Benicia Fire Department

2019

Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On behalf of the members of the Benicia Fire Department, I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report. This document showcases the Department's commitment to serving our community promptly, professionally, and with the same compassion that we wish for our own families. I am honored to serve with such talented individuals who provide superior service and care throughout our city.

In 2019, we sharpened our skills by training collaboratively with other municipalities in order to better respond to fire, medical, rescue, and hazardous material incidents. Additionally, our crews supported Cal Fire through another devastating California wildfire season. The Department was also awarded a Federal SAFER Grant which will provide funds to support three new Firefighter/Paramedics starting in 2020. These new hires will support our goal of providing excellent emergency response service and enhance the safety of our community.

As California's oldest fire department (formed in 1847), we strive to build upon the positive reputation we have established within our community. This report highlights our members, our accomplishments, and our interactions with Benicia's residents. We are proud to be a part of this historic town and look forward to achieving our commitment to serve, protect, and enhance our community in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Josh Chadwick,
Benicia Fire Chief

Benicia Fire Department

Mission

Provide exceptional community-focused service

Vision

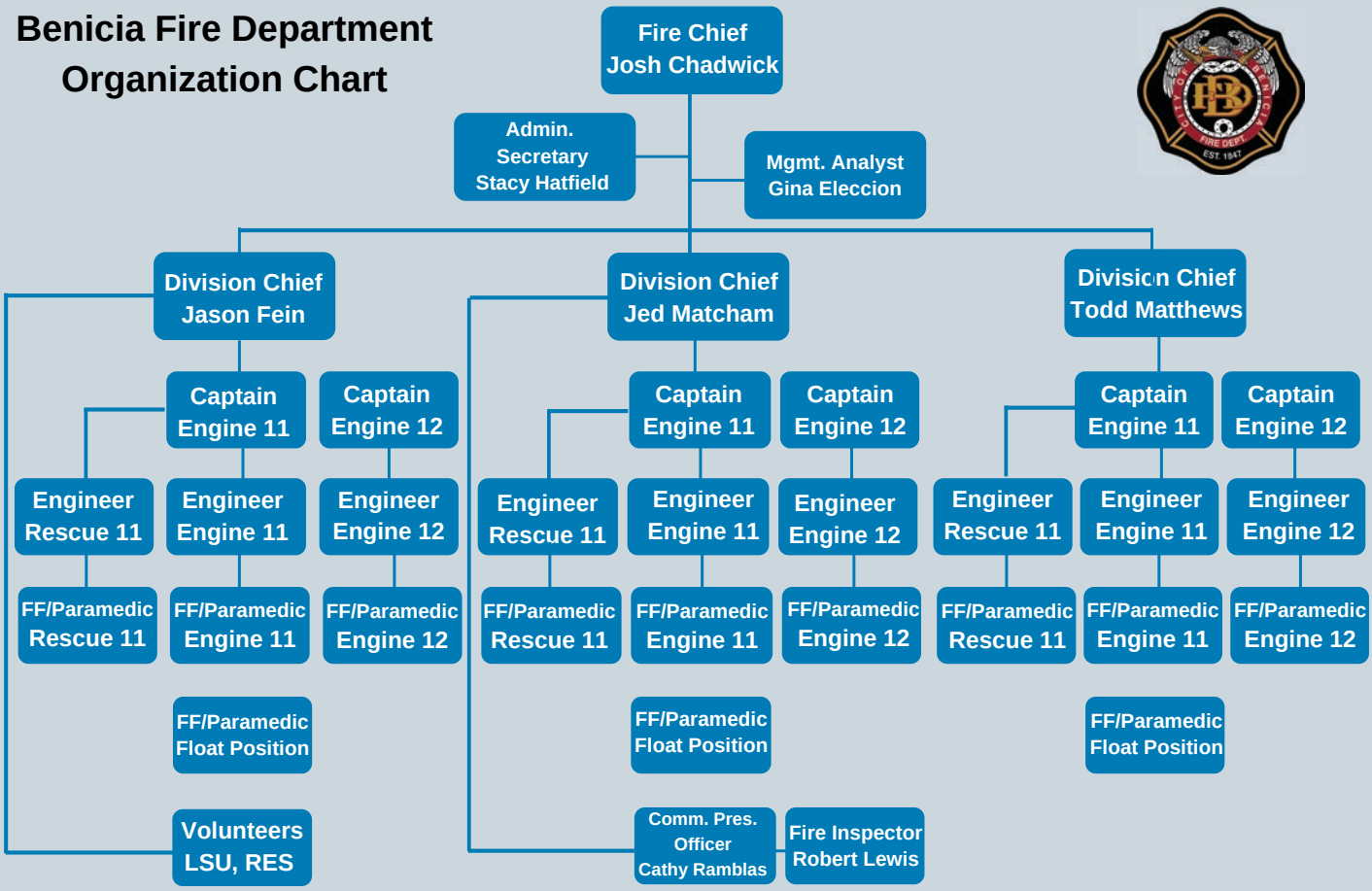
To set the standard for public safety excellence in preparedness, emergency response and customer service

Values

Integrity
Compassion
Professionalism

Organization Chart

Benicia Fire Department Organization Chart



Accomplishments

2019 Accomplishments

1. Awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant through the Federal Government to hire three additional Firefighter Paramedics.
2. Completed a comprehensive cooperation agreement with the Benicia Valero Refinery.
3. Obtained funding to enable the hiring of a third Fire Division Chief.
4. Completed a major update to the City's Emergency Operations Plan.
5. Received a new Type-1 OES Engine, conducted in-service training, and placed the unit in service.
6. Completed a review and update to the Fire Department's Mission, Vision, and Values statement.
7. Received a donation of new portable air monitors and developed training and use standards.
8. Adopted the new 2019 California Fire Code with Benicia specific amendments.
9. Improved the Department's Critical Incident Stress Management program.
10. Finalized purchase of new RIMS Computer Aided Dispatch system and began system configuration.
11. Became certified "Storm Ready" with the National Weather Service

Personnel

Admin. Secretary
Stacy Hatfield

Fire Chief
Josh Chadwick

Mgmt. Analyst
Gina Eleccion

Division Chief
Jason Fein

Division Chief
Jed Matcham

Division Chief
Todd Matthews

Captain
Jeff Davidson

Captain
Mike Brown

Captain
Dave Calkins

Captain
Adam Malbrough

Captain
Carl Littorno

Captain
Alan Bates

Fire Inspector
Robert Lewis

Comm. Pres. Officer
Cathy Ramblas

Personnel

Engineer
Doug Segulyev

Engineer
Scott Hanson

Engineer
Jeff Toynbee

Engineer
Tony Horner

Engineer
Vince Parga

Engineer
William Steiner

Engineer
Ricardo Netro

Engineer
Gerardo Preciado

Engineer
Rich Garner

FF / Paramedic
John Profeit

FF / Paramedic
Wayne Fraser

FF / Paramedic
Kyle Williams

FF / Paramedic
Ryan McDonald

FF / Paramedic
Drake Martin

FF / Paramedic
Stephen McCord

FF / Paramedic
Dustin Anderson

FF / Paramedic
Patrick Dickinson

FF / Paramedic
Josh Goodreau

FF / Paramedic
Ray Smith

FF / Paramedic
Deke Madsen

FF / Paramedic

Facilities & Fleet

Population
28,174

Jurisdiction
15.7 Square Miles

Apparatus
(*not all pictured*)

- 3 -Type 1 Engines
- 1 - OES Engine
- 1 - Aerial Ladder Truck
- 1 - Rescue Vehicle
- 2 -Type 3 Brush Engines
- 2 -Type 5 Brush Units
- 1 - Water Tender
- 1 - Incident Support Unit

Station 11 - 150 Military West *(Pictured)*

Station 12 - 601 Hastings Drive

Fire Museum - 900 East 2nd Street

Mutual Aid & Special Teams

Mutual Aid

Supporting communities across the state during wildfire season.

2019 was another destructive wildfire season. Our firefighters were deployed to several fires throughout the State, including the Kincade Fire, Walker Fire, Sand Fire, and Tucker Fire, as well as Wind Cover Pre-positioning in Solano County.

The deployment of our crews creates overtime and equipment costs that are reimbursed by CAL OES through the California Fire Assistance Agreement. In 2019, the reimbursement dollars were used to offset the additional costs incurred by Benicia Fire Department.

Urban Search & Rescue

Seven members from Benicia Fire are on the County **USAR Team.** Members of the USAR Team provided assistance during the Camp Fire in Butte County.

Water Rescue

Our **Water Rescue Program** includes equipment and training that provides us with a greater ability to respond to water-related incidents.

Hazardous Materials

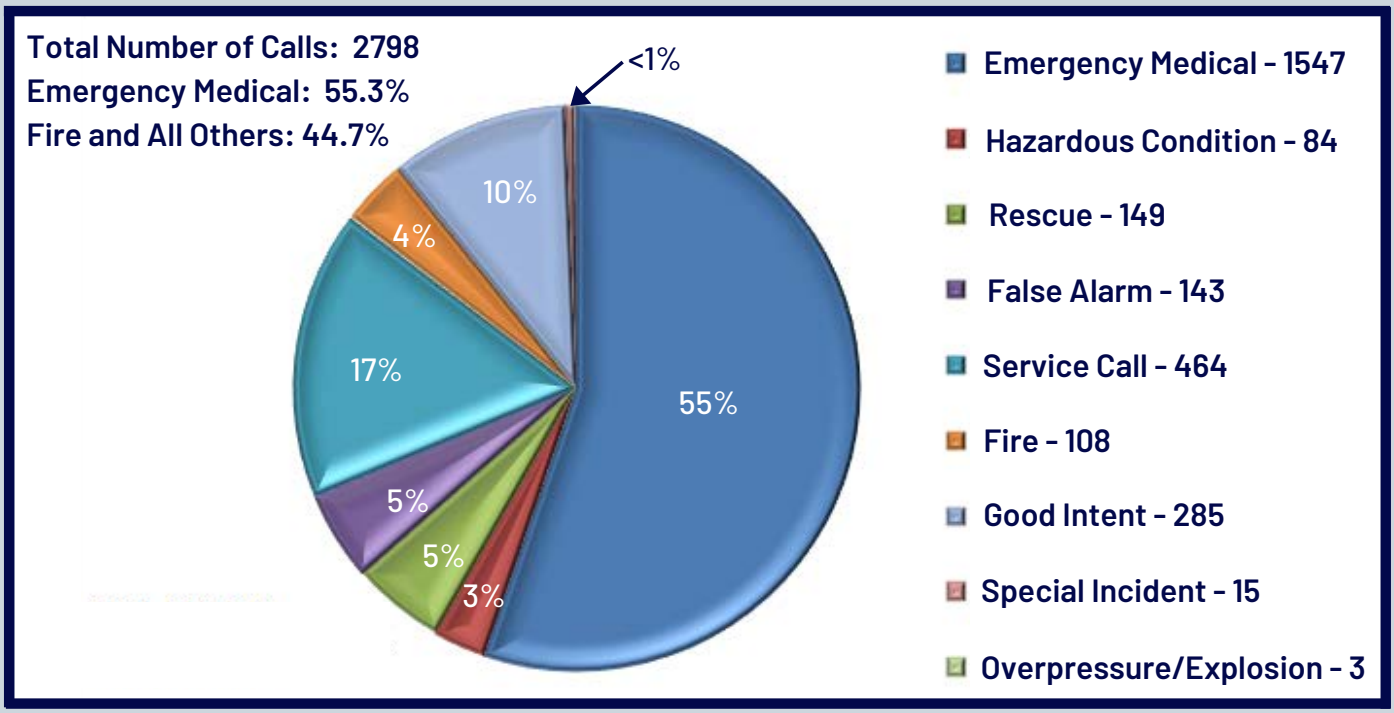
All fire personnel are trained to recognize and isolate a hazardous material incident. The Department has three additional firefighters trained as HazMat Technician Specialists who respond as members of the Solano County **HazMat Team.**

Fire Investigative Unit

Benicia Fire has four members on the **FIU Team.** The goal is to provide agencies with adequate knowledge to determine the origin and cause of fires. We work to ensure the prosecution of arson and fire-related cases.

Services & Response

The Benicia Fire Department is an "all risk" agency providing services in the areas of fire prevention and suppression, advanced emergency medical services, technical rescue and hazardous materials incident response. These services are provided by dedicated staff operating from three companies out of two fire stations.

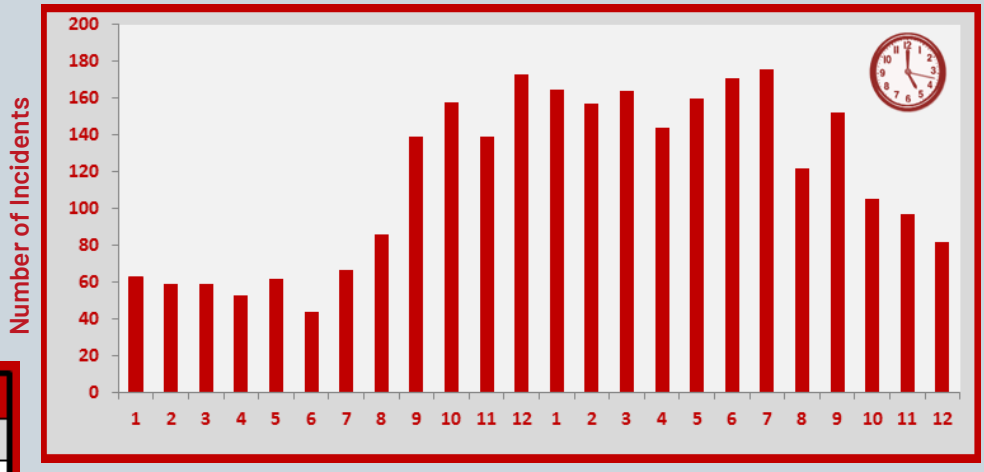


2019 Calls for Service - By Type

Service call:	Includes water problems, persons in distress, animal issues and lock outs.
Good Intent:	Includes calls reported as smoke or fire that turned out to be minor (e.g. neighbor BBQing, or steam thought to be smoke).
Special Incident:	Includes citizen concerns and complaints.

Services & Response

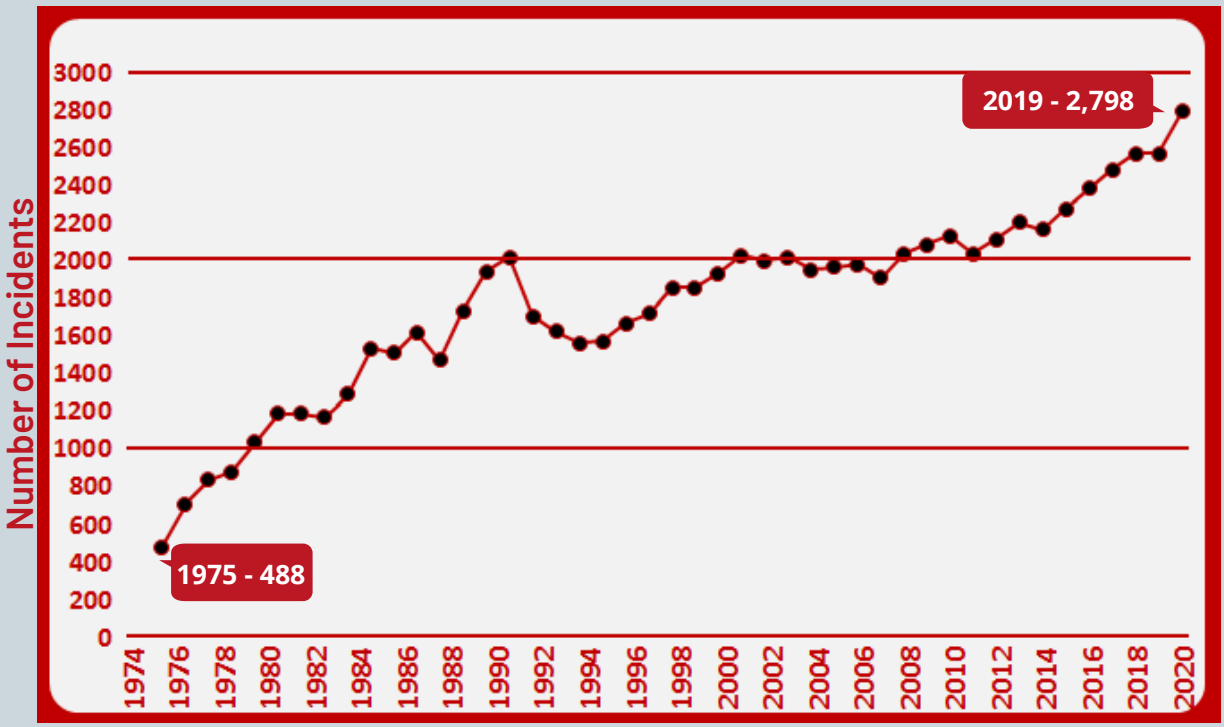
The Benicia Fire Department continues to see an upward trend in calls for service. With limited population growth, we see increased calls in our aging population. Medical emergencies and rescue incidents remain a large majority of our calls. With high service expectations, we respond to routine calls that provide safety and peace of mind to our citizens.



2019 Calls - By Time of Day

Day of Week	# of Incidents
Sunday	405
Monday	405
Tuesday	354
Wednesday	427
Thursday	402
Friday	428
Saturday	377

2019 Calls - By Day of Week



Call Volume - By Year

Highlights & Achievements

Congratulations

PROMOTION

Todd Matthews
to Division Chief

PROMOTION

Alan Bates
to Captain

NEW HIRES

FIREFIGHTERS

Deke Madsen

Ray Smith

DISPATCHER
OF THE YEAR

Michelle Foley

FIREFIGHTER
OF THE YEAR

Dustin Anderson

20 Years Service Award - Captain Mike Brown

VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR

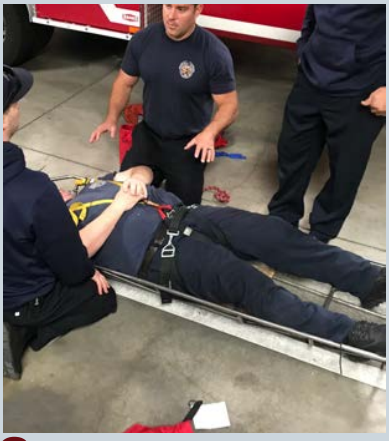
Butch Griffin

Special Thanks

TO PATTI WOODSIDE,
DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER,
FOR PRODUCING THIS REPORT

Education & Training

In 2019, we proudly completed 10,322 internal training hours!



Fire Prevention Division

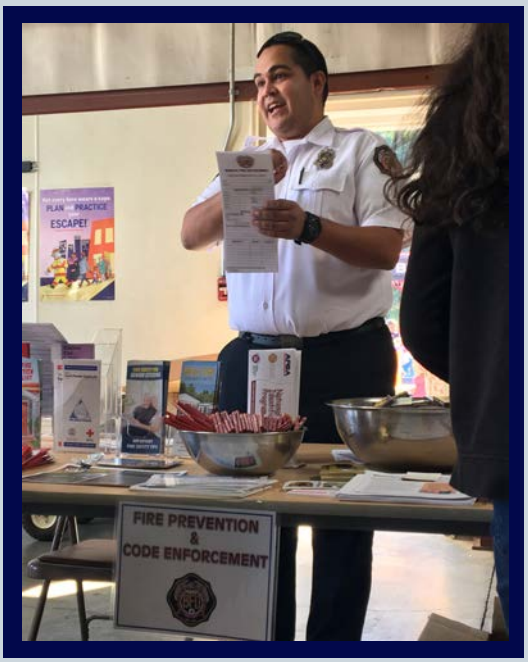
The **Fire Prevention Division**'s primary function is to prevent fires by enforcing standards referred to as the Fire Code. The Division's functions include:

- Fire Inspections and Code Enforcement
- Fire and Life Safety Education
- Fire Protection Construction / Systems Review
- Inspections and Issuance of Fire Permits
- Annual Business Inspections

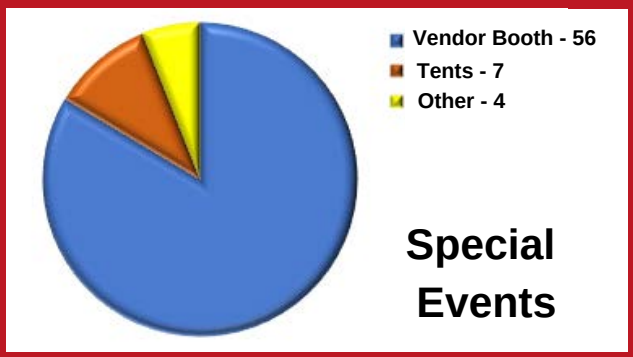
Engine Company Inspection Program

Designed to assist the Fire and Life Safety Division with completion of the more basic business inspections. These are less complicated and focus on general fire code compliance, while presenting opportunities for pre-fire planning and increased knowledge of the buildings within the City of Benicia.

These engine company inspections add to our overall mission by providing prevention services, education to the public and excellent service to the community, all while providing critical area knowledge to our firefighters.



2019 Inspection Activity

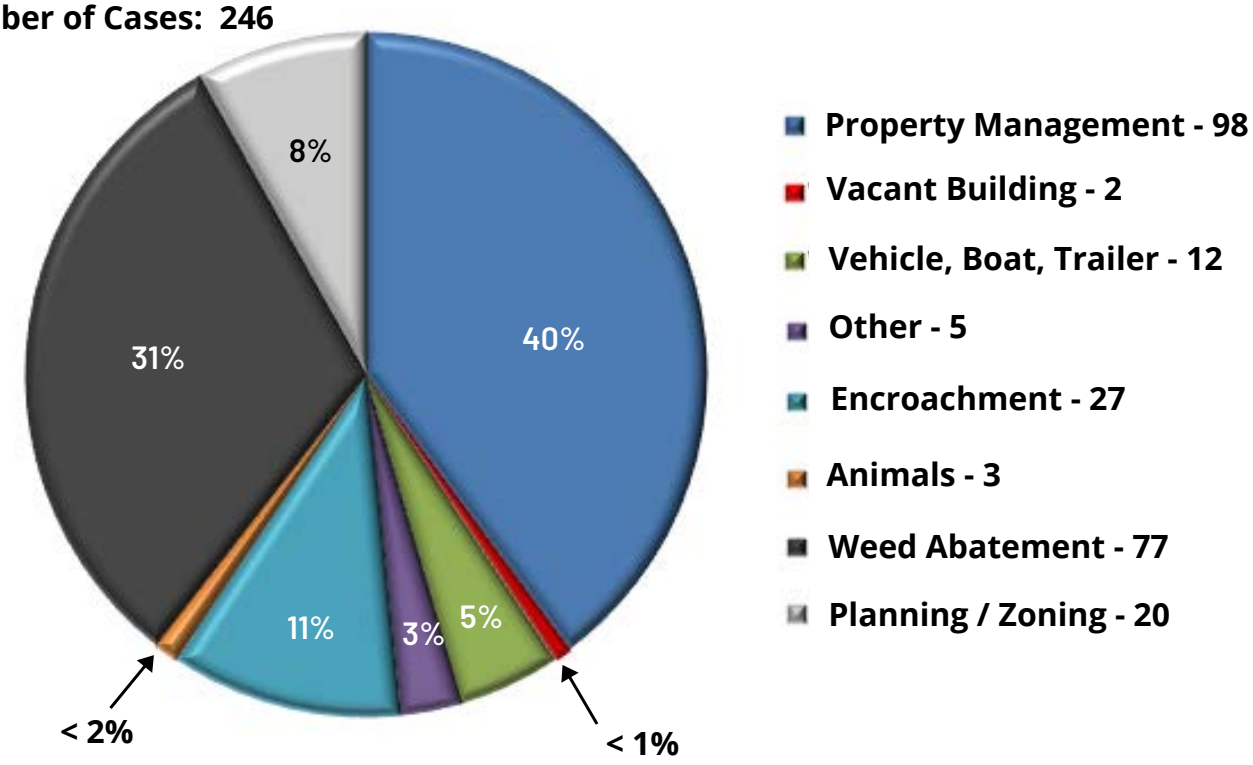


Code Enforcement

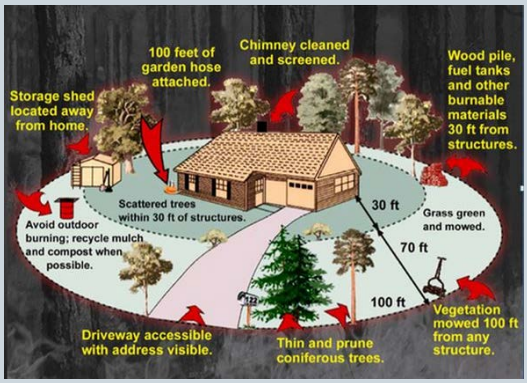
Code Enforcement works under the Fire Prevention Division.

In 2019, our Community Preservation Officer opened **246 cases** regarding specific municipal code violations which affect the safety, quality of life and appearance of the City. We work closely with homeowners, businesses and community groups to enhance and preserve the quality of neighborhoods through public relations, education and code enforcement.

Total Number of Cases: 246



Defensible Space



Creating Defensible Space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs or wildland area that surround it.

Defensible Space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation Management creates separation between vegetation and adjacent structures, and improves fire containment efforts.

The City of Benicia utilizes multiple approaches in its Vegetation Management Program; discing, goats and spraying.

Community Involvement & Public Education - Media

We care about the Benicia Community.

Every year, members of the Fire Department participate in numerous Public Education and Charitable Events in the community. These are some of the 2019 events our employees and members of Local 1186 participated in.

2019 Highlights

Annual Open House
Thanksgiving Food Deliveries
Pictures With Santa
Toys For Tots Toy Drive
Benicia Certified Farmer's Market
Memorial Day Service
Big Truck Roundup
9-11 Memorial
July 4th Parade

Community Involvement & Public Education - Media

Public Education is an integral part of our community risk reduction efforts. The Department provides several forms of Public Education ranging from station tours, school site visits, the Benicia Certified Farmer's Market, our Annual Open House, Pictures With Santa, and our daily interactions while out in the community. We are happy to report our programs reached nearly 5000 Benicia residents in 2019.

We have a presence in multiple social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor. Our goal is to provide information to all Benicia citizens.

Volunteers & Emergency Preparedness

Volunteer Participation

Reserve Firefighter
Participates in education, training and experiences that will assist them in pursuing careers as professional firefighters.

Logistics Support Unit (LSU)
Provides logistical support to the fire department both at emergency incidents and routine activities.

Junior Firefighter - Explorer Program
Youth ages 15 - 18. The program is part of the Boy Scouts of America, Explorer Program. The Explorers are given the opportunity to become part of the department and work with the on-duty crews in daily activities.

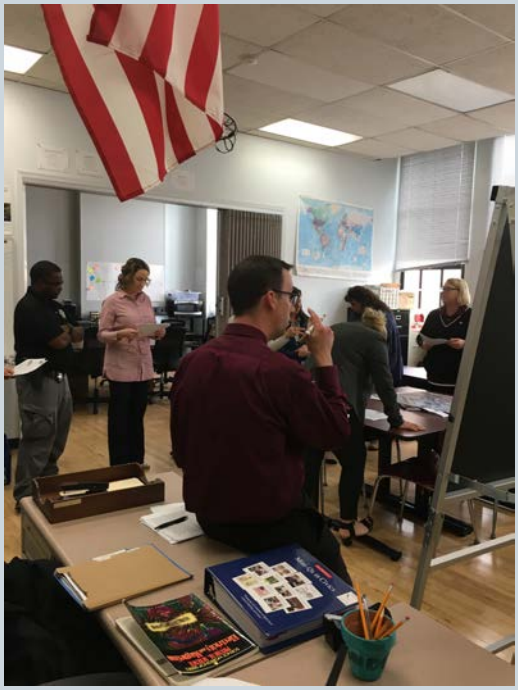
Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC)
Active group of Ham Radio operators with a slant towards emergency communications.

Administrative Support
Supports administrative staff with various office projects and events.

Volunteers & Emergency Preparedness

CPR | National Fire Prevention Week | Benicia Amateur Radio Communications | Solano County's Regional Emergency Notification System ALERT SOLANO | Benicia Volunteer Firemen Benicia Fire Museum | CERT Community Emergency Response Team | File of Life Benicia Fire Department | Get Ready Benicia

We believe in partnering with the community to ensure that everyone is prepared in the event of an emergency. We invite the community to take advantage of the many services we provide and volunteer organizations we support. Hands-only CPR, BARC, AlertSolano, CERT, File of Life, Get Ready Benicia.



Final Thoughts

The Benicia Fire Department is committed to providing excellent service to our community. In the coming year, we look forward to welcoming new Firefighter / Paramedics to our team who will enhance our ability to respond promptly and effectively to incidents. We will support the State by responding to wildfires and contributing to wildfire prevention. We will also advance our department by addressing opportunities for improvement and learning new prevention and response skills. We are excited about honoring our past and building a sustainable future.

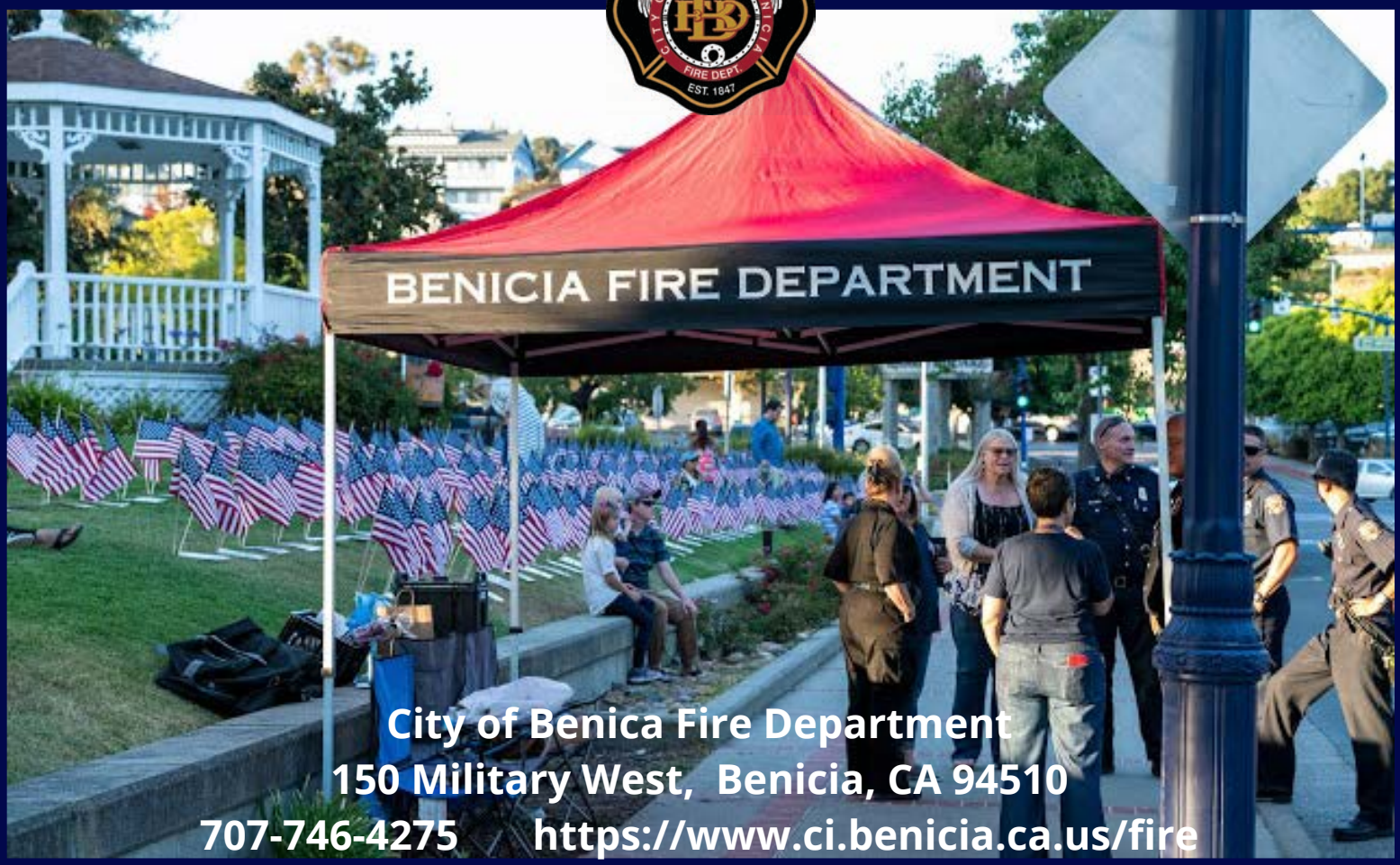
Please get involved! Your engagement helps us with our mission to provide exceptional community-focused service. Visit our website to learn about disaster preparedness education, volunteer training, and community events. Register for emergency alerts at www.AlertSolano.com. Also, follow Benicia Fire on Facebook and Twitter to receive real-time updates.

We are grateful to you, our residents, for your support and encouragement as we endeavor to build community, prioritize safety, and enhance our sustainability into the future. We value your input and would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact us any time with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Best wishes in 2020!

2020 Goals

- Search for solutions to secure an adequate training facility.
- Improve radio interoperability with the Vallejo Fire Department.
- Begin progress towards implementing Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) to include pre-arrival instructions.
- Implement Tablet Command for fire Mobile Data terminals.
- Improve Department's career development and succession planning for all ranks.
- Keep current with active hiring and promotions by forecasting potential vacancies.
- Conduct citywide EOC training exercises.
- Actively engage in the development of a countywide peer support program.
- Improve Department's firefighter fitness program.
- Improve effectiveness of Department's volunteer programs including Administrative, Logistical Support and Reserves.
- Continue to support Benicia CERT and Get Ready Benicia classes.



City of Benica Fire Department
150 Military West, Benicia, CA 94510
707-746-4275 https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/fire