



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](http://www.sjcfire.org)

# Memorandum

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

---

## Firefighter of the Year

Annually, our Tracy Firefighters Local 3355 choose a ‘Firefighter of the Year’ and present the award at their annual Christmas Party. Due to COVID-19, the Christmas Party was cancelled in 2020. Therefore, they announced the “Firefighter of The Year” at a recent Labor-Management meeting. The 2020 Firefighter of the Year is Captain Scott Byers. Captain Byers is a great choice and well deserving of this prestigious award. He will be honored at the American Legion’s James McDermott Post 172 annual Law and Order Awards to be held on Saturday, 20 March 2021. Due to social distancing requirements the event may be held “virtually” or have very limited attendance. Captain Byers was nominated and



selected by his peers. Scott was born in San Jose and currently resides in Mountain House where he moved and started his family with his wife Sally in 2005. He began his career working for CDF in Mendocino County as a seasonal firefighter during college at Chico State, and was then hired full-time with City of Ukiah Fire Department as a FF/Medic. Scott was hired with Tracy Fire Department in 2006. Scott was promoted to Fire Engineer in 2008 and began conducting the annual department wildland training as well as Administrative roles coordinating EMS medical training and EMS Records management. In 2010, Scott became a Hazardous Materials team member and revamped the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) training and policy employing new equipment and techniques to enhance firefighter rescue abilities. In 2014, Scott was promoted to Fire Captain and is called upon to train new recruits in Firefighter survival and RIC. Scott was part of the San Joaquin County Joint RIC task force that worked to standardize equipment and communications amongst all

departments in the County. Currently, he proudly serves on the Local 3355 Tracy Firefighters Association Executive Board as member at large and also serves on the South County Fire Authority Training Committee. Scott enjoys the outdoors on his days off through dirt biking, camping, and boating with his wife and two sons Joey and Benjamin. Scott is proud to serve the citizens of Tracy and honored to be part of an exceptional fire department. For all of Scott’s present and past efforts, his peers nominated and selected Captain Byers as “Firefighter of the Year.” We will honor Captain Byers at a future Board meeting.

### Engine 94 Involved in Accident



On Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> Engine 94 was involved in an accident. According to Engine 94 personnel, when turning into the Station 94 driveway off Schulte Road, a passenger vehicle attempted to pass by crossing the double-yellow line into opposing traffic. The vehicle struck the engine when the engine began to make the turn. The engine sustained some notable damage to the left front bumper and body. Our personnel experienced some soreness after the impact, but otherwise escaped significant injuries. The solo driver of the vehicle was reportedly uninjured. Engine 94 is scheduled to be replaced with one of the new engines that should arrive within the next two weeks. The damaged Engine 94 will be repaired and become a reserve engine.

### 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.



### Emergency Operations Plan

Fire Authority continues to take the lead on working with consultant Tetra Tech to complete a major update and implementation of the City of Tracy's new/updated Emergency Operations Plan. The plan will be completed in the fourth quarter of 2021.

### Training

In January, the open Training Captain position was filled and in-person company training programs have been reinstated. The change was in response to a majority of the department receiving the COVID-19 vaccine which limited the potential exposure when participating in multiple company drills and training programs. EMT recertification is currently in process.

### **Captain Miller Retirement**



Captain Craig Miller has announced his retirement effective March 15, 2021. Captain Miller began his career with the Tracy Rural Fire District and served the community for 29 years. After six years as a reserve, he became a fulltime firefighter in May of 1992. He was promoted to Engineer in 1993 and Captain in 1999. In 2001 he served as an Administrative Captain with a focus on Fire Prevention. Captain Miller spent much of his career assigned to the outlying stations and became the resident expert on anything involving the unincorporated areas. He is also known for his operational aptitude, support for his community and strong knowledge and understanding of fire prevention programs. Please join me in congratulating Captain Miller on his retirement and 29 years of service.

### **Recruitment/Fire Academy**

The Fire Authority has completed the recruitment initial interview processes to fill the positions that will be created by the opening of Station 95. Nine positions will be required to staff Station 95. With the retirement of Captain Miller, a total of ten firefighter/paramedics recruits will be hired with an anticipated start date of May 31, 2021. The new recruits will attend a thirteen-week academy. Station 95 will be a Tracy Rural Fire District (TRFD) fire station and TRFD has approved the funding for the training academy.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Fire Authority's Strategic Plan is expiring and a new strategic planning processes in underway. After providing the SSJCFA Board an overview of the proposed strategic initiatives, staff will be working with stakeholders (City of Tracy, Tracy Rural Fire District, San Joaquin EMS Agency, San Joaquin Fire Chiefs Association, San Joaquin Fire Wardens Office) to discuss the proposed initiatives and to receive the appropriate feedback. Public surveys will also be utilized to elicit public perception of fire protection within the community. Stakeholder information will be utilized to develop a new Strategic Plan through a collaborative labor/management process in April 2021.

### **COVID-19 Vaccinations**



The Fire Authority continues to support the efforts of San Joaquin County and the City of Tracy to support vaccination clinics in Tracy. This is being done by participating in the City of Tracy Emergency Management Planning Team and serving as one of the conduits between the County and City concerning vaccination planning and processes. Fire Authority paramedics have been trained and approved to assist in giving vaccinations. The Fire Authority firefighter/paramedics are supporting the mass vaccination site that is being hosted by the San Joaquin County Office of Education and the clinic that was hosted by PremeirCare Physicians (Sunday, March 7, 2021, pictured). Firefighter overtime required to support vaccination clinics will be reimbursed through FEMA.

### **Budget Process**

During the month of March, the Fire Authority staff will begin working with the City of Tracy and the Tracy Rural Fire District to develop the FY 2021/22 Fire Authority budget. The Fire Authority understands the City of Tracy's challenging financial projections and the Tracy Rural Fire District's significant budgetary impacts due to the opening of Station 95. The Fire Authority staff will work with both member agencies to contain costs and to identify efficiencies that will not impact service levels.

### **New Fire Engines**



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. The new engines were manufactured by Pierce Fire Apparatus in Appleton, Wisconsin. We are hoping to have all three engines in service by the end of March. One of the new engines will be assigned to Station 95, another to Station 92 and the third to Station 94. Two of the engines that are being replaced will become reserve engines, and the current reserve engines are planned to be excessed through the member agencies.

### **Annexations and Development**

The City of Tracy Planning Division has agreed to provide a presentation to the SSJCFA Board and the Tracy Rural Fire District Board on potential annexations and planning efforts within the Tracy Community. The information will be used to gain a better understanding of the potential impacts of annexation and development on fire protection. Fire Authority staff has been working with the City's consultant to update the Public Safety Facility Master Plan which serves as the nexus study to determine developer fees to fund fire facilities that are required due to growth (including the areas that are annexed and not detached). The consultant has been made aware of the Tracy Rural Fire District's interest in their project and staff will work to ensure TRFD is involved in the plan update.



The Community Risk Reduction (CCR) Division continues to process a significant number of new construction permits (55 in February) and continues to inspect several projects that are currently under construction. Project Big Bird is the largest project under construction with an equivalent height of a nine-story building and a floor area of approximately 3.9 million square feet. The steel framing is currently being erected (pictured left); the project is expected to be completed in February 2022. Operationally, the Fire Authority continues to monitor the construction process and to provide requisite information to the fire companies.

### **Phase 2 of 2018 JPA Agreement Transition**

On March 2, 2021, the Tracy City Council was provided an overview of the consultant's report to evaluate the potential fiscal impacts of transitioning employees from the City to the Fire Authority. The Fire Authority and City staff provided the Council with an overview of the history of the Fire Authority and the transition process prior to receiving the consultant's report. After receiving the report, the Council directed City staff to evaluate additional elements of the transition.

Fire Authority staff has updated the (350 page) transition plan to attempt to address concerns identified by City's staff. City staff and the District will be provided an updated version of the plan. The Fire Authority will continue to work with the City and the District to finalize the transition plan and to address the questions that were presented by the City Council.

### **Frist Watch Software Implementation**

In December of 2020, the Tracy Rural Fire District was awarded a San Joaquin County "CARES" grant to fund the purchase of First Watch. The First Watch software will increase the Fire Authority's access to data by extracting and processing data that is available on multiple data platforms. The increased use of data will improve the Fire Authority's efficiency in the delivering of emergency and administrative

services, improve awareness as well as overall operational performance. The enhanced data extraction will improve the analysis of alarm times, turnout times, travel times, total response times, report writing and measurements, and forecasting needs for staffing, scheduling, and resource deployment. The Fire Authority staff is working with the First Watch team and the Stockton Fire Department to develop an implementation plan. Updates will be provided as the implementation progresses.



### **Video System Project Complete**

The project to install large screen monitors and video systems at administration and each fire station has been completed. The system will be used to conduct training and meetings without placing companies out-of-service or out-of-position and will also limit exposures (COVID-19) between personnel. The system was purchased through a joint apprentice program between the California Professional Firefighters and the California State Fire Marshal's Office. Under the program, SSJCFCA receives reimbursement for completing specific training elements and the reimbursement is used to enhance SSJCFCA training programs.

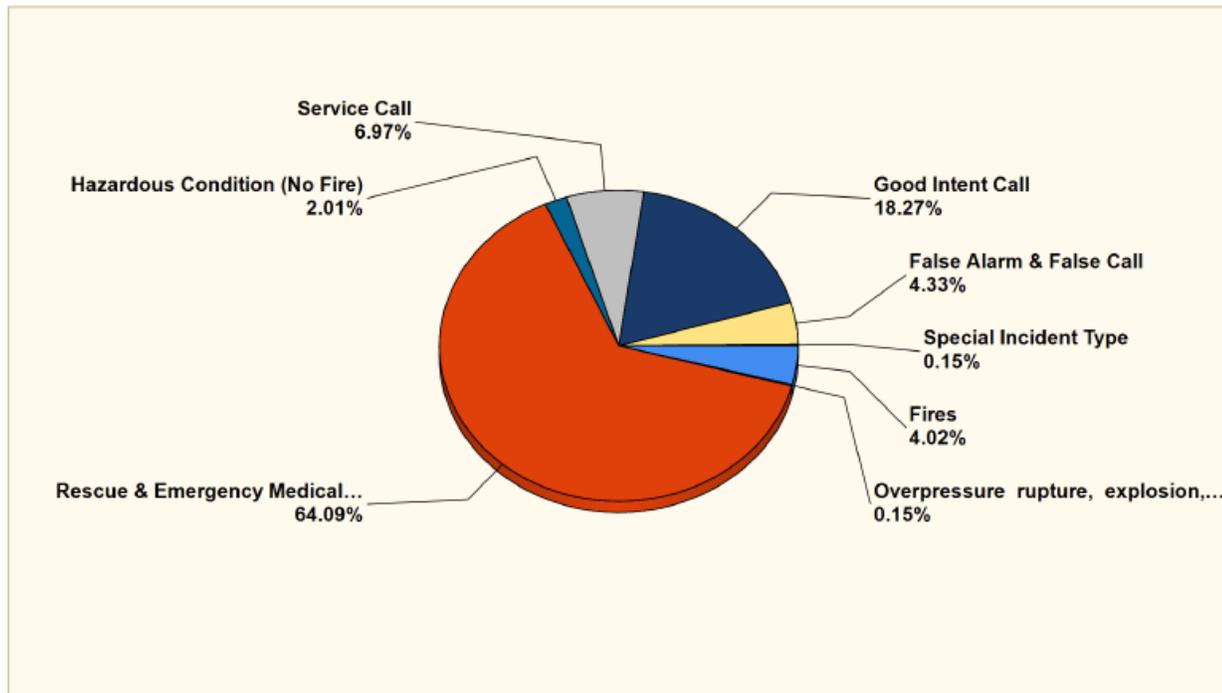
### **DVI Closure**

DVI is schedule for closure in September 2021. As part of the closer process DVI has requested to enter into a five-year fire protection contract with the Tracy Rural Fire Protection District. Fire authority staff will work with TRFD to identify the operational impacts and potential costs of providing fire protection to DVI.

**February Response Data**

With the implementation of the new records management system, real time response data is now readily available. As part of the Chief Monthly Update, response data for the previous month will be provided. In the future, response time will be included in this report.

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority ebru– February 2021 Response Data



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	26	4.02%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.15%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	414	64.09%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	13	2.01%
Service Call	45	6.97%
Good Intent Call	118	18.27%
False Alarm & False Call	28	4.33%
Special Incident Type	1	0.15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>100%</b>

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