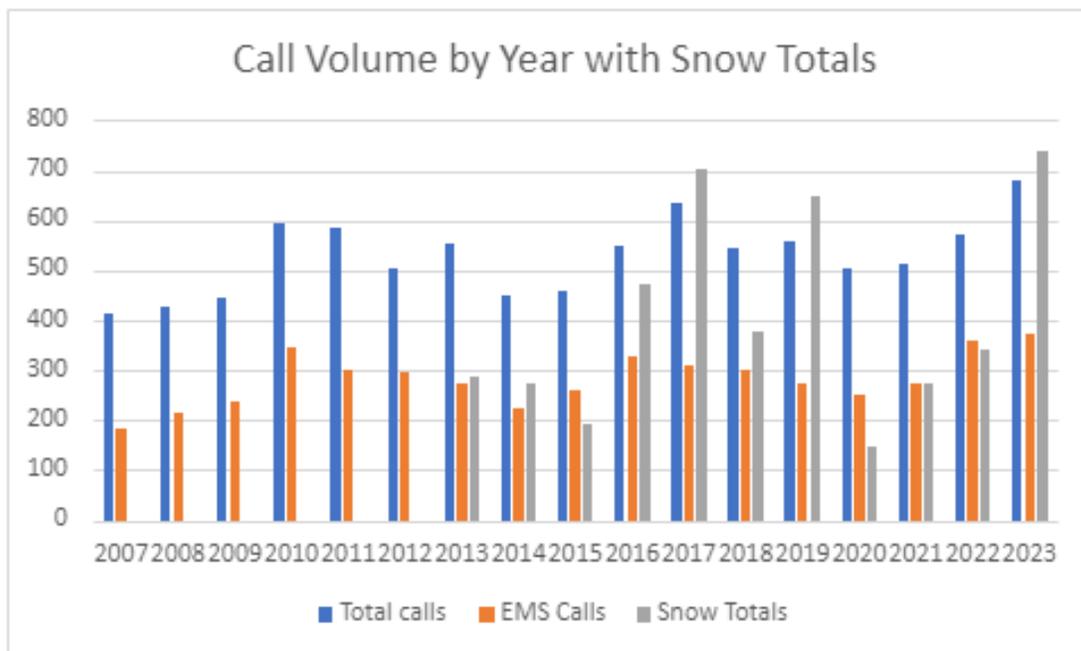


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## Overlapping Calls by Year (2013-2023)



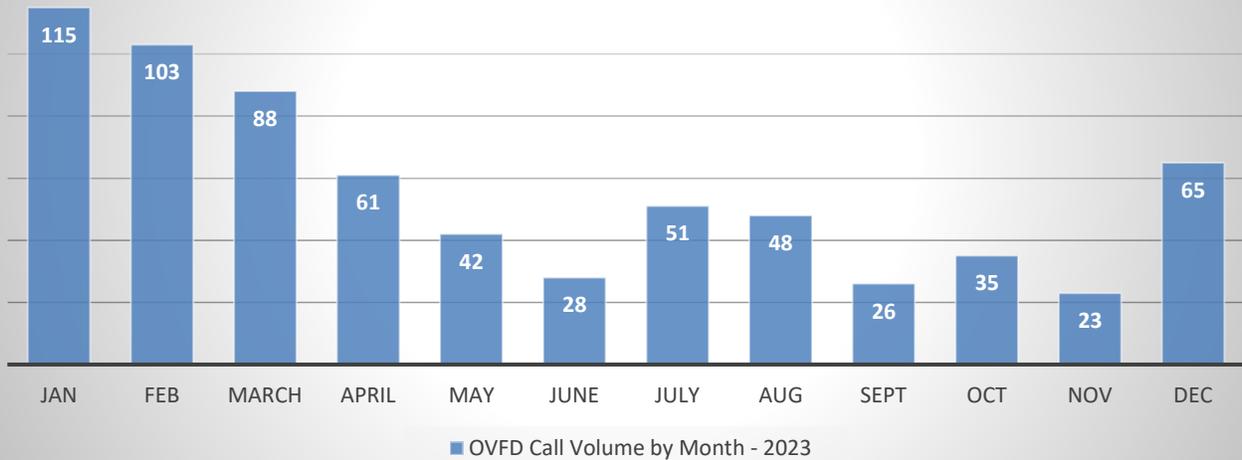
## Call Volume by Year – Total / EMS / Snow Totals



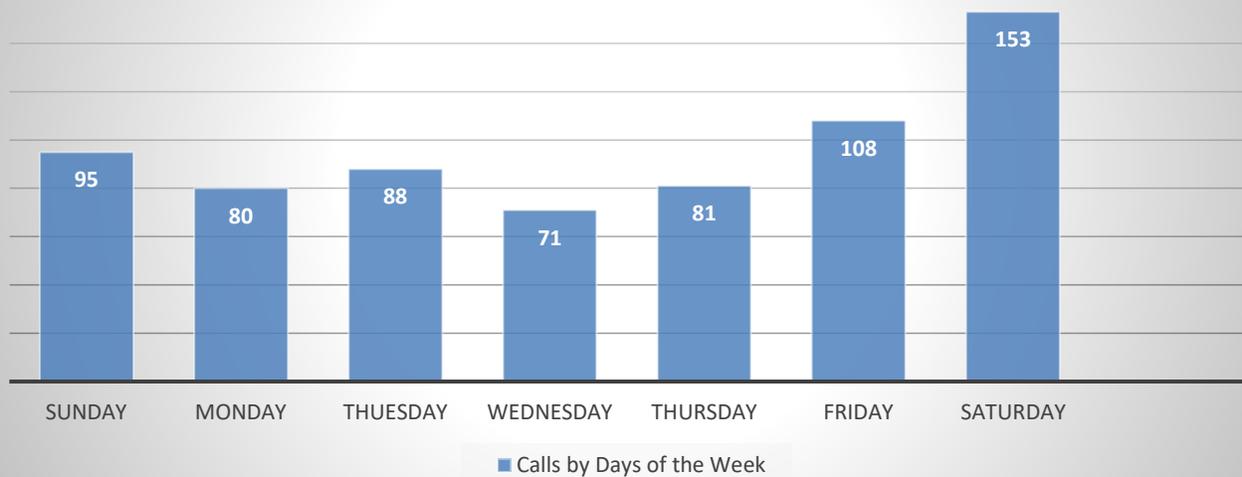
Graphs courtesy of Captain Hans Walde

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## OVFD Call Volume by Month - 2023

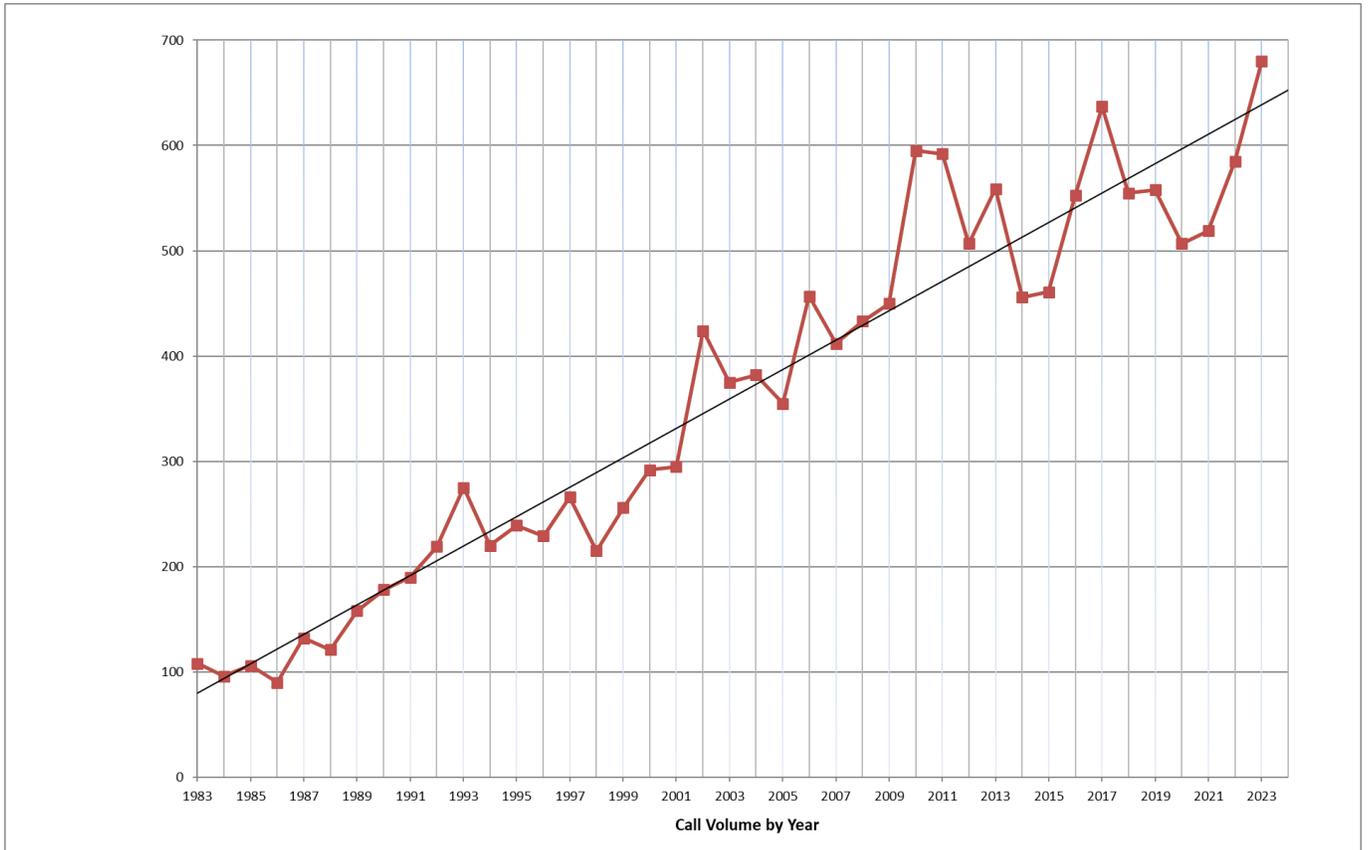


## OVFD Call Volume by Week - 2023



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## Call Volume 1983-2023



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## Fire Department Staff - 2023

Name by Rank	Years of Service
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### Chief

Brad Chisholm	27
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### Captain

Chris DeDeo	29
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Josh Rytter	17
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Hans Walde	18
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### Engineer

Engineer-Paramedic Kurt Gooding	20
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Engineer-Paramedic Jeff Geigle	16
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Engineer-Paramedic Scott Halterman	6
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### Firefighter

Travis Smith	23
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John Rogers	20
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Keith Erickson	6
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Leroy Valadez	7
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### Seasonal Firefighter

Cody Borreson	1
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Eric Fuchslin	1
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## 2023 Fire Department EMS, Fleet, and Facilities Report

### EMS

Olympic Valley Fire Department personnel continue to pride themselves on providing timely and professional emergency care to the community and its constituents. OVFD responded to 372 emergency medical services (EMS) incidents last calendar year – up 5.4% from the previous year.

The health and well-being of staff, while providing exceptional service to the community is of utmost importance.

Notable items

- We were challenged with staffing shortages due to two vacant positions and a staff member out on injury. We were able to maintain our high level of service through overtime with minimal forces for coverage.
- The fire department continues to analyze the feasibility of ambulance transport. Currently the budget and staffing do not allow this to happen. The recommendation was to stay with our current level of service – ALS non-transport.
- 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 to meet industry training standards and to stay current 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 purchased new EMS training mannequins to replace broken and outdated mannequins.

The fire department was able to stay updated and current during dynamic times and stay within the budget for our EMS/Paramedic program.

### Fleet Maintenance

Fleet maintenance ensures 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 performs annual inspections and maintenance on our apparatus when he is available. 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 are constantly looking for additional qualified mechanics due to Frank Jones busy schedule.

Notable items:

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- E21: OVFD had Siddons-Martin perform front end maintenance on E21 that proved to be costly. We maintain nine apparatus and numerous tools to remain in a state of readiness. We continue to monitor asset replacement funds and research the most economical replacement options.
- E221: Exempt from many emissions and DEF mandates, E221 continues to be a reliable resource. It was decided that rather than refurbish, an appropriate approach is to monitor and maintain.
- WT21: Water Tender 21 was replaced by a new tender from Midwest Fire that we took delivery of 2/2023.

We will continue to monitor fleet maintenance and/or repairs prior to catastrophic failure and maintain our high level of professionalism and readiness for the community.

### Facilities Maintenance

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.

Notable items:

- Portions of the interior lighting is slowly being upgraded to LED.
- Researching options for flooring/carpet replacement and appliance replacement.
- Continue to monitor facility maintenance and/or repairs prior to end of useful life.

Olympic Valley Fire Department personnel continue to pride themselves on providing timely and professional emergency care to the community while maintain EMS training and delivery standards, ensuring response readiness for our fleet and provide and maintain facilities as necessary.

Sincerely, Josh Rytter

### **Fire Department Fleet - 2023**

Designator	Year	Description	Mileage
Engine 21	2016	All-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	24,680
Engine 221	2001	Two-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	36,462
Brush 21	2017	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	17,413
Rescue 21	2006	Medium rescue with vehicle extrication	17,123
Utility 21	2011	Ford F150 Crew Cab pickup truck	56,450
Command 21	2023	Chevrolet Tahoe	200
Command 21	2014	Ford Interceptor	63,808
Water Tender 21	2023	2,000-gallon water tender/pumper	2,049
Brush 22	1998	Type III wildland/urban interface engine	35,735
Ranger 21	2014	Polaris Ranger Crew 900 UTV	987

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## **2023 Annual Prevention Report** Captain Chris De Deo (B-Shift)

### Defensible Space Inspections:

Working at the engine company level, the Olympic Valley Fire Department completed 620 defensible space inspections in Olympic Valley on single-family residences and lots in July. 958 violations were cited in the first round of inspections. We completed 903 residential inspections for the 2023 season, and 1,283 violations were cited. We also inspected most HOAs and Condo Associations. Chief Chisholm and I attended Eastern Placer County Prevention meetings quarterly. The purpose of these meetings is to share ideas, collaborate on fire codes and ordinances, and have a more standard approach to prevention in each of our jurisdictions. However, due to the lack of staffing, the addition of Short-term Rentals, and Real Estate defensible space inspections, only 450 second inspections were completed. Our defensible space program continues to challenge our duty staff to maintain compliance and follow up on second and third inspections.

OVFD supported residents by writing letters to help property owners maintain their homeowner's insurance. Additionally, OVPSD contacted the community residents by posting wildland fire information on the district website, local newspapers, social media, and mailings. The fire danger rating sign was posted and updated daily in front of the station to inform the public of the day's fire danger. We scheduled six chipping days over the summer with Placer County, but because our green waste days are so successful, only one resident took advantage of the chipping program. Defensible space cleanup days were coordinated with OVPSD, Friends of Olympic Valley, Firewise, and Palisades Tahoe. Over the five separate cleanup days throughout the summer, Olympic Valley homeowners removed 660 cubic yards of green waste! 22 homeowners took advantage of our district dumpster rebate and removed an additional 42 yards. Thank you to all the homeowners that participated, OVPSD Operations, Friends of Olympic Valley, Firewise, and Palisades Tahoe, for supporting the community's green waste days. I'd also like to thank Office Supervisor Nicole Whiteman for all her work in helping with our prevention program.

The Firewise Program gets the community involved in taking action and ownership to protect their homes and community against the threat of wildfire, focusing on defensible space and "home hardening." OVFD worked with members of the Firewise community on their recertification through the 2023 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

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fire pits, barbeques, 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:

Annually, 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. Chief Chisholm does plan checks and inspections on remodels and new construction.

Our inspection program aims to identify and abate unsafe conditions and promote a safer environment within and around these establishments. It also allows OVFD line personnel to familiarize themselves with the buildings' layout in the event of an incident and update Pre-Fire Plans.

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 two certified instructors who teach CPR, 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 remain a reliable resource for the community while maintaining positive and cooperative working relationships with the district's business owners and property management companies.

### 2024 Objectives:

OVFD will continue to use FireAside, a digital platform for defensible space inspection. FireAside allowed us to inform homeowners about their defensible space violations with online participation and door hangers. This year, we will mail all inspections to homeowners and lot owners within seven days of their inspection. This program allows homeowners to fix violations by submitting questions and pictures, saving us time on physical reinspections. We did not enforce the home hardening portion of the program because of the extra time required for each parcel and staff availability. The Eastern Placer County Prevention Officers are working on a Zone 0 ordinance. California wanted to pass Zone 0 for existing structures this year but is now looking at 2026. We and our local partners believe Zone 0 is vital to a home's overall defensible space. This year's focus will remain on dead trees, vacant lots, and maintaining properties once there is defensible space compliance. All commercial occupancies will be scheduled for inspections this year, and our pre-fire plans will be updated. OVFD will continue to support the Firewise community in helping better prepare our community against wildfire threats.

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### Prevention Officer Workload:

With the continuing increase and demand for Prevention, it is evident that more labor hours, personnel, and training are necessary to provide our community with the safest outcome from the threat of wildfire. OVFD Prevention Program often falls short of our intended goals due to the need for a dedicated Prevention Officer and supporting staff. Northstar Fire Department Prevention Division is staffed with three full-time personnel. They also hire independent contractors for their spring, summer, and fall fuel management projects. North Tahoe Fire and Truckee Fire Prevention Divisions each staff seven full-time and an additional six during spring, summer, and fall. Defensible space laws continue to increase. Insurance companies continue to implement new regulations. Without a dedicated prevention officer and supporting staff, Olympic Valley and the river corridor will continue to fall further out of defensible space compliance with Placer County and state ordinances.

Chief Chisholm approves overtime for line staff to come off-duty to complete prevention-related work. However, family, low staffing levels, and personal commitments have proven this difficult for the line staff to accomplish.

A full-time Fire Prevention Officer and seasonal supporting staff could be tasked with most of our more extensive commercial inspections, STRs, and defensible space and help Chief Chisholm with the many types of residential, commercial permits, and special event permit inspections throughout the year. The Prevention position would also benefit the line staff by freeing up time for their ongoing station projects, vehicle and equipment maintenance, education, and the continuous addition of company training that contributes to our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 2.

Sincerely,  
Captain, Chris De Deo

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## TRAINING

### 2023 Annual Training Report

Training for Olympic Valley Fire Department in 2023 was performed under the direction of the Fire Chief, with the support of the General Manager, Board of Directors, and with the participation of OVFD members.

2023 saw hands on evolutions, online classes and in person courses. Training was conducted with an approach that promotes the advancement of our members, to better serve our community and continue to work towards compliance with mandates, best practices, and industry standards.

#### Classes:

OVFD continues to offer a generous training program. In 2023, OVFD personnel attended 17 fire/rescue related classes. While this is a slight decrease from 2022 (22 classes), we had two members out on injury at the beginning of the year, lost a member to another fire department and a second to retirement. With promotional testing and being short-staffed for much of the year it has been challenging for members to attend classes outside of the department.

The following shows the Fire/Rescue/EMS related classes and hours of OVFD members in 2023.

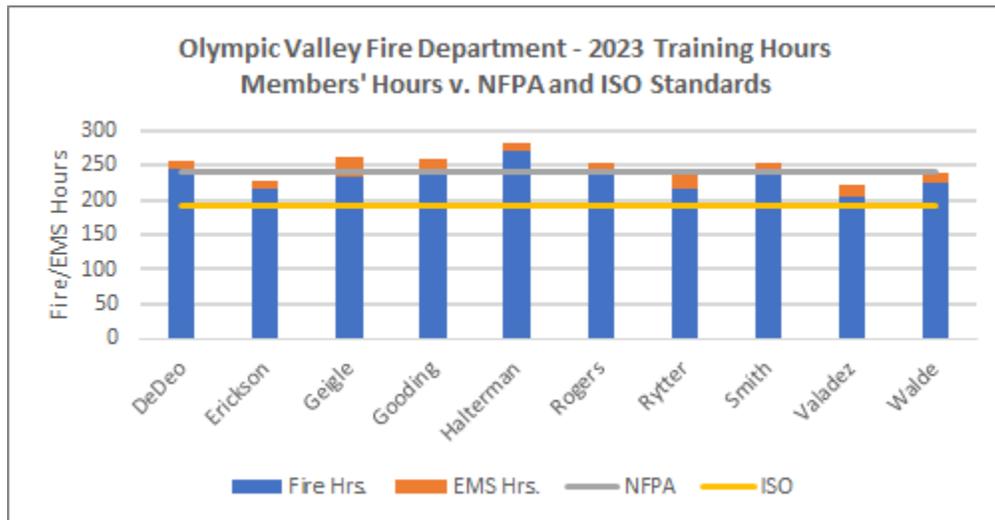
Member	Classes Attended	Total Hours
DeDeo	1	3
Walde	0	0
Rytter	0	0
Geigle	1	32
Gooding	7	43
Halterman	4	53
Rogers	4	19
Smith	0	0
Erickson	0	0
Valadez	0	0

It is important that all OVFD members diversify training to build and maintain their skills, prepare for promotional opportunities and succession planning, and meet industry standards and best practices.

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OVFD strives to meet the NFPA standard of 240 hours (about 1 and a half weeks) per person, per year. NFPA recognizes all training hours for a year - fire, rescue, and EMS. ISO does not include EMS hours, and therefore requires only 192 annual hours specific to fire/rescue related training.

The following graph illustrates the Fire/Rescue and EMS training hours of OVFD members in 2023.



### Annual Training Calendar:

Our Annual Training Calendar outlines topics on a per tour basis. This averages between three and four topics a month, with the last week of each month left for shift choice/makeup. Each topic includes a training outline and resources the shift may use in class and for drills. The intent of the training calendar is to promote uniformity and consistency among our members. Staff trains on over 200 topics over the year. Each staff member averages two hours of training per day of work.

### Personnel:

Seasonal Firefighters: We continue to staff Seasonal Firefighters on the two shifts that are short staffed. Our current Seasonal Firefighters completed a task-book in their first four-month assignment, last summer. This task-book augments both the orientation/mini-academy and company training as a method of training new hires on the tools and techniques utilized at OVFD. Once they complete their task book, we simply default to weekly company training for ongoing skills retention.

Firefighters: Our Firefighters are progressing with their Career Track. Of our four Firefighters, two are Acting Engineer qualified and have also completed their Company Officer certification. The other two continue to progress through their career path classes.

Engineers: Two of our Three Engineers are qualified and capable of performing as an Acting Captain. This ability provides flexibility when staffing the station and responding to calls locally and statewide.

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Among many other routine and extra responsibilities, one oversees our Radios/Communications, another Ladders/Hoses and the third is currently on probation having promoted this past year.

Captains: While Captains do lean heavily on their crews, it is the captains that ensure shift training is completed in a timely and purposeful manner. While the Training Calendar provides an outline and resources for each topic, the captain is responsible for appropriate classroom presentation and manipulative scenarios.

### **California State Fire Marshall (CSFM) / State Fire Training (SFT):**

CSFM classes are still a valuable resource for the education of OVFD members. SFT continues to align with IFSAC and Pro Board to meet national standards. This also includes aligning with NWCG and FEMA-NIMS courses.

### **North Tahoe Training Officers' Association:**

NTTOA has been active, and as of January 1, 2023, Captain Erik Jitloff of Truckee Fire has assumed the role of NTTOA President. Live fire training at the Carson City training facility, multi-company evolutions, and a spring wildland drill are scheduled for this April.

### **Target Solutions (TS):**

We continue to use TS to manage all our training assignments, as well as their distribution, logging, and tracking. We also track mandated certifications on TS in which individuals are notified at intervals well ahead of their expiration dates. This allows our users to easily monitor their entire training profile and provide for their own accountability.

### **Training Facility:**

#### Local:

Olympic Valley Fire continues to be **without** an appropriate training facility. A location where firefighters can train without concern of causing damage is necessary to build and maintain proficiency. With our lack of a training ground, we often theorize and pretend rather than truly train. We understand space is in short supply, but options do exist for a reasonable training site on our existing property. Space can be made for a training facility at the 1810 or 305 properties in collaboration with OVPSD Operations. A motto in the fire service is "train like it's the real thing." We make every effort to do this but without a dedicated facility we are challenged to achieve this. The Fire Department needs a location where we can safely place ladders, drag hoses, flow water, fill a building with smoke and practice search and rescue techniques without fear of causing damage. With mutual aid several minutes away, we need to be sure the limited personnel that arrive with our initial response are proficient. We can only accomplish this goal with a dedicated training facility within our district.

#### Regional:

A Regional Training Facility continues to be in the talking and planning stages although a location to place it has not yet been found. Land near the TTUSD Bus Barn/Transportation building is being considered. A lot of support still exists for this project, with local agencies earmarking funds and grants being identified, as well as buildout time, sight layout, training delivery methods, and regional approaches/cooperation all continuing to be discussed.

## OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

A regional training facility for interagency use would ideally consist of a three-story tower that accommodates Class A and B fuels, and props that include high angle rescue, roof/ceiling, and FDC/standpipe. Ground level props include aircraft, railroad, trench, confined space, drafting, and LPG/LNG. We also envision a fully functional classroom, lockers, storage and dedicated apparatus, equipment, and props.

This facility would certainly be a game changer for local fire departments - allowing for routine multi-company/agency training and drills, local fire academies and to host SFT classes.

A regional training facility should only serve to complement a training facility within our district as it remains only in the conceptual phase and OVFD crews could not utilize it daily without leaving our response area uncovered.

### **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 are short on some of their requirements, most notably, Facility Training. Target Solutions is a valuable tool to coordinate and meet ISO requirements.

### **2024:**

In the year ahead we will continue to utilize Target Solutions as our training platform to build, assign, and track training. We anticipate hiring two firefighters in the coming months to fill the current vacancies and will spend a significant amount of time training them in our policies, procedures, and fire district. Although we encourage our members to seek additional training outside of our department, it has become more difficult in recent years for our members to take time away from their families. We hope to acquire space within our current facilities to establish an in-district training facility. 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 both our immediate community, the State of California, and appreciate the support we receive in this effort from the Fire Chief, the General Manager, the Board of Directors, and the community.

Respectfully,

*Hans Walde*