



Tuolumne County Fire Department

In Cooperation with **CAL FIRE**

Proudly serving the County of Tuolumne, Groveland, Jamestown, Columbia, and Columbia College

Nick Casci, County Fire Chief
Andrew Murphy, Assistant County Fire Chief

18440 Striker Ct. • Sonora, CA 95370
Tel: (209) 533-5100 • Fax: (209) 533-5103

PRESS RELEASE

The Tuolumne County Fire Department is pleased to announce the following grants we have been awarded in 2024:

June 18, 2024 – The Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) was awarded a Sonora Area Foundation grant to purchase two sets of rope rescue equipment, including the following items:

- Two (2) 300' lifeline ropes, ½" (red)
- Two (2) 300' lifeline ropes, ½" (blue)
- Two (2) 300' lifeline ropes, ½" (yellow)
- Two (2) 300' lifeline ropes, ½" (orange)
- Twenty-eight (28) AZ bound-loop Prussiks, 25", 8mm (red)
- Twenty-eight (28) AZ bound-loop Prussiks, 25", 8mm (green)
- One hundred (100) feet of tubular webbing, black, 1"
- Two hundred eighty (280) feet of tubular webbing, red, 1"
- One hundred twenty (120) feet of tubular webbing, yellow, 1"
- One hundred fifty (150) feet of tubular webbing, blue, 1"
- Fifty (50) feet of tubular webbing, green, 1"
- Six (6) load release straps
- Two (2) Pronto Evac harnesses, black/gray/red
- Eight (8) fire rescue harnesses, L/XL, black/gray/red

This rope rescue equipment will be used in emergencies throughout Tuolumne County, including vehicle accidents, search and rescue operations, and low-angle rope rescues. The new equipment will replace soon-to-be-expired gear on the two busiest fire engine companies in Tuolumne County: TCFD Station 51 Mono Village Engine 511 and TCFD Station 76 Jamestown Station Engine 761.

Rope rescue equipment is regulated by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CAL OSHA). These agencies require rope rescue equipment to be replaced after ten years of service. Rope rescue is a high-risk, low-frequency operation that requires specialized skills and equipment. Due to budget constraints, if this equipment



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had not been replaced, TCFD would have had to remove rope rescue equipment from the two engines. This would have forced reliance on equipment from other areas of the county, potentially delaying rescue and treatment efforts.

The total cost of the rope rescue equipment was \$10,228.97, with the grant covering \$10,000. TCFD used budgeted funds from the small tools and equipment budget to cover the remaining \$228.97.

The generosity of the Sonora Area Foundation grant has provided vital, life-saving equipment that will continue to assist residents and visitors throughout the county during nearly every rescue incident TCFD responds to.

July 8, 2024 – TCFD was notified of tentative approval for a Highway Traffic Safety Grant, administered by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), in the amount of \$17,826. This grant will allow TCFD to purchase the following items:

- Two (2) KPI-17 22.7 Ton MaxiForce G3 Air Lifting Bags
- Two (2) KPI-28 39.8 Ton MaxiForce G3 Air Lifting Bags
- One (1) MaxiForce G3 Control Kit and associated control devices
- One (1) TeleCrib Truck Kit, which consists of:
 - Two (2) Long Struts
 - Two (2) Short Struts
 - Four (4) Ratchet Straps
 - One (1) Screw Jack Head
 - One (1) A-Frame Head
 - One (1) Spike Foot
 - One (1) Hook Cluster
 - One (1) Cinch Ring
 - One (1) Spare Strut Pin
 - One (1) Spare Base Pin
 - One (1) Large Accessory Bag
 - One (1) Instructional DVD
- Eight (8) Jumbo Lok with Black Strap



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These rescue devices, part of our specialized equipment inventory, provide firefighters with the most advanced solutions for lifting nearly 80,000 pounds to free entrapped victims. The struts provide stabilization for unstable or overturned vehicles and equipment, ensuring the safety of both victims and rescuers.

This equipment will enable rapid and appropriate rescue, extrication, and medical care for patients involved in motor vehicle collisions. The Office of Traffic Safety emphasizes the importance of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including extrication from motor vehicle collisions. Medical experts have proven that patients who receive treatment in a hospital within one hour have a higher chance of survival.

This grant is 100% reimbursable with no required match. Once the equipment is purchased and delivered, the Office of Traffic Safety will reimburse the County for actual costs.

August 16, 2024 – The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) was announced in January 2024, offering \$324 million in funding to protect firefighters and the nation against fire-related hazards. On August 16, 2024, TCFD was notified that our micro-grant application for structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) had been approved for \$61,090.90. This grant requires a 10% match of \$6,109.10, which will be covered by funds in the approved small tools and equipment budget in the TCFD FY 2025 budget. The total grant funding is \$67,200. This grant will allow the TCFD to purchase the following:

- Fifteen (15) structural firefighting coats
- Fifteen (15) structural firefighting pants
- Five (5) structural firefighting helmets with earflaps, goggles, chin strap
- Fourteen (14) structural firefighting barrier hoods, black
- Fourteen (14) pairs of structural firefighting boots
- Fourteen (14) pairs of structural firefighting gloves

Structural firefighting PPE is essential for firefighter safety. It is used daily for structure fires, hazardous materials incidents, vehicle collisions, and other



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emergency calls. The NFPA and CAL OSHA require replacement cycles for PPE not to exceed ten years. Maintaining a robust replacement budget for this gear is difficult, but grants like this help ensure that our firefighters are protected while they serve our communities.

September 9, 2024 – TCFD was notified of receiving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) 2024 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant in the amount of \$12,983.48. This grant will allow TCFD to purchase the following:

- Four (4) BK BKR 5000 Handheld Radios
- Five (5) structural firefighting coats
- Five (5) structural firefighting pants

Handheld radios are essential for on-scene communications. These single-band radios have a 5000 MAH Li-ion smart battery, are built to withstand rugged firefighting conditions, and can be programmed with up to 5,000 channels for statewide interoperability.

The VFA grant (formerly known as the Volunteer Fire Capacity or Rural Fire Capacity Grant) assists rural fire protection jurisdictions in purchasing training, safety, and communications equipment. Since 1980, this grant has supported the acquisition of critically needed equipment for firefighters and first responders. The grant program is a 50/50 matching fund grant provided by the United States Forest Service under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 and is administered by CAL FIRE. TCFD has applied for and received VFA funding for several years.

In addition to the above, TCFD continues to manage the three-year FEMA SAFER grant, which awarded nearly \$9 million to fill 19 firefighter positions in the County.

TCFD operates five combination career/volunteer-staffed fire stations located in Mono Village, Mono Vista, Jamestown, Groveland, and Columbia, as well as volunteer stations in Ponderosa Hills, Long Barn, Pinecrest, Crystal Falls, Cedar Ridge, Chinese Camp, and



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Don Pedro. TCFD has a staff of 51 full-time personnel, along with 29 student, volunteer, and resident (intern) firefighters, who respond to nearly 7,000 incidents annually.

For more information about TCFD, visit:

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1473/Fire-Department>

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066498952885&ref=embed_page

<https://www.instagram.com/tuolumnecountyfire/>

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