



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 11 MARCH 2024



Victorville



A MESSAGE TO FIRE STAFF

From your Fire Chief William "Willie" Racowschi



Hello VFD!

As we head into Spring there is much going on, not only in the Fire Department, but in the City.

We recently attended the State of the City presentation and the High Desert Chamber of Commerce meeting.

In 2023, the City of Victorville really accomplished what would normally take other cities several years of work.

I highly recommend you go on the City's website and watch the State of the City video. Fire is featured.

We are all fortunate to witness what the City is doing and doing rapidly. The development and progress here are amazing to behold! That all goes back to the quality of employees and the cooperative culture that City Manager Keith Metzler is advancing.

Speaking of progress, Squad 312 is out serving the City and my thanks go to all the FFPs who are stepping up to backfill the unit.



Meanwhile we are training new personnel to permanently staff it and MS315, whose deployment is imminent. Thank you Local 3710 for your support!

Adding 20% to the response staff every day is quite an accomplishment. It goes back to our awesome training cadre and their work. Our three Pierces will be in full service by the time this is published. They look great!

Thank you to DC Clemmer and BC Washington for leading the charge with the Apparatus Committee to bring these much-needed fleet improvements to the City.

Coming soon: A new Quint Tiller Ladder Truck!

A MESSAGE TO FIRE STAFF

Cont'd: From your Fire Chief William "Willie" Racowski

I am exploring a drone program for the City, one that will (hopefully) benefit not only Fire, but other departments such as Code Enforcement and Building. Stand by for more on this soon. Karem and the City Hall staff did an awesome job with our budget for Fiscal Year 24-25. I believe it will be a bit smoother moving forward, especially for PPE. Thank you, Karem for leading the effort and working very hard to bring this to conclusion this year!

I am going to stop stealing other people's items and am going to thank you all for the excellent jobs you do.

Victorville has a busy emergency (and business...) environment, with lots of responses and high visibility incidents.

The City Hall Admin Staff is here to provide you with the needs to accomplish your job. Remember to communicate your needs with your shift BCs. They are the key link in the supply chain of the VFD.

Once again, thank you all for what you do and how you do it! Please look out for one another and be safe out there!

I am proud to serve as your (interim) Chief,

Willie



WHAT'S NEW IN EMS?

EMS DIVISION

FIREFIGHTER EMTs

During the past few months, we have welcomed six new Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to our team. As part of their firefighter onboarding, they underwent an intensive and comprehensive one-week EMS training that offered them the essential knowledge and skills to deliver safe and exceptional patient care. The training covered a wide range of topics, including airway management, a critical component of pre-hospital care, patient assessments evaluating both medical



and trauma patients of all age groups, and the introduction to our software systems ImageTrend (electronic patient records), Target Solutions, PSTRax (inventory system) and Handtevy. Handtevy is our newest system that provides an organized approach to managing neonate and pediatric resuscitation.

These EMTs will be tasked to support our paramedics, so skills and scenario-based training were provided to familiarize the EMTs with our department's Advanced Life Support (ALS) tools. Some examples were bleeding control equipment and techniques and the ability to splint and immobilize suspected broken limbs, pelvis, and spines. CPR resuscitation skills and an overview of our Zoll cardiac monitor and LUCAS device were also refined, along with pharmacology, pain management, and childbirth.

We are thrilled to have these new members join our team and eagerly anticipate their growth and contributions. We are confident that the training they received during EMS Week has thoroughly prepared them for the challenges and rewards of serving our community, and we look forward to seeing them excel in their roles.



CITY OF VICTORVILLE WELLNESS CENTER

Since 2023, The EMS Division has provided recommendations to the Wellness Center, aiding with preparation for last year's grand opening. Some suggestions included Zoll AEDs and clinic medical supplies and equipment. This month, we had an opportunity to visit our colleagues at the Wellness Center and speak to their medical staff which the Symba Center operates. Opportunities like this provide collaboration and communication between the Fire Department and the Wellness Center. This month, we discussed ways to decrease medical 911 calls from the Wellness Center and ideas to improve on-campus medical demands, such as "rapid response" and "code blue" alerts. We even discussed future goals for the Wellness Center and how it may support the local Emergency Departments and the 911 system, such as being a sobering center, providing Mobile Integrated Health, and contracting with CONFIRE EMS for onsite ambulance services.

NEW



This month, we welcomed a significant addition to our EMS equipment, intravenous (IV) fluid warmers. These warmers, to be housed in our new type I engines, are a game-changer in pre-hospital care. They provide warm IV fluids for patients in trauma, hypothermia, and resuscitation scenarios. When combined with Tranexamic Acid (TXA), warm fluids enhance TXA's effectiveness and minimize blood loss. We extend our gratitude to the city leadership, the Fire Chief, Dr. Bolowich, and the apparatus committee for their support in acquiring this life-saving equipment.



Hypothermia is frequently present in prehospital patient encounters. Hypothermia increases morbidity and mortality, especially in trauma patients. Cold IV fluids can also potentiate discomfort. In a small double-blind, crossover, randomized control trial, according to Self et al. (2013), warming IV fluids to body temperature before infusion was associated with improved comfort compared to room temperature IV fluids. In trauma, the lethal triad plays a significant role in mortality when considering hypothermia as the precursor to metabolic acidosis and coagulopathy (inability to clot). According to Veelen et al. (2021), hypothermia in trauma is common and often has a poor prognosis combined with hemorrhaging, leading to in-hospital mortality.

Hypothermia in Trauma

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8391853/#B44-ijerph-18-08719>

Warming Intravenous Fluids for Improved Patient Comfort in the Emergency Department:

https://escholarship.org/content/qt0bv471q7/qt0bv471q7_noSplash_fb72b5a6bce3e773dff2b7f5d706dae6.pdf?t=ozeqem

ADMINISTRATION



Fire Administration staff joined in the festivities of the City's Spring Festival and Egg Hunt at Hook Park. Photographed from left to right: Fire Management Technician, Chrystal Lane, Fire Office Assistant, Yesenia Salazar and Fire Inspector Riley S. Munson.

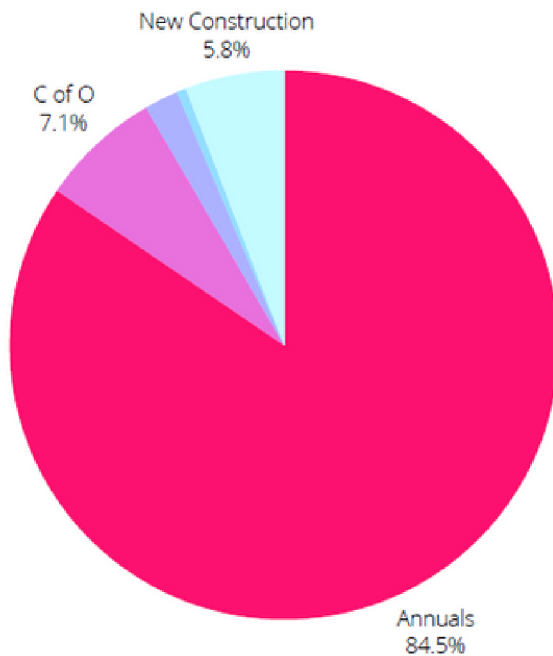
MARCH

- March 12th - Accident Investigation Training for Supervisors.
- March 15th - Victor Community Support Services: Career Day
- March 23rd - Easter Eggstravaganza @ Calvary Chapel
- March 27th - FS315 Station Tour Go World Exchange
- March 30 - COV Spring Festival

PREVENTION



Fire Prevention Statistics!



ANNUALS
84.5%

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY
7.1%

FIRE INVESTIGATION
2%

SPECIAL EVENT
0.5%

NEW CONSTRUCTION
5.8%

**Fire Inspections
March 2024 : 549**



Continued Education

In the vibrant city of Victorville, our fire inspectors are not just keeping pace with training—they're setting the bar! This month, we're thrilled to announce that a few of our dedicated team members had the incredible opportunity to advance their expertise through the Inspector 2B and 2C courses at Red Helmet. This milestone is nearly the end of their two training series, a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence and safety in our community.

PREVENTION CONT.



Inspections

The 2nd Annual Victor Valley Omnium unfolded into a weekend of cycling, featuring two distinct events. The weekend brought together the passion, determination, and spirit of the cycling community, all within the exclusive participation of 1000 cyclists, ensuring an intimate yet fiercely competitive atmosphere. A fire inspection was done for both racing events taking place in two different locations.

Day 1: The Road Race by the Southern California Logistics Airport (Saturday)
Saturday's race took place by the SCLA Airport, where cyclists encountered a course that tested their endurance and tactical acumen. The day was marked by a series of compelling performances, as the riders navigated through demanding routes.

Day 2: The Grand Prix around Victorville City Hall (Sunday)
The climax of the Omnium, the Grand Prix, circled around Victorville City Hall. This finale was a spectacle of speed, agility, and sheer willpower, as cyclists sprinted towards glory. The course around City Hall provided a stunning arena for the final showdown.

-Fire Prevention Division



PREVENTION CONT.

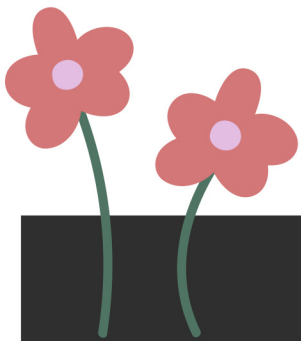


Fire Inspector, Riley Munson delivered a comprehensive training session to the staff of Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group in March. This informative session covered essential fire safety topics, such as the proper usage and timing for fire extinguishers, an understanding of fire classifications, insights into fire sprinkler systems, and strategies for effective evacuation and emergency escape plans.



We trust that this training will empower the staff to develop robust emergency action plans and equip them with the necessary knowledge to effectively respond to emergency situations. Our Fire Department is committed to ensuring the safety and preparedness of our community members.

The Fire Prevention team recently conducted an inspection at the Hook Park Community Center in preparation for the Spring Festival. Additionally, they manned a booth alongside the Fire Admin team during the event, where they offered promotional items and treats for the community. They also provided valuable safety information to the community, ensuring that everyone could enjoy the festivities while staying informed about fire safety measures.



Victorville

HONORING TRADITION

MEDIC ENGINE 311



In the realm of firefighting, tradition holds a place of importance. It's not just about the equipment, or tasks at hand; it's about the camaraderie and respect for the job. One tradition is the "push in ceremony", an act that marks the introduction of a new fire apparatus into service. Recently, the crew at Station 311 gathered to commemorate the arrival of their new Medic Engine. But why the "push-in"? Why this seemingly simple act of physically pushing the engine into its new home? The answer lies in history.

In times past, before the age of motorized fire engines, horse-drawn apparatus were the norm. When a new engine arrived at a firehouse, it was customary for firefighters to gather and physically push the engine into its place within the station. This act symbolized readiness, unity, and a commitment to always be prepared to respond to the call of duty. Though modern technology has replaced horsepower with a different kind of horsepower, the essence of the push-in ceremony remains unchanged.



We're grateful to the firefighters at Fire Station 311 for their dedicated work in keeping our community safe and upholding cherished traditions.

VICTORVILLE CITY HALL

DRIVER OPERATOR 1D TILLER TRAINING



Thank you, Victor Valley College and Redlands Fire Department, for generously lending us your tillers for our training. Your support is truly appreciated!

With Victorville Fire Department's very own Tractor Drawn Aerial (TDA) on its way, members of our department recently attended the Driver/Operator 1D training for tillered apparatus. This course is designed to prepare staff to safely and effectively operate tiller trucks, specialized fire apparatus equipped with a rear-mounted steering axle for enhanced maneuverability. Covering essential skills such as vehicle maintenance, driving techniques, and positioning for aerial operations, this training enables our crews to navigate through narrow streets inaccessible to larger trucks, while also facilitating the deployment of aerial equipment for firefighting and rescue operations. Successful completion of this training certifies staff members to operate tiller trucks, significantly enhancing the overall readiness and effectiveness of their duties.

This training was facilitated by Captain Trey Smith, a seasoned Captain from CalFire Riverside County along with Captain Todd Christensen of Victorville Fire. With their wealth of experience and expertise the training sessions proved to be invaluable for participating staff. Together, they led crews through comprehensive training modules ensuring that each member was equipped with the necessary skills to operate the tillered apparatus effectively and safely.

Training didn't stop with fire staff. City Manager, Keith C. Metzler also joined in, seizing the opportunity to familiarize himself with the intricacies of tiller operation firsthand. His hands-on participation underscored the city's commitment to supporting its fire department and ensuring



Continued on next page..

the highest level of preparedness and efficiency in the city's emergency response.

Victorville Fire Department's anticipation grows as our very own Tractor Drawn Aerial (TDA) makes its way to our department. We are immensely grateful to the entire City Leadership and our esteemed City Council for their foresight and investment in acquiring our TDA tiller. Their unwavering support ensures that our department remains equipped with the latest tools and technologies to serve our community with excellence.

Additionally, the Victorville Fire Department extends its heartfelt gratitude to the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, City Manager Keith C. Metzler, Deputy City Manager Sophie Smith, Captain Trey Smith and Captain Todd Christensen, for their indispensable contributions to the success of our training initiative. Their dedication and support epitomize the strong partnerships that drive our department forward.





TOOTSIE ROLL DRILL



TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH, COMPANY 312

conducted training at the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office of Victorville. ME312 and MS312 gained permission to utilize the 3-story commercial building. The site was selected due to its exterior staircase that extends to the third story. Crews from B-shift performed a "tootsie roll" drill. This drill consisted of a 4" forward lay from the hydrant and allow crews to make a portable standpipe with the tootsie roll. The roll is a 50' section of 2.5" hose that allows firefighters to connect a metro pack to the portable standpipe via a gated wye. Crews then can take the 100 pack of 1.75" hose to the desired floor for fire attack.

