



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: John Bramble, City Manager
FROM: Michael W. McLaughlin, Fire Chief
DATE: May 7, 2012
SUBJECT: Merced Fire Department Monthly Report

1. Fires (Building, vehicles, brush & dumpster)	23
2. Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheating - No Fire	1
3. Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents (EMS, vehicle accidents, extrications & water rescues)	329
4. Hazardous Conditions - No Fire (Gas leaks, explosions, hazardous materials, arcing wires, severe weather, & bomb removals)	14
5. Service Calls (Smoke/odor removal, Public assist, & P.D. assists)	38
6. Good Intent Calls (No incident found upon arrival, Cancelled enroute, & Smoke/odor investigation – nothing found)	113
7. False Alarm & False Call (System malfunctions, & malicious alarms)	32
8. Severe Weather and Natural Disasters	0
9. Special Incident Type	0
Total Incidents	550
Total Estimated Fire Loss	\$345,260
Temporary Staffing Reduction (Brown-Out)	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engine 51 was browned-out 23 times for a total of 513 hours.• Not all brown-outs were for a 24-hour period.	
Mutual Aid Given	1
Mutual Aid Received	3
Public Education Details	14*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 Station Tour• 3 Banner Detail• 4 Public Education Demonstration• *3 Public Education Demonstrations Cancelled due to Brown-Out	

ADMINISTRATION

The FY2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace and upgrade the public safety radio communications infrastructure is in the final stages. The final project, installation of fiber optic cable from Station 52 to the waste water treatment plant, and from city hall to Parsons will be complete by May 8th. The grant closure date has been amended to June 15, 2012; as such we should be able to close-out the grant with time to spare.

As previously noted the Fire Department has been awarded the FY2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace all of the Department's self-contained breathing apparatus. The bid packet and specification have been completed. The request for proposal period is being managed by the Purchasing Department and is currently open.

FIRE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Inspections completed by Fire Companies/Inspector:

Inspection Type	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012
Annual	20	206	33	208
Annual Re-Inspection	30	72	69	33
State	2	0	3	1
State Re-Inspection	2	1	3	2
New Business	7	4	12	4
New Business – Re-inspection	5	4	4	3
Permit	2	1	2	2
Hydrant	2	0	0	0
Fire Alarm	0	1	0	0
Knox Lock	0	1	0	0
Consultations	1	3	4	2
Complaint	3	2	0	0

Fire Inspector Tracy Staiger attended Fire Prevention 3B at the California Fire Academy April 23-27, 2012. The course was concentrated on Plan Review, which has already proven to be beneficial in the course of her daily duties.

The 2012 weed abatement surveys are underway. Department drill was delivered to all personnel on Weed Abatement and the weed abatement surveys will be completed between April 16th and May 4th. Approximately 23,814 parcels are being viewed for this survey. 173 personnel hours were recorded for the month of May on weed abatement.

OPERATIONS

During the month of April, the Fire Department responded to 550 incidents with a total time committed for all calls of 175:07:20.

The City of Merced Fire Department Response Objective is to arrive on the scene of emergency incidents within 4-6 minutes, 90% of the time. For the month of April, the response time analysis is as follows:

- Within 4 minutes = 91.30% of the incidents
- Within 6 minutes = 98.20% of the incidents
- Average response time = 00:03:04

It is important to note that response time is only one piece of information that is used to measure a fire department's ability to provide an effective and efficient level of service. While it is very important that our resources arrive in time to save a life and before a flashover occurs, it does not paint a complete picture of the levels of service.

Analysis of the use of mutual aid resources within the City - Since implementation of brown-outs as compared to the previous three years.

Jun 1, 2011 to Jan 10, 2012 – 2 times

Jan 11, 2012 to Apr 22, 2012 (brown-outs) – 9 times

Comparison - Jan 11, 2011 to Apr 22, 2011 – 1 time

2011 – 12 times (9 were in May – vegetation fires)

2010 – 10 times

2009 – 16 times

Average of 12.667 times per year (2009-2011)

If trend continues, I have projected that the MFD will require mutual aid assistance approximately 27 times in 2012 (greater than a 100% increase)

Several members of the Department have been working to develop a water rescue program to meet our ongoing needs within the City: swimming pools, Bear Creek, and flood events. Firefighter Sean Tierney was invited to attend a week's worth of free water rescue training with Stockton Fire/El Dorado County Sheriff's Departments. All MFD personnel will be trained to the awareness/operational level, and as many as 12 MFD personnel will be completing the technician level water rescue training over the next two months.

To improve operational safety, effectiveness, and efficiency, Deputy Chief Don Long is in the process of developing a special operations checklist manual. This tool will provide easy access to critical decision making matrices for low-frequency/high-risk incidents.

During the week of May 7, 2012, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be in town for the annual inspection. From the Fire Department, the FAA will assess our training records, policies, and evaluate a functional response exercise on airport grounds.

TRAINING

During the month of April, a total of 1600.75 hours of training were completed by Fire Department personnel (Average of 26.24 hours per member). The breakdown of hours by training areas is as follows: Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (123 hours), company drills (1341.75 hours), and multi-company drills (136 hours). During the month, the following topics were covered: EMT continuing education – Respiratory Emergencies, CAL/OSHA training – Asbestos Awareness, annual weed abatement orientation, and radio communications.

FF Billy Dickens attended the National Fire Academy where he attended and successfully completed the Fire Arson Cause/Origin Investigation course. This is a two-week course that is one of the top fire investigation courses available in the nation. In addition to the extensive classroom elements, the students are challenged to investigate fire that were set and extinguished by the instructor cadre. FF Dickens is one of the MFD members who is actively working to help get our fire/arson investigation program in line with legal requirements and expectations.

Battalion Chiefs Shawn Henry and Don Roe attended Command and Control of the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) Deployment course, which was hosted by the Clovis Fire Department. A rapid intervention crew is a specific team whose sole purpose is to track personnel who are operating on the fire ground and to initiate the rescue of a lost or trapped firefighter when needed. This assignment is not only required by law, but it also directly affects the outcome. This class was designed to prepare command officers with the skills to effectively manage the very chaotic circumstances that occur when a firefighter cannot be accounted for. We will be putting all of our officers through this class over the next several months.

The Department hosted Firefighter Survival class that was sponsored by the Central Valley Training Officers Association. This class teaches firefighters the first line of survival should they become lost or trapped. The skills learned in this course are invaluable and teaching them has been a major focus for the last few years. I want to recognize Captain Tom England, Firefighter Jeff Hakola, Firefighter Sean Tierney, and Firefighter Adam Tiffany for the time and effort they committed to the Central Valley Training Officers in order to make this class the challenging reality it needs to be.

Over the last several years, the Central Valley Training Officers Association had gradually declined into a state of ineffectiveness. Thanks to the passion and vision of a few core members, this group has regained the focus needed to ensure that the firefighters from Kern through Merced Counties have access to contemporary, challenging training. MFD Firefighter Jeff Hakola has been leading this charge as the current President of the Association.

The rains subsided, the temperatures are getting warmer, weed abatement surveys are underway, and we are beginning our refresher training for wildland fires. A key component of training is to be able to apply the skills during actual conditions. For three consecutive years, we have been conducting wildland prescribed/training burns to accomplish this goal. Weather and air quality conditions permitting, we will be conducting burns at the Waste Water Treatment Plant on May 20, 23, and 24. Furthermore, we will be hosting a multi-agency live fire wildland drill on the open land west of M Street and north of Cardella on June 7th. Last year was the first year we have had outside agencies participate in the training; this year we will building upon our successes.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Reminder: The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) orientation class has been scheduled for May 30, 2012. The class has been designed to orient employees to the plan, to identify talents that will be needed should a significant event occur in the City, and to begin developing future Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff. The class will be held in the Sam Pipes Room from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon.

The Merced County Office of Emergency Services is negotiating the final details for establishing a contract with Everbridge Emergency Notification System. We should be receiving notification of the estimated time for contract approval in the very near future.