



History of the Modesto Fire Department



1875



Modesto receives first hand drawn hook and ladder complete with 12 leather buckets on each side



1894

Name changed from
Modesto Hook and
Ladder to Modesto
Hose Company #1





**George Wallace
becomes the
first paid
firefighter**

**Fire apparatus
consisted of two
hand carts**

1910

**Two horses were purchased,
Prince and Charlie, who were
trained to pull the hose and ladder
cart**





George Wallace was elected to be the first paid fire chief

1911

Two additional horses were purchased, Bud and Queen, to pull a new chemical wagon

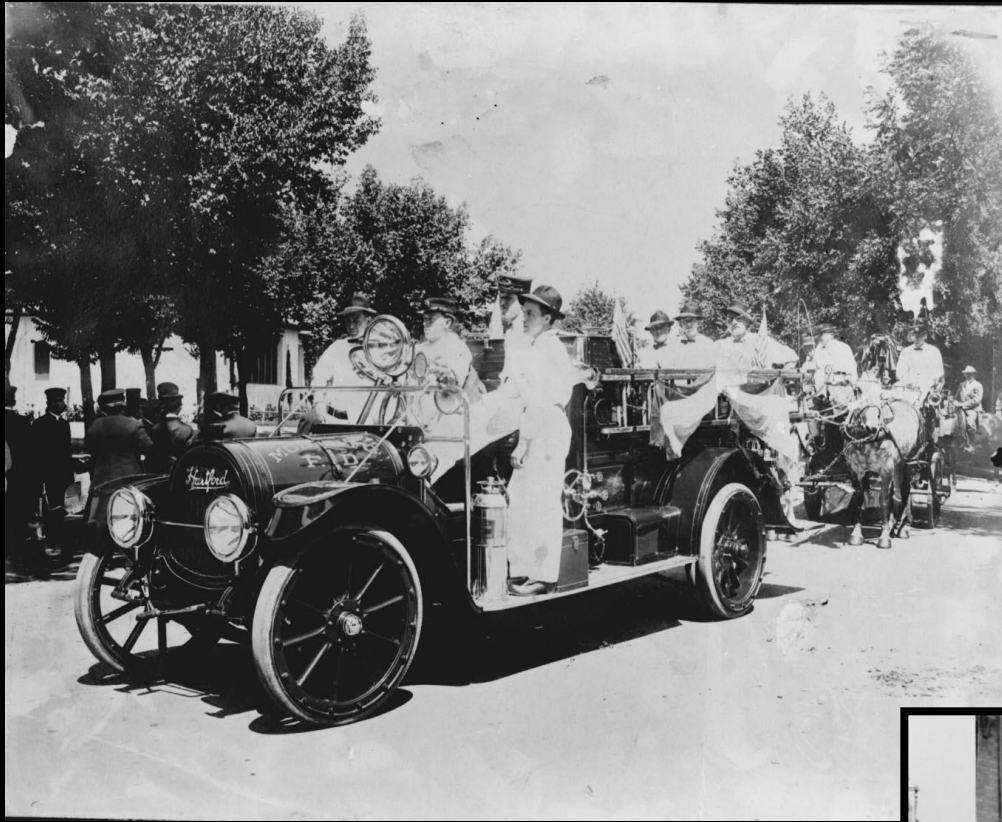


1912

The first motorized fire apparatus was purchased- a Pope-Hartford Hose and chemical wagon. Bud and Queen were decommissioned



1919



**Prince and Charlie
were
decommissioned**

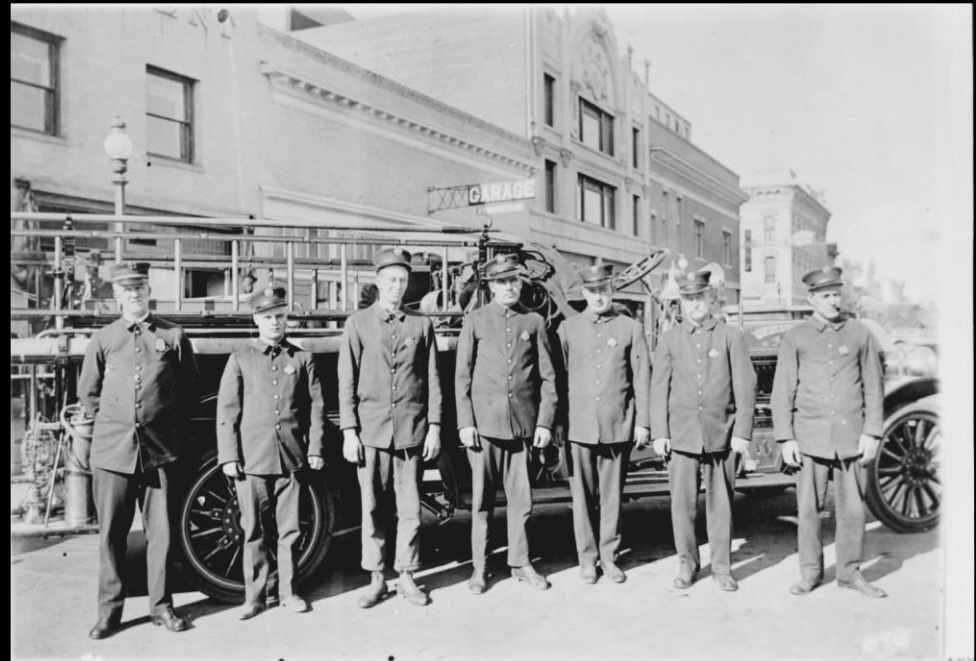




Chief Wallace starts up a two platoon system of firefighters

1920

Population of Modesto is 9,200





**Modesto received two
Seagrave 750 gpm pumpers**

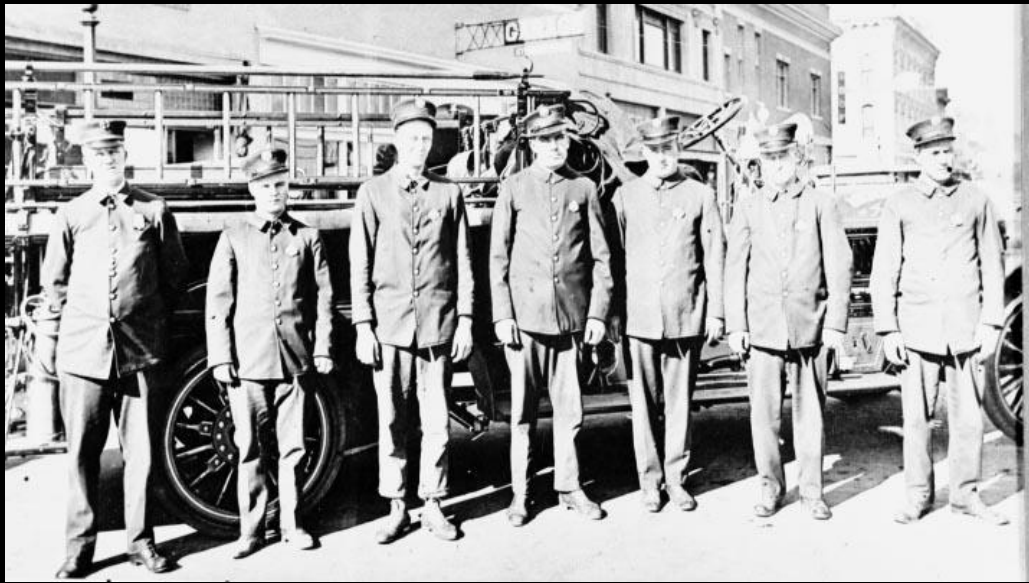
**1923
the new
Station # 2
was built**





1924 Station # 3 opened





1925

Modesto had 16 paid firefighters

Population of Modesto is 12,000



1926

Alarm bells, with red lights, were installed in the homes of all firefighters to notify them of a fire so that they could respond to the station.





1927

Modesto receives a Seagrave Suburbanite apparatus, which had 400gpm pump and a 65 gallon tank



1928

**Modesto receives the first
ladder truck, a 75 foot
Seagraves aerial**



1935

Modesto now has three fire stations, four engines, one hose wagon, a chemical truck, and one 75 foot ladder truck. There were 15 paid firefighters and 30 volunteers



1938



**The Modesto Firefighters
formed an association to
organize and to better
conditions**



1939

New Station

1



Construction begins on the current Station 1, located at 610 11th St





**1944
Modesto
Hotel fire**



New 85 foot aerial truck arrived



1946

Modesto had four engines, one hose truck, one ladder truck, twenty paid and twenty five volunteer firefighters



1948

New Van Pelt fire engine arrived



1949

Chief George Wallace retires, he was the chief from 1911-1949

Modesto Fire Department becomes a Class 2 fire department with three chiefs, 35 paid firefighters, and nine volunteers.

The city population is 21,000.



1953



Chief George Wallace passes away; his casket was carried by the 1919 Seagrave to his final resting place



1956

First self-contained
breathing apparatus
purchased



Jim Hargrave - Walt Fuschberger -
Sept. 1955

1957

Fire marshal Durwood Taylor dies of a heart attack after battling a warehouse fire, this was the first recorded line of duty death for Modesto.



1957

The Modesto City Firefighters Association, Local 1289 was established.



1958

Modesto Fire Department starts working 24 hour shifts, with three platoons





1964

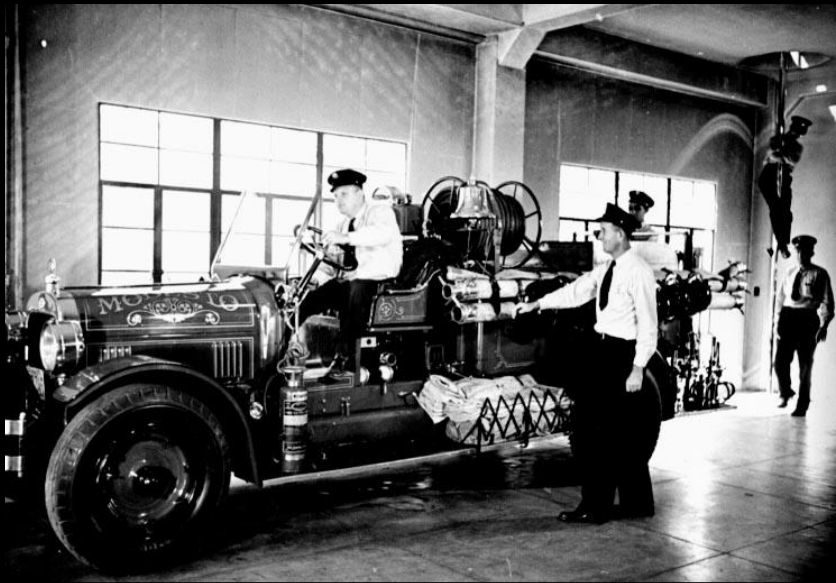
Station # 5 opens

The station was dedicated to Durwood Taylor



1965

The 1919 Seagrave was retired from service and a snorkel truck was purchased





1973
The first
HURST Tool
was purchased



1976

**The new
station # 4
was built**



1979 station # 6 opens



1980 station # 8 opens at the Airport



The last remaining volunteer firefighter, Manuel Lopez, retires.

Modesto's population is 107,000

1981 station # 7 opens



First closed circuit TV system that broadcast to all stations used to transmit training films; later used to conduct morning briefings.



1985

Constant staffing of all fire apparatus at all stations, three personnel per apparatus.

The department responds to 2,500 calls for service





1986

**The Modesto Fire Department
begins first responder
medical service to citizens of
Modesto**





1990

*The department
has a total of
164 personnel*

**1994 – McHenry
Village fire**





**1991
Station # 9
opens**

**Station
10 opens**



1993



**Modesto Fire
Department
establishes an
explorer post**

2004



Modesto Fire Department begins an Advanced Life Support pilot program - medic firefighters



2005 Station # 11 opens

A third truck in
introduced into
the system.

All trucks are
staffed with 4
personnel.





2009

- The recession starts to affect levels
- Station 8 only staffed with one personnel, an engineer
- Engine 21 eliminated
- *Total calls for service spikes to 26,000*



2010



Coston Fire- two firefighters fall through a roof sustaining burn injuries



2011

Modesto Fire, Salida Fire, and the County Fire Warden's Office merge into a joint partner agreement called the Modesto Regional Fire Authority, MRFA. All employees become Modesto City employees.



2014



MRFA disbands; all partners return to their respective jurisdictions, employees remain city employees, although a few returned to their original employers

2016

Modesto Fire Department, Ceres Fire Department, Stanislaus Consolidated, and Turlock City Fire Departments enter into a drop boundary agreement



This allows for the closest resource to respond to an incident, which creates efficiencies that benefits the citizens and provides greater opportunities for all involved.