

TWAIN HARTE AREA



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2024

PIO: Leo Marroquin
Editor: Carol Hallett
Proof reader: Lise Lemonnier

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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.

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



Rain, rain go away. Come again another day.

Rain! Are you kidding me, we did better than that, it snowed in April. Snowshoeing in April in Twain Harte. WOW!

But the rain and snow did not slow us down. I think you will be as amazed as I am how much this team got accomplished in a month. We fixed-up the container even more and added an office for Pops, we did a "Go Bag" demo, hung smoke alarms with Red Cross, held our annual Basic Training Course, we were the "Coalition Spotlight" for Public Health, we have some safety tips on wildfire, and much more. We even took time to bake some cookies. I hope you enjoy the recipe.

I also added a new page, that I hope you find interesting. I have a report from the THCSD Operations Manager, Lewis Giambruno that I can share each month. It shows the statistics of the work being done around town.

The really good news is that it snowed on the dogwood and the snow flowers are blooming so that should be the end of the snow for this year, according to the old wives tale.

This month we are celebrating THA-CERT's 10th anniversary. I am proud to be one of the founding members and the last one to be active with the group. I miss working with the founders as well as each and every past member. The contributions from those past members make us who we are today. I am always excited to work with the new members, they have new ideas and capabilities.

Here we come 11th year, watch us continue to grow.

THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



GM REPORT

April 10, 2024

ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- FY 2024-25 Budget Preparation
- THCSD Median Household Income Survey
- Grant Management – Prop 1 and Prop 68
- TH Meadows Park Construction Management
- Parking Lot, Pickleball and Tennis Courts Projects
- FEMA Storm Damage Reimbursement Coordination
- TH Trail Eagle Scout Project Coordination

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 3/19 Kickoff Meeting – RGS Financial
- 3/26 SDRMA Spring Education Day
- 4/3 Congressman McClintock – HR 7525
- 4/4 Stop Cyber Attacks Training
- 4/12 TH Trail Eagle Scout Scoping Meeting

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

Grading, pavilion framing, restroom building, some planting and most of the water play area is complete. If weather permits, planting, water play area, parking area and pavilion construction will continue this month. Project completion is anticipated in early fall 2024.

Tennis/Pickleball Court Improvements

Budget: \$310,000

The sport grid surface for the pickleball courts expansion has been ordered and construction is anticipated in June. Coordination and contracting for the tennis court improvements is underway and construction to convert the tennis courts to a hybrid clay surface is anticipated in early summer.

Community Center Improvements

Budget: \$74,000 Fire / \$74,000 Park

Kitchen remodel, ADA bathrooms, flooring and exterior repaint is complete. Work to construct a concrete ADA parking space, path, and entryway has begun and will be complete this month. Paving will also be complete this month. New front doors and signage will be installed in the next two months.

Motor Control Center (MCC) Upgrade

Budget: \$185,000

Construction submittals to replace the MCC at the water treatment plant are finalized. Manufacturing delays have pushed construction out until the next low water demand month in November.

PLANNING PROJECTS

Water System Evaluation/Analysis

Budget: \$777,151

Hydraulic model, water loss analysis, condition assessment and identification of priority capital projects is complete. Sherwood Forest water lines design and grant application is ready to submit.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$4.5M

TH Sewerline Project / Award: Summer 2024

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$6.55M

Sherwood Forest Water / Award: Summer 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

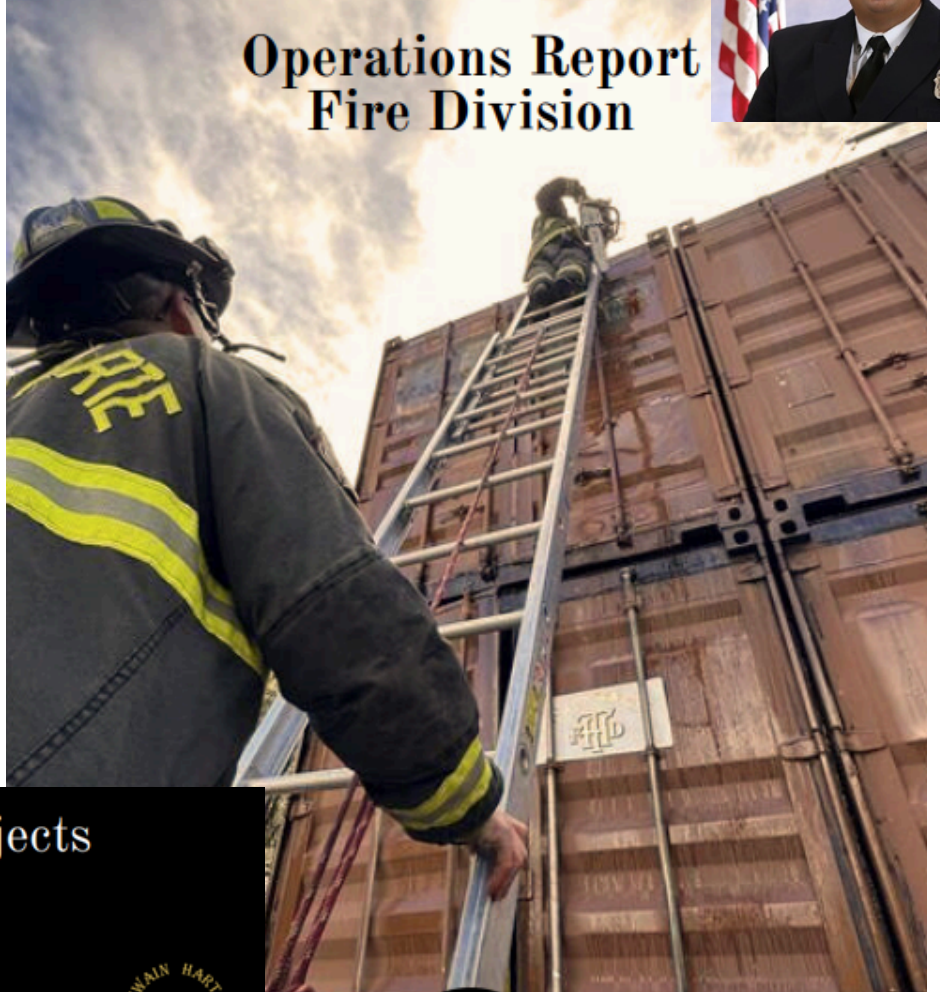
To learn more details, join us at our monthly THCSD board meetings.

TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



Full-Time Captains-3
Intern Operators-3
Relief Captains-4
Reserve Firefighters-4
Intern Firefighters-2



Operations Report Fire Division



Community Projects



FEMA



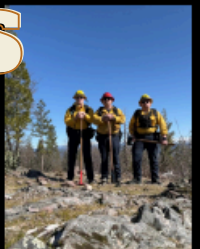
Chief Gamez completed the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for Strawberry and Twain Harte CSD. We are waiting for FEMA to approve the document.

32 RESPONSES



267

TRAINING HOURS



Congratulations to Captain Orozco, Captain Dixon, and Intern Firefighter Luke Fulkerson on successfully passing the EMT course.



THCSD WATER & SEWER REPORT

by Lewis Giambruno, THCSD Operations Manager



Each month I present to the THCSD Board an update on the work we do to keep our town looking and working well. There are a lot of details that go behind these graphs, join our board meeting to learn more.

WATER & SEWER STATISTICS



ITEMS OF NOTE



SMOKE ALARM PROJECT

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



We had a plan to mosey around town on Saturday, April thirteenth to install smoke alarms to anyone that wanted one.

There was a lot of upfront planning that happened beforehand, conversations, emails and follow-ups. We sent out inquiries to residents to see who needed a replacement smoke detector. The Fire Chief, Neil Gamez collected the data and came up with a plan.

We met at the firehouse at 9:30 am. We were a team of 13 made up of THFD, Red Cross and THA-CERT members. Red Cross gave a 30 minute review of the paperwork and procedure that they needed to follow. The Chief gave us the area to canvas and we were on our way.

We were able to install 71 smoke alarms and hand out safety brochures to all those that we helped that day. It was a good day of collaboration and comradery.

Red Cross provided water, snacks and lunch so that we could easily keep going to 1400 (2:00 pm). The really good news was that we beat the storm...the rain and snow chased us to the finish line.

You all know that I have been working on installing smoke alarms for many, many years so this project made me really happy. I sleep better knowing that more of the residents in Tuolumne County have working smoke alarms.



RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

by Leo Marroquin, PIO



The first English version of this short nursery rhyme dates back to the 17th century when James Howell, an Anglo-Welsh historian and writer, added a line about the Spanish Armada. "Rain, rain, go to Spain, Never show your face again"! In the late 16th century, Spain and England were rivals at sea.

The Spaniards were forced to turn and head back home, making England the victors. In Howell's version of the tune, he added a line that read "Rain, Rain, Go To Spain/Never Show Your Face Again" as a nod to the fateful encounter between the two armies.



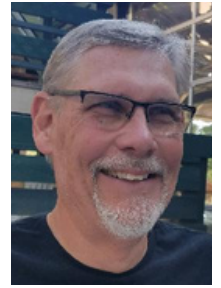
Today, it is a nursery rhyme that children sing in the playground without the knowledge of the history. This month we all felt like chanting it loudly as the rain was coming from the heavens.

I try to remind myself that the rain is watering the flowers that will bloom over the coming weeks.

Awe spring is on it way!

POPS HAS A NEW OFFICE

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



Pops took a trip to Italy and so while he wasn't around we took that time to move him into his new office space. When you have a team of volunteers, a plan and a leader that said, "let's get it done" it happens quickly.

Our fix for the leak in the ceiling worked. We had plenty of snow and rain to test it out. Now we can take that off our to-do list. No rain coming into Pops new office will make him happy and more comfortable.

Our walk through door is working like a champ so now we are working on insulation, rubber seal, sheathing and paint. It is going to look as great as it works. We have been working on this project for a while now but we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel or in this case the end of the project.

Just wait until you see what we are planning next!

COALITION MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Nicholas Olson, Program Specialist
Hospital Preparedness Program



As the Program Specialist one of my duties is to host a quarterly meeting with all the Coalition Members. The members include first responders, Police, Fire, Ambulance personnel and our core members are: Public Health, OES, EMS, Adventist Health Sonora. There are other organizations that support our community like Red Cross, Area 12 and CERT who round out the coalition. I want to offer a huge thank you to the members of Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team (THA-CERT) for braving the snow so they could be our Coalition Member Spotlight! THA-CERT is always there to lend a helping hand but on Thursday they proved that they would go that extra mile.

The snow was predicted but the weather reports have been hit and miss most of the winter, this time it was underestimated. The gigantic snowflakes started coming down just before the meeting and part way through the offices were being closed down so that people could get home. It cumulated fast!

THA-CERT had planned on having all of their staff (15 staff members) join the meeting to share their background, job description and how their group contributes to our community. One-by-one Carol Hallett (Program Manager) called her staff and told them they did not have to attend. She wanted them to be safe. It turned out that she was joined by Mike Mandell (Team Leader) and Linda Postma (Fundraiser Coordinator) they



were already on their way and decided to continue to help support. Carol quickly went through the organization and shared information about the group.

The meeting was shortened and when we went outside it looked like Christmas. Huge snowflakes were falling from the sky and piling on the ground. I wonder what our next Coalition Member Spotlight has in store for us!

GO BAG DEMO FOR LWVML

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



The League of Women Voters of the Mother Lode (LWVML) is more of a diverse group than one would think before doing a little research. Their core focus is working to protect and expand voting rights in our community, inform local leaders on the biggest challenges facing Tuolumne and Calaveras counties (after careful study) and ensure everyone is empowered to participate in our democracy. Which is amazing on its own.

But they do not stop there, they have a fire interest and water interest group(s) that focus on ways that they can help make a difference in our community. They have another group that did research on the homeless and collected data to be able to share with our leaders so that they can make more educated decisions based on facts. I found the group to be very engaging, smart, lively and fun.

Saturday's meeting was hosted by the Fire Interest Group which is chaired by Maria Benech. She is familiar with CERT and knew League members would benefit from this training. The meeting was called to order by Brenda McHenry, the President of LWVML. She had a few announcements and then quickly gave the floor to Margaret Lawrence, THA-CERT Training Officer.



Margaret shared with the group of 25-30 people in attendance how she has organized her routine to get her go bag, family and pets out of the house within 5 minutes. The group interacted with Margaret sharing personal experiences and ideas that might help others.

We all recognize that fire season is fast approaching and getting prepared is so important. This is a great time to be thinking about your "go bag". Go through and make sure that it is up-to-date, review the clothing in your bag for the warmer season and check to make sure that the clothes still fit!

If you need a review we have a video on our website www.thacert.org as a refresher and/or you can invite us to come to a meeting and we will happily do a "go bag" demo for your group! To make that request send a note to: twainhartecert@gmail.com

THA-CERT IS TEN YEARS OLD

I tell the story often, I am still proud of it and the "Founding Members of the THA-CERT". We started as a direct result of the RIM fire. I was simply amazed that we as a community were not more prepared for a wildland fire when we live in and are surrounded by a forest. After the RIM fire was under control I scheduled a meeting with our then Fire Chief, Todd McNeal and expressed my concern. He said that he had the same concern and was looking into a program called CERT.

There are so many details that happened over the past decade, I guess I could write a book but instead I will say that the foundation laid by this group has made it possible for us to accomplish all that we have done. Thank you!



Todd McNeal, Doug Tucker, Carol Hallett, Eric & Susan Marvel, Gary Sipperley, Rich & Marilyn Knudson, Bill & Frances McManus, Bill Schiavo, Wes Jordan, Alan Wallace, Dori Bietz

CERT BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



I can only say WOW. What an incredible 20 hour Basic Training Academy. This training helps fulfill one of our goals in our mission statement which is to help the community to be more prepared when an emergency happens. This was accomplished in spades!

There were countless hours in preparation by the instructors and our CERT volunteers... I put in a few hours too! The caliber of the instructors, subject matter experts that came from the Bay Area as well as local community members made the class intriguing and interesting. Twain Harte Fire Department (THFD) was there each day to support this important community preparedness class. A special thanks to Captain Dixon and Captain Orozco (along with their crew) for your support and time.

It was a full class. Each morning the class started with delicious snacks and the aroma of coffee, thanks to Mary Dearborn. The students were engaged, attentive and eager for every subject. The instructors interwove the course material with real life experiences and/or community events which brought it all home and made it even more compelling.



There was always something more to learn and discuss which added to the repertoire of knowledge for everyone. Carol Hallett taught "CERT Org" & Mary Dearborn went over "Disaster Psychology".



THFD went over "Fire Safety" and then the students geared up, went outside and took turns not only putting out the fire but taking care of their buddy. With each rotation the teams got more confidence.



Michelle Wagner (retired Deputy Sheriff/EMT) and Mary Kirkwood (retired nurse/currently with the Coast Guard) dazzled us with the two "Medical Operations" modules. There was so much information to absorb but they made it easy by relating it into simple terms that we can use in our everyday life as well as when an emergency occurs.

Unbeknownst to the students they would be using these skills later in the weekend.

CERT BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY



Randie Revilla retired Fire Captain from the Bay Area taught “Light Search and Rescue” and then the students went outside to practice cribbing. They made a human chain to take the material out of storage which was yet another lesson. Then they practiced the art of safely removing someone from under a pile of rubble. The students took to it like professionals.



On the last day the students get to pull it all together in a practice simulation with “injured” victims. Thank you to the THA-CERT members and community volunteers that dressed up to play the part of injured victims. The moulage by Mary Kirkwood and Michelle Wagner was simply amazing. It made the simulation even more realistic.



The simulation is a great opportunity for the students to utilize all the skills and knowledge that they collected over the weekend. They reported to the incident command (IC) to get their deployment assignment and then off they went. Each team had a mentor observing and to guide them as needed. The teams went to different locations and found the victims with unique medical issues. With their backpacks in tow, filled with the supplies they needed, they assessed the victims condition. They reported back to IC by radio, another skill they learned from Mike Mandell (Team Leader). They used their learned skills to care for the victims until EMS arrived.

When the final exam and simulation were complete we gathered for a graduation ceremony with pizza debrief. The students attending this class were willing participants which made it all worthwhile. For the first time ever we had all the students sign up to be part of the THA-CERT or Groveland CERT.



The training was a huge success, what an honor it is to be part of this amazing group.

Congratulations to the CERT Class of '24



We are not having training in the Month of May. Have a safe Memorial Day. Come join us June 29 for another fabulous training; CPR/AED class where you can obtain more life saving techniques. Learn how to do CPR or come join us for a refresher. We will also be instructed on how to use an AED or automated external defibrillator. To join you must sign up at: twainhartecert@gmail.com, this class is limited in size. We will fill the class on a first come, first serve basis. Look for more details in next month’s newsletter.



Polka-dot Macaroons



4 ½ doz
cookies



15 min prep
10 min bake/batch
cool

INGREDIENTS

- 5 cups Sweetened Coconut
- ½ cup all purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups mini m&m's
- 1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk

NOTES

Quick and easy, they look like a party to me. I love to make these cookies, you can make them without the m&m's but why?

I cut the coconut with half unsweetened coconut.

You can freeze these cookies, layered between waxed paper, in freezer containers.

To use, thaw before serving.

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°
2. In a large bowl, mix coconut, milk and flour until blended; stir in M&M's.
3. Drop mixture by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto greased baking sheets.
4. Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges are lightly browned.
5. Remove from baking sheets onto a wire rack to cool.



Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for April are:

Administration =	259
Training =	610
Deployment =	55
Total hours =	924



MAY IS WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer

As we transition from spring into summer, it's a good time to stop and consider what changes need to be made around your residence to resist fires. We have to be very vigilant as the weather warms!



Some steps to follow:

- Fire prep the land around your residence by picking up dried leaves, branches, pieces of wood, paper, and anything flammable. Clearing space around your home is good.
- Remove weeds while they are small, young and easy to pull.
- Incorporate fire resistant plants into your landscaping or add hard-scape such as pavers, stone walkways or decorative stones. It looks nice and is easy to maintain.
- The trees in your yard have had plenty of water and sunlight, they have grown over the season. It is time to trim up those branches, thin out some trees. This will help alleviate a fire threat.
- Take the debris from your yard to a yard waste site or burn if you have the space. Get a burn permit first. Know outdoor burning rules and regulations. Don't burn outside until you know these rules.
- Find a local Firewise community, there are several in Twain Harte and around the county. It can be a great way to get to know your neighbors.
- Review and refresh the items in your "go bag" so that you are prepared if you have to evacuate. Review your evacuation plan with your family in case a wildfire poses a threat.
- Ready.gov suggests taking selfies at your safe place. This could be a fun family outing.



2013 RIM fire prompted the development of two resilience centers in Tuolumne County. Have you checked them out? Take a tour of Resilience Center(s) in Tuolumne City and in Groveland.



For more information go to: <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

WHAT'S NEXT?

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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



Spring is in the Air

COLUMBIA AIRPORT FATHER'S DAY FLY-IN
55th Annual "Remember when..."

FLY-IN CAMPING • WARBIRD FLYBYS • AIRPLANE RIDES • WWII AIRCRAFT • WWII VEHICLES • CLASSIC CAR SHOW • KIDS ZONE • TRICYCLE RACES • GREAT FOOD & DRINKS

OPENING CEREMONY WITH VETERANS HONORS 11 AM

HONORING WWII VETERANS
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024, 10AM-3PM www.fathersdayflyin.org

MOTHERLODE ROUND UP PARADE & RODEO

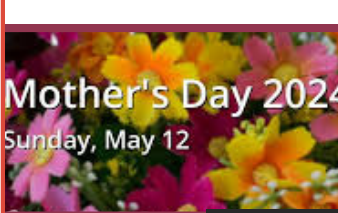


Starts: May 11, 2024
Ends: May 12, 2024
Time: All Day
Parade: Free
Location: Sonora
Mother Lode Fairgrounds

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG DEDICATION



Starts: May 27, 2024
Ends: May 27, 2024
Time: 11:30 am
Location: Arch Twain Harte



Greenwaste Dollar Dump Days
SATURDAYS
April 27, 2024 - **NEW!**
June 29, 2024
September 28, 2024

Earth Resource Facility
14909 CAMAGE AVENUE
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Closed noon-1 p.m.)

YES!
ACCEPTABLE items include:
• Grass clippings, leaves
• Pine needles, flowers
• Tree trimmings & limbs, brush
• Dead plants

NO!
UNACCEPTABLE items include:
• Waste, liquids, trash, ash or plastic bags
• Plastic, glass, or wire items
• Pet waste or kitty litter
• Tree Stumps
• Palm trees/leaves
• Agave Cactus

Residents may dispose of one (1) cubic yard of green waste for \$1.00. Any waste over one (1) cubic yard will be charged the regular rate for disposal.

Participants will be required to provide identification (photo ID or utility bill with address) verifying they live in Tuolumne County. This program is for the residents of Tuolumne County ONLY.

Sorry NO contractors or commercial businesses permitted.

For questions and additional information please contact the Tuolumne County Public Works Department's Solid Waste Division at (209) 533-5588.

Don't Trash Tuolumne!

TWAIN HARTE AREA CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

TWAIN HARTE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESENTS

THE WORLD CLASS TWAIN HARTE OUTHOUSE RACES

June 1, 2024

Parade at 9:00 AM - Race 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Eproson Park, Twain Harte, CA
(AKA "Flushing Downs")

Firefighter Challenge-Perpetual Trophy
Wine, Beer & Margaritas
Local Food Vendors
Craft Vendors
Tot Pot Races

When It's Truly An Emergency

For more information:
twainhartecert@gmail.com
(209) 481-5790

For vendor information:
mountainmeadowproductions@gmail.com

This fundraiser benefits: Twain Harte Volunteer Fire Department (THVED) & THA-CERT

2024 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAYS

Sonora Area
Saturday, May 18
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Event Location: Sierra Recycling Center
1909 Camage Ave.
Follow the Signs
For Appointment Call After April 15, 2024 - 24/7
1-800-811-2435

Big Oak Flat/Groveland Area
Saturday, August 24
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Event Location: Take Hwy 120 to Big Oak Flat, Take Catholic Cemetery Rd. & Follow the Signs
No Appointment Required
For Groveland Event

TUOLUMNE COUNTY RESIDENTS
Now is the time to dispose of the hazardous materials hanging around your house and garage.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Keep waste in original container
2. Do not mix material
3. Prevent leakage or spills (Place container in tub or box and surround with paper or kitty litter)
4. Transport wastes in trunk or secured in bed of truck

Restrictions:

- No containers larger than 5 gallons
- Limit toxic items to 15 gal. or 125 lb. per trip (California State Law)

We do not accept:

- Ammunition or explosives
- Asbestos, tires, or medical waste
- Radioactive waste
- Marine flares
- Non-hazardous wastes or regular trash

For **Small Business Hazardous Waste** or any other questions please contact Tuolumne County Solid Waste Division (209) 533-5588 or visit www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/swd

If you want to race, contact us and we will get you the rules and specifications for building an Outhouse or go to: <https://www.twainhartecsd.com/twain-harte-outhouse-race-2024>



Join the weekly:
Twain Harte Neighborhood Radio Watch
Wed: 7:00 PM Sun: 9:00 AM
FRSM: ch 18

Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting, 22912 Vantage Point, TH
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 9:00 am



To learn more about Neighborhood Radio Watch contact: Lee Smith at 209-988-8832

THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting
Vantage Point Brd Mtg Rm, 22912 Vantage Point, TH
Thursday, May 2, 2024 9:30 am