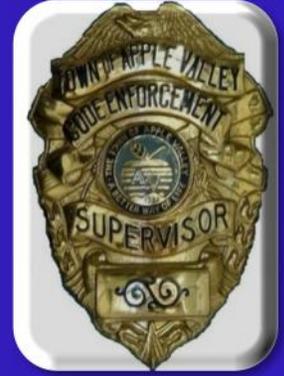


Code Enforcement News



Code Enforcement, Apple Valley Fire and Victor Valley College work jointly to remove blighted unsafe structures.

Warming fires, squatters defecating in the bath tubs and sinks, severe rodent infestation, illegal dumping, vandalism and other significant health and safety concerns. These are all issues that Officer Williams faced when dealing with the various property owners the last few years at 20684 Otoe Road. Many hours were devoted to ensuring that the property remained secured and free of exterior blight violations. The property was recently purchased by an Investment Group that wanted to change the perception of the tarnished property. The Group didn't have the funds or the resources to bring the property into compliance.

Officer Williams provided a solution to the Investment Group by way of the Apple Valley Fire Department to eliminate many of the ongoing issues on the property. The solution, to allow a training burn of the property, allowed the Group to demolish the structures at a cost far less expensive than a typical demolition. It would also provide for hands on training experience for current students of the Victor Valley Community College Firefighter I Academy. The cadets spend many class room hours learning about fire behavior, fire attack, rapid interventions and ventilation. While on the property Cadets participate in evolutions that allow them to actually ventilate a structure, rescue trapped or injured firefighters and conduct a fire attack while an active fire is burning in a structure. Upon completion of the evolutions, the structures are burned to the ground, showing the cadets the various stages of fire behavior and the intensity fire can produce. All the cadets are issued certificates through the California State Fire Marshal's Office.

After the burn is complete the property owner is responsible for hiring a contractor to remove any debris left on the property. This burn was the third property that the three agencies jointly worked together on, proving to be a cost effective approach to removing blighted unsafe structures, while providing valuable training for future firefighters.

