

Attachment A

Fire Department Newsletter



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 13 MAY 2024





A MESSAGE TO FIRE STAFF



FIRE CHIEF BOBBY CLEMMER

I am extremely honored to be the Fire Chief for the Victorville Fire Department. I have a genuine love for the fire service, especially the dynamic in the High Desert. This department is fortunate enough to have great firefighters and a culture that is second to none.

Spending the last year as a new member of the organization, I feel lucky to have had such a great mentor in Chief Racowski. The value he brought to the organization and its members was remarkable. Stability in our department's leadership is the single greatest contribution he made during his tenure. Thank you, Chief!

As we move forward, I am encouraged by the strong foundation we have as an organization with all of our suppression, command, and administrative staff. Working closely with the Victorville Firefighters for four years before joining the department,



I was always confident in your abilities and admired the work you do. Administratively, I have witnessed a tremendous amount of structure created thanks to all the staff and your valuable contributions. Karem's leadership and team-building efforts have been instrumental in many of our successes over the past year.

Thank you to City Leadership for the continued support of the Fire Department. The level of commitment we have seen to improve public safety is remarkable. With the addition of ME315, MS315, and MS312, staff increased by 21 positions alone. By the end of this year, we will have a total of three new Type 1 engines, one new tiller, and three new transport capable medic squads.

The City has also committed to the conceptual drawings for the remodel of Fire Stations 311 and 313. With the remodel, we will also have a 4-bay butler building for apparatus storage and SCBA maintenance at Fire Station 313. The City has prioritized Firefighter Health and Wellness through comprehensive annual physicals, and cancer screenings. The purchase of much-needed gym equipment for all the fire stations and detox units gives us the tools we need to promote health and wellness department-wide.

Deputy Chief Roach and I will start meeting with every company to ask a series of questions to gauge where we are, and where we want to move as an organization. When we meet, we will also be reviewing the newly adopted Mission, Vision, and Values of the Victorville Fire Department and the City's strategic plan.

We are learning quickly that this year's fire season will be dynamic and challenging. We have already seen several large-scale incidents in the City that have put an early strain on our firefighters, resources, and community. Operational readiness in the summer months starts with taking care of yourselves. Please ensure you are staying hydrated, maintaining your physical fitness, and always ensuring you are prepared for any incident long before the tones go off. The command staff is committed to ensuring you are supported, so please reach out through the chain of command with ANY needs.



In closing, I feel extremely blessed to work for such a great organization and lead the Victorville Firefighters into the future. I want to leave you with two quotes below for very specific reasons. First, Lou Holtz; this quote resonates with me as a challenge for all of us. Personally, I will work to improve accountability and follow through from the Fire Chiefs office. Second, Abraham Lincoln; Victorville Fire Department will only remain a premier department if we remain mission driven and have each other's backs in and out of the firehouse.

Bobby Clemmer

“When all is said and done, more is said than done.”

— LOU HOLTZ

“A house divided against itself cannot stand”

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

VICTORVILLE FIRE CHIEF BOBBY CLEMMER

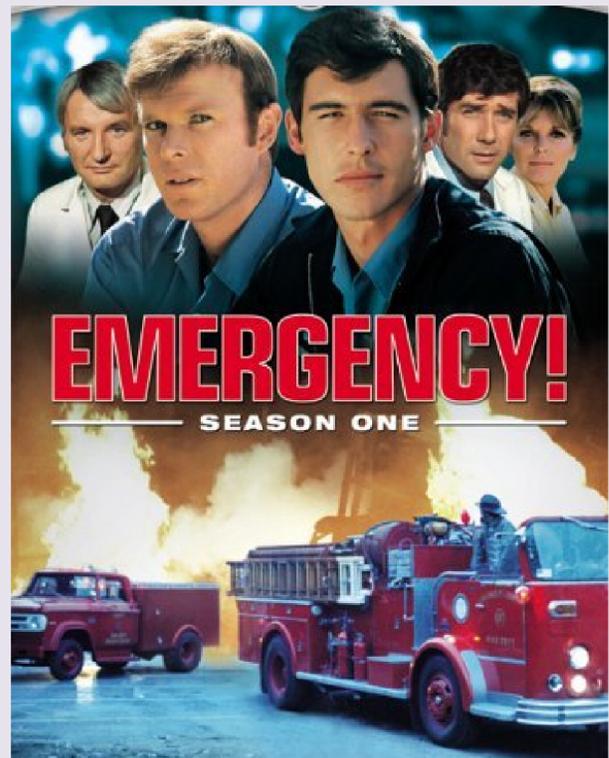


WHAT'S NEW IN EMS?

EMS DIVISION

In May 2024, a momentous milestone was reached in the history of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This was the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week, a landmark event that was first authorized by President Gerald Ford in 1974. This authorization was a pivotal step in acknowledging the newly established EMS professionals and the indispensable work they carry out in our nation's communities. Here is a brief history review. It was in 1969 that paramedic training centers began to educate fire department staff to provide physician-level treatment in the community, paving the way for what we now know as pre-hospital medicine. In 1970, the National Registry of EMTs initiated the creation of a national curriculum, and in the same year, California Governor Ronald Reagan signed the Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act, making California the first state to adopt legislation allowing paramedics to provide advanced life support (ALS) in the communities. This legislation also slated funds to California medical schools to start training paramedics.

The TV series 'Emergency,' which first aired in 1972, significantly raised public awareness of paramedics and paramedic training programs nationwide. Its influence was so profound that it even reached the highest levels of government, influencing President Ford. As Bledsoe (2023) notes, 'Emergency' reflected this emerging profession, chronicling the experiences of two Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics responding to cardiac arrests, rescues, traffic accidents, and medical aids. This portrayal of paramedics had a far-reaching impact on EMS and fire departments throughout the US, shaping public perception and understanding of their crucial role.





Science Steve's Monthly Fun Fact

The establishment of the American College of Emergency Physicians in 1968 was a significant milestone in physician training for Emergency Medicine (EM). However, it wasn't until 1971 that emergency medicine residency programs proliferated at numerous medical centers across the USA. The year 1976 saw the birth of the American Board of Emergency Medicine and Academic Emergency Medicine, and EM was officially recognized as the 23rd medical specialty. As Huecker et al. (2022) points out, the EM specialty and the testing of physicians to manage emergency patients were well-organized and recognized in 1979, as these new physicians treated, diagnosed, and began to establish best practices, further solidifying the field's development.



Contrary to emergency medicine for physicians, in August 1970, UCLA initiated the first paramedic program in California at the Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital. This program was a result of the collaborative efforts of various entities, including then-Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who inspired the current fire department paramedic model. Supervisor Hahn mentions, "This idea of having County firemen trained for

a coronary unit on wheels will provide an avenue to create Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics that will soon sweep throughout the country." So, the paramedic profession was established and accepted before emergency medicine-trained physicians and some of the early pioneers of fire-based EMS started here in Southern California, a testament to the collective achievement in the field of EMS

Reference:

Huecker, M. R., Shreffler, J., Platt, M., O'Brien, D., Stanton, R., Mulligan, T., & Thomas, J. (2022). *Emergency Medicine History and Expansion into the Future: A Narrative Review*. *The western journal of emergency medicine*, 23(3), 418–423. <https://doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2022.2.55108>

ADMINISTRATION

NEW HIRES

Admin would like to welcome Kevin Craven who joined us May 6th as a FFPM on "A" shift. Welcome to the Department and we look forward to working with you.

Admin would like to congratulate Chief Clemmer on his promotion as Fire Chief, we look forward to working under your leadership and continuing to achieve great things for Victorville Fire! We would also like to welcome Deputy Chief of Operations, Andrew Roach to Admin, we look forward to having you in office and working alongside you!



RECRUITMENTS

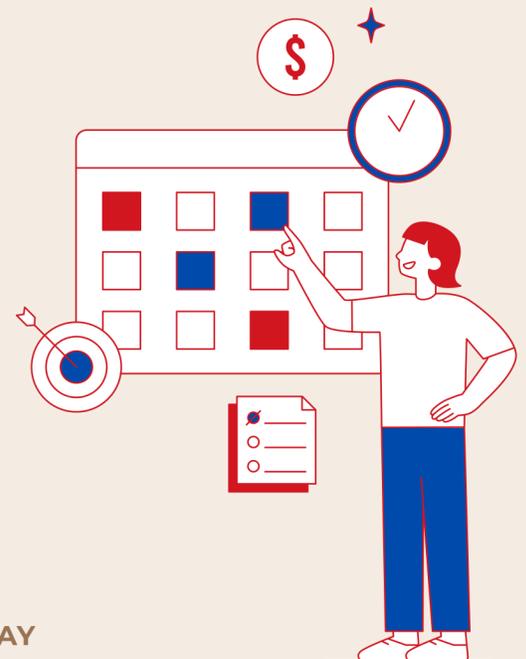
LATERAL FFPM
CLOSED ON MAY 13TH

GRANTS

HSGP GRANT FY20-CLOSED FY22 EMPG-CLOSING STAGE
AFG 2018-CLOSING STAGE FY24 HSGP-APPROVAL PROCESS
FY21 HSGP-CLOSING STAGE

MAY EVENTS

- TOWER 6 GRADUATION & DINNER
- FS312 STATION TOUR-WEST PALMS CONSERVATORY KINDERGARTEN CLASS
- MT311 VICTOR VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY
- MOJAVE VISTA KINDERGARTEN CAREER DAY
- FS311 RIDE ALONG – CHRISTOPHER ARREGUIN
- VVC OUTREACH / RECRUITMENT – MS315 / DAVID / MALLORY
- FS313 STATION TOUR WITH SBCSS COUNTY SPECIAL ED
- GUS FRANKLIN JR. STEM – END OF SCHOOL YEAR CARNIVAL
- GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – FIRE SAFETY DAY
- FS313 STATION TOUR WITH MOJAVE RIVER ACADEMY
- ME311 PRE-K COMMUNITY DAY IRWIN ACADEMY
- WEST CREEK ELEMENTARY – ANNUAL END OF SCHOOL FIELD DAY
- VESD COLLEGE AND CAREER DAY



PREVENTION

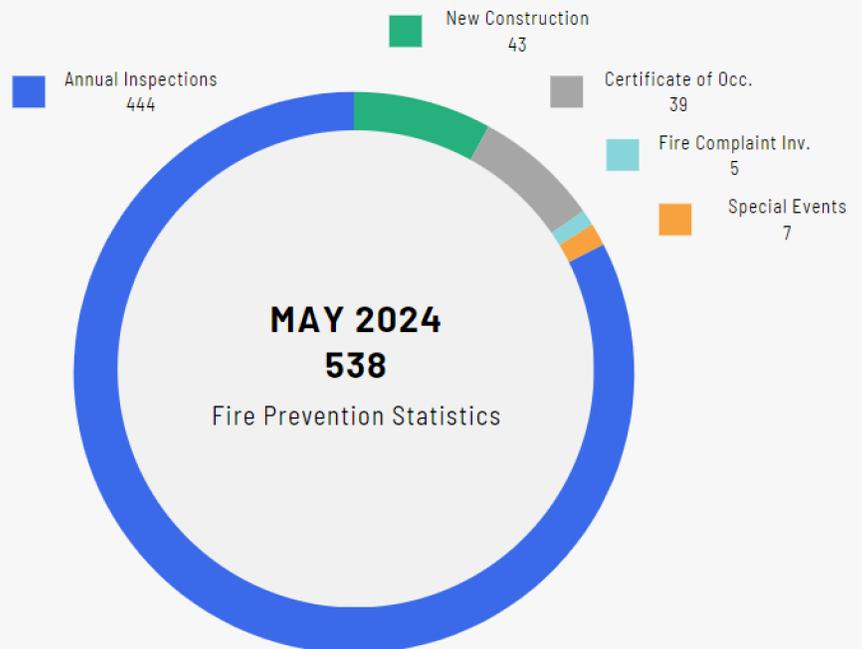
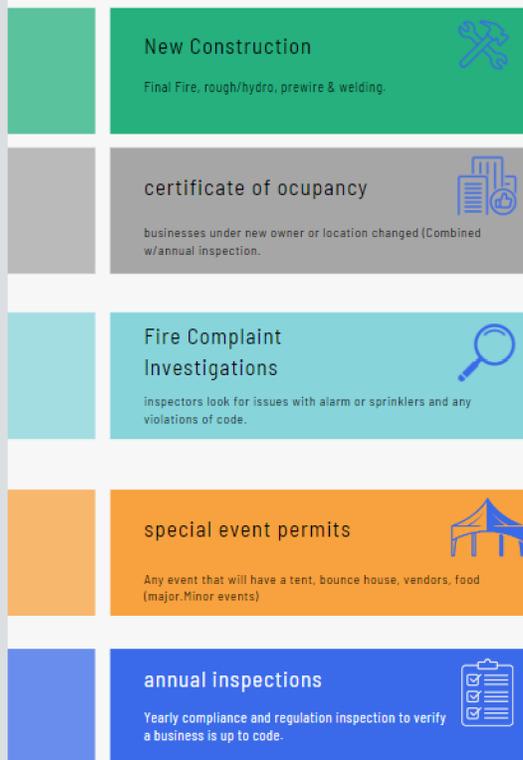
EVENTS

On May 6th Fire Prevention Permit Technician Stephanie Landa and Fire Inspector Riley had the pleasure of presenting a fire safety training session for the Caring Circuit Institute. We were fortunate to have the assistance of Medic Engine 311 Captain Howard, Engineer Carter, and Firefighter Schroeder. They generously shared their expertise by showcasing a fire engine to the group and answering all their questions in a friendly and informative manner.

We were thrilled to welcome Captain Howard, Engineer Blas, and Firefighter Cotton back for another session on the 16th! Their continued dedication to fire safety education was instrumental in ensuring a successful training program for the Caring Circuit Institute.



MAY INSPECTION TOTALS



TRAINING

On May 14th and 15th Inspector Uriel Sanchez and Inspector Riley S. Munson attended a Statutes and Regulations course presented by Representatives from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. This course focused on codes, standards, site-plan review, building construction, care facilities, and high-rise buildings.

INSPECTIONS

High Desert Power

The annual emergency response coordination with the High Desert Power project was successfully completed. Compliance Manager Vincent guided us through the facility, explaining the operations and the safety procedures in place. All fire systems were up-to-date and properly serviced. We continue to maintain a strong relationship with the community, ensuring efficient responses in the event of an emergency.



Silverado High School Graduation

Congratulations to all the seniors at Silverado High School! The prevention team had the honor of inspecting and monitoring the fireworks display for the graduation celebration. Collaborating with the experts at Pyro Spectaculars Inc. was not only an invaluable training experience but also an exciting opportunity to ensure the event's success. The night was filled with proud moments as families and friends came together to celebrate this significant milestone. The event went as planned, creating unforgettable memories for everyone involved!



Milsim West Special Event at SCLA

A thorough fire inspection was carried out for the Milsim West Spring Special Event, an immersive airsoft military simulation game that unfolded over a weekend, running from Friday through Sunday. The inspection focused on ensuring adherence to safety regulations, particularly in relation to potential fire hazards. It was confirmed that all necessary precautions were in place to maintain a safe environment for participants and the surrounding area. The event organizers demonstrated a commitment to prioritizing safety protocols, thereby ensuring a secure and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

Urban Search and Rescue Team



On May 7, 2024, at approximately 4:45 PM, Medic Truck 311 responded to a report of a vehicle collision with a structure. Upon arrival, it was determined that while there were no injuries, the structure had sustained significant damage. Victorville Building & Safety quickly dispatched a field engineer who assessed the need for spot shoring to ensure the building's structural integrity. Medic Engine 313 was also assigned to the incident.

Three members of the VFD USAR Team—Captain Lynch, Engineer Gilmartin, and Engineer Chavez—provided technical guidance to the on-scene crew and developed a shoring plan to stabilize the building. Thanks to their swift and effective intervention, the residents were able to safely reoccupy their home shortly after the shoring was completed. Without the team's expertise, the structure would have been uninhabitable, displacing the residents.



-Deputy Chief of Operations, Andrew Roach



50TH ANNIVERSARY
 **EMS WEEK**
May 19-25, 2024



Thank you

During EMS Week, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible EMS providers of the Victorville Fire Department. Your unwavering dedication, compassion, and expertise make a profound difference in our community every day. As a token of our appreciation, our EMS team provided lunch to all crews, thanking you for being an integral part of the EMS division. Thank you for your selfless service and commitment to saving lives. You are our true heroes!

Congratulations

TOWER 6



We are thrilled to announce the graduation of Tower 6, our newest group of EMT recruits, who have successfully completed their rigorous training. We extend our deepest gratitude to Fire Administration for their exceptional coordination of this momentous event. A special thank you to our Mayor and City Council, the City Manager, Deputy City Managers, Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, City Clerk, and Cadre for their unwavering support and inspiring words of encouragement on this special day. Good luck to the recruits--stay safe!

