



# UC DAVIS

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Annual Report  
2010-2011

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

In 2010-2011 the UC Davis Fire Department underwent a strategic reorganization designed to increase the efficiency of our operations. This endeavor was part of a more global effort to explore a variety of opportunities for improving upon the services we currently provide to the campus community.

A pilot project was initiated with the City of Davis Fire Department to share an administrative and command staff. This partnership has successfully consolidated fire dispatch centers and increased our inter-agency training and coordination.

Fire Prevention Services was realigned with campus units to bring that group's efforts and organization more in-line with reporting structures found throughout the UC system. At the same time, the change provided the opportunity to ensure that both the Davis Campus and the Health System in Sacramento would continue to receive the unique and highly specialized fire prevention services their customers have come to expect.

Most importantly, the men and woman of the UC Davis Fire Department were successful in accomplishing our primary mission: Protecting the University's most valuable assets - its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. We take tremendous pride in supporting the academic and research mission of this institution, and thank you for the opportunity to serve.



Interim Fire Chief, Nathan Trauernicht

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## AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY



UC Davis Fire Administration, IAFF Union representatives, and Human Resources collaborated in the day-long training to develop plans that could one day be implemented on Campus.

On September 30, 2010, seven Northern California fire and emergency services agencies came together for a one-day workshop at UC Davis to learn, discuss and develop new strategies to recruit and retain qualified, diverse, inclusive and safety-conscious firefighters. The program was one of ten national pilot sessions developed and facilitated by nonprofit [FIRE 20/20](#) and was hosted by the University of California, Davis Fire Department.



"This workshop brought together the key stakeholders including fire chiefs, labor leaders, minority groups, and human resources to strategically plan how we're going to do a better job with diversity recruitment and retention," said Chief Trauernicht. "Having a diverse department isn't just about making it a reflection of the community we serve, it also has a direct correlation to firefighter safety."

# SUPPORTING A VISION OF EXCELLENCE



**UC DAVIS** is recognized as one of the nation's top-tier public research universities. As such, the UC Davis Fire Department provides dedicated, selfless service to reduce the impacts of emergencies on instruction and research critical to achieving the University's mission of research, teaching, and public service.

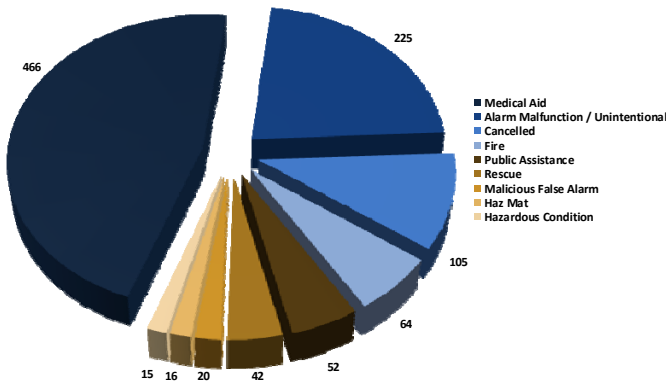
Our commitment to students, faculty and staff is evident in the comprehensive variety of programs and services we deliver:

- ◆ Following the highest standards in life safety, our organization delivers all-hazard emergency response to the campus and neighboring communities, including response to medical emergencies, fires, hazardous materials releases, and natural disasters.
- ◆ We engage in strategic community interactions with students, faculty and staff to reduce risk, prevent injuries, and help prepare for emergencies. Providing outreach through a number of annual events such as Fire Day on the Quad and Picnic Day are examples of the ways we try to mitigate risks through public education.
- ◆ Our nationally-recognized [Student Resident Firefighter Program](#) weaves our organization into the fabric of the University. The program teaches firefighting skills to a select group of qualified students who live and work at the campus fire station while pursuing their four year degrees. Student firefighters receive hands-on training and professional experience in all aspects of fire and emergency services. Participation improves the students' career opportunities upon graduation, should they choose to continue in the profession.
- ◆ UC Davis is the lead agency for Yolo County's Multi-Agency Hazardous Materials Response Team whose role is to eliminate the immediate threat of exposure from the release of biological, chemical or nuclear agents. By participating in this cooperative effort, the cost of response is shared, allowing the university and all residents of the county to receive the highest quality service at a reasonable cost. With our institution's many research and educational laboratories, this program is essential to the well-being of the campus community and the protection of its critical infrastructure.

# UCDFD BY THE NUMBERS

The UC Davis Fire Department, established in 1917, has witnessed nearly a century of changing trends in the fire service. Originally established by the dean of the College of Agriculture to mitigate fires on the university farm campus, today the UC Davis Fire Department responds to a wide array of calls for service, including: technical rescue, medical emergencies, hazardous material releases, and of course, fires.

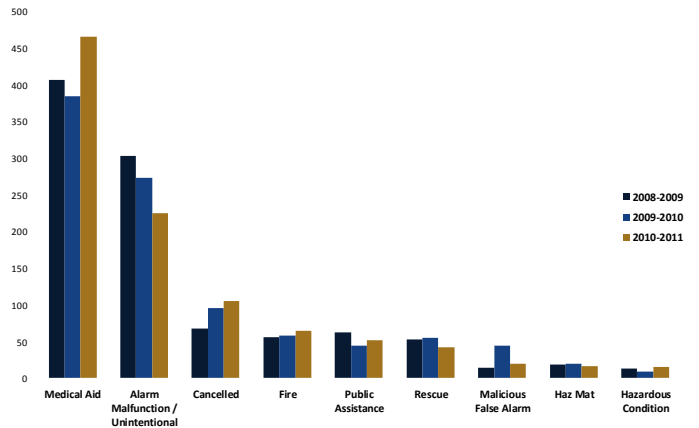
Fires no longer dominate our calls for service, and other call types have increased as the university has expanded its community population and use of campus space for research and academic pursuits. The Fire Department has responded by realigning resources to meet the university's changing needs.



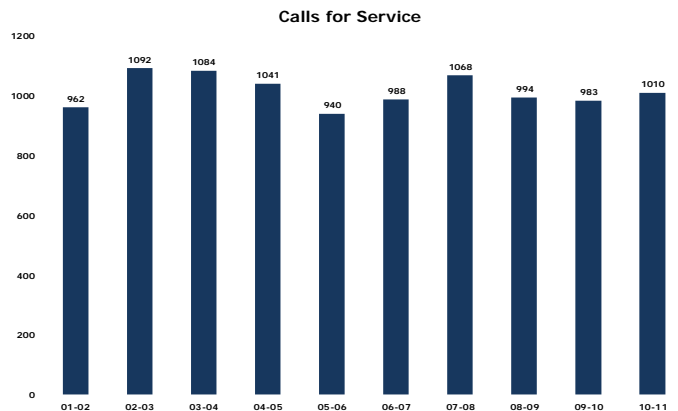
While we train on and maintain equipment capable of fire suppression, we outfit our personnel and our apparatus with a variety of tools to respond to all kinds of emergencies. Today, medical emergencies constitute the majority of calls for service on our campus. All firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians (EMTs), who participate in regular medical training to maintain their skills.

In addition to maintaining operational readiness through rigorous training, the UC Davis Fire Department works with the campus community to reduce the frequency of preventable injuries and

emergencies through education. The efforts of the Fire Prevention Division have brought about renovations in campus housing, including fire suppression sprinkler systems and technology to slow the spread of fire and smoke. Firefighters host regular fire drills with all on-campus student housing complexes, and provide outreach and public education through annual events such as Fire Day on the Quad, Picnic Day, station tours and other open houses.



In addition to educating students about fire safety, the UC Davis Fire Department works closely with campus faculty and staff to reduce the transmission of false alarms. At UC Davis, fire protection systems such as smoke detectors are part of a larger notification system, which alerts the Fire Department, via dispatch, of potential fires. By working with facility occupants to address instances in which alarms are unnecessarily activated, the UC Davis Fire Department minimizes the disruption to instruction, reduces the risks associated with emergency response, all the while maintaining diligence toward true emergencies.



# NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The UC Davis Fire Department operates under both mutual and automatic aid agreements.

## MUTUAL AID

Mutual aid works in conjunction with the State of California Master Mutual Aid Agreement providing assistance to fire jurisdictions that need additional resources in emergencies that exceed their capabilities.

The UC Davis Fire Department entered into a contract with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to house a CalEMA fire engine (EMA 364) at Station 34. In return, the UC Davis Fire Department provides the minimum staffing complement when called upon by CalEMA, we can be en route to an emergency anywhere in the state within 30 minutes of notification.



## AUTOMATIC AID

The UC Davis Fire Department has an Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Davis Fire Department, City of Woodland Fire Department, City of West Sacramento Fire Department and the City of Dixon Fire Department. This agreement provides for the automatic dispatching of multi-jurisdictional resources to greater alarm incidents throughout Yolo and eastern Solano Counties.

Participation in the Mutual and Automatic Aid Programs has strengthened UC Davis' relationships with neighboring departments as well as State and Federal agencies. The benefits to the UC Davis community include on-the-job training and experience that would not otherwise be available to UC Davis Fire personnel.

## KEEPING CALIFORNIA'S MUTUAL AID SYSTEM ALIVE

Budget cuts across all sectors of state government have greatly affected public safety, and many fire service leaders are concerned that resources needed to mitigate large fires and natural disasters won't be available to adequately respond to meet the needs of the state's citizens if the fiscal situation worsens.

In November, Chief Trauernicht represented the UC Davis Fire Department and the California Fire Chiefs Association when he appeared before the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, to discuss the statewide mutual aid system and the impact caused by the current economic crisis.



Chief Nathan Trauernicht (far right) appeared before the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management, at a hearing to discuss the economic impact on California's statewide Mutual Aid system.

Testimony provided by Chief Trauernicht and others, including representatives from CalEMA and the California State Sheriffs' Association, referenced a number of high-profile incidents in which the mutual aid worked in an exemplary fashion. Attendees stressed the importance of reliable funding streams to maintain a stable and robust mutual aid system.



# CONSOLIDATION

The University of California Davis and the City of Davis have each operated fire departments since 1917. There is a high level of cooperation between the two departments, yet they maintain separate organizational infrastructures.

As is the case in many areas, budgetary pressures are creating difficulties in maintaining appropriate levels of service.

Effective September 1, 2010, a management service agreement has been executed with the City of Davis to embark on a pilot project for joint management of the City and University fire departments. This joint management will also allow the two entities to better analyze a full merger of departments. The agreement will be renewable for one-year terms.

The goal of the consolidation is to provide the best fire services possible to the city and university communities given available resources. The consolidation plan eliminates redundancy and duplication of effort, provides opportunities for cost savings, and enhances the level of service for both the university and city. At the same time, the consolidation will generate significant savings that will be used to maintain and improve fire services.

The City of Davis and UC Davis began the consolidation of their fire departments by sharing a team of chief officers. The plan also calls for a shared fire dispatch center; a restructuring of administrative support functions; standardized training, policies and procedures.

In addition to a fire chief position, the two departments share an assistant chief of administration, a training division chief, and an operations division chief. All other personnel continue to be employees of their home departments, and their collective bargaining agreements remain in effect.

Calls for service on the Davis campus, now dispatched through a campus facility that also serves the campus Police Department, eventually will be dispatched through the City's public safety dispatch center to improve emergency dispatch and response coordination. (The Sacramento campus of UC Davis is served by the Sacramento Fire Department.)

Ultimately, crews and equipment will be dispatched based on proximity and availability rather than by city and university boundaries.

The departments will be working towards standardized operating guidelines, training, and policies and procedures, and exploring joint purchasing to save money.



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# APPARATUS

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A 2010 analysis found that recurring repair costs to Truck 34, a Westates Tiller Quint (ladder truck) placed in service in May 2001, warranted early replacement of the apparatus. With funding assistance from the Office of Administrative and Resource Management, and the department's apparatus replacement account, the UC Davis Fire Department ordered for an aerial truck to serve the needs of the growing campus.



Truck 34

The new Truck 34 is a Pierce Tiller with a 100 foot aerial ladder. It has a shorter and more narrow wheel base than the current Truck 34, which allows for better access to tighter locations and crowded roadways. Truck 34 will also be lighter than its predecessor, allowing for better handling and shorter stopping distances.



HazMat 34

In addition to the new ladder truck, the department purchased a chassis rebuild and refurbishment of its existing Hazardous Materials unit, HazMat 34.

The rebuild of HazMat 34 has made it a more efficient tool for the least frequent but most

challenging events. Along with a more powerful engine, HazMat 34 is also more fuel efficient. Its cab is elongated, allowing for all of the passengers to sit in the same compartment. The rear of the cab is equipped with two computer stations and a library of reference materials, allowing for hazardous material categorization while seat belted during response to an incident.



CalEMA 364

Although the entire front end of HazMat 34 is new, the box, which remains original, has not been overlooked. Storage space has been increased by moving the Command Center into the cab of the apparatus. The top of HazMat 34 was modified, allowing the storage of equipment in compartments, to protect it from the elements and to streamline its appearance. A large scene light has been added to the roof of the vehicle, allowing for more efficient and safer night or low light operations.

Both Truck 34 and HazMat 34 adhere to today's strict emissions standards, trapping much of their particulate matter and regenerating it into a more environmentally friendly exhaust product. Both apparatus are equipped with the best of current safety standards.



Engine 34

# OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT



We are proud and supportive of our personnel who participate in fire service organizations outside of the UC Davis Fire Department. By doing so, they ensure that our institution has access to the latest industry advancements. The representation of our University in state, local, and nation-wide organizations, gives our personnel the opportunity to reflect the excellence of our campus and the UC System.

Many of our employees have a history of representing our University, including Captains Shawn Cullen and Steve Dunn, who both instruct within the fire service. Firefighter Jonathan Poganski represents the UC Davis Fire Department on FIREScope, a statewide partnership that acts to unify the state's fire agencies into one voice and direction. Our department has worked with service organizations to support fire service related programs, and welcomed visiting firefighters from Mexico to discuss the industry. Chief Trauernicht and his assistant Meghan Scannell serve as leaders within the California Fire Chiefs Association.



Firefighter Nathan Potter conducts a fire safety talk for visiting students from a childcare center on the UC Davis campus. Later, a firefighter allows students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the protective equipment firefighters might wear in the event of a fire, to reduce the fear children experience when meeting a rescuer in a mask and turnouts.

Captain Shawn Cullen has served as an adjunct instructor for the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg Maryland since 1997. Through his teaching and course design on the topic of Integrated Emergency Management, Captain Cullen has instructed on the application of emergency management principles, which provides students the tools required to develop and implement policies, plans and procedures in an emergency operations center (EOC), such as the one on the UC Davis campus.

More recently, Captain Cullen has worked to develop course material, exercise design, and delivery on behalf of FEMA and the National Emergency Training Center on the topic of Emergency Operations Center-Incident Management Team Interface. This course provides an exercise environment in which attendees can practice communications and incident coordination between the

EOC and field operations command (the Incident Management Team) during simulated incidents. The coordination and principles on which Captain Cullen instructs are also those put in place during emergency incidents at UC Davis, making his involvement all the more valuable.

Since the inception of the Yuba College Fire Academy in 1997, Captain Steve Dunn has served as an



# OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

instructor of emergency medicine and fire service courses. He instructs firefighters on technical rescue, rapid intervention, wildland firefighting, and live fire training. In addition to his responsibilities with the Yuba College Fire Academy, Captain Dunn also assists with instruction in the EMT program at Yuba College.

Through his participation in the FIRESCOPE Hazardous Materials Specialist Group, Firefighter Jonathan Poganski works to promote interoperability and standardization between all hazardous materials emergency response agencies in the state, including the UC Davis Fire Department. His involvement on this committee, and the subsequent improvements achieved through the committee's efforts, benefit the university in a number of ways. As a research institution, UC Davis strives to make advancements in laboratories and academic facilities across the campus. By providing standardized, coordinated response to hazardous materials emergencies, the UC Davis Fire Department strives to minimize the impact of such incidents on the University's mission of research and academic excellence.

With the support of university leadership, Chief Trauernicht has served in increasingly visible positions within the California Fire Chiefs Association (CFCA). He serves as the President of the CFCA Fire Operations Chiefs Section, as Northern Division Director for CFCA, and in September, will be installed as the organization's President Elect. In his role, Chief Trauernicht participates in legislative fire service advocacy, works with leaders throughout the state on critical issues impacting the industry, and helps to develop and mentor the next generation of California's fire service.



Chief Nathan Trauernicht (left) represented the California Fire Chiefs Association on a visit to Washington DC, where he met with Vice President Biden. Accompanying Chief Trauernicht were (center) Jeff Johnson—CEO of the Western Fire Chiefs Association—Past President International Association of Fire Chiefs-Retired Chief of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, and (right) Jim Critchley, President of the Western Fire Chiefs Association—Fire Chief of Tucson Fire Department.



From left, Bruce Wolk of the Sunrise Rotary Club of Davis and Steve Young of the Rotary Club of Davis join UC Davis firefighters David Anderson and Kyle Dubs, far right, to show off samples of equipment donated to firefighters in Monterrey, Mexico.

Most recently, Chief Trauernicht was asked to travel to Washington DC to thank the Obama administration and Vice President Biden for their support of legislation intended to allocate a wireless spectrum for use by emergency responders, referred to as the D-Block. With today's technology, most fire and police agencies rely on cellular and radio-based systems for communication, but currently compete with the public for access to the bandwidth. As Chief Trauernicht explained, "With cellular broadband [as available to first responders today], I am competing for bandwidth with the teenager downloading music, or someone watching a YouTube video on a cellphone." Lack of sufficient bandwidth not only limits voice communication, but data transfer as well, to and from mobile computers in fire apparatus and police cars. "The D-Block gives us dedicated spectrum to create a national, interoperable information superhighway for public safety. It will revolutionize how our industry does business."

# OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT



The efforts and active involvement of UCDFD personnel is building a safer tomorrow for future generations of UC Davis students.

Meghan Scannell, the assistant to Chief Trauernicht, has also become involved with the California Fire Chiefs Association. Meghan was installed as President of the Administrative Fire Services Section (AFSS) in April 2011. The mission of the section is to be an effective support system to the fire service, and Meghan has worked diligently to bring together membership and industry experts to build solutions tailored to today's fire service.

In addition to focusing the Section's training on relevant topics such as strategic planning, grant writing, and data analysis and reporting, Meghan has pursued collaborative opportunities with other sections of the California Fire Chief's Association. Through

training, networking, and common experience, the Administrative Fire Services Section acts as a resource to fire service leaders looking to address challenges efficiently.

## LOOKING FORWARD...

The next year promises to bring even more change and innovation to both the UC Davis Fire Department and the campus, including new academic and research facilities and the launch of phase II construction of UC Davis West Village.

With retirements and turnover we will be busy training five new firefighters and three newly promoted fire engineers. Preparations will also begin for the 2012 student resident firefighter academy.

UCDFD will continue to explore ways to partner with neighboring fire agencies to take advantage of every opportunity for collaboration, cooperation, improved service delivery, and organizational efficiencies.

From the UC Davis Fire Department family to you, best wishes and stay safe.

