

# Fort Jones Police Department Monthly Report

## October 2021

Happy Fall everyone. September continued to be busy as reflected below but as we approach fall and winter we hope to see activity levels fall especially related to mutual aid and fire response. I have been very proud of our Scott Valley first responders with their willingness to sacrifice and provide professional expertise not only locally but throughout the county and state. The police department is very proud to work along side our brothers and sisters in the fight to keep our valley and surrounding areas safe.

**Traffic-** The past couple months have resulted in numerous traffic accidents with in the city limits of Etna and Fort Jones. We were fortunate enough that each of these accidents resulted in minor injuries at most. The same process occurs whether the accident results in no injuries or major. An investigation is done into why the collision occurred and determines who is a fault. We take this information in internally as well as it helps us see what driving actions are causing these collisions. We at the police department don't like to call them accidents because each of these collisions is preventable. Due to the high number of recent collisions we have maintained multiple traffic enforcement detail have been performed throughout the month in the effort to continue to educate our community in safe driving practices and to hold the repeat offenders accountable. In the month of September during these vehicle stops several DUI's and suspended drivers were taken off the road. Additionally traffic stops resulted in the detection and confiscation of illegal drugs. One DUI taken was also the result of a vehicle collision due to the intoxication of the driver. I believe our presents has helped reduce the number of violations we are seeing but still need the communities eyes and ears in the effort to continue the decline. We have seen Inattention has been the primary cause of collisions recently which becomes an even bigger issue as the roads become more uncertain with winter driving conditions in the mix.

**Schools-** As the school year continues we have seen an influx of calls pertaining to school related activities. While this is a normal occurrence it makes us appreciate our partnership with the Scott valley unified school district and has proven to be instrumental in the guidance given to our children. Vaping seems to have made a major impact in our school system recently and we continue to work with the school district in the attempt to stop this new pandemic within our schools. We also continue to provide assistance to children and their parents to get them to and from school preventing truancy and provide a better learning environment. While Covid restrictions are still present it seems as the schools have been successful in maintaining a higher education within our valley.

**Animal Control-** Animal control in the month of October was active while still seeing a decline in calls. Most of the animal related calls were a result of one household being unable to contain their animals. This is an ongoing effort to gain compliance but some progress has been made. We have also had several lost dogs which fortunately have been reunited with their owners. We have seen most of these dogs being from out of the area. We have had this happen in the past due to people knowing if they drop off a dog within town it will be taken care of. Our partnership with county animal control has been wonderful as we work in cooperation with them in locating the dogs origin. We have also had to dispatch several injured deer in the recent weeks so be on the lookout especially at night when deer are migrating through town.

**Reports/Cases-** This last month ended with approximately 90 written cases in each town of Etna and Fort Jones. That is a total of approximately 180 for the department so far this year. The important factor in lumping these written cases together for both towns is that many of them are related or have the same suspects. With both towns working together has shown to be very effective in the apprehensions and prosecutions of

individuals committing criminal offenses in our valley. Most arrests were alcohol and drug related which has become the unfortunate norm. We however are seeing a slow down from time to time of written cases mostly due to what I believe is a result of proactive law enforcement. It is our goal to continue to see less arrests and cases throughout the year while seeing an increase in good productive contacts.

**Calls for Service/Mutual Aid-** As always calls for service continue to be at a high volume but with a steady increase in positive interactions. Mutual aid especially with fire activity was very high as we helped in the fight with local and county fires. We are just now seeing activity slow and the police department get back to some normal scheduling. Again it has been great to work with our local first responders throughout the season.

**Ordinance Enforcement-** We continue to see lengthy projects with many hours being put in to develop and execute cases come to conclusion and be submitted with the District Attorney. Many thanks to Kelly for the exceptional hard work she put in to have these cases finally materialize. We will continue to monitor these projects in the hopes full compliance is brought to the property and none fall back into violations. If unable to the next steps will be taken to ensure that the properties are brought to an acceptable level. Additional properties throughout town are in several different stages of enforcement and will be brought to council shortly for disposition.

**PAL-** Etna PAL has been successfully providing flag football and soccer programs these past months and shows we can continue to provide essential programs to our youth even through these difficult times. The mentor program also continue to be successful and had success in providing activities such as trunk or treat recently. I was also successful in writing a grant through the Ford family in the effort to provide another PAL holiday gathering hopefully in person this year. It will be December 4<sup>th</sup> this year and looks to be an exciting event for all who attend. Each of these programs have been adapted to provide the safest environment possible and to comply with all covid related precautions. We also developed a scale pertaining to smoke in the area to postpone events if the air quality is determined to be hazardous. Thankfully Smoke is no longer an issue this year. We continue to work with Kidder Creek Orchard Camp in providing a facility for us to utilize during our programs.

**Training-** While we still provide hands on perishable skills training we have been able to provide additional training via remote access. We recently had our annual POST audit which resulted in positive feedback with the department maintaining compliance with mandated training. We were also recently able to update and adapt our policy and procedures manual to current law. In some exciting news our policy and procedures are now available in electronic form which gives our officers quick access while providing on the go training. With the opening of In person training we have been able to send our officers to numerous critical trains that help advance our experience and expertise in many areas of law enforcement.

**Patrol Hours-** In the month of October the Town of Fort Jones continued to receive the equivalent of more than 650 hours of police services. Many of these hours our proactive efforts to ensure crimes are reduced or eliminated in many capacities. Again that consistent presence of law enforcement has shown to be very productive in the reduction of criminal activity with the increase of positive law enforcement interaction and service to our community. Thank you for being our eyes and ears out there and we look forward to hearing from you in the future. Another exciting factor within our progress of criminal activity is the prosecution that has taken place. Sometimes the wheels of Justice move slow but in the end after a lot of patients we have seen those responsible for committing violations against our community held accountable.