



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY:
MODESTO FIRE DEPARTMENT

About Us



OUR MISSION:

Proudly serving,
protecting and
partnering for a
safer community.

We are a professional, community service-driven organization that provides all-risk emergency services to meet the needs of our community. Today, our organization is made up of three agencies: Modesto Fire Department, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District and Turlock Fire Department, collectively known as MST.

Together, we serve the communities of Modesto, Ceres, Oakdale, Knights Ferry, Valley Home, Riverbank, Empire, Waterford, La Grange, Turlock and Salida. Through our regionalization efforts and contracts for services, our goal is to provide services more efficiently and to improve the quality of those services throughout Stanislaus County. To learn more, please visit our website: www.modestogov.com/149/Fire-Department.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WHY DO WE EXIST?

- To serve, protect, and partner for a safer community

HOW DO WE BEHAVE?

- Honesty and trust that preserves public confidence
- Professional customer service
- Lead in innovation and training
- A team whose members are empowered and enthusiastic in their service
- Role models in our community and leaders in our profession

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Provide all risk fire and administrative services to the communities of Modesto, Ceres, Oakdale, Oakdale Fire District, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District, Turlock and Salida

HOW WILL WE SUCCEED?

- Be innovative
- Be progressive
- Results driven
- Transparent

From the Fire Chief



As we reflect on another year of service to the City of Modesto, I am filled with immense pride for the dedication and professionalism shown by our firefighters and staff. This year, we've made significant strides in strengthening not only our departments but also the region's collective ability to respond to emergencies effectively.

One of our key priorities has been strengthening our regional response efforts. Through closer partnerships with our neighboring agencies, we've improved resource coordination and sharing, ensuring that we can respond more efficiently to any situation. These collaborations are vital to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve, and we are committed to continuing to build these essential relationships in the years ahead. Thank you to Oakdale, Ceres, Salida, Turlock, and the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District.

In the last year, we have been proud to celebrate the completion of another successful joint fire academy and several well-deserved promotions across our three agencies. These additions and advancements reflect MST's growth and our commitment to providing the highest level of service. They also ensure that our team is well-equipped to meet the demands of our expanding city and the evolving needs of our community.

Additionally, we are excited to dive into the renovation project at Fire Station 1, the oldest operating fire station in our city. This project will bring much-needed improvements to better support our personnel, allowing us to continue to provide top-tier care for our community from this historic location.

Moreover, I am pleased to report our purchase of seven new fire apparatus. This investment will ensure that our department is equipped with the most up-to-date and reliable tools necessary to handle any emergency. These new units will play a crucial role in our ongoing mission to safeguard lives, property, and the environment. Within the next four years, we will receive two new tillers and five new pumps.

As we move into the next year, I am confident that our department will continue to meet the challenges of an ever-changing landscape with innovation and collaboration at the forefront of our efforts. Thank you to the residents of Modesto for your continued trust and support. Together, we will continue to make our community a safer place for all.

Kevin Wise

KEVIN WISE
Fire Chief



Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District



Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (SCFPD) has achieved numerous accomplishments while continuously striving to provide excellent service to the community and partnering agencies. SCFPD accomplished the following during 2024:

- We welcomed four new firefighters and one new battalion chief. We also had the pleasure of promoting one battalion chief, two captains, and two engineers.
- We received the VFA grant which has allowed us to purchase new wildland PPE.
- Through the efforts of our Capital Improvements Committee, we were able to successfully remodel Station 26's bathroom as well as paint the exterior of Station 22 and Station 23.
- A complete parcel audit was completed and identified approximately 390 parcels that were incorrectly reported previously. This audit ensures District citizens are being appropriately charged their tax assessment fees for District provided services.
- The District continued to send 10 employees to paramedic school. All employees have been successful in their efforts, which has made it possible to certify all SCFPD stations as ALS capable. This is a great achievement for both the District and the community it serves.
- The SCFPD Board of Directors welcomed new Director Richard Murdock.
- Crews completed engine inspections on local businesses to ensure all were compliant with the fire code and safe for the community.
- Our fire prevention team and station crews had the pleasure of participating in October's Fire Prevention Month by attending numerous education school visits, Occupational Olympics, and career expos.

Overall, 2024 was a year of growth and improvement for SCFPD. These internal accomplishments and improvements not only benefit the SCFPD staff but also benefit the community we serve. We take pride in our community and partnering agencies and we look forward to continued growth and success in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clint Bray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CLINT BRAY
Deputy Chief

Turlock Fire Department

As we reflect on 2024, I am incredibly proud of the dedication, service, and achievements of the Turlock Fire Department. This year has been marked by significant milestones, professional growth, and strong community engagement, all of which underscore our department's commitment to excellence.

One of the highlights of the year was welcoming new firefighters and recognizing internal promotions. We celebrated the graduation of four firefighters from the MST fire academy and promoted several members within our ranks, including Engineers, Captains, and a Division Chief. These advancements strengthen our team and ensure the continued professionalism and leadership of our department.



This year, Turlock Fire Department also took an important step in prioritizing firefighter health and wellness by transitioning to NFPA 1582-compliant annual physicals. These comprehensive medical evaluations are specifically designed to address the unique health risks and occupational hazards faced by firefighters. By implementing these annual physicals, we are reinforcing our commitment to the long-term health and safety of our personnel, ensuring they receive proactive care and early detection of potential health concerns.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of our efforts. Our Fire Safety Open House event welcomed over 200 attendees, featuring fire safety demonstrations and interactive activities for families. In October, our Turlock Firefighters 2434 helped raise funds for cancer research by selling over 800 pink t-shirts to support the Bill and Elsie Ahlem Cancer Endowment.

Infrastructure improvements and training enhancements have also been key focuses. Through strategic planning and Turlock Measure A funding, we continued to make improvements to our fire stations. Our collaboration with the Modesto Fire Department and Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District has also strengthened training programs, ensuring our firefighters remain well-equipped and prepared for the challenges they face.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

ANDREW HUNTER
Assistant Fire Chief

A Year in Review



TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

MFD: 34,051
OAK: 2,214
OFPD: 1,026
CER: 5,947
SAL: 1,812
SCFPD: 5,950
TFD: 8,354



TOTAL EMS CALLS

MFD: 26,292
OAK: 1,610
OFPD: 683
CER: 4,589
SAL: 1,315
SCFPD: 4,352
TFD: 5,611



TOTAL VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

MFD: 1,766
OAK: 90
OFPD: 121
CER: 377
SAL: 119
SCFPD: 289
TFD: 327



TOTAL FIRE CALLS

MFD: 1,824
OAK: 58
OFPD: 147
CER: 406
SAL: 106
SCFPD: 411
TFD: 301



TOTAL WORKING STRUCTURE FIRES

MFD: 213
OAK: 11
OFPD: 16
CER: 55
SAL: 5
SCFPD: 53
TFD: 90



Significant Events

Pedro & Aero Fires
MST Strike Teams
June & July 2024

Montana Ave. Fire
TFD
July 25, 2024

01.

02.

03.

04.

05.

**Modesto Airport
Plane Crash**
SCFPD
June 2, 2024

**Franklin & Downs
Funeral Home Fire**
MFD
July 16, 2024

**Janopaul Ln.
Pallet Fire**
MFD
August 9, 2024

Emergency Operations

The Modesto Fire Department's Operations Division had a demanding and dynamic year in 2024, responding to increased emergency calls for service while maintaining a focus on enhancing operational efficiency within MST. Through dedication and teamwork, our personnel upheld our commitment to protecting lives and property while continuously improving service delivery.

- ✔ Firefighters enhanced their skills through monthly multi-company drills led by company officers and quarterly battalion drills focusing on multi-casualty incidents.
- ✔ Battalion Chiefs trained with CalFire, strengthening command and control coordination with local and state resources to effectively mitigate incidents within the urban interface and wildland environments.



Hazardous Materials Team

Our HazMat Team provided staffing and equipment for HazMat 41, an OES Type 1 resource, and responded to over 40 hazmat incidents throughout the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County.

The HazMat team prioritized training and education, completing a total of 1,500 training hours. All team members were trained in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120 / NFPA 472/1072, exceeding state and federal training requirements. The team conducted multiple specialized training sessions, including: flaring flammable liquids, overpacking leaking drums, hazardous materials decontamination, railroad emergency response as well as biological and nuclear threat response.

Team members also participated in multi-agency training exercises across the state in support of the OES mission and statewide response agreement. One significant exercise took place in the Bay Area, where HM41 served as a lead resource, assisting federal agencies in identifying and mitigating a simulated terrorist incident.

Technical Rescue Team

Our Tech Rescue Team responded to 10 major incidents requiring a full on-duty response, including trench rescues, confined space incidents, and high and low-angle rescues. The team, comprised of 33 members, staffs two truck companies and one rescue unit.

The team meets both OSHA and NFPA standards, and members undergo monthly training, covering both cross-discipline scenarios and highly technical stand-alone exercises. Due to the specialized nature of technical rescue, members must be mechanically inclined, possess a strong understanding of building construction and heavy equipment, and demonstrate the ability to operate under challenging conditions.

Business Operations

The Modesto Fire Department's Business Operations Division provides administrative oversight for the department in terms of human resources, fiscal management and budget, facilities maintenance, fleet maintenance and procurement, data analysis and reporting, information technology support, and payroll. In 2024, the division experienced a year of exceptional productivity, marked by the successful execution of strategic initiatives and the efficient management of operations.



- Purchased five engines and two trucks
- Awarded 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant
- Awarded 2024 Volunteer Fire Capacity grant
- Completed testing for promotional opportunities for all ranks
- Implemented a new station maintenance program with greater reporting capabilities
- Established a new Workers' Compensation policy
- Completed Station 1 Feasibility Study and Intra Agency Memorandum of Understanding to use remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds toward Station 1 improvements
- Coordinated the first ever Women's Empowerment Camp in collaboration with Modesto Junior College
- Maintained compliance with hose and ladder testing standards

Looking forward to 2025, the division would like to:

- Complete testing for promotional opportunities for all ranks (to include completion of 2025 academy)
- Address aging apparatus, staff vehicle fleet, and Fire Prevention fleet
- Enter contract with an architectural consultant for Station 1 tenant improvements
- Streamline PPE Management Program
- Continue current contracts for services while exploring future regionalization opportunities
- Celebrate the Modesto Fire Department's 150-year anniversary



EMS Division

Our EMS Division is committed to providing exceptional, life-saving emergency medical services to our community. Our mission is to deliver swift, skilled, and compassionate pre-hospital care, ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of individuals in their most critical moments. We focus on maintaining the highest standards of training, operational readiness, and continuous improvement while working in close partnership with our local prehospital agencies, law enforcement, and healthcare colleagues. Through innovation, teamwork, and a dedication to patient-centered care, our fire personnel are always ready to serve and provide reliable and effective emergency medical services that save lives and enhance the quality of care across our region.

We made significant strides in 2024 through training, operational improvements, and community partnerships.

Training and Development:

- 5,319 hours of training provided to 323 MST personnel
- Crews were trained on the implementation of 12 new EMS agency protocol changes
- CPR, Stop the Bleed, and Narcan training sessions were held for MST admin staff
- Approximately 120 personnel from the Modesto Police Dept. and Turlock Fire Dept. received Narcan training
- Acquired two new simulation mannequins featuring advanced technology to enhance realism and improve scenario-based learning
- Launched video-based training programs utilizing our own personnel to enhance training delivery

Response and Operations:

- Medic 1 responded to 770 calls
- Four additional captains were trained to serve as Medic 1 crew members
- The new Medic 1 vehicle was put into service

Protocol and Staffing Improvements:

- Established comprehensive Medical Waste and Sharps disposal protocols
- Hired an EMS Quality Improvement Coordinator to oversee ongoing quality enhancement efforts
- Hired a part-time station runner to assist with logistical needs
- Hired one single-role paramedic and one single-role EMT through a partnership grant with MPD
- Onboarded two paramedics into the Advanced Life Support program
- Logistically supported three employees enrolled in paramedic school

Partnerships and Outreach:

- Established networking partnerships with numerous fire departments statewide
- Assisted the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District with ALS uplifting for three stations

Policy and Training Updates:

- Collaborated with the Health & Wellness Officer to update the exposure control policy
- Coordinated MST-wide autism certification training for personnel, including administrative staff
- Worked closely with AMR to update protocols and facilitate Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training for single-roles



Equipment and Resources:

- Procured 11 AEDs to replenish apparatus caches and distribute to admin staff
- Successfully upfitted brush apparatus with fire line medic equipment

Conferences, Accreditation & Compliance:

- Hosted the EMS section of the Cal Chiefs conference
- Attended the California Fire, EMS, Nursing, and Disaster (CFED) conference
- Met and exceeded all mandated requirements set forth by the local EMS agency
- Successfully completed the Cal Chiefs Ambulance Business Academy

Community Risk Reduction

Our CRR team continues to maintain a regional approach to fire prevention activities. This is accomplished through collaborative meetings, shared work, and information sharing, encompassing fire inspectors from Modesto, Stanislaus Consolidated and Turlock. When a significant project comes to one jurisdiction, all inspectors are encouraged to tour the process and share information and challenges, such as cannabis production/extraction.

In 2024, the inspectors worked collaboratively on several projects such as the new Kaiser building, Latter-day Saints' new temple, and Costco in Riverbank. Inspectors were able to present challenging issues and offer advice or assistance to best serve the jurisdiction and citizens while presenting a uniformed application of the California Fire Code.

Also in 2024, we created the division's first Hazardous Materials Fire Inspector special assignment position through Measure H funding. This position offers a vital link to CUPA run by the County Department of Environmental Resources (DER), ensuring CERS (California Environmental Reporting System) reporting for the fire department. The inspector's primary focus is to ensure hazardous businesses are complying with the fire code for operation and safety. Additionally, this position has also been instrumental in various HazMat incidents across the county by partnering with the DA and serving on three separate taskforces to ensure environmental crimes are resolved.

Highlights:

- **18 fire extinguisher demonstrations**
- **137 public education events including schools, civic groups and community events**
- **1,194 plans reviewed**
- **2,301 inspections completed**
- **State-mandated inspections with reporting to the state and local authorities**
- **Continued education from State Fire Marshal**
- **Countywide residential fire sprinkler inspection class from Spears Manufacturing**
- **Addition of an analyst to the division**
- **Partnering with Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) on fire alarm compliance**



Fire Investigation Unit

The Stanislaus Regional Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) continued to proudly serve the communities and Regional Fire Authority (RFA) partners within Stanislaus County. FIU is a true model of resource sharing combining fire personnel, members of law enforcement and the district attorney's office under one roof. The mingling of subject matter experts working

toward one common mission in a single unit is its' greatest strength serving all of Stanislaus County. The Unit remains steadfast in its' work and will continue in this new year with the high level of public service our partners expect and that they are accustomed to. The continued support by all our community members and partner agencies is very much appreciated.

508

fires were investigated within Stanislaus County in 2024.

38

percent of those fires were identified as arson-related within Stanislaus County.

54

arrests were logged by the unit for arsons and other crimes.

65

arson cases were reviewed and submitted to the District Attorney's Office for criminal filing.

61

of the 65 arson cases were or are currently being prosecuted by the DA's Office.



Training Division

The training division continued to stay busy in 2024, delivering high quality training, strengthening partnerships, and building new ones. Training personnel built, repaired, and acquired a number of new training props. We hosted our first ever regional dozer academy, Women's Empowerment Camp, countywide live fire training, and supported the annual wildland exercise. In addition, the training division hosted new hire, engineer, and captain academies to prepare personnel for promotional opportunities.

In partnership with the Modesto Junior College, the Modesto Fire Department continued to oversee fire technology and emergency medical programs. Utilizing grant funds, together we sourced and purchased much needed equipment and training props. In addition, we executed an Instructional Service Agreement between MJC and MST to generate revenues and provide college credit to MST personnel.

As our MST Training Division and partnership with MJC continue to grow, we continue to provide leadership to the region and deliver innovative training and career development opportunities. The partnership between MJC and MFD is very unique, as it provides many new opportunities, streamlined training and education delivery platforms, and bridges the career technical education gap to better prepare and support future first responders.





Health and Wellness

Workers' Compensation

- Started the year with training from the City of Modesto and Athens covering the workers' compensation process
- Gave a follow-up presentation on the limits of presumptive illnesses
- Updated and standardized our internal reporting and employee tracking process
- Continued collaboration with HR and Risk Management to improve support and education for employees, especially around health benefits

HR & Risk Management

- Strengthened relationships with HR and Risk, creating a more collaborative and productive environment
- Played a role in the selection of a new Risk Manager and Risk Analyst, improving communication and employee support

Annual Physicals

- Completed year-end physicals smoothly and on schedule

Burned Firefighter Policy

- Worked with the region to align burn protocols with ABA recommendations
- Facilitated a burn care training class led by a UCD burn unit doctor

Peer Support

- Hosted an IAFF Peer Support class to expand the Modesto team and establish teams in SCFPD and Turlock Fire
- Conducted follow-up trainings and maintained inter-agency coordination during critical incidents
- Assisted IAFF with Peer Support for a smaller department dealing with a line-of-duty loss

New Policies Developed

- Pregnancy Accommodation Policy
- Body Recovery Policy
- Exposure Control (DICO) Policy
- Adopted Exposure Control Plans for ATD and BBP

2025 Goals

- Create an annual Peer Support training plan and increase consistency in peer training
- Maintain employee support and coordinate with First Alarm Wellness after major incidents
- Develop a comprehensive exposure reduction program and update related policies
- Provide training on iPad apps for tracking unsecured or previously burned buildings to reduce repeat incidents
- Review OSHA Fire Brigade updates and develop a departmental Risk Management Plan
- Form a committee to assess and standardize exercise equipment, including a maintenance and replacement schedule
- Update physicals to better align with NFPA 1582, including TB blood tests, HIV screening, and heavy metals testing due to increased exposure from lithium-ion battery fires

MFD Explorer Post 911

The Modesto Fire Department Explorer Program continues to serve as a vital bridge between our department and the youth of our community and preparing the next generation of firefighters. Designed for individuals aged 16–21 with an interest in fire service careers, the program provides hands-on training, mentorship, and leadership development in a structured and supportive environment. Some highlights from 2024 include:

14

active explorers welcomed, with 13 new recruits joining at the end of 2024

2

explorers advanced to a firefighter academy in Fall 2024

1,184

combined hours of training, covering essential topics such as fireground operations and wildland firefighting fundamentals

3

explorers regularly volunteered for other fire agencies



2025 Goals

First, we plan to send several explorers to the State Explorer Academy. This prestigious event provides intensive training in various aspects of fire service and leadership. We are committed to preparing our explorers for this incredible opportunity, helping them develop skills that will set them up for success in the fire service.

Second, in an effort to foster collaboration and skill-building among explorer posts throughout the Central Valley, we are in the early stages of planning a Regional Explorer Academy. This event will bring together explorer posts from neighboring communities for shared training, competitions, and mentorship. We believe this collaborative approach will elevate the program and strengthen the bonds between our department and those of other local fire service organizations.

Finally, alongside participation in additional community events, we plan to work closely with local schools, youth organizations, and civic groups to provide more educational opportunities and support, while promoting fire safety and prevention across Modesto and the surrounding areas.



THANK YOU

FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM OUR LEADERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERING AGENCIES, AS WELL AS OUR FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR ONGOING DEDICATION TO SERVE, PROTECT, AND PARTNER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY.

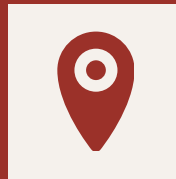


Contacts



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Turlock Fire Dept.
244 N. Broadway, Turlock 95380



Websites:

www.modestofire.com
www.scfpd.us
www.cityofturlock.org/firedepartment