



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2015**



## *Message from the Fire Chief...*

This year marked the anniversary of the City's 50<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation. Our Fire Department was a part of Lake Valley Fire during the incorporation, and was successfully formed in 1966. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department reverted our name back to South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue, to focus on the 67% of our call volume specific to the delivery of emergency medical services.

We exist to support our community in a variety of ways both emergent and non-emergent. Consistency is the key to increase our level of service to the community and provide for department wide cohesion. Our City Council has taken steps this year to help improve our ability to provide a consistent response and availability of crews within the City limits. This improvement is transferring our ambulance transportation responsibilities back to the Joint Powers Agreement and ultimately back to El Dorado County. Ambulance delivery systems are changing and the amount of time that SLTFR personnel are out of the City on ambulance transfers has resulted in the City re-evaluating and changing that delivery system to ensure consistent fire protection within our boundaries.

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue mission is:

**“Serving our Community with Compassion, Professionalism and Honor”**

2015 was a year of significant change for the men and women of the organization. The organization developed an interim plan to hire non-safety temporary employees to staff our ambulances while Cal Tahoe JPA determines who will take over that transportation component. We also placed 3 persons on each paramedic engine company, and relocated both ambulances to fire station 2. The Shift Commanders were relocated to have their offices at Fire Station 1, the announcement for the Battalion Chief is now posted, and those positions should be filled by April of 2016.

SLTFR continued its efforts to increase our public profile and educate our citizens on the dangers of living in a forest. We worked with our colleagues to deliver a series of public education events. The South Tahoe Action Team played a critical role in our communities' disaster preparedness efforts with several classes graduating this year. STAT members participated in a field exercise with law enforcement, Red Cross and Fire to evacuate a neighborhood during a mock wildland fire exercise.

This annual report will outline some of our most important accomplishments this year and showcase some of our fine personnel committed to delivering these programs. We would like to thank City Management and the City Council for their support as we refine the delivery of fire and life safety systems within the City.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey A. Meston  
Fire Chief



### **Background**

The City of South Lake Tahoe was incorporated in 1965. That was done by combining several small communities including Al Tahoe, Bijou, Bijou Park, Stateline, Tahoe Valley, and Tallac Village. The fire department was formed in 1966 by the City. Currently the City's approximately 22,000 residents cover an area of approximately 16.6 miles. We are located at 6237 feet above sea level.

The fire department provides all risk emergency and nonemergency services including fire protection, emergency medical services, limited fire prevention, and public education. Today the department maintains three fire stations and a training center. South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue personnel and equipment respond to over 3000 emergency responses each year.

### **Finance**

The fire department receives money in three different manners. We receive the preponderance through the general fund, we also received monies from El Dorado County with a contract to provide paramedic ambulance service through a joint powers agreement with the Lake Valley Fire Protection District. The last form of revenue is for capital purchases from proposition 172 funding. The 2014/2015 fire Department budget was \$4,256,947.02. We focused our efforts on developing a budget with strict accountability measures for all those that have administrative assignments.

### **Supported by**

#### **Our City Council**

**Wendy David, Mayor**

**Hal Cole**

**JoAnn Conner**

**Tom Davis**

**Austin Sass**

#### **Our City Staff**

**Nancy Kerry, City Manager**

**Tom Watson, City Attorney**

**Susan Alessi, City Clerk**

**Mark Carlson and his finance / HR staff**

**Ray Jarvis and his motor pool staff**

**I.T. and Facilities staff**

**Chief Uhler and his Police Dept staff**

## South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Administrative Assignments Summary

- Shift Commander Fairley – Communications and Safety
- Shift Commander Koeppen – Training Officer
- Captain Anderson - Hazardous Materials/ Fire Investigation
- Engineer/Paramedic George - Advanced Life Support Systems
- Captain/Paramedic Creel - Emergency Medical Services Officer
- Engineer Monday - Water Rescue Systems
- Captain/Paramedic Asbury - Grant writer/ business plan
- Captain Drennan - STAT South Tahoe Action Team
- Firefighter/Paramedic Wildman - New Hire Advocate / Training Calendar
- Firefighter/Paramedic Martinez - Public Education / Fire Investigation
- Engineer Hambel - Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Engineer/Paramedic Mills - Tools and Equipment
- Fire Engineer/Paramedic Davis – Facilities
- Captain/Paramedic Jack - Heavy Rescue Systems
- Fire Engineer / Paramedic Bailey – FD Inventory
- Firefighter/Paramedic Mileski - Personal Protective Equipment/Uniforms
- Engineer Benavidez- Station supplies/Quartermaster
- Engineer/Paramedic Cawelti - Apparatus and Maintenance
- Engineer Keys - Technical Rescue
- Firefighter/Paramedic Tetlow - EMS Equipment and Supplies
- Firefighter/Paramedic Blasser - CQI
- Firefighter / Paramedic Bias – Hostile MCI
- Firefighter/Paramedic VanKirk - Hose, Nozzles, Appliances and Water
- Firefighter/Paramedic Forehand - Health and Fitness
- Firefighter / Paramedic Taormina – Wildland Operations
- Firefighter / Paramedic Vallejo - Historian
- Firefighter/Paramedic Winter – Wildland Preparedness

Our personnel are each tasked with a specific assignment for the year, in addition to their regular duties. Our priorities to serve our community are:

1: Responding to calls

2: Training

3: Physical Fitness

In between these 3 top priorities, each staff member works on their Staff Assignments. Each member is expected to give updates on how their assignment is going throughout the year, and we will highlight a summary of each member's assignment.

Our fire agency operates under 4 main Divisions:

Administration

Operations

Training

Special Operations

### **Administration**

Administration oversees all operations of the fire department which includes fire suppression activities, special operations, and emergency medical services. These functions are supervised by the Fire Chief with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief. The fire department continues to interface with the City, County of El Dorado and other public agencies to ensure high levels of service to those we all serve.

Each non probationary member has an administrative assignment that provides for continuity and service to our community.

### **2015 CUSTOMER SURVEYS**

Our agency began sending out customer survey cards last year. Here is a summary of the feedback we got. Any negative feedback we received was immediately addressed by our Shift Commanders with our customers. External surveys generally get a response rate of 10%-15%. In comparison, 30% of voters participated in the parking meter election and 44% participated in the general election. We received a 21% participation in our survey.

365 surveys sent, 93 were returned

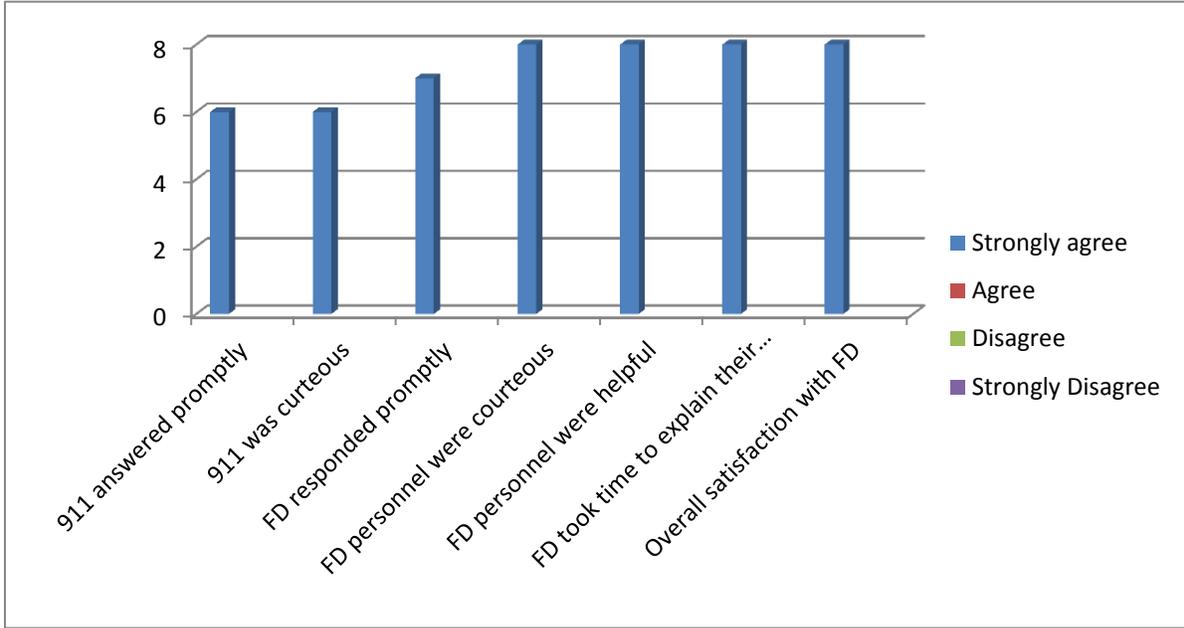
78 medical calls

8 fire calls

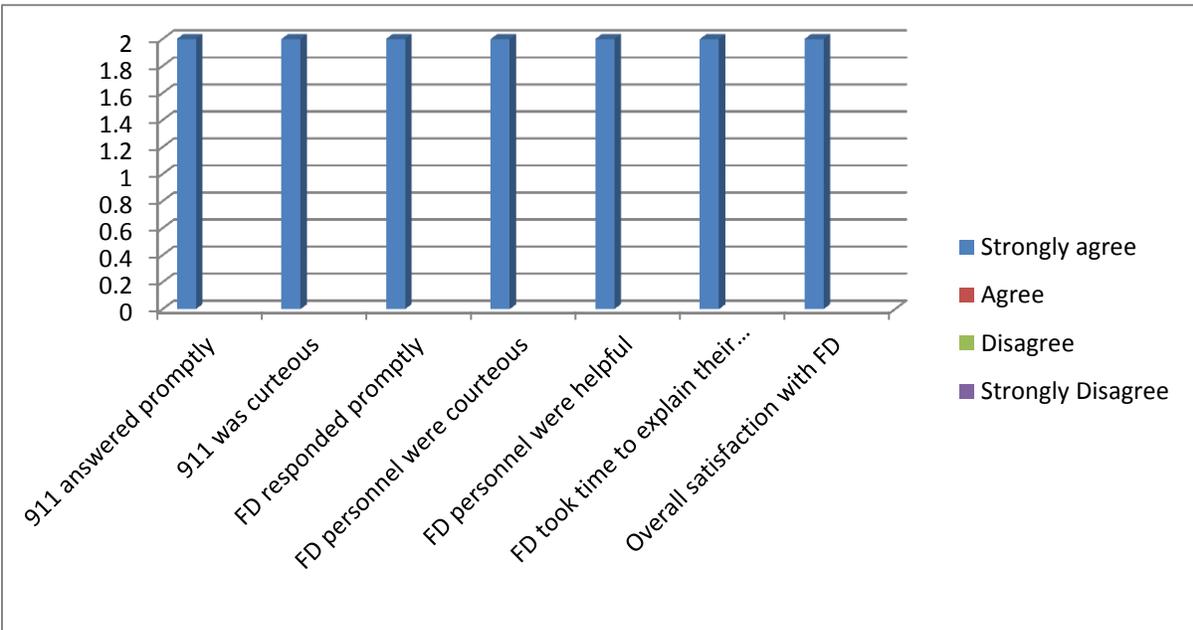
2 carbon monoxide calls

5 vehicle accidents

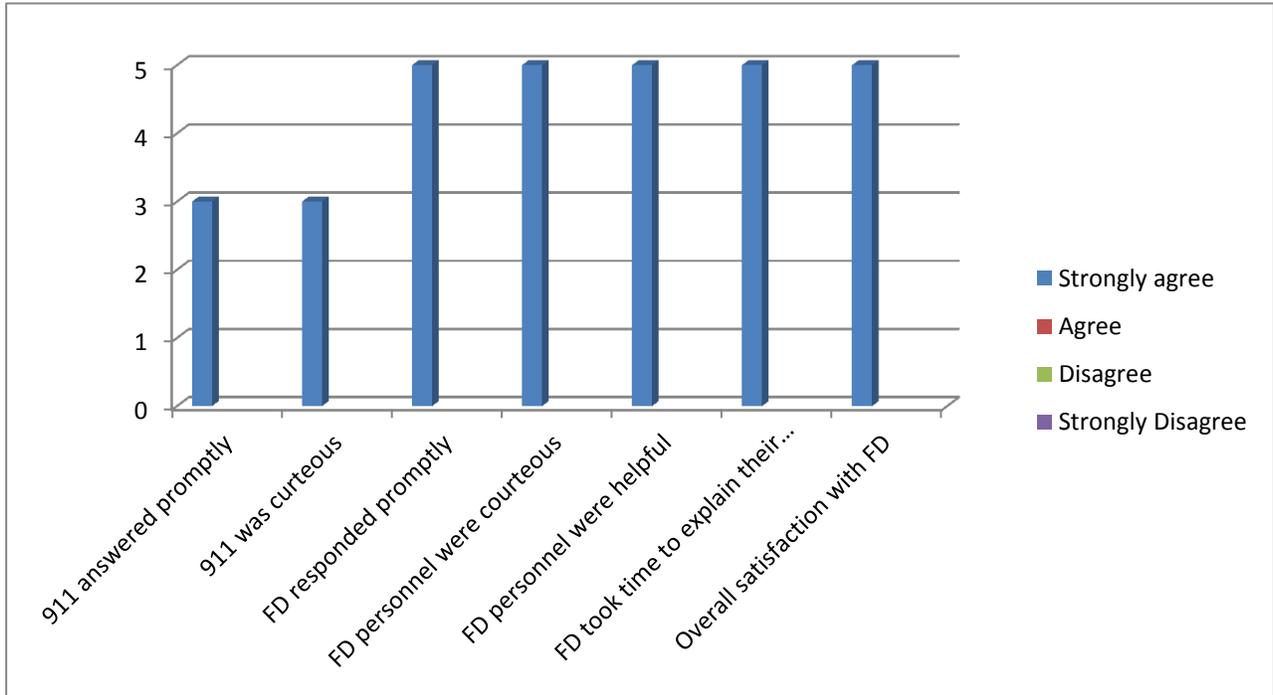
### Fire Call Responses



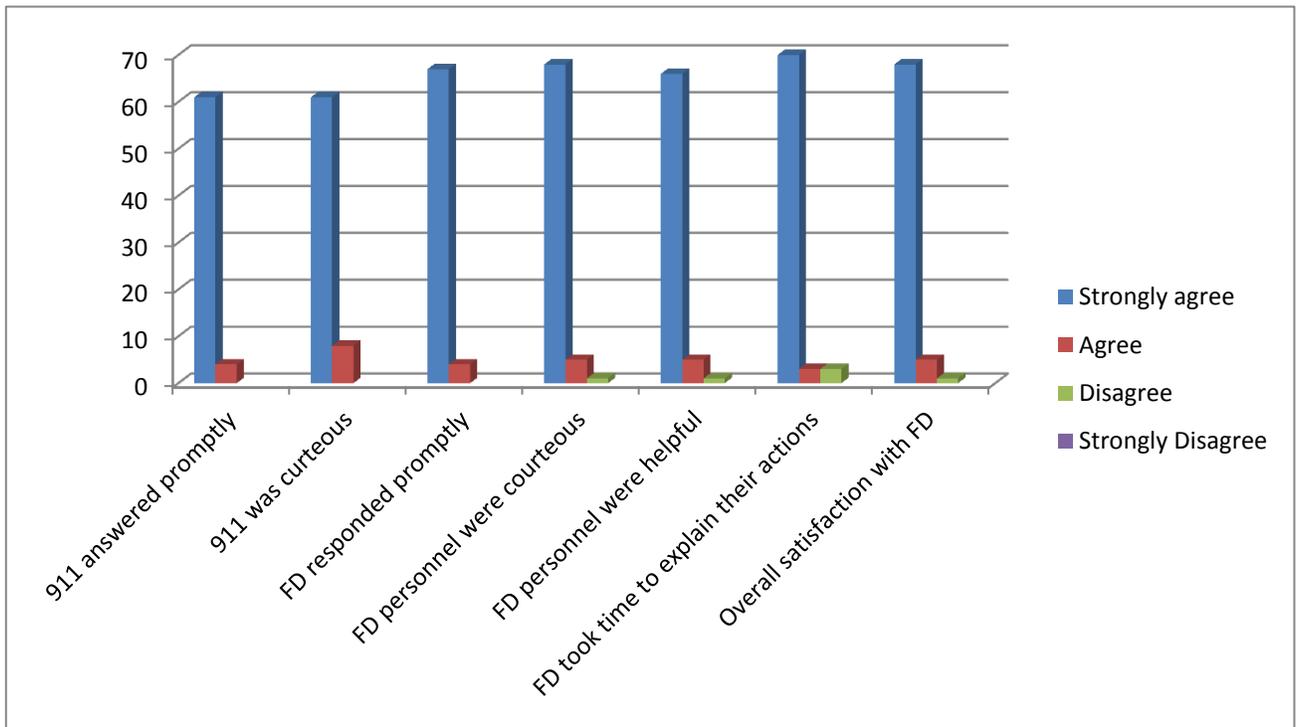
### Carbon Monoxide Calls



### Motor Vehicle Accidents



### Medical Calls

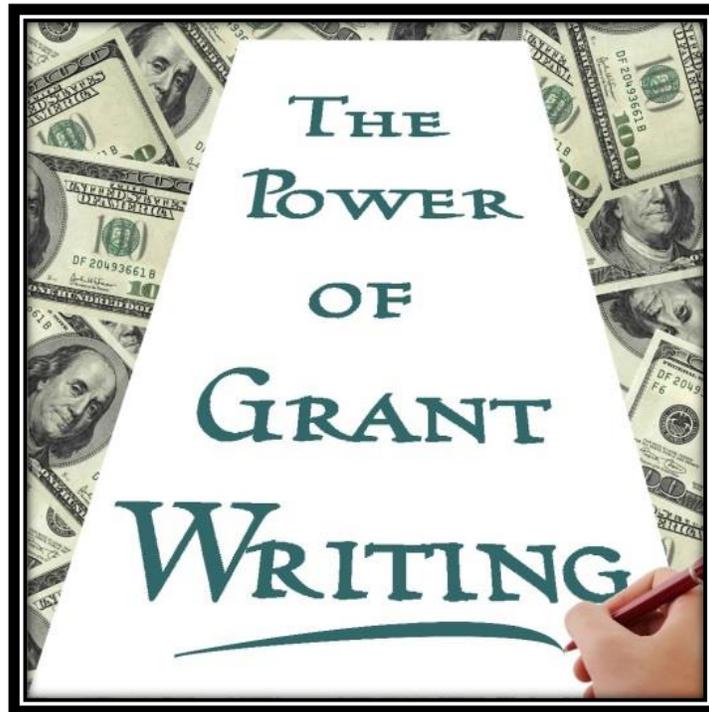


**By Fire Captain / Paramedic Leslie Asbury - Grants**

This year in grant writing has been fruitful. We had the station alerting system installed at station 1, which closed out 2013's FEMA AFG micro grant award. We also are in the process of closing out the Homeland Security Grant for the STAT program, which was awarded in 2014. We received another FEMA AFG micro grant award for \$24,000 worth of fitness equipment.

That equipment is rolling in currently and should be operational by the New Year and closed out in early 2016.

We are currently writing a grant for a fit tester for our SCBA's.



## By Fire Engineer / Paramedic Brenen Davis - Facilities

In this past year of 2015 we have fulfilled many duties and requests as a Facilities staff for South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue. The progression and development within the assignment has become more functional within this past year. The new Service Request portal management system is working proficiently and is keeping better track of repair requests, capital improvement items, and new requests. Throughout the past year, we have filtered, and organized numerous amounts of these requests and have sustained an outstanding relationship with our facility maintenance employees and supervisors.

We started the year off with finally completing the unfinished remodels and add ones that were not signed off by the building department. We have coordinated 3 bids from outside construction agencies to complete these jobs.

The kitchen and living quarters remodel at Fire Station 2 is now fully functional and signed off by the Building department. Along with the kitchen, we have also painted the sleeping quarter's bathroom and installed a new vanity.

New landscaping has also been put in making the outside of the station fit in with the City Council's desire for a more attractive City.



Fire Station 3's back deck has also been completed with new structures, paint and hand rails bringing it up to code by the building department. Fire Station 3 has had multiple other issues regarding plumbing that have been addressed. New heating and lighting has been installed in the EMS storage room behind the station. New paint, shelving and carpet have made EMS equipment storage much more convenient and organized. Although our EMS equipment is now at Fire Station 2, the old EMS storage area now works as additional room for cardio equipment.

A new Roof was also installed for the Station 3 gym along with workout mats.

Fire Station 1 has multiple repair requests throughout the year and still needs lots of updates including new flooring, paint and outside stain.

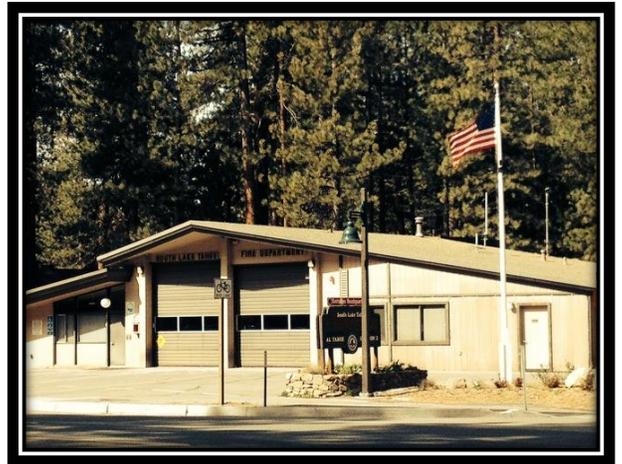
Many repair needs and requests have been pointed out through annual station inspections in which we will continue to address this next year.



New roof on Station 3 gym



Station 1



Station 2



Station 3

## By Fire Engineer / Paramedic Holt Cawelti – Apparatus Maintenance

In the Year 2015 we have had the opportunity to re-stripe with new safety decals and logos on our Squad and Battalion Vehicles. The reflective safety striping will assist with improved scene safety. We have also completed the unit number identifier placard system on our apparatus. We have purchased additional new LED lighting for the Battalion vehicle. In addition we have begun meeting with Apparatus manufacturers to start the bid process for the acquisition of a new Type 1 Engine. We are continuing to work closely with Motor Pool to keep and maintain our apparatus and vehicles in working order. We have had a substantial decrease in the out-of-service time of our front line apparatus.

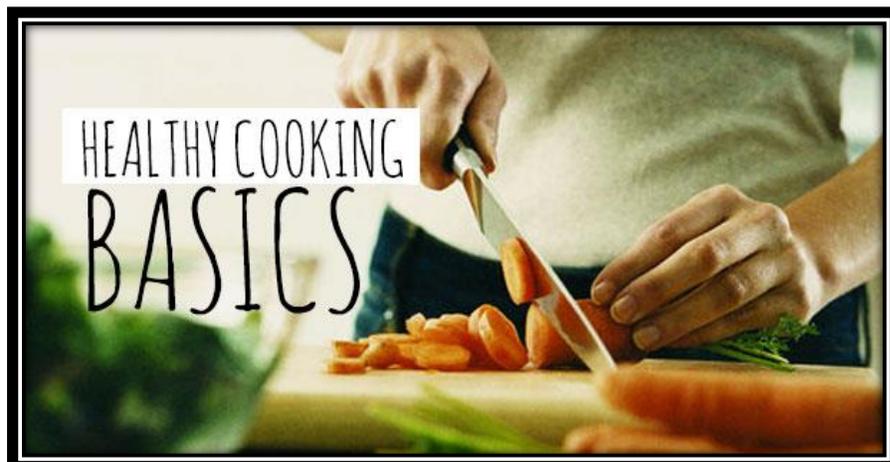


## By Firefighter / Paramedic Joe Forehand – Health and Wellness

This year has been an exciting year for our health & wellness program. With the help of Grant Writer Captain Asbury, SLTFR successfully secured a grant which plugged nearly \$22,000 worth of high end commercial grade fitness equipment into our gyms. The list of new equipment procured this year through the grant includes 2 stair climbers, 2 spin bikes with computers, 2 sets Olympic bumper plates (260# each), 2 Olympic barbells, 2 sets kettlebells (30-60#), 2 sets dumb bells (5-110#), 2 weight vests, 2 plyometric boxes, and 2 sets of clamp collars. We have also purchased 4 dumb bell racks and 2 bumper plate racks. Rubber flooring has been installed in the station 3 gym and the old EMS closet at station 3 (adjacent to the gym) is in the process of transitioning into a cardio room. A new roof has been installed on this building as well.



Station 1 Gym





Station 3 Gym



***Physical fitness is the # 3 priority in our agency***

**By Firefighter / Paramedic Danny Vallejo - Historian**

The majority of the work we have put in thus far has gone toward organization, information collection, and gathering old tools and equipment. We contacted some of the previous personnel assigned as the historians, gathered old clippings and photos, and gathered information about the department past history. We are currently working on adding some of the department's history into the training center. We are in the process of getting display cases built to show off old tools and equipment. Another project we are working on is developing a "50 Years of South Lake Tahoe Fire" picture book comprised of old pictures and newspaper clippings.



## By Fire Engineer Jody Benavidez - Quartermaster

The Quartermaster's assignment involves keeping an inventory of supplies for each station. This includes vacuums, cleaning supplies, kitchen appliances, pots n pans, batteries and paper supplies.

Firefighters live in the stations for 48 hours or more at a time, and each station is like a modern residence. The stations all have kitchens, bathrooms, and day rooms. Basic supplies keep the station safe and clean for the on duty staff.

The Quartermaster assignment also includes making sure the American Flags are in good condition at each of the stations. When a flag needs to be replaced, the old one is disposed of properly as outlined in the United States flag etiquette guide.



### Quartermaster

[kwawr-ter -mah-ster]

#### *Word Origin*

noun

Military. an officer charged with providing quarters, clothing, fuel, transportation, etc., for a body of troops.

n.

early 15c., "subordinate officer of a ship," from French quartier-maître or directly from Dutch kwartier-meester ; originally a ship's officer whose duties included stowing of the hold; later (c.1600) an officer in charge of quarters and rations for troops.

## By Shift Commander Kenin Fairley - Communications

The radio staff assignment continues in 2016 with minimal changes to either the programming or the hardware that is used. The infrastructure continues to age and is showing signs of neglect with no preventative maintenance or replacement plan for the high cost and high use repeater systems. Work continues with PD to make these systems better.

The mobile radios are newer units that are included in the purchase of new vehicles so issues with them are generally just tweaking the installation. We have taken two radios from vehicles going out of service and will have them installed in the two brush engines when a severely shorthanded motor pool has the time.

King portable radios continue to be our main handheld radio as they are the units that are supported by CalFire and are used for strike teams. SLTPD is looking to get a large communications grant and we will try to upgrade to newer P25 compliant radios costing upwards of \$3000.00 per unit.



Chief Meston secured a grant to have a Mobile Data Terminal installed in the battalion vehicle to help with communications and resource management. Lehr auto has done multiple installs for us and the grant was based on an estimate from them for police vehicle MDTs.

For the next budget year, repairs and batteries will remain a constant need and new radios will need to be purchased to replace lost and damaged equipment. King radios run around \$1200 per unit and the Kenwood radios are \$600 manufacturer suggested price. As we continue to downsize our fleet we can continue to replace mobile radios as they break. Late in 2015 we experienced a catastrophic radio failure. A temporary system is in place and will be replaced in 2016.

## Operations

The operations division responds to all types of emergency incidents throughout the City. These include commercial, manufacturing, residential, and mid-rise structures. The City also has a significant wildland/urban interface hazard, as well as a major highway corridor within the jurisdiction. The diversity of fire and emergency problems challenge our firefighters on a daily basis.

In 2015 the operations division responded to 3452 emergency incidents within the city and its neighboring communities.

Annual fire losses totaled \$658,945.00. The majority of dollar losses attributed to structure fires, with a small component attributed to vehicle fires.

Some significant fires we responded to in 2015 included:

- William Ave Fire
- Stockton Ave Fire
- Refuse Fire
- Sussex Ave Fire

The City manages three fire stations staffed with two Type I engines that can cross staff Type III engines, two paramedic ambulances, one Squad, and one Shift Commander. We can also staff our specialty equipment, including the ladder truck, and airport crash rescue vehicle.

The City also responds to incidents as part of the California fire and rescue master mutual aid system and for requests for assistance across California for agencies experiencing wildland fires.

We were unable to send any personnel on strike teams in the 2015 fire season due to low staffing levels and transitioning from 36 personnel to 27 personnel. Our minimum staffing levels dropped from 10 per day to 8 per day.

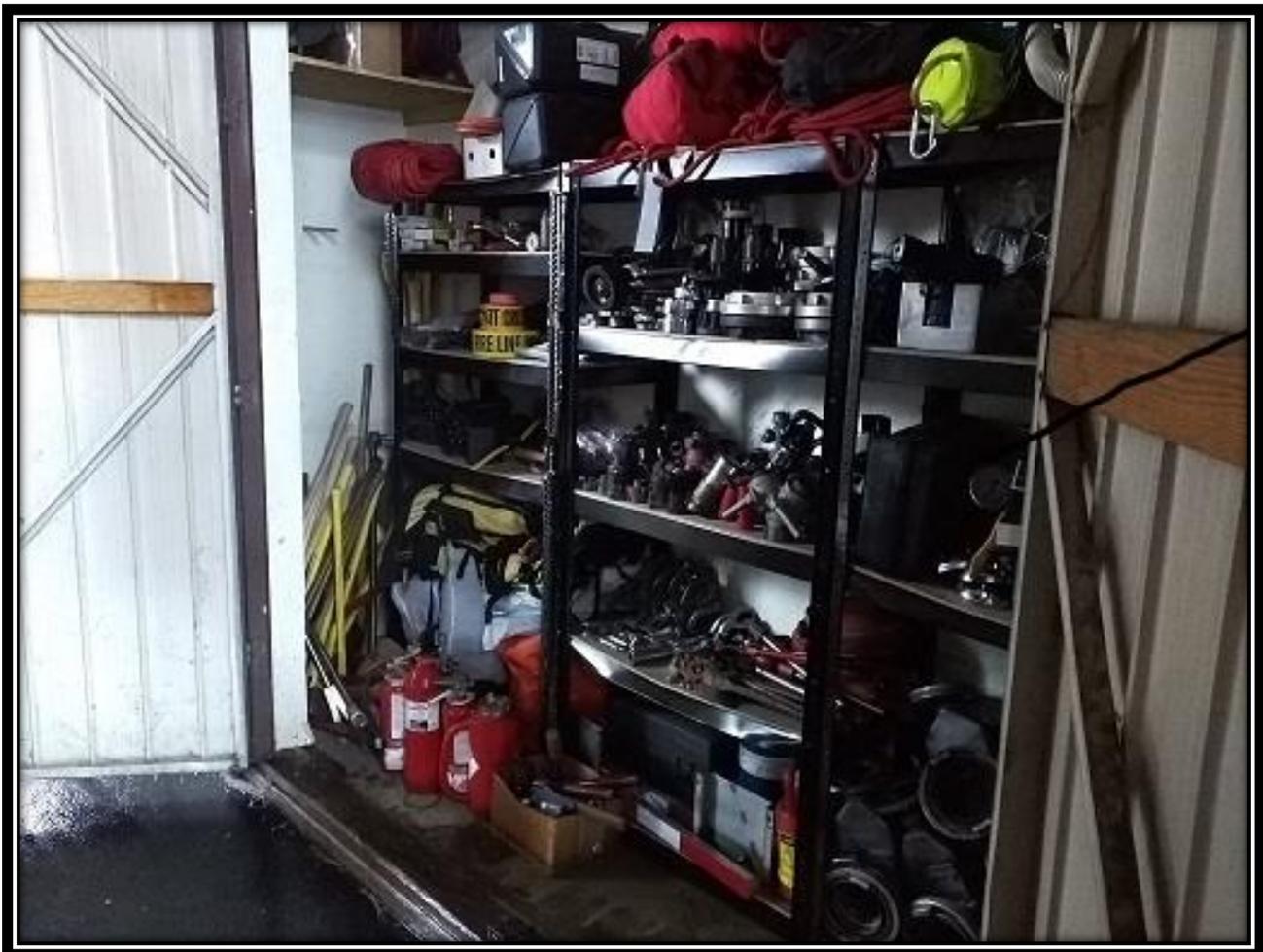


## By Fire Engineer / Paramedic Bronson Mills – Tools and Equipment

We have updated a few tools and there were no real catastrophic damages to equipment. We updated our PPV fans by purchasing electric fans to replace the smoky gas ones. We regularly receive positive reviews about them. We were able to surplus many items that were over 20 years old. Our equipment is currently in good to excellent condition across the board. Ladder testing and fire extinguisher maintenance were completed without incident.

Next year we will retest the ladders and make sure the extinguishers are up to date. We plan to service the snow blowers for future storms. The old scene lights and box lights are consistently breaking, and we have a cache of spare lights that is dwindling. By the end of next year we will only carry the updated version of scene and box lights. We are still out to bid on the bailout bags.

We pride ourselves in keeping the tool storage clean and organized.



**By Firefighter / Paramedic Mike Mileski – PPE/Uniforms**

In 2015 the PPE program has improved greatly. We added an industrial washer/extractor and a drying system at station 1. This allows our members to clean their own turnouts at the NFPA standard. In addition, the turnaround time for clean turnouts has improved dramatically. Clean turnouts limit exposures to harmful chemicals and prevent short and long term illness. 2016 budget will include new structure turnouts and a variety of firefighting PPE.



**By Fire Engineer Pat Hambel - SCBA**

The \$198,000 investment in new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) has greatly improved employee safety with many OSHA mandated engineering modifications. The City compliance to these standards is extremely expensive and should be recognized as a commitment by our City Council in providing the best protection possible for its citizens and firefighters. Public Safety funds (Proposition 172) were allocated in conjunction with robust financing to allow this essential purchase.



**SCBA**  
**SELF-CONTAINED**  
**BREATHING APPARATUS FOR**  
**EMERGENCY USE BY**  
**AUTHORIZED TRAINED PERSONNEL**

## By Firefighter / Paramedic Kevin VanKirk – Hoses and Nozzles

Our focus this year was on replacing some of the outdated hose we still had in service on our apparatus and getting an adequate supply of reserve hose at Station 4. We were able to purchase 1200 feet of LDH, 600 feet of 2 ½ attack line and 400 feet of 1 ¾ attack line. Engine 1 is now fully outfitted with new hose and Engine 3 is almost fully outfitted. We also purchased a new high-quality hose cutter and several other tools to make an effective hose coupling workstation at Station 4. We transitioned our hose testing records to an electronic version, updating the archaic card file system. We successfully completed annual hose testing without any incidents or injuries, placing several hundred feet of old hose out of service.



## By Fire Engineer Steve Monday and Fire Captain Jim Drennan – Boat Operations

**History:** In the late 1990s South Lake Tahoe Fire Department members recognized a need for on the water rescue capabilities. At the time the only resources available on the water were law enforcement and Coast Guard. Neither of these resources were available on a 24/7 basis. They would patrol during daylight hours and not every day. El Dorado County Sheriff's office and South Lake Tahoe Police Dept would routinely pull their boats out after Labor Day and were available for call back on a very limited basis after 5pm. As a result when calls for service came through dispatch at night or in the off season there was often no response for several hours if at all. During peak summer months even when USCG and law enforcement were on the water they were unable to provide trained rescuers in their response. Law Enforcement and USCG are trained as first responders not EMTs or Paramedics. As such a proposal was put forth to South Lake Tahoe City Council to provide funding for a Fire/Rescue Marine unit that would be available 24/7 year round. Several tragic events contributed to this where the Fire Department was on shore unable to reach victims involved in boating accidents and one plane crash. The need became very clear and City Council agreed to fund the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department Marine 17 in 1999. In December of 1999 we took delivery of a 21' Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RIB) powered by a Mercury Marine 115hp TRPA legal outboard.

Marine 17 was put in service in early 2000 after extensive training of fire department personnel. Since that time Marine 17 has responded to an average of 15 calls for service each summer. From boating accidents as far away as Emerald Bay and Cave Rock to evacuating the Tahoe Queen and the Dixie during emergency events Marine 17 has been requested for every major accident on the South end of Lake Tahoe for the last 15 years. We have also been instrumental at finding several victims on the lake bottom by being the only resource on the South Shore who routinely puts personnel in the water during search and rescue operations. Neither Law Enforcement nor USCG will put personnel in the water.



**Mission:** The Mission of South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Marine 17 is to provide Advance Life Support EMS trained Firefighter/Rescuers on the water for quick response to calls for service anywhere on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

**Needs:** In late summer 2015 Marine 17 suffered a catastrophic failure of the pontoon system. This boat was nearing the end of its service life and the costs to repair the pontoon system exceeded what was prudent for a boat of this age. The outboard was also slated for replacement this year. The total cost of replacing the outboard added to the cost of a new pontoon system exceeded the original cost of the boat. It was decided to take the boat out of service. The Fire Department had earlier identified the need for a new Marine 17 to have fire suppression abilities as well. Marine 17 had served its purpose; however, it was clear that it should be taken out of service. The current need is clear. South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue needs a replacement for Marine 17 to continue our mission of providing all risk EMS and Fire Suppression on the south shore. South Lake Tahoe has more miles of shoreline with an extremely high property valuation. The high number of commercial vessels operating in the South Shore including the Queen and the Dixie along with our history of response clearly demonstrates the need for a Fire/Rescue Boat.



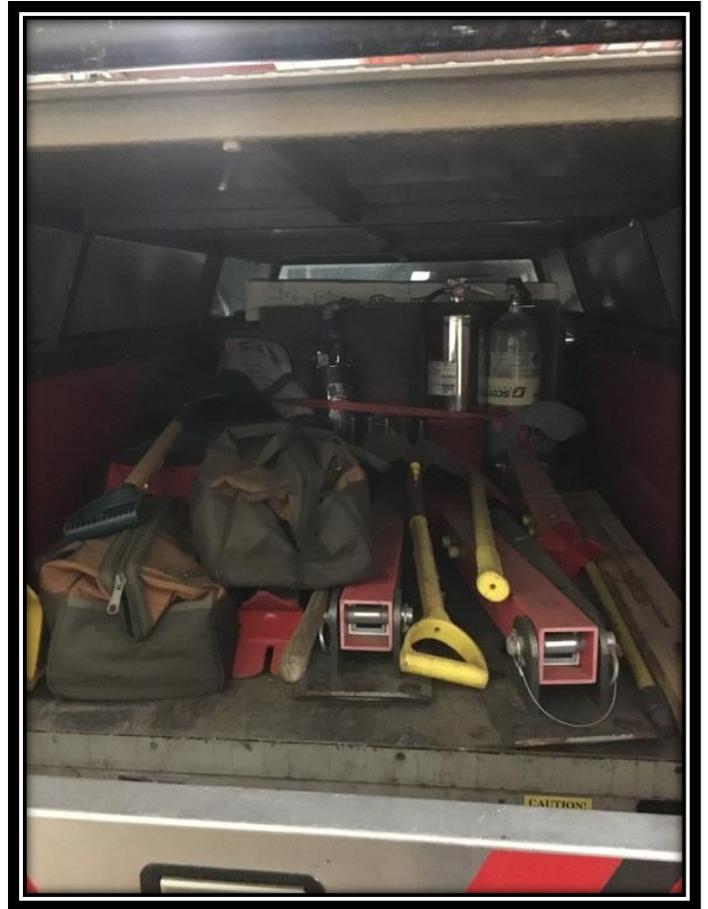
Tahoe Queen Rescue Incident

## By Fire Captain / Paramedic Tyler Jack – Extrication and Heavy Rescue

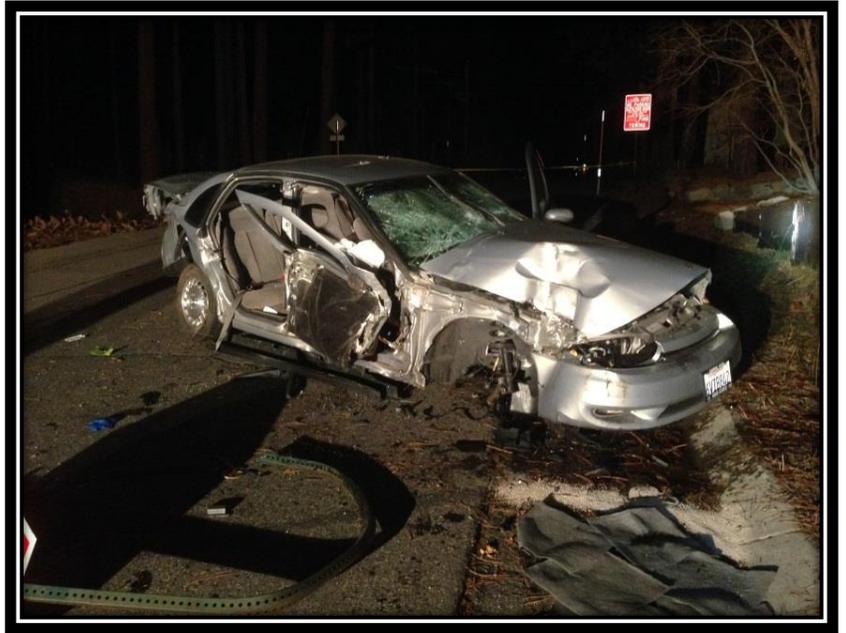
2015 provided many changes in the way of Heavy Rescue. Changes include apparatus placement, training & tool usage and future funding/ budget.

Apparatus- with Truck 2 being permanently housed at the airport, all rescue tools were moved to squad 2, located at station 2. Soon after, the squad was permanently moved to station 3 and is now designated as squad 3. Squad 3 is staffed with 1 Engineer and responds to all traffic collisions. In October, some equipment was either moved or removed from the squad in order to better fit department needs and current response policy. Rescue tools currently on the squad include the *Hurst eDraulic* cutter, spreader and ram tools, *Rescue 42* telescopic struts, *Paratech rescue* air bags and standard cribbing.

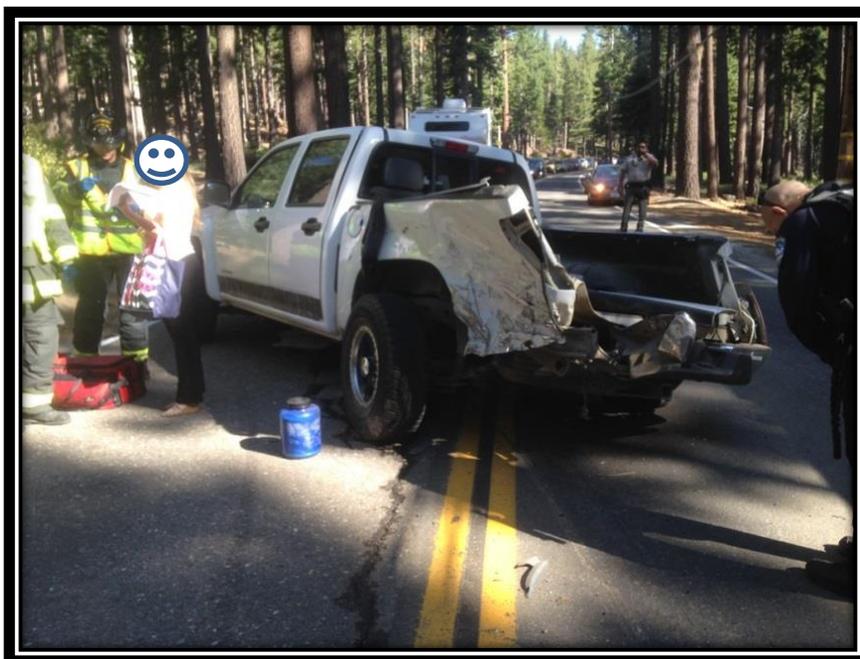
The placement of the rescue tools on the squad is not desirable and has proven to be hard on the tools due to weather. The tools being exposed to the elements from the rear open slide bed has resulted in rust and dirt build up on the tools. The Edraulics were recently moved to an inside compartment to avoid any further damage.



Training- A new performance standard is currently being developed to fit our new 3 person engine companies. This performance standard will cover specific duties in terms of working off a 3 person paramedic engine as well as a coordinated effort with the squad. Unfortunately this past year was not easy to get vehicles to train on at a company level. Multiple trainings were conducted however for various crews as well as the final probationary step testing we did in the spring. We are confident that this upcoming year will provide for more training opportunities with more vehicles to cut and stabilize.



Currently we are in the process of providing a detailed report that outlines the frequency in which we respond to traffic collisions and more specifically, how often those require the use of extrication. This report will cover a seven year timeline.





Traffic collision extrication and clean up



By Firefighter / Paramedic Mike Taormina

and Firefighter / Paramedic Dustin Winter

### Wildland Operations



This year the Wildland Staff assignment was taken over by two Firefighter/Paramedics who have a combined 10 years of wildland firefighting experience. Two new portable Honda pumps were put into service replacing the department's old and cumbersome pumps. These pumps are vital to supplying water for fighting wildland fires in remote areas where an engine cannot go. In March a Wildland Urban Interface Conference was attended in Reno, Nevada. At this conference Chiefs and representatives from fire agencies from all over the world attended and shared information about how their agencies can better protect a wildland urban interface community, such as the one we live in. Great information was shared on how to combat wildland fires and protect and save structures in these complex incidents.

May was wildfire awareness month where fire department around the basin educated residents about how to live in a fire adapted community and also the steps to take to prepare for wildfires. In June a wildland safety expo was held at TJ Maxx to spread awareness about the dangers of wildland fire and also to educate the public how to be better prepared. Due to the high potential of a wildland event in our community an extensive amount of pre-planning and training took place. A link was created on the city website to give other fire agencies that may be providing mutual aid crucial information about our city. In this link are contact numbers for the other lake tahoe basin fire agencies, an evacuation map of the tahoe keys, the lake tahoe tahoe community protection plan, as well as local radio frequencies to enable different agencies a common way to communicate.



Honda Portable Pump

## Emergency Medical Services Branch– Part of the Operations Division

Emergency medical services division instituted a variety of programs resulting in cost savings to the City, improved efficiency for paramedics, and better service to the community. Captain/Paramedic Marty Creel provides oversight to the program and utilizes Engineer/Paramedic Kim George, Engineer/Paramedic Doug Bailey, and Firefighter/Paramedic Sophie Tetlow for a variety of tasks.

The EMS division is involved in local, state and national organizations relating to EMS. Council members Wendy David and Tom Davis served as representatives to the Cal Tahoe JPA, attending countless meetings on our behalf and working aggressively to gain funding so that the City and LVFPD no longer continue to subsidize the delivery of paramedic ambulance service in County Service Area 3.

**South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue is proud to announce the addition of 12 new Emergency Medical Services professionals to our organization. They will be with us for at least 4 months during our ambulance transition. 6 of our new employees are California licensed Paramedics and 6 are California licensed EMT's. The EMT's will be driving the ambulances and performing emergency treatment and transportation of patients who need it. The Paramedics ride in the ambulances and provide primary treatment of patients, including paramedicine and critical care treatment. These 12 temporary employees have been fully trained to respond to any and all Emergency Medical Services requests and respond with our Fire Engines to collaboratively provide the highest possible level of care to our community and visitors. We are honored to have them working with us.**



### EMT's

### Paramedics

Marty Rider

Chris Heng

Corey Vermillion

Chris Whitsitt

James Berthinier

Courtney Fields

Jeffrey Dube

Dusty Gooch

Jonathan Coats

Patrick Oppido

Justin McIntyre

(new hire TBD)

**By Fire Captain / Paramedic Marty Creel – EMS Officer**

**Overview of previous year:**

We are still working on acquiring new EKG monitors for the ambulances; the RFP is with the JPA.

The City approved an AED program for the public within the City. This program resulted in 13 AEDs placed throughout City offices, the Senior Center, and on police patrol cars.

JPA policies and procedures were completed and agreed upon.

We should be receiving some crisis intervention training from EDSO soon.

We have transitioned back to paper PCR's as required by El Dorado County.

Participation in County MAC and Nor Cal Chiefs EMS section meetings.

We have implemented the single role Paramedic and EMT system, as of December the ambulances are staffed with 12 newly hired temporary City employees.



**Annual Goals and Objectives**

Administratively manage the 12 temporary employees and the ambulance system

Assist with determining plan for ambulance service after March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Identify needs as a non-transporting agency and adjust operations accordingly

Obtain new cardiac monitors for first out engines

We will be hosting a Cal Chiefs Northern California EMS section meeting here in Tahoe on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Create non-JPA EMS budget for training, supplies and equipment

We will continue providing ambulance services within CSA3 while maintaining our high standards of patient care within County policies and procedures



**By Fire Engineer / Paramedic Kim George – ALS Systems**

2015 was a great year for SLTFR Emergency Medical Services. We conducted a variety of trainings including drowning training in the water on a beach, firefighter down training to practice gear removal from an injured FF out of a structure fire, in depth cardiac 12 lead trainings among other topics. Our rich EMS training program has offered SLTFR a generous amount of continuing education hours and quality EMS education at ALS and BLS levels. It was a great year!

Because of the recent staffing transition, there was an added learning opportunity for all with training the 12 new hires on the quality EMS standards of SLTFR. We have been training consistently and extensively to allow the new hires every opportunity to succeed as new EMTs and Paramedics.



Drowning Training



CPR Training



## By Firefighter / Paramedic Sophie Tetlow – EMS Logistics

This year was full of exceptional change within the fire department. EMS supplies were the main focus of attention in the beginning of the year which included outfitting the old turnout locker into a full EMS room. With the help of Fire Engineer / Paramedic Brenen Davis, we were able to carpet, heat, paint, and put shelving into the room. This provided a better area for restock and also allowed for more consistent ordering methods. Since the transition out of the ambulance business, we have made another change to our EMS supply location. Although station 2 presented some unique storage challenges, we have managed to accommodate all the EMS supplies in one central location which should aid our newer team members in resupply and notification for needed items.



The delivery of EMS requires both significant capital expenditures as well as numerous disposable goods. We are constantly evaluating medical equipment to ensure that the SLTFR medical system delivers a very high level of service to our community.

We have transitioned into replacing old items on our engines and also researching new equipment that we have not carried before. We have had meetings with some of our suppliers at their warehouse locations to physically see products to improve our delivery system.

Overall this has been a hugely transitional year in EMS and we have been assisting Engineer George and Captain Creel with any issue or tasks they need assistance with.



New EMS storage area



## Training and Education

Shift Commander Karl Koeppen serves as the City's training officer. His primary function is to schedule fire suppression and EMS training for all personnel. The City leases a portable training classroom on Lyons Avenue. This arrangement has helped focus the City's training program.

### **By Shift Commander Karl Koeppen – Training Officer**

This past year was busy training. The department logged over 17,000 hours of combined training. The training division put together a 2 week Engineers' Academy which included outside instructors that taught truck operations and drivers training. Some of the hands-on training included pool qualifications, rescue boat training, annual wildland refresher and vent, enter, search training provided by an outside instructor. The department hosted S330AR strike team leader class with four SLTFR personnel attending and a class total of 23. The past couple months have been focusing on training personnel in three person engine company evolutions which we have transitioned to on December 14<sup>th</sup>.



Vent, Enter and Search Training



Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Wildman serves as the New Hire Advocate. This role serves as an advocate for all newly hired personnel ensures that they are treated fairly and are successful in their probationary period. SLTFR did not hire any new Firefighter/Paramedics in the year 2015 as part of the staffing reduction plan.



**By Fire Captain Jon Anderson – Wildland Preparedness / Hazardous Materials**

In order to improve wildland/interface response from local and mutual aid resources, a structure triage process was conducted within City limits. All structures were evaluated for their wildfire defensibility and structure triage GIS maps were created. Along with the structure triage map binders, a QR code (for official use only) was created that included several other pertinent wildland response information (radio frequencies, public evacuation routes, agency phone numbers) including the maps. During a wildfire incident, The QR code would be provided to local fire departments along with incoming mutual aid agencies. Prior structure triage will allow the responding fire agencies to be more time efficient in regards to structure defense and hopefully reduce casualties and property damage.



All firefighters were re-certified to a First Responder Operational level in 2015. Each member has received 8 hours of training to respond effectively to Haz-Mat incidents within the City.

Some other items that were worked on in the wildland staff assignment were

- Red flag notifications (flag & type 3 banner) (1<sup>st</sup> in the basin to place red flags on station flagpoles)
- Recreational fire pit permitting
- Personnel wildland RT-130 recertification training (40 hrs per employee).
- Assisted with wildfire expo QR code public education brochure

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**  
**FIRE**

**South Lake Tahoe Fire Department  
Community Emergency Preparedness**

To ensure the safety of residents and visitors of South Lake Tahoe neighborhoods, the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department wants to remind the community to be aware of Community Emergency Preparedness.

The following documents are conveniently located on the South Lake Tahoe Fire Departments webpage.

Scan the QR code below for immediate access to these documents.

**How to scan QR Codes with an iPhone**

- Go to the iTunes store and download a QR Code Reader app

**How to scan QR Codes with an Android Smartphone**

- Go to the Google Play store and download a QR Code Reader app
- Launch the app
- Open the app, point the camera at the code and you're done! By using the phone's camera, Barcode Scanner will quickly scan and recognize the information of barcode.

Scan the QR Code to access the Community Emergency Preparedness documents

**Community Emergency Preparedness  
Important Numbers**

American Red Cross (South Lake Tahoe)	(916)933-7070
Barton Memorial Hospital	(530)541-3420
California Dept. of Insurance	(800)927-HELP
California Highway Patrol	(530)577-1001
City of South Lake Tahoe Main Number	(530)542-6000
City of South Lake Tahoe Snow Removal	(530)542-6030
Douglas County Sherriff's Department	(775)782-9900
El Dorado County Animal Control	(530)577-1766
El Dorado County Health Department	(530)573-3155
El Dorado County Jail	(530)573-3031
El Dorado County Sherriff's Department	(530)573-3000
El Dorado County Snow Removal	(530)573-3180
Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care	(530)577-2273
Lake Valley Fire Department	(530)577-3737
Road Conditions California	(800)427-ROAD
Road Conditions Nevada	(877)687-6237
Social Security Office (Placerville)	(530)626-8421
South Lake Tahoe Fire Department	(530)542-6160
South Lake Tahoe Police Department	(530)542-6100

**How to Sign up for Reverse 911**

To register to receive "Reverse 911" calls to either or both your home landline and your mobile phone line, go to <http://ready.edso.org/>.

When registering, sign up two different phone numbers and two different email addresses along with your physical address.

**How to Sign up for Notifications from the City of South Lake Tahoe**

Receive Newsflashes from the City aby signing up at [www.cityofslt.us/signup](http://www.cityofslt.us/signup)  
Allows users to sign up for:

City Council Agendas	Recreation Activities
City News	Road Closures
Community News	Utility Outages
Emergency Alerts	Severe Weather Warnings
Job Postings	Special Events

## By Firefighter / Paramedic Paul Bias – Hostile MCI

The primary purpose of this administrative assignment is to prepare SLTFR to operate safely, efficiently, and effectively in any Hostile Event or MCI scenario.

During 2015 several goals were accomplished, as well as ongoing contribution to several MCI related processes. The Hostile MCI Event Policy (joint with SLTPD) was entered into the Policy Manual after being reviewed in late 2014. The El Dorado County EMS Draft MCI/Multi Patient Field policy was adopted by the County, and utilized the SLTFR MCI field kits (manufactured DMS Inc.) as the primary example for field operations.

SLTFR trainings have continued at the company level and recently, in December 2015, were accomplished at the shift level. The main contributory focus of 2015 was continuing to participate with the REACT group and build a solid foundation for interagency cooperation. Participation included attending bi-weekly REACT meetings at LTCC, providing input to LTCC's Emergency Action Plan (EAP), attending LTCC evacuation drills, and working with representatives of LTUSD to create an EAP for all of their schools.

Also during 2015, plans were established with the REACT group to create a more streamlined approach for Hostile Event drills at LTCC and LTUSD campuses. All of the accomplishments and participation this year has furthered the goals and objectives of this staff assignment, and has continued to prepare SLTFR for Hostile Events and MCIs.



Active Shooter Drill





Airport Multi Casualty Incident Drill



## By Fire Engineer / Paramedic Doug Bailey - CQI

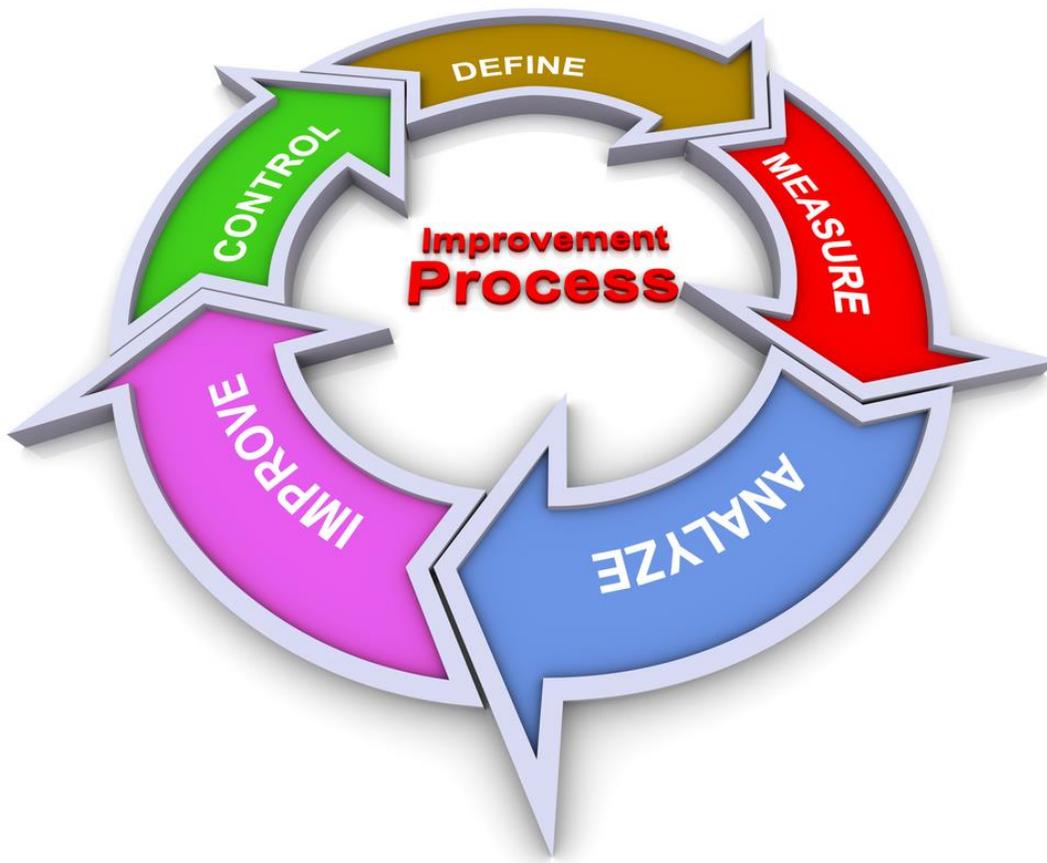
Continuous Quality Improvement is a critical role within the EMS system. Our goal is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our paramedics within the system.

We review all code 3 / critical calls. To determine how we can improve individual skills, company operations and how we can improve our pre-hospital care.

Barton Hospital ER Dr. McCloud and SLTFR work well together to solve problems as they occur and solve them in an efficient manner.

We also conduct informal meetings with our medics about any concerning calls but with the professionalism our medics show this is a rare event.

We began doing Paramedic Accreditation Training and Skills at the end of Dept. CQI meetings so medics and EMT's are able to have training opportunities and complete the necessary skill sheets for County reaccreditation.



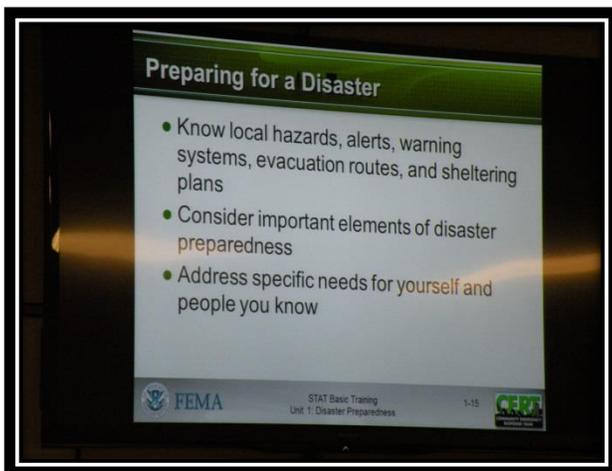
## Special Operations

Special operation programs are part of the departments all risk response capabilities. We have six major categories that fall under special operations. They include: STAT, hazardous material operations, arson investigation, public education, tactical emergency medical services, and SWAT Medic Team.



Our **rescue program** includes rescue from water, ice and rope rescue as well as heavy and technical rescue which include extrication from vehicles, entrapment, and structural collapse.

**STAT (South Tahoe Action Team)** is our version of the citizens emergency response team, currently in development. In this step program, we utilize private citizens and non-safety functions in the event of a major disaster. Our program is customized to our community thus the name change. The program was funded by a grant obtained by Captain/Paramedic Leslie Asbury through the El Dorado County Disaster Council and is managed by Captain Jim Drennan.



## By Fire Captain Jim Drennan - STAT

The South Tahoe Action Team is a program designed to incorporate trained citizens in the field with South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue. In the event of a major event in the basin, STAT members would be called upon to assist their neighbors and work autonomously or alongside SLTFR resources. Examples would include another Angora Fire, large scale flooding, avalanche, earthquake or similar events where police and fire resources are all committed.

2015 was the first full year of training. During the year we graduated four classes or nearly 75 people within the community. Training consisted of classroom instruction on natural and man-made disasters, emergency medical training, incident command structure, lifting and moving debris, flood safety and building collapse. Each class was ended with a practical exam with multiple patients in a simulated building collapse where the class would have to incorporate all of their training to assess the scene for safety and then mitigate the event safely and efficiently.

Funding for the STAT program initially came from an El Dorado County grant which provided for materials, tools, and equipment. The grant also funded construction of the collapse prop. The program is now a budgeted item.



1<sup>st</sup> STAT Class Graduates





STAT Volunteer Evacuation Drill

Extinguisher Training



## By Firefighter / Paramedic Al Martinez – Arson Investigation

This Multi-Agency Task Force consisted of four people from South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue in 2015. The team worked together with members of South Lake Tahoe Police Department to determine origin and cause of all fires within the city. The assignment was initially assigned to Engineer Jack “CJ” Stinson. He was instrumental in helping get this program started setting high standards for team members and helping to get much needed training, education to further the capabilities of the team. Team members were requested by Incident Commanders to fires for investigation purposes via dispatch when not on duty.

Team members were proactive in obtaining instruction via on-line courses, attending the National Fire Academy, and maintaining memberships in the International Association of Arson Investigators, California Conference of Arson Investigators and many publications which all offer training and education. There were approximately 75 fires that South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue responded to, and approximately \$650,000 in property loss. The team is now headed by Firefighter / Paramedic Al Martinez and new team members have been added. With new members, priority of gaining much needed training, and education will be one of the main goals in 2016. Acquisition of a basic investigation tool kit will be purchased. South Lake Tahoe Police Department has offered assistance with purchasing of a hydrocarbon detector as well.

The arson team will continue to work towards becoming better equipped and trained in 2016 and continue working with SLTPD in determining origin and cause.



## By Firefighter / Paramedic Al Martinez – Public Education

### EDUCATION, INSTRUCTION, OUTREACH

The Public Education program is dedicated to delivering valuable information to community members and visitors alike. This is achieved through participating in community events as well as hosting two key events during the year. In 2016, our third annual Wildfire Safety Expo will again focus on living within the urban interface. Also in 2016, the third annual Open House will again coincide with National Fire Prevention Week. Our Fire Department will continue to participate in events such as the Annual Business Expo, Day of the Young Child, and other community events throughout the year.

#### **Education**

Throughout the year the Public Education programs main focus has always been education. The program participated in many public and in house events and activities that helped the community learn about some of the various ways that they can be proactive about their families' wellbeing and home safety. Through events that the program participated in like the Business Expo, Wildfire Safety Expo, Open House, Day of the Young Child, school visits, and also for those who just stop by one of our stations. The program focused on educating about home safety, home evacuation planning, and Reverse 911 sign-ups. Assisted in recruitment for the South Tahoe Action Team. This team of community members learn the basic skills necessary to help themselves and neighbors in times of an emergency or disaster when local resources would become overwhelmed.



Stop Drop and Roll Training at Tahoe Valley Elementary School

#### **Instruction**

Instructing the community on how to properly use a fire extinguisher, replacing batteries in their smoke detectors, creating emergency preparedness kits, establishing a meeting place outside the home, receiving emergency notifications through reverse 911. These are just a few of the important things our Fire Department continues to focus on for our community and visitors to South Lake Tahoe. The program also instructs our youth on learning when to call 911 in an emergency, learning their address and street name, eliminating some fears of children by watching fire department personnel dress into structure gear to see and feel them wearing the mask.

## Outreach

Throughout 2016, the Public Education program will continue with focusing on community outreach. Participating in both City and community events we will be able to continue to educate and instruct community members and visitors on ways to prepare themselves, keeping their families and homes safe. With additional monies granted to the Public Education budget our current programs can continue and new outreach programs can be pursued. Our attendance by community members and agencies both increased at our two key events. The second annual Wildfire Safety Expo saw increases in community member attendance as well as an increase in agency participation. Our second annual Open House also saw increases in agency participation and community member attendance. Being able to have handouts, giveaways, prizes, and new information we will continue to grow the program and our department will continue to gain positive feedback from our customers, the public.



Open House – Station 1



Fire Extinguisher Training



Chief Meston cooking at Open House



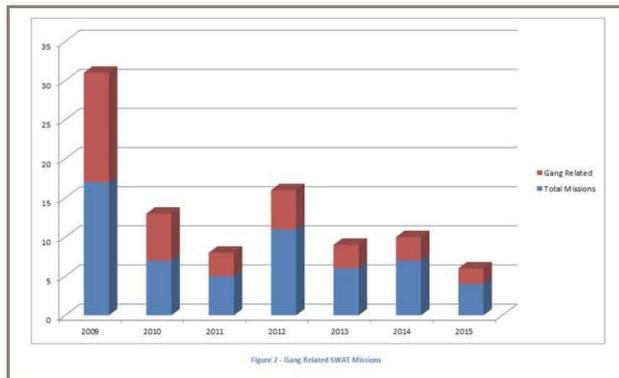
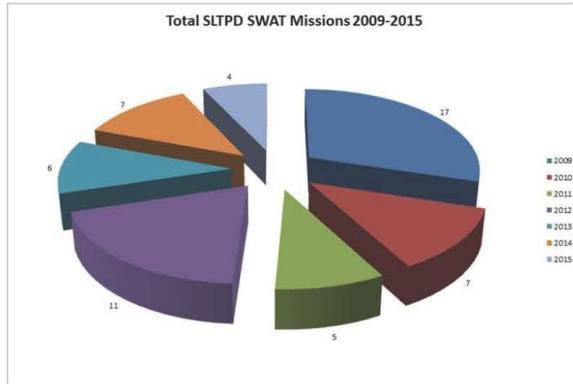
Wildfire Safety Expo



## TEMS End of Year Report 2015

The Tactical EMS team (TEMS) was founded in 2010 through a partnership of the SLTPD and SLTFR.

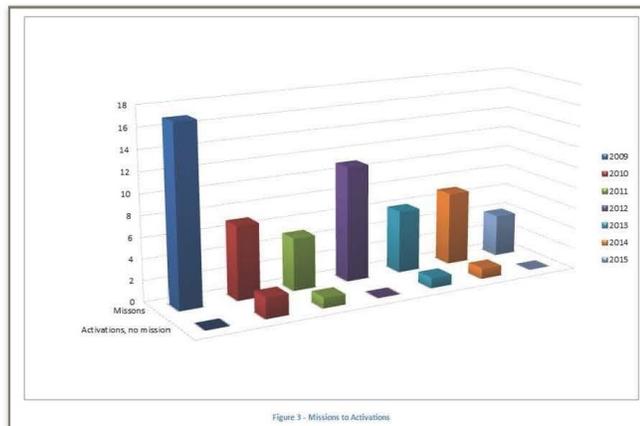
Dangerous conditions and unconventional hazards are the ordinary work environment for tactical law enforcement (SWAT) teams. Most SWAT teams are equipped and trained to handle high risk events such as hostage situations, barricades, high risk warrant service and dignitary protection.



Due to the nature of the missions, SWAT teams require special training beyond conventional law enforcement. Often appropriate medical support is essential to mission accomplishment. Tactical EMS requires the medic to be trained and equipped with the special skills necessary to support these law

enforcement teams. Tactical EMS is not routine EMS.

Since 2010, Paramedics Mills, Mileski and Blasser have trained with SLTPD SWAT as TEMS operators. In that time the team has carried out 40 missions. Through this program both SWAT operators as well as the public have been protected by a level of ALS medical care otherwise unobtainable in hostile/unsafe environments.



October Uniforms in Support of Breast Cancer Awareness



Special Acknowledgements

Firefighter / Paramedic Al Martinez was named the 2014 Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter / Paramedic Paul Bias was named the 2014 Paramedic of the Year

Shift Commander Karl Koeppen earned his Chief Officer Certification

Fire Captain / Paramedic Leslie Asbury earned her Chief Officer Certification

Engineer / Paramedic Holt Cawelti earned his Fire Officer Certification

Engineer Justin Keys earned his Fire Officer Certification

Shift Commander Kenin Fairley earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration



Brenen Davis was promoted to Fire Engineer / Paramedic

Engineer / Paramedic Brenen Davis earned his Fire Officer Certification

Shift Commander Karl Koeppen received the City's "Exemplary Leadership" award in 2015

Fire Chief Jeff Meston received the City's "Leadership and Inspiration" Award in 2015



Jody Benavidez was promoted to Fire Engineer

Firefighter / Paramedic Al Martinez attended the National Fire Academy

Fire Engineer / Paramedic Kim George attended the National Fire Academy

Partnership Development and Fire Service Leadership



Fire Captain / Paramedic Marty Creel joined the California Fire Chief's Association – EMS Section

Administrative Assistant Sallie Ross-Filgo was honored as a 10 year member of the California Fire Chief's Association - AFSS (Administrative Fire Services Section) and works on the organization's quarterly Newsletter and Sunshine Committee

Fire Chief Jeff Meston sits on the Board of Directors for FIRESCOPE, is a State Fire Training Curriculum Cadre Development member for Labor / Management relations, and is an instructor for Cal Chief's Chief Officer Leadership Symposium

Fire Engineer / Paramedic CJ Stinson left the organization to join the California State / Cal Fire Marshal's Office

Firefighter / Paramedic Tom Cunningham left the organization to go into business for himself

Firefighter / Paramedic Dylan Fuchs left the organization to join the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Firefighter / Paramedic Garrett Knapp left the organization to join the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

The Following Firefighter/Paramedics completed their probation:

Danny Vallejo

Dustin Winter



## Incident Type Response Summary by Station

Date Range: From 1/1/2015 To 12/31/2015

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Incident Count</u>
<b><u>Station: 1</u></b>	
Fire	26
Rupture/Explosion	2
EMS/Rescue	1,169
Hazardous Condition	29
Service Call	110
Good Intent	210
False Call	110
Other	13
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,669</b>
<b><u>Station: 2</u></b>	
Fire	7
EMS/Rescue	147
Hazardous Condition	5
Service Call	17
Good Intent	25
False Call	19
Other	3
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>223</b>
<b><u>Station: 3</u></b>	
Fire	43
EMS/Rescue	959
Hazardous Condition	47
Service Call	110
Good Intent	296
False Call	80
Other	15
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,550</b>
<b><u>Station: 4</u></b>	
EMS/Rescue	1
Good Intent	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>
Blank or invalid	3
<b>Total Incident Count</b>	<b>3,452</b>

**THIS DOCUMENT WAS PROUDLY PRODUCED BY  
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE RESCUE**

**2015**



**Photos provided by the employees of South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue**