



# FOUNTAIN VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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## **MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES**

The Fountain Valley Fire Department is committed to providing the highest quality all-risk emergency response, fire prevention, education, and emergency medical services to the residents and visitors within the community.

**Dedication - Excellence - Ethics - Teamwork**

# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

“

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Fountain Valley Fire Department annual report. As the Fire Chief, I am humbled to serve alongside an exceptional group of dedicated professionals committed to fulfilling our mission of providing the highest quality all-risk emergency response, fire prevention, education, and emergency medical services. This year brought both change and opportunity to our department. I was honored to be given the opportunity to provide leadership for the fire department as the fire chief. This opportunity was made possible through the dedicated commitment to mentoring and developing future leaders which has been embraced by our organization by past fire chiefs to ensure a culture of Dedication, Excellence, Ethics, and Teamwork. In addition, we promoted two new battalion chiefs, two new fire captains, one engineer, and hired three new firefighter paramedics to join our family.

This annual report is an opportunity to share with the community, our city council, the city manager, and the members of the Fountain Valley Fire Family, a data-driven portrayal of the hard work and dedication to providing the concierge-level service our community has grown to appreciate. In conclusion, our goal is to rise above the many challenges presented to us as emergency service providers, seek opportunities to improve all aspects of our operations, and utilize acquired data and statistical analysis to assist our efforts to evaluate performance and drive future success.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Bill McQuaid

**FIRE CHIEF**



# MEET OUR STAFF

COMMAND STAFF, PREVENTION, TRAINING, EMS, FIRE ADMINISTRATION



**Bill McQuaid**  
Fire Chief



**Dave Dukellis**  
Battalion Chief, A-Shift



**Tim Saiki**  
Battalion Chief, B-Shift



**Matt Barr**  
Battalion Chief, C-Shift



**Michelle Rudaitis**  
Fire Marshal / Admin. BC



**Thang Nguyen**  
Fire Prevention Analyst



**Brent Waterworth**  
Captain / Training Officer



**Lauren Lee**  
EMS Manager



**Julieann Parente**  
Mgmt. Aid / Chief's Assistant



**Monica Kerr**  
Fire Administration Assistant

# FIRE STATIONS

APPARATUS, STAFFING, AND STATION CALL VOLUME



## Fire Station 1 - Bushard Station

Engine 31 - 4 Personnel

Truck 31 - 4 Personnel

Battalion 3 - 1 Battalion Chief

**2023 Unit Responses: 5,151**

## Reserve Apparatus:

Battalion 23

Rehab 31

## Fire Station 2 - Newhope Station

Engine 32 - 4 Personnel

**2023 Unit Responses: 2,805**

## Reserve Apparatus:

OES Engine 398

Engine 8209

Engine 8210

Engine 39 (Vintage)



## 2023 FVFD Ambulance Responses

Valley Ambulance 31 (24 hours) - **3,068 Responses**

Valley Ambulance 32 (10 hours) - **1,334 Responses**

# RESPONSE STATISTICS

TOTAL INCIDENT RESPONSES  
YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISONS

In 2023, the Fountain Valley Fire Department received calls for 7,956 incidents. This includes all incidents within the borders of Fountain Valley (in jurisdiction) as well as incidents outside of Fountain Valley (out of jurisdiction).

| YEAR | INCIDENTS |  IN JURISDICTION |  OUT OF JURISDICTION |
|------|-----------|---|--|
| 2019 | 7,006     | 5604  | 1402   |
| 2020 | *6,102    | 4932  | 1170   |
| 2021 | 7,131     | 5687  | 1444   |
| 2022 | 7,922     | 5961  | 1961   |
| 2023 | 7,956     | 6,205   | 1751   |

\*In 2020, call volume decreased significantly due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.1%

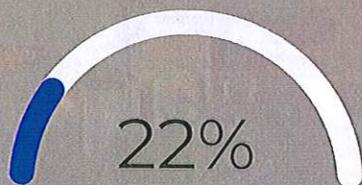
Increase of calls **in jurisdiction** from 2022 to 2023

-10.7%

Decrease of calls **out of jurisdiction** from 2022 to 2023

0.01%

Increase of **all calls** from 2022 to 2023

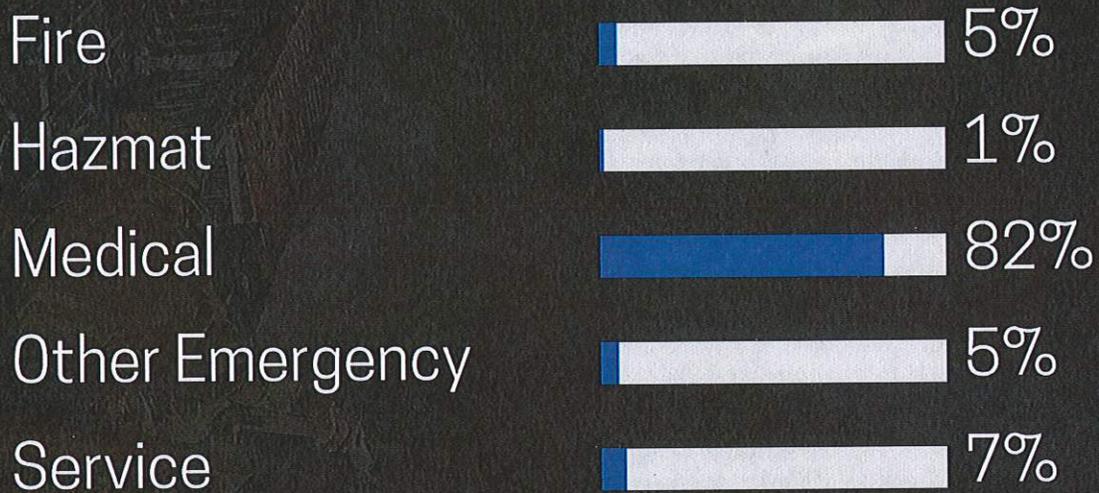


In 2023, 22% of our incidents occurred outside our jurisdiction as part of automatic and mutual aid agreements.

# RESPONSE STATISTICS

RESPONSE STATISTICS BY CATEGORY  
YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISONS

## 2023



| CATEGORY                      | 2018        | 2019         | 2020*         | 2021          | 2022          | 2023          |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Fire                          | 314         | 362          | 315           | 394           | 400           | 423           |
| Hazmat                        | 49          | 64           | 43            | 48            | 42            | 48            |
| Medical                       | 5900        | 5803         | 5019          | 5888          | 6658          | 6570          |
| Other Emergency               | 348         | 371          | 332           | 355           | 337           | 388           |
| Service                       | 397         | 400          | 381           | 439           | 479           | 522           |
| Regional Emergency            | 10          | 10           | 12            | 7             | 6             | 5             |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>7018</b> | <b>7010</b>  | <b>6102</b>   | <b>7131</b>   | <b>7922</b>   | <b>7956</b>   |
| <b>% Change from prev yr.</b> |             | <b>-0.1%</b> | <b>-13.0%</b> | <b>+16.9%</b> | <b>+11.1%</b> | <b>+0.01%</b> |

\*Decreased call load in 2020 due to Covid-19.

# RESPONSE STATISTICS

## AUTOMATIC AID INCIDENTS AND UNIT RESPONSES

The Fountain Valley Fire Department not only serves the City of Fountain Valley but also assists neighboring communities in need. In 2023, approximately 24% of our unit responses were outside the City of Fountain Valley. The following table shows the total number of incidents by jurisdiction and how many Fountain Valley Fire Department units responded to each jurisdiction in 2023.

| Jurisdiction     | Number of Incidents FVFD Units Responded To | Total FVFD Units Dispatched* | % of Units Dispatched to Total Unit Count |
|------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| Fountain Valley  | 5549  | 6038                         | 75.84%                                    |
| OCFA**           | 910   | 1020                         | 12.80%                                    |
| Huntington Beach | 759   | 818                          | 10.27%                                    |
| Costa Mesa       | 69  | 73                           | 0.92%                                     |
| Newport Beach    | 11  | 11                           | 0.14%                                     |
| Orange City      | 2   | 2                            | 0.03%                                     |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>7300</b>                                 | <b>7962</b>                  |   |

\* Some incidents may have multiple units dispatched.

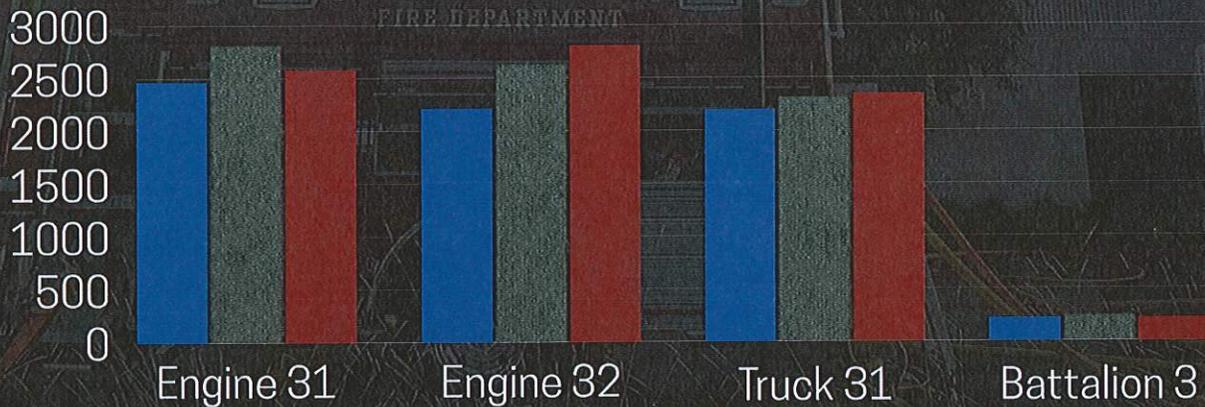
\*\* OCFA counts also include out-of-county, mutual aid responses.

# RESPONSE STATISTICS

## RESPONSES BY APPARATUS

A unit response refers to any instance where an FVFD unit responds either within or beyond the jurisdiction of Fountain Valley. Certain incidents, such as fires or traffic accidents involving entrapment, may require multiple units to respond to the same incident. The table below displays the total number of incidents that each unit of the Fountain Valley Fire Department responded to in 2023.

| Apparatus   | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------|------|------|------|
| Engine 31   | 2464 | 2812 | 2580 |
| Engine 32   | 2208 | 2627 | 2805 |
| Truck 31    | 2193 | 2313 | 2344 |
| Battalion 3 | 213  | 241  | 213  |



# RESPONSE STATISTICS

## 2023 RESPONSE TIMES

“Response time” is the total time from when a unit is dispatched until the unit arrives on scene. Response times are affected by incident location, traffic, construction, time of day, and call volume. The response times below are separated into two categories: medical aids and fires/traffic accidents. They are further separated into day calls (730AM to 9PM) and night calls (9PM to 730AM).

### MEDICAL AID RESPONSE TIMES

*DAY - IN JURISDICTION GOAL 5 MIN, 15 SEC*

**4:46** *IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

**6:04** *OUTSIDE FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

*NIGHT - IN JURISDICTION GOAL 5 MIN, 45 SEC*

**6:07** *IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

**6:43** *OUTSIDE FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

### FIRE AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RESPONSE TIMES

*DAY - IN JURISDICTION GOAL 5 MIN, 30 SEC*

**5:49** *IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

**7:21** *OUTSIDE FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

*NIGHT - IN JURISDICTION GOAL 6 MIN*

**7:03** *IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

**9:02** *OUTSIDE FOUNTAIN VALLEY*

Note: Outlier response times above the 98th percentile were excluded from the averages. These outliers are often from the company officer not pressing the “arrived on scene” button or from an extended response time e.g. response to an out-of-city structure fire or out-of-county brush fire.

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

2023 EMS RESPONSE STATISTICS

The Fountain Valley Fire Department offers advanced life-support (ALS) paramedic and ambulance services to the community. Since its inception in 1964, the department has made emergency medical care a core service, and in 1975, it introduced ALS paramedic service.

In 2023, 82% of the department's emergency responses were for emergency medical services (EMS), including medical aids and traffic accidents with injuries. Each engine and truck company is equipped and manned by four firefighters who are capable of providing advanced emergency medical care (ALS) for any type of severe illness or injury. Two of the four firefighters in each fire company are licensed Paramedics, while the other two are certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

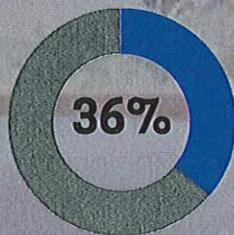
## 6902

### TOTAL PATIENT CONTACTS

A patient contact is considered advanced life support (ALS) if a paramedic escorts the patient to the hospital or performs advanced life support on the scene.



**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)**  
4404 PATIENTS



**ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS)**  
2498 PATIENTS

## 1,842

### MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED

## 1,758

### EKGs / 12 LEADS

## 745

### IV'S / IO'S ESTABLISHED

### TOP 10 DISPATCH CALL TYPES

1. FALLS
2. SICK (UNKNOWN)/OTHER
3. UNCONSCIOUS/UNRESPONSIVE/SYNCOPE
4. BREATHING DIFFICULTY
5. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT (MVA)
6. PAIN (NON-TRAUMATIC)
7. CHEST DISCOMFORT/HEART PROBLEMS
8. OVERDOSE/POISONING
9. STROKE (CVA)
10. CONVULSIONS/SEIZURES

# TRAINING DIVISION

Training is a key component to ensure high-quality emergency service delivery. Newly hired firefighters undergo a rigorous multi-week fire academy and all personnel participate in continuous training throughout the year. The training program is run by an administrative fire captain who has an office at our training center. Since 1972, the Fountain Valley Fire Department and Huntington Beach Fire Department have shared a training center through a joint powers authority known as Central Net Operations Authority. The two departments train together and operate the 5-acre training center, which includes a 5-story training tower, classrooms, and simulator props. Some of the training highlights of 2023 are:

- Engineer's Academy - January
- Firefighter/Paramedic Academy - February
- Engineer's Test - April/May
- Firefighter/Paramedic Recruitment Test - June
- Reserve Firefighter Recruitment Test - October/November
- Captain's Academy - November
- Assisted with multiple outside agency promotional tests

## 2023 Training Hours

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Fire Related Training Hours</b>   | <b>5868.4</b> |
| <b>EMS Related Training Hours</b>    | <b>1821.5</b> |
| <b>Wildland Training Hours</b>       | <b>388.8</b>  |
| <b>Hazmat Training Hours</b>         | <b>123</b>    |
| <b>Driver Training Hours</b>         | <b>546.5</b>  |
| <b>Administrative Training Hours</b> | <b>252</b>    |
| <b>Total Training Hours for 2023</b> | <b>9000.2</b> |

# FIRE PREVENTION

The Fountain Valley Fire Department's prevention and suppression personnel (engine and truck companies) perform life safety inspections as well as occupancy plans checks throughout the year. This allows your firefighters to maintain a high level of fire safety and situational awareness among our business community, especially during emergency calls.

FVFD's Hazardous Materials Program focuses on assisting business owners with compliance requirements driven by Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.95. This includes the Hazardous Materials Disclosure/Business Emergency Plan Program. Compliance with these regulations and regular inspections keep the business owners and community safe from the potentially harmful effects of hazardous materials releases.

## 2023 FIRE PREVENTION STATISTICS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Total number of assigned occupancies             | 1764        |
| Number of businesses inspected                   | 835         |
| Number of hazmat inspections performed           | 113         |
| Number of school inspections performed           | 20          |
| Plans Checks                                     | 108         |
| Fire Permits Issued                              | 333         |
| Property Lost (to fire) in 2023                  | \$1,051,560 |
| Property Saved (due to fire suppression) in 2023 | \$4,500,929 |

# FIRE PREVENTION

## P.R.E.P. PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Fountain Valley Fire Department's P.R.E.P. Program (Preventing, Responding, Educating, and Preparing), managed by Fire Marshal Rudaitis, is dedicated to promoting safety and vigilance through educational programs, firefighter's health/wellness programs, and outreach to the community. Here are some additional details and highlights from 2023:

**Firefighter Wellness** – The fire department's goal is to increase the safety and maximize the longevity of emergency service careers. This includes promoting physical fitness, emotional wellness, and maintaining physical health.

**Spark of Love** – Each year, in late November, fire stations throughout California serve as toy drop-off locations for Spark of Love. As residents drop off toys, fire personnel can interact and offer safety information to the community members. In 2023, the Fountain Valley Fire Department collected 3800 toys and donated 3500 toys to our local community.

**Kid's Firefighter Academy** – This is a week-long summer day camp put on by our Community Services Department where children from our community learn all about the job of a firefighter. The camp includes first aid, rescue practices, water safety, and fitness. The camp encourages teamwork and making new friends. Fountain Valley firefighters provide hands-on training with our apparatus and equipment. July 2023 was the second annual Kid's Firefighter Academy.

**Support Services and Charitable Outreach** – The fire department assists community members who have been affected by fire or disaster. In 2023, Fountain Valley firefighters supported families who suffered the loss of a family member.

**Pediatric Patients** – Goal: provide comfort and memory-making for families during bereavement and end-of-life care. The fire department provides handprints for families to take home, as well as a teddy bear that holds a recording of their child or sibling's heartbeat. On holidays and birthdays, gifts are given to pediatric patients who are in the hospital. The P.R.E.P program provided memory-making supplies to Fountain Valley Regional Hospital in August, donated backpacks with activities inside for children in the hospital during Halloween, and provided toys to the children in the hospital during the holiday season.

**Community Risk Reduction Programs** – Goal: To provide education, engagement, and resources to benefit the citizens of Fountain Valley. Some of 2023's programs included the Annual Fire Department Open House in October, providing "Stop the Bleed" kits and Narcan training to our City departments.

# MUTUAL AID

## REGIONAL RESPONSES

### TULARE FLOOD RESPONSE

- March 2023 - Tulare County
- OES Engine 398 and BC (VB34)

### RABBIT FIRE - 8,283 ACRES

- July 2023 - Riverside County
- OES Engine 398 and BC (VB33)

### GAVILAN FIRE - 301 ACRES

- July 2023 - Riverside County
- Battalion Chief (VB33)

### OAK FIRE - 35 ACRES

- July 2023 - San Bernardino County
- Battalion Chief (VB33)

### BONNY FIRE - 2,322 ACRES

- July 2023 - Riverside County
- OES Engine 398

### SRF LIGHTNING COMPLEX - 50,198 ACRES

- September 2023
- Battalion Chief (VB33)

### HIGHLAND FIRE - 2,487 ACRES

- October 2023 - Riverside County
- OES Engine 398 and BC (VB34)

The Fountain Valley Fire Department is proud to provide mutual aid assistance in Orange County and throughout California, by offering Chief Officers and city-owned fire engines. The FVFD also manages a State-owned, Type 1 fire engine (OES 398) that is available for all-hazard mutual aid requests throughout Orange County and California. In 2023, the Fountain Valley Fire Department responded to the Tulare Floods (pictured below) and multiple wildland fire incidents throughout the fire season.



# DEPARTMENT BUDGET

## FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET YEAR VS. YEAR & PER CAPITA COMPARISON

### FISCAL YEAR BUDGET COMPARISONS

|  | 21/22 ACTUAL  | 22/23 ACTUAL  | 23/24 REVISED |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>PERSONNEL</b>                                   | \$10,282,528  | \$10,276,853  | \$10,941,680  |
| <b>INTERNAL SERVICES CHARGES</b>                   | \$1,084,965   | \$1,407,658   | \$1,429,790   |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>                          | \$2,543,062   | \$2,689,343   | \$3,410,960   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | \$13,910,555  | \$14,373,855  | \$15,782,430  |
| <b>REVENUE (COST RECOVERY)</b>                     | (\$3,959,018) | (\$3,280,236) | (\$4,368,640) |
| <b>TOTAL (INCLUDING REVENUE)</b>                   | \$9,951,537   | \$11,093,618  | \$11,413,790  |
| <i>% CHANGE FROM PREV. YR. (INCLUDING REVENUE)</i> |               | 11%           | 3%            |
| <i>FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL</i>                   | 46            | 46            | 46            |
| <i>ESTIMATED POPULATION*</i>                       | 57,309        | 56,976        | 56,987        |
| <i>INCIDENT COUNT</i>                              | 7,131         | 7,922         | 7,956         |
| <i>COST PER CAPITA (INCLUDING REVENUE)*</i>        | \$173.65      | \$194.71      | \$200.29      |
| <i>COST PER CALL (INCLUDING REVENUE)**</i>         | \$1,395.53    | \$1,400.36    | \$1,434.61    |

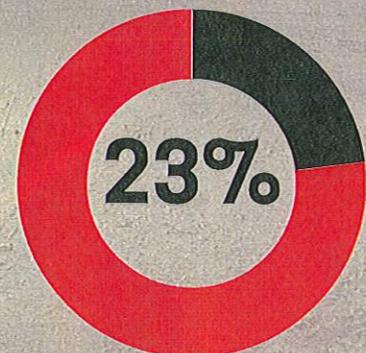
**FISCAL YEAR 22/23 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTUAL EXPENDITURES**

**\$14,373,855**

**FISCAL YEAR 22/23 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACTUAL REVENUE (COST RECOVERY)**

**\$3,280,236**

IN FISCAL YEAR 22/23, 23% OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S EXPENDITURES WERE RECOVERED BY REVENUE (COST RECOVERY). THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS MANY AVENUES OF COST RECOVERY, INCLUDING THE PARAMEDIC SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM, AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, FIRE PREVENTION FEES, STRIKE TEAM REIMBURSEMENT, ETC.



\* Population Source: CA Dept. of Finance - E4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2021-2023 with 2020 Census Benchmark

\*\*The "cost per call" calculation uses the call volume for the calendar year the fiscal year started in.

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## January

- Engineer's Academy
- FV High School Ball Drop
- Blood Pressure Clinic at Senior Center
- Lunar New Year Event at Rec Center
- FV High School Narcan & STB Training

## February

- New Firefighter Recruit Academy Starts
- Beachpoint Preschool Demo
- NCLS Conference, Colorado Springs
- Blood Pressure Clinic at Senior Center

## March

- Boy & Girl Scout Station Tour
- Shoreline Preschool Station Tour
- Rancho La Siesta Appreciation Dinner

## April

- King of Glory Preschool Station Tour
- Boy Scout Station Tour
- FV High School Baseball Appreciation Game
- Fountain Valley Way Training

## May

- FV High School Softball Ball Drop
- Engineer Promotional Test
- Fire Department Badge Ceremony
- Crawfish Festival
- The Fount Preschool Demo
- CFED EMS Conference, Palm Springs

## June

- Firefighter Recruit Testing
- Youth in Government Day
- Special Olympics Torch Run Ceremony
- Gisler Carnival
- FV Car Show
- FV Summerfest
- Senior Expo
- Blood Pressure Clinic at Senior Center

## July

- Tip a Cop at Steady Brewery
- Kid Fire Academy
- New Fire Engine Dedication
- Courreges Elementary Tour
- Blood Pressure Clinic

## August

- National Night Out
- FV Montessori Demo
- Blood Pressure Clinic

## September

- Lobster Fest
- Blood Pressure Clinic
- Disaster Prep Convention

## October

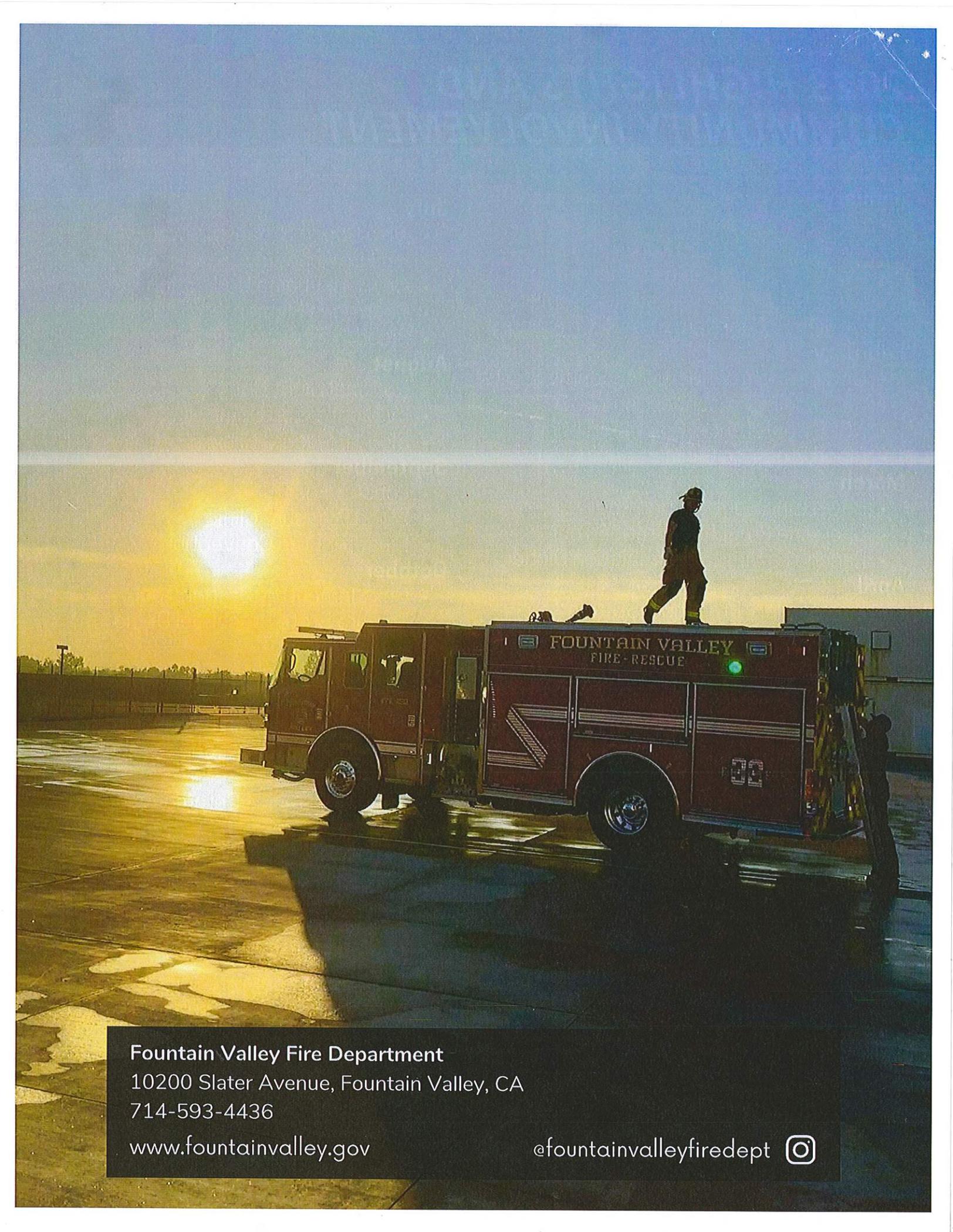
- Cox Elementary Station Tour
- Tamura State Preschool Demo
- Open House
- Reserve Firefighter Testing
- City Employee Narcan Training
- Blood Pressure Clinic
- FVRH Halloween Parade

## November

- Special Olympics Ceremony
- Hyundai Turkey Giveaway
- Narcan & STB Training at Senior Center
- Fire Captain's Academy

## December

- Spark of Love
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- SAC Fire Academy Graduation
- Fire Dept Christmas Luncheon
- Firefighter Survival Training
- Narcan & Stop the Bleed Training at FV Rec Center



**Fountain Valley Fire Department**  
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