WEST SACRAMENTO FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Message from the Fire Chief



On behalf of the West Sacramento Fire Department, I am pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. I hope that this report provides readers with a transparent and comprehensive overview of the many facets of our organization, as well as the positive impacts we have made and continue to make within the community we proudly serve.

As I reflect on the many accomplishments and forward momentum our department experienced in 2024, I must first acknowledge the profound and tragic loss of one of our own: Fire Engineer Tim Hall. Tim unexpectedly passed away in the line of duty following a training exercise on September 23, 2024. Throughout his career, Tim embodied honor, courage, and, above all, a deep devotion to duty. His sudden passing has left a void that will forever affect his family, our department, and the community he served. His loss is deeply felt, and his selfless spirit will never be forgotten.

In the face of this immense loss, the resilience and dedication of our team allowed the West Sacramento Fire Department to continue forward with purpose and excellence. The year 2024 was marked by challenges, but also by significant achievements—each one a testament to the strength and commitment of the men and women who serve this community. I extend my deepest gratitude to them for their continued professionalism and dedication. Equally important to our success is the unwavering support we receive from our City Manager and City Council, whose guidance has been invaluable.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the citizens of West Sacramento. We exist to serve you, and we will always be here when you need us. Your trust and respect are important to us, and we deeply appreciate the continued confidence you place in us. As we look ahead to the challenges of the coming year, rest assured that the men and women of the West Sacramento Fire Department remain steadfast in our commitment to providing the highest level of service in the most professional, efficient, and compassionate manner possible.

Respectfully yours,

Steve Binns
Fire Chief

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$19.57 Million
FY 2024 Budget

75
Full-Time Positions

68
Sworn Personnel

7
Civilian Positions

5
Fire Stations Staffed 24/7/365

3
Platoons / Shifts of Firefighters

20
Firefighters in each Platoon

48
Hours worked in each Tour of Duty

11,810
Calls for Service in 2024

53,637
Population Served

21.43 sq. mi.^{2}
Land Area Protected

Mission & Purpose

The West Sacramento Fire Department (WSFD) is an "all-hazard" response agency that is dedicated to protecting life, property, and the environment from fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material releases, and other natural or man-made disasters. The department accomplishes this mission through dedicated prevention, training, public education, and emergency response.

Average Response Time

5:12

NFPA Standard 1710 establishes an 80 second "turnout time" and 240 second "travel time" (together, 320 seconds or 5 minutes and 20 seconds "response time") as a benchmark time goal.



History

Organized firefighting began in West Sacramento long before the city's incorporation. The township of Washington (Broderick) was laid out on February 22, 1850, and was the first organized community in the West Sacramento area. At that time the population was small and the need for an organized fire department was not necessary. As Washington's population and commerce grew, so did the size and frequency of the fires. In the 1890s a series of fires swept through the community with devastating results. A strong wind was blowing and at one time a dozen residences were ignited by flying embers. Washington did not have an organized fire department and had it not been for the prompt assistance rendered by the fire crews of the Southern Pacific Railroad, the entire town would have been consumed. On August 7, 1896, a meeting of the citizens of Washington was held at the town hall and the first organized fire department was founded. Records from 1898 show that the town of Washington had a volunteer fire department with a fire chief and 33 members. Later, as the population extended toward the town of Bryte, the need for additional fire protection was evident.

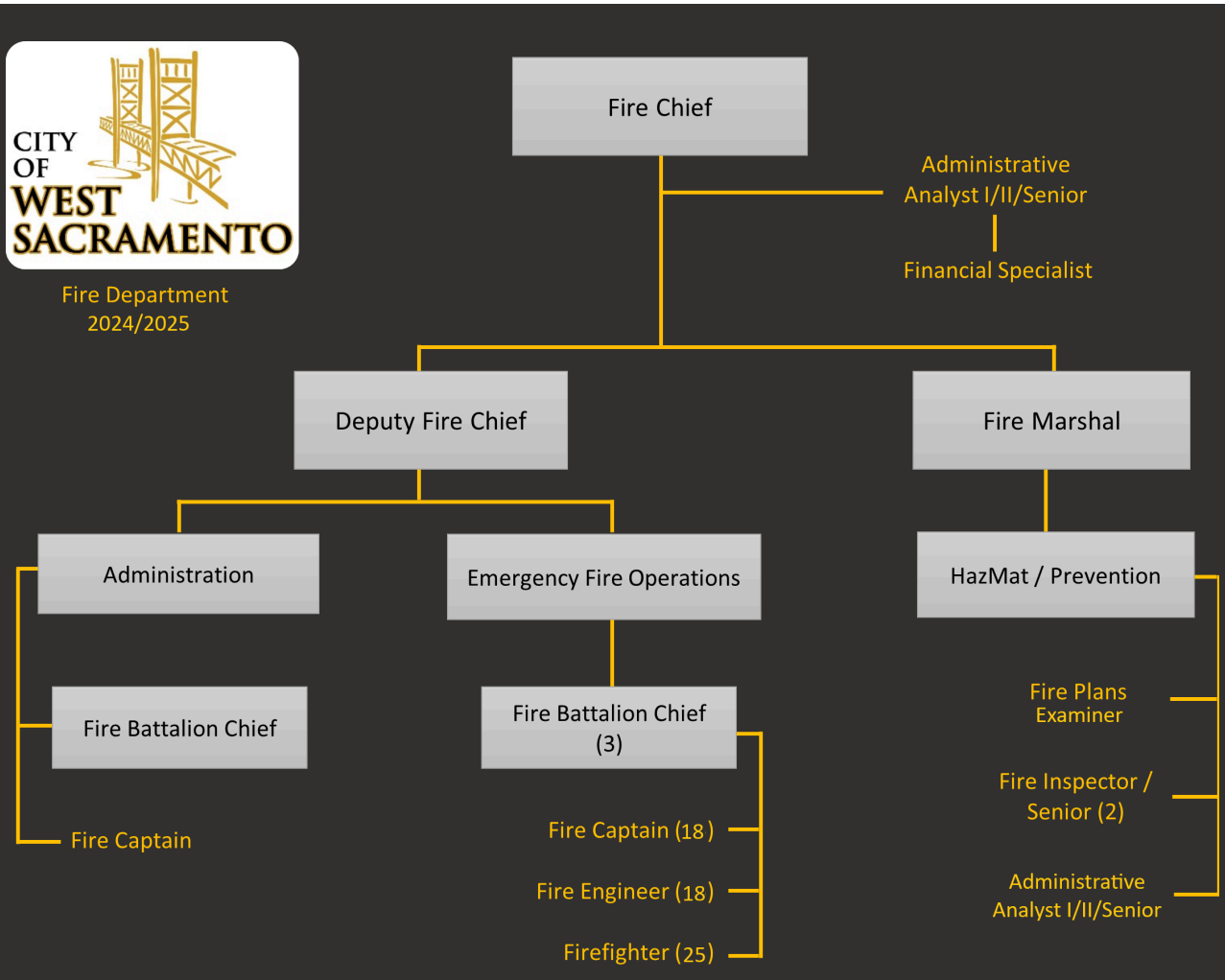


In 1917, Bryte was added to the list as another volunteer fire department. Both Washington and Bryte were divided into fire districts. Hand drawn carts and leather buckets slowly gave way to motorized fire apparatus with gasoline engines. In 1933, the community of West Sacramento built its first volunteer fire engine. The West Sacramento Land Company and the volunteer Fire Department raised funds to purchase a second-hand 1926 Federal truck with a Dodge Brothers motor. This fire engine became known as Old Mary and is proudly displayed in the Burgers and Brew restaurant. The Westgate Fire District was the next fire district formed in 1939. All three districts co-existed until 1979, when they consolidated into the East Yolo Fire Protection District. In 1987, the three districts incorporated into the City of West Sacramento, becoming the 444th city in California and the West Sacramento Fire Department was finally formed.

Organization

The West Sacramento Fire Department is an “All Hazard” response agency with three divisions that provide a wide array of services to the community. These divisions are Fire Administration, Emergency Operations, and Community Risk Reduction. Together we are responsible for structure fire, wildland fire, technical rescue, hazardous material, and emergency medical aid responses as well as public education, fire prevention, community preparedness, and disaster response. Our goal is two-fold: reduce the community risk through education, planning, and preparedness, and to mitigate all incidents safely, efficiently, and effectively.

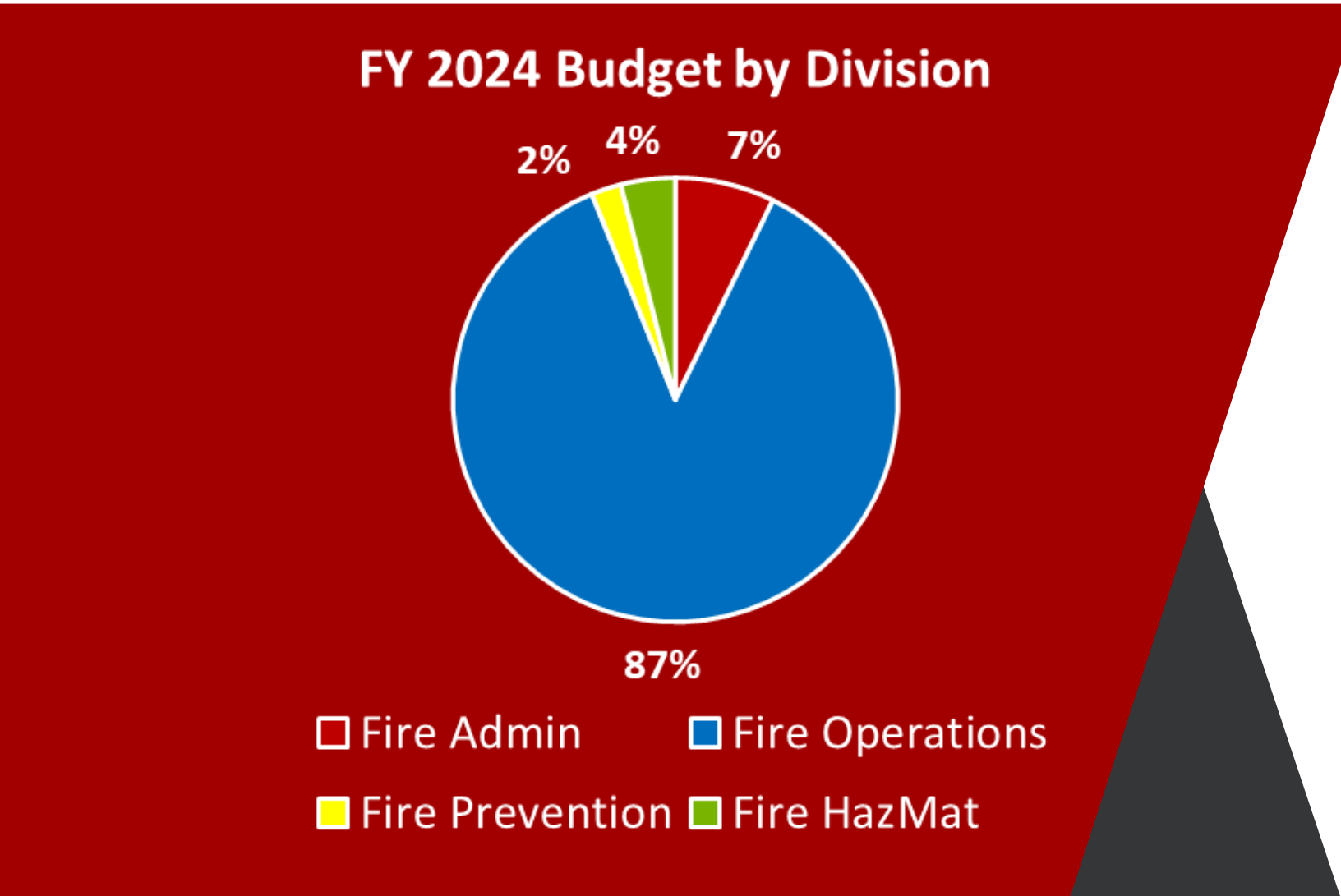
Our greatest asset is our people. The West Sacramento Fire Department has a current force of 75 dedicated and professional full-time firefighters, chief officers, and support staff. Firefighters work 48-hour tours of duty. There are three work groups called “shifts.” Our line crews are divided into three shifts of 20 firefighting personnel who are on duty every day to respond to all structure fires and other major emergencies. This includes a Battalion Chief who manages the shift and provides Incident Command and Scene Management.



Budget

The fire department's budget is part of the overall City budget and is approved by the City Council on a biennial basis. The City operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year (FY). The budget includes all aspects necessary for the fire department's operation, including personnel, operating, and capital costs. The FY 2024 adopted budget for the department was $19,570,770.57.

The Fire Chief and executive staff are tasked with being the stewards of the organization's financial resources. They continually evaluate our programs and service delivery models to ensure their cost effectiveness and efficiency, but more importantly to ensure we are meeting the emergency service needs of our community and having a positive impact on people's lives. Our commitment to providing the best possible service within available funding constraints, ensures stabilized finances, enhances the delivery of essential emergency services, and keeps the Department on a fiscally sustainable path moving forward.



Operations - By the Numbers

Today, the Fire Department responds to a wide array of calls for service. These services constitute an “all risk” approach to community service and include medical emergencies, technical rescue, hazardous materials incidents, and of course, fire responses. The following graphic displays the wide variety of calls for service to which the department responded in 2024.

6,923 RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1,694 GOOD INTENT CALLS

1,686 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CALLS

575 FIRE ALARMS / SMOKE ALARMS

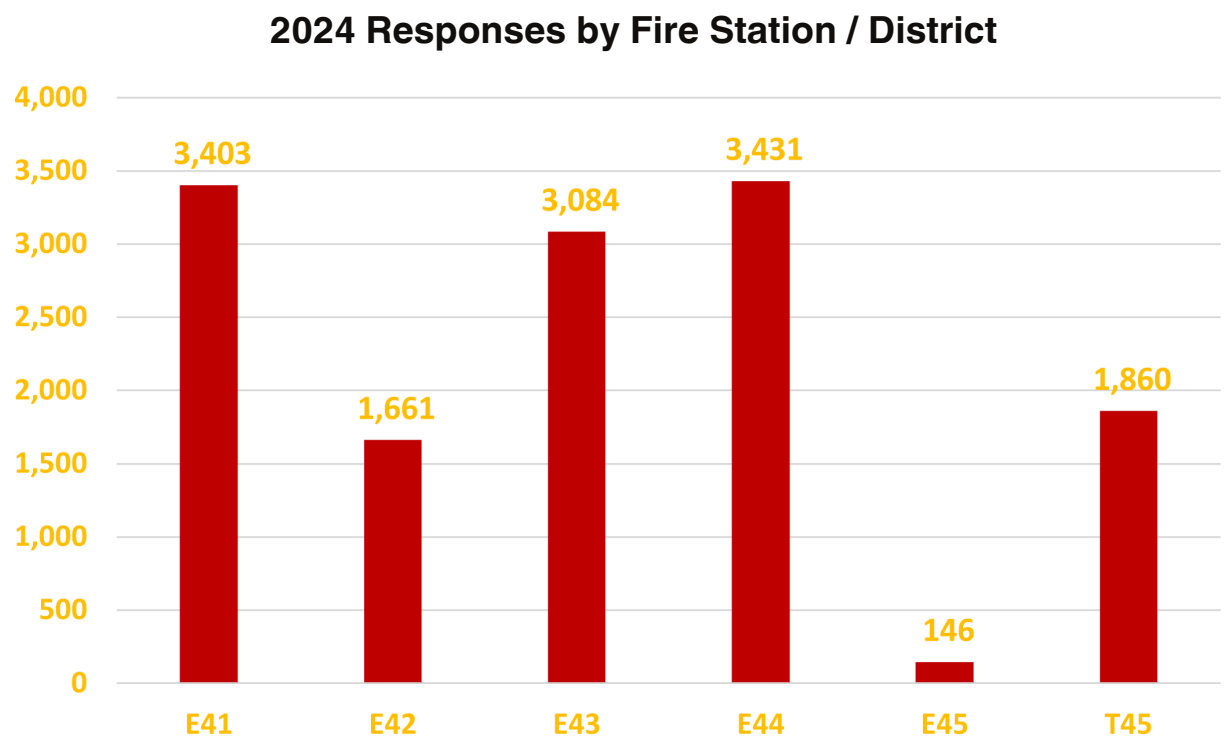
772 FIRE CALLS

160 OTHER CALLS *

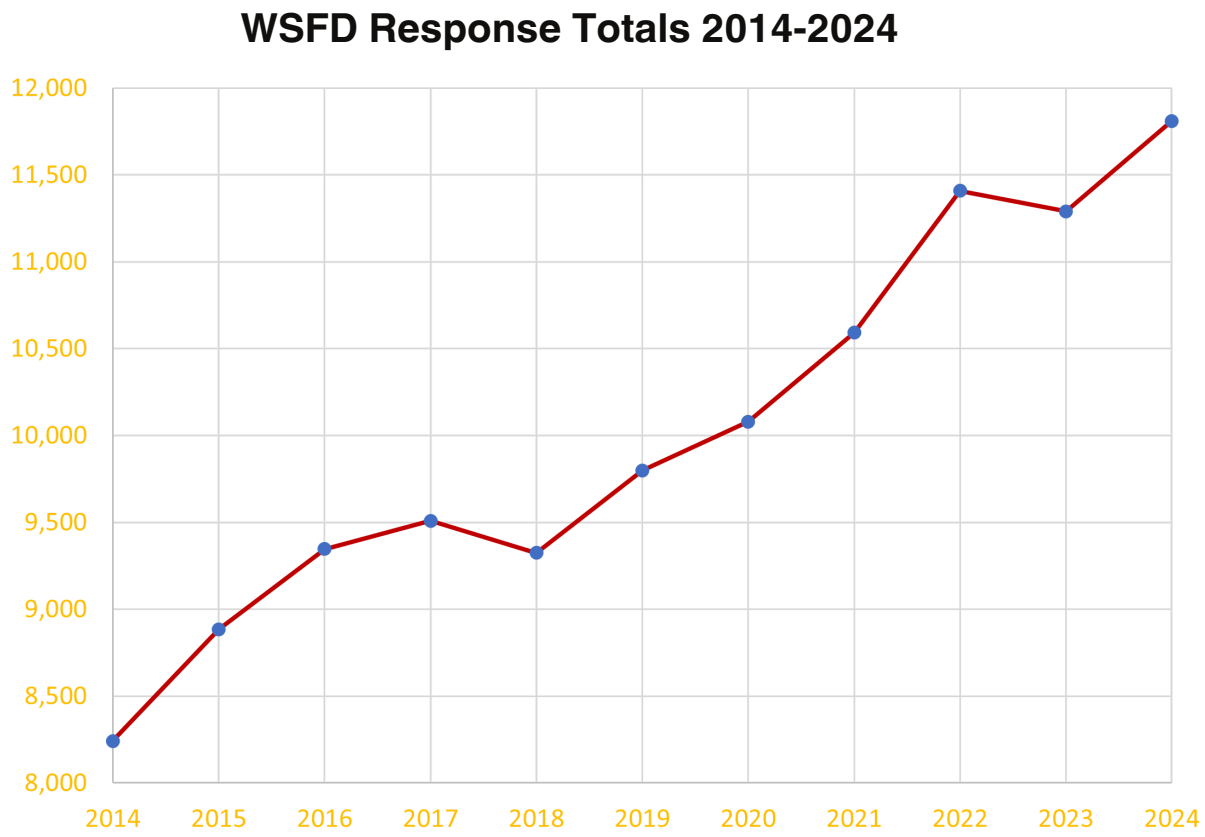
TOTAL INCIDENTS » **11,810**

** Other calls include hazardous conditions (no fire), rupture or explosion, severe weather, or other special incident type.*

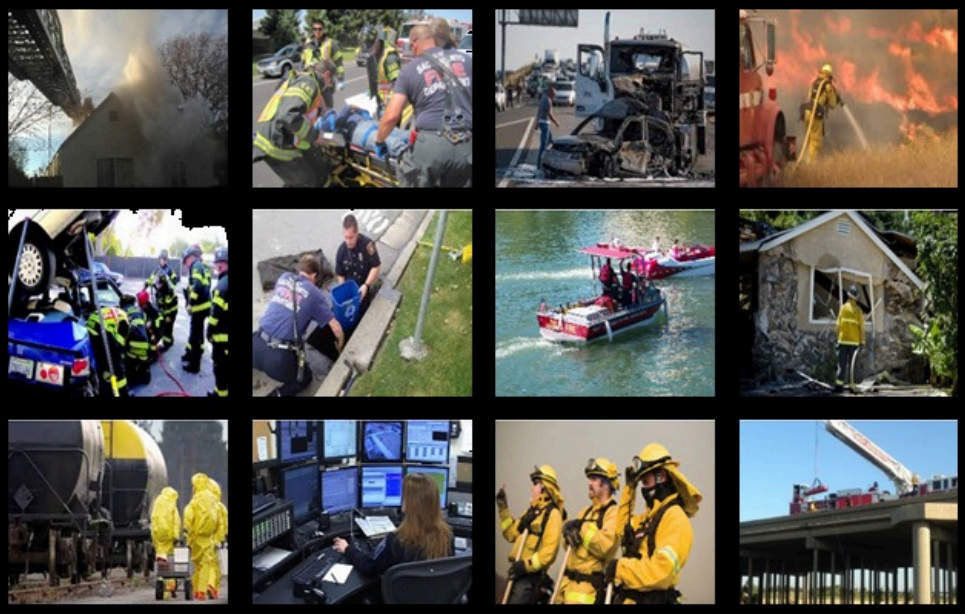
The 2024 responses are categorized by fire station location, often referred to as a “first due” response area or district.

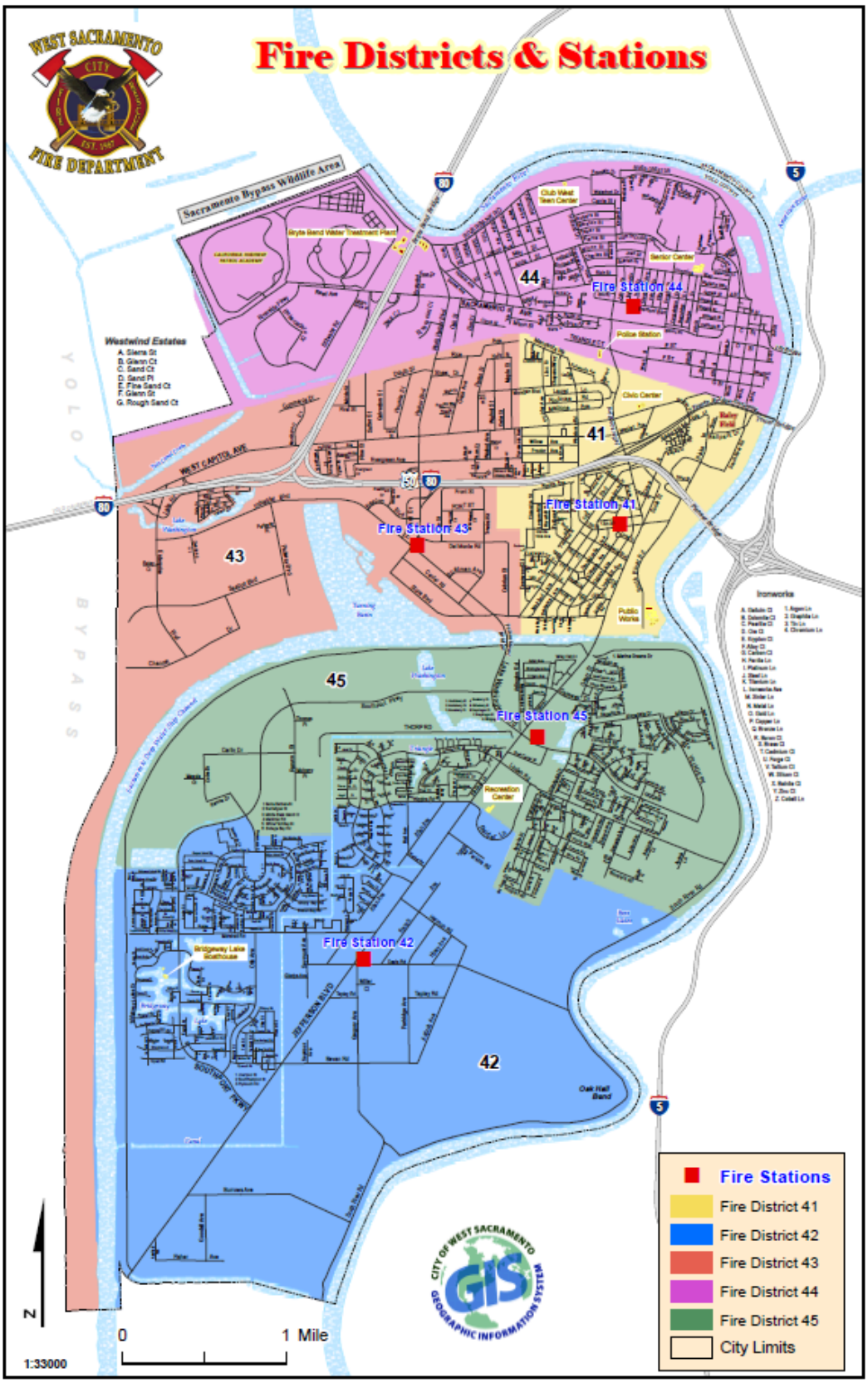


The City of West Sacramento has witnessed dramatic growth and change since incorporation in 1987. The following chart displays the growth in call volume for the past decade.



As the City of West Sacramento continues to develop, and the population continues to grow, it is likely that the Fire Department will continue to see an increased need for emergency response services throughout the community.





Station 41



Station 42



Station 43



Station 44



Station 45 / Fire Admin



Apparatus

To meet the evolving needs of our community, the West Sacramento Fire Department operates and maintains a variety of apparatus: Battalion Chief command vehicles, Type I engines, and 100’ aerial ladder trucks.

Additionally, on-duty crews cross-staff the following apparatus as needed:

- Type 3 Engines
- Type 5 Brush Rigs
- Water Tender – 2000 gallons
- Fire/Rescue Boats
- Confined Space/Technical Rescue Trailer













2024 Incident Types

RESIDENTIAL FIRE



WSFD fire crews were dispatched to the 4000 block of Gregory Avenue. Upon arrival, crews found a 2-story home with smoke and fire showing from the rear of the structure. Crews performed an aggressive attack on the exterior fire, and then they were able to push into the main part of the home and extinguish the fire that spread into the interior of the home. Truck 45 arrived on scene and was able to rescue two dogs that were inside the home. All occupants made it out prior to the fire department's arrival and there were no reported injuries.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT



WSFD fire crews responded to eastbound Interstate 80 near Enterprise for reports of a vehicle accident involving multiple vehicles. Fire crews arrived on scene and found a multi-vehicle accident with the driver of one of the vehicles entrapped with serious injuries. Crews from Truck 45 and Engine 43 worked quickly to access the patient, administer patient care, and extricate the driver of the vehicle who was transported by AMR to a local hospital with serious injuries.

CPR SAVES A LIFE



WSFD fire crews responded code three to a report of a person having a seizure. While en route, fire dispatch updated the call, stating that CPR was in progress. Engine 41 arrived and found bystanders were doing effective CPR on the patient. Fire personnel took over patient care, continued CPR, and utilized an AED to administer two shocks over the course of just a few minutes. The ambulance arrived and began ALS (advanced life support) patient care. Within moments, the patient's pulse returned, and the patient began to breathe on their own. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient regained consciousness. This call's positive outcome was undoubtedly due to early and effective bystander CPR, quick activation of the 911 system, and the fast application of an AED combined with high-performance, first responder CPR.

APARTMENT EXPLOSION



WSFD crews responded to numerous 911 calls about an apartment building explosion at 530 7th Street. Upon arrival, fire crews found that the Washington Courtyard apartments had sustained major damage indicative of a significant explosion. WSFD crews performed a rapid structural assessment, checked for exterior victims, quickly made entry to all 14 units to check for trapped victims, and worked to extinguish a grass fire to the rear. Sacramento Fire responded with additional units, including special operations personnel, who assisted WSFD with building temporary structural shores to prevent further building collapse. There were only two minor injuries. The Red Cross was requested, and they worked with apartment complex management to find temporary housing for 34 displaced occupants.

TECHNICAL RESCUE



West Sacramento's Engine 44, Truck 45, and the Battalion Chief responded to Old River Road and County Road 126 for reports of a vehicle accident involving an SUV that lost control, went over the levee, and collided with a concrete pillar under the weir, resulting in major damage. Additional reports indicated that there were two trapped occupants in the vehicle. Engine 44 arrived on scene and made access down the levee to assess the situation and begin patient care and extrication of the two patients. The Truck 45 crew arrived on scene and placed their apparatus on Old River Road above the weir, extended the aerial ladder for a high pick point, and began building a rope rescue system to facilitate patient retrieval and removal. West Sacramento Fire crews extricated the two patients from the vehicle, packaged them in stokes baskets, and utilized Truck 45's aerial ladder and rope system to perform a high-angle rescue. The patients were then transferred to waiting gurneys and transported to the hospital. This incident underscores the importance of technical rescue training as well as the versatility of aerial ladder apparatus (Truck 45).

AIRCRAFT CRASH



WSFD responded to several 911 reports of a plane crash in the area of Village Parkway and Linden Road. Truck 45, Engine 42, and the Battalion Chief arrived on the scene and located a Cessna aircraft operated by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, which had crash-landed and was upside-down in a field. WSFD crews made access to the plane and determined that it was occupied by a solo pilot who had self-extricated, and there were no injuries nor any damage to any residences or infrastructure. The Battalion Chief and WSPD contacted the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to advise them of the situation. Representatives from the Sacramento Sheriff's Department arrived on scene to investigate the incident and orchestrate the logistics of removing the plane.

VEHICLE HITS FIRE ENGINE ON HIGHWAY 50



While WSFD crews were on the scene of a multiple-vehicle accident on eastbound Highway 50 assessing the occupants involved for injuries, a subsequent vehicle accident occurred. WSFD's Engine 41 was rear-ended by a passing motorist. No injuries were sustained by any firefighters on scene. Responding to vehicle accidents and other emergency incidents on our surrounding highways are high-risk events that we approach with extreme caution. Firefighters and Apparatus Operators are taught to position (park) our apparatus strategically to protect emergency response personnel when they exit their vehicles to render aid to occupants who may have sustained injuries in an accident. While it is unfortunate that a subsequent vehicle accident occurred and damage was sustained to one of our apparatus, the safety precautions executed by the fire crew on scene ultimately protected the firefighters and civilians standing outside their vehicles while located on Highway 50.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT WITH EXTRICATION



WSFD crews responded to 911 reports of an overturned vehicle on South River Road, north of Babel Slough. Crews arrived on scene and located a vehicle on its roof with the injured driver pinned inside. Engine 42 made access to the patient and began providing first aid to her. Truck 45 arrived on scene, and crews stabilized the vehicle and used hydraulic shears and spreaders ("the jaws of life") to extricate the driver. WSFD crews continued to provide emergency medical care to the patient after she was extricated from the vehicle, and she was loaded onto an awaiting ambulance gurney for transport to the hospital.

ENGINE 45 PUSH-IN CEREMONY

The West Sacramento Fire Department celebrated the restoration of Engine 45 with a traditional Push-In ceremony on Thursday, December 5. Brought back into rotation through voter passage of tax Measure O, firefighters, police, community supporters and members of the City Council pushed the engine into the apparatus bay at Station 45, shortly after which Engine 45 responded to its first call since 2012.



Mutual / Automatic Aid

MUTUAL AID - The California Master Mutual Aid Agreement provides for systematic mobilization, organization, and operation of necessary fire and rescue resources that are typically committed to incidents for two-week deployments. These are commonly referred to as “Strike Teams” and are made up of five pieces of like-apparatus, each with a complement of four firefighters: an officer, engineer and two firefighters. The agreement provides reimbursement for services and resources deployed in a mutual aid capacity. In 2024, the West Sacramento Fire Department deployed resources on 16 occasions to assist with battling devastating wildfires throughout the State of California. These large fires threatened communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources all over the state.



2024 Strike Team Incidents:

Post Fire	Park Fire
Lake Fire	Crozier Fire
Thompson Fire	Boise Fire
Bogus Fire	Boone Fire
Shelly Fire	Line Fire
Hill Fire	Mountain Fire

AUTOMATIC AID - In addition to the California Master Mutual Aid Agreement, the WSFD maintains reciprocal mutual and automatic aid agreements which provide additional resources from neighboring fire departments who are automatically dispatched according to a pre-determined resource matrix and/or whenever resources are needed. The WSFD presently provides and receives automatic aid from the following Fire Departments; Sacramento (SFD), Davis (DFD), Woodland (WFD), Clarksburg (CFD), and the University of California at Davis (UCDFD). This multi-jurisdictional response benefits all participating departments and prepares all the cities for large-scale events where the need for resources may exceed the jurisdiction's ability to provide services.

FEMA Urban Search & Rescue (USAR)

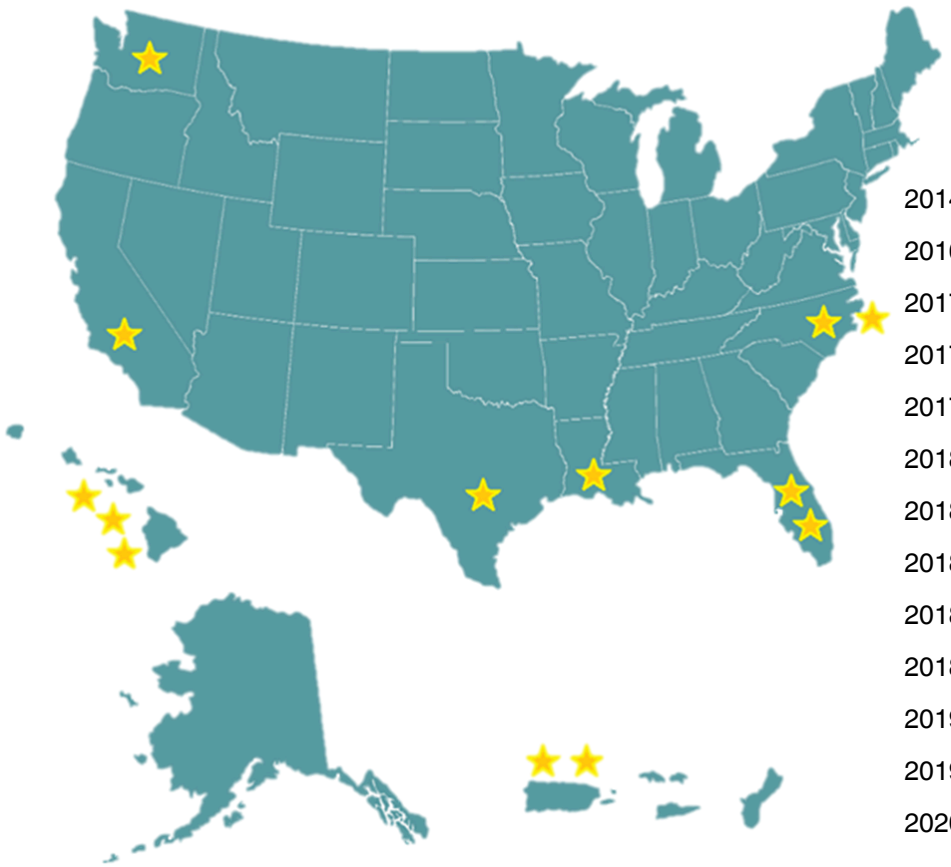
The West Sacramento Fire Department is proud to be a part of California Task Force 7, a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team based in Sacramento and made up of over 200 members from Sacramento area fire agencies. Task Force 7 was established as one of the original USAR teams in the early 1990's. Originally designed to respond to structural collapse caused by earthquakes, the scope of USAR response and capability has grown to include disasters and catastrophes, both man-made and natural, incident support functions, and response to preplanned events.



FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Forces are specially trained and equipped emergency teams that respond as a resource to national or regional emergencies that require highly skilled search and rescue personnel.

Specialties within the USAR Task Force include collapse rescue, heavy rigging, hazardous materials, disaster medical services, communications, water rescue, search, and logistics.

There are only 28 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces nationwide, eight of which are in the State of California. The West Sacramento Fire Department is proud to support California Task Force 7 (CA TF-7) with the participation of five personnel, including a Rescue Team Manager and Transportation Unit Leader. Over the last ten years, CA TF-7 has responded to the following events:



2014 Oso Mudslide (Washington)
2016 Hurricane Matthew (Florida)
2017 Hurricane Harvey (Texas)
2017 Hurricane Irma (Puerto Rico)
2017 Hurricane Maria (Puerto Rico)
2018 Landslides – Montecito (California)
2018 Hurricane Lane (Hawaii)
2018 Hurricane Olivia (Hawaii)
2018 Hurricane Florence (North Carolina)
2018 Hurricane Michael (Florida)
2019 Hurricane Barry (Louisiana)
2019 Hurricane Dorian (North Carolina)
2020 Hurricane Douglas (Hawaii)

Training

The ongoing training of fire fighters is the cornerstone of fire protection and service to the community. The West Sacramento Fire Department, in partnership with the other professional fire departments in Yolo County, has developed a regional training and safety program that has been widely recognized as a model for programs delivering training and education. The West Valley Regional Fire Training Consortium (WVRFTC) was founded in 2012 as a partnership between regional fire and emergency service agencies to supplement individual training and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality, realistic, and relevant training based on the principle of common standards.

The West Valley Regional Fire Training Consortium develops and publishes to all agencies a consolidated monthly training calendar which includes Standard Engine & Truck Company Evolutions; Dynamic Fire Simulations & Tactical/Strategic Objectives; Mandated Training (OSHA / NFPA Compliancy); and Professional Development. The Consortium also provides State Fire Training Classes for its members.



California State Fire Training (SFT) is the Office of the State Fire Marshal division that establishes, develops, and delivers standardized training and education for the California fire service. We have hosted multiple classes in the past, including Driver Operator 1A/1B, Fire Control 3 Structural Fire Fighting, and Firing Operations 219.

In addition to the fundamental monthly training plans, the Consortium provides multi-company drills (MCDs) that allow for resource integration and develop cohesive operations at the direction of the Yolo County Operations Chiefs. Through the Consortium model, all agencies participate in the drill, with “move-and-cover” units scheduled to backfill throughout the region, with no overtime cost generated, to maintain critical re-source response capabilities in all jurisdictions.

Community Risk Reduction

The Community Risk Reduction Division (CRRD) is responsible for the identification and prioritization of risks followed by the coordinated application of resources to minimize the probability or occurrence and impact of unfortunate events. The Fire Department not only has a responsibility to the public to respond to emergency events, but it also has a responsibility to prevent or reduce the effects of these events as a whole wherever and whenever possible. The CRRD acts as a risk reduction entity for the City providing a safer community to our citizens and businesses. Through the multiple programs managed by the CRRD, the Fire Department works diligently to manage risks presented to the community and inherent dangers posed by them.

Programs managed by the CRRD include emergency management, enforcement of the California Fire Code (CFC), construction plan review and inspections, hazardous materials enforcement of the CFC, as well as California Health and Safety Code as a designated Participating Agency (PA) of the California Unified Program, hazardous materials response technical reference, fire investigations, and public education. A particularly important role of the CRRD is code enforcement. By applying the CFC equitably throughout the community, we are effectively managing fire risk by assuring our business community is operating safely to minimize exposure to their staff, customers, and community. In 2024, the CRRD was responsible for 5,027 inspections throughout the city.

Get Sparky's fire safety tips for kids here!



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Through the CRRD, the West Sacramento Fire Department is responsible for coordinating the City's emergency management responsibilities and is the lead agency that fulfills the City's requirements under the Emergency Services Act. This office works with all City departments and other partnering agencies having emergency management responsibilities, including the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other neighboring jurisdictions inside and outside of our County. Much of the work conducted by Emergency Management includes planning, preparing (to respond), and mitigating potentially disastrous events of all natures. A major milestone for 2024 was the planning and creation of tools for evacuation. Fire Department staff worked closely with other city departments and members of other agencies in Yolo County to finalize the County's Evacuation Anex/Plan, as well as a make a new evacuation tool available, Genasys, that assists the public with finding their evacuation zone as well as providing evacuation instructions.

Alert Yolo is an advanced county-wide emergency notification system designed to keep residents informed. This innovative system will benefit all individuals living in Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, Woodland, and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, along with the unincorporated regions of Yolo County, ensuring they receive prompt and precise information during emergencies.



Youth Fire Academy

The West Sacramento Fire Department wanted to find a way to reach out to local youth and give them the opportunity to learn more about public safety, the fire service, and our fire department. We look for motivated individuals that work well with others, and who are fitness and team-oriented. Cadets must show honesty, integrity, and good character with an interest in serving the public.



The Youth Fire Academy provides training that consists of an introduction to all aspects of the fire service; part of the focus is placed on preparing the cadets for a mock hiring process consisting of the written, CPAT (physical ability course), and oral interview.They are exposed to the culture of the fire service, and the paramilitary organization that will be expected of them in their future fire service careers.

Cadets then go through a week-long tower training where firefighting skills are taught and practiced.This includes pulling hose, flowing, and maneuvering hose lines, throwing ladders, rope systems, knots, and proficiency with both personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus. The Academy culminates in the cadets being assigned to a WSFD fire station. The cadets work shifts to fulfill their high school required volunteer hours while riding along with the fire department on emergency calls, as well as experiencing station life.

Public Education Programs

The responsibility of public education is an important duty of the Fire Department, and we make educating the community in fire and life safety a top priority. By coordinating a variety of public education and training programs, including school visits, career fairs, attending public events, and station tours, the Fire Department can reach out to thousands of citizens each year.



In Memoriam



Fire Engineer Tim Hall unexpectedly passed away in the line of duty following a training exercise on September 23, 2024.

Tim grew up in Clarksburg, a town of about 300 people in Yolo County, where he graduated from Delta High School in 1983. His unwavering commitment to the fire service began when he became a volunteer firefighter with the Clarksburg Fire Protection District shortly after graduating high school. He found jobs to support his family for the next 23 years before securing a full-time position with the West Sacramento Fire Department.

“As a man with a young family, Tim had to put his dream on hold to provide,” said WSFD Captain Andy Bevins while giving Tim’s eulogy. “He drove trucks, he built homes, but he also persisted. For many, a dream delayed would be a dream denied. But Tim Hall was dedicated.”

Tim graduated from the Sacramento Regional Fire Academy in 2006 and soon after fulfilled his dream of becoming a full-time firefighter for the West Sacramento Fire Department at the age of 41. He was a man of few words, but his stoicism often broke to impart wisdom or demonstrate his wicked sense of humor. His passion and dedication led him to become a respected Fire Engineer, leaving a lasting impact on the community. He also served as a fire investigator and, for over a decade, a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 7 Transportation Specialist.



He was an active member and President of several organizations, including the Sacramento Sierra Arson Task Force, the California Conference of Arson Investigators, the Yolo County Fire Investigation Unit, and the International Association of Arson Investigators, all the while volunteering for 41 years as a Lieutenant and Training Officer with the Clarksburg Fire Protection District.



While working as a firefighter in West Sacramento, Tim continued to serve as a volunteer firefighter with the Clarksburg Fire Protection District. His roots in the small town were strong. Tim was heavily involved in the Clarksburg chapter of 4-H. He and his wife tended to their cows and chickens. He could be found in the kitchen every year preparing food all day long for the department's Christmas party. Clarksburg Fire Protection District Chief Craig Hamblin said Hall had a quiet strength and humility, always showing how much he still cared about Clarksburg. He said Hall's legacy will live in the hearts that he touched. "He didn't seek the spotlight or the accolades," Hamblin said. "Instead, he let his actions speak for him."

Throughout his career, Tim was the embodiment of honor, courage, and most of all, devotion to duty and these traits were on regular display with Tim through his selflessness, leadership, and dedication to his brother and sister firefighters, as well as our community and region at large. Beyond the calls for service and uniforms, Tim was a person of integrity, grit, hard work, love for the community, and most importantly, love for his family. He often shared stories about the rabbits they were raising, the chicken coop they built, or how well his kids were doing at the archery range. He truly loved the time he spent with his family, and he never missed an opportunity to share how proud he was of all of them.



Fire Engineer Tim Hall
Last Alarm September 23, 2024

Tim is survived by his loving wife, Susan, one son, three daughters, and three grandchildren.

Rest in peace, Tim. Your courage, unwavering dedication, and selfless spirit will never be forgotten.









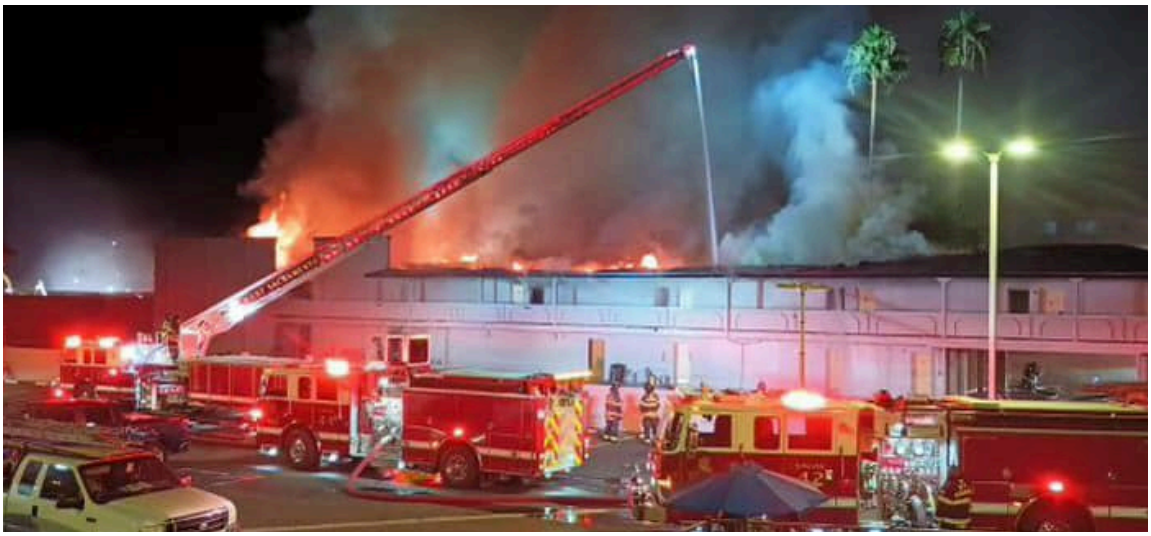




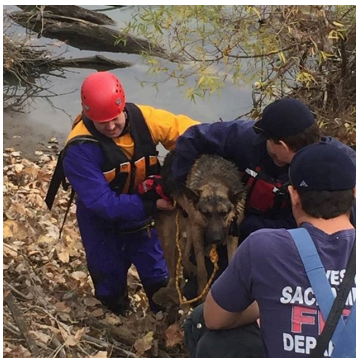

LANE
CLOSED



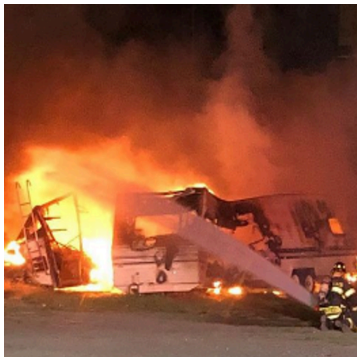











SERVICE BEFORE SELF

INTEGRITY **RESPECT**

PROFESSIONALISM **COMPASSION**

WEST SACRAMENTO CITY FIRE RESCUE EST. 1987 FIRE DEPARTMENT

DEVOTION TO DUTY

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