



# MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- In the month of March, the fire department has responded to a handful of vegetation fires. One fire located in Putah Creek just west of the city limits was a 2-acre vegetation fire that triggered a 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm response in mutual aid from neighboring agencies to assist. Vacaville Fire Protection District responded resources to assist with containment of the fire, while UC Davis Fire provided coverage to the city. No injuries or property damage was reported.
- Two Firefighters were recognized at the March 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Volunteer Firefighter, Miquel Zaragoza was selected by his peers as 2020 Firefighter of the Year. Zaragoza volunteered over 1,000 hours in 2020 participating in shifts, training, responding to emergencies and deploying on Strike Team assignments to the 2020 wildfires throughout California.



Volunteer Firefighter, Kitsia Pelayo was recognized for her contributions in leading a Car Wash Fundraiser to help victims impacted by the LNU Lighting Complex Fires in 2020 raising over \$6,900. Donations were dispersed to the Greater Winters Fire Relief Fund and Kristine DeGuerre.

- Winters Fire Department has recruited three new Volunteer Firefighters who recently completed orientation. Dylan Neilsen, Anthony Lopez, and Mike DeGuzman will be new faces and we welcome them to our team!
- COVID-19: Yolo County continues to maintain a low positivity rate with a 7-day average of .6%. Here is a link to [Yolo County Coronavirus Vaccine](#) information. Additional information here from the California Department of Public Health provides a [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) which outlines various sectors and tiers for each.

**THANK YOU MARIANI NUT CO.**

The Mariani Nut Co. recently constructed and donated two steel window props for the Winters Fire Department and Solano Community College Fire Academy. These props are being used to teach firefighters how to make entry through elevated stories, search and rescue, and to teach firefighters how to bail out from burning buildings during emergency situations. A big thank you to the Mariani Co. and their team for supporting us!

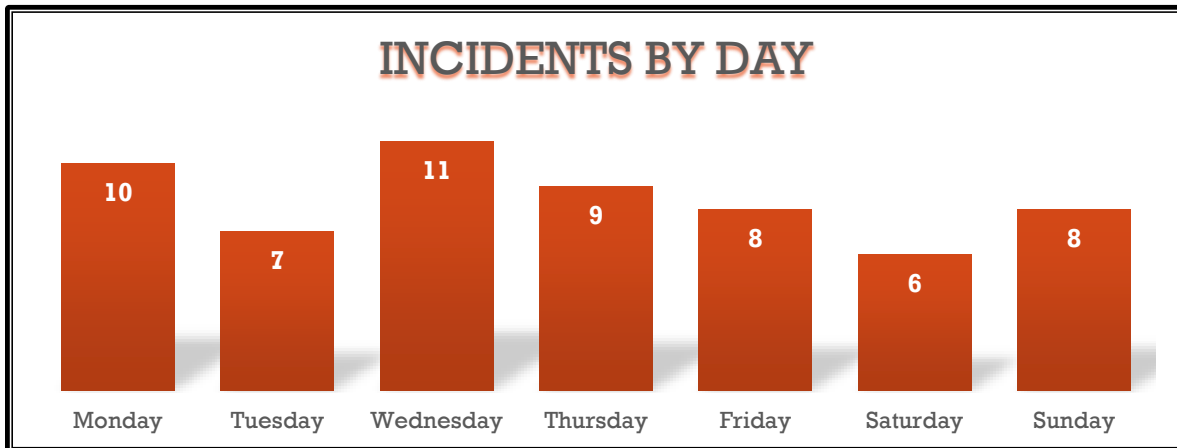


Solano Fire Academy Class 101



**MARCH EMERGENCY INCIDENTS**

Fires	7
Rescue & Emergency Medical	31
Hazardous Conditions	2
Service Calls	6
Good Intent	8
False Alarms	5
Other	0
<b>TOTAL FOR MONTH</b>	<b>59</b>



## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

- **Fire Inspections**

The Winters Fire Department conducted 31 residential fire inspections including rough hydro, and final sprinkler inspections. These inspections ensure that fire protection systems within the new homes being developed are being built to the standard of the California Fire Code.

- **Wildfire Prevention & Resources:**

- Ready for Wildfire website provides great resources for residents to better prepare and harden their homes providing guidance in Defensible Space to reduce impacts from wildfires. View the website here to learn more: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

### BE FIRE SMART

**KNOW THE LAW  
BE FIRE SMART**

100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE IS REQUIRED UNDER THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE (PRC) 4291. CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE CHAPTER 7A REQUIRES CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR HOMES IN WILDLAND AREAS. BE SURE TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE YOUR HOME IS COMPLIANT WITH THE LAW.

[READYFORWILDFIRE.ORG/THELAW](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/thelaw)

## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION CONTINUED

### Burn Permit Applications

Residents can access burn permits to conduct yards waste and agricultural burning through the Winters Fire Department website at [wintersfire.org](http://wintersfire.org).

- [Winters Fire Application and Permit to Burn](#)
- [Burn Permit Information for State Responsible Areas \(SRA\)](#)

## OPERATIONS & TRAINING

### Training

Four members from the Winters Fire Department attended a Swiftwater Rescue Operations class in Chico during March. This certified training took place in the Yuba, American and Feather rivers over a three-day period. This class focuses on shore-based operations, victim rescue and boat operations. During the summer, Winters Fire responds frequently to incidents involving some sort of water rescue.

Winters Fire Department staff completed 119.25 hours of training in the following areas.

- Firefighter Skills
- Swiftwater Rescue
- EMS
- Physical Fitness
- Forcible Entry
- Flammable & Combustible Gas Fires
- Ventilation



Captain Cheyne Baumgart and firefighters Cody Tscharner, Justin Rominger and Miguel Zaragoza training in swift water rescue skills.

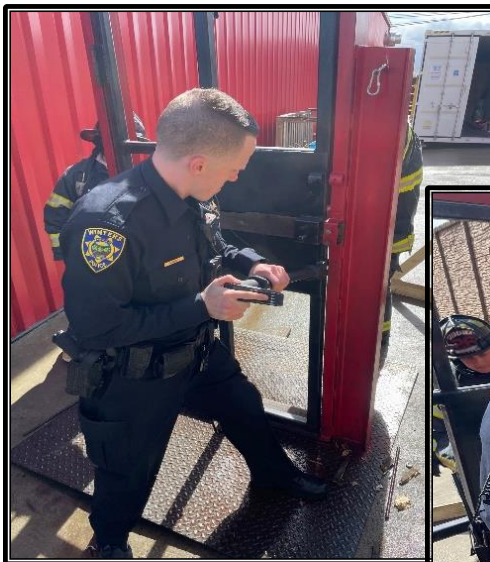
## Winters Fire helps a student from Hawaii with a 40-hour internship.



Ka'imi Drumright, a former Winters resident and Winters high school graduate came from Honolulu, Hi to complete a 40-hour internship with Winters Fire Department. This internship is part of his final Capstone project for his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University. Ka'imi was able to learn about firefighting and all aspects of station life. He has an interest in firefighting and plans to pursue a career in the fire service. His father Aaron Drumright was once a local Winters Physician at Winters Healthcare and began as a volunteer firefighter with the Winters Fire Department in the mid 1990's.

## Inter-departmental Training

Firefighters and police officers frequently respond to many of the same calls and interact together. Below is an example of our Police Officers and Firefighters practicing forcible entry on a training prop, skills often used in public safety. (Top Left): Officer Kenny, (Bottom Right): Officer Hermosillo and Officer Shadman.



## Daily Staffing

The Winters Fire Department is largely supported by Volunteer Firefighters to supplement daily staffing. The chart here demonstrates daily staffing levels for the month of February. Our goal is to maintain a 4-person engine company to include one career Company Officer and three Volunteer/Reserve firefighters 24/7.



## FLEET, FACILITIES & EMS

- **OES 333 Maintenance**

OES 333, our state issued Type 1 Engine, has been sent out for maintenance to prep for the upcoming fire season. This vehicle can be deployed locally, statewide, and to surrounding states in cases of large-scale emergencies. Primarily OES 333 is utilized in the California Master Mutual Aid system to respond for campaign fires.

- **Facility Security/Safety**

New key code door locks have been installed that will prevent unsolicited entry into the fire department. This will help provide additional safety of our employees, equipment, and the facility itself.

- **COVID Decontamination Deployment**

The Winters Fire Department was tasked with performing a facility sanitation of a possible COVID related exposure at the Community Center. WFD deployed our specialized aerosol decontamination solution (DECON 7) to ensure the building and surrounding area were safe for continued use within the community.



## UNDER THE HELMET

Under the Helmet is an opportunity to highlight the firefighters who serve and protect our community.

**Aaron Mendoza** graduated from the Fire Explorer program in 2019 as a Winters High School student. He became a Resident Volunteer Firefighter in early 2020. Mendoza is currently attending the Solano Fire Academy here where he will obtain State Fire Training certification as a Firefighter I. Aaron grew up in the fire station along the side of his father, Art Mendoza. He enjoys the culture and brother-sister hood of the fire service and wants to make a difference in his community falling under his father's footsteps.



**Nicole LoBese** began as a Reserve Volunteer in the Fall of 2018. Nicole is working towards a career in the fire service and by volunteering for the department, she can gain valuable experience through training and responding to emergencies. Nicole lives in the Sacramento area and has over 12 years working in education, currently with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.

