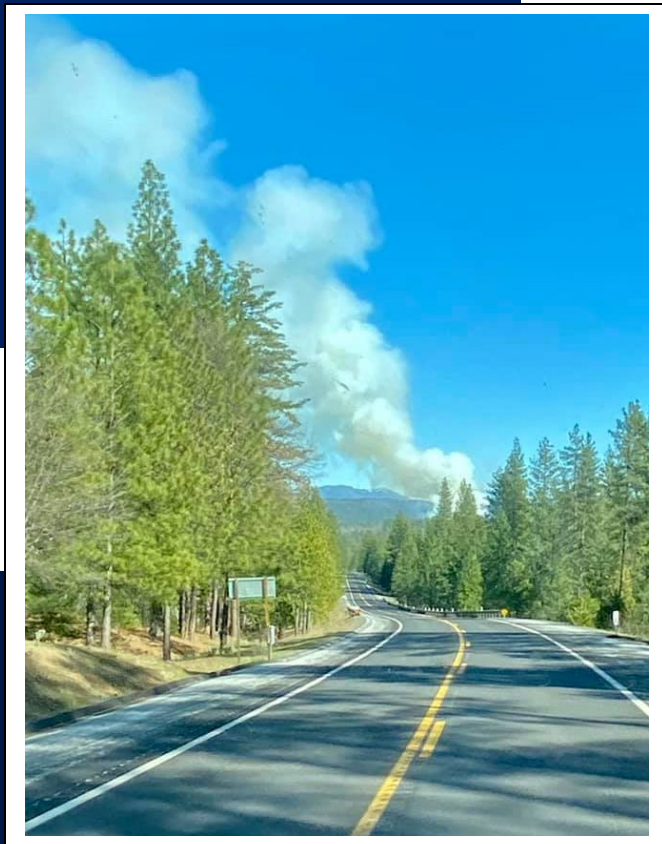


Tuolumne County Fire Department

Monthly Activity Report

**March
2021**



Tuolumne County Fire Department

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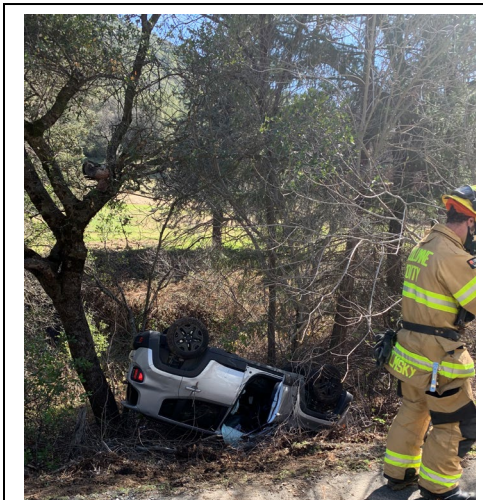
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MONTH IN REVIEW

March 2021

Twice a year we all get a good reminder to do a little safety check in our homes. The changes in and out of pacific standard time are a good reminder to check our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This year, on March 14, we turned our clocks forward. This was a good time to not just check to see that your detectors work, but proactively change the batteries as well. Not having working smoke detectors in the home is a very common finding in home fire fatalities. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. We encourage you to replace your batteries on your older smoke detectors if you haven't already done so this year. If you have a newer 10-year alarm this is a good time to test it to ensure it's working.

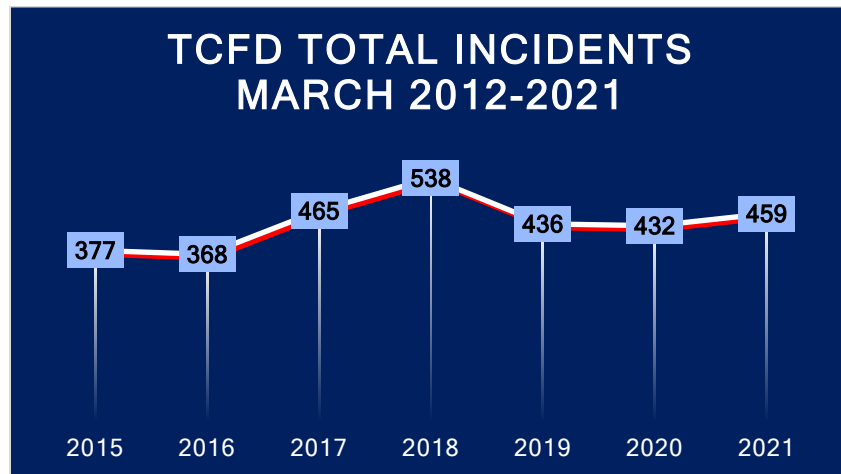
This month firefighters and our prevention staff assisted the California State Fire Marshal with a final standpipe flow test at the new California Superior Courthouse for Tuolumne County. An engine pumped the fire department connection (FDC) which feeds the standpipes and sprinkler system. To pass, the terminal end of the system (the roof) needed to be able to flow 500 gallons per minute. TCFD Firefighters and Inspectors were on site to assist by pumping the system as they would in an actual fire situation, connecting to a hydrant and the FDC, and shutting down the main water supply that supplies the system. The system passed with flying colors and as a matter of interest, the hydrant flowed 4,500 gallons per minute!



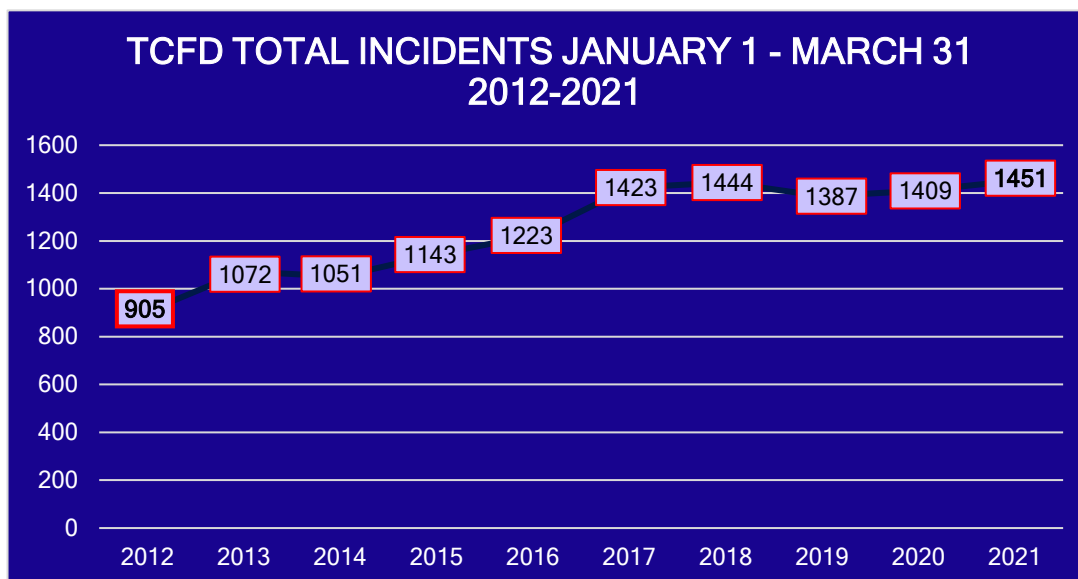
This month CAL FIRE/Tuolumne County Fire conducted our annual required ladder, hydraulic and specialized rescue tools (jaws of life), and fire engine pump testing and inspection. This process is repeated every year to ensure equipment reliability and safety for firefighters and the citizens we serve and gets the longest possible life out of the tools and equipment as possible. An outside vendor came to the Standard CAL FIRE station to do the testing. Besides CAL FIRE/TCFD, Groveland Community Services District Fire Department, Strawberry Fire District, and Columbia College Fire Academy also participated. Over 2,500 feet of ladders, all fire engine pumps, and 45 hydraulic tools. All fire engines passed their pump test but one ladder and one 10-year-old hydraulic power unit failed. We're working with the vendors to determine the cost of repairs. The average age of the TCFD fleet is 23 years. NFPA

recommends moving front line fire engines to reserve status at 10 years and replacing completely at 15 years. We are years behind.

In March there were a total of 459 incidents in TCFD jurisdiction compared to 432 in 2020, and an increase from the five-year average of 448. Of the 459 incidents this month there were 326 medical aids, 40 fires, and 93 other incidents. From January 1 to March 31, TCFD has responded to 1,451 incidents within our jurisdiction compared to 1,409 in 2020, and a five-year average of 1,377.



The 10-year trend of increasing demand for services is below in the first quarter statistics. If the past is a predictor of the future, we expect to be responding to over 1,000 incidents per month by 2031, if not sooner. Additional resources and support are needed now to address today's needs and to prepare for the increase.



TCFD Station Responses

Station 51 Mono Village Fire Station responded to 133 incidents in the month of March including 90 medical calls (8 vehicle collisions), 24 public assists, 11 fires, 3 false alarms, and 5 other incidents. 114 incidents were within their primary response area (PRA) and 19 were not. Volunteers responded to 40 of the 133 incidents, and aid was given to 1 agency 3 times and received by 2 agencies 3 times.

Station 76 Jamestown Fire Station responded to 135 incidents. Of those 135 incidents, there were 94 medical aids (including 5 CPR incidents & 13 vehicle collisions), 21 public assists, 4 false alarms, 10 fires, and 6 other incidents. Of the 135 incidents, 123 were within their PRA and 12 were not. Volunteers responded to 3 incidents. Automatic aid was given to two agencies 7 times and received from 2 agencies 11 times.



Tuolumne County Fire Department Station Incident Responses

March 2021

Mono Village Station 51 (6 career / 6 volunteers) 155 incidents
 Ponderosa Hills Station 53 (1 volunteer) 9 incidents
 Long Barn Station 54 (0 volunteers) 12 incidents absorbed by other stations
 Pinecrest Station 55 (7 volunteers) 9 incidents
 Mono Vista Station 56 (6 volunteers) 102 incidents
 Crystal Falls Station 57 (0 Volunteers) incidents absorbed by other stations
 Cedar Ridge Station 58 (12 volunteers) 13 incidents
 Chinese Camp Station 61 (1 volunteer) 25 incidents
 Smith Station Station 63 (0 Volunteers) incidents absorbed by other stations
 Don Pedro Station 64 (3 volunteers) 15 incidents
 Jamestown Station 76 (5 career / 1 volunteer) 139 incidents
 Columbia College Station 79 (6 student firefighters) 41 incidents
 Blanchard CAL FIRE Station (Amador) – 33 incidents
 Twain Harte CAL FIRE Station (Amador) – 66 incidents
 Groveland CAL FIRE Station (Amador) – 42 incidents
 Standard CAL FIRE Station – 60 incidents

Incident totals include incidents that the fire station was dispatched to, and may have been automatic aid to other agencies through the Tuolumne County Automatic Aid Agreement

Significant Incidents

March 3, 2021 – Debris Fire, Stockton Road

Crews responded to a smoke check and found a partially extinguished debris fire at Camp Hope. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire.

March 4, 2021 – Vehicle Fire, Crystal Lake Drive

In the Phoenix Lake area, firefighters discovered a single vehicle involved with threat to the nearby structure. The fire was quickly contained minimizing the damage to the vehicle and exterior side of the structure.

March 7, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Woodham Carne Road

A single passenger vehicle was found off the roadway supported by trees and brush. There was one patient in the vehicle and although extrication was not required, the patient was entrapped and required assistance exiting the vehicle. The patient was later assessed by paramedics.



March 13, 2021 – Motorcycle Collision/CPR, Bonds Flat Road

Crews arrived at scene to find an adult male patient who had been involved in a motorcycle collision with CPR being performed by a Game Warden. Firefighters continued performing CPR and attached the new Lucas Device and automatic external defibrillator. Paramedics arrived to render aid. Sadly, the patient did not survive.

March 19, 2021 – Vehicle Fire, South Mono Vista Road

Fire fighters responded to a passenger vehicle engine compartment well involved with fire. A combination of hand lines and a fire extinguisher were used to extinguish fire with no extension to surrounding buildings.

March 19, 2021 – Emergency Standby, Wig Wam Road

Late in the evening crews responded to a tree down onto a residence in a mobile home park. On arrival crews found a very large oak tree had fallen on and severely damaged three homes and four vehicles. Firefighters

secured the scene, checked for injuries or any sign of fire, and called for utility companies to ensure their lines were safe. Red Cross was called to assist in temporary housing but all occupants denied assistance. Thankfully no injuries were reported.

March 19 – Vehicle Collision, Jacksonville Road

Near Highway 120 at Moccasin. On arrival crews found a single vehicle off the road with major damage. Fortunately, the occupant had only minor injuries.

March 21, 2021 – Vehicle Fire, South Mono Vista Way

At a mini storage business on Mono Vista Way S x Hwy 108 in Mono Vista, Volunteers from nearby TCFD Station 56 Mono Vista happened to be at the firehouse and arrived within 3 minutes, knocking the flames down and keeping the fire contained to the engine compartment and preventing spread to the nearby buildings.

March 22, 2021 – Structure Fire, Eighth Avenue

The first arriving engine reported a fully involved single family residence. Firefighters began an aggressive defensive attack and extinguished the fire. No injuries were reported.

March 22, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Chicken Ranch Road

Firefighters responded to a vehicle accident involving two vehicles and reports of fire, near Chicken Ranch Bingo. Upon arrival fire fighters discovered two vehicles with one overturned and negative fire involved. Personnel assessed the patients who opted to self-transport to Adventist Health of Sonora for further evaluation.

March 23, 2021 – Emergency Standby, Paseo de los Portales Road

In the Crystal Falls crews responded for a tree into power lines with a service drop down. One residence was affected. There were high winds battering the area again. At 4:36 pm wind speed at Mt. Elizabeth was from the north 26 mph with gusts to 48 mph.

March 23, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, J59 @ Houseboat Mini-Mart

Crews arrived and observed an approximately ¼ acres of grass burning at a moderate rate of spread. The fire appeared to be spreading with the wind, towards the south. There were locals on scene taking action with hand tools prior to the arrival of the Amador engine from Blanchard. With the assistance of the locals, firefighters then quickly extinguished the fire.

March 24, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Mono Way x Hillsdale Drive

Just a few hundred yards from TCFD Station 51, crews found a single vehicle with major damage off of the road way into a County Transit bus stop. Two patients were evaluated and transported to the local hospital via ground ambulance.



March 24, 2021 – Structure Fire, Eighth Avenue

Firefighters were at scene within 5 minutes however the residence was fully engulfed with fire. Crews worked to ensure the fire did not spread to adjacent exposures.

March 26, 2021 – Vehicle Collision, Mono Way x Highway 108

Crews found two vehicles involved with one patient in critical condition after the vehicle went off an embankment. The patient was flown by an air ambulance to a valley trauma center.

March 26, 2021 – Medical Aid/Rescue, Pinecrest

Crews were called out to a sledding accident victim with a major head injury. Crews were able to drive to within a couple hundred yards of the accident location. Using a newly purchased piece of specialized equipment called a SKED, the patient was stabilized and transported the 200 yards to the ambulance. The SKED is just one of many types of specialized equipment your fire departments use to mitigate the thousands of different scenarios we face each year. Many times, specialized equipment is only

purchased or replaced with grant funds or one-time revenue and there are currently no funds set aside each year for their replacement.

March 26, 2021 – Medical Aid/Rescue/CPR

Responding into Mariposa County at the Exchequer Mountain Bike Park in the Lake McClure area, firefighters were able to locate the patient on the trail roughly 40-50 feet from the access road. The patient was found face down at the bottom of a large jump, not breathing, non-responsive, and no pulses were found. Firefighters, law enforcement, park rangers, and game wardens all worked together to try to resuscitate the patient. Paramedics arrived and initiated advanced life support. The patient was transported to a valley hospital by ground ambulance. Sadly, the patient did not survive.

March 27, 2021 – Structure Fire, Golf Links Road

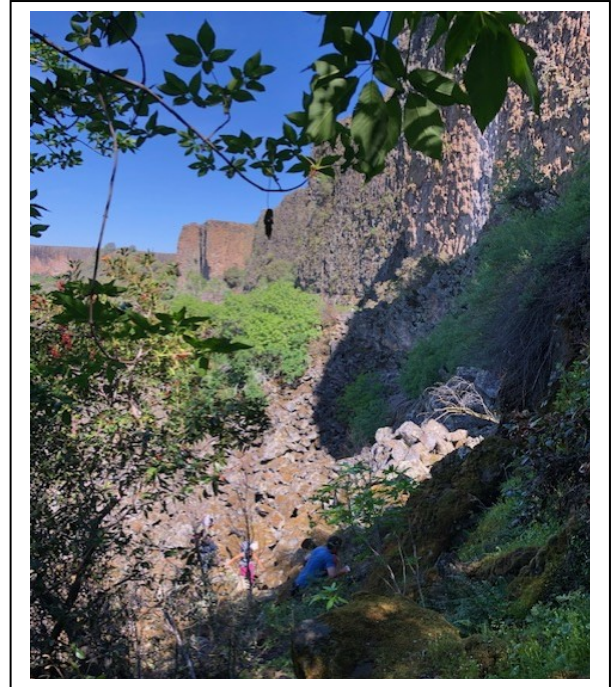
Crews arrived to find a travel trailer fully involved with fire with power lines down and extension into a detached garage of the main structure on the property. Fire crews contained the fire and contacted Red Cross to assist the solo resident of the travel trailer.

March 27, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Saratoga Road.

Crews were dispatched to a smoke check that turned out to be an escaped debris burn from some 30 piles the property owner was burning. The .31-acre fire was controlled after two hours.

March 27, 2021 – Structure Fire, Ninth Street

The dispatch was for a possible extinguished structure fire. Upon arrival, the house was charged with smoke and significant damage had occurred throughout the residence from the heat and smoke. Firefighters performed ventilation and checked for extension into the walls.



March 27, 2021 – Medical Aid/Rescue, Table Mountain

Crews responded with many agencies to rescue an injured hiker off Table Mountain, in an area known as The Grotto. Approximately 1.5 miles past the parking area at the end of Shell Road, first responders all worked together to locate and then begin treatment and removal of the injured patient. The patient fell from a distance estimated at 20', sustaining a broken left arm and head lacerations. Due to the extended time frame of a rescue helicopter, fire crews hiked the patient out to the awaiting Tuolumne County Ambulance.

March 28, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Short Line Road

In the 10000 block of Short Line Road east of Groveland, crews arrived to find a fire of several acres burning in brush with a moderate rate of spread. The IC requested additional air and ground support and TCSO for possible evacuations. By about 6pm crews had contained the fire to 23 acres. Crews remained on scene through the night and over the next several days.

March 30, 2021 – Commercial Structure Fire, Tuolumne Road

Firefighters responded to a 2,500 square foot shop on fire in Standard. Rapid actions by firefighters kept the fire contained to burning materials on the exterior of the building.

March 31, 2021 – Vegetation Fire, Via Serena Road

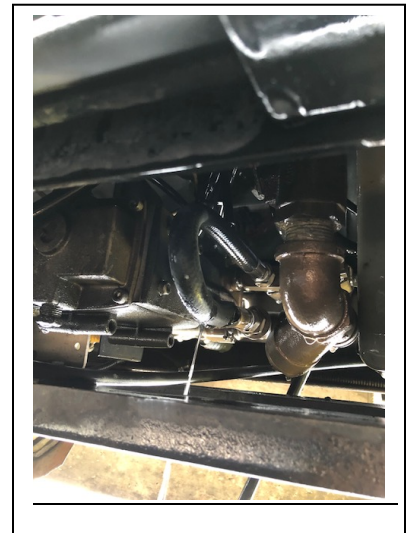
Crews were able to quickly contain the fire to one acre. There were multiple burn piles within the fire area that the homeowner had not fully extinguished the prior day that caused the fire. Crews remained on scene for four hours mopping up the fire.

Fleet

On March 6th TCFD Jamestown Engine 761 was taken out of service for multiple leaks on the pump, torn seats, and damaged floor boards. This is due to the age and mileage (over 170,000 miles). Equipment from E761 was swapped over to Reserve Engine 901. E901 (180,000 miles+) has minimal equipment and takes 1-1 ½ hours to complete the equipment swap.

Three days later, Reserve Engine 901 experienced mechanical issues and was put out of service. Due to E901 being the only Type 1 reserve engine, Station 76 personnel utilized TCFD Engine 792. E792 is 1994 Type 2 Engine and only fits a maximum of three personnel opposed to E761 and E901 which can carry six. Due to lack of compartment space we were unable to carry vital equipment which we would otherwise be able to use such as ropes, airbags, cribbing, rescue 42's, RIC Pack, PFD's, misc. medical equipment, etc. Having any major incident without the ability to carry our normal complement requires additional resources from further away to respond.

After being returned to service E761 sustained a blown water line on its pump manifold while operating at a vegetation fire. During the 30-minute down time for repair, Engine 761 was unable to respond to a reported structure fire in the Jamestown area.

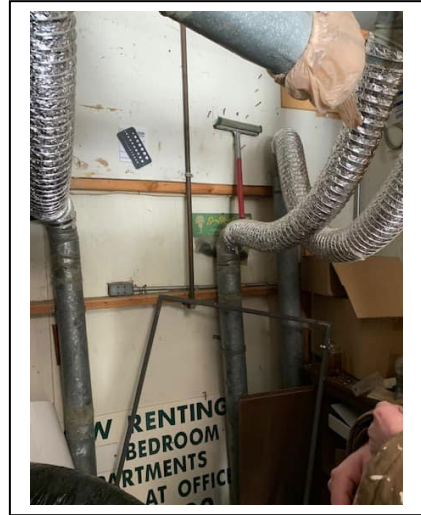


Other repairs: E901 replaced all heater hoses, repaired multiple air leaks and then sent to a vendor for head gasket and machine work on head and engine block; worked on multiple engines getting ready for pump testing valve and plumbing leaks; pump testing on all TCFD engines; working on water pump on W/T 768 and preventative service; placed order for new R4435 2021 5500 Dodge service truck and 2021 Ford Explorer for prevention from unanticipated revenue from last fire season.

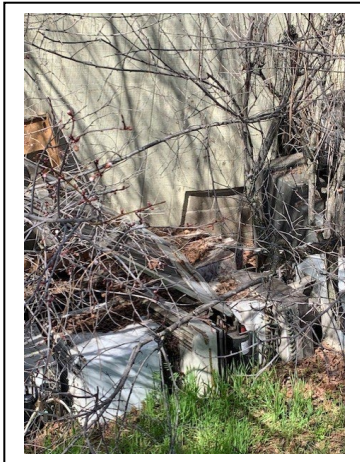
Prevention/Education

A multi-family dwelling apartment building had a poorly designed exhaust system for the common laundry room used by the residents. By Code, the exhaust should have stopped at the bottom of the wall near the floor in this picture. Instead rigid exhaust piping went up at a 90-degree angle from the

bottom of the dryer exhaust located on the other side of the wall. Flexible drooping accordion style tubing was then attached to the rigid tubing which then went to the ceiling/roof. Lint will build up in these tubes and will not exhaust out the top greatly increasing the chance of a lint fire. Also, there is no cleanout to access at the bottom of the tubing to clean the lint from these tubes unless the entire tube was removed from the wall. The property owners are working to fix this issue and a reinspection will occur soon.



Fire Code 304.1 Waste accumulation prohibited. Combustible waste material creating a fire hazard SHALL not be allowed to accumulate in building, structure or on premises. Dried vegetation buildup creating a fire hazard in a local multifamily dwelling apartment. As the season is beginning to change, this buildup of dried vegetation



on the roof and dead tree within feet of this structure is creating a fire hazard which will only increase as the weather gets warmer. On the same property rubbish was allowed to accumulate immediately next to a structure creating a fire hazard. Inspectors will return to ensure compliance.

A fire sprinkler system, when properly maintained, is one of the most effective fire safety systems in any building. However, when a fire sprinkler system is allowed to deteriorate, the system will not operate properly, if at all. Ninety per cent of all fires are controlled with six or fewer heads, and a study conducted reviewing over 80 years of automatic sprinkler use found that 82% of the fires were controlled by two or fewer sprinkler heads. Pictured here is a snapshot of a poorly maintained sprinkler found during a mandated inspection on a local residential care facility by your TCFD Fire Inspectors. The State mandates inspections on certain occupancies (types of businesses), including senior care homes such as this. It's vital that all owners maintain their life-saving equipment in the best condition. Inspectors will return again very soon for a follow up review.



During the month Inspectors completed 39 fire code and life safety inspections and performed 38 fire plans reviews. The following types of occupancies were inspected:

- Three Group A, Assembly Occupancy
- Seven Group E, Educational Occupancies

- One Group E, Day Care
- Two Group I-2, Hospital/Elderly Care Facilities
- Six Group R-1 & R-2, Residential (Hotel, Motel, Apartments)
- Two County Buildings
- One 280 State Form-Private Care Home Inspection
- Ten Haz-Mat Tank Inspections
- Six Re-inspection
- One No Show-

Social media continues to provide a great opportunity to spread the fire prevention/education message and keep the community informed on events occurring within County Fire's jurisdiction. If you haven't already, follow us for more information on the incidents and additional pictures:

facebook Tuolumne County Fire Department (3,842 followers (+343))

Instagram | [tuolumnecountyfire](#) (1,917 followers (+52))

[@tuolumnecofire](#) (944 followers (+22))

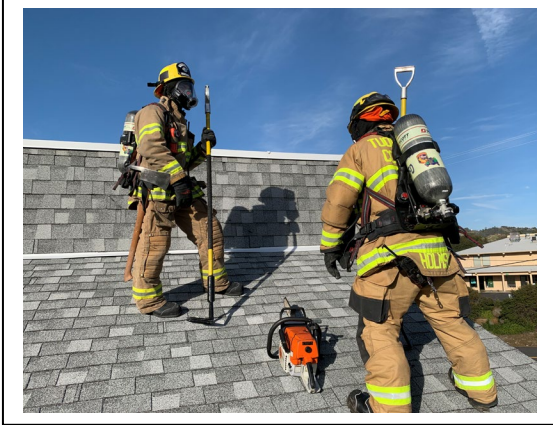
Training

CAL FIRE/TCFD staff instructed the State Fire Training certified Vehicle Extrication class for the Columbia College Fire Academy at Vic's Tow Yard. In this lecture and hands on training new firefighters learn the basics of auto ex including tools, vehicle construction, and how to safely deconstruct the passenger compartment of vehicles.

CAL FIRE/TCFD and TCFD Station 79 Columbia College Firefighters also assisted teaching the State Fire Marshal's Fire Control 3 class for the Columbia College Fire Academy at the Twain Harte Fire training props. Fire Control 3 teaches entry-level firefighters all aspects of fire behavior, elements of building construction, basic chemistry, basic physics, methods of fire attack, and overall safety when operating inside a structural fire. The last two days of the class are all live fire, hands-on training days. The cooperative relationships built between CAL FIRE, Tuolumne County Fire, Columbia College, and the Twain Harte Fire District have fostered a high quality training event that benefits up 40 Columbia College Fire Academy students, twice a year. Nearly all of these students will be employed in a short time by many fire agencies in Tuolumne County or throughout California. For the paid staff, participating in this



training keeps their teaching skills sharp, allows mentoring opportunities, recruitment opportunities, and also keeps their firefighting skills current. The firefighters assigned to TCFD Station 79 Columbia College benefited from the extra training in the following ways. Soon to be driver/operators pumped all the engines involved in the two days of training. The newer firefighters, fresh out of the same academy; worked with the instructors all day, obtaining several hours of live fire experience that will make them even safer and more effective on their first fire.



The new Volunteer Firefighter Academy continues. This month the class completed all structure skills i.e. don/doff structure gear, SCBA, Ladders, and Ropes and Knots. March was warmer and longer days which allowed the students to work on all the skills needed to respond to structure fires.

Tuolumne County Fire Department Muster Association

The TCFD Muster Association is a benevolent non-profit organization that receives donations to support the firefighters of the TCFD in need and supports firefighters in obtaining additional training. The TCFD Muster Association is proud to offer “We Support TCFD” t-shirts in children’s and adult sizes and Tuolumne Co. FD Richardson snapback hats for a donation. Children’s shirts have been reduced to \$10 and adult sizes are \$15. Hats are \$20 and both items are pictured below and can be ordered from TCFDMuster@gmail.com or by calling 209-533-5118.



