

Indian Valley Fire Department

Fire Chiefs Report, December 2023

Bob Orange

Continued to hold training meetings every Tuesday alternating between Greenville and Taylorsville Stations. The "I Am Responding" application has been implemented and is working very well. Personnel have responded to medical aids and fires by receiving their calls via their cell phones. Is a major complement to the pagers we have in dispatching.

As of Dec. 6, IVFD has received 268 dispatches from the Sheriff's Office. I had predicted 260 by the years end previously but calls are increasing. I fully expect the FD to have received 300 calls for service by years end. Predict more than that for next year. Available for review at the Board meeting are 36 pages of records chronicling the calls from PCSO dispatch.

Several significant incidents have included a structure fire in Taylorsville where the home was completely destroyed. Was fully involved when the first Engine arrived on scene. IVFD had a excellent response with four Engines and 13 personnel responding. Quincy FD also responded with a Engine and a Water Tender in a mutual aid request. Crescent Mills responded with 4 people and their Water Tender which broke down when returning to their station. USFS also arrived with one Engine and a Water Tender. Fire did spread to the wildland.

Riley's Jerky also had a fire in the back part of the business that appears to have been caused by a dehydrator. Suffered significant loss but hopefully will be back in business soon.

One call was the source of confusion initially. Dispatch reported a woman suffering major injuries from a bear attack on North Valley Road. We arrived on scene and the address but could not locate her. Follow up and questioning with dispatch revealed it was actually on North Arm Road, not North Valley. Upon arrival a woman was found with major injuries resulting from being bucked off a horse. Compound fracture of the arm with major bleeding and a broken leg. Victim was flown out to Reno to undergo surgery and is recovering. Final determination was that a herd of deer spooked a horse resulting in the animal running up a dirt road bucking her off after approx. 50 yards. Bad cell service and communication with her husband on the call was the source of the confusion.

Secured a 20-yard dumpster from Waste Management and held two work days cleaning Taylorsville Station. Filled the dumpster completely with rubbish and old items no longer in use. Majority of the volunteers participated in this major clean up of the station. Was done in preparation for painting & repairs this winter. Various Crescent Mills FD personnel continue to meet and train with IVFD on our meeting nights.

For our Nov. 14 training we traveled to the Town Hall Theater in Quincy to watch the documentary "Hotshot". Was filmed over six years and focused on Hotshot crews fighting the fires in the west. Parts of the movie were filmed in Plumas County. Was a very good training video for us to experience.

Attended the Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association meeting on Nov. 4 in Quincy.

On Dec. 5 Area Commander Lt Chris Parent of Quincy CHP, a CHP SGT and local officer Bryan Goings met with us at Taylorsville Station to go over cooperation and discuss any issues.

IVFD has responded to numerous medical aids and burn pile complaints. Early on after the initial recent rainstorm- it prompted numerous residents to start burning when it was still not allowed. Received numerous burn pile complaints that had to be extinguished

Repairs were performed on Engine 7622 which had a transmission fluid leak. The pressure sensors gaskets had gone bad & required replacement. The heater control on #7622 was also repaired. Water Tender 7632 based in Taylorsville underwent repairs to its electrical system and live reel. Welding and body repair was also performed. Is back in service. Rescue rig 7652 in Taylorsville had routine oil change service and tire rotation performed.

IVFD winter jackets finally arrived and were distributed. They were ordered last Feb. 28. Well received by our personnel and a lot warmer than the light sweatshirts we had. Participated in the Taylorsville "Trunk Or Treat" Halloween festivities. Gave out high visibility safety candy bags and fire safety information to approx. 300 youths who gathered to trick or treat locally.

Received much of the equipment obtained under the CalFire Rural Assistance Grant. At the most recent training forty-one (41) new hand tools were painted and marked for identification.

On Nov. 28 PDH had three personnel give IVFD volunteers CPR, AED and emergency first aid training at the IVCSO office. Many of the folks present and myself commented afterwards that this was the best CPR training we have ever received. New manikins with blue tooth technology monitored our rhythms and compressions to let us know where we could improve. At the end basically a report card was given on us by the equipment and we all worked to and did improve ourselves.

It was noted that there is no AED in the IVCSO office and we believe one should be placed there. Will work on acquiring one. Volunteer personnel also traveled to Reno to look at and evaluate an Engine addition to the IVFD.

Discussions have taken place and actions are being taken to remove the surplus Engines in the district to be auctioned off. This involves the apparatus that is seen outside of the temporary buildings on the parcel on H89.