



South San Joaquin County Fire Authority
835 Central Ave.
Tracy, CA 95376

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

MAIN 209.831.6700
FAX 209.831.6732
www.sjcfire.org

Memorandum

Date: April 8, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Chief Bradley *RB*
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update-April

Tim Rivas Promoted to Captain

I am pleased to announce the promotion of Engineer Timothy Rivas to the rank of Captain. In 2005 Engineer Rivas began his fire service career as a reserve with the Manteca Fire Department. From 2006 through 2014 he worked as an EMT and paramedic for American Medical Response. In 2011 he was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Ripon Consolidated Fire District. Engineer Rivas was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic by the South County Fire Authority in 2014 and he was promoted to Engineer in 2016. Since his arrival at South County Fire, Engineer Rivas has been very active as a Line Staffer (coordinating next shift staffing), EMS instructor and Local 3355 Executive Board Member. He has served on the COVID-19 Task Force, Local 3355's negotiating team and was chosen as the Firefighter of the Year by his peers in 2018. Engineer Rivas is a licensed Paramedic, he holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science and he is a Certified Fire Officer. Please join me in congratulating Engineer Rivas on his promotion to Captain.



Shawn Bracha Promoted to Engineer

It is with great pleasure that I announce the promotion of Shawn Bracha to the position of Fire Engineer. Firefighter Bracha began his career with the South County Fire Authority in January of 2014 when he was hired as a Firefighter Trainee and completed the Modesto Regional Fire Training Academy. In 2017, Firefighter Bracha attended paramedic school and became an accredited paramedic in June 2018. Firefighter Bracha has been involved in several areas of the organization. He was instrumental in the implementation and administration of the software platforms of Active 911 and Emergency Reporting. Additionally, Firefighter Bracha has assisted the Training Division with the production of digital content for our training programs. He has been active as a coordinator for ground ladder testing, a member of the Health & Wellness Committee, and currently serves as an EMS-CQI peer reviewer. Firefighter Bracha is a licensed Paramedic, HazMat Specialist, holds an AS degree in Fire Science, and is fluent in Hebrew. Please join me in congratulating Firefighter Bracha on his promotion to Fire Engineer.



Station 95

Station 95 (Tracy Hills) continues to progress through the construction process (see the latest picture below). The project continues to be on time, within scope and within the revised budget. Construction is scheduled to be completed in July with an opening scheduled for September 1, 2021.



Training

Our full training program has been re-implement after many of the in-person training programs were placed on hold during the pandemic. The Division of Training has worked diligently to “catch up” on required training and to ensure critical skill sets are maintained. The following is an overview of the training that was completed during the month of March, 2021.

- Three members recently completed modules Hazardous Materials modules A through D and will be certified as Hazardous Materials Technicians. Nine members are in the process of completing modules F and G to upgrade to upgrade to Hazardous Material Specialist. This training is required to meet our contractual agreements to staff our Type 2 Hazardous Material Team. Training costs and associated overtime is reimbursed by the State OES.
- Each member was assigned online self-study training through the Authority’s Target Solutions training software. This included Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Cardiovascular review, California Fire Service Mandates Portable Extinguishers and Fire Extinguisher Safety.

- Company level training included reviewing our ALS Life Pak 12 Monitor and EKG 12 lead placement lead by company paramedics. Companies also reviewed hazardous material Chlorine A and B kit video series in preparation for manipulative drills in April.
- Multi-Company drills included; Stokes basket operations with patient packaging using the aerial ladder to prepare for potential emergencies at the Project Big Bird development; and fire hose deployment: 150' and 200' cross lay deployment on the ground and up stairwells using 1 ¾" hose line deployment and 1 ¾" 3-point pull deployment
- Company officer training on strike team deployment including documentation and radio communications requirements.
- Night drill training that included truck company simulated vertical ventilation on a two-story commercial building, engine company evolution with simulated fire in a storage closet in a three-story interior stairwell involving a simulated rescue.
- EMS Training included Emergency Medical Technician recertification, Paramedic infrequently used skills refresher including Glucose Monitor, Epinephrine, and Naloxone assessment and testing.
- The Division of Training has also spent a number of hours developing their video training platform. Currently four videos have been produced including forcible, fire hose deployment and 3 point pull of fire hose. <https://www.sjcfire.org/training/training-videos>.



Recruitment/Fire Academy

The Fire Authority has selected nine firefighter recruits that are currently going through background reviews (four-to-six-week process). After background reviews are completed and approved, the candidates will be made conditional job offers based on their ability to pass medical and psychological exams. The successful candidates will begin their academy on Monday, May 31, 2021 with an anticipated academy completion date of August 27, 2021. After the academy the recruits will be assigned to shifts and stations based on the openings created by the promotions and firefighter positions created by the opening of Station 95.

Community Risk Reduction

Project Big Bird continues to progress steadily the picture shows the progress from early March to April 5, 2021. The warehouse facility that is located on Grant Line Road between Skylark Way and N. Chrisman Road will be a total of 5 stories with a floor area of approximately 3.9 million square feet when complete. Staff also continues to conduct annual inspections for operational fire code permits



and required State-mandated occupancies. In March, staff conducted (32) State-mandated occupancy and (46) operational fire code permit inspections and re-inspections. In March the Community Risk Reduction Division received 72 construction documents for new projects. Staff also completed 89 reviews of new construction projects.

Strategic Planning

Staff has completed collecting information from key stakeholders. Our Labor/Management Strategic Planning workshop is scheduled for April 26 and 27, 2021. The two-day meeting will focus on developing tactical objectives and work plans that correspond to the strategic objectives that were presented to the JPA Board and the key stakeholders. After the two-day meeting a three-year strategic plan will be developed and presented to the JPA Board for review and acceptance. The following are the proposed strategic objectives:

- Fire Prevention-Enhance Community Risk Reduction Services and Processes.
- Administration-Enhance Business Practices to Improve Efficiencies, Oversight and Accountability
- Administration-Develop Programs and Processes that Support Regional Fire Protection Opportunities
- Operations-Enhance Fireground Operations Through Standardization of Fireground Training, Policies and Practices
- Emergency Medical Services-Develop Programs and Processes That Support Expansion of EMS Services

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The Fire Authority continues to support the efforts of San Joaquin County and the City of Tracy to support vaccination clinics within San Joaquin County. To date, the Fire Authority has provided vaccinators to the San Joaquin County Office of Education and has supported the Safeway vaccination clinic held at the West Valley Mall and two vaccination clinics held by Premier Physicians. As more vaccinations become available, the Fire Authority anticipates providing additional support to the vaccination clinics. Firefighter overtime required to support vaccination clinics will be reimbursed through FEMA.



Budget Development

The Fire Authority continues to work with both member agencies to develop the Fire Authority's budget for FY 2021/22. Current cost projections are tentative due to continued labor negotiations and final decisions and dates for the implementation of Phase 2 of the transition plan. We do know that dispatch costs will increase due to the enactment of SB 438 the measure that provided local control of fire dispatch services and processes.

ECG Monitors

As part of the budget development process, the Fire Authority has requested funding to replace ECG (heart) monitors on each paramedic unit. The existing units are between 13 and 15 years old. The manufacturer no longer makes the units, they do not make replacement parts and they do not service the monitors. From a risk management perspective, these monitors are required to be calibrated and certified annually. We have sourced a third-party vendor in Las Vegas to assist in keeping these monitors operational, but it is challenging and costly due to the scarcity of replacement parts. It is reasonable to project that in the near future, we will be unable to certify these units. TRFD has provided initial approval to fund new units for their stations and the City of Tracy has placed the units on their funding list for Council consideration.

New Fire Engines

As stated in the last update, the three new fire engines (2 City, 1 District) have been delivered to the Golden State Fire Apparatus in Sacramento for inspection, equipment and radio installation. Unfortunately, there has been a delay in purchasing and installing equipment on the new engines and their delivery date has now been pushed back to mid-May. After their delivery, it will take at least two weeks to conduct the required familiarization and training and then the all three engines will be placed in service.



Annexations and Development

The City of Tracy Planning Division has agreed to provide a presentation to Tracy Rural Fire District Board on potential annexations and planning efforts within the Tracy Community. The presentation is now being scheduled for the District’s May meeting. The information will be used to gain a better understanding of the potential impacts of annexation and development on fire protection.

Phase 2 of 2018 JPA Agreement Transition

The City of Tracy has reengaged the consulting firm they used to evaluate the potential fiscal impacts of transitioning employees from the City to the Fire Authority. The consultant will work with the City, Fire Authority and the Fire District to address questions presented by the City Council concerning transition impacts to the City and the District. The Fire Authority HR consultant that was utilized to review and update the transition plan, will work with the City’s consultant to help finalize the plan and to present the final transition plan to both agencies for approval. The final transition plan is expected to be presented to both agencies in July with a potential transition date in September (if approved).

Photos of Significant Incidents in March

The following pages illustrate some of the emergency activity our personnel responded to during the month of March 2021. Overall, the department responded to 816 calls for service during the month.



March 4, 2021 – Overturned big rig on Interstate 205, eastbound at International Parkway. No injuries reported and no cargo contents leaked, crews assisted CHP with clean up.



March 13, 2021 –
Structure Fire in
Redbridge on Castle
Haven Court. First-alarm
response was able to
extinguish the fire
quickly and confine the
fire to the garage.

March 24, 2021 -
Vegetation Fire on
El Rancho Road.
Fire in tule
vegetation
threatened three
structures and
olive orchard. All
structures and the
orchard were
saved.





March 25, 2021 – Crews responded to an accident involving a passenger vehicle and a big rig at the intersection of Holly Drive and Grant Line Road. The big rig then collided with a building. Crews extricated the driver who was trapped but uninjured and treated one other patient who was transported with minor injuries.

March 26, 2021 – Structure fire on Annamarie Way. Fire damaged the garage and extended to vehicles parked in the driveway. Fire crews kept the fire out of the residence. No injuries reported.

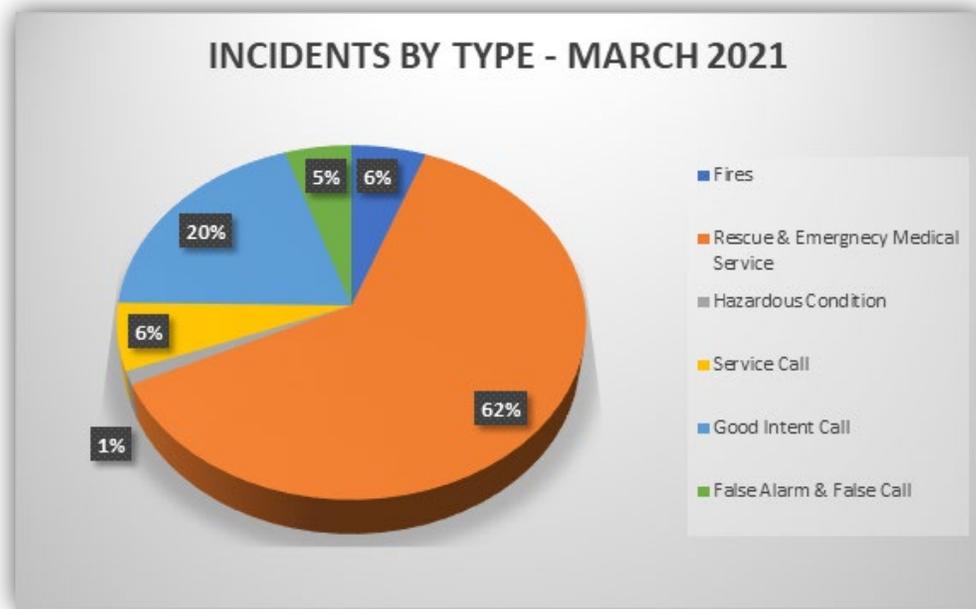


March 30, 2021 – Large commercial dumpster fire behind Accent Carpets that spread to an adjacent residential structure. Fire personnel extinguished the fire, confining it to the dumpster, debris, adjacent structure while preventing the fire from extending into the commercial structure.



March 31, 2021 – Crews responded to a fence fire on Louise Avenue. The fence backed up to El Pescadero Park where three tents were also destroyed. Fire crews were able to extinguish the fire quickly without significant damage to the adjacent residential structure.

March Response Data



| INCIDENTS BY TYPE - MARCH 2021 | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Incident Type | # Incidents | % of Total |
| Fires | 46 | 6% |
| Rescue & Emergency Medical Service | 508 | 62% |
| Hazardous Condition | 10 | 1% |
| Service Call | 50 | 6% |
| Good Intent Call | 161 | 20% |
| False Alarm & False Call | 41 | 5% |
| TOTAL | 816 | 100% |

Sincerely,

Chief Bradley

CC: Tracy Rural Fire District Board of Directors
Mark Bowman, Counsel, Tracy Rural Fire District
Raychel Jackson, Clerk, Tracy Rural Fire District
Jenny Haruyama, City Manager, City of Tracy