

TWAIN HARTE AREA



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2024

PIO: Mary Schreiner
Editor: Casey Headrick
Proofreader: Lise Lemonnier

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August gave us a Blue Moon picture from Women's world

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



August was a mild month temperature-wise but it was a hot one in terms of fires. If you use Watch Duty (or some other app) you could see all the fires happening along the western states, it was hard to see that many flames all at once. It was even more frightening when the Canyon Fire popped up in our county.

This newsletter has a lot of important information to remind us to be prepared. September is National Preparedness Month. Let's all utilize our time to not just say it, but, do it!

- ✓ Pick a day each week to use a different route to get to the grocery store and/or to do errands. Make it a challenge, it could be fun.
- ✓ Look up your zone so that you know which one you live in so you are prepared when/if a fire happens.
- ✓ Listen to authorities, not hearsay, when an emergency happens. We get so much information so quickly, make sure that you react to what the Sheriff's Department or OES announces.
- ✓ The Fire Department will not be the one to knock on your door to tell you to evacuate, they are busy fighting the fire. The Sheriff's department or their appointee will do the evacuations. They will have a badge or some identification that gives them the authority.

Remember to "leave early, leave often." If you wait you could be trapped. All of your worldly belongings have no value without you!

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on preparedness, safety, and health. If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.

THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



GM REPORT

August 14, 2024



ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- TH Meadows Park Grand Opening Planning
- Pickleball/TH Meadows Construction Management
- Fire Training Parking Lot Bid Documents
- Water and Sewer Standards Update
- FY 23-24 Year End Closing Actions
- Grant Reporting, Reimbursements, Coordination
- Park Facilities Rental Website Update

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 7/16 TH School and Storm Drain Meetings
- 7/17 AI & Cyber Attack Training
- 7/19 County Drought Task Force
- 8/7 County OES Operational Area Meeting
- 8/10 TH Meadows Park Grand Opening

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

Pavilion, restrooms, water play area, planting, pathways, parking, lighting, picnic areas are substantially complete. A grand opening will be held August 10th. Work to install Christmas tree, Santa Maria BBQ, custom trash receptacles and other punch list items will continue into the fall.

Tennis/Pickleball Court Improvements

Budget: \$310,000

Pickleball expansion and surface conversion to a sport grid surface is complete and opened to the public on August 5th. Contracting to convert the tennis courts to a hybrid clay surface is ongoing - construction is anticipated in early fall.

SCADA System Improvements

Budget: \$465,000

Design of a radio communications system to support the SCADA Systems Improvement Project is underway. The Project will provide remote monitoring and control of the District's water treatment plant, pump stations, tanks and sewer lift stations.

Fire Training Parking Lot

Budget: \$331,000

Design is complete and ready to bid. This grant-funded project includes permeable parking, bioswales and landscaping watered by captured rainwater. The new lot will provide more parking for fire trainings and will fix drainage issues. Construction may occur in fall and is anticipated to be complete no later than next summer.

PLANNING PROJECTS

Water System Evaluation/Analysis

Budget: \$777,151

Hydraulic model, water loss analysis, condition assessment and identification of priority capital projects is complete. Grant applications for the Sherwood Forest System have been submitted.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$4.5M

TH Sewerline Project / Award: Fall 2024

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$6.55M

Sherwood Forest Water / Award: Fall 2024

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT - \$75,000

Structural Fire Turnouts / Award: Fall 2024

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT - \$24,000

Median Household Income Survey / AWARDED

PROP 1 STORMWATER GRANT - \$1.75M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

PROP 68 RURAL RECREATION - \$1.25M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

PROP 68 PER CAPITA - \$178K

Tennis & Pickleball Improvements / AWARDED

To learn more details, join us at our monthly THCSD board meetings.

TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



July Training Hours: 125

July Responses: 45

- EMS Incidents: 33
- Fires: 4
- Good Intent: 8

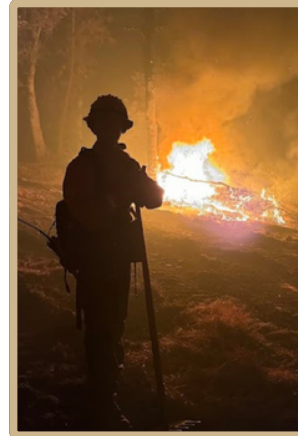
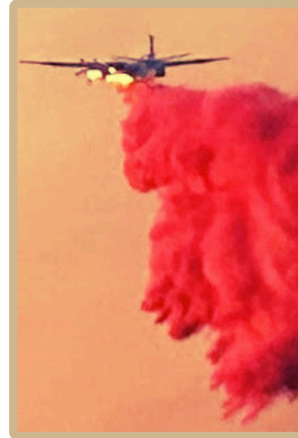
June Staffing

Full-Time Captains: 3

Intern Operators: 2

Relief Captains: 5

Intern Firefighters: 5



Incident Responses
by District

Twain Harte: 48%

Tuolumne County: 50%

Cal Fire: 1%

Mi Wuk Sugar Pine: 1%

Property/Lot Update

Properties Inspected: 110

Letters Issued: 45

Violation Letters: 30

Complaint Properties: 35

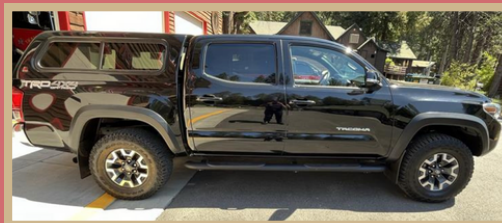
Work Completed: 22



Vacant Lot Update



Fleet & Facilities



THFD new U-722: 2016 Toyota Tacoma TRD



Community Center sign mounted with dusk timer backlighting installed

Canyon Fire: All hands on Deck



It started late on Thursday, August 8, 2024 in the area of Buchanan Road & Canyon Drive, Tuolumne City, in the bottom of the North Fork of the Tuolumne River canyon. By midnight residents in east Tuolumne City, Tuolumne Me-Wuk Rancheria and Ponderosa Hills were evacuating. With steep terrain, heavy brush and limited access, this fire had very high potential to become catastrophic, spreading to many communities.

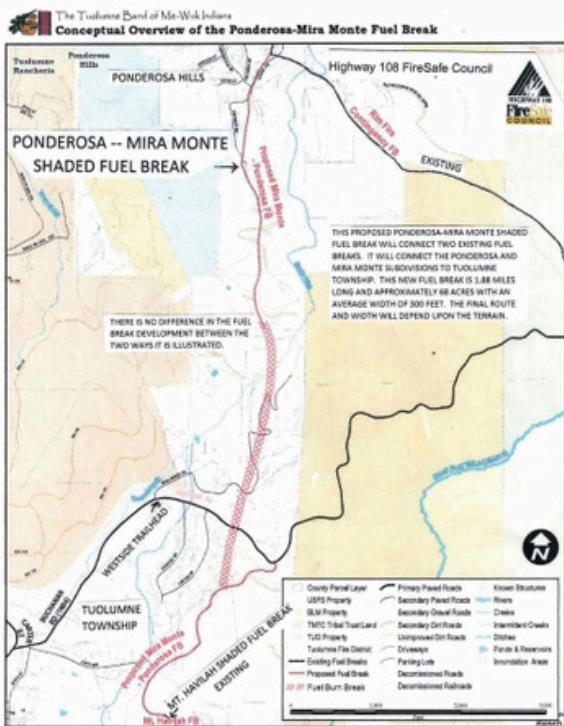
Initial attack resources from CALFire, Stanislaus National Forest, Tuolumne Fire District and Tuolumne Rancheria Fire Department immediately responded and a Unified Management (CAL Fire & Stanislaus National Forest) was quickly established. Firefighters worked through the night to hold the forward progress of the fire. The next morning brought in the aircraft, more resources, mellow winds and increasing humidity. By Saturday, the fire was 25% contained (line around it) and the size had been held to 80 acres. On Wednesday, August 14 the fire was 100% contained at 85 acres. For 6 days firefighters, worked day and night to protect life and property of our residents. Thank you to the management teams, engine operators, aircraft pilots, dozer operators, water tenders, Sheriff's officers, hand crews, and so many more. No Structures were lost, no injuries or fatalities occurred. Thank you for keeping us safe.

But wait, there is more to the story.

In 2019, the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council received a \$420,000 Grant from the Dept. of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE) to construct the **Ponderosa-Mira Monte Shaded Fuel Break**. The purpose of this fuel break was to connect two existing shaded fuel breaks: Rim Fire Contingency and Mt Havala Shaded Fuel Breaks. The grant ran from 2019-2023. The project was 1.9 miles long.

The north end of the Ponderosa-Mira Monte Fuel Break starts where the Rim Fire Contingency Fuel Break connects to Chapel Drive in Ponderosa Hills by Mt Provo. It then goes south along the canyon ridge through the Mira Monte subdivision, across Westside Trail and Buchanan Road, and connects with the Mt Havala Fuel Break at the top of Lady Washington Mine Road (the hill between Tuolumne City and the river canyon).

Special thanks to Stephen Johnson, Project Manager, for making this fuelbreak a reality.



The Canyon Fire was stopped on the Mira Monte section of the fuel break. This particular area was completed in December of 2021 and January of 2022. The fuel reduction work included brush removal, some tree removal to create spacing to discourage crown fires, and limbing low branches of the remaining trees. By reducing fuels, the fire slows and loses intensity (cools). These fuel breaks create openings where aircraft drops and crews can safely attack the front of the fire by dropping retardant and water, cutting line, and backfiring.



Retardant line, back burning along Ponderosa/Mira Monte Fuelbreak. Blazing Bull Pine on Buchanan Road.

Last but not Least

Contributions of the Mira Monte Firewise Community

The Mira Monte Firewise Community, formed in 2020 is composed of individual property owners working together to maintain and further reduce flammable fuels on their properties. Each year they coordinate and work to tackle a project, and incrementally they have made progress to reduce fuels in their neighborhood. In addition to weed eating and hiring local businesses to reduce fuels on private property, the Mira Monte Firewise Community has coordinated with Hwy 108 Fire Safe Council, Tuolumne City Fire Department, Tuolumne Rancheria Fire Department, CALFire, Tuolumne Parks and Recreation and the Greater Valley Conservation Corp on a variety of fuel reduction projects within the fuel break area.



Crews working private property, located just above the Westside Trail on the morning of August 9th.

Residents of the Mira Monte Firewise Community dodged a bullet with the Canyon Fire. The outcome could have been completely different if they didn't have the Ponderosa-Mira Monte Shaded Fuel Break and neighbors each doing their part on their personal property. By maintaining individual properties, they are contributing to the community as a whole. That being said, they know the firefighters were the true heroes of this positive outcome. Their quick action and Herculean efforts saved many surrounding communities from a wildfire catastrophe.

Last year they removed low hanging branches from the road so fire trucks could access their narrow road and they installed green reflective house signs so fire fighters could identify residences. This spring thanks to a grant with the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council, they coordinated with Greater Valley Conservation Corp to remove dead brush, logs, and other vegetation along Mira Monte Road. In addition, they weedeated property at the bottom of Mira Monte, which was invaluable for firefighters working on the Canyon Fire to safely stage their engines.



The work of the residents in Mira Monte Firewise Community and the strategic placement of the Ponderosa/Mira Monte Fuel Break provided firefighters with areas of reduced fuels to attack and hold the flames of the Canyon Fire.

**The moral of this story is:
CREATING DEFENSIBLE
SPACE WORKS!**

Prepared by: Karen Caldwell - Tuolumne Fire Safe Council
Phyllis Ashmead - Mira Monte Firewise Community

<https://tuolumnefiresafe.org/>

EVACUATION LESSONS LEARNED

by Mary Schreiner, Pubic Information Officer



As a member of Twain Harte Area CERT, I did well, except for ignoring the first two phone calls. The first was the Everbridge evacuation notice, the second was a friend who offered to help us evacuate. The third call was from my bonus daughter who still has her number associated with our Everbridge address. That one, I finally hauled myself out of bed to answer.

One lesson is to have an out-of-area friend or family member's number linked to your address in Everbridge. The sheriff's deputies would have woken us up eventually, but it was good to have a head start. Also, having the phone in the room with me would have helped as I would have heard the Watch Duty app notifications and started getting ready immediately.

I don't have a go bag but I've mentally packed for an evacuation many times. I grabbed all the essentials. My meds are on a counter, so it was easy to sweep them into my bag. It's a good idea to have photos of the front of your prescription bottles for any meds you take if you can't take them with you. You will at least have all of the information to get an emergency supply. I always leave my purse in the same spot, convenient to both the garage door and the main door. We always have a bag with copies of our important documents in the garage near one of the cars. Having an emergency supply of cash in the bag is a good idea, in case ATMs are down.

I always have a bag packed for the pets but I don't have extra bowls for the dog in it. I remembered everything for the cats, except a litter box and litter. A friend from CERT brought us her litter box/litter/scoop from her pet emergency kit. I have crates to transport our pets as some shelters require animals to be crated. Crate training your dog will lessen their stress, should you need to keep them crated somewhere.

I remembered to close the interior doors and all of the windows to the house before we left. Flying embers can ignite a fire a good distance from where the flames are. Closing windows lessens the chance of embers getting inside your house and starting a fire. I grabbed some sentimental items like the little boat my dad carved by hand and some paintings family members did. Luckily I checked that I had my phone; I had to go back inside to get it.

As we left, I told the deputy that all people and pets were out of our house. If you have children, disabled, or infirm adults in your home, staying when there is an evacuation order is not an option. You can risk your life, but not theirs. Yes, it worked out for those who stayed but it definitely could not have. After Paradise and the Camp fire, I'm not taking any chances. As we say in CERT, "leave early, leave often," especially if your "go bag" is an RV. Crowded roads make maneuvering a large vehicle difficult. Leave at the first evacuation warning. If it never becomes an evacuation order, you can always return. You can replace pretty much everything, except for people and pets.



Something I wished I would have done was make sure I had plenty of gas. My tank was almost empty after my husband ran errands. The gas light came on halfway to our friends' house we evacuated to. I also forgot closed-toe shoes (in case I ended up in rough terrain). I only had flip-flops, which were fine for this weather. I also forgot a light jacket. It was warm when we were leaving, but cold the following morning.

Evacuating in broad daylight would have been a whole lot easier. Having to go from a dead sleep to getting out the door with all of the important stuff was a challenge, but we did it.

LATE NIGHT CALLS

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader

My wife and I got woken up by a call from Everbridge. We listened to our scanner to learn more about what was happening. We checked the Watch Duty app and then received a call from Carol Hallett (that woman never sleeps).



Carol had been contacted by Chief Gamez who received a request from Dore Bietz (OES coordinator) to have THA-CERT answer phones for the Canyon Fire. A team needed to get there immediately. I told her I could join her and we had our first shift covered.

We met at the Command Center on Stryker at 2:30 am and covered the phones until 7:00 am. Responding to those late-night calls reminded me of my days in the fire service.

In the meantime, Carol, while answering the phones, reached out to get the second and third shifts covered. Mary Dearborn and Lise Lemonnier arrived at 7:00 am and worked until 11:30 am. They were to be replaced by Margaret Lawrence and Carol. We had the phones covered until 4:00 pm. Carol was coming back to see firsthand what else the county needed so that THA-CERT could respond.



CERT TRAINING

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer

We had a fantastic training this month. Thank you to Sargent Oliver for teaching us about ALICE. We learned a lot. Followed by an impromptu drill run by Carol Hallett and then our very own Michelle Wagner presented a “stop the bleed” interactive discussion.



We are excited to bring PHI Air Ambulance back to train us on **September 28**. We will meet at Twain Harte Bible Church (18995 Twain Harte Dr.) at 9:30 am to search the landing site to ensure there are no objects that could impact the landing. The helicopter will then fly in and the crew will discuss the safety features of the helicopter and what we need to know to stay safe when working around the aircraft. They will talk about the crew, their training, and what they do when they are dispatched. It's a very cool opportunity to see a helicopter up close. You won't want to miss this training.

On **October 26**, we will be back at the Twain Harte Community Center for a three-part training. We will go over preparing your Go Bag and how to evacuate your pets as well. Leann Hatler will talk about Pantry Preparedness: what supplies you should always have in your pantry in case you can't leave the house for several days, and finally Carol Hallett will talk about winter driving do's and don'ts and what supplies to have in your car.



MEADOWS PARK IS OPEN

Kimberly Silva, THCS D Administrative Coordinator



The enormous amount of work that it takes before, during, and after acquiring a grant is astronomical. It took years and an untold number of hours and dedication. With \$3 million in grant money and an amazing team overseen by Tom Trott, we have great reason to celebrate.

The Twain Harte Community Services District (THCS D) is excited to announce that Twain Harte Meadows Park is officially open to the public. The Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, August 10th drew over 200 attendees who enjoyed presentations from key speakers, including THCS D General Manager Tom Trott and project manager Regina Hirsch. The event also featured live music by local band: Kinland Station, food trucks, and docent-led park tours.

We encourage everyone to explore the new park, rich with local history and interactive educational elements. It showcases how simple landscaping techniques can enhance water conservation, create fire-safe landscapes, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and support local habitats. Throughout the park, interactive learning labs provide insights on how to apply these techniques at home. An online park dashboard offers detailed information about the park's rain and stormwater management. We hope that these practices will inspire residents to adopt them community-wide, making Twain Harte a model for others.

The final touch for Meadows Park, a large Sequoia for the town Christmas Tree, will be installed in the fall after the summer heat subsides to ensure successful transplantation. We look forward to celebrating its arrival with a community tree-lighting ceremony later in the fall before the holiday season.

For those interested in hosting parties, events, or fundraisers, the new Meadows Park, like many other THCS D facilities, is available for rent. For more information, please visit the updated Facility Rentals page at <https://www.twainhartecsd.com/facility-rentals>.



WELCOME TO THE STAFF

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



We have three new members to our staff, Anthony McGurk, Grace Gonzalez and Casey Headrick. We also welcome back Mary Schreiner as our Public Information Officer (PIO).

Anthony and Grace graduated from our last CERT Basic Training Academy. They both come to us with enthusiasm and great skills. I am pleased to have them both join us as leaders in our community.

Anthony is our Vehicle Maintenance person. He will oversee volunteers who will check our vehicles each month to ensure they are in running order. If there are any maintenance needs he will let his lead know so that we can get them fixed. He will also schedule to have the vehicles driven during inspection. Anthony will be part of the vehicle driving training as well. Anthony is perfectly suited for this new role and we are pleased he is here to watch over it all.

Grace is our Training Assistant. Grace will work closely with Margaret Lawrence our Training Officer. Together they will plan, promote and execute the trainings that you all have come to know and depend on as part of your preparedness. This is a new position and Grace will fill it with fun, exuberance and GRACE.

Next is Casey Headrick, she offered to be our newsletter editor. She has a major in literary studies and education. The awesome part is that she already knows the tool that we use to create this newsletter so we are way ahead of the game here. It will be exciting to see what Casey does for and with our newsletter.

As I mentioned Mary Schreiner is back, YEAH! She will lead up the Marketing team and oversee the newsletter, Facebook coverage and graphic layout. Now that she has real help it will be a lot more fun and a bit less stress. Thanks Mary!



Anthony McGurk,
Vehicle Maintenance



Grace Gonzalez,
Training Assistant



Casey Headrick,
Newsletter Editor



Mary Schreiner,
PIO & Facebook

THFD HAS A NEED, WE DELIVER

THA-CERT and the Fire Assoc. purchased a set of nozzles for engine 722. It turns out that the fire department had 2 sets of nozzles and 3 trucks. They had to take the nozzles off one truck to run another. As soon as we were aware of that fact, we ordered a new set of nozzles. They have arrived, they are on the fire truck and now our fire department is more flexible, nimble and ready to respond.





Beef & Broccoli

in Oyster Sauce



Serves 4-6



10 min prep

15-20 min cook

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb round steak
- 2 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 1 large onion
- 1 head broccoli
- 3 Tbsp oil
- 1 clove garlic grated or sliced
- 1 thinly sliced ginger
- 3-4 Tbsp bottled oyster sauce
- pinch of brown sugar
- ½ cup cold water
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch

I like to add:

- shredded carrots

Top with:

- green onion
- top with sesame seeds

DIRECTIONS

1. Slice steak very thin. Place in a bowl with soy sauce, cornstarch and a few drops of water. Mix well and set aside.
2. Slice onion very thin. Cut broccoli into small pieces and steam until partly cooked. Drain and set aside.
3. Heat oil in a skillet until very hot. Add garlic and ginger. Cook 1 minute, then remove. Add meat and fry until meat sweats, then add onion and broccoli. Stir-fry until vegetables are crispy-tender. Add carrots.
4. Stir in oyster sauce, brown sugar, salt and ½ cup cold water with 1 Tbsp cornstarch dissolved in it. Stir and cook until sauce is thickened.
5. Top with green onion and sesame seeds as desired.
6. Serve with rice.

NOTES

This is a quick, easy, and delicious dinner. It is one of our families favorite. It is a nice meal during the summer as a change to BBQ's.

You can make this dish vegetarian by replacing the beef with tofu.

Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours:

August

Administration =	277
Training =	62
<u>Deployment =</u>	<u>36</u>
Total hours =	375



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



How do YOU plan for a disaster?

Here are **5 GOALS** to strive for when putting a plan together so you can take **CONTROL**

- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Protection
- ✓ Mitigation
- ✓ Response
- ✓ Recovery

Use these five goals to help you put together a plan to deal with a disaster.

Your plan should include:

An easily accessible emergency kit that reflects the health and medical needs of yourself and your family.

An emergency meeting location that family members can get to. Your family may not be together during a disaster so plan to meet at a specific location if separated.

Contact information that is readily available on your devices for family members and first responders. You can also post a contact list in a frequently accessed area of your home.

An emergency meeting location that family members can get to. Your family may not be together during a disaster so plan to meet at a specific location if separated.

Creating and reviewing evacuation routes from your home or place of business that will get you to your emergency location.

THA-CERT has a packing list and a "how-to" video on packing a go bag on their site:

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/twain-harte-area-cert-go-bag-list>

Sign up for emergency alerts here:

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1170/Emergency-Alerts>

REMEMBER!

- Make a Plan
- Build a Medical Kit
- Know Your Neighbors
- Stay Informed
- Be Prepared
- Be Safe

WHAT'S NEXT?

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

PHI Air Medical

Training around a helicopter

Date: 09/28/2024

Time: 09:30-12:00pm

**Location: 18995 Twain Harte Drive, Twain Harte
at the Twain Harte Bible Church**

NOTE NEW LOCATION AND START TIME



Come learn how to work safely around a helicopter.

- How to effectively communicate with the pilot to bring them safely to the ground.
- What to say and what not to say.
- How CERT members can best assist the PHI crew in an emergency situation.
- Become familiar with the crew on board and their amazing skill set.
- Learn about PHI memberships that are available for your household.



We will start at 9:30 conducting a visual assessment of the landing zone.

Printing generously donated by:



Twain Harte

29th Annual
Firemen's Pancake Breakfast

Sausage, Eggs,
Melon, Juice or
Milk, Coffee and

*All You Can Eat
Pancakes*



Adults \$15
Children 5-12 \$10
(children 4 and under
no charge)

Sunday, Sept. 1st, 2024

8 am to 12 noon

At the Firehouse

18781 Cedar Drive

Twain Harte



Join Us & Support Your Fire Department!

No cell coverage? Have a radio backup!

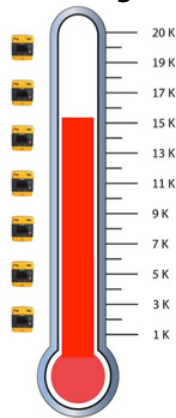
FHD Twain Harte Fire Department: "Help us reach our goal!"

The 29th Annual Firemen's Pancake Breakfast, our last fundraiser for the year, is on September 1st (tomorrow). All proceeds go towards AEDs for our community.

You can also contribute to THA-CERT & Fire Assoc. with a check or Venmo @CERT_Fire. The life you save may be your own.



AED



Join the weekly
Twain Harte Neighborhood
Radio Watch
Wed: 7:00 PM Sun: 9:00 AM
FRS/GMRS: Ch. 18
To learn more, contact:
Lee Smith at 209-988-8832

Concerts in the Pines

Twain Harte CALENDAR

07
SEP

CALIFORNIA CREEDENCE
EPHSON PARK | 6:00 PM

Presented by :



FIREWISE USA
Residents reducing wildfire risks

**Join or start a
FIREWISE
neighborhood**

Contact: Karen Caldwell
tcfirewise@gmail.com

Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting, 22912 Vantage Point, TH

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

Wednesday, Sept 11, 2024 9:00 am

THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

Community Center, 218775 Manzanita Dr, TH (change of venue)

Thursday, Sept 12, 2024 9:30 am