



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 12 APRIL 2024



Victorville



A MESSAGE TO FIRE STAFF



**HELLO VFD!...
FAREWELL, VFD!**



By the time this is published, sometime in June, my interim term with you will be done...

It is a bitter-sweet goodbye, and I will truly miss serving you all. That is one of the paradoxes of management: the higher one climbs in an organization, the more people they serve!

The job of Fire Chief has challenges and rewards. In my time here we faced plenty of each. We went through various processes, and it made us a better organization. We truly achieved much together, in a relatively short time.

1. Updating the response fleet with three new Pierce Type 1's
2. Adding two Squads to the response fleet
3. Implementing the Apparatus Replacement Budget
4. Quantifying the PPE inventory
5. Educating the Department on the City's Budget process
6. OK, one more, as I was going to list five- This Newsletter!





A MESSAGE TO FIRE STAFF



Fire Department Administration 101



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 8

These accomplishments were made possible through the hard work of truly excellent people- ALL OF YOU. So, thank you, thank you, thank you! I learned more from you than you will ever know, and I am truly grateful.

Now, on to the next chapter of the Victorville FD...

I have no doubt Chief Clemmer will succeed with all of you helping him achieve whatever comes next. The Department has an excellent command team, and they know what it means to help him be a success.

Fire Admin and Local 3710 have a great relationship and have worked on many items that impact your jobs. I am confident that the relationship will continue long into the future.

The Department has a strong core of Captains. These are the folks that will take the VFD into the future. I am amazed, daily, with what you accomplish given your staffing and working environment. They will also help develop the next group of departmental leaders. This will be needed as the City of Victorville will undergo tremendous growth during your careers.

Chief Clemmer and the Command Staff are coordinating the production of a document which will serve as a guide for the future of the VFD. The Standards of Cover/Community Risk Assessment project will take approximately five to six months to complete. The Battalion Chiefs and Karem are being tasked with gathering key data and will tap into many of you for assistance. I can't wait for this to be completed.

I will stop here, as I want to save some room for Chief Clemmer...

Be safe out there, look out for one another, on the emergency scene and in the station, and remember to always tell your loved ones how much they mean to you.

It's been an honor to represent you and to be your (interim) Fire Chief!

God Bless You All!

Willie

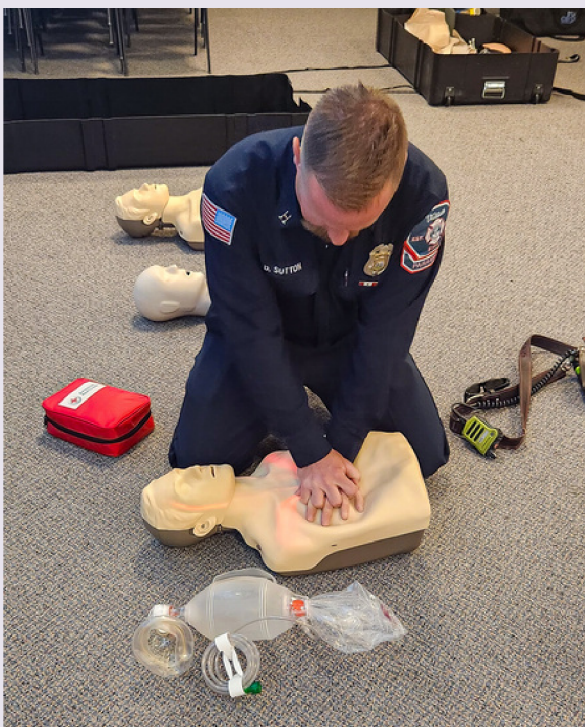


WHAT'S NEW IN EMS?

EMS DIVISION

This month, the California Emergency Medical Service Authority started updating Title 22 in EMS. These updates will reorganize the regulations and provide language consistency throughout patient care regulations, reflecting the priorities of the Governor's office, the legislature, and other critical policy-making entities. This is vital for fire-based EMS services, as many of these regulations enacted in 1980 are surprisingly outdated.

In April, ICEMA organized a resuscitation conference in collaboration with numerous EMS stakeholders. This event was about raising awareness about cardiac arrest resuscitation in the community and establishing a regional Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation Committee. We are thrilled to share that the Victorville Fire Department significantly impacted this committee, with EMS Manager Steve Casarez and EMS Specialist David Vega representing us. Their active participation is a testament to our department's unwavering commitment to enhancing CPR survival rates in our community. We eagerly anticipate the positive changes this committee will bring.



Our AHA ACLS and CPR/BLS classes were a resounding success this month, thanks to the dedication and commitment of our AHA instructors. FF/PM Moreno led the classes, with support from other Paramedics in the department who recently obtained AHA Instructor status. We express our deepest gratitude to our AHA instructors, FF/PM Moreno, FF/PM Raygoza, FF/PM Grande, and Capt./Paramedic Sutton. Your unwavering dedication and commitment to the training and development of our personnel are truly commendable. Your efforts are instrumental in our department's success, and we are deeply grateful for your contributions.



Science Steve's Monthly Fun Fact



Chest injuries are common among our traumatic patients, including pediatrics. Many of these injuries include pneumothorax (air around the pleural cavity), hemothorax (blood in the pleural cavity), tension pneumo or hemothorax (accumulation of air or blood that prevents cardiac movement and blood flow), rib fractures, pulmonary contusions, cardiac contusions, and esophageal ruptures. Treatments for these injuries are identical to adult trauma, but some precision is needed when executing these interventions. One life-saving surgical intervention is the placement of a needle thoracostomy in the presence of a tension pneumothorax. A needle thoracostomy is inserted through the chest wall and into the pleural space. This procedure releases accumulated air or blood, improving cardiac output and survivability.

According to Mandt et al. (2019), the standard 14g 5-cm (2") catheter is significant, and great precautions are needed when inserting. Its review of 273 chest computed tomography (CT) suggests that a 3.8-cm (1.5") catheter should be used on pediatric patients less than 13 years old. As mentioned by Leonhard et al. (2019), a needle size of 18g 4.5cm (1.77") is recommended for children ages 5-10 years old. As a reminder, the Victorville Fire Department carries 14g 3.25" for adults and 18g 2" for pediatrics per ICEMA protocols.

Needle Thoracostomy Landmarks By REBEL EM



[Appropriate Needle Length for Emergent Pediatric Needle Thoracostomy Utilizing Computed Tomography - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

[Determining optimal needle size for decompression of tension pneumothorax in children - a CT-based study - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

Administration



CAL-CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE FIRE SERVICES SECTION

Fire Administrative Manager Karem Ostrom and Fire Management Technician Chrystal Lane attended the Cal-Chief Administrative Fire Services Section (AFSS) annual educational forum in Reno, Nevada, from April 10th to 12th. During the forum, they gained valuable insights and skills, including advanced tips for Microsoft Outlook, an in-depth understanding of SharePoint, and the evolving role of fire service administration. Additionally, they attended sessions on fire service data analysis and particularly benefited from the "Assistance to Firefighters Grant Fundamentals" class, taught by our FEMA representative, Sandi Tripp, which provided crucial guidance on grant submissions. The forum also featured a Fire Chief Q&A Panel, offering administrative staff the opportunity to pose questions to Fire Chiefs from across California.

Events

4/8 - Galileo Academy - Heroes in our Community -MT311

4/11 - 5 Year Reactivation Ceremony at FS311

4/12 - VVHS - Avid Career

4/13 - Excelsior High Desert Young Marines -FS311

4/16 - Dispatcher appreciation week VVFD gifted our Comm. Center with Coffee mugs, coffee grinder, toaster.

4/25 - Tower 6 last day

4/25 - MS315 went into service

4/30 - State of the City Employee watch party

PREVENTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION

FINAL FIRE, ROUGH/HYDRO, PREWIRE & WELDING.



CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

BUSINESSES UNDER NEW OWNER OR LOCATION CHANGED (COMBINED W/ANNUAL INSPECTION).



FIRE COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

INSPECTORS LOOK FOR ISSUES WITH ALARM OR SPRINKLERS AND ANY VIOLATIONS OF CODE.



SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

ANY EVENT THAT WILL HAVE A TENT, BOUNCE HOUSE, VENDORS, FOOD (MAJOR.MINOR EVENTS)



ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

YEARLY COMPLIANCE AND REGULATION INSPECTION TO VERIFY A BUSINESS IS UP TO CODE.



On April 12th, the Market760 "Lane's Crossing Food Truck Park" hosted its soft opening event, marking an exciting step in revitalizing downtown Victorville. During the event, an inspection was conducted on eight food trucks to ensure quality and safety standards. The coordinator estimated that approximately 250 attendees visited throughout the event, enjoying a variety of culinary offerings. This initiative aims to bring vibrancy and life back into the heart of Victorville, creating a lively community space for residents and visitors to gather and enjoy diverse food options.

PREVENTION CONT.

The Fire Prevention Team is pleased to announce the successful completion of Final Fire Inspections at the New Fairfield Hotel in April 2024. These inspections are a critical component of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all occupants. Situated near Bear Valley and the 15 Freeway, the New Fairfield Hotel is now confirmed to meet and exceed all necessary fire safety regulations.

This achievement reflects our collective dedication to upholding the highest standards of safety within the hospitality industry. With the conclusion of these inspections, guests and staff alike can have confidence in the measures in place to mitigate fire risks at the New Fairfield Hotel. We extend our gratitude to the construction management and staff for their cooperation throughout this process.



A fire inspection was conducted for the Child Support Services Spring Special Event hosted by Child Support Services of San Bernardino County. This annual event brought together various vendor organizations, each offering goodies and information to attendees.

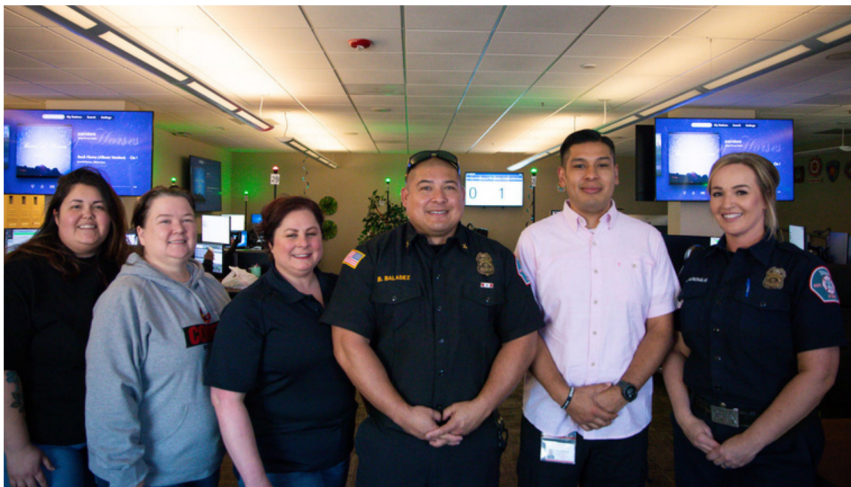
The inspection prioritized the safety and well-being of all participants, ensuring compliance with fire safety regulations throughout the venue. From verifying the proper placement of booths to assessing emergency exit accessibility and capacity limits, the inspection aimed to create a secure environment for everyone involved. By partnering with multiple vendors, Child Support Services of San Bernardino County demonstrated their commitment to providing valuable resources and support to the community while upholding stringent safety standards.

DISPATCH

— APPRECIATION WEEK —

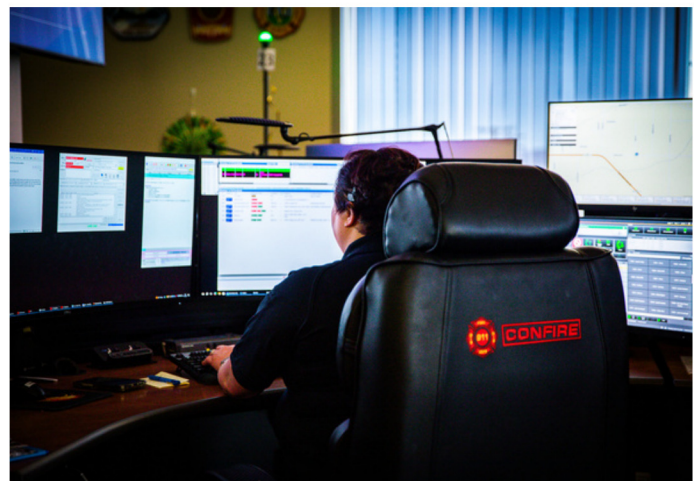


THEY ARE ALWAYS HEARD BUT RARELY SEEN
THEY ARE THE HEROES BEHIND THE SCENES
THE CALM IN THE DARK



During Dispatchers Appreciation Week, BC Benny Baladez and EMS Admin Technician Mallory Blas made a special visit to CONFIRE to honor the hardworking dispatchers in Hesperia. They brought breakfast and a few gifts, expressing gratitude for the dispatchers' dedication and professionalism. Dispatchers are the calm voice during emergencies, providing crucial support and coordination. Their role is vital, and the impact of their work is immense, often going unnoticed.

The Victorville Fire Department deeply appreciates these unsung heroes. "We rely on our dispatchers every day," said Deputy Chief of Operations Bobby Clemmer. "Their ability to remain composed under pressure and efficiently manage emergency calls is invaluable. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team." Baladez and Blas's visit underscored this sentiment, recognizing the dispatchers as an essential part of the emergency response team. Their contributions are front and center in the hearts of those they serve, and this week is a reminder to thank them for their unwavering commitment to public safety.



**THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE VICTORVILLE
FIRE DEPARTMENT!**

TILLER BUILD



Recently, a dedicated team from our city, including our Deputy Chief of Operations Bobby Clemmer, Assistant to the City Manager Tony Camargo, Fire Mechanics Javier Prieto and Jacob Patino, Battalion Chief Dyjuan Washington, Fire Captains Todd Christensen and Tim Ortiz and Engineer James Newman made a productive trip to Pierce Manufacturing in Wisconsin. Their mission was to inspect our newly built tiller apparatus, ensuring it met all our specified requirements.



During their visit, the team conducted a thorough inspection to verify that every detail matched our order. They identified and made necessary adjustments to components that did not meet our specifications. Additionally, they took precise measurements for the USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) equipment purchased for the rig, ensuring everything fits perfectly. This hands-on approach guarantees that our new tiller will be fully equipped and ready to serve our community effectively.

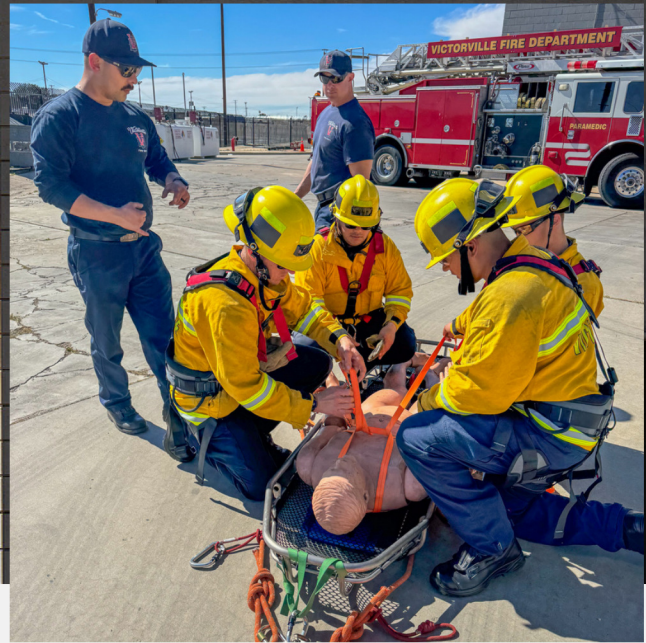




TOWER 6

Victorville has taken a significant step towards enhancing its emergency response capabilities by bringing in Tower 6, the first group of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) specifically recruited to augment the staffing of two newly added medic squads. These dedicated recruits have spent an intensive seven weeks immersing themselves in the rigorous training required to become Victorville firefighters.

The comprehensive training program was designed to equip these EMTs with a diverse set of skills essential for their critical roles. They trained on pulling hose and throwing ladders, ensuring they can quickly and efficiently respond to fire emergencies. The recruits also received specialized training in auto extrication, enabling them to rescue individuals trapped in vehicles following accidents.



One of the more challenging aspects of their training included low-angle rope rescue, a skill vital for saving lives in difficult terrains and situations where conventional methods are not feasible. Additionally, they honed their rapid intervention crew tactics, preparing them to act swiftly and decisively in situations where firefighters are in distress and need immediate assistance. The training encompassed much more, ensuring that Tower 6 is well-prepared to meet the diverse challenges they will face in the field. Their commitment and preparation underscore Victorville's dedication to maintaining a high standard of emergency response and public safety.

Congratulations to Tower 6 for successfully completing their training! A big thank you to Tower Coordinator, Engineer Tim Garren and the rest of the cadre for their time, effort, and invaluable knowledge. Your dedication has been instrumental in preparing these recruits for their vital roles.