

**COFFEE CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRINITY CENTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

ANNUAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 2009

	2009	2008
FIRES	5	11
MEDICALS	57	41
TRAFFIC COLLISIONS	12	15
MISC (incl FIREWATCH)	16	17
AIR CRASH	0	1
SEARCH & RESCUE	1	1
TRAININGS	31	31

TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES FOR 2009 = 75 (2008 = 70).

TOTAL RESPONSES FOR 2009 = 122 (2008 = 117).

2009 activity has been consistent with 2008, and again well below 2007 (107 emergency responses, 177 total responses). Tourism was down in the region again during 2009. While fuel prices had dropped, the economy had not yet started to recover. Perhaps far worse is the fact that this was another year of drought, with the attendant diminishment of Trinity Lake. Trinity Lake is the primary tourist attraction in the region, so if the lake is down so will be tourism.

Two questions that have come up during the year have been the location of origin of calls, and the relative numbers of resident v. non-resident patients and victims. Each monthly report has set forth origin of calls by area. For tracking purposes the area was categorized into Coffee Creek, Trinity Center, and Covington Mill-Long Canyon-Lake Forest Estates for the entire south area to the limit of our response area at Cedar Stock. For 2009 the call volume by area (for emergency and applicable miscellaneous responses) was as follows:

Coffee Creek = 30

Trinity Center = 45

CM-LFE-LC = 16

Note that this is by location of call only. Thus if a Coffee Creek resident were involved in a traffic collision at Estrellita, the call location would be CM-LFE-LC.

A similar question has been raised as to resident v. non-resident service provision. Anyone with at least a part-time residence in the north lake area was considered to be a resident. Using the same example as set forth above, a Coffee Creek resident involved in a traffic collision at Estrellita would be classified as a resident. Using this criterion, residents accounted for 55 calls for service, non-residents 22.

Converting this data to percentages indicates the following:

Call volume by area:

Coffee Creek = 32.9%

Trinity Center = 49.5%

CM-LFE-LC = 17.6 %

Call volume by resident/non-resident:

Resident = 71.4%

Non-resident = 28.6%

2009 fortunately did not have the cataclysmic wild land fires that wrought both death and devastation during 2008. There was one major fire (1200 acres, no residences lost) in August in Lewiston that was human-caused. TCVFD assigned a team for mutual aid air attack support during that fire. In September a wild land fire started approx four air miles directly west of Trinity Center. A quick attack by USFS with mutual aid support from both CCVFD and TCVFD resulted in the fire being contained to 35 acres.

CCVFD – TCVFD train and drill extensively in the wide range of skills necessary to provide fire/EMS/rescue services in an isolated area with extremely rugged terrain and a wide range of weather conditions. Our operative assumption is that we must be entirely self-sufficient unless or until additional resources reach us. That means CCVFD-TCVFD personnel must be prepared to make all decisions pertaining to tactical operations and patient care. Sometimes it seems that very long periods of time pass without having to utilize certain specialized training, and then responders will be called upon to apply that training in multiple incidents. For this year that description characterizes rappelling. Every year training is conducted to refamiliarize personnel with rappelling techniques, and to teach it to new personnel. This year our volunteers have had to apply this training on a number of occasions. Regardless of the initial nature of an incident, adding the factor of a vertical drop greatly complicates the mission. The Trinity County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team is trained for rappelling extrication rescues, but their long response time is excessive (albeit unavoidable) for timely patient care so CCVFD-TCVFD personnel must assume this responsibility. This is an example of the self-sufficiency necessary to function effectively in our environment. All training and drilling is directed at maintaining this level of self-reliance.

With the switch to Golden State Risk Management as the insurance carrier for both departments, FEAT was able to come off hiatus and return to duty. Fortunately the leadership and membership of FEAT was dedicated enough to continue their training so that they were immediately ready to roll. There have been a number of FEAT call-outs since they resumed responses, and in one of their most recent they were not just a useful adjunct, but were critically necessary to allow all VFD

personnel to handle an extremely complex rappel-extrication. In the final analysis that was the rationale behind the creation of FEAT, and they have acquitted themselves admirably.

CCVFD-TCVFD have continued with outreach programs that benefit the communities we serve. For the last several years we have distributed free smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. This year we acquired a supply of N-95 specification re-usable flu masks and have distributed these throughout the region. Most recently, in concert with all VFDs in Trinity County, we have initiated a blue dot reflector program where residents can identify and mark water sources available to firefighters. In addition to these distribution programs, the FIREWATCH patrols have continued during the declared fire seasons as a means of preventing illegal party and campfires from evolving into wild land fires. All of these programs are on-going.

Coffee Creek VFD is down on personnel for the second year in a row due to several retirements. Unfortunately, due to the aging demographic of the area, qualified candidates are very difficult to even locate, let alone recruit. Given the demands made on volunteers under the most adverse of circumstances, quality cannot be compromised.

At present TCVFD has far more staffing than does CCVFD. Offsetting this is the fact that two TCVFD responders are out for extended time periods due to injuries. One advantage to TCVFD (and thus the entire north lake region) has been enhanced recruitment from the CM-LC-LFE area due to anticipation of possible annexation. Three of the current TCVFD volunteers reside in this area. The volunteers of both departments maintain extremely high standards of performance, and anyone hoping to become part of this team must have the requisite level of commitment necessary to meet these performance standards. This does not come easy, nor should it.

While we may be short on quantity, we give away nothing in quality of personnel. The performance of our personnel, on call after call, is compelling proof of the quality of these volunteers. Combine the ability, loyalty, and dedication of this team with the tremendous level of support from our ancillary entities (FEAT, CCVFD Fireflies, TCVFD Auxiliary) and a north lake community that really steps up for us, and I am most privileged and honored to be Chief.

Roger Chatterton
Chief
Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Chief
Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department

