



COMPASSION

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

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# From the Chief

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2020 will be remembered as a very challenging year for Cathedral City, as well as the nation. The Fire Department has met the needs of the public, be it pandemic response, wildland fires, or the day-to-day emergencies that occur here in our city. Adversity hones our ability to provide quality service and makes us all better human beings. The fire department has been able to adapt to this adversity and in return, has created a more efficient and well-running department. I believe we have learned a great deal that will enhance how we do business in virtually every aspect of our jobs.

Listed in the pages of this report are the accomplishments this department has managed over the course of the last year. I am extremely proud to lead and manage this department, and can attest to the quality personnel that we employ. Some of the challenges we faced provided opportunity for our personnel to train and prepare while they weren't able to be as visible to the public. I assure Cathedral City's citizens that our firefighters used their time wisely in preparing while we social distanced.

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## FIRE CHIEF'S VISION FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

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Looking to the future, the need to adapt to our changing world is clear. You'll see members of the department relying more on virtual resources for community outreach, fire prevention programs, and recruitment.

New and enhanced goals include:

- The Fire Department will utilize the departmental website, media, and social media to better provide public information through a more virtual platform.
- Recruit and retain qualified and diverse personnel with a focus on females and individuals who reflect the community members we serve, including bilingual speakers.
- Transition to a new fire reporting management system in conjunction with a new dispatch platform.
- Offer virtual webinars on First-aid, disaster preparedness, and fire safety training utilizing virtual environment quarterly.
- Replace 2 aging VHF repeaters, one located at Edom Hill and one located at station 410. Replacement to coincide with Police department system replacement.
- Add heart-saver alert tones and encode light systems to fire stations 412 and 413.
- Add temperature controlled physical fitness areas to fire stations 412 and 413.
- Implement EMD system in coordination with adjoining agencies in Riverside County.
- Implement MDB's in all fire apparatus to work in conjunction with Mark43.
- As part of being transparent and maintaining public confidence, CCFD will be participating in the Self Assessment Accreditation Process through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE).



### IN APPRECIATION

Following the retirement of Fire Chief Paul S. Wilson, CCFD went straight into recruitment mode. During the process, Fire Chief Blake Goetz (ret.) filled the boots as Interim Fire and Emergency Services Administrator. His brief time with us was filled with opportunity to explore grant funding sources, maximizing apparatus staffing, and maintaining an open door for discussion.

We appreciate the time Chief Goetz and his wife, Lola, took out of their retirement to see us through the recruitment process.

## COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Mayor  
Raymond Gregory  
District 5



Mayor Pro Tem  
Ernesto Gutierrez  
District 4



Councilmember  
Mark Carnevale  
District 3



Councilmember  
Rita Lamb  
District 1



Councilmember  
Nancy Ross  
District 2

## 2021 CITY COUNCIL GOALS FOR FIRE ADMINISTRATION

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- Create virtual opportunities for the public to interact with the Fire Department.
- Provide Council with a comprehensive study on Fire Department VHF radio communications and provide a proposed replacement plan for the two aging radio repeaters and the sites where they are located.
- Explore possible fire department reorganization, specifically as it relates to the Ambulance program. Senior FD staff in conjunction with department representatives, will explore alternative ambulance staffing to enhance fire/rescue services to the community.

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# RETIREMENTS

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## **FIRE CHIEF PAUL S. WILSON**



Chief Wilson was selected Fire Chief at the Cathedral City Fire Department in 2015. With a long and distinguished fire service career, his move to Cathedral City provided our department and communities extensive managerial and operational expertise.

His ability to engage the public, build trust, be involved with community groups and provide a solid foundation for fire prevention paved the way for our success into the future.

## **BATTALION CHIEF ROBERT M. ALLISON**



BC Allison began his career with the Cathedral City Fire Department in 1990 after 12 years of service with other agencies.

Chief Allison's passion has always been in training, ensuring training props and best practices were in play. He has also spent many years as a Fire Academy Instructor at regional colleges.

## **FIRE CAPTAIN JOHN AMAN**



Paramedic Fire Captain John Aman joined the Cathedral City Fire Dept. in 1989.

Captain Aman managed the department's fleet maintenance program for many years, as well as hose testing and pre-planning. With a positive attitude toward life and a strong work ethic, Captain Aman is well respected and is greatly missed since his retirement.

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## PROMOTIONS

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### **Battalion Chief John Muhr to Fire Chief**



Chief Muhr left the Hemet Fire Dept. to join the command staff as a Battalion Chief at Cathedral City in 2009.

During his 11 years with Cathedral City, Chief Muhr has filled many leadership roles, and has celebrated personal and professional accomplishments. Obtaining his Master's Degree, State Fire Chief's Certification and becoming an Executive Fire Office paved the way for him to continue the department's movement in a positive direction as Fire Chief.

### **Fire Captain Robert Williams, Jr. to Battalion Chief**



Chief Williams began his career with the Cathedral City Fire Dept. in 1997 as a reserve firefighter and joined the ranks fulltime in 1998.

### **Fire Captain Stephen Tumir to Battalion Chief**



Chief Tumir joined the Cathedral City Fire Dept. in 1996 as a reserve firefighter, and became a fulltime paramedic firefighter in 1997.

### **Engineer Jeremy Keenan to Fire Captain**



Captain Kennan began his career with the Cathedral City Fire Dept. in 2007 as a paramedic firefighter, promoting to Engineer in 2017.

### **Engineer Corey Goddard to Fire Captain**



Captain Goddard joined the Cathedral City Fire Dept. in 2009 as a paramedic firefighter. He promoted to Engineer in 2017 and filled in as Acting Captain for several assignments.

### **FFPM Mark Caouette to Engineer**



Engineer Caouette joined the Cathedral City Fire Department in 2003 as a paramedic firefighter.

### **FFPM Christopher Dietz to Engineer**



Engineer Dietz joined the Cathedral City Fire Department in 2017 as a paramedic firefighter.

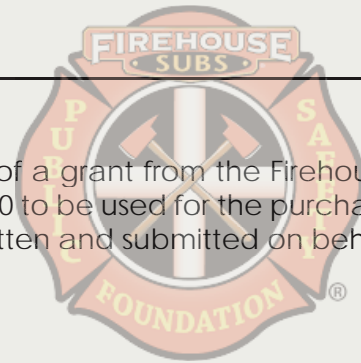
## FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

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#### *Stryker Power-Pro XT ambulance cot*

In September, the City Council approved acceptance of a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in the amount of \$18,421.50 to be used for the purchase of an ambulance gurney. The grant application was written and submitted on behalf of the fire department by Fire Engineer Alex Pike.

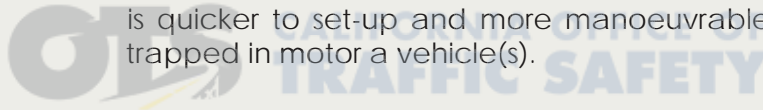


### CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

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#### *Extrication Equipment*

The Fire Department's 2019 grant application request was received in 2020 to replace a 20 year old gasoline powered extrication unit. The awarded \$35,000 was used to purchase a new heavy-duty extrication unit that is battery-operated, which is quicker to set-up and more manoeuvrable to use when rescuing a patient(s) trapped in motor a vehicle(s).



### SAFER (STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE)

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#### *FEMA Hiring Grant*

The FEMA SAFER grant continued into it's final year. Awarded and implemented in 2018, the grant has provided necessary funding for six firefighters and will sunset in February 2021.



# FEMA

### SHSGP (STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM)

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#### *Portable Radios*

The department applied for a DHS grant in the amount of \$6,385 for the purchase of two Motorola handheld radios to compliment the ones our crews use currently.



### EMPG (EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT)

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#### *BIOSPRAY Sanitizing Equipment*

In an effort to combat and control the spread of Coronavirus, the department applied for a DHS grant in the amount of \$15,000 for the purchase of two sanitizing spraying systems that are designed for disinfecting large areas quickly and effectively.

## FIRE STATION 411

Our downtown fire station was originally located at 36805 Cathedral Canyon. Fire protection services were provided by the California Dept. of Forestry at that time, and as Cathedral City grew, so did the need for additional services.

A new fire station 411 was built at 36913 Date Palm. After the City took over fire suppression services in 1988, the Date Palm station was purchased by the City of Cathedral City, and that station served the downtown area community until October 2020.



36805 Cathedral Canyon  
ca.1968



36913 Date Palm



68950 Buddy Rogers





# FIRE STATION 411

CATHEDRAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our new downtown station is located at 68950 Buddy Rogers. The land where the previous Station 411 was located on Date Palm was needed by the Tribe to accommodate their expansion with a new casino adjacent to the old station.



The new station is outfitted with ample space for apparatus, tools and firefighting equipment, fitness equipment, dorm and office space, and an expansive kitchen and day room area. Although access by the public has been restricted during the pandemic. We look forward to hosting many fire prevention and open house events at our new station when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, a video tour of the new station can be viewed using the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzR14dHZdbk>.

On behalf of the men and women that make up the Cathedral City Fire Department, our gratitude is extended to:

City Urban Revitalization Corporation (C.U.R.C.)  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Griffin Structures  
Silverstrand Construction  
Fire Dept. and City personnel that worked tirelessly to make our vision a reality

### MARK43

The City's police and fire dispatch center has used Alliance for computer aided dispatching (CAD) for more than 20 years. With the purchase of Mark43 to replace Alliance, dispatchers and first responders will have more information available instantly. Dispatchers will be using Mark43 for Emergency Medical Dispatching.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHING (EMD)

Emergency calls are received at the Cathedral City Public Safety Answering Point "PSAP" and processed by dispatchers from the Cathedral City Police Department. Currently, our dispatchers are not currently trained to provide any type of life saving instruction (CPR, choking, or childbirth emergencies, etc.) to the citizens or visitors of our community. They are not able to prioritize non-emergency or transport-only calls that would require an ambulance-only response. The Emergency Medical Dispatch program (EMD) empowers dispatchers to prioritize calls, determine the level of emergency, and give pre-arrival instructions. This will allow the Fire Department to respond with the most appropriate resource, such as just a fire engine, or just an ambulance, or both depending on the call.

### LARYNGOSCOPE AIRWAY DEVICE

Used for patient airway management, the laryngoscope is a computer aided device that allows the paramedic to see into the patient's airway. A camera display is attached to the device, providing for a more successful intubation while allowing the paramedic or EMT to maintain a greater distance from the patient.

### ImageTrend

The Cathedral City Fire Department began using electronic incident reporting in 1998. Since 1998, CCFD has used a software suite called "Firehouse" to manage our mandated fire reports. Just a few years ago, we began using ImageTrend for electronic patient care reporting (ePCR). In 2020, the City purchased the ImageTrend fire and inspections modules. With the implementation of the new software, we are able to document incidents easier with more information, create reporting quickly and easily with pre-made templates, and we'll be inline with NFIRS requirements when providing call data to the USFA.

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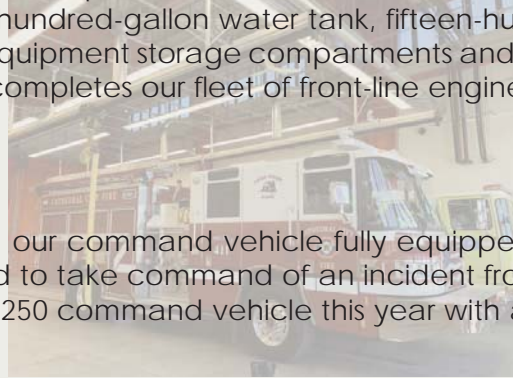
## NEW APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

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2020 was a big year in terms of fleet vehicle replacement:

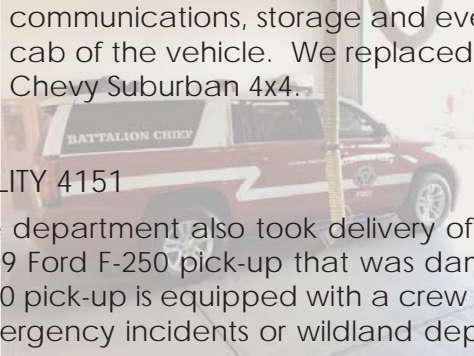
### FIRE ENGINE 411

CCFD took delivery of a new Pierce Quantum pumper to replace our 2002 America LaFrance fire engine. The new fire engine is equipped with a five-hundred-gallon water tank, fifteen-hundred gallon per minute pump, hydraulic ladder rack, EMS equipment storage compartments and a fully enclosed cab for firefighter safety. The new engine completes our fleet of front-line engines and aerial trucks as Pierce brand.



### BATTALION 410

The Battalion Chiefs respond to incidents in B410, our command vehicle fully equipped with communications, storage and everything needed to take command of an incident from the cab of the vehicle. We replaced our 2009 Ford F250 command vehicle this year with a 2020 Chevy Suburban 4x4.



### UTILITY 4151

The department also took delivery of a 2020 Ford F250 pick-up that replaced a fire department 2009 Ford F-250 pick-up that was damaged in a vehicle accident. The replacement 2020 Ford F250 pick-up is equipped with a crew cab and four-wheel drive to transport firefighters to off-road emergency incidents or wildland deployments. When it's not being used during for emergency response, the truck is used by our fire inspector for his duties around town.



### WASHER / EXTRACTOR

Aging equipment combined with the need to protect personnel from contamination warranted the purchase of three new washer/extractors. The heavy duty Unimac machines are specially designed to remove contaminants that expose firefighters to carcinogens and pathogens while maintaining the structural integrity of the clothing. The use of these new extractors will extend the life of all firefighter PPE.



### EXTRICATION TOOLS

With the generous support of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, the department was able to purchase a set of Hurst extrication tools. The set includes spreader, cutter, ram tool, strut engine kit and all the mounting brackets and power supplies to go with them.

### STRYKER POWER-PRO XT AMBULANCE COT

Purchased with a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation,



### BIOSPRAY SANITIZING SPRAYERS

In an effort to provide a clean and covid-free work environment, the department has applied for a Dept of Homeland Security Grant (EMPG-s) to purchase two Biospray sanitizing sprayers. The sprayers release a mist of sanitizing agent that can be applied on any surface.

### FIREFIGHTER TURNOUTS

With the assistance of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the department was able to purchase six complete sets of firefighter turnout gear to replace expired and damaged sets.

## CATHEDRAL CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

### COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

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#### DISASTER MANAGEMENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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When the world was hit with a pandemic, the Cathedral City Fire Department went straight into action. The need to be both proactive and reactive was essential to providing services to our community while maintaining a safe work environment for our employees.

Battalion Chief Williams led the effort to create a Covid-19 Response Plan. With assistance and input from others in the department, the document is solid with procedures to minimize exposure to the virus, as well as instructions for decontamination.

First responders have been outfitted with ample personal protective equipment (PPE) and don the PPE when responding to calls for covid positive patients, as well as those with symptoms or pending a test result.

Access by the public to our administrative office has been restricted since early 2020. Transfers of documents, such as building permits, are handled without direct contact, and the rest of our day to day functions have been electronic. Administrative support staff have alternated time in the office to minimize exposure to each other. Working from home has become second nature to both staff members, and most tasks can be completed remotely.

First responders have limited their entry to the administrative office areas to essential in-person contact with staff from a distance to reduce the risk of exposure.

## COMMUNICATIONS

In 2020, the department was forced to relocate a repeater that had been on a tower in the city for many years. Relocating the repeater to the tower at Fire Station 412 has proved to have a positive outcome in that radio traffic is cleaner and allows the city's Information Technology Dept (IT) to access it easily should the need for maintenance or repair arise.



### FIRE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE UPDATE

The department's website received a facelift late in the year. Thanks to retired Fire Engineer Terry Martin for taking on this project and leaving us with a shiny new and dynamic site.

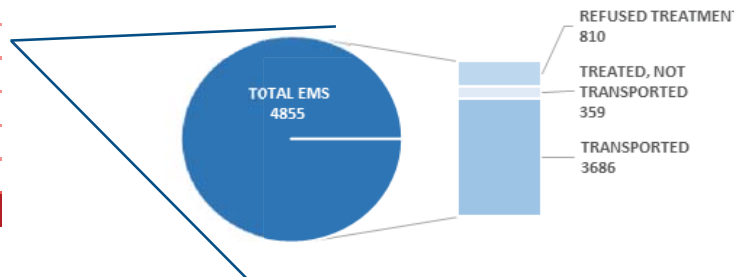
Visitors to [www.cathedralcityfire.org](http://www.cathedralcityfire.org) will find our Fire Chief's message to the public, information on fire prevention, plan review, employment opportunities, regional updates on the pandemic, and much more.

### STATUS OF EMERGENCY PLAN

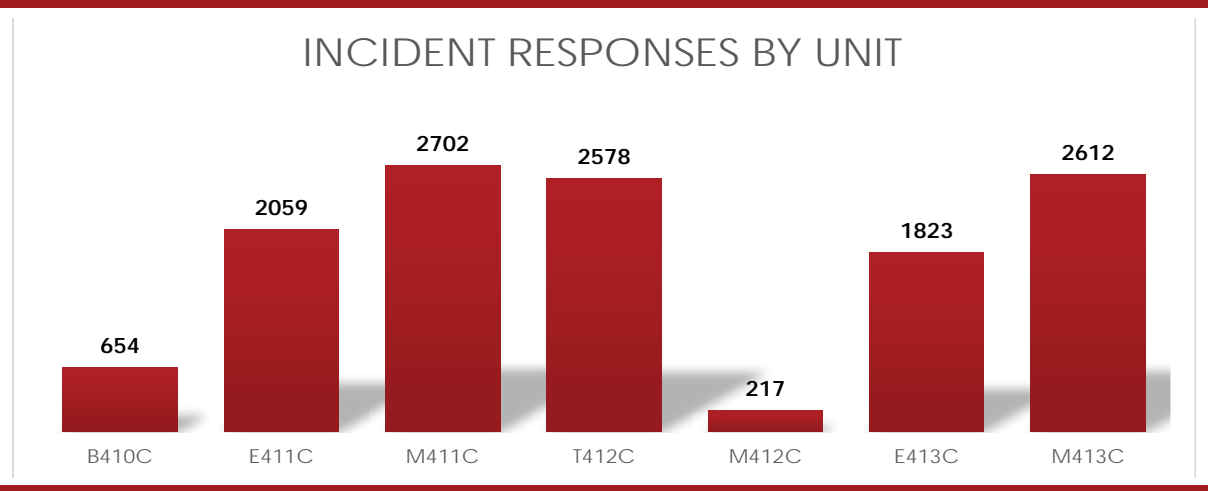
Battalion Chief Eric Hauser is the City's Emergency Manager and revised our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) this year. The plan is updated regularly, and the format matches up with the Riverside County Emergency Management Department's template to create a multi-jurisdictional document. Our most recent edition of the plan has been submitted to the county for compilation into the new plan. In the meantime, the 2018 multi-jurisdictional plan can be found at <https://rivcoemd.org/LHMP>.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

INCIDENT TYPE	Total
FIRES	196
OVERPRESSURE/EXPLOSION	6
EMS	4855
RESCUE (NOT EMS)	3
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	46
PUBLIC SERVICE CALL	669
GOOD INTENT/FALSE CALL	588
<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>6363</b>

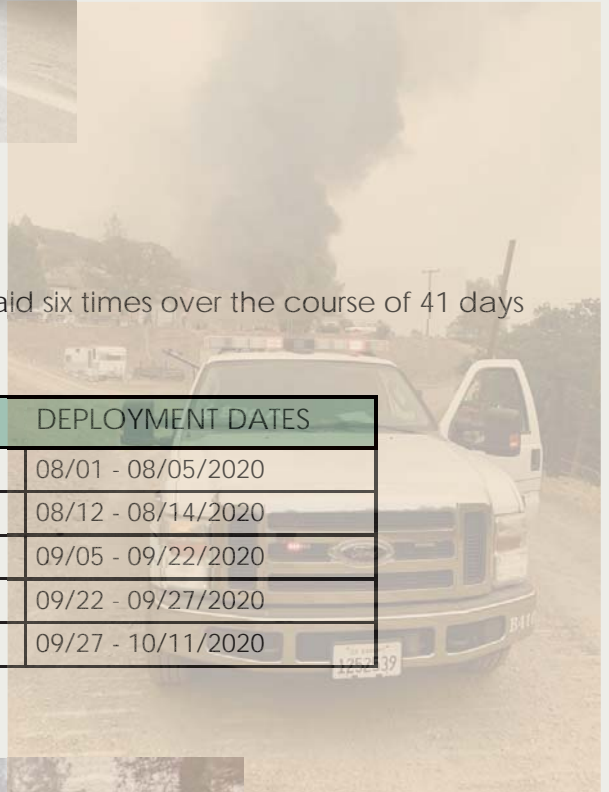


## INCIDENT RESPONSES BY UNIT



## CALLS FOR SERVICE PER DISTRICT

AREA	INCIDENTS
District 1	1,265
District 2	1,613
District 3	1,378
District 4	956
District 5	1,072
District Undetermined	40
Out of City	38
<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>6,362</b>



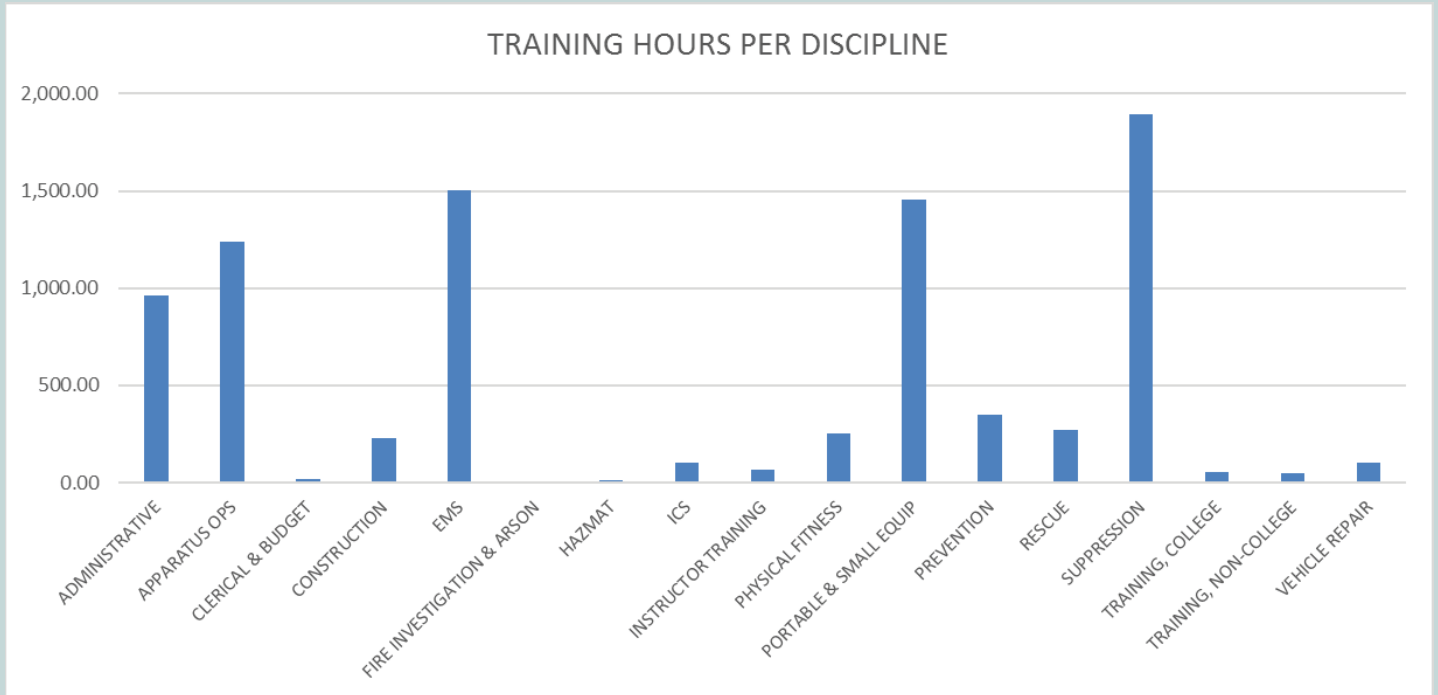
## CAL OES MUTUAL AID

Cathedral City firefighters answered the call for mutual aid six times over the course of 41 days of deployment:

INCIDENT NAME	DEPLOYMENT DATES
Apple Fire, Riverside County	08/01 - 08/05/2020
Lake Castaic Fire, Los Angeles County	08/12 - 08/14/2020
SCU Lightning Complex, Central CA	09/05 - 09/22/2020
Castle Fire, Sequoia Nat'l Park	09/22 - 09/27/2020
Glass Fire, Napa and Sonoma Counties	09/27 - 10/11/2020



Department wide, personnel completed a total of 8,564 hours of training in 2020:



## VENTILATION

The ventilation prop was built and is maintained by our firefighters as a means to practice ventilation techniques. The prop is located near City Hall.



## VEHICLE EXTRICATION

With donated vehicles destined for the scrap yard, our local tow companies provide an opportunity for firefighters to hone their skills using state of the art tools. Firefighters practice stabilizing vehicles, cut through the vehicle body, and separate parts of the vehicle to allow victims to be rescued quickly for treatment and often transport. When every second counts, a quick, skill-full extrication provides a greater chance of survival for the patient.



## HOSE EVOLUTIONS

Fire hose plays a critical role in fire ground emergencies. This hose requires daily, weekly and annual maintenance and testing. Our firefighters train hundreds of hours a year to mitigate all incidents involving fire. The Fire Engineer assigned to each fire apparatus plays an intricate part in the overall success of the team when operating in a high stress environments by calculating safe and effective hose stream pressures and subsequent water use management.

## PUMPING

Recruitment of Fire Engineers requires testing their skills in real time, and practice makes perfect. Textbook knowledge provides the basics of operating an engine pump, and this knowledge is put to the test in training scenarios. There is a delicate balance of water volume, pressure and timing that go into providing the necessary amount of water to fight fire using the engine's delicate pumping system.

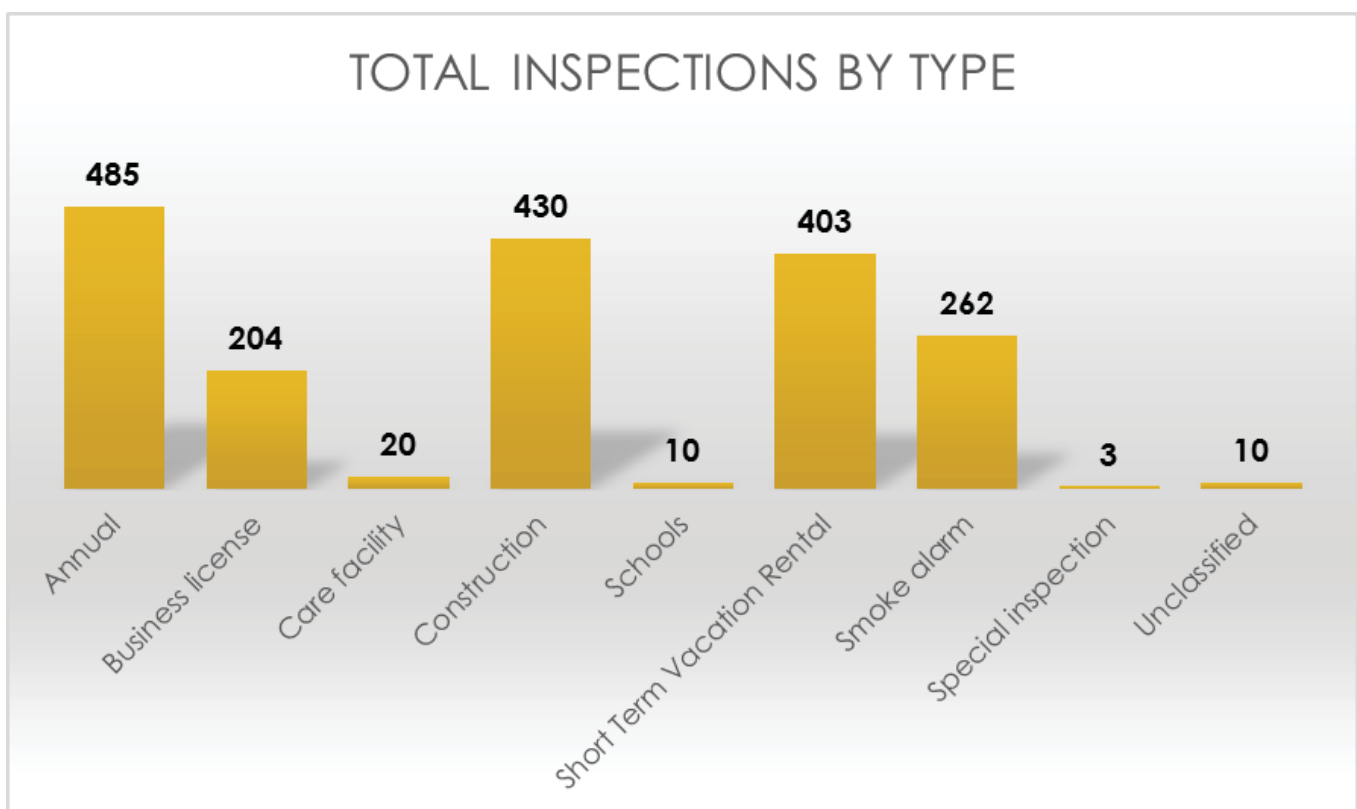


## FIRE PREVENTION

The department has one full-time fire inspector that, due to the pandemic, completed the majority of inspections in 2020. While company inspections were put on hold until the risk of spreading the coronavirus is not a concern, Inspector Calderon continued marching forward with construction, vacation rental, smoke alarm and business inspections.

In 2020, our City Council approved the adoption of the 2019 California Fire Code, and with it, local amendments that removed the requirement of successfully passing an inspection of smoke alarms prior to the close of escrow. In the fall of 2020, the fire department transferred short term vacation rental inspections over the police department as directed by our City Council.

By the end of 2020, the department completed a total of 1,827 inspections:



118 plan reviews were completed and 267 construction and operating permits were issued by the fire department. These permits do not include operating permits that are issued at City Hall as part of the business license process.



Thank you, Chief Wilson. We've missed you and Pam.



FFPM Williams in character for National Reading Month at CC Elementary



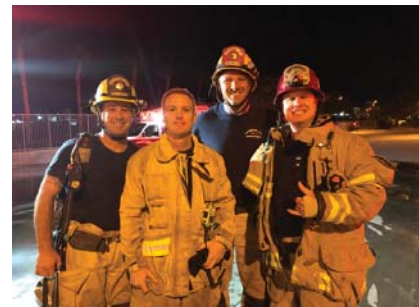
Art for the stations, created by Brock Lewis at Patriotic Customs.



A big shout-out to Chief Blake Goetz for taking the helm while we tested for a new Fire Chief.



Move-in day at Station 411.



Mutual aid photo op with PSFD.



View our Strategic Plan Online at [www.cathedralcityfire.org](http://www.cathedralcityfire.org)

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