



Porterville Fire Department Annual Report 2022



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Contact Information

Porterville Fire Department

980 S. Jaye Street
Porterville, CA 93257



Emergency Number: 911

Non-Emergency Number: (559)-782-7400

Fire Department Headquarters Number: (559)-782-7526

Fax Number: (559)-782-1003

Website: <https://www.ci.porterville.ca.us/departments/fire/index.php>

Email: fire-dept@ci.porterville.ca.us



Facebook: portervillefire



Instagram: portervillefire

Acknowledgments



Martha A. Flores
Mayor
District 3



Kellie Carrillo
Vice Mayor
District 5



Lawana Tate
Council Member
District 1



Donald Weyhrauch
Council Member
District 4



Milt Stowe
Council Member
District 2



John Lollis
City Manager

Chiefs Message



Bryan Cogburn
Fire Chief

The Porterville Fire Department has had a proud history of serving our community as an all-risk organization. As the 10th Fire Chief, I assure you that we will continue to provide you with the best customer service through our mission-focused and value-driven approach. Our mission is to "Safeguard and Put Duty Above All" and is driven by our Core Values of Professionalism, Vision, Leadership, Trust, Integrity, and Compassion.

The past few years have been challenging and at times, overwhelming for our organization. In February 2020, Captain Ray Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones gave the ultimate sacrifice while searching for a reported victim in the Porterville Library Fire. Shortly after the incident, while our department grieved, we faced the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the resiliency and grit of the men and women of this department propelled us forward. They dealt with the fluctuating uncertainty of the pandemic while also recovering from our loss, and still managed to find innovative ways to serve the community's needs.

As we rebound from the past few years, we remain focused on providing the community with the best service possible; while also exploring ways for us to improve as an organization and creating a path forward through guiding documents. This path will be laid by performing a Community Risk Assessment followed by a Fire Department Strategic Plan. The Community Risk Assessment evaluation will give us an accurate picture of vulnerabilities and hazards to our community as well as recommend methods to improve fire and life safety services. The Strategic Plan provides our organization with a long-term direction and vision.

In closing, I am thankful to work with the men and women of the Porterville Fire Department, and I am honored to serve the community as the next Fire Chief.

Sincerely,

Bryan Cogburn

Mission Statement

"To Safeguard and Put Duty Above All"

Core Values

Vision
Leadership
Professionalism



Trust
Integrity
Compassion

Firefighter Code of Ethics

As a firefighter and member of the Porterville Fire Department, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard and preserve life and property against the elements of fire and disaster; and maintain a proficiency in the art and science of fire engineering.

I will uphold the standards of my profession, continually search for new and improved methods and share my knowledge and skills with my contemporaries and successors.

I will not allow personal feelings, nor danger to self, deter me from my responsibilities as a firefighter.

I will at all times, respect the property and rights of all men and women, the laws of my community and my country, and the chosen way of life of my fellow citizens.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the fire service. I will never use my official position to obtain advantages or favors for myself, my friends or family.

I will constantly strive to achieve the objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession-saving of life, fire prevention and fire suppression.

As a member of the Porterville Fire Department, I accept this self-imposed and self-enforced obligation as my responsibility.



Executive Summary

The men and women of the Porterville Fire Department have continued to embody the Department's mission statement "To safeguard and put duty above all". As in the years past, this year has had its challenges. We continue to navigate the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the medical responses associated with it. A historic drought that has seen unprecedented wildland and vegetation fire activity. We are also still recovering from the Library Fire, every day growing stronger and more resilient. With all this said, our firefighters have valiantly served our community and those communities across the State of California when they were in need.

In service to the community over the past year, the Department responded to its busiest year ever with 5,453 calls for service and conducted over 12,000 hours of training.

Some of the major accomplishments this past year have been:

- Increased minimum daily staffing as a result of a FEMA SAFER grant.
- We ran two successful firefighter recruit academies
- Bryan Cogburn was selected as the 10th Fire Chief
- With help of funds from Measure I and H, the design phase has been started for remodeling all three fire stations and the training ground to accommodate future growth of the department
- 10 million dollars was awarded for a new Public Safety Administration/ Emergency Operations Center building to be built on the library footprint.
- We added 1 clerical position and 2 Code Enforcement Officers
- The Honor Guard and a small delegation traveled to Sacramento and participated in the California Fallen Firefighters Memorial. At the memorial, Captain Figueroa and Firefighter Jones were honored for their sacrifice.
- The department assisted in several major wildfires with personnel and equipment this year
- The fire department administration offices have relocated to the Public Safety Building at 980 S Jaye, while making room for the Fire Marshal and the growing Code Enforcement Division to be centrally located at City Hall.
- The department continues to utilize S.A.R.T. recommendation in steering their training priority. They accomplished some of these by sending personnel to numerous training classes across the state and modifying the training facility to create as realistic conditions as possible.

In the coming year, the Department will continue to strive to increase the service quality through vision and leadership. The goal of the Department is to decrease response times, increase our effective firefighting force and continue to work towards meeting the recommendations found in the Library Fire's S.A.R.T. report and NIOSH Report.



Department Overview

Divisions:

Administration

Responsibilities include: Planning, Budget, Personnel, Policy

Operations

Responsibilities include: Emergency Response, Training

Prevention

Responsibilities include: Fire Life Safety Inspections, Fire Investigations, Plans Review, Code Enforcement



Staff:

57 Department Personnel

- 49 sworn firefighters
- 1 Fire Marshal (Non-Sworn)
- 3 code enforcement officers
- 2 administrative assistants
- 1 part-time code enforcement officer
- 1 part time clerical aid



Budget:

Total Budget \$7.9 Million

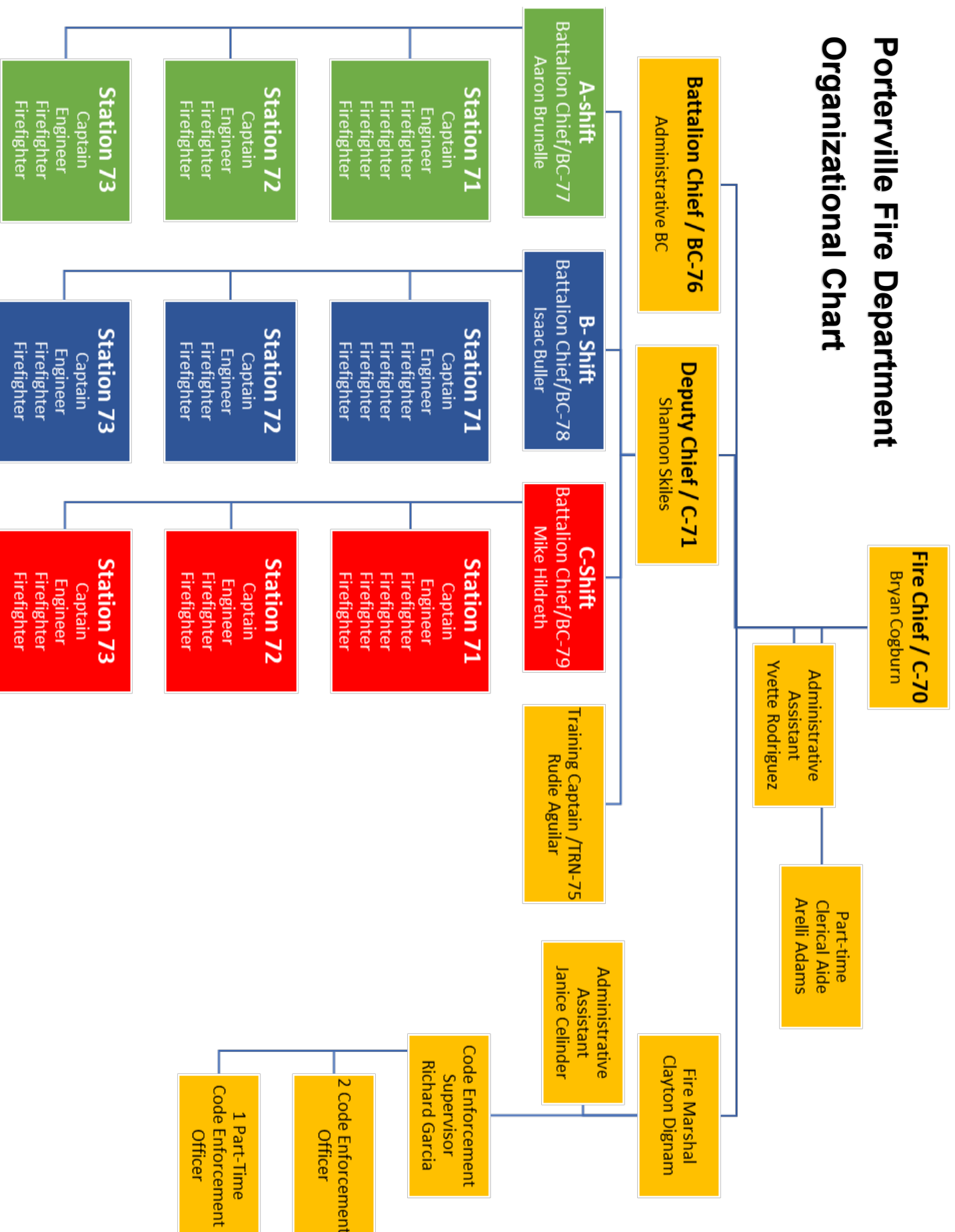
- General Fund: \$4.4 Million
- Measure H: \$1.7 Million
- Measure I: \$1.8 Million

Area Served:

Population Protected: 62,600
Population Density: 3456.1 per square mile
Land Area: 8.73 square miles
Firefighters per 1000: .75
ISO PPC Rating: Class 2



Porterville Fire Department Organizational Chart



Operations Division



Shannon Skiles
Deputy Chief of Operations

The Operations Division has a primary responsibility for emergency response and preparedness within the City of Porterville. The division staffs three fire stations and responds to a wide variety of emergencies including fires, rescues, emergency medical incidents and hazardous conditions.

The Operations Division is comprised of 49 career fire personnel. The Division is overseen by the Deputy Fire Chief and organized into three shifts, A, B, and C. Each shift is staffed with 1 Battalion Chief, 3 Captains, 3 Engineers and 8 Firefighters.

The division includes a Training Captain who manages the department's annual training programs and coordinates emergency management response and preparedness activities with City staff.



Services provided by the Operations Division include:

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Response
- Technical Rescue
- Wild-land Interface Firefighting
- Emergency preparedness planning and coordination
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Mutual Aid Response to neighboring jurisdictions
- Public Education
- Fire Prevention Inspections
- NIMS and EOC training and preparedness



Operations Division Personnel:

Uniformed Personnel: 49
 Minimum Daily Shift Strength: 13



Water Tender 73

Truck 71

Apparatus Profile:

Engines: 6
 Ladder Truck: 1
 Patrols: 3
 Water Tender: 1
 Command Vehicles: 7



Engine 72

Battalion Chief 76

Patrol 73

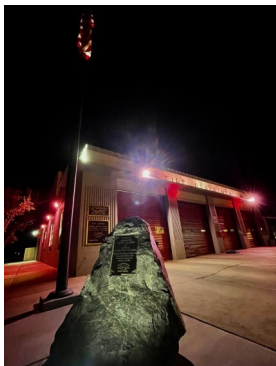


Fire Stations:

Station 71
 40 W. Cleveland St.

Station 72
 500 N. Newcomb Ave.

Station 73 / Headquarters
 980 S. Jaye St.



Incident Statistics

2022 was the busiest year ever for the Porterville Fire Department! During the year, we responded to 5,453 call for service. This is a 19% increase in call volume over the last 10 years.

Incident Type	# Of calls	Percentage of calls
Fires	519	9.52%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	7	0.13%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	3292	60.37%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	116	2.13%
Service Call	551	10.10%
Good Intent Call	710	13.02%
False Alarm & False Call	255	4.68%
Special Incident Type	3	0.06%
Totals	5453	100%

Busiest Station

- Station 72 - 2241 Incidents

Busiest Shift

- B Shift - 1839 Incidents

Busiest Month

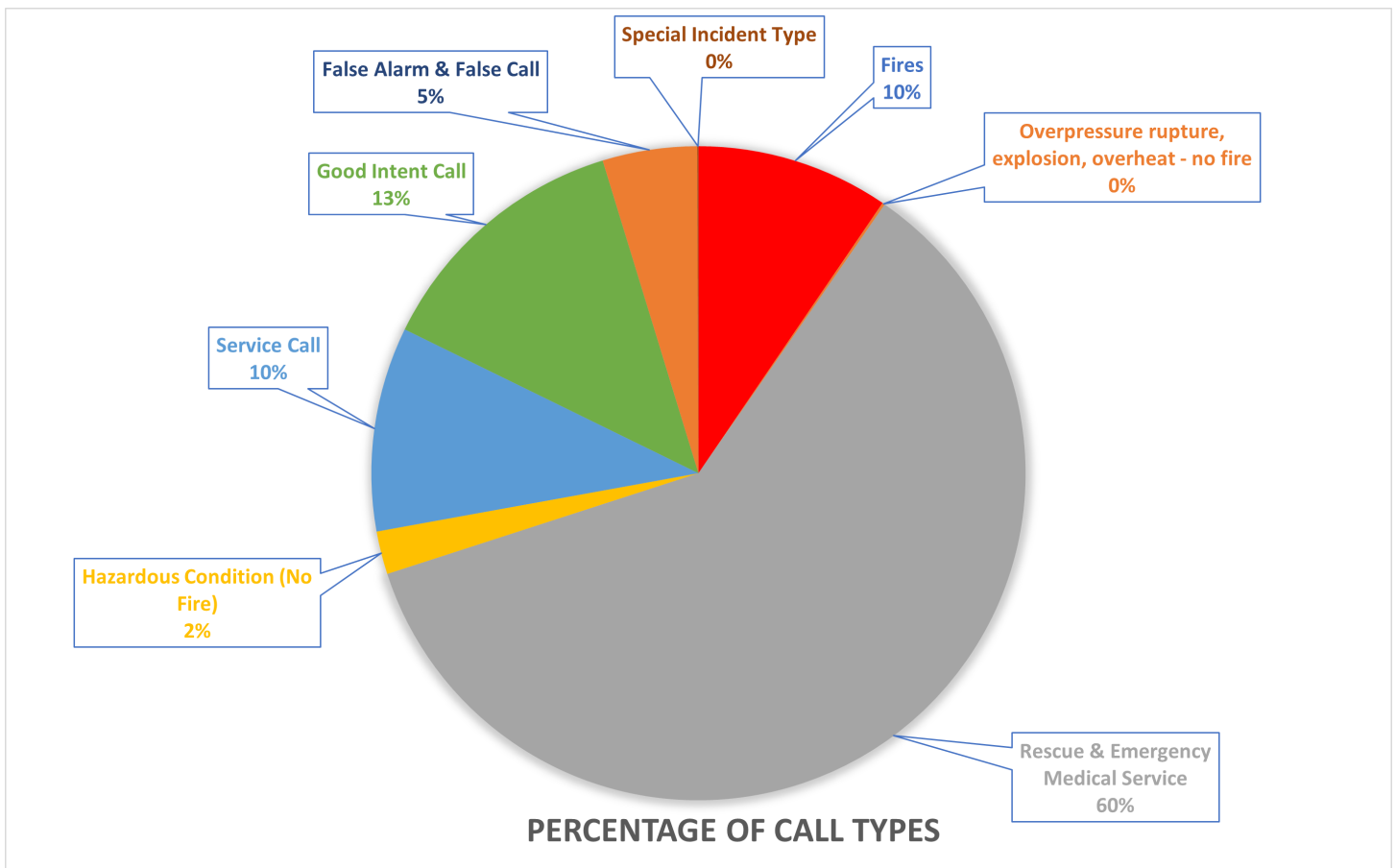
- May - 519 Incidents

Busiest Day of the Week

- Tuesday - 858 Incidents

Busiest Hour

- 5PM - 335 Incidents



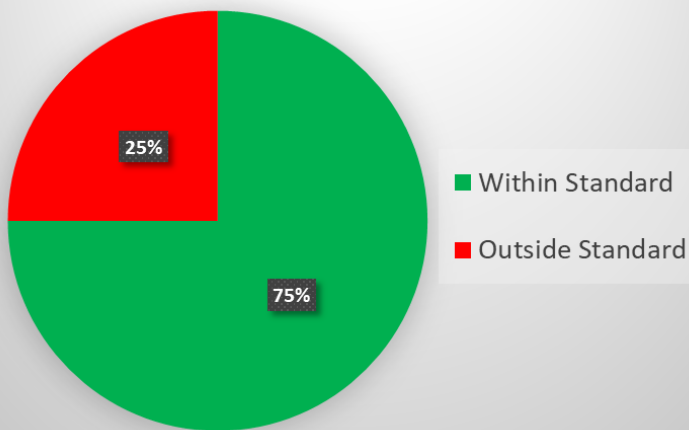
Response Performance

The Porterville Fire Department has adopted key response related standards from NFPA 1710 (Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments). Arriving to an emergency quickly allows for critical tasks to start taking place. Critical tasks are those tasks that must be promptly put into operation at the scene of an emergency to stop the negative progression and begin the mitigation of the incident.

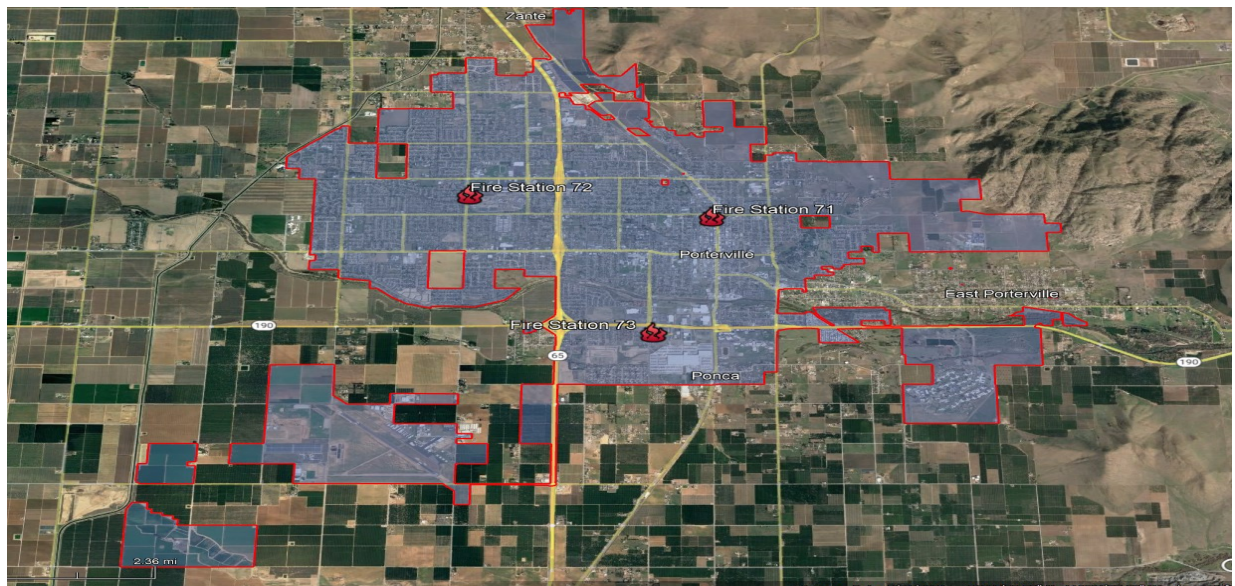
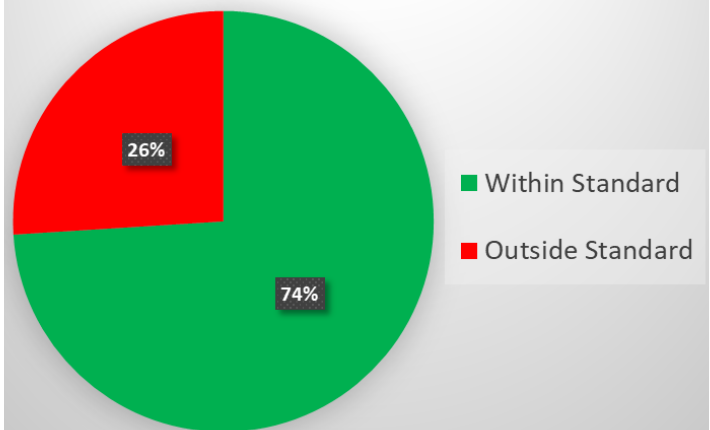
Response time starts with receipt of the dispatch at the fire station, and ends with arrival of the first engine at the scene. The response standard for the first arriving engine to a fire is five (5) minutes and twenty (20) seconds, 90% of the time. The chart below shows that the 2022 response time performance to fires within the standard was 75%.

The response time standard for the arrival of the first emergency medical unit is five (5) minutes, 90% of the time. The chart below shows EMS response performance for 2022 within the standard was 74%.

2022 Fire Response Time Performance



2022 EMS Response Time Performance



Training Division

The Porterville Fire Department Training Division has worked tirelessly in providing training to meet the needs of our organization, engine companies and individuals. The division has focused on providing training that meets or exceeds national standards and best practices while maintaining compliance with annual OSHA requirements, SART/NIOSH recommendations and Department specific topics to strengthen the overall functionality of our Firefighters, Officers, and Chief Officers. PFD completed **12,274** hours of training in 2022

Some of the in-house Department training consisted of:

- Confined Space
- Rope Rescue / “In-Service” Operations
- Auto Extrication
- Hose & Nozzle “In-service” training
- Annual Wildland refresher
- Rapid Intervention Operations.
- Fire Behavior / Flashover prop
- Residential Search Tactics
- Annual Hazmat refresher
- Ventilation Operations
- Forcible Entry

Throughout the year the Training Division has been committed to succession training. By conducting several professional growth exams, including Acting Engineer, Acting Captain, and Acting Battalion Chief, we are assisting our personnel in gaining experience and knowledge in preparation for possible promotion when available.

In 2022, we ran two New Recruit Academies. Class 22-4 (March) was 9.5 week long and graduated 4 recruits. Class 22-5 (November) was 7 weeks long and graduated 1 recruit. Academy training consisted of focusing on PFD fundamentals in all aspects of emergency services. Throughout the year, previous academies (21-2, 22-3 & 22-4) performed mid-term and final exams designed to test the competency and growth of our newest members.

Other outside trainings PFD members attended include:

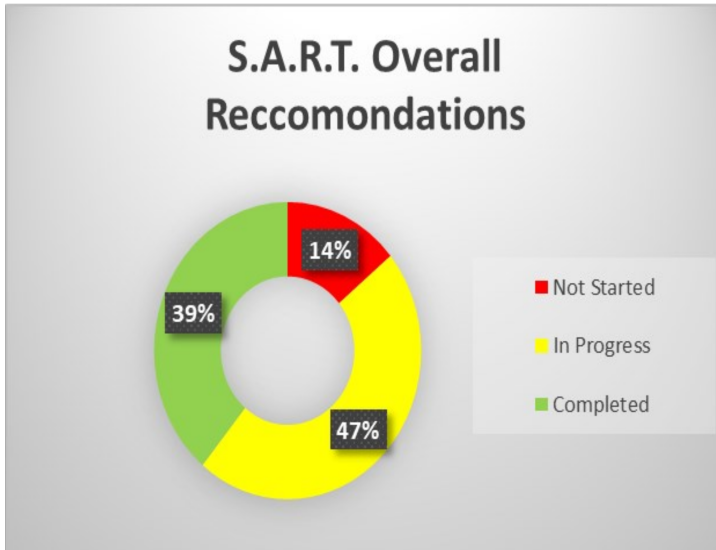
- FEMA-Safety Officer,
- FSRI Basement Fire Tactics
- Fresno Fire Symposium
- Fire Investigation Series
- Haz-Mat Tech Series
- Confined Space Tech
- Company Officer Series
- Skylife Air Ambulance Training
- Andy Fredricks lecture series
- Calm the Chaos (Nationally Recognized Command and Control Instructor Anthony Kastros)
- Hydrants to Nozzles hosted by nationally recognized guru of water supply Dennis LeGear

Our training officer is the Vice president of South Valley Training Officers Association and the Area 11 Associate Director for the Southern California Training Officers and is a lead instructor in the Regional Operations Area Rapid Intervention Crew training being implemented in Tulare County.



S.A.R.T. / NIOSH Recommendations

Following the Library Fire, two separate investigation teams conducted a review of the incident and highlighted recommendations for areas of improvement. The first report to come out was the Multi-Agency Serious Accident Review Team (S.A.R.T) in April of 2021. In the report, 95 recommendations were identified in 5 subject areas: Command and Control, Rapid Intervention Crew, Communications, Operations and Training.



Multi - Agency Serious Accident Review Team
S.A.R.T.
Investigation Report
Porterville Fire Department



February 18, 2020
41 W. Thurman - Porterville, CA
Incident # 20-820

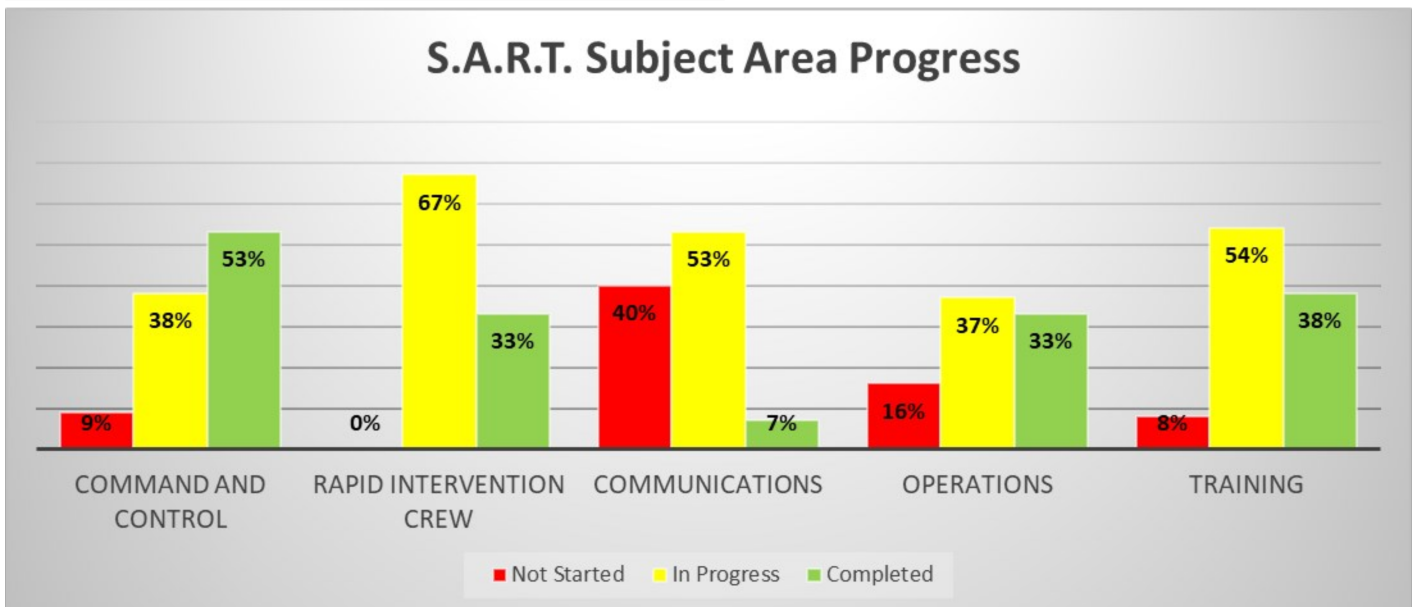


Career Captain and Career Firefighter Die After Running Out of Air During a Search in a Public Library - California

Executive Summary

On February 18, 2020, a 39-year-old career captain and a 39-year-old career firefighter died while working the reported incident using a surface in a public library. At 10:03 hours, the career captain called dispatch and Engine 71, Engine 72, Truck 71, and Battalion 71 to a commercial structure fire at the library owned by a woman. A woman later, a fire police officer arrived, made entry, and reported the first floor was clear. An approximately 10:10 hours, Engine 71 arrived with a career firefighter, and engine from the fire station. The crew of the fire station observed a commercial wall with the roof of the library. The engine reported heavy smoke from the building. Battalion Chief 71 also responded from the adjacent fire station. A firefighter advised a second police officer that a woman with a violent son was on the second floor. The Engine 71 crew made entry without a hoseline and without extinguishing Battalion Chief 71. An approximately 10:15 hours, Battalion 71 arrived on scene, assessed conditions, and advised evacuation of the building. Battalion 71 and Engine 71 on the roof of the building and tried to contact the Engine 71 crew on the second floor. Battalion 71 and Engine 71 on the second floor, the Engine 71 captain contacted Battalion Chief 71 on Channel 1 and reported they found Battalion 71 and were located in the reported fire. At 10:18 hours, fire conditions had worsened, and Battalion Chief 71 declared a defensive attack and attempted multiple times to reach the Engine 71 captain on Channel 1 and 2 with no response. At 10:19 hours, a rapid intervention team (RIT) was assembled and made entry to locate the Engine 71 crew. A moment later, the fire chief arrived, and the Engine 71 captain called a Mayday from Battalion 71. The Engine 71 captain stated that he and his firefighter were running low on air as the firefighter could not hear the fire chief. At 10:19 hours, the RIT reported no fire and was unable to locate the reported fire. The RIT could hear someone shouting. The Engine 71 captain was located in a bathroom and handed off to a second RIT because the first RIT was low on air.

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Strike Team Deployments

During 2022, Porterville Fire responded to 6 statewide mutual aid wildland fire incidents. Our personnel totaled 1,554.75 hours helping neighboring communities while still providing the highest level of care for our community.

Name	Location	Date	Unit	# of Personnel
OAK	CDF MADERA-MARIPOSA-MERCED	JULY 22-31	OES-411	4
MCKINNEY	USFS KLAMATH NF	JULY 31-AUGUST12	OES-411/P-73	7
PRE-POSITION	TULARE COUNTY FIRE HEADQUARTERS	SEPTEMBER 1-7	OES-411	3
POWER	CDF FRESNO-KINGS	SEPTEMBER 6-9	OES-411/P-73	6
FORK	CDF MADERA-MARIPOSA-MERCED	SEPTEMBER 7-10	OES-411	3
MOSQUITO	TAHOE NF	SEPTEMBER 9-19	OES-411/P-73	8



Public Information and Education

Over the last 2 years our Public Education opportunities had been reduced dramatically due to COVID 19 restrictions. Since the restrictions have relaxed, we have had the opportunity to get back out, offer fire station tours and attend community events. This year we participated in over 24 events.

This year also saw the return of our Fire Prevention Week school presentations where fire crews completed 16 presentations. We visited every third-grade class in Porterville to share the fire prevention message “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape.”



Some of the other highlighted events include:

- Fair Days
- Pioneer Days
- Butterfield Days
- Sound the Alarm
- PPD Bike Rodeo
- Meet the Pros
- Disco on the Hill
- National Night Out
- Numerous Fire Station tours
- Porterville Celebrates Reading
- Truck or Treat
- Leadership Porterville

Our Public Information team also had the responsibility of planning, assisting and hosting the press conference for:

- "Fire Captain Ramon Figueroa and Firefighter Patrick Jones Memorial Highway" Dedication
- Unveiling of the Memorial Rock and Flag Pole at Library Anniversary
- Awarding of 10 million dollars for Public Safety Building and Emergency Operations Center



Honor Guard

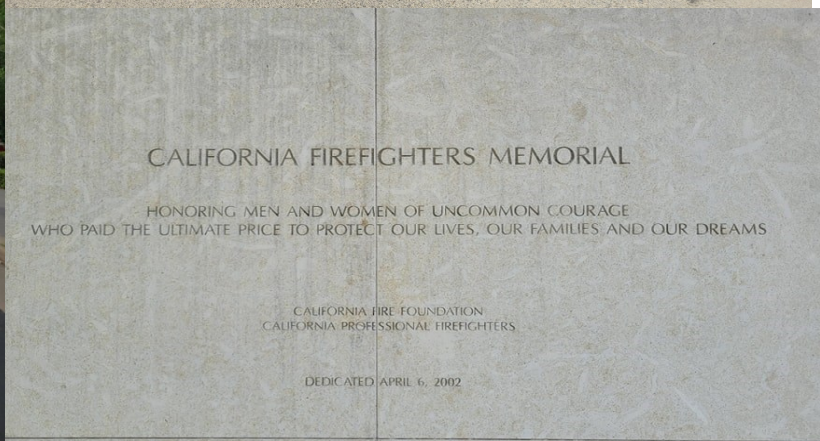


The honor guard is a ceremonial unit comprised of sworn firefighters who are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance, conduct, discipline and dignity while serving at ceremonial functions.

The Honor Guard participates in several types of events with its highest priority to plan organize and perform at memorial services for department members. The team also assists other agencies with funeral and memorial services when requested. They also perform the presentation of colors at department events such as dedications, graduations, promotional ceremonies and awards ceremonies. From time to time, they will perform at civic events such as parades, sporting events and other special community events when requested.

In 2022, our Honor Guard participated in several events including:

- California Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento
- Library Fire Memorial
- 3 Funerals
- 1 Sporting event
- 2 Badge pinning's
- 1 Retirement



Fire Investigation Unit

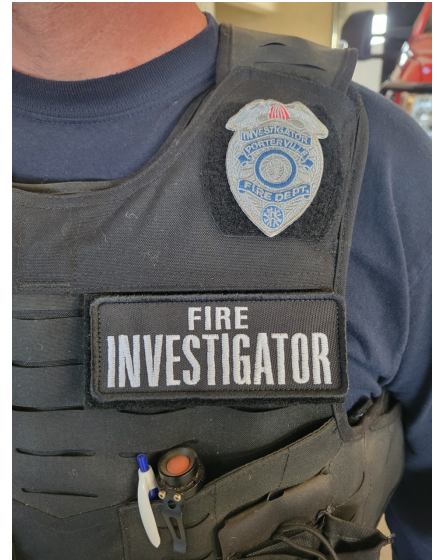
As part of the Fire Prevention Division, the fire investigation unit has worked diligently on investigating all types of fires. The goal of the fire investigation unit is to deter all intentional and malicious fires within Porterville. The investigation unit has eight personnel assigned to handle the investigations of fires.

The unit is comprised of two 40-hour staff positions that assist with investigations and follow-up with the six 24-hour shift investigators. For the 2022 year we investigated a total of:

- 36 Arson fires
- 150 Intentional fires
- 96 Unintentional fires
- 21 Failure of equipment or heat source
- 2 Acts of nature
- 96 Under investigation
- 133 Undetermined fires

During the year 12 arrests were made, of those, 9 were adults, 1 adult cold case arrest for an Arson fire in 2020, 1 arrest by another agency, and 1 juvenile was referred to probation for setting a fire.

In 2022, the Fire Investigation Unit responded to 27 incidents involving illegal and dangerous fireworks. Individuals involved were counseled on the dangers of illegal and dangerous and issued administrative citations totaling \$63,500.



Fire Prevention Division



Clayton Dignam
Fire Marshal

When people think of the Fire Service they see firefighting as the primary role of any fire department, often overlooked is Fire Prevention, which is the first line of defense to reducing risks and hazards to people and property. The Prevention Division implements a wide variety of programs within the City of Porterville, including fire and life-safety inspections, community home care inspections, fire investigation and code enforcement.

The Fire Marshal also serves on the Project Review Committee and the Community Development Financial Assistance Review Committee. Prevention Division staff oversee and manage construction inspections and review plans for development projects within the city from their inception through to completion. Throughout the year, several new projects were completed in Porterville including retail, commercial, and housing developments. These new projects have a positive impact on the local economy and provide the citizens of Porterville with more stability and opportunity.

The Arson Investigators are charged with determining the cause and origin of intentional, suspicious, and fires that cause high property loss, injury, and/or loss of life. Our investigation unit works diligently to pursue and convict arsonists. This concerted effort is reflected in this year's arson convictions.

Code Enforcement utilizes City's Public Stuff / MyPorterville App which allows for complaints to be received, tracked, and documented efforts in gaining compliance in a timely manner. Code Enforcement also assists other departments of the city in attaining compliance.

Notable commercial projects include:

- Boot Barn - New construction
- Panda Express - New construction
- Valley Strong Credit Union - New construction
- Human Bean Coffee Shop - New construction
- Educational Employees Credit Union, EECU - Tenant improvement
- West Coast Sourdough - Tenant Improvement
- Porterville Temp Library - Tenant Improvement
- Stanton Optical - Tenant Improvements
- Porterville Storage - Remodel
- Haven Cannabis Dispensary - Remodel





Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Unit coordinates with each department in the City of Porterville and with the community to achieve compliance with a variety of municipal codes. Cooperative participation from the unit and community helps us achieve a high level of voluntary compliance

The City of Porterville, through the MyPorterville app, received 2,451 general and nuisance requests for service, the Code Enforcement Division was assigned 639 of these complaints during 2022. Of these general complaints 614 were completed. The unit performed 76 business license checks and contacted 65 itinerant vendors.

Throughout 2022, the Code Enforcement Unit issued 109 administrative citations for various code violations. With continued support, the Code Enforcement office can assist the citizens of Porterville to become more understanding of the City of Porterville's Municipal Code, the role of code enforcement within our community, and the benefits and services it provides.

The Code Enforcement office continues to develop policies and procedures to better serve our community. We are thankful for the wonderful support everyone has given us throughout the year and we look forward to your continued cooperation as we all strive to keep Porterville a beautiful "All-American City".

This year, our Code Enforcement Unit welcomed new Code Enforcement Officers to our division. We increased our staff with 2 full-time positions, and combined two part-time positions to create an additional position.

Water Conservation Task Force

The 2022 water conservation task force has been able to discourage water waste throughout the city by providing information, issuing notices, and administrative citations. Water conservation and awareness have become a concern for the City of Porterville as we continue in a multi-year drought. In an effort to promote water conservation, the City Council adopted a multi-phase water conservation plan. As the year progressed the council voted to take us from a voluntary level of conservation to mandatory restrictions which created a need for an increase in patrol and enforcement efforts. In 2022, 227 notices of violations were issued resulting in 43 administrative citations, with fines ranging up to \$500.00. Additionally, 5 people were cited for tampering with water meters which resulted in the issuance of \$1,400 in fines.



Firefighter of the Year



Rudie Aguilar

Captain Rudie Aguilar was chosen as the Firefighter of the Year. Rudie grew up in Porterville, and he started his career in 2010 as a Firefighter with the Tule River Fire Department (2010-2013). In 2011 he became a Reserve Firefighter for the Porterville Fire Department, working at both departments until 2013. Rudie was then hired by the Tulare City Fire Department as a Firefighter Paramedic and quickly promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer. In January 2019, Rudie returned to the Porterville Fire Department as a Company Officer.

Rudie has a great work ethic and a passion for training. He currently serves as the Department's Training Captain; he plans, schedules, and oversees training in accordance with industry standards, best practices, and mandates. He also schedules and supervises the rookie academy for new Firefighters. In addition to his duties with the Department, he also serves as the Vice President of the South Valley Training Officers Association and is the Associate Director for Area-11 of the California Training Officer's Association. Rudie is well respected within the Department and the surrounding agencies. On his days off, Rudie enjoys spending time with his wife Dani and their two daughters, Addison and Kinslee.



Promotions



Bryan Cogburn
Fire Chief



Shannon Skiles
Deputy Fire Chief



Yvette Rodriguez
Administrative Assistant



Coy Farnsworth
Engineer



Mikal Sanchez
Engineer



Steven Jones
Engineer

Welcome

Recruit Class 22-4



Damon Noe
Firefighter



Darren Noe
Firefighter



Andrew Tamayo
Firefighter



Nick Klugow
Firefighter

Recruit Class 22-5



Conner Fabing
Firefighter



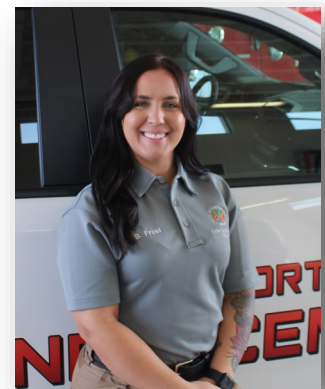
Arelli Adams
Clerical Aid
(Part-Time)



Pete Guerrero
Code Enforcement



Martha Zavala
Code Enforcement



Brittney Frost
Code Enforcement
(Part-Time)

Farewell & Best Wishes



David LaPere
Fire Chief
Retired (32 Years of Service)



Jeff Dodd
Captain
Retired (30 Years of Service)



Janice Celinder
Administrative Assistant
Retired (13 Years of Service)