

# 2019 Annual Report

# FRESNO FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2019 Annual Report

### City of Fresno

Population: .....540,000  
 Land Area: ..... 115 sq. miles  
 Elevation:..... 308 feet  
 Population Density: .....4,695/sq. mi.  
 Population Rank:..... 5th in California

\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Mission:

To protect and put service above all else

### Vision:

Recognized as a standard of excellence in the fire service

### Core Values:

Teamwork ~ Trust ~ Commitment

## Fire Chief Kerri L. Donis



The 2019 Fresno Fire Department (FFD) Annual Report offers readers insight into what it means when we “Protect and Put Service Above All Else” utilizing our core values of Teamwork, Trust, and Commitment. The FFD not only prepares for emergency responses, but we also are continually working to ensure that our training, equipment and facilities meet the needs of the citizenry.

Our emergency responses, services, and programs are successful due to professionally trained and dedicated members of the FFD. There is no finer group of men and women; committed to excellence for the community in which they serve. As always, the strength of our Department lies within our people.

2019 was filled with continuous improvement throughout the organization. The City of Fresno parted ways with the North Central Fire Protection District, the Fire Shop became a division within the City’s Fleet Management department, training classes increased by almost 13% from 2018, increased new construction and plan review resulted in increased service requests for the prevention staff, 99% of all FFD policies were reviewed and updated in-line with the Serious Accident Review Team (SART) Report recommendations, several fire stations realized landscape improvements, new apparatus arrived, numerous rank promotions occurred, new employees joined the team in administration, and the first-annual Girls Empowerment Camp was delivered to over 42 youth in our community.

Looking forward to 2020, we will continue to be mission driven; focused on growing the FFD throughout all divisions, in a balanced and proactive way in order to provide the best service to the community. As Fire Chief, I am honored to lead the FFD and its members, ensuring we are prepared to do the greatest good for our citizens 24/7/365.

### Proudly Serving



FRESNO YOSEMITE  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Fresno Fire Department Members at the California Firefighters Memorial honoring our own.

## Operations Division

Looking back at 2019, the Fresno Fire Department served our community by responding to 44,978 incidents from 24 fire stations. Up until July 1, 2019, the Department served the residents of the North Central Fire District (NCFD), which added 200 additional square miles of service area. Through reorganization, the agencies split whereby the NC started its own fire department, and FFD maintained services in Fresno, the Fig Garden Fire Protection District, and unincorporated county islands within the City's boundaries.

Today, the Department operates out of 21 fire stations with 19 engines, five truck companies, and two air rescue fire-fighting units. Additionally, a hazardous materials response team, urban search and rescue team, and water rescue team are cross-staffed at three stations. Minimum daily staffing is 80 uniformed personnel. These resources are divided into four battalions each lead by a Battalion Chief.

Our goal is to meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for emergency response where the first unit should arrive within 4 minutes, with an effective firefighting force (EFF) arriving with 8 minutes 90% of the time. In 2019, the FFD met the 4-minute response time 73% of the time, while an EFF was assembled within 8 minutes 87% of the time. However, it should be noted that fire calls north of Shaw Avenue only realized an EFF 60% of the time.

The following are successes realized by the Operations Division in 2019:

- Increased daily staffing from 77 to 80 fire suppression personnel.
- Provided peer support to multiple personnel through the Peer Support Team. This included training to spouses on the critical issues facing our firefighters.
- Purchased and outfitted three new fire engines as part of our apparatus replacement program.
- Rescue Task Force 5, a multi-agency rescue team made up of agencies from the central valley including FFD, responded to the Ridgecrest Earthquake in Kern County where they assisted in damage assessment as part of California Master Mutual Aid.

Our work is not finished. The following are some challenges FFD faces going forward:

- Structure fire loss: Even though the number of structure fires was reduced in 2019, Fresno continues to experience higher instances of structure fires in our community.
- Succession and development of leadership: Multiple Captains and Chief Officers are scheduled to retire. Recruitment and training of future leaders will be crucial for continued success.
- Communication: Improvements are needed in radio frequencies and technology to meet firefighter safety requirements and improve the efficiency of service at emergencies.
- Staffing: While daily staffing has improved, FFD employs a total firefighting force of 296 Firefighters. At .57 Firefighters per 1,000, Fresno is far lower than the California average of .82 Firefighters per 1,000. Combined with a high incidence of structure fires in the community, Firefighters in Fresno are at great risk than those in other communities.
- Implemented 95% of the 169 SART report recommendations, with 100% of the recommendations in process.

Fortunately, the Fresno Fire Department employs some of the most talented and dedicated employees known in the fire service. Through teamwork, trust, and commitment our firefighters stand ready to meet these challenges head on.

## Training Division



The Training Division provides continuing education services for all members of the Fresno Fire Department, including seasoned veteran Firefighters, new recruits, Prevention, and support staff. Developing the next group of aspiring leaders to take on leadership roles as Company and Chief Officers within the organization is part of the Division's change. Due to the nature of the fire service for the initial response to any disaster, safety training consumes a significant portion of Firefighters' time and responsibilities. In 2019, the Training Division delivered 69,047 hours of training, a 12.9 percent increase over the previous year's total of 61,208 hours.

The Training Division continues to be recognized for excellence and the quality of its continuing education program. In June 2019 the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee and State Board of Fire Services recommended continued recognition of the Department's Accredited Local Fire Academy within the California Fire Service Training and Education System. This accreditation is valid for five years. Within the same month, the California Governor's Officer of Emergency Services congratulated the Department on obtaining typing as a FIRESCOPE ICS-HM-120-Type 2 Hazardous Materials Resource. Moreover, the Department continues to maintain a fire protection class rating of "Class 2" through the Insurance Service Office. All of this would not be achievable without the contributions of the Training Division.

In February 2019, Training Division conducted its annual Career Development Survey for the suppression and prevention teams. The results of the survey revealed that Company and Chief Fire Officers' courses continued to be the most requested subject area for suppression team members. Plans Examiner courses were the most requested training courses by prevention team members.

As indicated above, the Department oversaw a 12.9 percent increase in training over the previous year and continues to implement the findings and recommendations of the SART report. The Training Division has made significant progress revising its policies to align with SART report recommendations. It is in process of developing a hose training guides as developing a Chief Officer's Academy.

The Training Division has accomplished almost all of its goals for 2019. The top six training categories for 2019 include the following: 1) Company Training at 35,707 (52%); 2) California State Fire Training at 9,031 (13%); Specialty Team Training at 8,090 (12%); Driver Operator Training 3,429 (5%); Multi-Company Drills at 3,393 (5%); and Officer Development at 3,243 (5%).



Captain Brisendine managing resources on a grass fire.



Battalion Chief McGuire in command.



Fire Prevention Inspectors and Headquarters staff participating in Firefighter for a Day.



Engineer Gross pumping a house fire over the summer.

## 2019 Annual Statistics

### Budget

General Fund.....	\$58.3M
Grants.....	\$1.8M
License and Permits.....	\$358K
Charges for Services.....	\$3.0M
Contract Fees.....	\$8.4M
Capital .....	\$1.2M
<b>Total Budget.....</b>	<b>\$73.1M</b>

### Units

Engine Companies .....	19
Truck Companies .....	5
Water Tenders .....	2
Patrols .....	4
HazMat Units.....	1
USAR Heavy Rescue .....	1
Airport Rescue Vehicle .....	2

### Personnel

Sworn Safety.....	302
Sworn Non-Safety.....	19
Civilian.....	25
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>346</b>

### Daily Staffing

City of Fresno & FGFPD.....	80
-----------------------------	----

### Incidents

Medical Aids.....	30,680
Arrivals: 80.7% .....	24,754
Downgrades: 19.3% .....	5,926
Total Fires .....	3,850
Structure Fires.....	950
Vegetation Fires.....	699
Vehicle Fires .....	338
Other Types of Fires .....	1,863
False Alarms.....	2,855
Hazardous Conditions.....	1,162
Service Calls.....	1,767
All Other Incidents.....	4,664
<b>Total Incidents.....</b>	<b>44,978</b>

### Fire Loss

All Fires.....	\$25.5M
From Arson.....	\$1.7M
Displaced Persons by Fire .....	697
Total Displaced Persons.....	715

### Fatalities

Total Civilian Fatalities.....	9
Firefighter Fatalities.....	0

### Injuries

Civilian Injuries .....	29
Firefighter Injuries.....	97

### Fire Investigations

Total Investigations.....	583
Incendiary Fires .....	213
Arrests .....	40

### Fire Prevention

5 Year Fire Sprinkler Tests.....	1,014
New Sprinkler Inspections .....	1,590
Plan Reviews.....	3,639
Fire Inspections.....	5,327

### Fire Shop

Repair Requests.....	4,160
Completed Repairs .....	4,028

## CERT

The Fresno Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains people to be better prepared to respond to emergencies

in their homes, workplaces and community. The 20-hour training series has been



offered 52 times and has provided 1,245 individuals with basic emergency response skills, particularly those that would be of value after a disaster or local emergency. In 2018, CERT volunteers were activated by FFD 16 times for rehab support at major fires and incidents; for a total of 140 activations since the "CERT1" response vehicle was placed in service. Volunteers also provided on-going logistical support for numerous FFD training activities and special events; and participated in 15 major community service and public outreach events. CERT members were offered 21 continuing education opportunities and participated in four emergency exercises. The Fresno CERT and Citizen Corps Programs were recognized in FEMA's National CERT Bulletin in honor of their 15th anniversary; and together have taken a lead role nationally in emergency preparedness for child care providers.

## Thank You

Dear Fresno Fire Department:

*Thank you for your hard work battling the Kincadee Fire in Sonoma County. You have reminded us all once again that you really are real life superheroes. We are so fortunate to have such courageous and selfless first responders as you, ready to help all of us. I immensely appreciate every single sacrifice that each of you makes on a daily basis. I am also very grateful for your loved ones' sacrifices. I cannot adequately express the true depth of my gratitude.*

*Thank you again.*

*Love,  
Katie Pell (Santa Rosa, CA)*



Early morning fire in southeast Fresno.



Firefighter Webster and Engineer Woodard out serving the community.

## Company Responses Times

### First company arrival within 4 minutes

Structure Fires Only .....	73%
Medical Aids.....	65%
Fires.....	66%

### Effective residential firefighting force (EFF)

within 8 minutes\* ..... 87%  
(15 Firefighters on scene)

### Effective commercial firefighting force (EFF)

within 8 minutes\* ..... 86%  
(21 Firefighters on scene)

\*Stations North of Shaw Ave. had an effective firefighting force (EFF) effectiveness rating of 60% in 2019

## Fire Stations

Station	Address	Council District
ARFF (Airport)	5065 E. Anderson	4
Station 1	1264 N. Jackson	4
Station 2	7114 N. West	2
Station 3	1406 Fresno St.	3
Station 4	3065 E. Iowa	7
Station 5	3131 N. Simpson	7
Station 6	4343 E. Gettysburg	4
Station 7	2571 S. Cherry	3
Station 8	1428 S. Cedar	5
Station 9	2340 N. Vagedes	1
Station 10	5545 Aircorp Way	4
Station 11	5544 N. Fresno	4
Station 12	2874 N. Acacia	1
Station 13	815 E. Nees	6
Station 14	6239 N. Polk	2
Station 15	5630 E. Park Circle	5
Station 16	2510 N. Polk	3
Station 17	10512 N. Maple	6
Station 18	5938 N. LaVentana	2
Station 19	3187 W. Belmont	3
Station 20	4537 N. Wishon (FGFPD)*	
Station 21	15850 W. Kearney (NCFPD)*	
Station 22	806 S. Garfield (NCFPD)*	
Station 23	4555 N. Biola (NCFPD)*	

\*FGFPD=Fig Garden Fire Protection District

\*NCFPD=North Central Fire Protection District (service provided Jan-June 2019)

## Company Responses

### Engine Companies

#### Company ..... Responses

E01 .....	3,271
E02 .....	1,442
E03 .....	4,649
E04 .....	3,448
E05 .....	3,881
E06 .....	2,324
E07 .....	2,411
E08 .....	2,821
E09 .....	3,323
E10 (Jul-Dec).....	639
E11 .....	2,699
E12 .....	2,985
E13 .....	2,256
E14 (Jan-Jun) .....	664
E15 .....	2,093
E16 .....	1,847
E17 .....	900
E18 .....	915
E19 (Jul-Dec).....	1,058

### Battalion Chiefs

#### Unit ..... Responses

BC01 .....	813
BC02 .....	608
BC03 .....	486
BC04 .....	633
E20 .....	1,889

### Truck Companies\*

#### Company ..... Responses

T01 (Jul-Dec).....	685
T03 (Jul-Dec).....	772
T04 .....	653
T09 .....	1,240
T10 (Jan-Jun) .....	518
T11 .....	938
T14 (Jul-Dec).....	659
T19 (Jan-Jun) .....	1,089

\*As part of the Dept. apparatus redeployment plan three trucks were reassigned in July 2019

### Special Operations

#### Unit ..... Responses

Airport Rescue Vehicles .....	160
BRS1 - Breathing Support .....	66
CERT1 - Community Emergency Response Team.....	15
HazMat Units.....	139
Investigations .....	644
P02 - Patrol .....	30
P07 - Patrol .....	45
P14 - Patrol .....	66
P15 - Patrol .....	15
PIO1 - Public Information Officer.....	45
Heavy Rescue .....	108
Water Rescue.....	22
WT07 - Water Tender .....	17
WT13 - Water Tender .....	18



## *Fire Investigation Unit*

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) remains one of the busiest investigation units in the State with 611 total investigations for 2019: 583 Fire Investigations, 17 Professional Background Investigations and 11 Professional Standards Investigations. Despite this activity level the FFD FIU entered 2019 with renewed energy and focus investigating 213 arson fires, affecting 41 arrests and administering 28 Citations. The FIU also facilitated 124 criminal and civil subpoenas, assisted in fulfilling approximately 90 Freedom of Information Act requests and processed 39 ride-a-long applications.

At the onset of 2019 the FIU initiated several new programs to help impact the number of illegal and/or arson fires:

1) The juvenile fire-setters program was revamped into a bi-annual Youth Fire Education Academy in partnership with FFD, Fresno County mental health and probation representatives, and other community partners. Two academies were hosted in 2019, where youths and their family members graduated.

2) The "Top 25" program was initiated, which identified and set a course of action to remediate the top 25 problematic properties and vacant fields in the City. This program works cooperatively with the Fresno Police Department, City of Fresno Code Enforcement, the City Attorney's Office. The FIU played a role in effectively decreasing the number of problematic structures from more than 1,500 to less than 600 throughout the City.

3) The FIU was instrumental in developing the first Basic Fire Investigations course at the Fall Symposium and will be hosting the California State Fire Training Investigation series in the first couple months of 2020. Training for FIU team members has increased and nearly every member already has or soon will meet the new CSFM Fire Investigator criteria.

4) The FFD FIU has reviewed and renewed the Professional Standards Investigation process making it more transparent. The Professional Background Investigation process was merged with an industry leading electronic program which will continue to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the FIU.

The FIU has taken great strides to remain a leader in the field of fire investigations, regionally and throughout the State in 2019. Looking forward the FIU will assess the possibility of adding state of the art tools to the field to include the use of drones, 3-D imaging and Tablet based field documentation.



*Investigation Unit*

## *Fire Prevention and Technical Services Division*

The Fire Prevention Division provides fire and life-safety services to the community through participating in public education and community outreach events; supporting programs under the Community Outreach umbrella; conducting inspections of existing commercial and multi-family buildings; and, providing fire related plan review and field inspections on new commercial construction. This year the Fire Prevention Division participated with other city development departments to effectively manage a Business Friendly Fresno initiative which instituted strict timelines for new construction plan review. We are proud to report that there were no plans overdue once submitted.

The Technical Services Division provides logistical and technical support to the Department, ensuring all divisions have the support needed to effectively serve the community. Through these efforts, the Division supports and educates the community, ensuring community members are aware that a fire and life-safe environment contributes to a healthy community.



*The staff of Prevention & Support Services Division*

## *Fire Shop*



*The dedicated members of the Fresno Fire Shop.*

After a full year working in their new location at the Fleet Facility, the Fire Shop side of the Public Safety Fleet has made significant progress in addressing the preventative maintenance needs and ongoing repairs of the Department's fleet. The Fire Shop provides service with 13 members working two shifts. A Supervisor and Lead Worker work alongside 5 Fire Equipment Mechanics, 1 Equipment Service Worker II, and 1 Automotive Parts Specialist on the day shift with the swing shift being comprised of 1 Supervisor, 2 Fire Equipment Mechanics, and 1 Equipment Service Worker II. Along with the regular maintenance of the fleet, this year Fire Shop provided a much needed servicing and overhaul of the Department's entire self-contained breathing apparatus inventory.

## Community Outreach



*FFD members at Riverview Elementary making a memory.*

“**Firefighter Community Outreach**” Department encourages our firefighters to seek creative and thoughtful ways to engage with the community. Events range from school carnivals and fire drills; to car shows and block parties; conducting fire station tours as well as home safety inspections where smoke alarms may be installed. Our hope is that these intentional and frequent interactions will build positive relationships and promote safer communities.



*Firefighter Troncale reading to children at an annual Red Cross Event.*

## Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF)

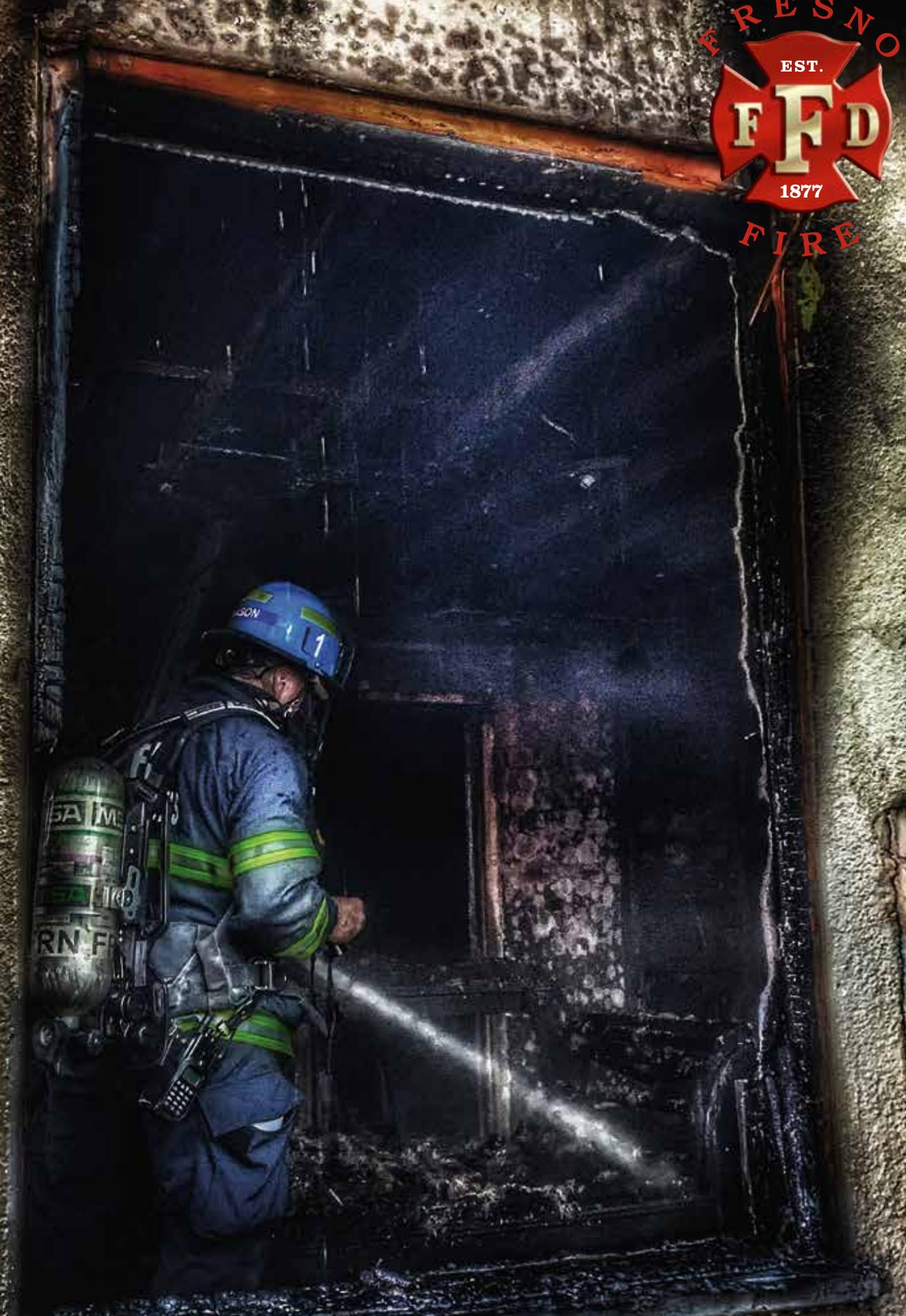
The **Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF)** is a non-profit organization which partners with the FFD to support several programs. The Fresno Fire Department **Explorer Program** provides young men and women (14-22 years old) with insight into the firefighting world. The **Helmets are Cool** program has provided over 15,000 free helmets to children since its inception. This is done through school programs, fire station tours, and distributed by Firefighters on engine and truck companies. **Firefighters Creating Memories** allows families with developmentally or physically disabled children to enjoy the Big Fresno Fair in the presence of Fresno Firefighters. Those families are escorted through the fairgrounds and assisted on rides by the Firefighters participating in the program. To learn more about the FFCF work in the community, go to the website at [www.beafirehero.org](http://www.beafirehero.org)



*1st Annual Girls Empowerment Camp – 42 campers attended.*



*FFD members helping a family enjoy The Big Fresno Fair with the Firefighters Creating Memories program.*



Follow us on:

