



MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2026

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Volunteer news, emergency preparedness, and community updates for Twain Harte.



Good food, great company, and a community coming together to support our firefighters.

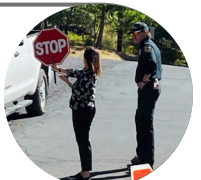
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THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

CERT Hits the Road for Traffic Control Training

From the classroom to real-world practice



A Successful Pancake Breakfast

A stack of pancakes and a whole lot of community spirit



Twain Harte Shows Up Strong

47 units collected at the latest community blood drive



Ready for Action

With new toolboxes, secure steps, and a few final touches, our Heating & Cooling Unit is almost complete



"Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures."

– Henry David Thoreau



THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager

GM REPORT

September 9, 2026



ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- Closing of Fiscal Year 2025-26 Books
- Fixed Assets Tracking Program Installation
- GIS Mapping System Implementation
- Exploration of AI Efficiency Opportunities
- Christmas Tree Warranty Coordination
- CSDA Annual Conference Training

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 8/13** County Development Collaboration
- 8/25-27** CSDA Annual Conference
- 9/1** DWR Tribal Consultation Training
- 9/7** Meadows Christmas Tree Selection
- 9/8** Fire Services Efficiency Collaboration

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Eproson Park Solar Light Replacement

Budget: \$93,500

Solar lights have been selected for a grant-funded project to replace streetlights in Eproson Park with solar streetlights. Electrical contractor solicitation is underway. The District is also exploring if grant funding can be utilized to expand the project to the downtown area. The project is anticipated to be complete by spring 2027.

Cresta Sewer Replacement/Relining

Budget: \$325,000

Replacement of 955' of high-risk sewer line between Cresta Drive and Oak View Drive is complete. The remaining 1,550' of sewer line has been repaired and is anticipated to be relined in spring 2027.

Cedar Pines Pressure Zone Upgrades

Budget: \$700,000

A request for proposals is in development for a design consultant to design a project that improves pressure zones, eliminates an aging tank and pump station, and replaces deteriorated, undersized water lines.

SCADA System Improvements

Budget: \$645,000

Grant funding has been awarded for a project to install a water and sewer supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) that provides remote monitoring and control of the District's water treatment plant, pump stations, tanks and sewer lift stations. Once the grant funding agreement is completed (projected this summer), an RFP will be issued for project design.

Activation of Latent Powers

Based on citizen request and strategic plan goals, staff is exploring activation of its powers to provide lighting services to downtown Twain Harte. This requires LAFCO approval and a study showing the District can sustainably provide services long-term. Staff/LAFCO have initiated discussions to begin this process with anticipated completion in FY 26/27. If approval is this calendar year, there is a possibility that grants may be used to procure solar lights.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Sonora Area Foundation - \$36K
EV Fire Response / AWARDED

California Fire Foundation - \$15K
Wildland Hose / AWARDED

FEMA Public Assistance - \$90K
Storm Response / AWARD: Fall 2026

FY 26-27 VFC GRANT - \$38K
Radios / AWARD: Fall 2026

Energy Efficiency Grant - \$94K
Eproson Park Solar Lights / AWARDED

HUD CDBG Grant - \$525K
SCADA System / AWARDED

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



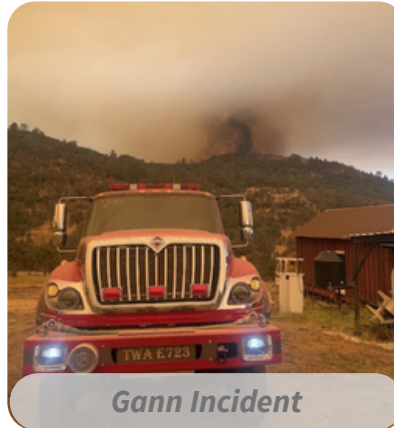
TH FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



August Deployments

- On August 3rd, E-723 responded with an immediate need Strike Team to the Gann incident in the Angels Camp area. They were assigned to structure protection.
- On August 12th, E-723 was released from the Gann incident and reassigned to the Timber incident in the Big Sur area.
- On August 19th, Chief 720 was dispatched with California Incident Management Team 5 to the Little Giant Incident in Wenatchee, Washington, as a Safety Officer Type Three.



Gann Incident



Timber Incident



Little Giant Incident

August By the Numbers

Training Hours: 166

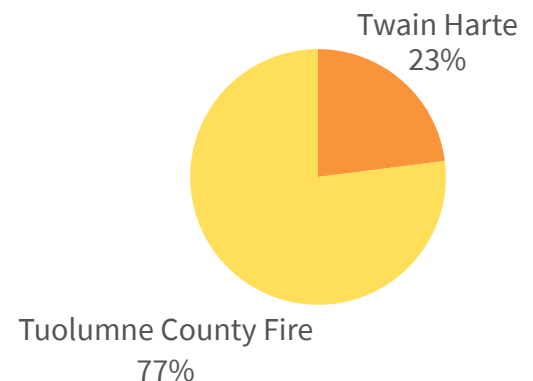
INCIDENT BY TYPE

EMS: 33
Fires: 9
Public Service Assist: 15
Emergency Standby: 4

STAFFING

Full-Time Captains: 2
Full-Time Engineers: 3
Intern Operators: 1
Reserve Firefighters: 2
Intern Firefighters: 6

Incident Responses by District



Fleet

On August 31, Captain Slater and Engineer McNeal picked up THFD's brand-new Type 6 engine from QTAC in Redding, California. The new engine, designated E-726, underwent a thorough inspection, during which two issues were identified and addressed on the spot.

A big thank-you to QTAC for building this beautiful engine, and to the THCSD Board and GM Trott for their approval and support.





TH FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



Grant Awarded

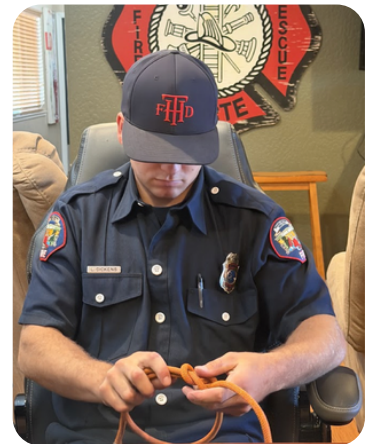
Twain Harte Fire Department is pleased to announce that we have received grant funding from the Sonora Area Foundation to purchase a Rosenbauer BEST (Battery Extinguishing System Technology) device. This specialized equipment will enhance our ability to safely and effectively respond to electric vehicle fires and lithium-ion battery emergencies.

As electric vehicles become increasingly common throughout Tuolumne County, the BEST device will provide firefighters with an essential tool to address the unique challenges posed by EV battery fires. This investment will improve firefighter safety, reduce water usage, and strengthen our department's emergency response capabilities. We sincerely thank the Sonora Area Foundation for its continued support of public safety and its investment in the safety of our community. We would also like to recognize and thank General Manager Tom Trott for his assistance and support throughout the grant process. His efforts were instrumental in helping secure this funding and bringing this important piece of equipment to our department.



This grant will benefit not only the Twain Harte community but also our regional mutual-aid partners throughout Tuolumne County.

Trainings





THCSO WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Lewis Giambruno, THCSO Operations Manager



Word and Excel training



Cleaning of Joaquin Gully sewer line



Ponderosa service lines replaced



Mono service line repaired



Sewer line cleaning at Twain Harte School



Mark Twain Lift Station pump removal and inspection

Other Completed Projects

- Storage building readied for Twain Harte Homeowners
- Fallen Sugar Pine cleared from water plant driveway
- Manzanita water line and hydrant replacement
- Golf Club hydrant upgrade
- Century 21 water service repair
- Pickleball border and tiles repaired
- Ballfield leaks repaired
- Water plant inspections



TRAFFIC CONTROL DEPLOYMENT

Another deployment, another job well done!

Mike Mandell, THA-CERT Team Leader & President

Six CERT volunteers kept traffic moving in the rain while the sewer crew tackled a two-hour cleanup on Joaquin Gully.

The Twain Harte Community Services District sewer collection department needed to clean a long section of sewer line. Because we had enough warning to organize for this one, I was able to make calls to line up the 6 volunteers we needed. On Friday, August 28, 2026, six of us showed up at the Vantage Point Office to be briefed by Lewis Giambruno, Operations Manager.

We took our assignments. Lise Lemonnier was at the bottom of the hill, at the open manhole. Bob Schreiner was at the top, near Wildwood Drive. All the cross streets needed to be manned to keep traffic out of the road. Carol Hock, Ed Proctor, Pam Vlach, Lewis Giambruno, and I, Mike Mandell, covered those streets.

As soon as the Jetter was in place, we began one-way traffic on Joaquin Gully, a popular road that kept us busy. Lucky for us, it wasn't 95°! In fact, it was raining. None of us complained. The Sewer Collection Department workers were quick and efficient, finishing the job within two hours. And just as they had finished and replaced the manhole cover, the rain stopped.



ONE STEP CLOSER: TRAILER UPDATE

A few final touches, a little teamwork, and our Heating & Cooling Unit will be ready to roll.

Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief

Were getting down to the last few items on our list for our Heating/Cooling Unit trailer. We installed 2 rolling toolboxes to be used in place of the cabinets we had originally planned on using.

The toolboxes are sturdier, easier to install, and less expensive than the cabinets, and we think they look great. Mike, Lise, and I worked together to get them in place and secured to the wall of the trailer.



While we were together, Lise showed us the fold-down steps for the side door, and we installed them a few days after the toolboxes. Until now, there was either a huge step down to the ground or a step down to a wooden step that tended to wobble. Not ideal when you're carrying supplies in or out of the trailer. Now, we have secure steps that fold neatly out of the way when the trailer is in transit or isn't being used.

We also added anti-slip material to the ramp and installed a second handrail. We made a secure fastening for storing the handrails and for when the trailer is in transit.

All of the "big jobs" for our Heating and Cooling Unit are finished, and we have a few small touch-ups to do, but we are 99% finished.



GATHERED AROUND THE GRIDDLE

The griddles were hot, and the community spirit was even hotter at the pancake breakfast.
Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief

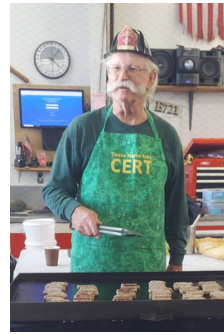
More than 500 breakfasts were served as neighbors gathered for a lively morning that raised funds to support the Twain Harte Fire Department.

The 31st Annual Pancake Breakfast was a smashing success. We had a few glitches here and there, but people stepped up and made it work.

We served over 500 breakfasts, many Mimosas, and bounties of Bloody Marys. People bought fire department T-shirts, hats, mugs, and pint glasses.

The atmosphere was lively, with neighbors chatting and enjoying a beautiful Sunday morning.

The Columbia Fire Academy students were on hand to help out. They were a big help when it came time to set up and break down tables, chairs, and the pop-up tents shading the tables. Our own firefighters were also available to help pick up empty plates, pour coffee, wipe tables, and keep the flow of wonderful attendees going.



I don't yet have exact numbers, but I'm confident we netted a significant amount to help fund fire equipment, uniforms, and other sundries for our firefighters. We had generous donations from Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Twain Harte Market, and 3 THA-CERT members to help offset the expenses.

Thank you for all the help from the volunteers, the firefighters, and donors. And thank you to all who attended and supported our local fire department. See you next year!



FROM RADIOS TO ROADWAYS: CERT GETS HANDS-ON

Learn the skills, build the confidence, and be ready when every second counts.
Mike "Griff" Griffin, Training Officer

This was a well-attended class of about thirty people on Saturday, 9-25, including members of CalFire and the Twain Harte Fire Department!

After a brief PowerPoint and radio operations overview, the class was turned over to Steve Machado from the California Highway Patrol. Steve provided a brief talk on the "do's and don'ts of traffic control, based on his considerable experience on the subject. He covered PPE, the advantages of having a flashlight, and the cardinal rule of traffic control-never turn your back on traffic! The last hour consisted of a hands-on traffic control exercise on Manzanita Drive, using cones, traffic control signs, CERT vehicles, and two-way radios.





BLOOD DRIVE: ANOTHER STRONG SUCCESS

47 units collected, countless lives helped, and Twain Harte showing up strong.

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager

Twain Harte came through once again, exceeding its blood donation goal and proving that when our community shows up, every drop makes a difference.

Blood drives in Twain Harte are always successful, and this month was no exception.

We were fortunate to have an outstanding team: seven Red Cross personnel, three THA-CERT volunteers, and two resident volunteers. It was an amazing group, and everything flowed smoothly. No one waited. Everyone knew their role, worked in harmony, and made the day feel easy and welcoming.

Results

Our goal was 42 units, and we collected 47 units of blood.

That extra margin matters. Every unit helps patients in need, and the difference came from people showing up and a team that worked well together.

Looking Ahead

Our next blood drive is already on the calendar for **November 16, 2026.**

We already have 30 people signed up, with six of them planning to donate Power Red.

Why Power Red?

A Power Red donation lets you give two units of red blood cells in a single visit instead of one. That means the red cells you donate can help roughly twice as many patients compared with a standard whole-blood donation.

A few important notes about Power Red:

- You can donate Power Red only every 16 weeks (versus every 8 weeks for whole blood).
- The process is a bit longer (about 30 extra minutes) because the machine returns your plasma, platelets, and saline to your body.
- It is especially valuable if you have O, A-negative, or B-negative blood.



“Every unit helps patients in need, and the difference came from people showing up and a team that worked well together.”

Because we won't hold another drive until March 2027, we're hoping to maximize the number of Power Red appointments in November.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and worked at this month's blood drive. Your time and generosity make a real difference.

ONLY 2 POWER RED APPOINTMENTS REMAIN!

Please consider signing up.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "TwainHarte" to schedule an appointment.



CHAMBER UPDATE

by Glen Cantrell, President, Twain Harte Area Chamber of Commerce

Could Someone Else Pick Up Where You Left Off?

With Chamber elections coming up in October, I've been thinking about what makes an organization ready for a change in leadership. There are the formal pieces—ballots, board positions, and responsibilities—but there's also the everyday knowledge that helps the next person get things done.

Who has the current contact list? Where are the instructions from last year? How do I apply for that permit? What needs to happen next, and who usually takes care of it?

Those questions will sound familiar to anyone who runs a small business, organizes volunteers, or keeps a household moving. Every group has someone who knows how everything works. Often, they're also the person who gets the phone call that begins, "Sorry to bother you, but..."

Sometimes, all of that information lives in one person's head.

An election gives us a chance to plan a handoff. An illness, an unexpected absence, or a fall power outage may not. That connection is why readiness is on my mind this month: how do we make sure someone else can handle the basics when the usual person isn't available?

Here's a small project worth trying before you need it.

Start With an Ordinary Interruption

Imagine you can't get to your business, volunteer commitment, or home tomorrow morning. Someone has agreed to fill in. What would they need to know first?

For a local business, that might mean a current staff contact list, instructions for notifying customers about an unexpected closure, and the location of essential supplies. Who needs a call if a delivery arrives? What appointments would need to be rescheduled?

For a volunteer group, it could be the steps for postponing an event and reaching everyone scheduled to help. At home, it might be pet-care instructions and a few important phone numbers.

Start with the questions someone would otherwise have to call you to answer.

Make It Useful—and Findable

Keep it short. A useful page that someone can find beats a comprehensive binder nobody remembers exists. Use plain language and include the date you last updated the information.

Then ask the person who would fill in to look it over. Do the instructions make sense without you standing beside them? You may discover that "call our usual person" isn't quite as helpful as you thought.

Keep private information secure, and make sure the appropriate person knows how to access it. If the instructions are stored electronically, consider what would still be available during a power or internet outage.

A Small Step With a Wider Benefit

Helping local businesses prepare for everyday interruptions is part of helping our community stay dependable. Clear plans mean less uncertainty for employees and customers. A volunteer who can hand off a responsibility gives the whole group more flexibility.

This month, choose one thing that only you know how to do—and make it easier for someone else to help.

Chamber Election Reminder

Speaking of Chamber leadership elections, by the time you're reading this, ballots will have gone out to Chamber members and are due back by the end of October. Please take a few minutes to review your ballot and participate.

Take care,
Glen





COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Shared by Lise Lemonnier

Dolly's Oven Roasted Potatoes



8 Servings



Level: Easy



1h 5 min prep / 1h 35 min total

Dolly Parton has long proclaimed her love for potatoes, and these crispy, herb-roasted potatoes are a delicious way to celebrate the humble spud. Simple, golden, and comforting, they're a Southern-inspired side worthy of Dolly herself.



*Crispy, savory,
and oh-so-satisfying!*

INGREDIENTS:

- ☐ 2 pounds of potatoes
- ☐ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ☐ 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ☐ 3 tablespoons chopped fresh herbs (any blend of rosemary, parsley, thyme, or basil)
- ☐ ½ teaspoon paprika
- ☐ Kosher salt, to taste
- ☐ Black pepper, to taste

KITCHEN TIPS:

- Use any combination of herbs you'd like. Dry spices/herbs can be substituted; use 1–2 teaspoons of dried herbs instead of fresh.
- The high temperature can cause fresh garlic to burn, so garlic powder is best for roasted potatoes.
- Any kind of potatoes will work in this recipe.
- Peeling potatoes is optional.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F.
2. Scrub the potatoes and cut them into 1-inch cubes.
3. If time allows, soak potatoes in cold water for 20 minutes or up to 1 hour. This is optional, but it removes excess starch and makes the potatoes fluffier. Drain and dry them well.
4. Toss the potatoes with olive oil, garlic powder, herbs, paprika, salt, and pepper.
5. Spread them in a single layer on a baking sheet and roast for 30 to 35 minutes, or until browned and tender.

Want to share a favorite family recipe? Email us at TwainHarteCERT@gmail.com for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue.



SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

John Buckingham, Safety Officer

SEPTEMBER IS

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Start a Conversation. Be the Difference.

Together we can raise awareness, reduce stigma and help save lives.

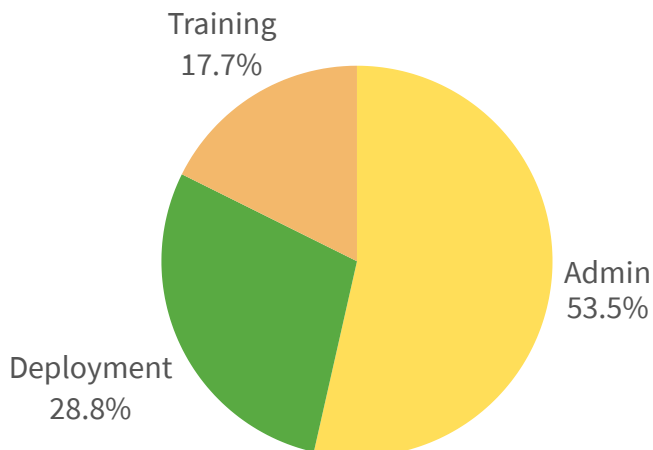
BRIGHTER DAYS ARE POSSIBLE.



WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief

Every hour donated strengthens our community's emergency readiness.



TOTAL Volunteer Hours for the Month!

444.5



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

American Red Cross

CPR/First Aid Training

Date: 10/17/2026

Time: 08:30-12:00

Location: 22912 Vantage Pointe Dr,
Twain Harte

Community Service District Office



Join the Twain Harte Area CERT team and Cory Payton of our THFD for a Red Cross-authorized CPR/First Aid Class!

Learn how to render first aid and CPR in the event of an emergency.

What you learn may save a life!

The training is free of charge, but there is a Fee for your certificate, as per Red Cross standards. The Red Cross mandated fee is \$34.

Please RSVP for planning purposes to twainhartecert@gmail.com
This workshop is open to all.

OKTOBERFEST 2026
Explore. Taste. Celebrate.

BEER, WINE & SMALL BITES | SHOP, PLAY & STAY LOCAL | CONTESTS & PRIZES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3
NOON-4:00 PM

CHECK IN & GET STARTED
11:30 AM-1:30 PM
THE VILLA PATIO

Collect 8 passport punches to win a \$200 Tuolumne Local Love Card!

TICKETS
\$40 INDIVIDUAL • \$70 PAIR

embracehelocal.com/oktoberfest2026

JOIN US FOR **TRICK OR TREAT STREET**

TWAIN HARTE
DOWNTOWN Twain Harte

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH 1:00 - 3:00

MA'U-SH' SAFETY FAIR

OCTOBER 3 • 10 AM - 4 PM
TUOLUMNE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE CENTER

Oktoberfest 2026

DATE: October 10, 2026
TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
VENUE: Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort

TUOLUMNE PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BIKE PARK OPENING BASH!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

DATE
Saturday, October 3, 2026

TIME
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION
West Side Memorial Park
18603 Pine Street
Tuolumne, CA

SAVE THE DATE

Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indian Health Center
WOMEN'S Wellness Day

OCTOBER 03, 2026

INFORMATION BOOTHs, VENDORS & MORE!

Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indian Health Center
18880 Cherry Valley Blvd. Tuolumne, CA

COFFILL PARK SUMMER SEND-OFF CONCERT
FEATURING **KING HIPPO**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
AT 8:00 PM

SMOKE & VAPE FREE EVENT

MORE TO DO!

Visit Tuolumne County: Events

Chamber of Commerce: Events

Volunteer Opportunities



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

JOIN OUR TEAM!



**PREPARED TOGETHER
STRONGER TOGETHER**

Interested in volunteering? Contact us!
twainhartecert@gmail.com

About This Publication

Thank you for reading the THA-CERT Monthly Update. Our goal is to keep our community informed about preparedness, safety, training, and volunteer opportunities.

Have an idea for a future article? We'd love to hear from you at twainhartecert@gmail.com.

Newsletter Staff

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Editor: Casey Headrick

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Before You Go...



Stay safe, stay prepared, and keep smiling.

Community Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 9:00 am

22912 Vantage Point, TH, THCSD Mtg Room

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

THA-CERT & Fire Board Meeting

Thursday, October 8th, 2026 9:30 am

22912 Vantage Point, TH, THCSD Mtg Room

Community Safety

TWAIN HARTE AREA



**THA-CERT SMOKE
ALARM PROGRAM**

What/who are Twain Harte Area CERT (THA-CERT)? We are a dedicated team of community-based volunteers who are trained to support our community.

This team provides the following services to senior, disabled, and residents in Tuolumne County:

- Free Smoke Alarms/Detectors
- Free Installation
- Free Battery Replacement



If you need a smoke detector installed, need a new battery, or need a ten-year-old smoke detector replaced, we can help for free.

If you are interested, please contact us by sending an email to twainhartecert@gmail.com, or call Mike at 209-770-2674.

**Only Working
Smoke Alarms
Save Lives**



<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/smoke-detector-installation>



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

**Join or start a
FIREWISE
neighborhood**

Contact: Karen Caldwell
tcfirewise@gmail.com

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



**NEIGHBORHOOD
RADIO WATCH**
WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER™