

## **Attachment A**

Fire Department Newsletter

# Department Newsletter

Volume 5. July - August 2023

## Victorville FIRE DEPARTMENT



### MESSAGE FROM THE APPARATUS COMMITTEE

The new Fire Engines are in the city after completing their trip from Wisconsin. Currently, the Engines are awaiting radio installation, cradle points, and mounting of equipment. This will occur at Johnson's and South Coast respectively. We are in line for this to happen and are getting closer every day to having them on the road.

I am excited to announce that this week, the first of the Engines is headed to Johnson's to begin the process of radio installation. ME315 will be making the trip on August 24th and will be first up for equipment mounting when South Coast is ready to receive it. In consultation with our fleet mechanics, ME315 is the priority and is the reason it's headed down first. If all goes well, we will be riding with pride in the next 45-60 days! Thank you to everyone that has contributed and helped with this project, we're almost there!

*-Engineer Carlos Torres*





# DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

## INCIDENT RESPONSE STATISTICS JULY 2023

TOTAL

2,426

EMS/  
RESCUE

1,901 78%

FIRE

336 14%

MISC.

189 8%

## INCIDENT RESPONSE STATISTICS AUGUST 2023

TOTAL

2,388

EMS/  
RESCUE

1,874 80%

FIRE

278 12%

MISC.

175 8%

### Definition of a Response

A response indicates the total number of VFD apparatus that were dispatched to any given incident. Some incidents, depending on the nature and complexity, may require more than one unit to be dispatched to the same 9-1-1 call. These statistics indicate the number of responses a VFD piece of apparatus was dispatched and had wheels rolling to the incident.

**EMS Division**

David Vega  
EMS Specialist

# *A Message from Your Fire Chief*



Hello VFD, where have two-plus months, and most of Summer, gone? Does not seem that long ago, July 5, that I came back for my second stint as your Interim Fire Chief.

As I am writing this, it's September 11... I was going to write about what has been happening these past weeks, but upon reflection, I think I am going to just write about that day back in 2001...

I remember clearly where I was when I received the phone call from my wife telling me about "...a plane hit one of the World Trade Center Towers in New York..." and I thought "...well, it has happened before..."; on July 28, 1945, a B-25 bomber hit between the 78th and 80th floors of the Empire State Building in a fog; ... "and the FDNY is a large enough department to deploy the resources needed to put out the fire". Was I mistaken...

I had no idea it was a United Airlines commercial airliner, intentionally flown into one of the Towers.

As the day went on, we learned of four separate events.

A second airliner hit the other Tower, another was flown into the Pentagon, and the last, destined for the US Capitol Building, ended up crashing into a field in Pennsylvania due to the heroism of the passengers.

Approximately 3000 people lost their lives that day.

The total included 343 firefighters, including the Chief of Department and personnel of all ranks and assignments.

Let us remember this day and those who went towards the danger.

WWNF- We Will Never Forget...

Please be careful out there and watch for one another.

Proud to be your Chief,  
Willie.



**MT 311 attended Cobalt Institute's  
9/11 Memorial Event**





# ADMIN UPDATE AUG – SEPT



## RECRUITMENTS

Administrative Secretary – In review with HR  
Fire Engineer – Testing completed August 22nd and 23rd



Admin has been working on an updated Procedure Manual and will soon provide a presentation to the Floor Crew!



COV Bring your child to work day!



## EVENTS

### AUGUST



**GO WORLD  
EXCHANGE  
STATION  
TOUR 08/01**

- 8/01 – FS311 – Truck COV Kid's Club Summer Camp, Admin
- 8/03 – COV Bring your Child to work Day (Karem, Stephanie, Bobby)
- 8/14 – FS314 Lomitas Back to School Bash
- 8/26 – FS314 Station Tour – Educational & Behavioral
- 8/30 – Lakeview Leadership Academy – Back to School Night Event



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
FS 315 ON AUGUST 1ST**

### SEPTEMBER

- 9/02 – Home Depot Safety Kids Club Event
- 9/08 – FS315 – SB County Pre-school Socialization Tour
- 9/10 – Sunrise Church – Honoring First Responders

# EMS

# Update

Governor Newsom has appointed Liz Basnett as Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). Liz Basnett has been the acting Director for EMSA since 2021 and has an excellent working knowledge of emergency response and disaster management. Liz Basnett has worked closely with Cal Chiefs, supporting the Fire/EMS operational model and state-wide goals. Liz Basnett has been a great mediator between the hospital associations, physician associations, and EMS. Cal Chief's EMS section is excited about her appointment.



Last month, the VFD EMS Manager and EMS Specialist participated in ImageTrend training in St. Paul, Minnesota. This week-long training included report writing, analytical review and reporting, CQI, local and state reporting requirements, and National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS). This conference allowed networking with fire agencies nationwide while building relationships with our San Bernardino and Riverside County professional firefighter partners. The EMS Division would like to thank our city leadership and Fire Chief for allowing this great opportunity!

Our department's CQI program is in full effect. David Vega, EMS Specialist, has spearheaded this project and will soon provide City Management and Fire Chiefs with department performance reports and analytical and statistical data. These reports are generated continuously and focus on department overview and EMS benchmarks. Once we transition NFIRS into ImageTrend, we will start providing data and performance within NFIRS. Mr. Vega has already begun training our staff with our ePCR documentation standards.





# EMS NEWS UPDATE



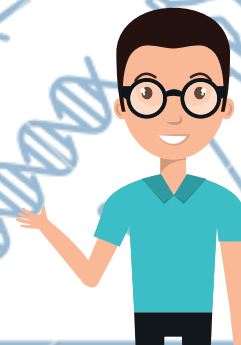
A Trauma Center is coming to the High Desert! Over the past year, St. Mary Medical Center has been working with the state, ICEMA, and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center to achieve Trauma Receiving Center status, and last month, ICEMA announced they have been accepted to be a Level IV Trauma Center. A Level IV Trauma Center, according to the American College of Surgeons (2022), is a Trauma Center that has demonstrated the ability to provide advanced trauma life support (ATLS) with resuscitation and stabilization before transferring to a higher-level trauma center. Here are some elements that they will be providing: trained trauma physicians, dedicated trauma nurses, part-time surgical critical-care services, transfer agreements to level I and II trauma centers, a comprehensive quality improvement (CQI) program, and an active outreach program in the community. ICEMA and St. Mary Medical Center leadership stated that the long-term goal is to become a Level II Trauma Center.

On August 2nd, the EMS Division was invited to present at St. Mary Medical Center's yearly Stroke and STEMI conference. Two cases were presented. Our first case was a hemorrhagic Stroke cared for by FF/PM Moreno, FF/Engineer Zamora, and Captain/PM Sutton. FF/PM Moreno and her crew quickly identified Cushing's Triad and transported this patient via air to a Comprehensive Stroke Center. The patient was diagnosed with an Intracerebral and Intraventricular Hemorrhage with a 15-16 mm herniation. The patient, unfortunately, passed away from this condition.

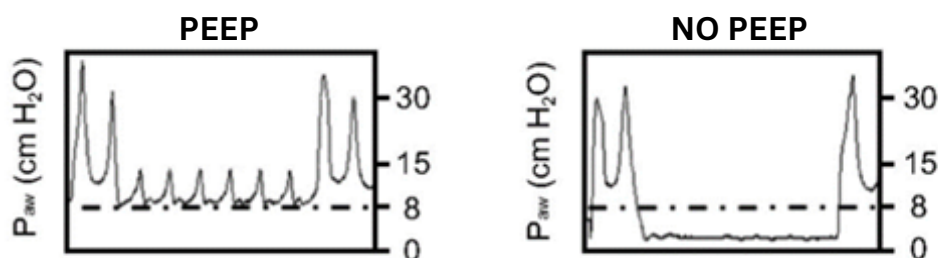


The second case presented was a heart attack (STEMI) patient cared for by FF/PM Wallace, FFPM/Engineer Carmean, and Captain/PM Lynch. This patient was identified to have an Inferior Myocardial Infarction (MI) and diagnosed at St. Mary as having a 99% stenosis (narrowing) to the Right Coronary Artery. The Patient underwent mechanical thrombectomy balloon angioplasty with 100% reperfusion. The patient was discharged home alive after two days. Great job to our team for identifying life-threatening medical emergencies and optimizing the EMS system to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community.

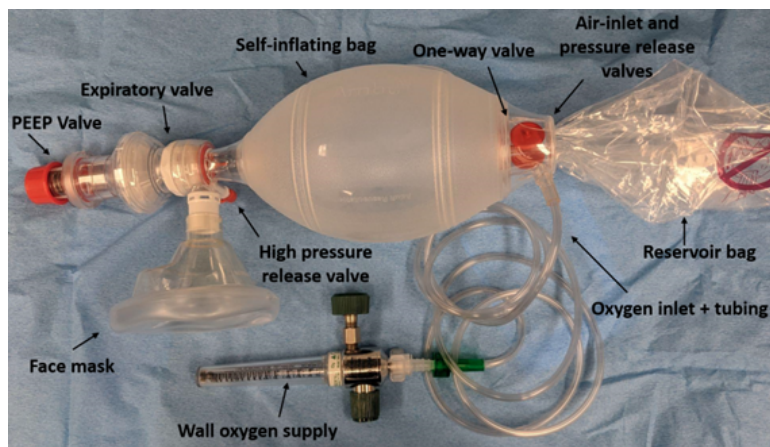
# SCIENCE STEVE'S Monthly Fun Fact



A journal published by Charbonney et al. (2019), summarized and reviewed current clinical cadaver and animal model observational studies as they relate to current ventilation strategies during prolonged Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) using a LUCAS 2 along with a review of airway pressures and ventilation monitored by capnography. It was identified that Bag Valve Masks (BVM) with Positive End-Expiratory Pressures (PEEP) produced better alveolar opening than the group using no PEEP valve.



The application of PEEP to maintain airway patency permits the transmission of pressure gradients produced by chest wall recoil during chest compressions. Using 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>O of PEEP improved alveolar closure (<30% compared to 60% without PEEP).



In conclusion, PEEP after intubation during chest compression consistently maintains airway patency, increasing the airway opening index and enhancing alveolar ventilation produced by continuous chest compression seen with the LUCAS 2 device.





# Meet Your **PREVENTION TEAM**

## Permit Tech: Stephanie Landa

My name is Stephanie, and I am the Permit Technician for the Fire Prevention Division. I have been with the Fire Department for about 6 months now and I truly enjoy working here. Some of my job duties include issuing new construction permits, burn permits and special event permits as well as assisting the Fire Inspectors with scheduling inspections. If anyone has any questions regarding Prevention, please feel free to reach out to me.



**Fun Fact: In 2018, I graduated from the Correctional Officer Academy.**



## Permit Tech: Martha Carias

My name is Martha Carias and I'm a Permit Technician for both Fire and Building Departments. With Fire Prevention, I help assist with processing permits for new construction projects, assist with scheduling inspections such as annuals, Certificate of Occupancy, Knox Box, New Construction, and more. With the Building Department, I also process permits for residents or commercial sites, assist with helping the community while attending the counter, and much more. With the city growing, many are in need with assistance from both departments and helping ensure that they receive the help needed is all I hope to give.

**Fun fact: I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture while attending California State Polytechnic University, Pomona**

## Fire Inspector: Rudy Alcaarez

I had the privilege of wearing different hats in various fire departments, each experience contributing uniquely to my skill set. My time as a Firefighter with the City of La Habra Heights and Boeing Huntington Beach provided me with invaluable hands-on experience, exposing me to the dynamics of fire suppression and emergency response.

With new insights gained, I transitioned my career towards fire prevention. I proudly serve as a Fire Inspector with the City of Victorville, a role I have held for over a year. In this capacity, I am entrusted with the responsibility of evaluating structures, facilities, and public spaces to ensure they meet the highest standards of fire safety. Working within the Victorville Fire Department has been an incredible privilege, allowing me to contribute to the safety and well-being of a diverse and thriving community. While I continue to excel in my current role, I am wholeheartedly committed to seeking out new avenues for growth and learning.

**A fun fact about me is that I can play multiple instruments, just not well.**



## Fire Inspector: Uriel Sanchez

Hey there! I'm Uriel Sanchez, a Fire Inspector for the City of Victorville Fire Department, dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. I'm thrilled to announce that I've recently embarked on this exciting journey, stepping into the role of Fire Inspector in June of 2023.

My journey in the fire industry began in 2007 when I took on the role of a fire sprinkler systems designer. Over the years, I've honed my expertise and deepened my understanding of fire safety, evolving from designing systems to inspecting them.

Joining the Victorville Fire Department has been a dream come true. It's an incredible opportunity for me to contribute my years of experience and knowledge to our dedicated team and the larger community we serve.

**Fun Fact: My family and I share the love for theme parks.**





# ***Prevention Update***

## **Current Inspections for FY 23-24 716**

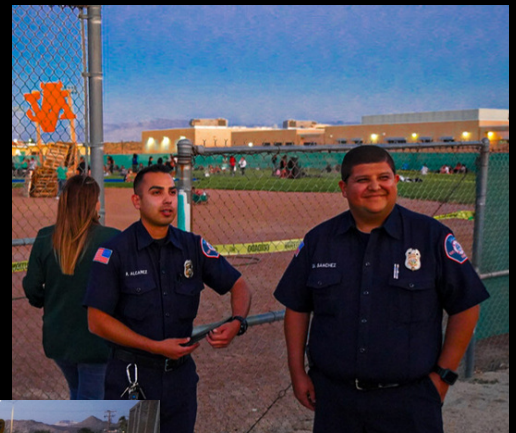
**Fire Watch List:**

- Comfort Suites
- SCLA Homeless Shelter
- DD's Discounts
- AVID Hotel
- 99 Cent Store



Fire Prevention will be set up at the Fall Festival booth for National Fire Prevention Week!

Fire Inspectors Rudy Alcaez and Uriel Sanchez conducted a thorough inspection and made necessary preparations for the Bonfire event held at Victor Valley High School. The ME311 team promptly arrived and provided valuable support to the prevention team, assisted the high school in igniting the fire and successfully extinguishing the fire.





# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



On August 22nd, over sixty-five City staff who are assigned to assist in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), received training on the City's draft Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The training included specific materials related to emergencies in the City as well as a review of the Incident Command System (ICS). Staff were also treated to a lunch provided by the City. The training brought together all the staff who hold positions within the EOC to enhance their knowledge of the City's emergency response capabilities and responsibilities. This training is intended to build a foundation for the future Training and Exercise Plan (TEP) for the City's EOC responders.

-Dana Wellborn





# GLOSSARY

## OF FIRE TERMS

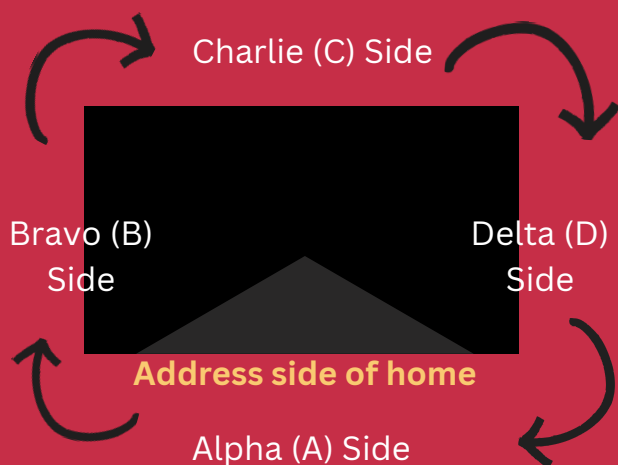


FC 4300	Fire Chief Racowski
DC 4301	Deputy Chief Clemmer
BC 4310	Battalion Chief Roach • A shift
BC 4311	Battalion Chief Baladez • B shift
BC 4312	Battalion Chief Washington • C shift



ME 311	Medic Engine 311
MT 311	Medic Truck 311
MS 311	Medic Squad 311
BE 311	Brush Engine 311
ME 312	Medic Engine 312
BE 314	Brush Engine 314
ME 313	Medic Engine 313
ME 314	Medic Engine 314
MT 314	Medic Truck 314
MS 315	Medic Squad 315
OES 6315	State owned Type III

### Structure Side Designation



The Incident Commander (IC) designates which side of a structure will be the Alpha side on an incident. Normally this is the front of the building facing the street. Once the Alpha side is identified the corresponding letters will go clockwise around the structure.

### Fire Terms

FIU	Fire Investigation Unit
IC	Incident Commander
RIC	Rapid Intervention Crew
TAC	Tactical Radio Frequency
Supply Line	- Hose connected to hydrant.
Deffensive	- Exterior Firefighter, no one goes into structure.
Overhaul	- Making sure fire is out.

### EMS Terms

ICEMA	Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency
BLS	Basic Life Support
ALS	Advanced Life Support
AHA	American Heart Association
EMT	Emergency Medical Tech.

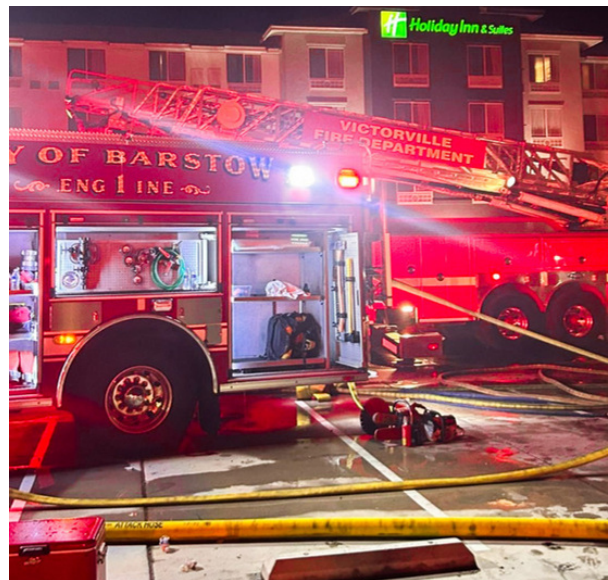
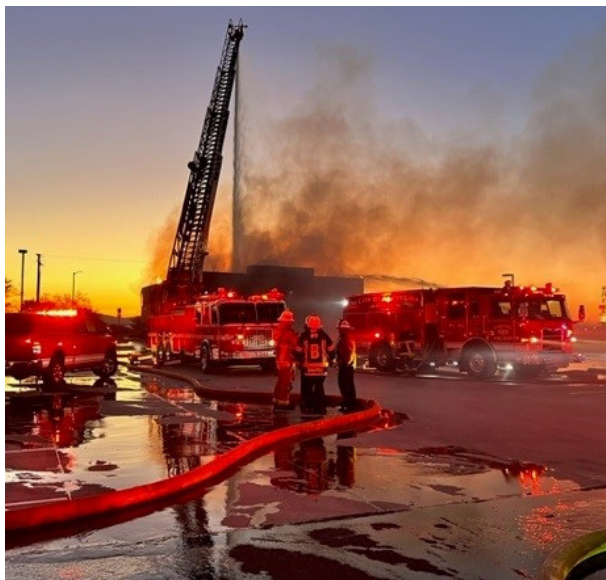
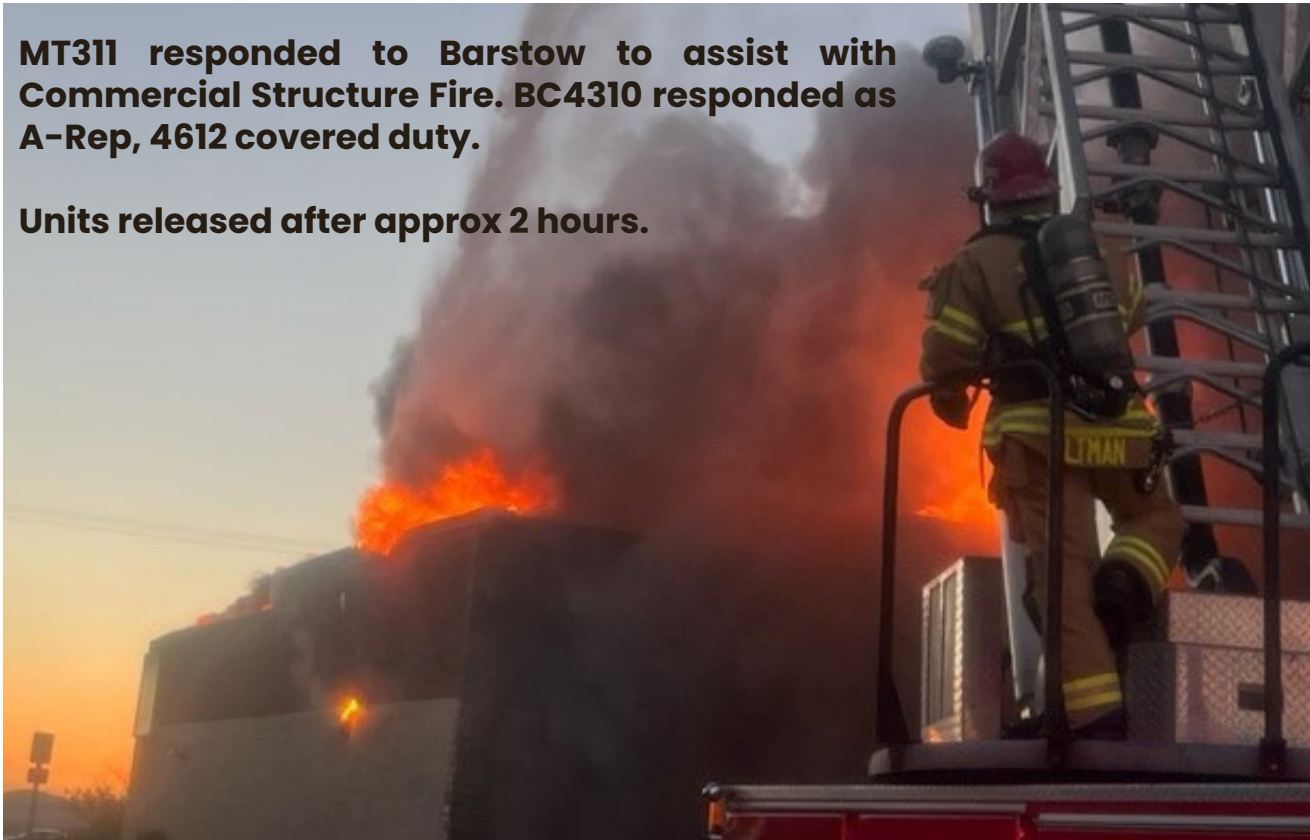
# SIGNIFICANT

Incidents August 2023

August 29, 2023 ● Structure Fire – Subway ● Personnel: 18  
● Barstow, Ca ●

**MT311 responded to Barstow to assist with Commercial Structure Fire. BC4310 responded as A-Rep, 4612 covered duty.**

**Units released after approx 2 hours.**





# SIGNIFICANT

Incidents August 2023

July 21, 2023 ● Vegetation Fire ● Personnel: UNK  
SBCFD ● Cal Fire ● BC4310 – Roach

ME314 and OES6315 dispatched to a vegetation fire in Hesperia at HWY 395 and I-15. ME314 assigned Division M (north flank, head of the fire) at Joshua/395. Division M held fire from jumping roadway. Fire estimated at 75 acres at the time of resources being released.







Thank you!

# APPLE VALLEY FIRE



We extend our gratitude to the Apple Valley Fire Protection District for graciously permitting us to join a roof cutting exercise in June of this year, just before the HWY 18's structure's demolition. Our dedicated crews had the opportunity to practice alongside San Bernardino County Fire and Cal Fire.

