

**City of Porterville
Fire Department**



2017 Annual Report

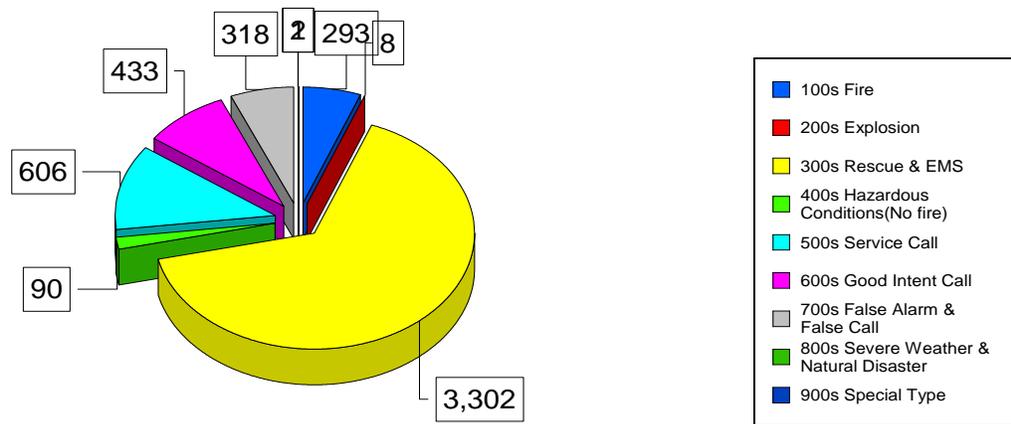
Introduction

The year 2017 was an exciting one, full of change in the Porterville Fire Department. Seven personnel pursued the next steps in their careers through promotion, which is a testament to their commitment to the craft of firefighting. Upon the retirement of Chief Swartzlander, the City Manager selected me as the new Chief, and I am proud to return to Porterville to serve this community in this capacity. The City Council approved a transition in color of fire apparatus from yellow to red; for the first time since 1969 this Department purchased a new red fire engine. The Code Enforcement Division was re-organized and increased in size in order to be more proactive in maintaining a clean and well-cared for community. The community can expect even more change in 2018, as many efforts are underway to enhance the efficiency and strength of your Porterville Fire Department.

Chief David LaPere

Emergency Response Statistics

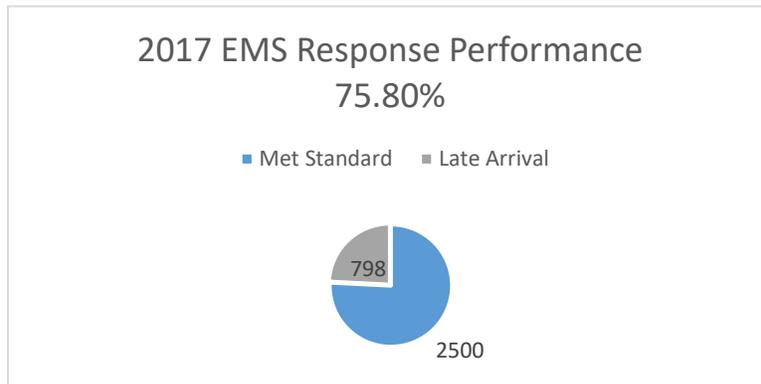
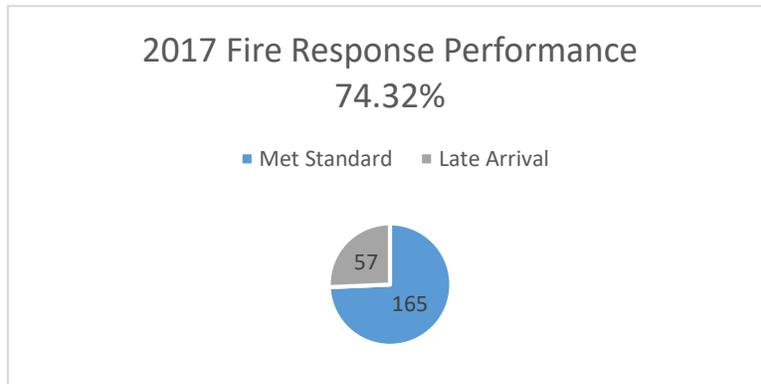
The Operations Division responded to 5,053 emergency incidents during 2017. The following graph summarizes the incidents by type and shows the percentage totals.



Type Of Incident:	Total Of Incidents:	Percentage Value:
100 Series-Fire	293	5.80%
200 Series-Explosion	8	0.16%
300 Series-Rescue & EMS	3302	65.35%
400 Series-Hazardous Conditions(No fire)	90	1.78%
500 Series-Service Call	606	11.99%
600 Series-Good Intent Call	433	8.57%
700 Series-False Alarm & False Call	318	6.29%
800 Series-Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.02%
900 Series-Special Type	2	0.04%
Grand Total:	5053	

Response Performance

Response time starts with receipt of dispatch at the fire station, and ends with arrival of the first engine at the scene. The response standard for the first arriving engine to a fire is five (5) minutes and thirty (30) seconds, 90% of the time. The chart below shows that the 2017 response time performance to fires was 74.32%. The response time standard for the arrival of the first emergency medical unit with two medical technicians is five (5) minutes, 90% of the time. The chart below shows EMS response performance for 2017 was 75.80%.



Statewide Strike Team

During 2017 members of the Porterville Fire Department responded to 13 statewide mutual aid fire incidents. Below is a list of the incident names, the communities affected, dates we were assigned, which unit responded and the number of personnel per incident, in order of date dispatched.

Highway Fire	Lake Isabela	June 19-22	Patrol 72	3 personnel
Manzanita Fire	Banning	June 27-28	Patrol 72	3 personnel
Garza Fire	Avenal	July 2-16	Patrol 72	3 personnel
Alamo Fire	Santa Maria	July 18-30	OES 298	4 personnel
Detwiler Fire	Mariposa	July 18-30	Patrol 71	3 personnel
Detwiler Fire	Mariposa	July 21-24	OES 298	3 personnel
Pier Fire	Springville	August 28-30	Engine 71	3 personnel
Pier Fire	Springville	Aug. 29/Sept. 13	OES 298	4 personnel
Railroad Fire	Sugar Pine	Aug. 31/Sept. 1	Patrol 72	3 personnel
Pier Fire	Springville	Sept. 15-17	Patrol 71	3 personnel
Canyon Fire	Corona	Sept. 26-28	OES 298	4 personnel
Thomas Fire	Ventura	Dec. 5-20	OES 298	4 personnel
Thomas Fire	Ventura	Dec. 4-20	Patrol 71	3 personnel

Fire Prevention

While response for emergency situations within the community rests with the Department's Operations division, the Fire Prevention division has the responsibility to reduce risk and hazards within the community before they occur. Fire Prevention division staff includes the Fire Marshal, Fire Investigations Unit, and Code Enforcement. The Fire Marshal conducts or oversees all life safety inspections, reviews new projects for compliance with Fire Code, and checks building permit plans. The Fire Investigations Unit reviews suspicious and intentional fires, as well as pursuing arson investigations.

During the course of the 2017 year a total of 799 business inspections were completed by shift personnel; 88 commercial inspections were completed by the fire marshal.

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) works diligently investigating all types of fires throughout the City of Porterville. During the 2017 calendar year the FIU was comprised of one full-time Fire Captain, funded through Measure H, six Shift Investigators with five being trainee positions. The unit's primary objectives are to determine origin and cause and to investigate all fires with a focus on successful prosecution of criminal cases through the courts.

Over the Fourth of July holiday, 14 administrative citations were issued for the possession and discharge of illegal fireworks. During 2017, the unit investigated, issued citations, and counseled individuals on 215 incidents. Out of those, 45 were arson, categorized as follows:



In 2017, the Fire Investigation Unit made two arrests of juveniles, for fire related offences. The FIU, in conjunction with the Porterville Police Department utilized the Juvenile Fire-Setter program four times during the year, incorporating educational videos and counseling to mitigate future fire setting problems. This program has proven to be successful for many years utilizing members of our Department the Juvenile Diversion program and the Porterville Schools' gang liaison officer.

Code Enforcement Statistics

In the City of Porterville, The Code Enforcement Unit coordinates with each department, the citizens, property owners and business owners within our community to achieve compliance with a variety of Federal, State, and local municipal codes. Cooperative participation from our community members helps us achieve a high level of voluntary compliance. With continued support, the Code Enforcement Unit can assist the citizens of Porterville to have a better understanding of the Porterville City Code, the role of Code Enforcement within our community and the benefits and services it provides. The Code Enforcement Unit continues to develop procedures to better serve our community.

We are thankful for the wonderful support everyone has given us throughout the year and we look forward to your continued cooperation as we all strive to keep Porterville a beautiful "All-American City." 2017 was a busy year for the Code Enforcement Officer, below you will find some of this year's highlights.

GENERAL NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

The Code Enforcement Unit received approximately 417 general nuisance complaints during 2016. Of these general complaints, 395 were corrected as of the creation of this report, with a large majority completed through voluntary compliance.

WATER WASTE TASK FORCE

Starting in 2015 the creation of the water waste task force was a new endeavor for the Code Enforcement Unit. Water conservation and awareness have become a concern for the City of Porterville as we continued through a multi-year drought. Less than normal rainfall and runoff has become the norm. In an effort to promote water conservation the City Council adopted a multi-phase water conservation plan. As the year progressed the council voted to take us from a voluntary level of conservation to mandatory restrictions which created a need for an increase in patrol and enforcement efforts.

The Code Enforcement Unit has been utilized mainly as a liaison to coordinate with the multiple city departments and to issue Administrative Citations in accordance with the Porterville City Code to utility account holders who are found to be in violation. In 2017, 582 warnings were issued resulting in 51 Administrative Citations with fines ranging from \$100.00 for the first, \$200.00 for the second and \$500.00 for the third and each additional citation. It is vitally important that the Water Conservation Plan be a joint partnership between the City and the General Public in order to achieve optimal effect.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The City has a nuisance weed abatement ordinance that allows for the noticing of property owners declaring properties that are not abated a nuisance. This program is necessary to provide fire control points and to create or maintain a defensible space around buildings, property lines, waterways and hillsides. By proactively requiring the clearing of weeds and

debris, we effectively work to help minimize the intensity of fires and reduce any fire damage that may result. When fires do occur we want to create space and lower fuel loads to allow firefighters to effectively defend against fire. This is all done to protect life and property against the devastation caused by fire. The program has two parts.

The first part is for identified properties that due to their size, geographic location, or special features (such as a waterway running through, steep hillsides, abandonment, or proximity to other hazards) are cataloged on a list which is updated yearly with new owner information and new additions or subtractions. The property owners on this list are mailed a notice in the first week of March that provides the required notice, a copy of the ordinance, a tractor operator list of approved contractors licensed to work in the City of Porterville that specialize in this type of work and a copy of the abatement standards set by the Chief of the Fire Department. The city has historically chosen April 30th of every year as the deadline to remove all weeds, rubbish and waste tires from all properties within the city limits.

The second part runs year round and is for properties that are turned in via the complaint process from citizens or are found to be out of compliance and not a part of the annual list. These property owners are provided with a 15 day notice to correct any violations. This notice includes the same information as the annual notice. These properties are evaluated based on the physical conditions and may be placed on the annual list.

All properties are physically reviewed upon the expiration of the time set forth in either notice. If a property owner complies voluntarily then there is no further action taken. If a property owner appears to have made a reasonable attempt to correct the violation an additional notice may be sent or personal contact made to outline remaining corrections and establish a timeline for completion. It is the owner's responsibility to contact the Fire Department with any requests for extension or permission for a deviation from established requirements for abatement.

Should an owner fail, or refuse to comply, the Code Enforcement Unit may issue Administrative fines starting at \$100.00 for the first citation, \$500.00 for the second and \$1,000.00 for the third and subsequent citations. These fines may be assessed daily. The Code Enforcement Unit is further authorized by ordinance to issue a work order to the City's Weed Abatement contractor for completion, after which all charges, including a 50% administrative charge, are assessed against the property taxes.

The Code Enforcement Unit coordinates the annual weed abatement program with property owners as well as parcels owned by the City of Porterville. With 1,693 privately owned parcels on the 2017 annual list, it is impressive that only thirteen (13) privately owned properties were assigned in 2017 to the Weed Abatement contractor for failure to comply. In addition sixty-four (64) parcels owned by the City of Porterville were assigned to the Weed Abatement contractor for completion prior to the April 30th deadline

NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS

Throughout 2017, the Code Enforcement Unit issued 24 notices of violation and 218 Administrative Citations for various code violations.