

**City Of Porterville  
Fire Department**



**2018 Annual Report**

## **Introduction**

In this past year we have worked collectively in the Fire Department to change the mission statement to “To safeguard and put duty above all.” We have also established core values for the department, which are professionalism, leadership, integrity, vision, trust and compassion. These seeds of leadership have been planted at the department to guide our daily actions. All Fire officers have been sent to leadership training over the past two years, both inside the department and in external courses to lay a solid foundation of diverse leadership. In the next five-to-ten years the fruit harvested from these efforts will be succession. To provide succession within the department is to keep a promise to the public to keep moving forward with our efforts to meet or exceed their expectation that we will perform at our best on their worst day.

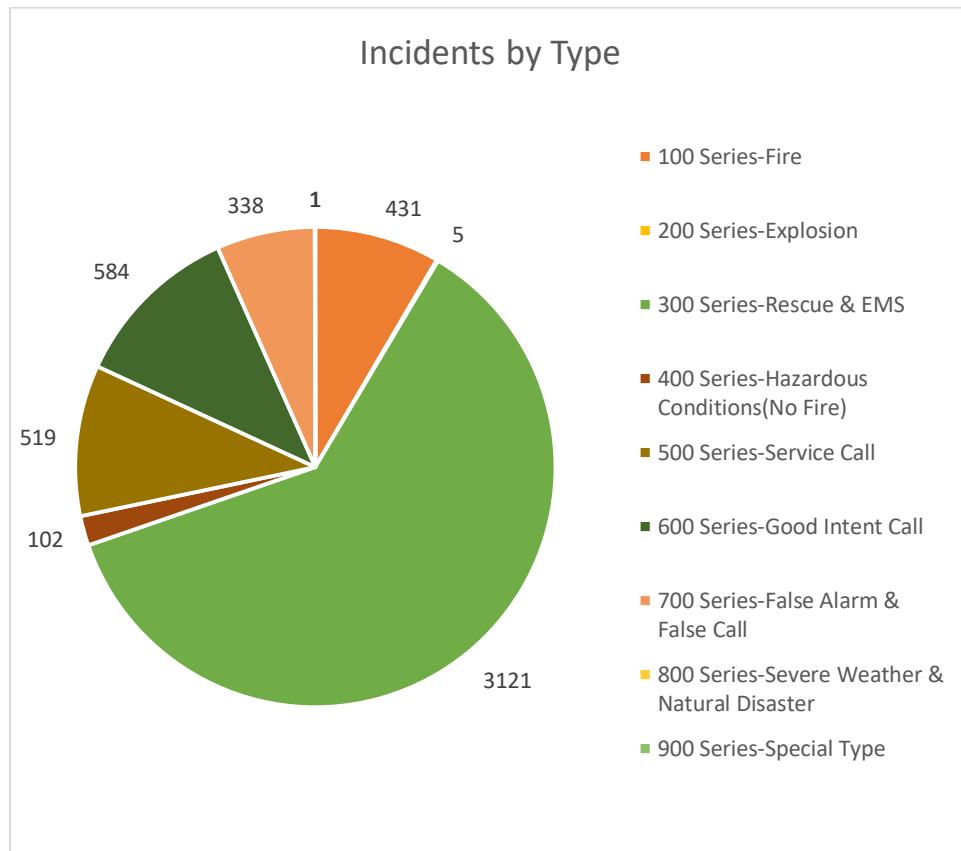
In this next year we are planning efforts to enhance operational readiness – the ability to respond to calls. We will be embracing new technology such as Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) on all fire department apparatus. This will provide for closest unit dispatching and give real time global positioning (GPS) for responding personnel, so dispatchers can send the unit nearest the call, not necessarily send a unit from the station nearest the call. Other benefits of this enhanced technology is paperless access to information in the field, such as interior maps of buildings that have been classified by the department’s Prevention Division as target hazards. Since 2017, we have established a program to have fire cameras on all officers’ helmets to capture fire ground behavior to be analyzed by the Training Division. As more fire responses are recorded, this will guide not only today’s training needs but over time will let us change our fire ground tactics to be as effective as possible. One of the biggest changes that has taken place has been the introduction of new personnel due to the passing of the Measure I sales tax, which will help us maintain our response times by being able to handle swells in call volume within the city. The approval of Measure I was truly a testament to the commitment that the public has for the quality of life in Porterville.

Fire Chief Dave LaPere

# Emergency Response Statistics

## 2018

The Operations Division responded to 5,102 emergency incidents during 2018. The following graph summarizes the incidents by type and shows the percentage totals.



### Type Of Incident:

100 Series-Fire  
200 Series-Explosion  
300 Series-Rescue & EMS  
400 Series-Hazardous Conditions(No fire)  
500 Series-Service Call  
600 Series-Good Intent Call  
700 Series-False Alarm & False Call  
800 Series-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster  
900 Series-Special Type

### Total Of Incidents:

431  
5  
3121  
102  
519  
584  
338  
1  
1

### Percentage Value:

8.45%  
0.09%  
61.17%  
2.00%  
10.17%  
11.45%  
6.29%  
0.02%  
0.02%

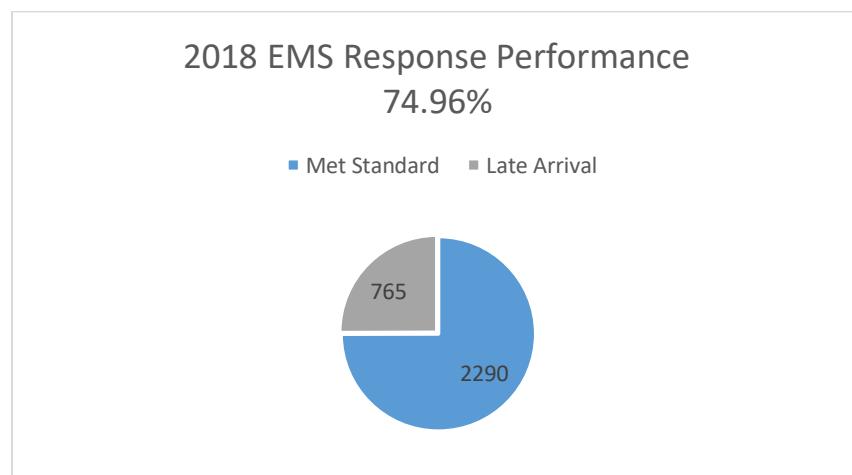
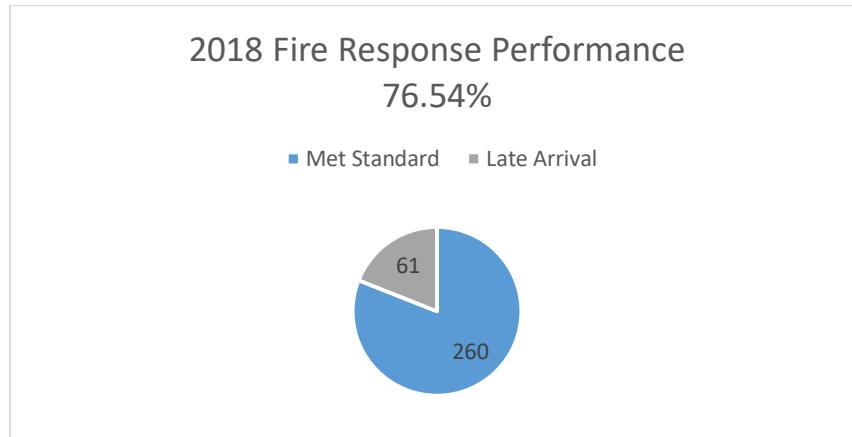
**Grand Total**

**5102**

# **Response Performance**

## **2018**

Response time starts with receipt of 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 thirty (30) seconds, 90% of the time. The chart below shows that the 2018 response time performance to fires was 76.54%. The response time standard for the arrival of the first emergency medical unit with two medical technicians is five (5) minutes, 90% of the time. The chart below shows EMS response performance for 2018 was 74.96%.



# **Strike Team**

## **2018**

During 2018 members of the Porterville Fire Department responded to 8 statewide mutual aid fire and severe weather incidents. Below is a list of the incident names, the communities affected, dates we were assigned, which unit responded and the number of personnel per incident.

January Storms	Santa Barbara	January 11-15	OES 298	4 personnel
County Fire	Woodland	June 30/July-10	Patrol 72	4 personnel
Ferguson Fire	Yosemite	July 15/August-16	Patrol 72/OES	7 personnel
Carr Fire	Redding	July 29/August-13	OES 298	4 personnel
Holy Fire	Lake Elsinore	August 7-15	Patrol 71	3 personnel
Mendocino Fire	Willows	August 23-29	Patrol 71	3 personnel
Snell Fire	Middletown	September 9-12	Patrol 71	3 personnel
Camp Fire	Redding	November 8-28	OES 298	4 personnel

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

The City of Porterville's Code Enforcement Unit coordinates with each department, the citizens, property owners and business owners within our community to achieve compliance with a variety of federal, state, and local municipal codes. Cooperative participation from community members helps achieve a high level of voluntary compliance. The Code Enforcement Unit enjoys educating the citizens of Porterville to have a better understanding of the Porterville City Code, the role of Code Enforcement within our community and the benefits and services it provides. The Code Enforcement Unit continues to develop procedures to better serve our community.

We are thankful for the wonderful support received throughout the 2018 year and look forward to continued cooperation as we all strive to keep Porterville beautiful. Code Enforcement was busy in 2018; below you will find some of this year's highlights.

### **ADDITIONAL PART-TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS & GENERAL NUISANCE COMPLAINTS**

Assigned to Porterville Fire Department's Prevention Division, Code Enforcement was reorganized in 2018 with funding to create 2 part-time positions; the 1 full-time position was reclassified to a functional supervisory role. With the addition of the 2 new part-time positions, primary responsibility for inoperable vehicles, occupied recreational vehicles and recreational vehicle storage enforcement was re-tasked to Code Enforcement for primary response and necessary actions to gain compliance. Code Enforcement continues to take on many roles and duties, both within the Fire Department and city-wide to assist in resolving issues as they arise.

The three-member Code Enforcement Unit received approximately 989 general nuisance complaints during 2018. Of these general complaints, 921 were corrected as of the creation of this report, with a large majority completed through voluntary compliance. This equates to a 93.12% completion rate for the calendar year. Overall the City of Porterville, through all departments, received a total of 3,103 complaints; Code Enforcement was assigned 989, or 31.87% of all complaints entered into the MyPorterville App database.

### **WATER WASTE TASK FORCE**



Starting in 2015 water waste enforcement was a new endeavor for the Code Enforcement Unit. Water conservation and awareness have become a concern for the City of Porterville as we continue through a multi-year drought. Less than normal rainfall and runoff has become the norm. 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.

The Code Enforcement Unit has been utilized mainly as a liaison to coordinate with other city departments and to issue administrative citations in accordance with the Porterville City Code, to utility account holders who are found to be in violation. In 2018, 814 warnings were issued resulting in 161 administrative citations with fines ranging from \$100.00 for the first, \$200.00 for the second and \$500.00 for the third and each additional citation. It is vitally important that the Water Conservation Plan be a joint partnership between the City and the general public in order to achieve an optimal effect.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

The City's weed abatement ordinance declares properties which have not been abated as a nuisance and requires a notice be provided. This program is necessary to provide fire control points and to create or maintain a defensible space around buildings, property lines, waterways and hillsides. When fires do occur we want to create space and lower fuel loads to allow firefighters to effectively defend against fire. By proactively requiring the clearing of weeds and debris, we effectively work to help minimize the intensity of fires and reduce any fire damage that may result. This is all done to protect life and property against the devastation caused by fire. The week abatement program has two parts.



The first part is for identified properties that, due to their size, geographic location, or special features (such as a waterway running through, steep hillsides, abandonment, or proximity to other hazards), to be cataloged on a list which is updated and revised yearly. Property owners on this list are mailed a notice in the first week of March that provides the required notice, a copy of the ordinance, a tractor operator list of approved contractors licensed to work in the city of Porterville and a copy of the abatement standards set by the Fire

Chief. The city has historically chosen April 30<sup>th</sup> of every year as the deadline to remove all weeds, rubbish, and waste tires from all properties within the city limits. The second part of the abatement program runs year round and is for properties that are brought to our attention via the complaint process from citizens or are found to be out of compliance and not a part of the annual list. These property owners are provided with a 15-day notice to correct any violations. This notice includes the same information as the annual notice.

All properties are physically reviewed upon the expiration of the time set forth in either notice. If a property owner complies voluntarily then no further action is taken. If a property owner appears to have made a reasonable attempt to correct the violation an additional notice may be sent or personal contact made to outline remaining corrections and establish a timeline for completion. It is the property owner's responsibility to contact the Fire Department with any requests for extension or permission for a deviation from established requirements for abatement.

Should an owner fail, or refuse to comply, the Code Enforcement Unit may issue administrative fines starting at \$100.00 for the first citation, \$500.00 for the second and \$1,000.00 for the third and subsequent citations. These fines may be assessed daily. The Code Enforcement Unit is further authorized by ordinance to issue a work order to the City's weed abatement contractor for completion, after which all charges, including a 50% administrative charge, are assessed against the property taxes.

With 1,669 privately-owned parcels on the 2018 annual list, it is impressive that only twelve (12) privately-owned properties were assigned in 2018 to the Weed Abatement contractor for failure



to comply. In addition, sixty-seven (67) parcels owned by the City of Porterville were assigned to the Weed Abatement contractor for completion prior to the April 30th deadline.

### **SHOPPING CART ORDINANCE**

In July of 2018 the Porterville City Council voted to adopt an ordinance regulating shopping carts as a result of concerns regarding the nuisance and hazards associated with unlawful removal of the carts from the owner's property. As a result, Code Enforcement collected 482 abandoned or misappropriated, but functional, carts during the calendar year. In addition to the functional carts collected, Code Enforcement removed and recycled 1900 pounds of damaged or unusable carts.



### **PRIVATE PROPERTY VEHICLE ABATEMENT**

With the addition of two part-time Code Enforcement Officers, the private property vehicle abatement program was renewed. During the 2018 calendar year 114 inoperable, wrecked, or dismantled vehicles were voluntarily removed from private property to a location suitable for storage by their owners. Four vehicle owners voluntarily destroyed their vehicles and provided documentation of removal and 9 vehicles were towed by Code Enforcement.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS**

Throughout 2018, the Code Enforcement Unit issued 284 Administrative Citations for various code violations.