

## **Indian Valley Fire Department, April 2024**

### **Fire Chiefs Report, Bob Orange**

As is standard practice, report period consisted of weekly training/meetings on Tuesday evenings alternating between Greenville and Taylorsville. This coming month we will also meet at North Arm and Genesee Stations cleaning them up and operating the apparatuses stationed in them.

The emphasis this month on training was on vehicle accidents and vehicle extrications. The jaws of life on both the Hummer in Taylorsville and the rescue rig in Greenville were operated/trained with. One of the hydraulic pump motors for the jaws on the Hummer is only operating at about 25% power and will require repair. A second set of jaws is mounted on the Hummer. Training videos on the subject were watched in the IVCSO office.

Two volunteers spent three full days this past weekend at Lassen College taking an accredited college course in vehicle extrications. Their fellow classmates were CalFire employees from throughout the state. Multi vehicle accident scenarios were repeatedly staged requiring stabilization and lots of work cutting apart the rigs to gain access to passenger compartments.

This particular training needed is not without precedent. Two years ago, a vehicle went into a tree in Genesee. It took over an hour to get the victim out and a leg ended up being amputated on the young man. The situation was critical and he nearly died. Since then, there have been numerous other vehicle accidents including fatalities responded to; but the urgency & difficult effort to extricate that particular victim remains in everyone's mind who was there.

Another volunteer is attending the Quincy Fire Academy with other members of Fire Departments from throughout the county. This is a six-week academy taking place on weekends and will continue through the month of May. This is primarily a structure fire course but also includes Basic First Aid, CPR and vehicle extrications using hydraulic tools.

Engine #7626 based in Greenville; the ex OES Engine- broke down during pump training operations at Greenville High School. In order to move it fuses had to be removed out of the electrical panel. Eventually linkage and electrical issues were diagnosed to be the culprit. Sam Brown repaired it and is now fully back in service. A backup camera was also installed at this time which works really well. Six more backup cameras have been purchased and will also be installed in other apparatuses in the upcoming weeks.

Talks have been held with the Greenville Rancheria and also the USFS. We will coordinate a one-day wildland fire refresher course to satisfy legal requirements for our Basic 32 Wildland Fire Training.

I have spoken with the Fire Science Coordinator at Lassen College about another Fire Apparatus Driver Operator 1A Class being made available.

The current class being held at Lassen College is completely full. The instructor stated if we were able to enroll eight (8) students he would hold a special class for us in June after spring semester ends. Currently the Rancheria has four students wanting to take the class and IVFD has three. Am looking for a third person to make the class available. Have reached out to Quincy Fire for additional prospective students and will also provide the information to FD's in the Almanor Basin.

Incident of note was a barn fire we responded to in Taylorsville. A student was housing a pig in a barn for a 4H project. A heat lamp was too close to the straw igniting it. The resulting fire burned the side of the barn and extended up the rafters to the top of the barn. Fortunately, with the quick response the fire was contained to only those areas. A few minutes later with the response and it would have been a whole different matter. Of note- while IVFD fire personnel were inside the barn putting in the hose lay and working to extinguish the fire; a unknown civilian went inside the Engine and radioed to dispatch that the barn was fully involved and residential structures were threatened. This was not the case at all. As a result, fire dispatch (PCSO) toned out Quincy Fire, Meadow Valley Fire, Greenhorn Fire and Long Valley Fire to respond mutual aid Engines. When I arrived on scene a few minutes later I cancelled all those resources. Phoned into dispatch and relistened to the radio traffic. We were unable to determine who got on the radio and made the unauthorized call. It is felt that whoever it was simply panicked as there was a lot of smoke and it looked bad initially.

This underscores the fact that our volunteer firefighters need to have continual training and working equipment- to be as professional as possible in order to be effective in protecting the community and working with other FD's. To remain calm and efficient in the face of hysteria from civilians on scene. Every month we are responding to structure fires and vehicle accidents in addition the numerous medical aids.

I was contacted by the inspector of our SCBA tanks who came up from Sacramento last year. He has located a SCBA Cascade Air Refilling Station that is being replaced by a new system in an urban FD in the Sacramento area. He is arranging to have it donated to us to replace our current system which was probably made in the mid 60's. The SCBA tanks we received from Fallon a year ago are rated for 4,500 psi. Our current compressor and tanks are only rated for 2,600 psi limiting air time and are unable to refill our newer donated tanks of which we received 49 of them. We still need a compressor to power up to 4,500 psi but the refilling system being offered to us would probably cost \$30-\$40k new. In the meantime, we can take large air storage tanks to Quincy FD to refill.

I will be attending a Fire/Police Station Design Conference in Phoenix, AZ next month with Jeff Moorish; the Architect/Engineer of our new station and the owner of NST Engineering. We will strive to put our heads together to make our new station as efficient and practical for all who will be working in it for generations to come with an eye for any new innovative ideas/technology. A station we can be proud of and where people want to come work.