

# CALIFORNIA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## ANNUAL REPORT

Jeremy Kosick, Fire Chief

The 2019 annual report on the California  
City Fire Department and future outlook.



[www.calcityfire.us](http://www.calcityfire.us)

# 2019

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# CALIFORNIA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Our Mission

To preserve the quality of life, property, and the environment within our Community, State, and Nation, through education and the professional delivery of fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services.

## Our Vision

To strive for "excellence" in every-thing we do while being proactive, professional, and knowledgeable in serving the community with professionalism, integrity, efficiency, and a culture of team work.



## Values

**Trustworthiness** is the most important asset we are granted by our citizens and is the life blood of the department.

**Accountability** Accepting ownership for our actions and decisions.

**Compassion** We will be sensitive to the needs of others, thoughtful, open-minded, and provide help where we are able.

**Excellence** It's our duty to deliver quality service with resolve and adaptability to the dynamic environment in which we serve.

**Respect** We believe in the basic dignity of every individual, and we value all members of the community and department.

**Quality** We will uphold the highest standards of customer service with timeliness, quality, and value.

# MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF JEREMY KOSICK



**A**s of October 2019, I was appointed as Fire Chief for the California City Fire Department. I began as a California City Reserve Firefighter in December of 1999, and became a full-time California City Firefighter in April of 2002. I have given just over twenty years of service to the citizens of California City in several different capacities; I have served as a helicopter Flight Paramedic, Firefighter/Paramedic, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Fire & Arson Investigator, Fire Marshal / Battalion Chief, and now Fire Chief. Prior to California City I spent four years as a Forest Service Firefighter and worked as an Ambulance Paramedic and Raceway Fire Rescue Captain. I am very humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of California City and lead the California City Firefighters as Fire Chief.

The fire department has faced many challenges over the last few years with staffing and funding shortages. Even with all this adversity, the fire department staff members and firefighters have been nothing short of spectacular.

Each member has worked tirelessly on critical projects, training, and has endured extended periods of time away from family due to previous staffing shortages. Each year our call volume continues to grow, and the occurrence of back-to-back and simultaneous calls continues to mount. I am very proud of the work they do and their dedication to providing the very best service possible to the community.

As the department continues to face new and existing challenges, we are once again able to provide many community programs that had been put on hold due to staffing shortages. Many hours have been spent revamping and relaunching programs such as the Community Emergency Response Team, Youth Fire Explorer Program, and Reserve Firefighters. As these programs get underway we look forward to many more new and exciting programs for the community.

As Fire Chief, my main focus for the future is interfacing with the citizens and community leaders, and to provide a solid base for stable long-term emergency response and disaster preparedness. The fire service has a long tradition of resisting change, and I am proud that

the members of CCFD have embraced change with vigor instead of fearing it, so that we can continue to provide the best service possible. We will continue to focus on being proactive with the latest training, technology, and tactics.

I invite all citizens to regularly visit your fire department to learn about the level service we provide, and give us your feedback so that we can continue to grow and exceed the communities expectations.

As it has been for many years, the Special Tax Measure for fire department funding will soon come to an end in just a few short years. And once again a new measure will have to be voted on for continued operations of the fire department. The lack of long-term, consistent, and adequate funding is our current greatest threat to providing adequate fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to community. It is essential for us to work together as a community to find a long-term and stable funding solution. I am confident that we as a community can, and will find a solution.,

On behalf of the fire department and code enforcement members, I am honored to present this 2019 annual report. I hope that the information contained here will provide a better understanding of CCFD operations for our residents, visitors, city staff, and elected officials.



Jeremy Kosick- Fire Chief **4**

# A New Chapter for the CCFD

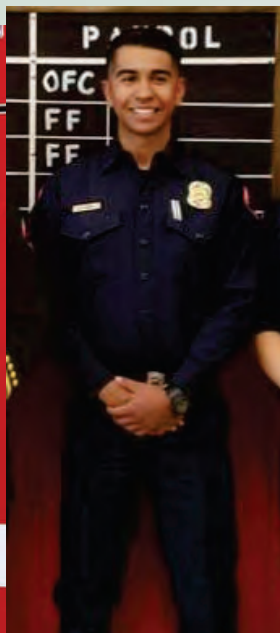


*New firefighters to the California City Fire Department (Pictured in the photo above from left to right): Firefighter/Paramedic Edgar Hernandez, Fire Apparatus Engineer Kyle Griffith, Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic Luis Cervantes, Fire Chief Jeremy Kosick, Firefighter/Paramedic Blain Smith, Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Pretzer, Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Hanzel.*

**T**his past year had been a challenge for the department on various levels. The department has seen significant turnover as many of our most seasoned and highly qualified members had moved on to other fire departments. This left the department with significant staffing issues and vacancies of five Firefighter Paramedics, two Fire Apparatus Engineers, and two Fire Captain positions. A vigorous hiring campaign was launched along with an internal promotional process. This consumed several months for planning, testing, and selection, which was very labor intensive. During this hiring campaign the department was able to fill all vacancies and pave the way back to full operational readiness. Due to the hiring of so many new personnel, training has been the focus of the department, and will continue to be intensely prioritized over the next six to twelve months. Due to the unprecedented amount of employee turnover, there was very little formal training information for new hires. Department staff spent hundreds of hours developing and revamping a comprehensive training manual and probation program, to ensure consistent delivery of training, and operational uniformity for the future. The department has assembled a top notch team with a bright and fresh outlook for the future. Pictured above are the new hires, and pictured below (Bottom Left and Right) are two newly promoted captains, and (Bottom Center) was the late pinning ceremony for last years' newly hired firefighter Juan Pina.



Fire Captain David Orr



Firefighter Paramedic Juan Pina



Fire Captain Usvaldo Guerrero

# NEW APPARATUS

## MEDIC ENGINE 19



For the first time in the city's history, with special thanks for the Community's support of the special tax, the California City Fire Department was able to design a fire engine specifically for this community's needs. This was critically important for efficient and safe operations of the fire department. The engine was designed for the harsh desert environment and all the equipment CCFD must carry for an all-risk, all-hazard department. Previous The previous CCFD fire engines were either demo units or models that had to be extensively modified to fit our needs, which has always been problematic. The new fire engine (pictured left), was methodically researched over several months with hundreds of hours of work by our apparatus committee: Fire Captain Jack Walters and Fire Apparatus Engineer Robert Marx (Pictured Below). We are grateful for their dedication to excellence and their service to this community. Delivery date is expected sometime early to mid February of 2020.

### Medic Engine 19 Highlights

Manufacturer: Pierce Mfg. Appleton, WI.  
Model: Pierce Ultimate Configuration (PUC)  
Allison Transmission- 5th Gen.  
Pierce low profile centrifugal single stage 1500 GPM pump.  
Huskey Foam System Capacity: 25 Gallons  
Water Tank Capacity: 750 Gallons

Special Features: Pump and Roll

This engine has been designed with a short wheel base for limited access areas, but has ample storage space for the enormous amount of equipment that must be carried, such as the Jaws of Life, rope rescue, technical rescue, hazardous materials, advanced life support, and firefighting equipment. This engine employs the latest technology with NFPA and DOT safety recommendations.



Captain Jack Walters (Left) Engineer Robert Marx (Right)

# NOTABLE EVENTS FOR 2019



Fire Engineer Robert Marx

Admin Tech Dawn Ferguson

In 2019 the department was honored to congratulate Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedic- Robert Marx for 20 years of service to the City, and Fire Administrative Technician- Dawn Ferguson for 15 years of Service (pictured Left). We are grateful for their continued service.

This year as a result of a large hiring campaign, the department was able to fill all vacancies that totaled two-thirds of the department. As part of that process, a family day and badge pinning ceremony were held at the fire station to welcome our new firefighters, and their families into our CCFD family (Pictured Below).

As we head into the future, we hope that all members of the CCFD family can join together for an annual picnic in support of their CCFD firefighters, and also be a support group for each other in times of hardship and need. Firefighters have a tough job. Most people could never imagine what they must deal with, and how enormous the physical and mental stress of being a firefighter is. Having the ability to support one another is essential for each firefighter to be successful and provide a full career of service.



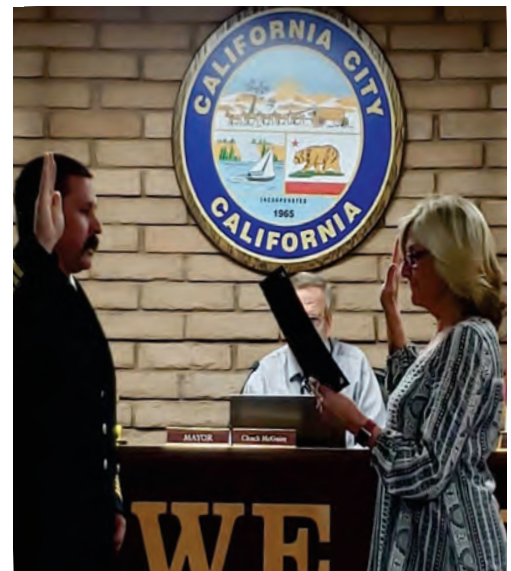
Family Day and badge pinning of new firefighters

One thing the desert seldom sees is snow! (Pictured bottom left) is a CCFD handcrafted snowman. Taking some time to play in the snow is a welcome departure from the day to day of providing emergency care, but crews were ever vigilant, and ready to respond no matter the weather conditions.

In October of 2019, Fire Marshal Jeremy Kosick was appointed as Fire Chief after several months of being interim Fire Chief. (Pictured bottom right)



CCFD Snowman



Swearing in for Fire Chief Kosick

# WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY



CCFD firefighters love to be a part of the community! (Pictured left), CCFD participated with Police to deliver Christmas gifts to those who needed a little extra help, all part of the CCPD gift program, and we also spent a little time with Santa (Pictured middle left)!

CCFD also spent sometime handing out candy on Halloween to all the kids, who all had such great costumes.

CCFD is a big supporter of cancer awareness programs by wearing pink T-shirts, helmet shields, and mustaches for "Mo-vement".

As part of our fire prevention program we visit our local schools and give fire station tours to teach fire safety and what being a firefighter is like.

CCFD provides public demonstrations such as the Jaws of Life in action (pictured bottom right), which was also used as a training opportunity for Edwards Air Force Base Firefighters. Edwards is a vital component of our mutual aid system who also helps support our fire prevention and education programs for our local schools.

CCFD was fortunate to have a local attendee (shown bottom right in the top left square) to the Jaws Of Life demonstration, who suffers from a rare illness and makes challenge coins to raise funds for awareness campaigns.

Christmas gift giving



A day with Santa



Handing out candy



Cancer awareness



RPU Fire Station and Education Tour



Jaws of Life Demo and training with EAFB FD



# NEW EQUIPMENT



CCFD received a new generator which was desperately needed. The previous generator was a single phase generator that was designed for the old fire station, which could not power the entire station, nor any of the apparatus bay doors. The new generator can not only power the new station, but also has extra capacity in times of natural disaster to power additional loads. This allows the Fire Department to function as an Emergency Operations Center and maintain service to the community during large scale disasters.

This year the department took delivery of a new fleet of MSA G-1 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs). The previous fleet which had been in service for 15 years were no longer able to be used due to OSHA and NFPA standards. The new fleet has the latest technology allowing firefighters to do their job quicker and easier. They are integrated with thermal imaging and bluetooth radio communications for clearer communications. They also boast many new features designed to help rescue firefighters and provide them with more air in the event of a firefighter down situation. They also have the ability to be easily upgraded as new technology emerges.



One vital new addition to CCFD's equipment is a new, state of the art Holmatro Jaws of Life tool set. Although it was acquired in the previous year, it is worth noting this year. The advantage of the new set is it's smaller size and weight. Previous Jaws of Life units had to be carried by two people. This new set can be easily carried by one person and has a simple single connection hose, as opposed to previous models that were complicated to hook up. These tools are stronger, easier to use, and have many useful features such as lights embedded into the tips to provide clear sight of the work area, any time day or night. These tools have been used multiple times on high profile traffic accidents and have already helped save many lives.

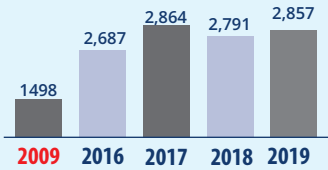
# 2019 INCIDENT RESPONSES



2009-2019

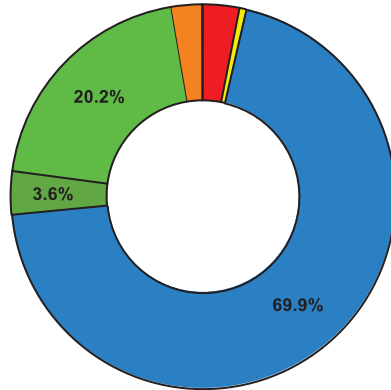
Annual Calls for Service

**↑52.4%**  
(Since 2009)



Between 2009 and 2019, incident call volume has increased by **1,359** emergency calls or 52.4%

Total Incident Response: **2,857**



- **Fires** 88
- **Explosions** 15
- **EMS & Rescue** 1996
- **Hazardous Conditions** 104
- **Public Services** 577
- **False Alarm** 76
- **Disasters** 1  
(Ridgecrest Earthquake)



2019

Daily Average Call Volume

**8**

Responses per day



HOME & PROPERTY SAVED (Estimated Value)

**\$346,000**

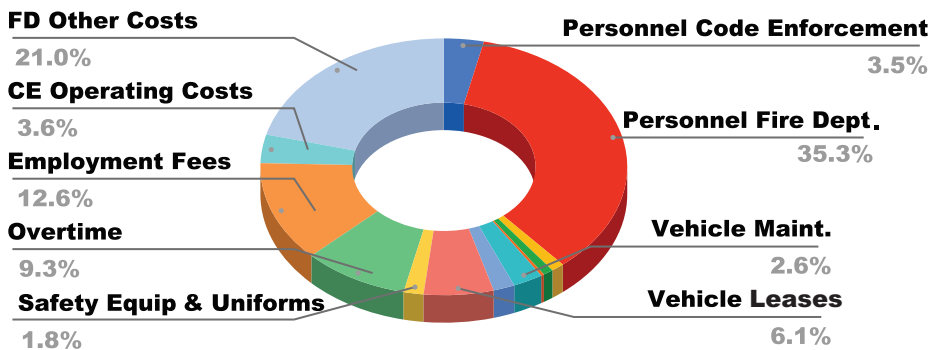
Estimated Losses: \$76,905



OVERLAPPING / SIMULTANEOUS CALLS: **379**

# MID-YEAR BUDGET

## 2019-2020 Approved Budget



(As of 12/31/2019)

Total Budget : \$3,314,269

Budget Used: **\$1,592,761**

Remaining: **\$1,625,903**

Reserve : **\$ 350,000**



Mid-Year

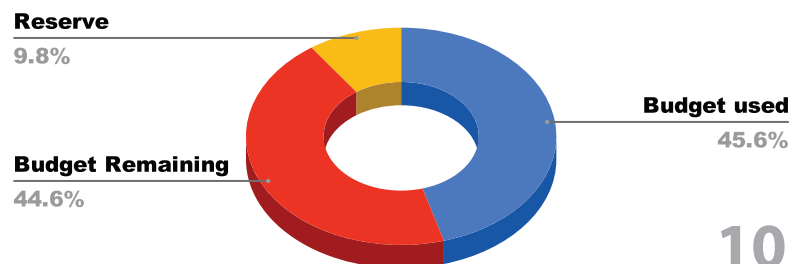
PERCENTAGE UNDER BUDGET

**1%**



On target for budget!

## 2019-2020 Mid Year Budget

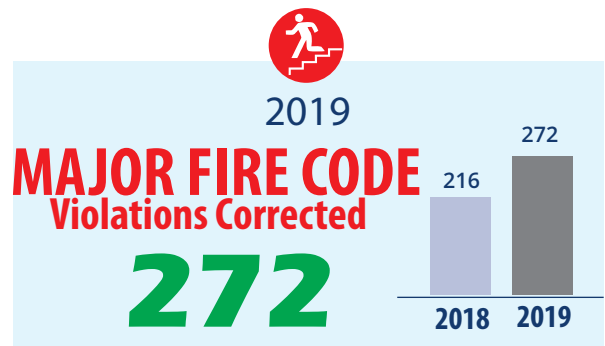




# FIRE PREVENTION



**F**ire prevention is a critical component to a safe community. All firefighters participate in fire prevention by conducting business inspections and providing fire safety education to school children. The Fire Chief has taken over all aspects of the Fire Marshal's job duties until a Deputy Fire Marshal can be hired to resume regular and continuous fire and life safety inspections. A function of the Fire Marshal is to review all building plans prior to construction to ensure safety of the public while in operation, create ordinances, and enforce all safety codes. Due to the current workload and training mandates of having new firefighters, many of the normal business inspections have been temporary delayed. Inspections will resume in the weeks to come.



# PARAMEDIC PROGRAM



2019

**AVERAGE EMS RESPONSE TIME**

**6:55**

Min. Sec.

**Dispatch to On Scene**

**GOAL OF 8 MIN. OR LESS**



**MEDICAL AID RESPONSES for 2019: 1,996**

CCFD provides fire based paramedics with a goal of being a 100% paramedic fire department. The advantages of fire based paramedicine, is that they can operate in hazardous environments, including Tactical Medicine, that most other medical providers cannot. Due to the wide variety of training and safety gear that firefighters utilize, they can operate safely in a wide variety of incidents such as traffic accidents, hazardous materials incidents, rope rescue, confined space, and many more. The unique advantage for Cal City residents is that on many medical aid responses, there can be up to five paramedics on scene. In most surrounding cities, there is only one paramedic for most calls. Having more paramedics on scene gives us the ability to perform advance life support measures rapidly, and simultaneously in as little as one to two minutes. A single medic will take much longer to perform those same skills as they have to be done one by one. CCFD prides themselves with maintaining great working relationships with our local transport providers. This teamwork approach allows us to provide the best level care to our citizens seldom found elsewhere.



# FIRE AND MEDICAL TRAINING



Paramedic continuing education



Firefighter survival



Mercy Air Flight Crew



Forcible Entry with KCFD



Fire ground training



**T**raining is paramount for delivering the highest quality services to our citizens. Each year hundreds of hours are spent by each CCFD firefighter on fire ground tactics, technical rescue, and Advanced Life Support continuing education (on average four to six hours a day). Due to the recent hiring of so many new employees, CCFD personnel worked for several months to revamp and develop a comprehensive training manual for consistent continuity in the delivery of services. As a department that works with many different agencies in the County, CCFD regularly trains with Kern County, Edwards Air Force Base Fire Departments, and other local agencies. This ensures smooth and efficient delivery of services on any incident we are called to throughout the County.



Extrication training with EAFB FD

# Fire / Arson Investigation



2019

**Fires Investigated: 77**  
**Arson Fires: 18**  
**Undetermined: 19**  
**Unintentional: 40**

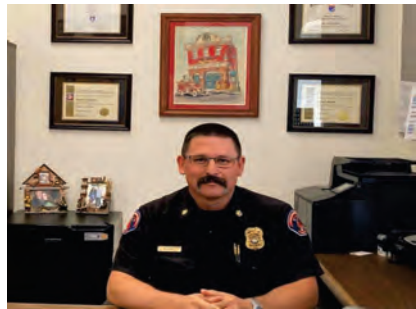


**P**er Title 19, the California Code of Regulations, the Fire Department is responsible for the enforcement of fire code and penal code violations, as well as the crime of arson and fire related homicide. The department has investigators trained and certified to state and national standards. Investigators are highly trained in crime scene forensics, fire deaths, and evidence collection. To date, CCFD arson investigators have been responsible for the arrest and conviction of four serial arsonists who were responsible for hundreds of fires in the community, as well as several high profile structure fires. Every fire that occurs in California City is investigated for cause and origin. Each year investigators investigate dozens of fires throughout the community. The arson division is trained in Youth Fire Setting Intervention and diversion to educate and deter young children who engage in fire play. Illegal fireworks enforcement is another duty of CCFD investigators, who seize and give citations by the order of the State Fire Marshal's Office. Due to recent low staffing, enforcement has been difficult. We look forward to training more investigators over the next few years to provide better enforcement and investigation services.

# Administration



The fire department administration is comprised of the Fire Chief and an administrative secretary, Dawn Ferguson who helps to manage many aspects of the day to day phone calls, reports, ordering, and accounting. She also helps in the grant process for writing, tracking, and applying for grants, and is the first stop for citizens in dealing with code enforcement information, complaints, and citation processing. The Fire Chief is responsible for all aspects of the budget, fire marshal duties (fire prevention, plan review, inspections, development issues, fire investigation, and code enforcement), supervision of code enforcement, operations, and incident command on complex incidents.



# Community Emergency Response Team



The Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) is a community organization lead by the fire department which can be deployed in times of disaster, search and rescue support, and community events. This program has been restarted and is in the process of recruiting new members. The program was previously put on hold due to lack of fire department staffing and budget. Fire Captain David Orr has been running the program for several years, and he was awarded a grant to fully fund C.E.R.T. operations and training. C.E.R.T. is a great way to help the community gain essential skills in times of disaster. If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a C.E.R.T. member please contact Captain David Orr at the fire station.



# RESERVE FIREFIGHTERS



**R**eserve firefighters are non-paid positions and cannot be used in place of full-time firefighters. The reserve program allows graduates of a certified fire academy to earn their Firefighter I Certification from the State Fire Marshal's Office, by working fifty 24 hour shifts, (approximately one year to complete). Even though they cannot be used as full-time firefighters, they are valuable extra manpower and get vital hands-on experience. It also provides a solid recruiting tool for future hiring. The year long process allows the department to fully vet the reserve for hiring suitability and also allows time for the reserve to see if CCFD is right for them. Nearly all long term employees in the fire department's history have come from the reserve program. Currently the department can support one reserve per day for a total of 7 reserves. Once they obtain their Firefighter I they are eligible to become part-time employees, which can then be used as needed for extra staffing during high demand periods or special events.

# EXPLORERS

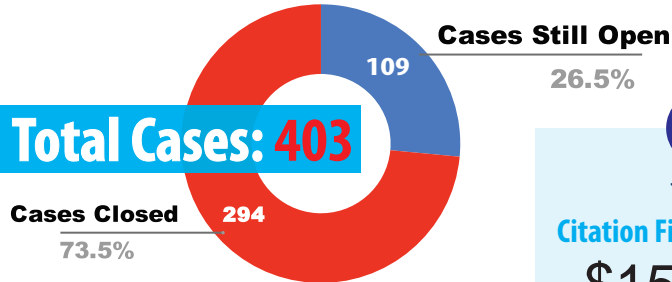


**T**he Fire Explorer program is a fire department managed and supported program through Scouts BSA. Young adults both male and female, ages 14 through 21 years of age can be a fire explorer. They learn about the fire service with a hands-on approach similar to a military ROTC program. Explorers spend two to three hours a week training in physical fitness, classroom learning, and hands-on skill building. This provides these young adults with the skills and knowledge to not only have the best opportunity to become full-time firefighters, but also gives them the skill and confidence to be more successful in all aspects of their life. Fire Captain David Orr was a past explorer in 1999 for California City and is now a full-time fire captain. The program is currently underway with four explorers in late December, and is currently looking to recruit up to twenty-five total explorers over the next coming year. The program is currently looking for startup donations to purchase uniforms and training materials. Once the program is underway, the explorers will fund-raise to be more self-sufficient as a stand alone entity. Explorers are also utilized during city and fire department events to assist with manpower, and as disaster workers in the event of a natural disaster. If you know of anyone interested in becoming an explorer please contact the fire department for more information.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT



## 2019 Total Case Load



**Total Citations Given: 114**

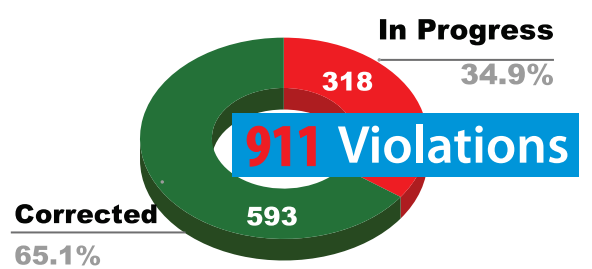
**ILLEGAL DUMPING CASES: 42**

**18/19**  
**Citation Fines Submitted:**  
**\$158,687**  
**Fines in Collections:**  
**\$148,479**  
**Fines Revenue Received:**  
**\$10,218**



**2019**  
**Dangerous/Substandard Structures**  
**IDENTIFIED: 55**  
**DEMOLISHED: 6**  
**REPAIRED: 40**

## 2019 Cited Violations



Dangerous Structure Demolished



Substandard structure Abated by Remodel



Illegal Dumping Cleanup



There are two code enforcement officers assigned to the division, Kristy Hightower and Christopher Jensma. Code enforcement mainly concentrates on residential municipal code enforcement, which is centered on nuisance items visible to the public. They enforce vacant home registration, maintenance, and abatement of abandoned structures and vehicles. Code Enforcement also participates in business license enforcement and shutting down un-permitted business activity. Both officers have attended the Code Enforcement Officer Academy, and continue to cross train in fire and building code knowledge, to assist both the building department and fire department on complex cases. Code Enforcement Officers are a vital component in identifying and reporting more serious violations to other assisting departments such as fire, police, and the building department. Once reported code enforcement works with each department to ensure the violations are mitigated and documented. Most cases take a significant amount of time to remedy, due to the legal constraints for notification, citation, and taking action. Most of the abatements done by code enforcement require a court ordered abatement warrant signed by a judge which can take several weeks to several months to obtain.



# 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received more than \$50,000 of Kern OES grant awarded Communication Radios and Mobile Data Computers. And a C.E.R.T training grant for \$10,000.
- Designed and Purchased a new Type I Fire Engine
- Replaced outdated Self Contained Breathing Apparatus with state of the art SCBAs
- Filled all employee vacancies: 2- Fire Captains, 2- Fire Apparatus Engineers, 5- Firefighter Paramedics.
- Developed a comprehensive training manual for new hires.
- Began Revising all departmental policies.
- Started development of a succession and leadership plan .
- Re-institution of the Reserve Firefighter, Fire Explorer, and Community Emergency Response Team Programs.
- Installed New Station Generator to fully power the station and Department Emergency Operations Center.
- Began research and documentation for the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.
- Implemented a departmental OSHA Safety Committee to address potential future safety issues.
- Began a new Health and Safety program to address firefighter cancer reduction and mental health.
- Began Personal Protective Equipment cleaning program revision to comply with new health and safety mandates.
- Began initial hazardous materials technician response and mitigation program.
- Numerous abatements of substandard and dangerous structures by Code Enforcement .



# 2020 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **Prioritize personnel training and expanded capabilities.**
- **Continue succession training plan for employee advancement.**
- **Repair all vehicles and equipment to 100% operational capability.**
- **Upgrade and replace Cardiac Monitors.**
- **Upgrade and replace 2nd set of Jaws of Life rescue equipment.**
- **Start replacement process of Patrol 19 for brush and DIRT responses using permit fees.**
- **Acquire a water tender to supplement fire water due to low city water pressure with grant or outside funding.**
- **Acquire land and logistics center for housing FD equipment.**
- **Replace all Fire Hose with lower friction loss to help with low city water pressure.**
- **Acquire fuel con-vault at fire station for fueling during disasters.**
- **Acquire equipment to harden the departments Emergency Operations Center.**
- **Implement a new community risk program to include all departments and members of the community.**
- **Continue to recruit and expand CERT, reserve firefighters, and explorers.**
- **Expand and formalize Fire Chaplain program and firefighter peer support for mental health longevity.**
- **Acquire grant funding for firefighter physical fitness programs and PPE in house cleaning and decontamination.**
- **Expand Hazardous Materials Technician Program.**
- **Explore future expansion of Advanced Life Support Paramedic Program.**

# Acknowledgments

Captain Jack Walters  
Captain David Orr  
Captain Usvaldo Guerrero

Engineer Robert Marx  
Engineer Luis Cervantes  
Engineer Kyle Griffith

Firefighter Juan Pina  
Firefighter Blain Smith  
Firefighter Adam Pretzer  
Firefighter Ryan Hanzel  
Firefighter Edgar Hernandez  
Firefighter Bradley Braswell

Admin Dawn Ferguson

Officer Kristy Hightower  
Officer Christopher Jensma

**Fire Chief Jeremy Kosick**  
**California City Fire Department**  
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