



South San Joaquin County Fire Authority
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FIRE ADMINISTRATION

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Memorandum

Date: January 11, 2022
To: Board of Directors
From: Chief Bradley
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update - December

COVID Update

The number of COVID infections and exposures continue to increase throughout our region and new isolation and quarantine guidance has recently been provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). On December 30, 2021 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued guidance on quarantine and isolation for Health Care Personnel (HCP). Since December 30, 2021, the Authority has been using the CDPH guidance to determine quarantine, isolation and testing requirements for personnel who tested positive and personnel that have been exposed to COVID.

On January 8, 2022, the CDPH issued the following, new, less restrictive, guidance;

From January 8, 2022 until February 1, 2022, HCP who test positive for COVID and are asymptomatic, may return to work immediately without isolation and without testing, and HCPs who have been exposed and are asymptomatic may return to work immediately without quarantine and without testing. These HCPs must wear an N95 respirator for source control.

After meeting with our labor representatives, it was determined that we currently have the staffing availability to not allow or require asymptomatic personnel who test positive to return to work. All personnel who test positive will be required to be asymptomatic and receive a negative COVID test prior to returning to work. Currently, we have 12 personnel who are off work due to positive tests. If that number continues to grow, we will reevaluate the need to have asymptomatic personnel, who test positive, to return to work. We are also developing a COVID Supplemental Paid Sick Leave (SPSL) policy that will consider the impact of these policies and options to address the impact on sick leave utilization.

The Authority is working with our Human Resources provider (City of Tracy) to adopt an updated COVID-19 Prevention Plan to reflect the revisions to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards as a result of the updated CDPH Guidelines and will be provided to all personnel when the policy update is finalized.

Throughout the pandemic, our priorities have always been the same; to protect the health and safety of our workforce and for all fire companies to remain available to respond to emergencies. We believe

we can accomplish both of these goals by following the required guidance from CDPH and the re-emphasis of the directives that were re-established at the beginning of the pandemic. We have also reinstated a work remote status for many of our administrative personnel.

On January 7, 2022 I issued and/or reemphasized directives to limit exposures and their impact on staffing levels when exposures and infections are identified in the workplace. An overview of the directives includes the canceling of multiple company training, increased mask wearing requirements, limited contact between employees, no visitations to fire stations, temperature checks at shift change, washable BDU's and t-shirts as primary uniforms, increase in disinfection of fire stations and equipment and work-from-home options for office personnel. We are hoping this surge is short lived and some of these directives can be lifted in the near future.

Personnel Transition Plan

At their meeting on December 7, 2021, the Tracy City Council approved the professional services agreements for Human Resources and Payroll and the Lease agreement for the use of fire stations and apparatus. During the week of December 7th, employees voted on the CalPERS contract, elected survivor benefit coverage and were provided offer letters. During the week of December 13th, employees began their orientation process for becoming employees of the Fire Authority. On December 21, 2021 the Fire Authority Board approved the CalPERS contract, professional service agreement for HR and Payroll, Workers Compensation and Liability insurance coverage, Reserve Firefighter salaries and lease agreements. Those were the last board actions required for the transitioning employees.

On January 2, 2022 all employees transitioned to the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority. This transition will serve to improve overall public safety by providing sustainable fire protection and securing access to \$100's of millions of future fire tax revenues. Creating a new fire agency was no easy task. Establishing new labor contracts, pension contracts, employee benefit contracts, personnel policies and procedures, administrative policies and procedures, financial policies and processes, payroll and human resources processes and contracts took a team effort. I want to thank and recognize Captain Neave (Division Chief during the plan development process) who was instrumental in developing financial processes and procedures, selecting implementing financial software system, labor relations, completing the arduous CalPERS contract application (18 month process) and serving as the Authority's finance manager. I want to thank Jackie Heefner who provided wore multiple hats and provided incredible support through the entire process. I also want to thank Chief Bramell who took over in the implementation phase to ensure final contracts were established and approved and all personnel were transitioned through an orientation process. I want to thank City of Tracy's Human Resources and Finance (payroll) Departments for their support during the implementation of the transition. I also want to thank Local 3355, the Chief Officers Association and the unrepresented employees who supported this process and placed their trust in our management team to provide a new employment opportunity that protected their salaries, benefits and working conditions. Last, I want to thank our elected officials from the City of Tracy and the Tracy Rural Fire District that approved the transition plan and the implementing contracts and resolutions. Your leadership and vision and support of this process will leave a lasting public safety legacy. Thank you.

Training

In December the Authority paramedics and EMTs participated in agency wide didactic and manipulative skills training related to our newly acquired Tempus Pro ALS monitors. The training built upon the training provided by the vendor and allowed paramedics and EMTs to become more familiar with the equipment and to operate the equipment in a simulated emergency environment. The new heart monitors are used on most EMS emergencies and will improve patient outcomes.

AMR and other ambulance providers in the County are now required to carry ventilators on their ambulances. The San Joaquin County EMS Agency requires paramedics and EMT to be trained on the policies, operations and contraindications of the ventilators. A ventilator was



provided to the Authority for training purposes and all paramedics and EMT's completed the training and completed the required examination.



In December, all members participated in the annual mandated Hazmat First Responder Operational refresher course. The eight-hour course covered FRO response policy review, and a manipulative exercise utilizing our OES Hazmat 42 apparatus.

During December the Authority continued with state mandated night training. The drills consisted on water tower operations with the aerial master stream, ground monitor deployment and supply, and drafting.

OES Hazmat 42 Inspection

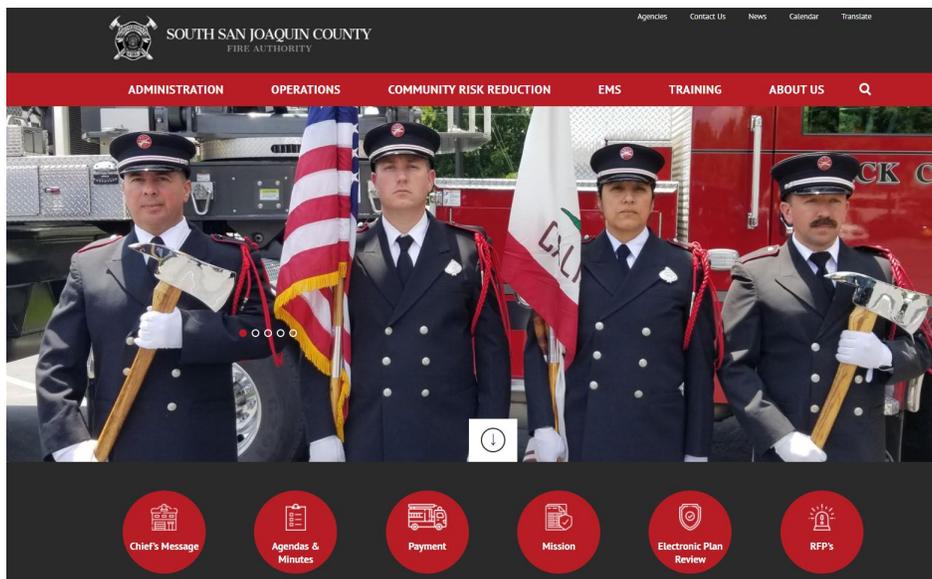
In December, the State OES inspected OES Hazmat 42 for equipment and operational readiness. OES Hazmat 42 passed the inspection.

Hose Testing

In the month of December, the Fire Authority completed annual hose testing. Hose testing is required by national standards and ensures hose will be safe and functional on the fireground and in the training environment.

Website

We continue to update and expand the information that we provide on our website. Since the transition we have included human resource information that is required state law. Please take a look at our updated website. www.sjcfire.org.



Aerial Ladder Testing/Certification

In the month of December, the Fire Authority's two aerial ladders were tested and certified by a third-party vendor. The testing and certification ensures the ladders will be safe and functional on the fireground and in the training environment.

Records Management System

The Fire Authority's records management system "Emergency Reporting" was recently purchased by a new vendor (ESO) with a new records management platform. The Fire Authority is in the process of incrementally transitioning to the new platform. In December, personnel were training on the EMS component of the new system and EMS reports. At the end of December, paramedics and EMTs began utilizing the new platform to enter EMS data and complete EMS reports. The remainder of the transition will occur throughout 2022.

Paramedic Accreditation

All three of our probationary firefighter/paramedics have completed their San Joaquin County accreditation process and they can now be assigned as paramedics. The final paramedic to complete accreditation was Firefighter Valencia. Congratulations!

Vehicle Accidents

With over sixty miles of major freeways and state highways within our jurisdiction, the Authority continues to respond to significant vehicle accidents on a regular basis. An example is the fatality accident that occurred on SR 132 and Koster Road on December 28, 2021. The two-vehicle accident required extrication and transportation by air ambulance. Fire Authority personnel are well trained and well equipped to handle these types of emergencies.



New Apparatus

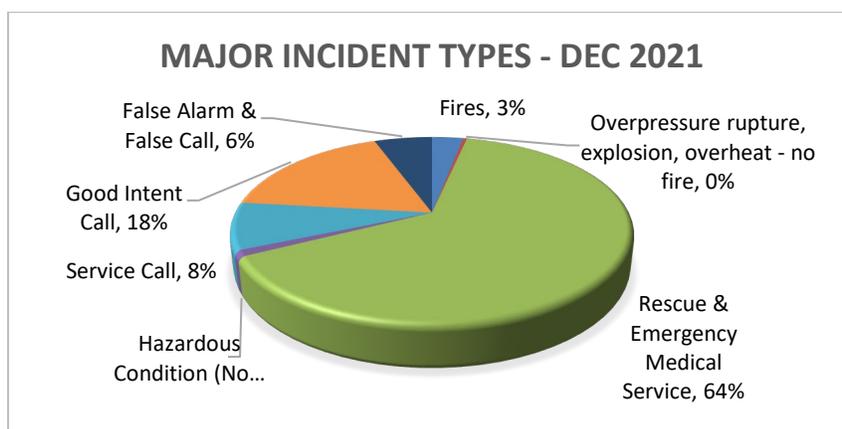
The City Council approved the purchase of a new Type I fire apparatus to replace Engine 96. The Tracy Rural Fire District is considering the purchase of a new Type I engine to replace Engine 93 and to purchase an additional Type 3 engine. The cost of the three Engines would be offset by grants that were awarded through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Budget Development

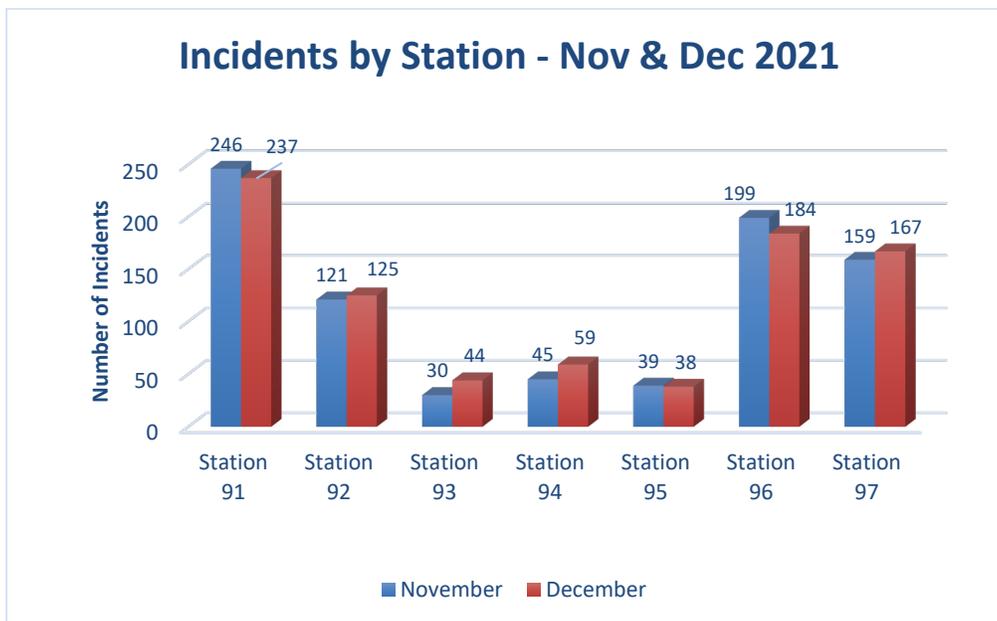
As part of the City of Tracy City Council approval, SSJCFE staff committed to work with the City and District to bolster financial policies and processes recommended by the Municipal Resource Group (MRG). The Authority hired MRG to review and make recommendation on financial practices and processes. MRG worked with staff and both member agencies to complete a financial review and update policies and procedures that were adopted by Fire Authority Board on December 21, 2021. MRG is now assisting the Fire Authority with the initial FY 2022/23 budget development process. Staff and MRG are working with both member agencies to develop initial budget projections and priorities that will be provided to the Fire Authority Board in January.

December Response Data

There were 893 total incidents in the month of December 2021. The charts listed below reflect only those incidents (854/893) where the incident report has been completed and reviewed. The remaining 39 calls are pending review prior to inclusion in the following charts. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (548 incidents comprising 64% of all calls for service).



| MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE | # INCIDENTS | % of TOTAL |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Fires | 26 | 3% |
| Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire | 3 | 0.4% |
| Rescue & Emergency Medical Service | 548 | 64% |
| Hazardous Condition (No Fire) | 9 | 1% |
| Service Call | 70 | 8% |
| Good Intent Call | 150 | 18% |
| False Alarm & False Call | 48 | 6% |
| Total | 854 | 100% |



Community Risk Reduction Statistics on the following pages



QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Plan Checker Courtney Wood's last day was December 30, 2021. Recruitment for the position will begin soon.
- CRR staff was able to assist in the rescue and fostering of canine Halli

Second Quarter FY21/22 October - December



NEW CONSTRUCTION

After the initial flushing of the underground private fire service main, a trash bag was later observed in the main. Additional testing located it and it was removed. Should this have entered the fire sprinkler piping it could have rendered the system in operable.



Halli



NEW CONSTRUCTION

When flushing the underground private fire service main a large piece of metal and level were flushed from the piping. The underground private fire service main provides water to the fire hydrants and fire sprinkler systems.

VIOLATIONS OBSERVED DURING ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTIONS



Obstructed exit door



Exit sign was removed



Wall struck by forklift



Shopping cart obstructing fire alarm control panel



Second Quarter FY21/22
October - December

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

In October, the Fire Authority recognized Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week provides fire agencies with an opportunity to connect with others and provide fire safety education. The theme of this years Fire Prevention Week was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety."

The Community Risk Reduction Division recognizes educating others on fire safety is important year round. We developed a poster contest in an effort to educate children on fire safety. The contest was open to all kindergarten to 5th grade students in the City of Tracy and surrounding areas. All of the winning posters are on display at the Fire Administration Office.



Giselle Robles
1st Place

Giovanni Rivera
2nd Place



Alberto Vargas
2nd Place

Not Pictured
Bradley Ingle
3rd Place



Tessa Pasquale
1st Place

Angel Rivera
3rd Place



Get it to cool your burn if you can't get those, then go to a doctor for them. At your turn. REMEMBER, SAFETY FIRST.

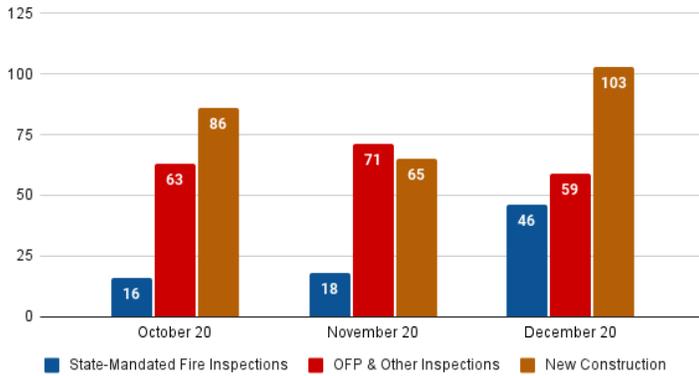




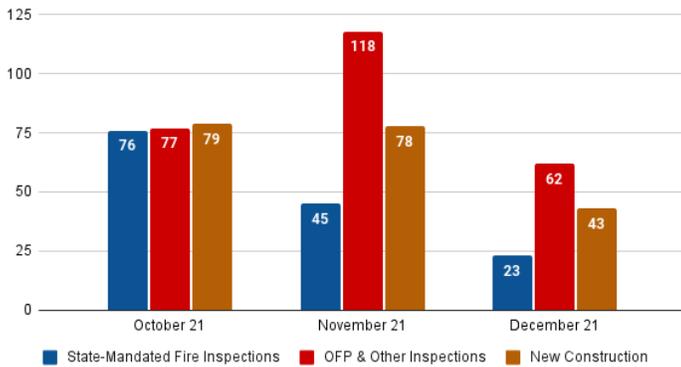
FIRE INSPECTIONS

Comparison between FY20/21 & FY21/22:

Fire Inspections Second Quarter FY 20/21



Fire Inspections Second Quarter FY 21/22



YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

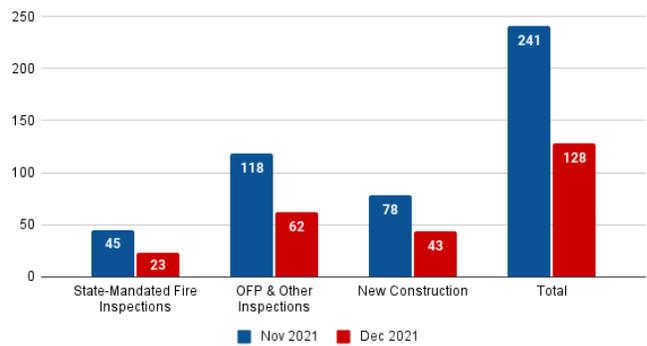
| ACTIVITY | COMPLETE | TOTAL | % |
|------------------------------|----------|-------|-----|
| Apartment building complexes | 61 | 158 | 39% |
| Schools (K-12 & Headstart) | 38 | 57 | 67% |

Second Quarter FY 21/22

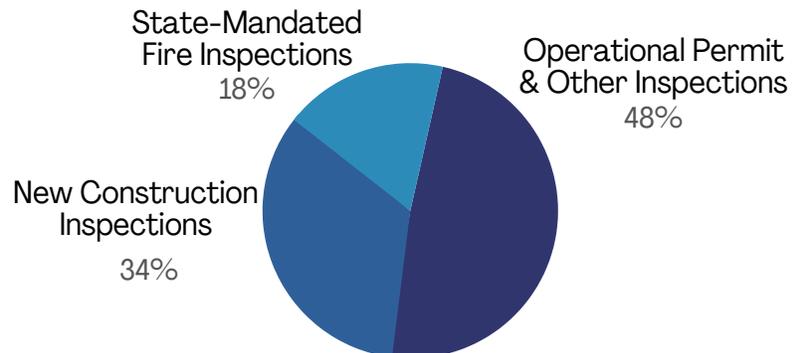
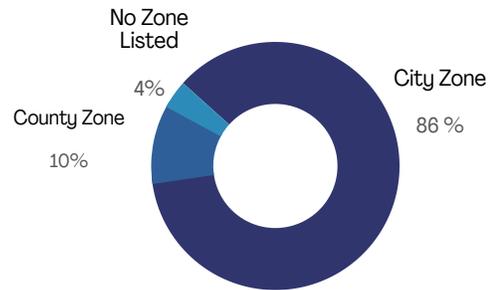
October - December FIRE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

- Staff completed 601 inspections in the 2nd QTR
- A 14% increase in completed inspections from 2ND QTR FY20/21 to 2ND QTR FY21/22
- A 47% reduction in completed inspections from November to December

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER INSPECTION COMPARISON



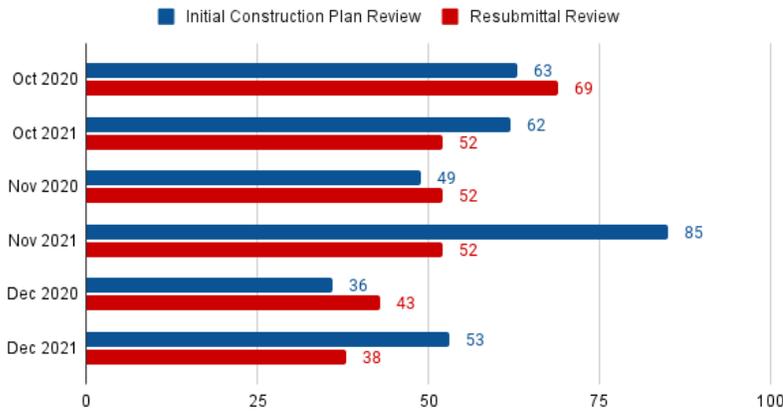
2ND QTR FY21/22 INSPECTION OVERVIEW





Second Quarter FY21/22
October - December

Plan Review



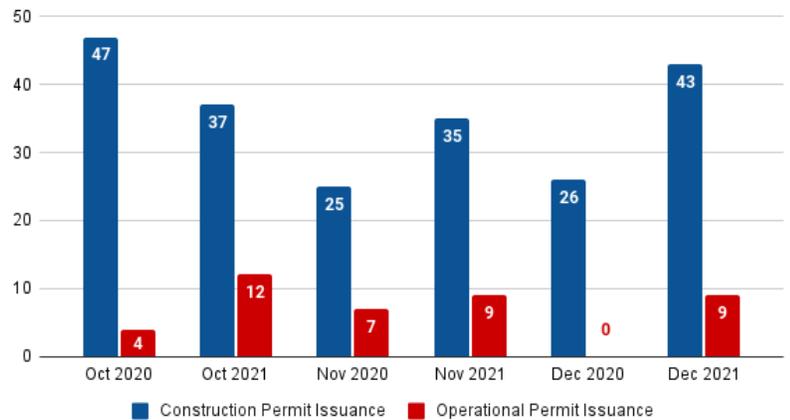
PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- There were 342 plan check activities in THE quarter
- The average plan check turn around time in December was 11 days
- There were 8 occurrences where a plan check exceeded 20 days in the second quarter

PERMIT ACTIVITIES

- 115 new construction permits were issued in the 2ND QTR
- 30 operational fire permits were issued in the 2ND QTR
- 74 active operational fire permits

Permit Activities



SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

26

New "Follows" on Facebook

6.9K

People reached on Facebook

33

New "Follows" on Instagram

148

Impressions on Twitter



Dec 14, 2021
Today Blaze joined u...
Post
Reactions 177



Dec 14, 2021
Congratulations to ...
Post
Likes 128



Dec 17, 2021
It is with heavy hear...
Post
Reactions 75



Dec 23, 2021
Before Blaze heads ...
Post
Likes 67



Dec 17, 2021
It is with heavy hear...
Post
Likes 64



Dec 20, 2021
Blaze was so excite...
Post
Likes 55

See content report