

# 2021 Annual Report



MERCED FIRE DEPARTMENT

# OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

## Mission

We, the members of the City of Merced Fire Department, will prevent, prepare for, and mitigate emergencies to protect the citizens of the City of Merced through exceptional service and visionary leadership.

## Vision

The City of Merced Fire Department is a progressive organization unified in creating a safe and secure community.

## Values

The City of Merced Fire Department is a progressive organization unified in creating a safe and secure community.



# Quick Fact - PPC Class 2

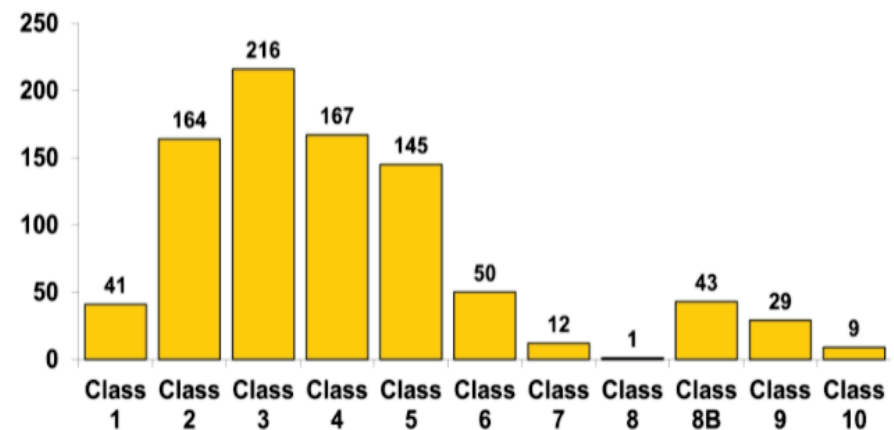
- ▶ To help establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties, insurance companies need reliable, up-to-date information about a community's fire-protection services. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) provides that information through the Public Protection Classification (PPC®) program. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Insurance companies use the ISO's PPC information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance for residential, commercial and industrial properties — generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection.
- ▶ On January 27, 1984, the City of Merced became a PPC Class 2 community and has maintained the classification since that time. Merced is one of 164 cities out of 877 surveyed in California to have earned the PPC Class 2 rating, with 1 being the highest and 10 being the lowest. With enhancements in fire protection being made annually, it is our goal to become a PPC Class 1 community.

## Distribution of Communities by PPC Class Number within Classification

Number within Classification

California

California





# Quick Factoids

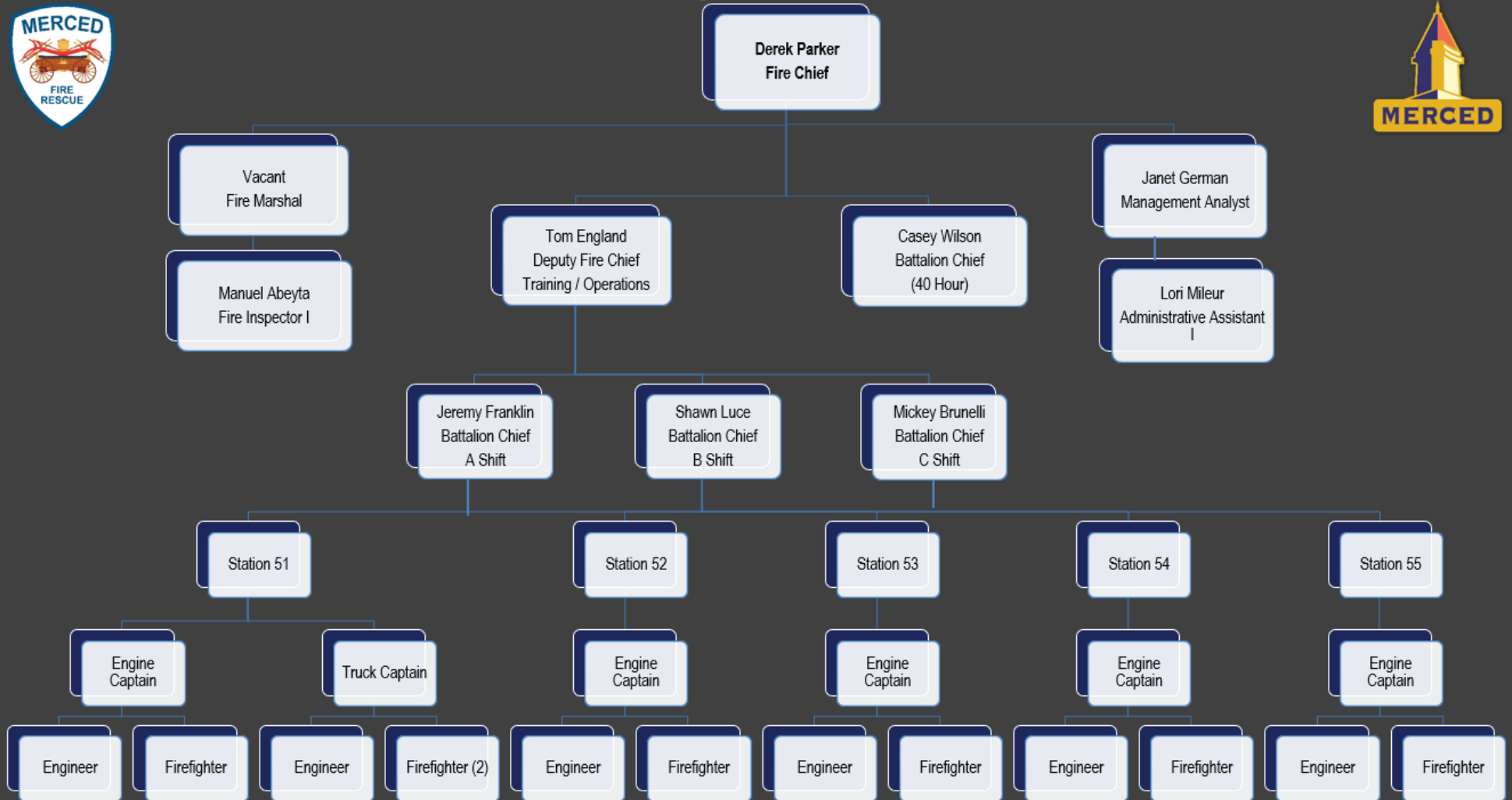


- Career Agency, Full-Time, No Volunteers
- Fire Dept. Budget - FY 21/22: **\$16,830,300**
- Population Protected: **90,971**
- Fire Dept. Cost per Capita: **\$185**
- Firefighters per 1,000 Residents: **.7**
- Square Miles Served: **23.3**
- PPC Class: **2**
- Calls for Service in 2021: **11,565**
- Sworn Personnel: **63**
- Non-Sworn Personnel: **4**
- Fire Stations (51, 52, 53, 54 & 55): **5**
- Engines (E51, E52, E53, E54, E55, OES E5601, and OES E393): **7**
- Trucks (T51): **1**
- Daily Minimum Staffing: **18**



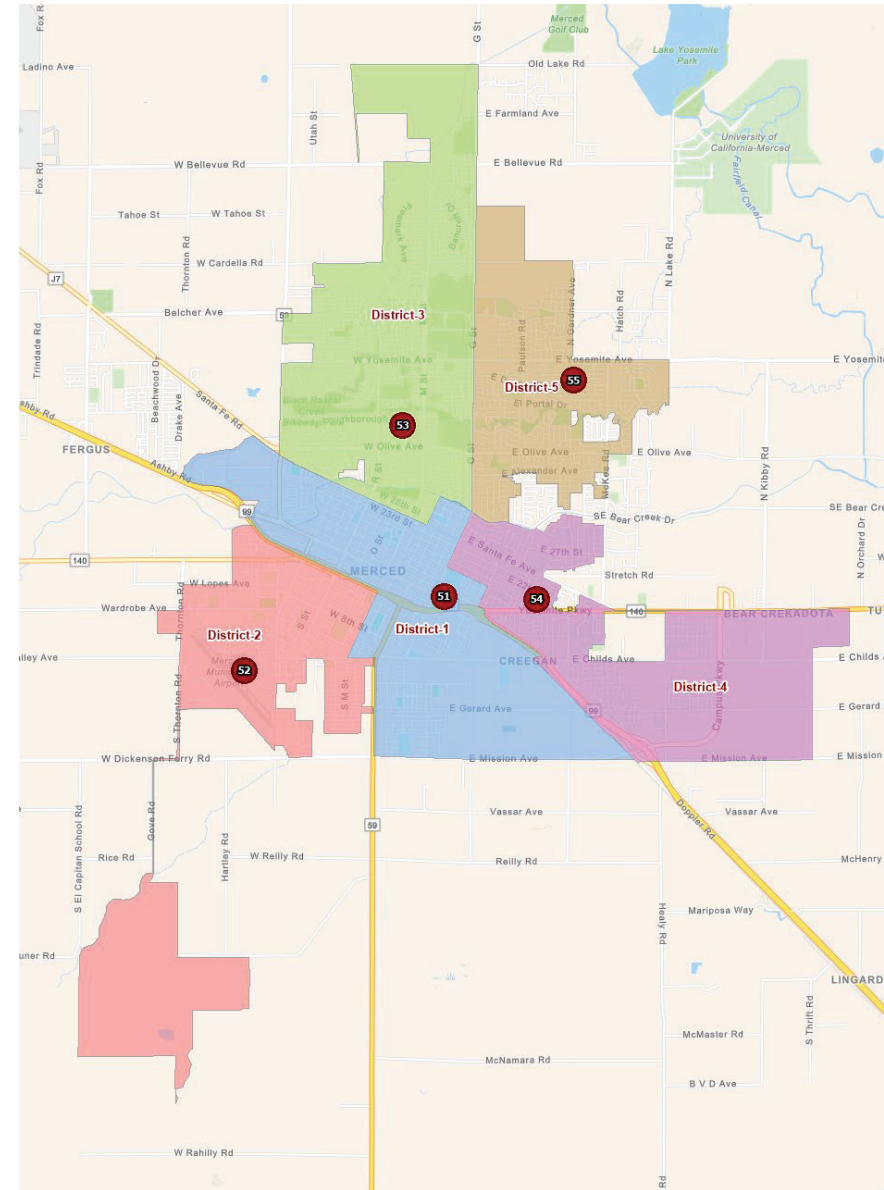


# Merced Fire Department Organizational Chart



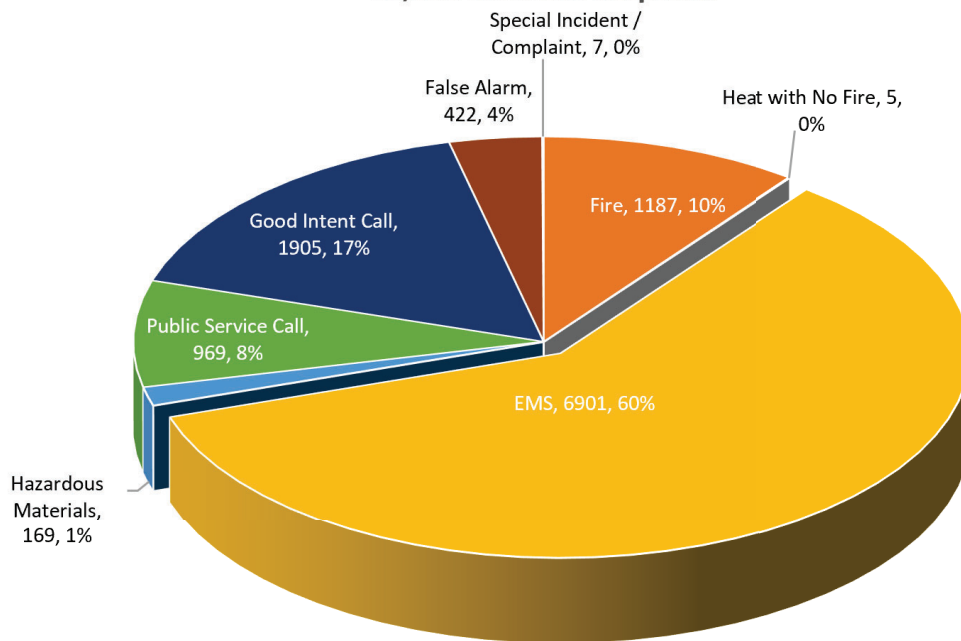
# Fire Station Map

- There are 5 fire stations strategically placed throughout the city and staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by three separate shifts. These stations are supervised by a Fire Battalion Chief.
- To find your fire station, click [here](#).
  - Fire Station 51
    - 99 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95340
  - Fire Station 52
    - 1400 Falcon Way, Merced, CA 95340
  - Fire Station 53
    - 800 Loughborough Drive, Merced, CA 95340
  - Fire Station 54
    - 1425 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95340
  - Fire Station 55
    - 3520 North Parsons Avenue, Merced, CA 95340



# Quick Fact - Calls for Service – Why are We Needed?

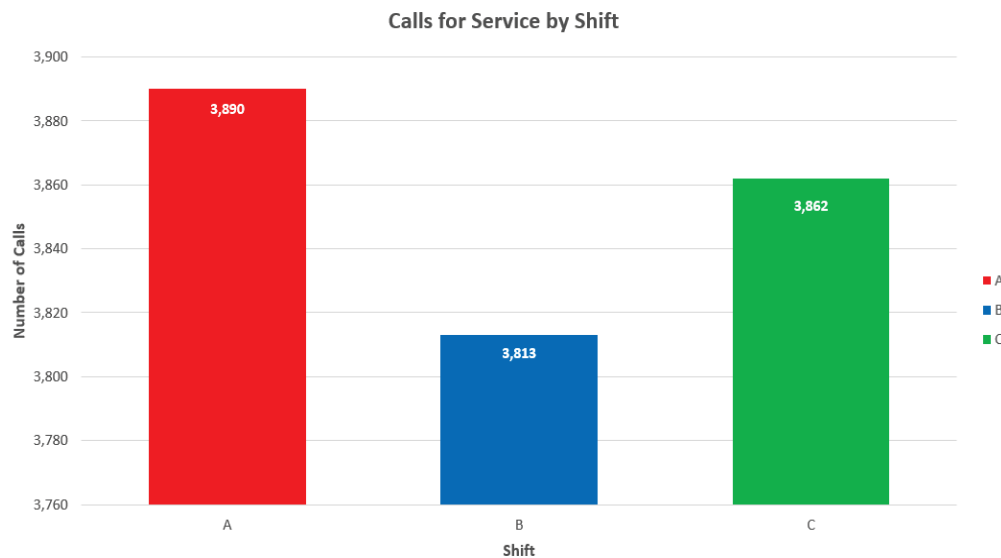
**Incident Type Group  
Calendar Year 2021  
11,565 Incident Requests**



- ▶ Percentage of Fire /Other Calls vs. Emergency Services (EMS) Calls.
- ▶ As reflected in the pie chart, 60% of the calls received are EMS related.
- ▶ Q. What does this mean?
- ▶ A. With the significantly high proportion of calls requiring EMS related services, it benefits the community to have EMT's to assist them in their time of need. Seconds can make a difference in patient outcome.
- ▶ Increase Communication with Riggs Ambulance. Sharing data with Riggs Ambulance can improve patient outcomes as well as firefighter safety. MFD is working on obtaining grant funding to achieve this objective.

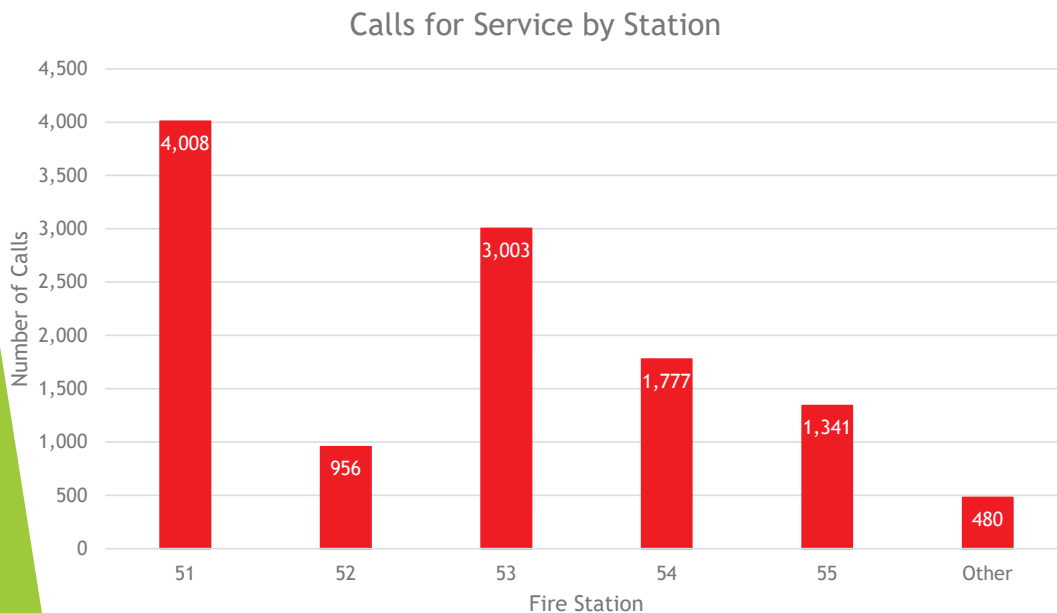


# Quick Fact - Calls for Service by Shift



- The department has a three-shift system (A, B, and C). Shift employees (Fire Captains, Fire Engineers, Firefighters, and Shift Fire Battalion Chiefs) work a forty-eight/ninety-six (48/96) schedule. In other words, shift employees work for two consecutive twenty-four hour shifts and then are off for ninety-six hours (Four days). The shift change occurs at 8:00 a.m. Shift employees work long shifts that include weekends and holidays.
- In the year 2021, A Shift was the busiest shift, having responded to 3,890 calls for service, followed closely by C Shift with 3,862 calls for service, and lastly B shift, responded to 3,813 calls for service.

# Quick Fact - Calls for Service by Station



- The department has five fire stations (51, 52, 53, 54, and 55) strategically located throughout the city and each has one engine company, staffed with three personnel. Fire Station 51 also has a truck company staffed with a minimum of three personnel.
- In the year 2021, Fire Station 51 was the busiest station, having responded to 4,008 calls for service.

# A Year in the Life of the Merced Fire Department

- 2021 was challenging and rewarding as we continued to navigate the everchanging COVID landscape in order to provide the same or better level of pre-pandemic service.
- Former Sacramento Fire Battalion Chief Derek Parker was appointed as the City of Merced's Fire Chief and officially took command of the department on January 4, 2021.

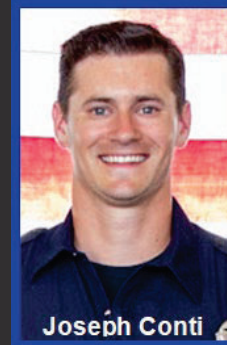


# Fire Academy Graduation

- Fire Chief Derek Parker swore in eight new members to our fire department family after they successfully completed their 4-week fire academy.
- On April 19, 2021, we welcomed four Probationary Firefighters to Recruit Academy 21-01: Daniel Timko, Joseph Conti, Kevin Pixley and Diego Basulto.
- On October 4, 2021, we welcomed four Probationary Firefighters to Recruit Academy 21-02: Adam Welsh, Rhett Avant, Dustin King, and Steven Silveira.



Daniel Timko



Joseph Conti



Kevin Pixley



Diego Basulto



Rhett Avant



Adam Welsh



Steven Silveira



Dustin King



# Promotions, Firefighter of the Year, and Retirement

- Two firefighters were promoted to Fire Engineer.
- Firefighter Billy Dickens was promoted to Fire Engineer on 04/05/21.
- Firefighter Luke Poole was promoted to Fire Engineer on 09/06/21.
- We bid a fond farewell to Firefighter Brent Boyd who joined our family on 08/14/06 and retired on 10/17/21 after 15+ years of dedicated service.
- Fire Captain Keith Albrecht was chosen by his peers to receive the prestigious Firefighter of the Year Award for his exemplary efforts to provide better service, enhance public relations with the community and exemplary efforts made to improve the working conditions of the department.





## Master Mutual Aid

Beginning on January 27, 2021, the Merced Fire Department responded to 12 requests statewide for firefighters and fire equipment to assist on wildland fires and to preposition/mobilize for mud and debris incidents.

- 01/27/21 - 01/29/21 Preposition/Mobilize
- 06/27/21 - 07/04/21 Lava
- 07/21/21 - 08/23/21 Dixie
- 07/26/21 - 10/19/21 Dixie
- 08/03/21 - 08/18/21 River Complex
- 08/17/21 – 09/12/21 Caldor
- 08/20/21 - 09/06/21 Monument
- 08/23/21 - 09/07/21 Dixie
- 08/31/21 - 09/12/21 Caldor
- 09/13/21 - 10/19/21 Windy
- 09/21/21 - 10/21/21 Caldor
- 09/26/21 - 10/21/21 River Complex



## Community Partnerships - COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing

- After learning that the Merced County Health Department needed additional qualified people to inoculate members of the community against COVID-19, the Merced Fire Department partnered with the local and state health department to train its firefighters to administer the vaccines.
- This collaboration is an important resource to ensure that vaccines are provided equitably to people throughout our entire community. The Fire Department is humbled to be able to demonstrate its creativity and commitment to the public's health. In March, our firefighters joined nursing students and staff at Merced College's COVID-19 vaccination site to help administer vaccines and monitor patients. We teamed with Dr. Sima Asadi and her team to administer vaccines at the Merced Civic Center.
- The Fire Department co-hosted a drive through COVID-19 testing site for city employees and their families with Dr. Sima Asadi and Patients First and performing the testing.







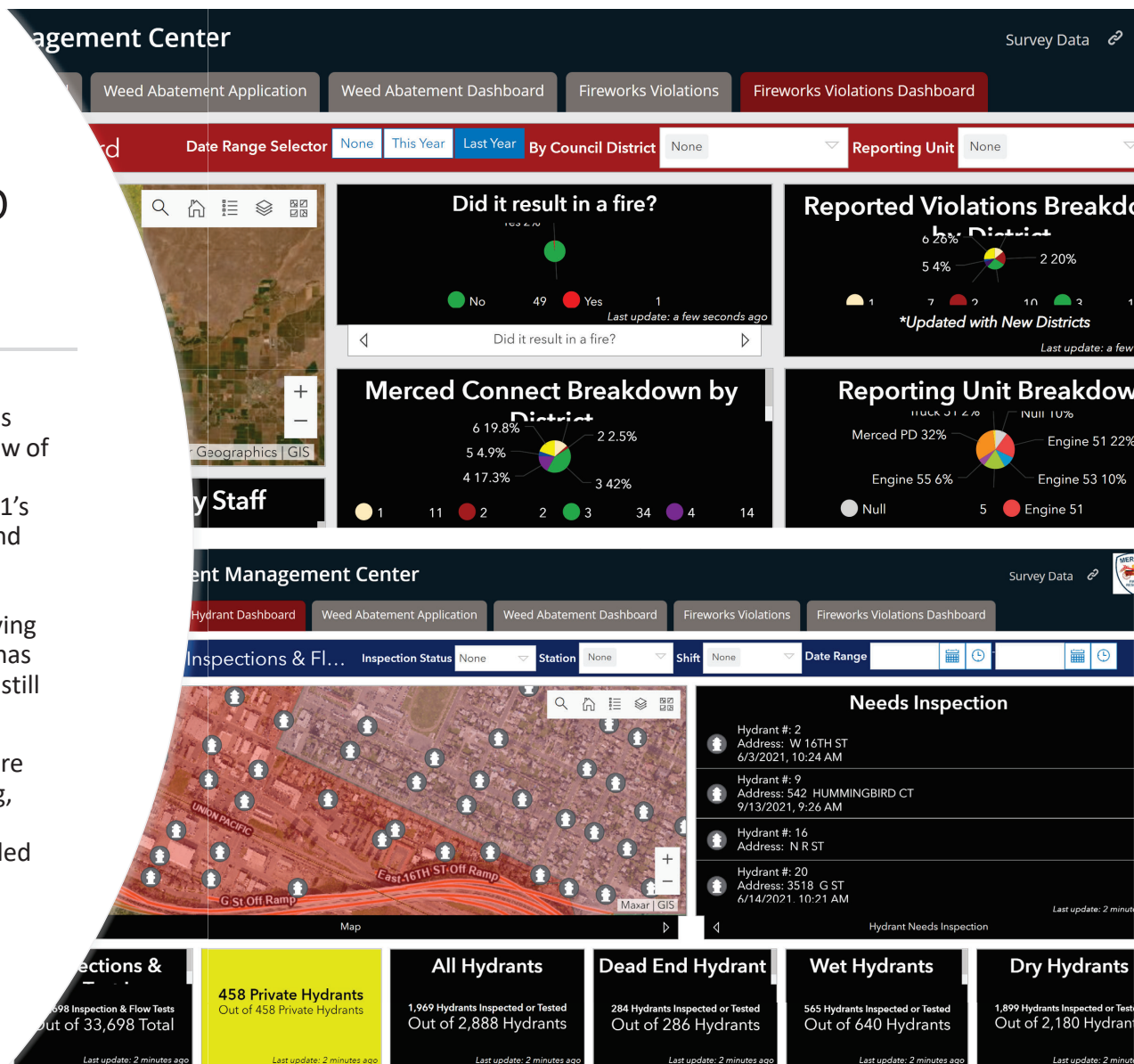
## Community Outreach & Public Education

- Considering the health and safety of our community and personnel, we made a concerted effort to reduce non-emergency contact with the public due to concerns over the pandemic and while proactively ensuring proper safety measures were taken when performing public outreach. We missed interacting with you in 2021!



# Leveraging Technology to Improve Service Delivery

- **Fire Hydrant Inspections** – Previously, hydrant inspections were performed by firefighters using a paper-based workflow of taking notes, writing emails, and making phone calls to get repairs completed, which was a labor-intensive project. 2021's solution was to move away from a paper-based workflow and design a new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) app for mobile firefighters to collect data, completely assignments, thereby streamlining the hydrant inspection process and giving stakeholders access to real-time information. The new app has streamlined the process and decreases the workload which still increasing the firefighter's productivity.
- **Illegal Fireworks Crackdown** – Using a new GIS app, a more accurate and efficient methodology of identifying, collecting, and responding to user of illegal fireworks was developed resulting in an unprecedented number of citations being billed at \$1,000 per citation.



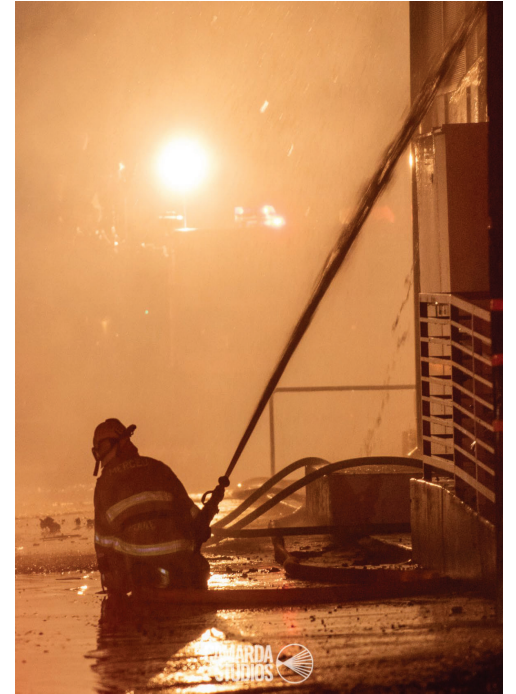


07/04/21  
Joerg Street  
Structure Fire



03/03/21 Gerard Street Structure Fire





08/25/21 Canal Street Structure Fire





## 09/21/21 Derby Street Structure Fire

- A suspected honey oil lab containing hazardous materials and several propane tanks exploded thereby damaging surrounding houses and property.





11/15/21

Citadel Street  
Structure Fire



MAKE AN IMPRESSION  
ON YOUR FUTURE

ANSWER THE CALL

MEET MFD MEMBERS

LEARN THE PROCESS &  
REQUIREMENTS  
NEEDED TO BE A PART  
OF THE MFD

GET ANSWERS TO  
FAQ's REGARDING  
THE HIRING PROCESS



## CITY OF MERCED FIRE DEPARTMENT



## INFORMATIONAL RECRUITMENT MEETING

December 1, 2021  
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Sam Cafe  
235 W. 12th Street  
Merced, CA 95341

FIREFIGHTER  
RECRUITMENT  
WILL BEGIN IN THE  
FIRST QUARTER OF 2022

## Diversity and Inclusivity

We exist to serve our community.

We want our firefighters to match the demographics of Merced.

We are trying different methods to reach out to those who have never considered becoming a firefighter.

We held our first recruitment fair on the south side.

We are changing our recruitment process and standards and trying new avenues to attract a workforce that represents our Citizens.

We are committed to diversifying our department and including all of our current and future firefighters to be one big happy family!



### New Apparatus – OES #5601 (Type 6 Fire Engine)

The State of California Office of Emergency Services transferred a new Type VI fire engine to the MFD on 07/08/21. Type VI fire engines are widely used in wildland urban interface fire response because of their versatility, maneuverability, off-road abilities, and fire suppression capabilities. The MFD will use the fire engine during day-to-day duties and when the State requests assistance from our firefighters.









Thank you for Letting Us Serve  
You!

