



FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 10



MEDIC SQUAD 312 IN SERVICE!



Victorville Fire Department



February 1st, 2024

The ability to evolve as an organization and to meet the need of the community is essential. Through the relationship with City leadership and the Union, we have continued to grow the organization while other fire departments are facing cuts or fighting to maintain status quo.

Thank you to all the Captains, Engineers, and Firefighters at station 312 for their cooperation and hard work to get this Paramedic Squad ready for February 1st.

Thank you to all the Battalion Chiefs for leading this effort and ensuring the success of all logistics towards implementation.

Understanding these are open positions, I really want to commend the Firefighters for stepping up to cover the vacancies to help the organization add this much needed resource.

The work that went into securing the side letter between Local 3710 and the Command Staff really helped to ensure we are creating a career path for some great candidates, who will ultimately become Paramedics within our department, and spend their careers in Victorville. This was essential to provide us with the needed staffing for the two additional squads.

To all of you who have embarked on a career with the VFD- you are witnessing and living through the evolution of the Department. You are the base on which the Victorville Fire Department is building for the future.

We are going to plan a proper celebration of the growth once ME311 is in service. Please stand by... Much more to come!

I would like to share credit for this notice with Deputy Chief of Operations Clemmer. Thank you Chief!

Proud to be associated with you.

Willie



WHAT'S NEW IN EMS?

-Steve Casarez, EMS Manager



THE CALIFORNIA EMS AUTHORITY

finalized and approved three standardized drugs for the Paramedic Scope of Practice: Ketamine, Ketorolac, and Acetaminophen IV. Though our region has been using Ketamine and Acetaminophen for a couple of years, many EMS systems throughout the state have not. All three drugs are used for pain management, with Ketorolac and Acetaminophen providing a non-opioid, non-dissociative option. Ketorolac (Toradol) IV is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) that relieves pain and is in the same family of drugs as over-the-counter Ibuprofen. Ketorolac will soon be available to give to our patients here in ICEMA



The CONFIRE EMS-Mobile Health implementation team is hard at work! This team has approximately 50 participants representing the JPA agencies and Priority Ambulance. The Victorville Fire Department's EMS Manager, Steve Casarez RN, commands the Policies and Procedures group. Casarez states, "I am honored to have an opportunity to represent the City of Victorville and our Fire Department on building a high-performance, patient-centered county EMS program that will provide an evidence-based and progressive medical approach to our new public/private Fire and EMS partnership."

EMS-friendly reminders

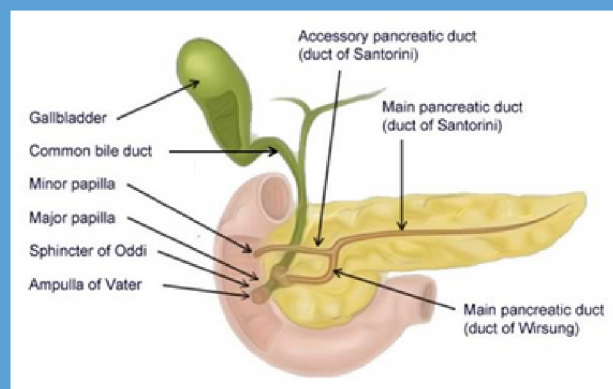
1. Upload all EMS-type calls and complete an electronic patient care record.
2. Obtain a complete set of vital signs.
3. Document capnography numeric numbers and waveforms.
4. Obtain next of kin phone numbers for stroke patients.
5. Identify and document all cardiac rhythms when caring for cardiac arrest patients.
6. Ensure all the EMS equipment is packed up, checked out, and placed back on the apparatus before leaving the scene.
7. Check your Target Solutions for any assigned CE's.

Science Steve's Monthly Fun Fact



Upper abdominal pain is a common 911 medical complaint. These complaints can range from mild to severe and have many causes and symptomology. A standard Paramedic treatment modality when a patient is experiencing 10 out of 10 abdominal pain is to give a synthetic opioid like Fentanyl. However, there is one differential diagnosis, when managed by an opioid medication, will worsen the symptoms, and potentially exacerbate the disease. This disease is called the Sphincter of Oddi Dysfunction (SOD).

The Sphincter of Oddi is a muscular valve surrounding the exit of the bile duct (from the gallbladder) and pancreatic duct that empties into the duodenum, where food is broken down. This Sphincter is normally closed, and when food is consumed, this valve opens and releases digestive juices, which helps with food breakdown and nutrient absorption. SOD is a sphincter "spasm" that creates these digestive juices to back up into the Gall Bladder and Pancreas, resulting in worsening abdominal pain even after being medicated. According to Afghani et al. (2017), exogenous agents like Morphine and Fentanyl cause uncontrolled contractions, increasing amplitude and pain, and are associated with a 65 times worse pain level in patients without gallbladders. One pain management option for these patients is to provide a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) like Ketorolac. A randomized controlled trial by Puig et al. (2014) showed favorable pain management results with NSAID, which also demonstrated efficacy in preventing pancreatitis, which is a result of SOD.



How and When Should NSAIDs Be Used for Preventing Post-ERCP Pancreatitis

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3968039/>

Sphincter of Oddi Function and Risk Factors for Dysfunction

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5276812/>



ADMINISTRATION

Budget



The fire administrative staff worked with various personnel this month to get the FY 24-25's budget in order. The budget was submitted, and review will take place in the following month. Once the budget is approved by the Council, it will be communicated with the Battalion Chiefs. However, please note that if anyone has any questions or would like to review the fire departments budget, the admin team can always help and provide the information needed.



We are excited to welcome a familiar face to our team as the newest addition to Fire Admin. Hannah Odom has a background in the medical field and extensive experience within the city, she brings a unique blend of skills and dedication to her role as the Fire Departments Administrative Secretary.

Hannah's professional career started in 2009 in the medical field, where she graduated from a Medical Assisting school, working as a back-office MA and phlebotomist in the cosmetic surgery field. Her transition to the city marked the start of an 11-year tenure, initially within the recruiting division of Human Resources, where she created close ties with the Fire Department working closely alongside us through our hiring processes.

Hannah's background is deeply rooted in the fire service, her father is the retired Deputy Fire Chief of San Bernardino County Fire. With a lifetime of exposure to fire, she is feeling right at home. Her goal is to finish her degree in Business and cultivate a long and fulfilling career within our growing department and City.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Hannah finds joy in visiting various coffee shops, traveling and spending time golfing and hiking with her boyfriend and their 3 kids.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Hannah as we embark on this journey together!



FIRE PREVENTION



SPECIAL EVENT INSPECTION

Desert Fox Events, a national airsoft event promoter, hosted a 3-day airsoft gaming event in the abandoned housing area of George Air Force Base. The event featured a vendor/check-in area including food trucks, parking, and camping facilities. Desert Fox Events is a collaboration of professionals in the event business dedicated to hosting high-action, objective-oriented gaming events across the country. During our inspection, we provided fire safety information to the participants and ensured the absence of potential hazards. The event proceeded and concluded without any issues, and the organization plans to return to that location again in the future.



PREVENTION

February Total Inspections: 399

New Construction: 44

Final Fire, rough/hydro, prewire & welding.



Certificate of Occupancy: 35

businesses under new owner or location changed
(Combined w/annual inspection.



Fire Complaint Investigations: 7

inspectors look for issues with alarm or sprinklers and any violations of code.



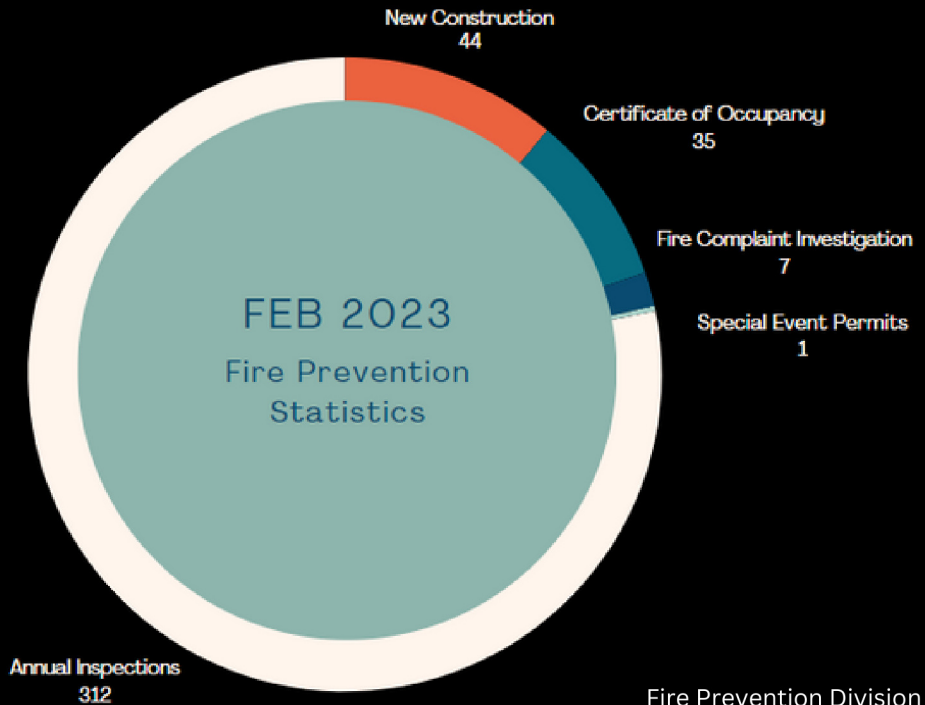
Special Event Permits: 1

Any event that will have a tent, bounce house, vendors, food (major.Minor events)



Annual Inspections: 312

Yearly compliance and regulation inspection to verify a business is up to code.



Introducing Our Newest Fire Inspector!



We are so happy to welcome Riley Munson to our team! Riley started her journey in the fire service as a 911 dispatcher for Fire, Police and EMS with the Fort Irwin Fire Department in 2020. She then transitioned to the role of Fire Inspector with the same department for the following two years before taking the position with Victorville Fire Department. Although she enjoyed her time as a dispatcher, Riley looks forward to be in a position that allows her to contribute to her community through fire safety education.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Riley is a devoted Vegas Golden Knights hockey fan! She also loves reading, traveling, fishing and is a lover of the outdoors. With a goal to visit every national park,

she has already made significant progress, having explored fifteen parks across the U.S. and two in Ireland. We look forward to the contributions Riley will make in enhancing fire safety and community well-being. Join us in welcoming her to Victorville Fire



Victorville

TILLER UPDATE



ME312



4" Forward Lay

The forward lay method is a vital component of firefighting operations. This facilitates the deployment of hose lines to deliver water from a source, such as a fire hydrant, to the fire itself. This technique requires careful execution, ensuring the hose is laid out in a straight line without kinks or twists that could impede water flow. Firefighters must also navigate potential obstacles and uneven terrain to optimize the effectiveness of the lay.



The forward lay technique serves as a fundamental element of firefighting strategy, playing a crucial role in protecting communities by ensuring firefighters have the necessary water resources to effectively battle fires. Mastery of this technique is vital for all firefighters, underscoring the dedication and expertise required for their demanding profession.

Firehouse Magazine Feature!

BATTALION CHIEF ANDREW ROACH WAS INTERVIEWED THIS FEBRUARY FOR THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IN FIREHOUSE MAGAZINE



FIREHOUSE

OPERATIONS & TRAINING

Wildfire Suppression: Considerations for the Structural Firefighter

Andrew Roach points out that, although firefighters who typically attack structure fires are rather prepared to defend structures in the wildland firefighting environment, they must familiarize themselves with strategies and tactics that likely aren't typical for them and adjust their fitness training.

Andrew Roach

Firefighters are tasked with being an all-hazards emergency service practitioner. We are mandated with being a jack of all trades, master of all. From fire suppression and rescue to hazmat and EMS, the fire service is a clearinghouse for all emergency services that aren't related to law enforcement. As populations expand and people relocate to more affordable housing, the likelihood of structural firefighters being tasked with wildland fire suppression increases exponentially.

Operational considerations

As seen in the structural firefighting environment, myriad operational considerations and associated tasks relate to wildland firefighting. Selecting the appropriate strategy, tactic and/or task for a specific incident requires a healthy balance of training and experience. It's the senior firefighter's or the officer's mandate to impart this transcendent wisdom onto junior members. Building a quality mental slide deck is key to one's ability to construct tactical intuition.

Pre-incident planning and preparation have been a fire service hallmark for decades. Prior to responding to a wildland incident, organizations must consider the potential threat to their community and anticipate resources that are required for mitigation. Based on this threat analysis, consideration must be given to developing and fostering aid agreements.

The nature of wildland firefighting demands the use of task-specific tools and equipment. Engine companies that respond to wildland fires often carry hose that's designed for wildland operations and hand tools that are tailored to wildland-specific tasks. It's no different than in the case of structural firefighting equipment: Targeted training always maximizes the equipment's capabilities through the operator's mastery.

The difference between structural firefighting fitness and wildland firefighting fitness is a dichotomy of strength versus endurance. Structural firefighting calls for time-condensed blasts of strength to pull hose, throw ladders and carry tools. In the wildland environment, it isn't uncommon for firefighters to hike a significant distance, with elevation gain, to get to their area of operation. This might be done while carrying hand tools, hose packs or both. A robust physical fitness training program includes a healthy diet, avoidance of work-limiting substances, such as carbonated energy drinks, and a workout regimen that stresses strength as well as endurance.

[Read more](#)

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Strategy and tactics

Incident command and the use of the incident command system are paramount to successful wildland operations. Developing an incident action plan (IAP) helps the incident commander and assigned resources to work harmoniously to accomplish the objectives. Initially, the IAP is verbal but transitions to a written document when the incident extends into multiple operational periods.

There are three strategic priorities on wildland fires: evacuation, perimeter control and structure defense. Each is accompanied by a corresponding list of tactical objectives, which are accomplished through the execution of defined tasks. All actions on a wildland fire should be guided by the lookouts, communication, escape routes and safety (LCES) principle and what's described in "10 Standard Fire Orders" and "18 Watch Out Situations."

Evacuation/perimeter control

On wildland fires, evacuation is necessary to remove the life-safety element from the ongoing risk assessment. Usually, what's entailed in evacuation is best suited for law enforcement cooperators.

The area that's the focus of the evacuation must be defined clearly in terms of its geography, with safe routes of travel identified and reasonable accommodation provided for safe egress out of the evacuation area.

Once evacuations are accomplished, consideration should be given to security in the evacuation area as a means to prevent theft and/or vandalism.

Perimeter control entails the actions that are required to stop fire spread. Tactically, resources attack the fire via two approaches: direct and indirect. On a wildland fire, "going direct" places resources at the fire's edge to extinguish through the application of water or through the removal of available fuel. Indirect attack involves preparing a containment line away from the fire's edge. This might take the form of a hand line, dozer line or retardant line.

The selection of indirect attack is dictated largely by the presence of tactically advantageous geographical locations, such as ridgelines, roads and natural fuel breaks.

Mission-specific resources should be considered when conducting perimeter control. Brush engines, hand crews, heavy equipment and aviation resources likely will be needed on extended-attack incidents. Structural firefighters should become familiar with these resources, the tasks that they perform on a wildland fire and safe operation in their proximity.

[Read more](#)

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Structure defense

There is no assignment on a wildland fire that structural firefighters are more comfortable with (and best suited for) than structure defense. Effective structure defense in the wildland fire is predicated on time and resources. Unfortunately, during initial attack, wildland incident firefighters rarely are afforded either option. Once an assignment is received, firefighters should triage the structures and infrastructure in their area of responsibility. A good mnemonic for structure triage is S-FACTS:

- Survival: Can you survive if fire affects your location? Is LCES in place?
- Fire environment: Can you survive the current and expected fire behavior? Consider fuel, weather and topographic influencers.
- Access: Is the access compatible with time and distance that are required to get to a safety zone?
- Construction/clearance: Does the structure have adequate defensible space? Will the building construction be defensible given the current and expected behavior of the fire?
- Time constraints: Is there time to mitigate safety concerns and to deploy resources for success?
- Stay or Go: Is it safe to stay? Is there time to prepare the structure prior to leaving? Is there benefit to staying and defending the structure?

The intent is to use available resources to protect the most without overcommitting. Once a crew receives an assignment, is made aware of the time restrictions and knows what resources are available, the crew can develop a structure defense plan.

The structural firefighter should consider preparing the structure (if possible) by removing combustible material away from the building, closing windows and doors, using aluminum foil to cover attic vents and turning off natural gas/propane.

Apparatus should be spotted close to the structure and oriented for rapid egress. Hydrants may be utilized as a water supply, but consideration should be given to the need for rapid egress.

Remember, the mission is the defense of property. If evacuations were completed successfully, there should be no need to risk one's life for a building. Aside from the obvious risk to firefighter safety, trapped and overrun firefighters create an incident within an incident that requires otherwise-assigned resources to respond.

[Read more](#)

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Post-incident

Like structural firefighting, it's beneficial—and with some departments, mandatory—to conduct a wildland fire after-action review (AAR). This helps to answer five questions:

- What was the mission?
- What went well?
- What could have gone better?
- What might have been done differently?
- Who needs to know?

The process that's required to conduct the AAR should allow equal contribution from all of the parties that were involved, and it should be carried out without placing blame. The results of the AAR might be memorialized in a document and used as a device to request tools/equipment and to recommend policy/procedure/guidelines or adjustments that must be made to existing aid agreements. The intent is to get better.

Master of all

More than ever, firefighting requires a diverse and ever-expanding skill set. Wildland fires will continue to increase in number and intensity, with firefighters, regardless of jurisdiction or specialty, called to the fire. To master your trade, you must be a master of all trades.

Source



Source URL: <https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/article/53096736/wildfire-suppression-considerations-for-the-structural-firefighter>