

Vista Fire Department

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



safety
excellence
service



A Message from Fire Chief Gary Fisher

Protecting the Community through Excellence in Service

The responsibility of the Vista Fire Department is to be prepared to protect the community. This past year's accomplishments are a reflection of that responsibility and the leadership and commitment to excellence established in the department. Implementing forward-thinking practices, identifying opportunities for partnerships, and demonstrating commitment to professional development are some of the reasons much was accomplished in 2008.

Great progress was made on the City's top priority to increase public safety in the community, with the construction of the two new fire stations: one in south Vista and one in central Vista.

In April, we received the exciting news that the City was awarded a federal grant for approximately \$1.6 million to fund a portion of the salaries of 15 new firefighters over several years. The additional staffing of the two new fire stations will help reduce emergency response times in the City, which will ultimately save lives and property.

This past year, the Fire Department worked in collaboration with other jurisdictions to increase efficiencies and reduce costs. In addition, fire personnel collaborated with internal City departments, such as Public Services and the Sheriff's Office, in preparing for disasters and emergencies. The commitment to constantly improve the training for existing and newly-hired personnel has provided well-trained and expert public safety personnel for the community. It is our goal that residents, visitors, and business owners in the Vista area have a fire department that is second to none.

In closing, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager for their support and guidance, without which we would be unable to provide our high level of service. Furthermore, I would like to thank the President and Board of Directors of the Vista Fire Protection District for their ongoing support. My deepest thank you goes out to the professional men and women of the Vista Fire Department for the outstanding work they do every day for our community.

Gary Fisher, CFO, EFO



The Vista Fire Department

The Vista Fire Department covers approximately 36.5 square miles for fire protection and ambulance service for the City of Vista and the rural fire district. The Fire Department is technologically and operationally up to today's fire and EMS standards. Vista Fire is constantly improving its efficiency to meet its response time standards; updating equipment to do the job at hand; educating the community about fire safety; and providing the most up-to-date training for EMS and firefighting crews.

City/District Information

Land Area Served – *36.5 sq. miles
 (* city = 19 mi and district 17.5 mi)

Vista population – 113,687
(includes City and Fire Protection District)

Firefighters per 1000 Population - 58
 Sworn Personnel – 85

Fire/EMS Operations

Total Calls for Service (over 9,500 calls)	
Fire	282
Rupture/Explosion	8
EMS/Rescue	6,711
Hazardous Condition	119
Service Call	684
False Call	1,500
Severe Weather / other	200

Fire Prevention Information

- Fire and Life Safety Inspections
- Weed Abatement Inspections
- New Construction Inspections
- Investigations
- Enforcement Actions
- Plans Review
- Public Education Activities

Equipment/Facilities

Frontline Apparatus

- 4 Fire Engines, Type I
- 1 Ladder Truck, 75 foot aerial
- 3 Brush Engines, Type III
- 3 Paramedic Units (1) Type III (2) Extreme Duty
- 1 Battalion Command Vehicle
- 1 Incident Support Vehicle
- 1 Breathing Air Support Trailer
- 1 Training Chief Support Vehicle
- 9 Command & Prevention Staff Vehicles

Grant Accomplishments

- Federal SAFER grant (SAFER) - \$1.6 million to fund a portion of the salaries of 15 new firefighters over several years.
- Urban Areas Security Initiative grant - \$1.4 million for Phase 3 of North Zone Regional Technology Project
- Assistance to Firefighter's Grant - \$133,000 for 37 new radios to upgrade existing inventory.



2008 Accomplishments

- Construction initiated on Fire Stations # 5 and #6
- Planning / design renovations for Fire Station #1
- Wildland preplans updated to match CalFire design
- City fire hydrants maintained - 3,379
- All Vista fire stations designated as Safe Surrender locations for unwanted infants
- Waterwise landscaping project completed at Fire Station 2
- Golden Guardian EOC Exercise hosted in City of Vista. Largest exercise in state history.
- Hosted CERT exercise with over 200 participants
- Multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard program updates submitted to address FEMA goals
- National certification completed with suppression staff (CPR, PHTLS, ACLS)
- Update and improvements to Standard Operating Guidelines
- Conducted two EMS academies
- Two new ambulances purchased
- Eleven new cardiac monitors purchased for Philips Medical
- Expanded Customer Service survey distribution

Vista Fire Stations

Station #1	175 N. Melrose Drive
Station #2	1050 Valley Drive
Station #3	1070 Old Taylor Street
Station #4	2121 Thibodo Road
Station #5	2009 S. Melrose Drive
Station #6	651 East Vista Way



Vista Fire Department

Non Emergency: (760) 643-2801

www.vistafiredepartment.com