



# APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

The Winters Fire Department responded to a total of 48 incidents for the month of April. A vehicle accident involving a semi-truck and trailer occurred on SR128 near Fishing Access #3. Fortunately, the driver was uninjured, however Winters Firefighters remained on scene for an extended period to assist CHP and provide containment of hazardous materials as the vehicle was leaking diesel fuel near Putah Creek.



## CAL FIRE

**BURN PERMITS:** CAL FIRE released burn restrictions effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for the Sonoma Lake Napa Unit. Burn permits can be obtained here at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>.

## Yolo County Fire Safe Council

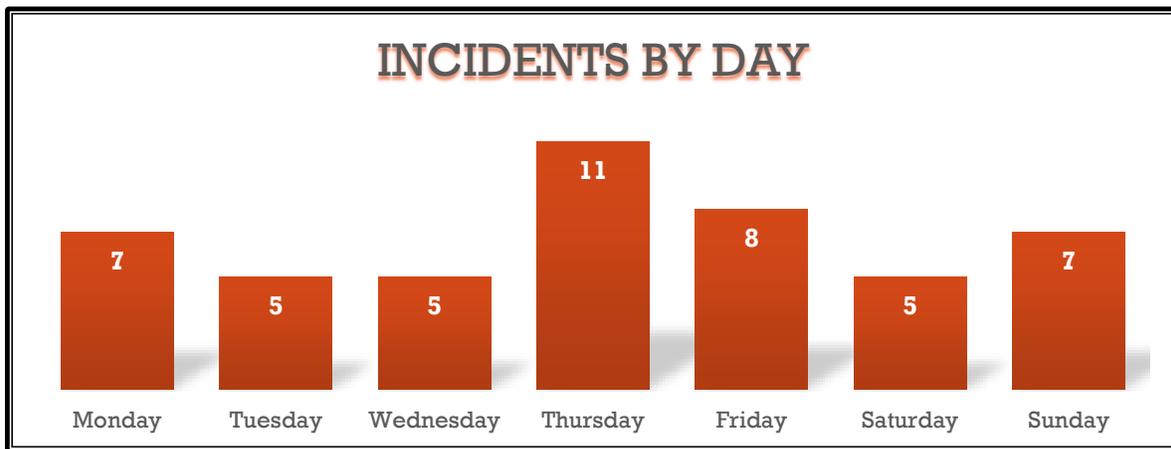
Two local Fire Chiefs were elected to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the Yolo County Fire Safe Council. Fire Chief Rebecca Ramirez of Yocha De He Fire Department was selected as Chair and Fire Chief Brad Lopez was selected to serve as Vice-Chair for the council at the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Yolo County Fire Safe Council was established to provide a collaborative approach to support for wildfire prevention, wildfire response and post-fire recovery. More information can be found here <https://yolorcd.org/>.

## Yolo Emergency Communications Agency (YECA)

CSI Telecommunications, Inc recently presented a Capital Improvement Plan including possible system upgrades that may be needed for YECA and the agencies served which include Fire, Law Enforcement, and Public Works agencies in Yolo County. A complete report can be viewed here: [Yolo Emergency Communications Agency Stakeholder Survey and Discussion](#)

## MARCH EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

Fires	6
Rescue & Emergency Medical	29
Hazardous Conditions	0
Service Calls	4
Good Intent	3
False Alarms	6
Other	0
<b>TOTAL FOR MONTH</b>	<b>48</b>



## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

- **Fire Inspections**

The Winters Fire Department conducted 11 residential fire inspections and 4 commercial inspection. These inspections ensure that fire protection systems within the new and existing construction conform to the standard of the California Fire Code.

- **Weed Abatement**

The Winters Fire Department is currently identifying parcels that fall under the Weed and Rubbish abatement law. Fire Department staff along with Administrative Coordinator Jimenez have prepared and sent courtesy letters to parcels that need attention.

- Resolution 2021-24 Declaring Weeds and Rubbish on certain lots went before City Council on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The staff report and list of lots identified can be found here:
- [Weed Abatement Staff Report](#)
- [Resolution 2021-24](#)

### Fire Safety Tips

- Just a reminder the grass in the area turned brown earlier this year than years past due to a dry winter. We ask that we all be vigilant and take care of our properties to reduce the amount of fire threat in our area.
- Mowing or cutting of grass/weeds should be done when the temperature is low and humidity is high, preferably before 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that mowing grass on windy days is not advisable at any time of the day.
- CAL FIRE: Wildfire Is Coming...Are You Ready? Please follow the QR code for more information and guidelines on creating defensible space presented by Cal Fire.

### MAINTAIN DEFENSIBLE SPACE



### OPERATIONS & TRAINING

- **Training**

April is spent gearing for the upcoming fire season. You may see engine and crews around town and out in open fields practicing hose advancement or mobile attack during the day. Crews are required to complete this refresher training before the season begins.

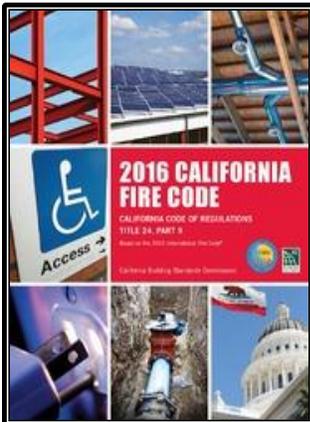
## Wildland RT-130 Refresher Training



Winters Fire Department staff completed 144.5 hours of training in the following areas.

- Firefighter Skills
- Fire Prevention
- Physical Fitness
- Forcible Entry
- Ventilation
- Wildland Firefighting

## Plans Examiner Training



Captain Matt Schechla and Engineer Jesus Marquez completed the Plans Examiner 1A class in Kingsburg, Ca 4/24-4/29. The class focused on plan review, code enforcement and the permitting process. It is not uncommon to cross-train employees in different disciplines in the fire service. Cross-training keeps staff well-rounded and knowledgeable which helps provide better customer service.

- **S-290 Wildland Fire Behavior**

Engineer Jesus Marquez and Firefighter Kitsia Pelayo completed S-290, intermediate fire behavior class. This class teaches firefighters about fuels, topography, weather's effect on fire behavior, direction, and growth.

## 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

- **Ladder Testing**

*The WFD tested 202 feet of Ground Ladders. This included 4-24 ft extension, 1- 20 ft extension, 4- 14 ft roof, and 3-10 ft attic ladders. Ground ladders are tested annually to meet the requirements of NFPA 1932, which specifies the maintenance, inspections and service testing of ladders used in the fire service. The Winters Fire Department had all ladders tested, and successfully passed proving their readiness for emergency response.*

- **Smoke Opacity Testing**

The Winters Fire Department complies with all state and DOT requirements in regard to its operational fleet. 4 type 1 engines, 1 type 3, 2 type 6, 2 water tenders, and a utility vehicle were all tested. This testing is equivalent to a smog test for a personal vehicle but applies to Heavy Duty Diesel Engines. All apparatus in the WFD fleet passed the testing requirements and met the standards of emitting low smoke emissions of title 13, California Code of Regulations.

- **EMS Policy Updates**

The Winters Fire Department attends Yolo Medical Services Agency (YEMSA) meetings to stay current and help steer the direction of the medical services provided in Winters and surrounding Yolo County. Three emergency medical protocols regarding C-spine immobilization, chest pain, and CPR in late term pregnancy were addressed and updated to support research done each respective area. This will ensure the most current and effective practices are applied when first responders are faced with these types of emergencies.

## UNDER THE HELMET

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

**Terry Karlen** (Left Photo) began as a Volunteer with WFD in 1984. He joined the department along with his wife Barbara Karlen back then to stay close to their son Ron Karlen who was a volunteer firefighter as spent a majority of his time at the station. Terry Karlen has served the Winters Community of over 37 years and is our longest standing member.

**Luis Herrera** (Right Photo) began as a Volunteer with WFD in 2009. He finds being a Firefighter and helping his community is very fulfilling. Luis is also a City of Winters Public Works employee.

