

Modesto Fire Department

2017 Annual Report



Our Mission

Proudly serving, protecting and partnering with our community for a safer Modesto.

Our Vision

- A sustainable organization that provides the personnel, training, and equipment necessary to meet the needs of our community
- A customer service driven organization
- An organization that is committed to the professional development of its members
- A regional leader in innovation and training
- Able to provide resources which address the diverse needs of the community
- A team whose members are empowered and enthusiastic in their service
- Role models in our community and leaders in our profession



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

I am honored and humbled to serve as the Fire Chief of an amazing organization with such a rich history. On behalf of the men and women of the Modesto Fire Department, I am pleased to present our 2017 annual report. This report is a compilation of our successes, workload, sacrifices, and perseverance.

With the support of our Mayor, City Manager, Council, and Local 1289 we have taken very positive steps forward in rebuilding the Modesto Fire Department. Through strong relationships and collaboration with both public and private partners, our community benefits from various fire services such as fire suppression, advanced emergency medical response, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, fire prevention, and numerous community outreach programs.

Two critical steps in rebuilding the organization came to fruition in 2017 with the opening of Engine 11 and addressing our aging fleet with the purchase of 5 new engines and 2 ladder trucks. Strong support from our city leadership and Council were essential in these successful outcomes.

The community surrounding Station 11 and our system as a whole, now receive an enhanced emergency response with the addition of Engine 11.

The health and safety of our fire fighters is of the utmost importance and will always be my top priority. As we continue to move forward, other priorities include; improving services to our community, addressing our aging communication system, repairing our infrastructure, enhancing behavioral health, increasing cancer awareness and prevention for our members, and strengthening relationships with our neighboring fire agencies.

As Fire Chief, I couldn't be more proud of the unwavering work ethic and dedication of our members. Once again, we set a new department record for responses and workload that outpaced our staffing levels. Our firefighters continue to provide the best public safety service possible with great pride and satisfaction. They are truly our greatest asset and I thank them for all they do to serve our community.

Alan Ernst
Fire Chief



WHO WE ARE:

152 allocated positions

- Fire Chief
- 3 Division Chiefs
- 3 Battalion Chiefs
- 132 Suppression Personnel
- 7 Fire Prevention Personnel
- 6 Administrative Personnel

2017 Incident Totals

Fires: 1,880

EMS: 23,140

HazMat: 111

Other: 4,674

Total: 29,805



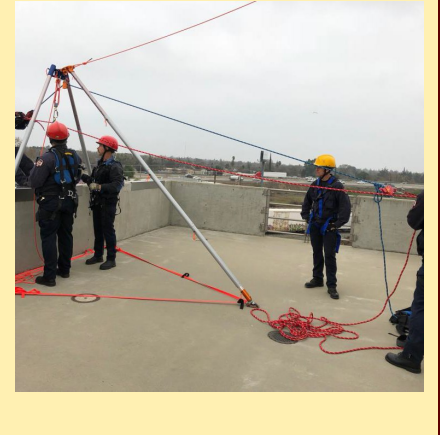
OPERATIONS/SUPPRESSION

The Operations Division is responsible for providing an all-risk emergency response to the citizens we serve. We respond to a wide variety of calls including; all types of fires, medical aids, vehicle accidents, technical rescues, hazardous material incidents, public assists and many other call types. Calls for service have seen a steady increase over the past few years and 2017 was no exception as MFD responded to over 29,000 calls, answering a citizen's call for service every 16 minutes.

The Training Division provides training for both firefighters in the academy as well as continuing education and training to all members of the department. We are very proud to welcome sixteen new

firefighters who successfully completed the fire academy. The department as a whole completed 38, 989 hours of training.

December ended the year as one of the worst months for fire loss in recent history. MFD resources responded to 207 fire events in the City, including 22 working structure fires. Fires at two business complexes and one school resulted in nearly \$2.5 million in damage. Rapid response times and quick actions by firefighters kept all three of these large fires to the buildings of origin, which in turn kept the fire



loss and damage from being much higher. Saving lives, property and limiting damage are the staples of our daily operations. We take pride in each and every call for help we respond to and are honored to serve our community.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Special Operations is one aspect of being an all-risk fire department. As part of a County wide hazardous materials response team Modesto Fire Department staffs on duty Hazardous Material Specialists daily. These personnel respond to hazardous material incidents in Modesto and when needed throughout Stanislaus County on Engine 4 or Haz-Mat 4 for larger scale incidents. The Technical Rescue Team is made up daily from the on duty personnel at Truck 1, Truck 5 and Squad 3. This team responds to rescue calls including high and low angle rescues, confined space rescues and any other rescue that may require their specialized equipment. All members of the special operations teams participate in additional monthly training exercises for their respective teams.

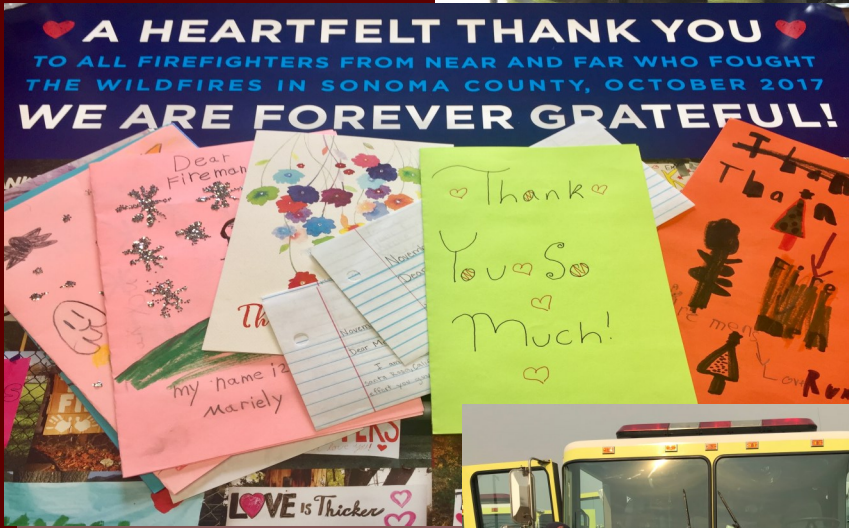
STRIKE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

State wide incidents responded to: 14

Personnel deployed: 93

Hours committed: 13,090

Modesto Fire Department remains committed to assisting other California communities in their time of need and participates in the State Wide Mutual Aid System. We are proud to offer our support during these trying times as California has seen some of its most destructive wildland fires in its history this past year. Throughout the summer and into December MFD personnel responded to assist at incidents throughout the state. Deployments included Strike Team and Task Force Leaders, Type I, III and VI Engines and OES Engine 321.





SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATION

2017 proved to be yet another active and successful year from an administrative standpoint. We welcomed the promotions of a new Fire Chief, Division Chief and Battalion Chief. With that brought several other promotions for our members to Engineer and Captain.

With the addition of 16 new firefighters in April we were able to place Engine 11 and Truck 5 back in service and increase our service levels throughout the City.

After several years of hard work and anticipation MFD couldn't have been more excited to receive delivery of five new engines and two tiller trucks. After fighting an uphill battle with an aging fleet we would like to thank the Modesto City Council for their support, the apparatus committee, tiller trainers and our fleet department for the many hours they have dedicated to the design, build out, training and time dedicated to put these engines and trucks into service.



Fire Investigations Unit

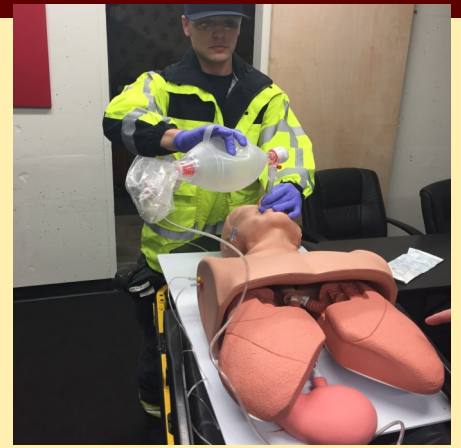
County wide calls: 676

Arson determined: 126

HEART PROGRAM

Modesto Fire and Police departments have partnered together this year to create the Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART) in an effort to take a proactive approach to engaging and providing assistance to the homeless community in Modesto.

The team was launched in July, pairing together one police officer and one firefighter paramedic. The team is seeing success in the homeless community accepting services offered; whether it be to fight an addiction, criminal history or just simply being down on their luck. In just three short months 924 people were contacted and of those, 865 accepted some type of service or information!



Emergency Medical Services

The Modesto Fire Department EMS Division is overseen by Division Chief Tim Tietjen and EMS Coordinator David Dalman under the direction of Fire Chief Alan Ernst.

The Modesto Fire Department is an all hazard emergency response organization staffed with ten engine companies and two truck companies. E-1, E-2 and E-9 makeup our paramedic program by providing Advanced Life Support (ALS).

The highest percentage of the calls we respond to are related to emergency medical services. This includes vehicle accidents with injuries, assault with deadly weapons, suicide attempts, vehicle vs. pedestrian, drownings, and your typical medical aid call involving cardiac issues, difficulty breathing, or seizures etc.

It is the mission of our EMS Division to ensure that quality emergency medical services are available to all our citizens in the City of Modesto, and that emergency medical care is provided in a coordinated, professional, and timely manner.

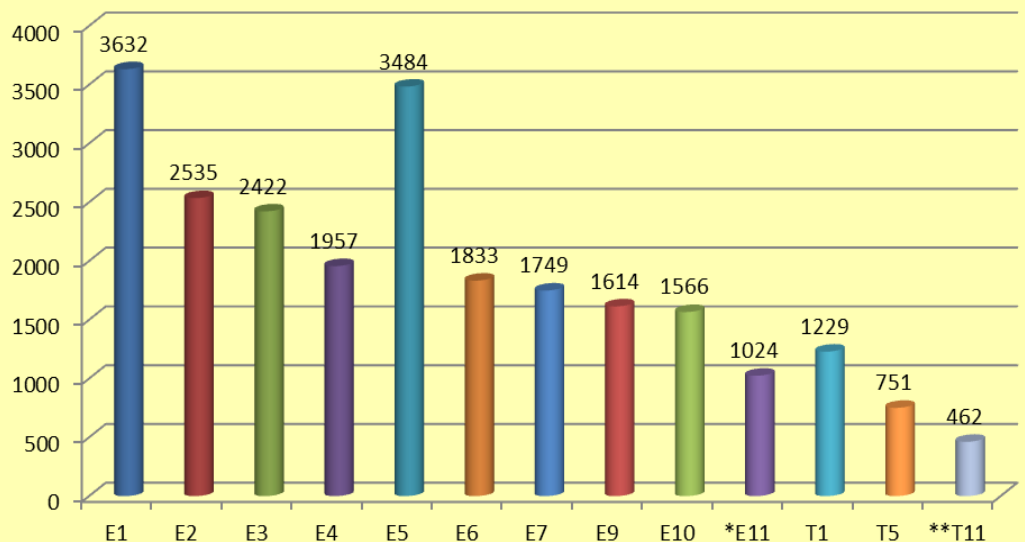
Population: 212,175

EMS responses: 23,140

Average EMS responses per day: 63

Average response time: 7 mins 18 secs

Total EMS Responses for All Units for 2017





FIRE PREVENTION

The Modesto Fire Prevention Division provides many services to the community to reduce the loss of life and protect our citizens from the threat of unwanted fires by providing the following:

- *Public fire safety education
- *Fire and life safety business inspections
- *Permit inspections
- *Fire hazard complaint inspections
- *New construction inspections
- *Plan review of construction documents
- *Special event planning and activities

In 2017 we experienced a sharp increase in new construction related activities. Several large projects were either built or are in the construction phase. Such as; El Rio Memory Care, Marriot Residence Inn, Valley Children's Medical Center and two large warehouses; Buzz Oates at 211,000 sq. ft. and G3 at 348,500 sq. ft. In addition, there were 135 new homes built within the city limits and over 200 planned for 2018.

Public Fire Safety Education continues to be the focus of the Fire Prevention Division by reaching out to the community through special events like; Stanislaus County Occupational Olympics, Earth Day in the Park and the Modesto Family Cycling Event. In 2017 we were awarded a grant from FM Global for \$3,800 to purchase a Sparky the Fire Dog costume. This costume will help us reach out to small children to start teaching them how to protect themselves from fire and the importance of fire safety.

Performance Measures

Goal: 100% of plan checks completed within 2 weeks of submittal

Performance: 100%

We attribute this success to our highly trained and experienced team



PRESERVING MFD HISTORY

2017 was a pivotal year in bringing back and appreciating the history of Modesto Fire. We now have two priceless pieces of equipment from our past running and available to the public for viewing.



In 1999, Bill Spidell and his wife Alma found and purchased the original 1919 Seagrave pumper that once served downtown Modesto from a private party in Northern California. The pumper was in poor condition and in need of repair. Mr. Spidell with the support of his wife spent the next decade working tirelessly and spending thousands of dollars restoring the pumper to its original splendor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Spidell recognize the historical relevance to the City and were gracious enough to donate the pumper to the Modesto Fire Department. Station 1 is now home to the pumper and a mini museum filled with other MFD historical items is in the works.

The 1928 Seagrave ladder/tiller truck was put into service August 1st, 1928 and was kept in use until the mid-1960's. During that time, it was the city's best piece of firefighting equipment, it now sits in much deserved retirement at Station 2 and still has the circular piece of canvas used to catch leaping evacuees. Its 75-foot long ladder was used to save more than 40 women and children stranded on the upper floor of the old Modesto Hotel when fire destroyed it

in 1944. At fifty-four feet long from bumper to rear, it's the type of truck that requires 2 drivers, one in the front and another riding atop the rear seat to steer the back end.



RECOGNITIONS



City of Modesto

City Manager

Joseph P. Lopez, Interim City Manager

Rick Armendariz, Acting Deputy City Manager

City Council

Ted Brandvold, Mayor

Mani Grewal, District 1

Tony Madrigal, District 2

Kristi Ah You, District 3

Bill Zoslocki, District 4

Jenny Kenoyer, District 5

Douglas Ridenour, District 6

Modesto Fire Department

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Editor: Dominique Maurer

Photos by: Various MFD personnel