With great pride I present to you the activities and accomplishments of the City of Poway Fire Department summarized in this 2021 Annual Report. The Poway Fire Department remains committed to providing the best possible service to the citizens and visitors in our community. From the committed efforts of our firefighters, fire prevention personnel, and administrative staff working collaboratively with city management, other City team members, elected officials, mutual aid fire & EMS agencies, and volunteer members of our community, we will continue to ensure that the Poway Fire Department meets the everyday challenges that are part of sustaining a class 1 municipal fire department.

The coronavirus pandemic continued to bring challenges to our service delivery in 2021. Some of our program delivery may have looked different in 2021 but we remained engaged with the community while ensuring we were following the evolving San Diego County Public Health Orders and CalOSHA guidelines to protect our team members as well as the community we serve.

Although emergency response delivery remains our top priority, a significant effort was given to the retention and recruitment of fire department personnel. Retention of personnel was aided by the ratification of a 6-year labor agreement between the City and the Poway Firefighters Association. Recruitment to strengthen our staffing levels following the departure of several of our suppression personnel was made more complicated by extremely low numbers of qualified firefighter/paramedic applicants throughout California.

In July, our fire administrative offices moved from the second floor above fire station 1 into the second floor of the City Hall complex. This move allowed our administrative and fire prevention staff to serve our customers with higher levels of service.

Our fire chief retired in 2021 which necessitated my appointment to Interim Fire Chief and created the opportunity for acting assignments of existing fire prevention personnel to Deputy Fire Marshal and Senior Fire Inspector. Recruitment for a new fire chief to lead the department in 2022 is underway.

It is my honor and privilege to work alongside the compassionate and dedicated members of the Poway Fire Department and I hope you find this report informative. If you have any questions about our work or suggestions on how we can improve, please reach out to me or anyone on our staff.

Scott Post
Interim Fire Chief
Table of Organization

57 Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Chief</th>
<th>Senior Fire Inspector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Fire Chief</td>
<td>1 Senior Fire Inspector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Deputy Fire Chief</td>
<td>1 Fire Inspector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Battalion Chiefs</td>
<td>1 Senior Administrative Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Fire Captains</td>
<td>1 Disaster Preparedness Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Fire Engineers</td>
<td>24 Firefighter/Paramedics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fire Stations

The Poway Fire Department maintains three strategically-located fire stations around the city. Each fire station is maintained to ensure that firefighters are in a constant state of readiness and can quickly respond.
### Fire Station #1
13050 Community Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B3703 Chevrolet Suburban</td>
<td>Battalion Chief vehicle equipped with 1 Fire Battalion Chief. Capabilities of managing incident command systems and managing various emergency incidents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 3711 Type I Engine ALS</td>
<td>Fire engine equipped with 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Holds 500 gallons of water, fire hose, medical equipment and tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR 3761 Type III Engine</td>
<td>Brush engine equipped with 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Holds 600 gallons of water, wildland fire hose, tools and 4x4 off road capabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA3791 Medic Ambulance ALS</td>
<td>Ambulance equipped with two Firefighter/Paramedics. Capabilities of providing advanced life support and basic life support. Also equipped with firefighting gear for fires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT 3751 Type I Water Tender</td>
<td>Water Tender is equipped with 1 Fire Engineer and holds 3000 gallons of water. Also carries a small amount of hose, nozzles and fittings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 3712 Type I</td>
<td>Engine ALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR 3762 Type III Engine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OES 421</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fire Station #3  
14322 Pomerado Road

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T3773 Aerial Ladder Truck ALS</td>
<td>Fire truck equipped with 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Has no water and has 100 ft aerial ladder. Holds rescue tools, extrication tools and other specialized equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 3713 Type I Engine ALS</td>
<td>Fire engine equipped with 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Holds 500 gallons of water, fire hose, medical equipment and tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR 3763 Type III Engine</td>
<td>Brush engine equipped with 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Holds 600 gallons of water, wildland fire hose, tools and 4x4 off road capabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA3793 Medic Ambulance ALS</td>
<td>Ambulance equipped with two Firefighter/Paramedics. Capabilities of providing advanced life support and basic life support. Also equipped with firefighting gear for fires.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The City of Poway Fire Training Tower and drill area surrounding the tower occupies just over 1 acre. The 5-story fire training tower consists of the latest systems creating “hands-on” training scenarios for Poway firefighters. These features include:

- 5 stories of varying floor plans with interior and exterior stairways
- Specialized burn room for “live fires”
- Rooftop ventilation prop
- Below-ground cistern with 65,000 gallons of water supplying on-site fire hydrants
- Water collection system with ozone filtration and treatment
- Fire sprinkler system and standpipe system with fire department connections
- A “safe smoke” delivery system with red lighting to simulate “safe” fire scenarios
- Multiple anchor points throughout for technical rope rescue training
- Prop area for specialized training
- Fire equipment storage room
- Large drill ground area for hose and ladder evolution
Fire Prevention

- New Business License Inspections: 64
- New Fire Department operating permit inspections: 14
- Operating permit inspections at General Atomics: 36
- Community Care Licensing Inspections: 16
- Plan Review: 149
- Business License Review Inspections: 87
- Special Permit inspections for pyrotechnic display for July 4 shows: 2
- Annual Operating Permit Inspections: 1391
- Site Visits/Consultations: 63
- Low Hazard Fire Safety Inspections: 1064
- Temporary Use Permits: 68
- Institutional & Apartment Inspections: 55

Senior Fire Inspector Andy Loperena inspecting a fire alarm system.

Fire Inspector Matt Powell checking fire extinguishers at a local office building.
**EMS/Technology**

**Total Calls in 2021: 4959**

- **Battalion Chief**: 253 calls, 5.09%, 0.7 calls/day
- **Truck, Station 3**: 564 calls, 11.35%, 1.5 calls/day
- **Engine, Station 2**: 891 calls, 17.92%, 2.4 calls/day
- **Medic, Station 3**: 1,649 calls, 33.17%, 4.5 calls/day
- **Engine, Station 3**: 564 calls, 11.35%, 1.5 calls/day
- **Medic, Station 1**: 1,725 calls, 34.70%, 4.7 calls/day
- **Engine, Station 1**: 2,238 calls, 45.02%, 6.1 calls/day

*includes mutual aid calls*

**Unit** | **Vehicle** | **# of Calls** | **Percentage** | **Calls/Day**
---|---|---|---|---
3703 | Battalion Chief | 253 | 5.09% | 0.7 |
3711 | Engine, Station 1 | 2,018 | 40.60% | 5.5 |
3712 | Engine, Station 2 | 891 | 17.92% | 2.4 |
2713 | Engine, Station 3 | 1,649 | 33.17% | 4.5 |
3773 | Truck, Station 3 | 564 | 11.35% | 1.5 |
3791 | Medic, Station 1 | 1,725 | 34.70% | 4.7 |
3793 | Medic, Station 3 | 1,555 | 31.28% | 4.2 |

**Station One** 58%
**Station Two** 14%
**Station Three** 28%

*includes mutual aid calls*
Operations

Two new ambulances are rolling into service as part of a planned equipment refresh for the Poway Fire Department in 2022. The first ambulance (Medic 3791) will operate out of Fire Station 1 on Community Road. The second ambulance (Medic 3793) will be stationed at Fire Station 3 on Pomerado Road.

With the refresh, the older ambulances move into reserve status at their respective fire stations. Reserve units ensure that there's no disruption of service when a frontline unit is out for maintenance. The former reserve ambulances are sold at auction after equipment and Poway Fire Department graphics are removed. The radio equipment is retained for use in the new ambulances.

The new ambulances may look a little different than what Poway residents are used to seeing. They are debuting a deeper red paint color and updated graphics that will become the standard for all new Poway Fire Department apparatus moving forward.

In 2021, our Poway ambulances logged an average of 1,780 miles per month and responded to more than 3,200 incidents.
Training

The Poway Fire Department is always training. Whether honing EMS skills or training on equipment, when not on calls our team is taking the time to better themselves to effectively serve our community.

10,401 TRAINING HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Category</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company Training</td>
<td>6153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver Training</td>
<td>1118.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Training</td>
<td>637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Training</td>
<td>1169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Material Training</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer Training</td>
<td>808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Training</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit Training</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Drills</td>
<td>156.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mutual Aid

In 2021 the PFD responded to two mutual aid incidents in California.

The first was a brief one-day deployment on July 11 to the Marron Fire in east San Diego County.

The second was a 59-day deployment to the Dixie Fire in Northern California. The Dixie Fire was started on July 13, 2021 and burned 963,309 acres on the Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and across five counties: Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta and Tehama.

The Poway Fire Department responded to the Dixie Fire on July 20 as part of OES Strike Team 6841A.

Poway’s commitment to the Dixie Fire was from July 20 to September 16 and included engine personnel consisting of a fire captain, fire engineer, and firefighter. Engine personnel were rotated after each 14-day work assignment. Due to travel distance each deployment lasted 16 days.

We also committed one strike team leader trainee to the incident for one deployment duration.

Total personnel committed to the Dixie Fire was 13.
Disaster Preparedness

As vaccinations for COVID-19 became available, CalFire established “Operation Collaboration” to staff vaccination sites throughout the back country of the county. This allowed residents that may not be able to come into the city or their healthcare provider to receive the much-needed vaccinations. The Poway Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) was activated to assist with this endeavor. Thirty-nine CERT members drove to sites throughout San Diego County to do registration, triage, and monitoring of those that received their vaccinations. This was a groundbreaking event, as Poway CERT was activated under the County’s Mutual Aid Program (MAP) to partner with other CERT members across the region.

With the cancellation of most community events in 2020, volunteers were excited to attend two community educational events in August 2021. The Emergency Safety Fair was held at Old Poway Park with more than 20 vendors hosting close to 400 visitors to learn more about disaster preparedness.

The Sheriff’s Department hosted their annual National Night Out. CERT members taught hands only CPR and educated residents on preparedness.

Administratively, our Disaster Preparedness Department successfully submitted the updated Emergency Operation Plan, approved by CalOES. This plan will be in place for four years. The Disaster Preparedness Coordinator also worked in conjunction with Poway’s Development Services Department to successfully submit the Emergency Action Plan for Poway Dam. This plan is approved by the Division of Safety of Dams and in place for the next ten years.
Staff Retirements

2021 brought many changes for the Poway Fire Department. Among those changes, we said good-bye to three long-time employees who retired this year. Many thanks and best wishes to Jon Canavan, Elliott Hunter and Mike Geddes.

Chief Jon Canavan
32 Years Fire Service

Captain Elliott Hunter
43 Years Fire / EMS

Captain Mike Geddes
30 Years Fire / EMS
Promotions

Retirements within the organization always offer the opportunity for promotions. Congratulations to the five outstanding individuals promoted in 2021.

Mark Chamberlain
Captain

Joe McNally
Engineer

Ben Schmid
Engineer

Mike Strawn
Engineer

Jacob Landmark
Engineer
New Hires

We are excited to welcome seven new members to the Poway Fire Department family in 2021. Please welcome the following:

Brandon Fewell
Brandon Gray
Luke Hawkinson
Andrew McCoubrey
Matt Monahan
Justin Spikerman
Ricky Whitlock
Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Poway Post 7907 recognizes a firefighter from the Poway Fire Department. We are pleased to announce that Engineer/Paramedic Ben Schmid was named 2021 VFW Firefighter of the Year.

Ben is highly respected by his peers and company officers. He does an excellent job in providing information mentoring and guidance to probationary Firefighter/Paramedics. He is one of the project managers of the Street EMS Program and is responsible for instructing Street EMS and Blood Borne Pathogens to new hires during their orientation.

Ben has been an active participant in the Health & Wellness Committee and has made significant contributions to developing the Fire Department Health and Wellness Program.

Congratulations Ben!
Community Engagement

Engineer Smith is excited to talk about Fire Safety & prevention at Mt. Olive Lutheran Preschool.

Each year the Emergency Safety Fair is held at Old Poway Park. Firefighter/Paramedic Hawkinson explains what it is like to work on an ambulance.

8 community events

11 station tours

6 drive-by parties

Firefighters attend the annual National Night Out event sponsored by the Sheriff’s Department each August. Families learn about safety in their homes and the community.

The Poway Fire Department looks forward to attending the Poway Americana Festival each year with dozens of other vendors and representatives from the City of Poway.
"To reduce the loss of life and property from fire, medical, and environmental emergencies through education, hazard reduction, and response."