



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: October 12, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Chief Bradley
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update - October

September 11th - 20 Year Anniversary Ceremonies

SSJCFA staff and crews participated in three 20th anniversary 911 events. At 5:46 a.m. we were joined by the Tracy Police Department and community members to conduct our annual



flag lowering ceremony at each fire station. At 11:00 a.m. SSJCFA's Honor Guard conducted a last-call bell ringing ceremony as part of the Tracy Connects event at Lincoln Park. At 6:00 p.m. staff and crews attended the annual 911 Remembrance Ceremony at the Nirvaana Banquet and Event Center that raises money for police and firefighter charities. Later that evening members of the organization attended the Tracy Mayor's Benefit that served as remembrance of the events of 911 and raised funds for local charities.

Phase 2 of 2018 JPA Agreement Transition

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021 the Tracy Rural Fire District and the Tracy City Council approved the Employee Transition Plan, each by resolution. As part of the City of Tracy approval, staff committed to work with City and District staff to implement the financial policy and processes recommended by the Municipal Resource Group (MRG). The Authority has now contracted with MRG to assist with the financial policy review, updates and implementation. Those efforts include an update of current policies, development of a reserve policy, review and update of capital equipment replacement plans, establishing lease agreements and being available to assist the City and the District with determining and dividing existing unfunded liabilities.

On September 21, 2021, staff requested and gained approval on resolutions that will serve as the basis for the new organization. The Board approved the Position Control Roster and the Classification Plan. At a Special Meeting on September 30, 2021, the Board approved the Classification Specifications (Job Descriptions). Staff is now working with the labor groups to transition their newly approved contracts to the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority. Staff will be bringing benefit agreements, labor agreements and CalPERS agreement to the Board for consideration in the month of October and November.

At the City Manager's request, staff had a joint meeting with the City of Tracy transition team to review and update project management plans and processes. The meeting went extremely well and helped to ensure that the proper coordination is taking place between the two agencies.

Training

During the month of September, SSJCFA's Division of Training continued to facilitate and support a multitude of training events. The membership trained for all risk emergencies. Members participated in Hazardous Materials Specialist training utilizing our RAD SAM550 radiation detectors. The training was facilitated by our Hazmat Team leader and included an instructor from Berkeley Nucleonics Corporation.

The objective of Engine Company evolution training this month was initial fire attack operations and communications. The focus was on the deployment, stretch, and management of the 1 ¾" live lines.

We continued our effort to have every member trained and ready to operate the Fire Authority's Tractor Drawn Aerial (tiller). Truck Operations training was high angle rope rescue operations utilizing the aerial tip /pulley system. This allows us a high pick point when necessary for specific rescue situations.

We were able to get out in the community in September by providing fire extinguisher training classes to the Costco employees. Engine companies also participated in an orientation of a new commercial complex, which includes Big Bird (participated in an evacuation drill) and the Michael's warehouse on Holly and Sugar Roads.



Recruitment/Fire Academy

Eight new SSJCFA recruits began their training academy on September 17, 2021. The recruits are attending a twelve week academy hosted by the City of Stockton. The new recruits all have professional firefighter experience which allows for the shortened twelve-week academy. The following are the Recruits that are in the Academy:

Daniel Kopas
John Legasa
Spenser Lewis
Brock Bandoni
Justin De Hart
Brian Mantor
Alexander Martinez



Radio System Challenges

During the past six months SSJCFA's radio system has become less reliable. Staff has been working with our consultant to better understand the system challenges and to work on strategies to improve the system. Below is a quick overview of what we have accomplished and what needs to be done in the near future.

Current Status:

SSJCFA operates with two primary frequencies: SCD South and TAC 16. These two channels transmit from the radio tower at the Tracy Police Department, and have several pairs of voting receivers at Fire Stations and the San Joaquin River Club. These distributed receivers improve the reception of portable radios when away from the apparatus. The receivers are connected to Tracy PD tower through AT&T phone lines.

Over the years, staff has contacted AT&T to report the phone line problem and a technician would be dispatched to fix the issue.

- In the last 6 months, the number of times a phone line circuit has gone down has increased dramatically.
- The wait time for repair, resolution or even a call back has increased dramatically.
- The locations with phone line trouble have expanded.
- Existing radio equipment is past End of Life, and while generally solid, is starting to require significantly more servicing and maintenance.

We are told by our consultants that AT&T is no longer investing in their landline networks and quality has decreased rapidly. While we are working with AT&T to improve the system, we expect may expect problems with the upcoming rainy season.

Recent and Current Improvements:

In January of 2021, SSJCFA replaced and relocated the existing transmission antenna and associated coaxial cable at TPD improving talk out coverage. All Preventative Maintenance and Inspections (PMI) that can improve the system performance have been done and any performance tweaks have been implemented.

With the addition of the new Fire Station 95, additional receivers are being installed at Station 95, and an older comparator (the device that picks the best received signal) is being replaced with a new comparator. This will improve talk in coverage in Station 95's area and improve system monitoring.

Emergency System Improvements:

Improving and replacing the AT&T copper phone line system for audio transport is critical to improving the performance and reliability of the radio system. Adding remote access to the new and existing comparator to monitor the system (remote access was lost in the Tracy Fire to SCFA evolution). Upon notification of phone line failure, our contractor will call the trouble ticket in, escalate with AT&T repair for priority service, for faster repair time. They then gather more technical data on the lines that are failing. Identify any technical trends to support either the Microwave or Digital MIMO options below, or option yet to be proposed.

Future Long Term System Improvement Plans:

The long-term plan is for a full system upgrade, adding P25 digital, interoperability all on a modern and easily upgradable IP network. This project includes new radio towers at many stations to elevate the receiver antennas.

The long-term plan includes linking the receiver stations back to TPD on a dedicated microwave network and transporting the receiver audio over this network. A microwave network is low delay, reliable and builds the foundation for the next generation P25 radio network.

Strike Team Deployment

All engines and personnel have returned from long deployments through the summer and into the fall. Staff is hoping that additional deployments will not be required until next fire season.

It should be noted, that we continue to staff all stations within the Fire Authority (no service level reductions) and we receive reimbursement for the cost of personnel assigned to the incident and the cost of personnel who work overtime for the personnel assigned to the incident.



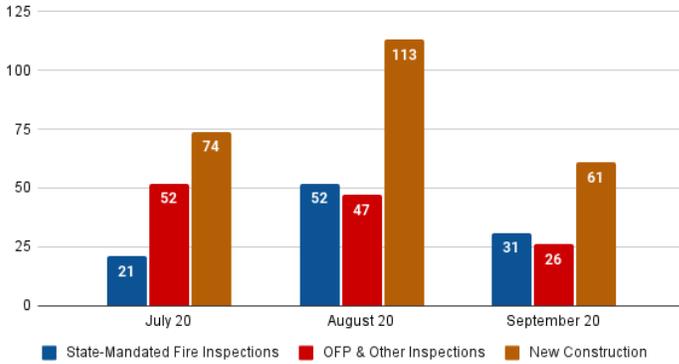
First Quarter FY 21/22

FIRE INSPECTIONS

Comparison between FY20/21 & FY21/22

- 215% increase in OFP/other inspections
- 51% increase in new construction inspections

Fire Inspections First Quarter FY 20/21



Fire Inspections First Quarter FY 21/22



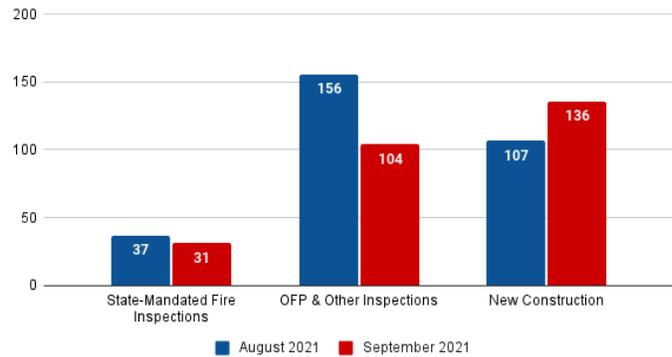
YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

ACTIVITY	COMPLETE	TOTAL	%
Apartment building complexes	21	158	13.3%
Schools (K-12 & Headstart)	3	57	5.3%

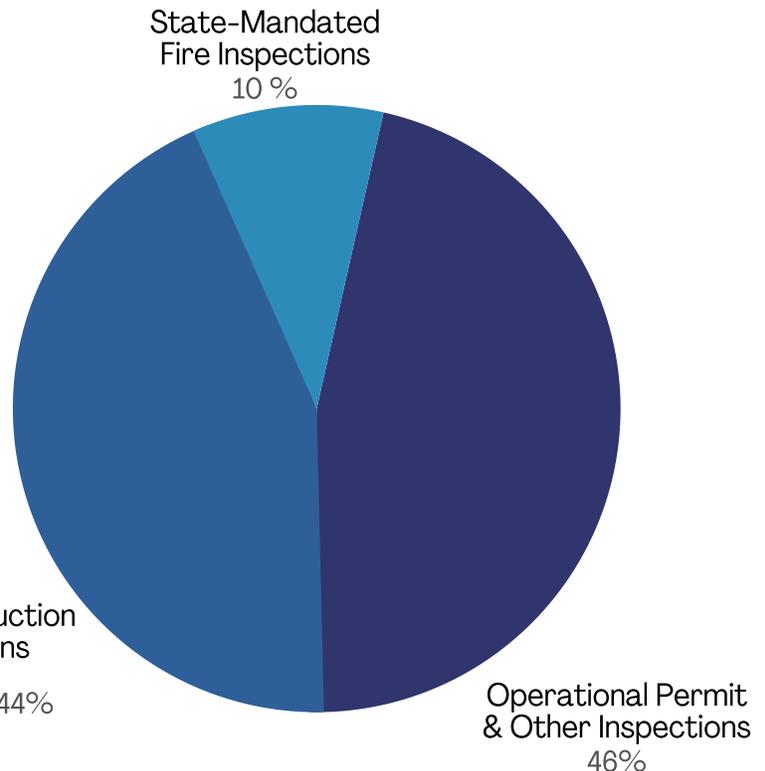
Month to Month Comparison from August to September

- 33% decrease in OFP/other inspections from August to September
- 27% increase in new construction inspections from August to September

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER INSPECTION COMPARISON



1ST QTR FY21/22 INSPECTION OVERVIEW

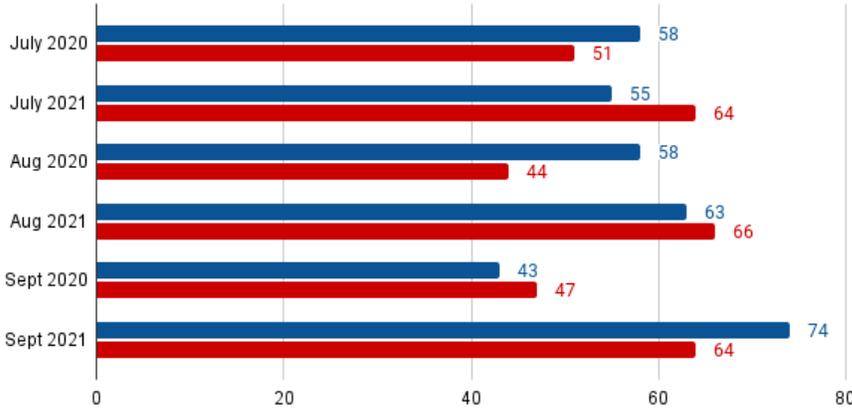




First Quarter FY21/22

Plan Review

■ Initial Construction Plan Review ■ Resubmittal Review



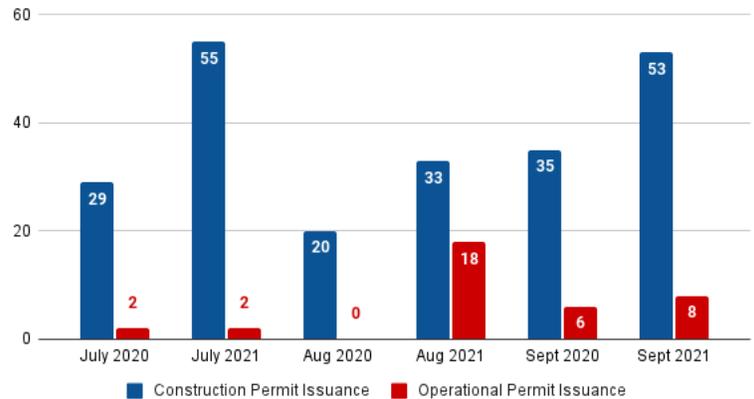
PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- The average plan check turn around time ranged from 11 to 12 days
- Number of times plan checks exceeded 20 days ranged from 4 to 6 occurrences during the quarter

PERMIT ACTIVITIES

- 68% increase in construction permit issuance between FY20/21 & FY21/22
- 60% increase in construction permit issuance from August to September
- 116 active operational fire permits

Permit Activities



SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

21.5K

People reached on Facebook

126

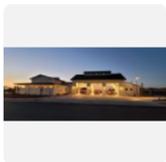
New "Follows" on Instagram

1.4K

Impressions on Twitter

Content

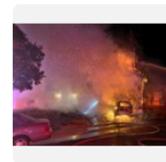
Sort by: Likes and Reactions



Wed Sep 1, 7:09pm
Tracy, CA , September 1, ...
Reactions 248



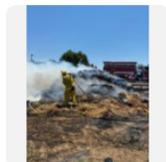
Sun Aug 29, 8:35pm
Tracy, CA , August 29, 20...
Reactions 168



Wed Jul 7, 12:55am
Tracy, CA - July 6, 2021, j...
Reactions 137



Thu Sep 16, 8:12pm
Congratulations to all of ...
Likes 122



Sun Jul 11, 3:23pm
Tracy - July 11, 2021, at a...
Reactions 93



Fri Sep 10, 10:30am
Keeping with our long hel...
Reactions 83

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CC: Tracy Rural Fire District Board of Directors
Mark Bowman, Counsel, Tracy Rural Fire District
Raychel Jackson, Clerk, Tracy Rural Fire District
Bob Adams, Interim City Manager, City of Tracy