



OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 Annual Report | Chief Brad Chisholm

2024 Fire Department Annual Report

The Olympic Valley Fire Department (OVFD) experienced a challenging yet rewarding 2024, with a continued goal of operational effectiveness. We navigated recruitment challenges, calls for service, industry standards and mandates, maintaining apparatus, equipment and ever-increasing budget demands. Despite these hurdles, we had a successful year collaborating with stakeholders, growing our personnel and serving the community.

In 2024, OVFD responded to **676 emergency calls**, just two shy of our record-high in 2023. Of these, **342 were EMS-related**, accounting for 51% of calls within our District. Mutual aid remained a critical component of our operations, with **376 responses received** from North Tahoe Fire and Truckee Fire, and **155 responses provided** to neighboring agencies.

Staffing was a significant challenge for much of the year. We operated with two vacant full-time positions, and despite extensive recruitment efforts, viable candidates were limited. A pivot to a "rapid hire" approach resulted in two outstanding Firefighter-Paramedics, allowing us to reach full staffing by year-end. Additionally, **Brandon Olk was hired as a part-time Fire Prevention Officer in July**, bringing expertise in fire code enforcement, plans reviews, and inspections.

In February, Jessica Asher assumed the role of OVFD Public Information Officer. Since then, she has been networking and educating herself for this role and has made many informative social media posts. In July, the District and Local 39 signed a four-year (2024-2028) MOU with salary adjustments for all positions, hour-for-hour out of class pay and resumption of the Department's wellness program.

California saw an active fire season in 2024, with **8,024 wildfires burning 1,050,012 acres and destroying 2,148 structures**. Locally, we experienced the **3-acre Pass Fire in Truckee**, the **Gold Fire in Verdi, NV**, and the **Davis Fire in Washoe Valley/Galena, NV**. These incidents illustrated and reinforced the importance of the robust mutual aid system and wildfire preparedness we have locally and regionally.

OVFD played a critical role in responding to two high-profile emergencies in Olympic Valley. In January, a **severe wind event triggered an in-bounds avalanche at Palisades Tahoe**, drawing international attention. Just a week later, an **officer-involved shooting followed a police chase involving a stolen vehicle**. Our personnel played an instrumental role in both incidents, showcasing the department's operational readiness and competence.

Fire Prevention & Community Engagement

- Continued our goal of **100% commercial and residential defensible space inspections**, while educating homeowners and improving compliance.
- **Strengthened partnerships** with allied agencies, stakeholders, the local business community and non-profit agencies.
- Engaged in public outreach and fundraising, including a **successful partnership with Fireside Pizza**, which raised funds for the OVFD Firefighter Association.
- Hosted a **pancake breakfast for OVPOA's annual clean-up day**, reinforcing community ties.
- Supported Placer County's **annual Wildland/Evacuation Unified Command and Control exercise**.

Wildfire Preparedness & Fuels Reduction

- Implementation of the **Cabin Creek fuels reduction project**. (1,900 of 6,000 acres proposed between Olympic Valley and Truckee).
- Funding was secured for the **1,060-acre Alpine Meadows/Olympic Valley fuels reduction project**, set for implementation in 2025.
- Progressed significantly on the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (**CWPP**), with **OV-1** completed, **OV-3** completion expected in summer 2025, **OV-4 (Phase 1)** awarded for implementation in spring 2025, **OV-4 (Phase 2)** to be awarded in spring 2025, and **OV-2** in planning with pending funding approval.
- Received a **\$400,000 grant from Truckee-Tahoe Airport District** for local fuels reduction efforts, with more funding anticipated in 2025.

Infrastructure & Equipment Upgrades

- Purchased a **2023 Chevy Tahoe** and a **2024 Ford F-250**, enhancing response capabilities.
- Sponsored a **DHS grant for SCBA equipment** benefiting four regional fire agencies; despite making it to the second round, the application was ultimately unsuccessful. A reapplication has been submitted.

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A major focus in 2024 was conversation around **regional fire service reorganization**. The contract negotiation between North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) and Alpine Springs County Water District (ASCWD) highlighted the need for evaluating regional fire service models. This led to **Placer County LAFCO initiating an Eastern Placer County Fire Service MSR**, which is now in progress. Phase I, focused on findings and current levels of services, is expected to conclude in **fall 2025**, followed by Phase II, which will present recommendations for potential restructuring alternatives.

Additionally, 22 regional fire agencies achieved **operational, logistical, and training alignment** by synchronizing shift schedules. This significant step ensures consistency across agencies, improving training, and mutual aid/operational effectiveness.

Despite challenges, OVFD remains committed to delivering exceptional service to the community. Our staff of dedicated personnel balance emergency response, training, prevention efforts, and community outreach to ensure response readiness and community service. We appreciate the support of District staff, mutual aid partners, the OVPSD Board of Directors, and the Olympic Valley community as we continue working toward a safer and more resilient future.

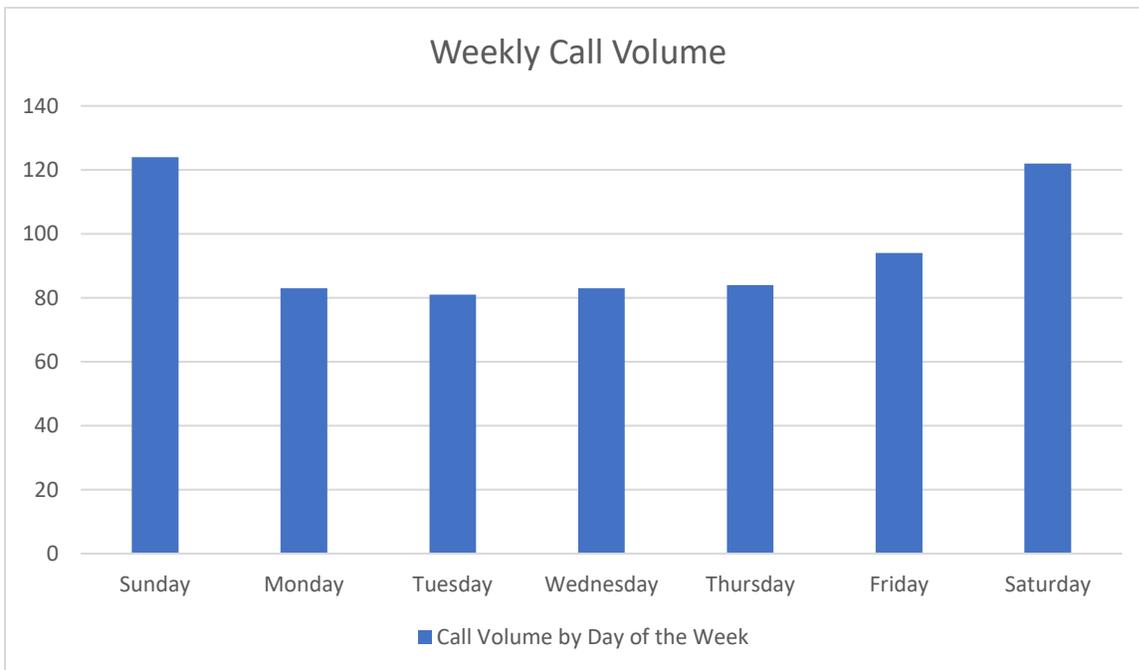
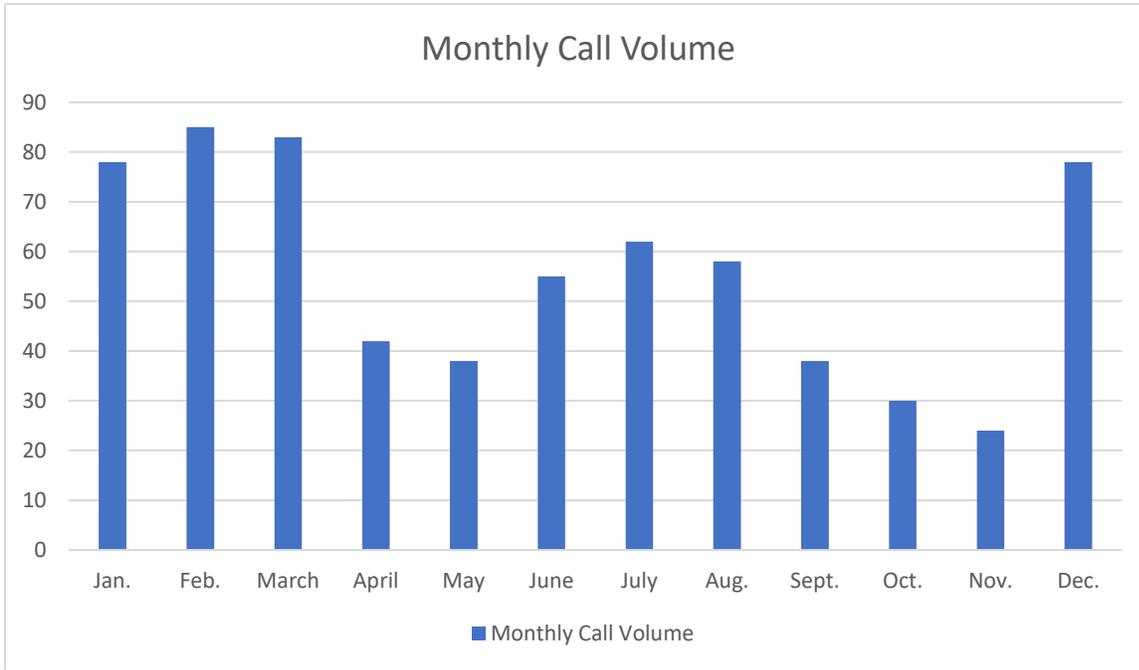
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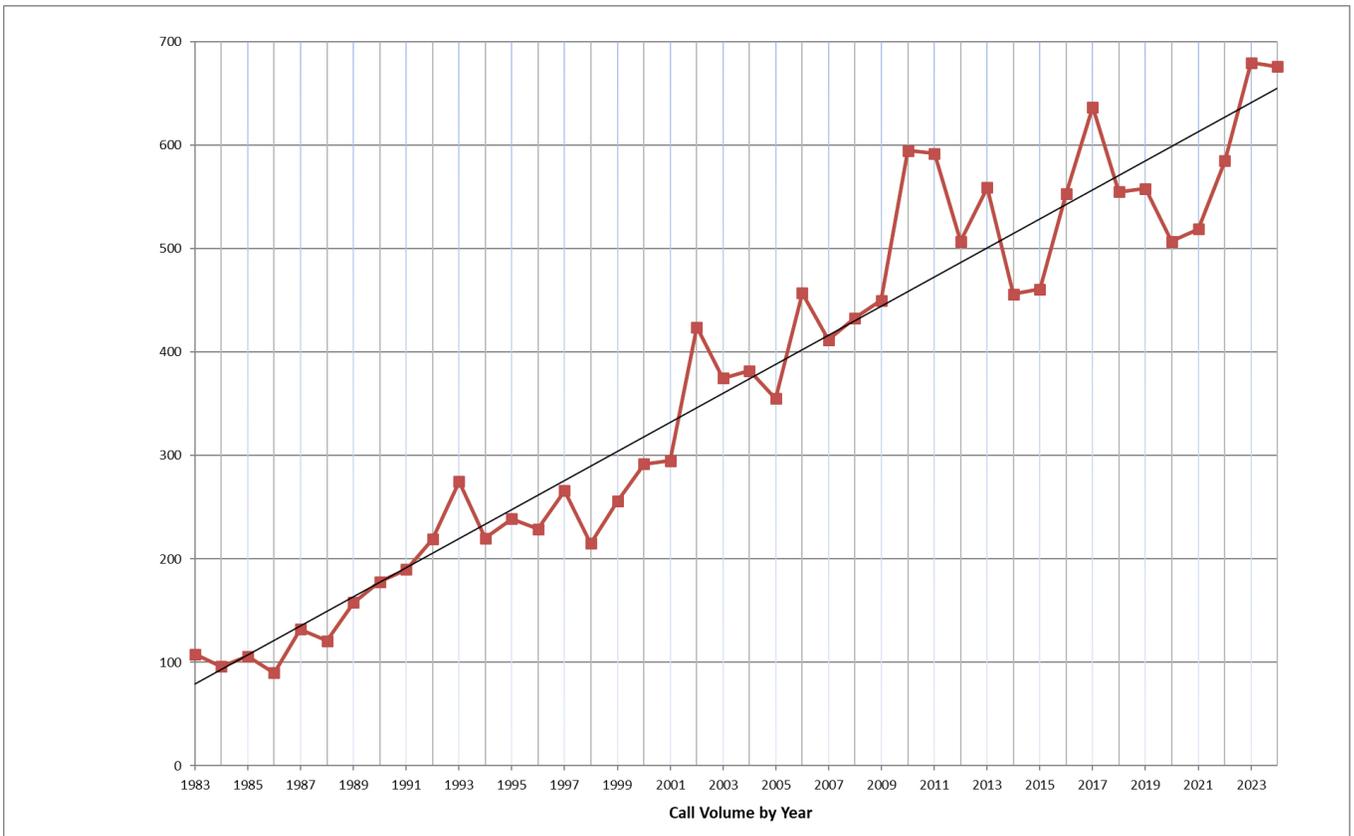
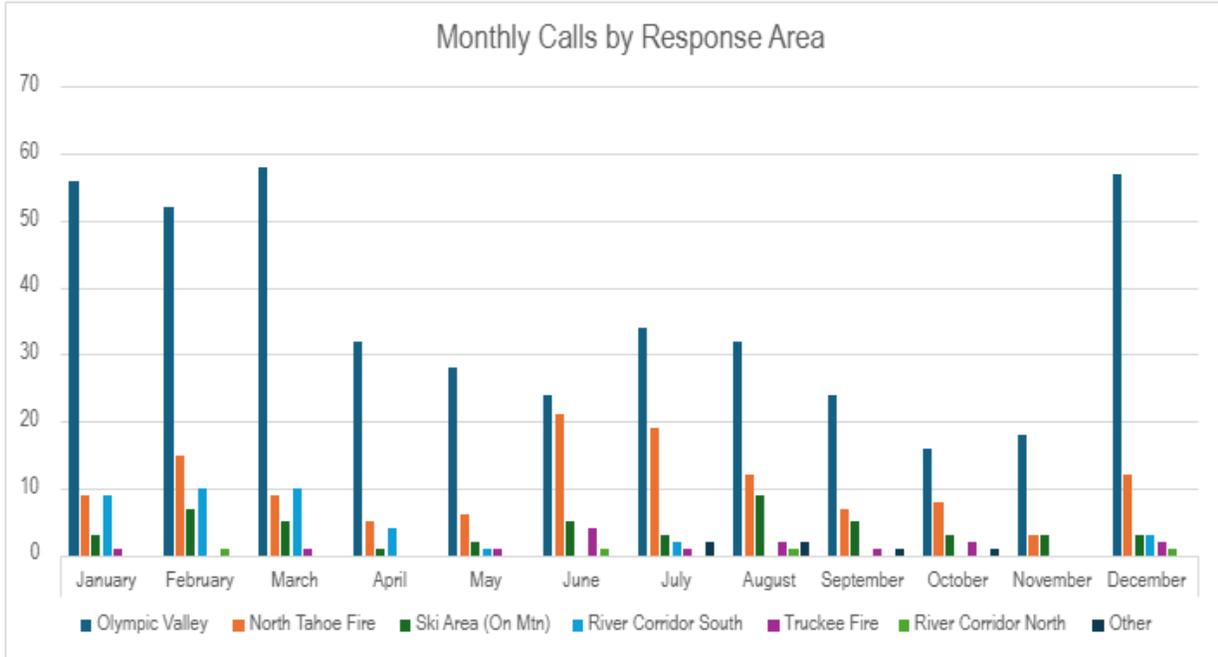
Brad Chisholm
Fire Chief

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The graphs below illustrate call volume in a variety of models.



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Personnel & Staffing Updates

Our staffing model requires the shift Captain, who the industry typically identifies as working at the engine company level, to also assume the role of incident commander. This is a testament to their adaptability and leadership, as they seamlessly balance multiple responsibilities while ensuring effective incident management. While we have practiced this for many years, it does present challenges in maintaining proper command and control of an incident. On a significant incident, the Fire Chief will respond from the station, or from home when available, but there is an inherent delay in on-scene time. In addition to numerous other mutual-aid resources at such an incident, a Chief Officer from a neighboring agency may be requested, which highlights the strong cooperative relationships we maintain with our neighboring departments.

The shifts do an impressive job balancing necessary shift work with ancillary jobs. Although the ancillary roles assigned to the captains get most of the attention, there are many others that are carried out by members at all ranks. A few examples include all things related to radio communications, uniforms and apparel, hose and ladder maintenance, tools and equipment, protective gear, mapping and data generation, SCBA, EMS equipment, and much more. Examples of key administrative duties assigned to each captain are as follows:

- **Captain Chris DeDeo** coordinates our commercial and defensible space inspection program. His prevention work also includes frequent communication with Placer County and close collaboration with our Fire Prevention Officer and Office District Office manager.
- **Captain Josh Rytter** is OVFD's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordinator and fleet and facilities manager. He ensures all personnel are up to date and compliant with EMS requirements. As fleet and facilities manager, he keeps OVFD rolling stock and firehouse in good order, interfacing with Operations as necessary. We are fortunate that Captain Rytter is a knowledgeable mechanic and handyman, often performing repairs in-house when appropriate.
- **Captain Hans Walde** oversees all of our training responsibilities. He also manages our platforms for shift scheduling/payroll, incident response, and inspections. Engineers Gooding and Halterman contribute significantly to this effort.



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2024 Annual Prevention Report | Captain Chris De Deo (A-Shift)

2024 Fire Department Prevention Report

Defensible Space Inspections:

The Olympic Valley Fire Department (OVFD) continues our proactive approach to Defensible Space inspections with a goal to inspect 100% of our single-family residences, lots and condominium associations annually. In 2024, a total of 858 defensible space inspections were performed identifying 1433 violations. Of these, 834 (58%) have been resolved. A total of 354 acres were inspected.

OVFD supported residents by providing letters to help maintain their homeowners insurance, posting wildland fire information on the District website, local newspapers, and social media, and sending out mailings. A fire danger rating sign was posted daily to inform the community of fire risk levels. Additionally, OVFD coordinated five green waste cleanup days in collaboration with OVPSD, Friends of Olympic Valley, Olympic Valley Firewise Community and Palisades Tahoe. Over these five days, Olympic Valley homeowners removed an impressive 480 cubic yards of green waste! 36 homeowners participated in our dumpster rebate program, removing an additional 216 cubic yards of debris. Thank you to all the participating homeowners and organizations for supporting the community our green waste days. Special thanks goes to our Office Supervisor Nicole Whiteman for all her work in helping with our prevention programs.

OVFD's Fire Prevention and Defensible Space Program educated the community regarding open fire pits, barbecues, and general fire-safe practices.

Chief Chisholm, Fire Prevention Officer Brandon Olk, and I attend 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.

The Olympic Valley Firewise Community educates and promotes individual actions to improve community resiliency against the threat of wildfire threats through defensible space and home hardening. OVFD actively supports and promotes the Firewise Community at every opportunity, including with their 2024 recertification.

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Commercial and Residential Occupancy Inspections:

OVFD is responsible for annual inspections of all buildings used for commercial purposes, places of assembly, apartments, condominiums, schools, and hotels within our service area. These inspections are predominantly performed by OVFD line staff, while FPO Brandon Olk now conducts plan checks, special event permits, and inspections on remodels and new construction.

Our inspection program aims to identify and mitigate unsafe conditions, ensuring a safer environment within and around these establishments. Additionally, these inspections enable OVFD line personnel to update Pre-Fire Plans and familiarize themselves with the building's layout which aids in situational awareness in the event of an emergency.

In addition to our Prevention Program duties, OVFD conducted fire alarm evacuation drills with Lake Tahoe Preparatory School and Creekside Charter School. We also offer public safety training with three certified instructors who teach CPR, First Aid, and AED courses. OVFD is also the only fire department in the Tahoe-Truckee area certified for infant/child car seat installations. Our team remains a reliable resource for the community while maintaining positive and cooperative working relationships with the community business owners and property management companies.

2025 Objectives:

OVFD will continue to use FireAside as our digital platform for defensible space inspections. FireAside allowed us to virtually inform homeowners about violations and required mitigations, via online participation, mailings and door hangers. To enhance communication, all inspections will be mailed, which homeowners can expect to receive within seven days. This program allows homeowners to address violations by submitting questions and pictures virtually, while saving OVFD time on physical reinspection.

Zone 0 is a critical component of overall defensible space of a home and for it to stand on its own in the event of a wildfire. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) has announced that Zone 0 requirements will take effect for new construction on January 1, 2026, with existing structures expected to comply three years later. Given its importance, Eastern Placer County Fire Prevention Officers are considering an ordinance to require Zone 0 language on existing structures sooner than three years.

In 2025, we will continue to focus on dead trees, vacant lots, and maintaining properties, particularly after initial defensible space compliance. All commercial occupancies will be scheduled for defensible inspections, and we will continue to update our Pre-Fire Plans as new information is made available. OVFD remains committed to supporting the Olympic Valley Firewise Community in enhancing wildfire preparedness.

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Prevention Officer Workload:

OVFD Fire Prevention is performed on a part-time basis by our FPO, Prevention Captain, fire department line staff, administration staff and Fire Chief. While this model is similar to what we have employed over the years, Prevention duties continue to challenge our personnel and limit our ability to provide our community with the safest outcome from the threat of wildfire. For Instance, as mentioned above, only 58% of the defensible space violations were corrected. Other Fire Prevention Divisions in our JPA enjoy numerous full-time and seasonal employees to meet the many demands of prevention.

Chief Chisholm has authorized overtime for off-duty line staff to complete prevention-related work. While this approach has been moderately effective, we are encouraged by our newer members showing an interest in participating. We hope this will help to address some of our ongoing challenges.

Should Olympic Valley experience the growth that has been proposed, a full-time Fire Prevention staff member may become necessary. Such a role could be tasked with our more extensive commercial, STRs, and defensible space inspections as well as address the many short- and long-term prevention demands that would certainly arise. As a part-time FPO, Brandon Olk performs many inspections, plans reviews and a portion of defensible space inspections throughout the year. A full-time prevention staff would benefit the line staff by freeing up time for their operational roles and responsibilities that contribute to our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 2.

Fire Prevention looks forward to another collaborative and productive year servicing our community.

Respectfully,

Chris De Deo



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2024 Annual EMS, Fleet, and Facilities Report | Captain Josh Rytter (C-Shift)

2024 Fire Department EMS, Fleet, and Facilities Report

EMS:

Olympic Valley Fire Department responded to 342 emergency medical services (EMS) incidents last calendar year, providing timely and professional emergency care to the community. Staffing shortages posed a challenge, with two vacant positions for half the year. However, we successfully filled those positions with Firefighters Timothy Hoover and Ryan Scott. Both have completed their Paramedic Orientation Program Task Books and can work as solo paramedics if necessary (though this remains a rare occurrence).

Olympic Valley Fire Department operates under Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS agency (SSV) for medical direction, ensuring compliance with current policies, protocols, and practices. The latest update included numerous treatment changes and added medications that require additional training. 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.

Despite evolving requirements and staffing challenges, the fire department was able to maintain its EMS/Paramedic program within budget while ensuring continued readiness and professional service.

Fleet:

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, with annual inspections and emergency repairs handled by Blondina Diesel. Their reports provide trends and a detailed list of items that need to be addressed prior to failure.

We are currently finalizing a two-year contract with Blondina Diesel for service, maintenance, and repair. This contract is cost-effective in catching items prior to catastrophic failure. Given the demands of EMS and fire training, on-duty crew does not have the capacity to perform detailed repairs. The department maintains eight apparatus and numerous tools to ensure operational readiness.

In 2024, we sold the 1998 Brush engine and 2014 C200 vehicle, replacing them with a new utility and a command vehicle, both of which were placed in service during the fourth quarter.

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.

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Facilities:

General maintenance of the fire station is an ongoing effort, primarily handled by shift personnel around their daily duties and emergency incidents. In 2024, garage door upgrades and replacements were a priority due to recent and anticipated failures. Additionally, portions of the interior lighting were upgraded to LED for improved efficiency. Research is ongoing for future flooring/carpet replacement and appliance replacement, as needed.

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

Fire Department Fleet – 2024:

Designator	Year	Description	Mileage
Engine 21	2016	Four-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	27,505
Engine 221	2001	Two-wheel drive Type 1 structure engine	23,612
Brush 21	2017	Type III Wildland/Urban Interface engine	18,706
Rescue 21	2006	Medium rescue with vehicle extrication	18,497
Water Tender 21	2023	2,000 gallon water tender/pumper	2,376
Utility 21	2011	Ford F-150 Crew Cab pickup truck	57,431
Utility 221	2024	Ford F-250 Crew Cab pickup truck	200
Command 21	2023	Chevrolet Tahoe	7,202

Respectfully,

Josh Rytter



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2024 Annual Training Report | Captain Hans Walde (B-Shift)

2024 Fire Department Training Report

Training for Olympic Valley Fire Department in 2024 was coordinated by the Training Officer and 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.

2024 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 work towards compliance with mandates and industry standards.

Classes

OVFD continues to offer a generous training program. In 2024, OVFD personnel attended 27 fire/rescue/EMS related classes. This is an increase of 58% over 2023. With the department fully staffed it has been easier for employees to take time off to attend classes outside of our fire district. This has resulted in the “good problem” of straining our Training budget. In addition to the classes listed below OVFD personnel participated in two regional trainings, a High-Rise drill that OVFD hosted at the Everline Resort and a live fire training hosted by Truckee and North Tahoe Fire at the Carson City training ground.

The following shows the Fire/Rescue/EMS related classes and hours of OVFD members in 2024.

Member	Classes Attended	Total Hours
DeDeo	2	7
Erickson	0	0
Geigle	0	0
Gooding	5	41
Halterman	9	96
Hoover	6	113
Rogers	0	0
Rytter	0	0
Scott	2	56
Smith	0	0
Valadez	1	40
Walde	2	48

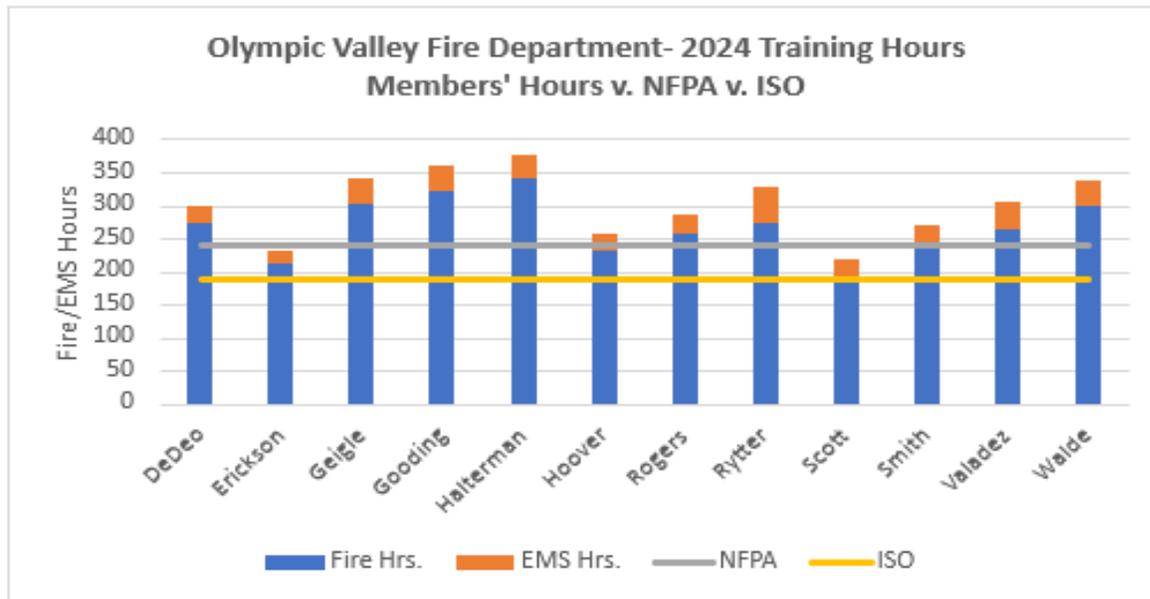
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2024 Annual Training Report | Captain Hans Walde (B-Shift) | Page 2

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

OVFD strives to meet the NFPA standard of 240 hours 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 2024.



Annual Training Calendar

Our annual training calendar outlines each week's training topics, averaging four to six fire-related topics and eight to twelve EMS topics per month. The last week of each month is reserved for shift choice or makeup of missed training. 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 train on more than 200 topics during the year, averaging more than two hours of training per workday.

Since taking over the position of training officer in 2023, I have introduced new training topics, updated older fire training materials with current information and videos, and revised key training resources. These updates include the Driver Operator Task book, Duty Officer Task book and Firefighter Task Book for new hires. Additionally, all Performance Standards were reviewed and updated in the last year. These performance standards include a variety of manipulative skills that are used in training to establish a minimum standard of competency and ensure all OVFD employees are performing skills in the same manner, which leads to more effective teamwork when employees are moving between shifts to cover vacancies.

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2024 Annual Training Report | Captain Hans Walde (B-Shift) | Page 3

Personnel:

Seasonal Firefighters: OVFD has discontinued the hiring of seasonal firefighters. The program had mixed success over the years. A lot of time was spent between hiring and training new employees each spring and fall. We unfortunately did not have the carryover from season to season that other departments had enjoyed in previous decades.

Firefighters: Our two new firefighters have completed their new hire task books and have been cleared to operate as paramedics. Of our six firefighters, two are acting engineer qualified and have also completed their company officer certification. The other four continue to progress through their career track classes.

Engineers: Two of our three engineers are qualified to act as captains, providing increased flexibility in staffing the station and responding to calls locally and statewide. In addition to their regular duties, engineers are each assigned extra responsibilities. Examples include radio communications, ladder and hose testing, CPR programs and fire and EMS reporting programs. Engineer Halterman successfully completed his engineer probation last year and is currently working on his acting captain task book.

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 ultimately responsible for appropriate classroom presentation and conducting 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 working on organizing various classes and drills for our area. In the last year, the NTTOA has sponsored three days of live fire training at the Carson City Fire training ground and two days of high-rise drills hosted by OVFD at the Everline Resort.

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.

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Training Facility:

Local:

Olympic Valley is a community that faces real and evolving challenges in emergency preparedness. A training ground within Olympic Valley would allow OVFD personnel to train without the need for extensive travel, saving time and resources. Moreover, it would offer an opportunity for community engagement by allowing residents to witness and learn about fire safety and the skills needed to protect their homes and businesses.

A dedicated fire training ground within Olympic Valley would enhance the capabilities of your fire department, ensuring that we are fully prepared to meet the ever-changing demands of the job and protect lives, property, and the natural environment. It would provide the opportunity to practice essential skills, learn new techniques, and train in a coordinated manner with our mutual aid providers, who we depend on so heavily. Because mutual aid is frequently delayed for many reasons, our crews are faced with limited resources and must perform as effectively and efficiently as possible. Such a facility would result in increased safety, cost efficiency, and community engagement.

With changes in Department and District leadership, discussion around this has advanced. Identifying a suitable location remains a challenge, but continued dialogue and creative problem-solving will be key to making an in-district training site a reality.

Regional:

A Regional Training Facility continues to be a goal of our local fire departments. Despite previous attempts, securing land for this initiative has been unsuccessful. A Regional Training Facility would enable routine multi-agency training and drills, providing familiarity and consistency in operations, support local fire academies and provide a financially viable training center. A regional training facility should only serve to complement, not replace, a training facility within 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 training facility that ISO deems appropriate, we lose important points for some of their requirements, most notably, Facility Training. Target Solutions is a valuable tool to coordinate and meet ISO requirements.

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2025:

In the year ahead we will continue to utilize Target Solutions as our training platform to build, assign, and track training. We continue to train our two newest firefighters to help them become more proficient in their skills and knowledgeable of our community and mutual aid response areas. 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 will be diligent and creative in our approach to training and remain hopeful that a local training facility is 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 and 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