

S a n B e r n a r d i n o C o u n t y

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report 2007



PAT A. DENNEN
Fire Chief / Fire Warden



Our Mission

Community-Based All-Risk Emergency Services Organization, dedicated to the Health and Well-Being of the Citizens of San Bernardino County through a balance of Regionalized Services Delivery and Accountability to the Local Community, supported by Centralized Management and Services

Our Vision

Committed to providing premier fire services in Southern California

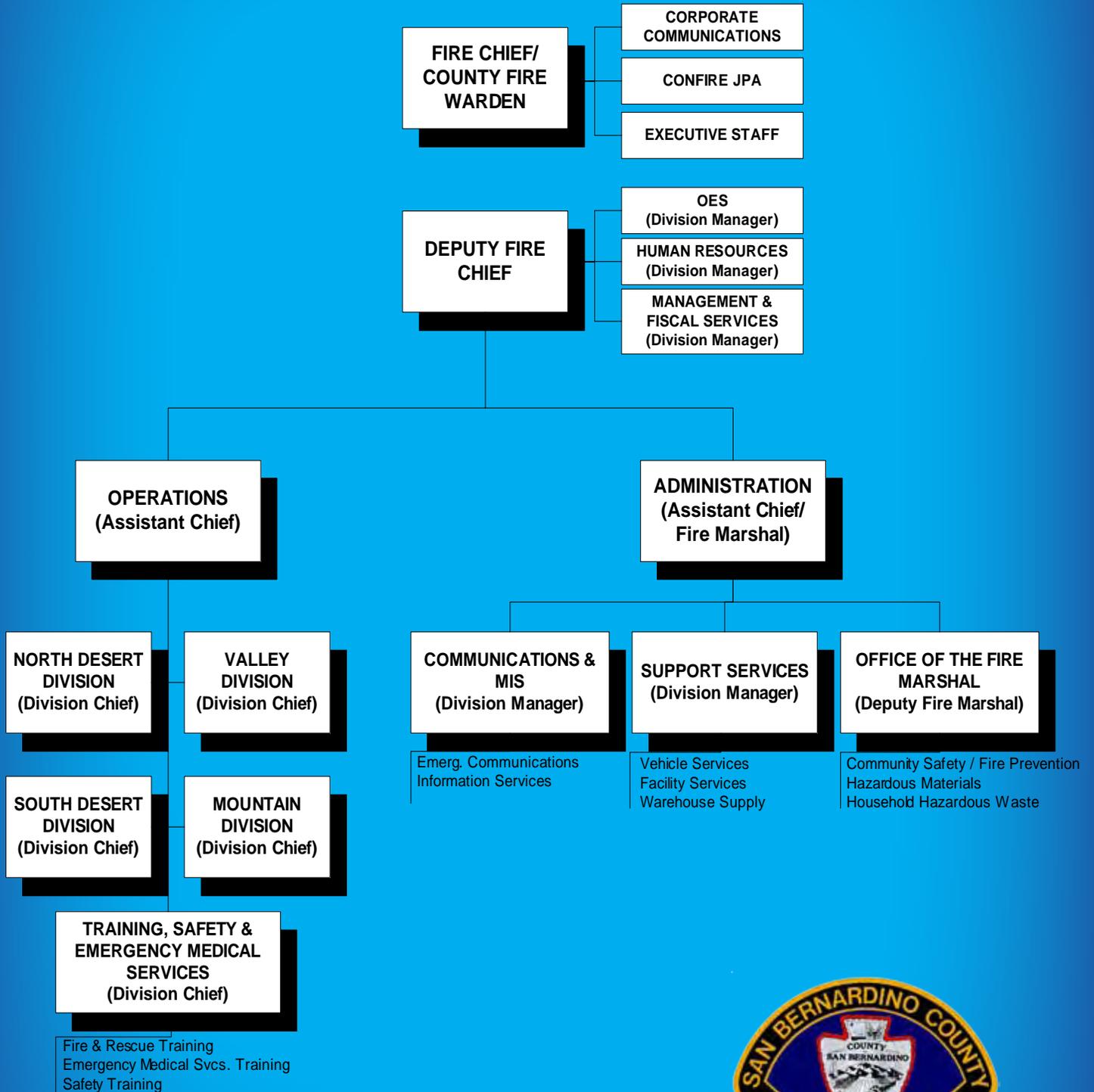
Our Standard of Commitment

Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet

Our Service Motto

Duty, Honor, Community...

Organization Chart



Message from the Chief

I am very proud to present the San Bernardino County Fire Department's Annual Report for 2007. While this year was one of many challenges it was also a year that provided just as many opportunities. Perhaps the greatest challenge we faced this past year was responding to the critical fire conditions that were present in all of our areas. The vegetation fuel moistures measured in the trees and plants surrounding our communities were the lowest in recorded history. Yet County Firefighters managed to prevent every fire from becoming the major incident one would expect given these critical conditions.

Unfortunately, even our best efforts were finally overwhelmed by the Santa Ana winds of late October. With dozens of major fires burning throughout Southern California, County Fire's Mountain Division responded to what was to become the Grass Valley Fire, then just a few hours later, the Slide Fire. These two fires destroyed hundreds of homes and over 15,000 acres, yet had it not been for actions that County Fire and neighboring fire departments took long before the fires started, the devastation would have been much more severe. Some say that the success of our fire suppression efforts was achieved eight months before the fires began.

I will be forever thankful for the support we received from so many fire departments throughout the State of California, and our Nation. I am particularly thankful to the fire chiefs within San Bernardino County. A total of 142 engines from within San Bernardino County responded to support us in combating fire sieges from Devore to Green Valley Lake. San Bernardino County is proud of the cooperative efforts of the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST). Their proactive measures were a major contributing factor in limiting the damage caused by these fires. The economic impacts could have been devastating if not for the efforts of MAST.

Extreme challenges seem to bring the men and women of this department together like a well-oiled machine. The Fire Storms of 2007 again united our personnel into action. Regardless of their job classi-

fication, our personnel once again stepped forward to challenge whatever the situation required. As examples, our Community Safety Division formed damage assessment teams or served as information officers; our Support Services Division ensured logistical support continually, and our Office of Emergency Services handled multiple tasks from preparing disaster declarations, to re-entry planning - and to this day continues to coordinate recovery efforts.

The conclusion of 2007 marked a milestone for the San Bernardino County Fire Department as the Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) unanimously approved our application for reorganization. This effort was the culmination of more than five years of work that will drastically improve the delivery of fire services throughout this county. While several people need special recognition, a special thanks goes to Deputy Chief Dan Wurl, Division Manager Carol Montag, Assistant County Administrator Norm Kanold, Administrative Analyst Wayne Thies, and Retired Division Chief Paul Summers. If not for their efforts, we would not be where we are today.

I am very proud of the recognition the San Bernardino County Fire Department has received this past year from the Local, State and even National levels. I know it's only the result of the hard work and dedication by every member of this organization to ensure we are, and continue to be, a premier provider of fire protection services in Southern California.

I am proud to present to you the men and women of the San Bernardino County Fire Department, who stand ever ready to serve.

Sincerely,

Pat A. Dennen,
Fire Chief / County Fire Warden



Table of Contents

MISSION STATEMENT..	III
ORGANIZATION CHART	IV
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF	V
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	01
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.	01
COUNTY FIRE STATIONS MAP	02
COMMUNITIES SERVED	03
INTERESTING FACTS	05
IAFF LOCAL 935.	07
S.B. COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION	07
MOVING FORWARD	08
BUDGETED REVENUE & EXPENDITURES.	13
PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT.	15
TRAINING TOWERS.	17
STATISTICS	19
COMMUNITY SAFETY	22
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS..	24
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE.	25
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES..	27
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	28
SAFETY & PREVENTION TIPS	29

County of San Bernardino
SUPERVISORIAL
Districts



Paul Biane
Second District Supervisor
Chairman



Brad Mitzelfelt
First District Supervisor



Gary Ovitt
Fourth District Supervisor
Vice-Chairman



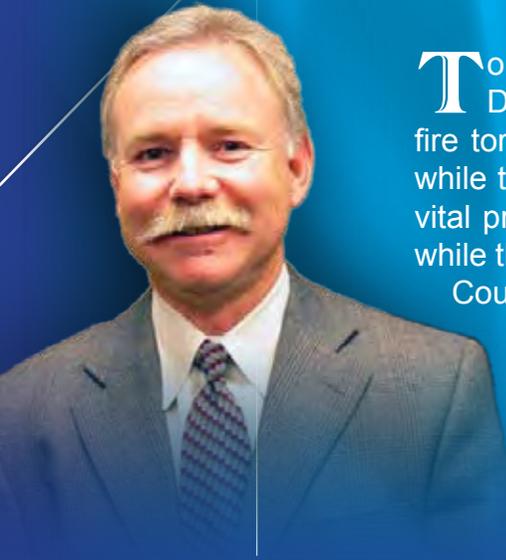
Josie Gonzales
Fifth District Supervisor



Dennis Hansberger
Third District Supervisor



**STATEMENT FROM THE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**



To no one's surprise, the men and women of the San Bernardino County Fire Department performed above and beyond the call of duty in 2007 when wild-fire tore through our mountain communities. They protected lives and property while the flames were at their peak, and helped restore order by quickly getting vital property information to anxious evacuees and launching cleanup activities while the fires were still smoldering. As if their duty in the field wasn't enough, the County Fire team also brought about a reorganization that will improve efficiency and expand staffing and equipment inventory to meet our continuing growth. In 2007, County Fire redefined the concept of Service FIRST and raised the bar for all of us.

Mark Uffer

Proudly Serving

the following cities, towns and communities:

CITY OF ADELANTO	LANDERS
ANGELUS OAKS	LUCERNE VALLEY
BAKER	LYTLE CREEK
BALDY MESA	MENTONE
BARTON FLATS	MOUNTAIN HOME VILLAGE
BIG RIVER	MT. BALDY
BLOOMINGTON	MT. VIEW ACRES
CEDAR GLEN	MUSCOY
CREST PARK	CITY OF NEEDLES
DEER PARK LODGE	OAK HILLS
DEVORE	ORO GRANDE
EARP	PHELAN
EL MIRAGE	PINON HILLS
FAWSKIN	PIONEER TOWN
FLAMINGO HEIGHTS	RED MOUNTAIN
CITY OF FONTANA	SAN ANTONIO HEIGHTS
FOREST FALLS	SEARLES VALLEY
CITY OF GRAND TERRACE	SILVER LAKES
GREEN VALLEY LAKE	SKY FOREST
HARVARD	SPRING VALLEY LAKE
HAVASU LANDING	SUMMIT VALLEY
HELENDALE	TRONA
CITY OF HESPERIA	WINDY ACRES
HINKLEY	WONDER VALLEY
JOHNSON VALLEY	WRIGHTWOOD
JOSHUA TREE	TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
LAKE ARROWHEAD	





Interesting Facts

About San Bernardino County

At more than 20,000 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the continental United States. Geographically, the county is larger than nine different states within the United States.

San Bernardino County also boasts an economy that ranks among the 50 largest in the world. As the fifth most populous county in California and one of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas, the county provides a vast array of opportunities for its citizens. It offers a temperate climate, a variety of quality educational and recreational opportunities, and an ideal, centralized location for access to destinations throughout all of Southern California and the southwestern United States.

San Bernardino County Fire Department's Origin

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is the result of consolidations of fire districts within the county that began in 1982. In 1994, the County Consolidated Fire District was created and renamed the San Bernardino County Fire Department. In 1999, the last consolidation that gave County Fire its present coverage area was completed.

In addition to most of the county's unincorporated communities, the San Bernardino County Fire Department provides fire protection, medical emergency and rescue services for the following incorporated cities and towns: Adelanto (population 27,139); Fontana (population 181,640); Grand Terrace (population 12,380); Hesperia (population 85,876); Needles (population 5,759); Yucca Valley (population 21,044).

QUICK FACTS

Number of fire stations	64
Number of fire stations proposed	6
Square miles in County	20,160
Square miles covered by County Fire	18,353
Population of San Bernardino County	Over 2 million
Population served by County Fire	Over 480,400
Number of fire suppression personnel	808
New firefighters trained in training "towers"	36
2007 Calls for Service	53,550
Number of communities served	52





IAFF Local 935



San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935, is a member of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), and California Professional Firefighters (CPF). Local 935 represents the Professional Firefighters of San Bernardino County Fire Department, Colton Fire Department, and Big Bear Lake Fire Department. I am very pleased to announce that the Professional Firefighters of Loma Linda Fire Department are in the final stages of the process of joining Local 935. I would like to welcome them to the family. I am honored to have the trust of, and represent so many professional men and women.

San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 enjoys an excellent relationship with the Management of the Department. It's through our people and this relationship that we continue to provide Premier Fire Services in Southern California and the largest county in the continental United States.

"In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

2007 again reminded us that freedom isn't free. We continue to have many in harm's way, protecting our way of life, who suffer severe discomfort, family separation, sacrifices, injuries and death. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them and their families.

Duty-Honor-Community.

Sincerely,

Bret L. Henry

President

San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters

Firefighters Association



San Bernardino County Firefighters Association is open to all members of the County Fire Department. The association provides support, and social and recreational opportunities to its members, both active and retired, and their families.

The association conducts an annual fundraising event for the Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors. In 2007, the association raised \$8,000 for the Quest, placing it in the Quest's distinguished Deputy Chiefs Club.



Moving Forward

Department Reorganization Enters Final Stages

The San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) gave unanimous preliminary approval to County Fire Department's reorganization plan on November 28. The reorganization plan will dissolve 27 separate fire districts and merge them into a single fire protection district with four regional service zones.

LAFCO gave the plan another approval on January 16, 2008, triggering a 30-day reconsideration period followed by a 30-day public comment period. LAFCO's final decision is expected on March 19, 2008. The reorganization is expected to take effect on July 1, 2008, the beginning of the fiscal year.

The plan will result in simplified budgeting and fiscal operations, greater flexibility in the use of department resources and assets, and more effective use of executive management to oversee day-to-day operations.

The reorganization creates a San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, which becomes the parent organization that provides all administration, payroll, fiscal and support services, as County Fire's administration does now. Each of County Fire's current fire suppression divisions—North Desert, South Desert, Mountain and Valley—will become a Regional Service Zone, leaving functions unchanged, but preventing local property taxes from being shifted away from each zone. In addition, existing special taxing districts created by special elections will remain in place.

The reorganization process began when the County Board of Supervisors authorized a study of County Fire's financial situation on February 26, 2002.

MAST Changes Focus

The Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) changed its focus in 2007 from its massive damage repair task—the removal of more than 1.5 million dead and dying trees—to actions designed to prevent the combination of drought damage and bark-beetle infesta-

tion that created the forest disaster that led to MAST's creation.

MAST announced its change of direction on March 14 with a ceremony marking the removal of the Millionth Tree, a 100-foot dead evergreen tree that was felled by a chain saw in the San Bernardino Mountains near Lake Arrowhead.

MAST then began a program of thinning green vegetation in strategic locations to create community-based buffer zones that reduce the potential for fire and promote a healthy forest. MAST also began a publicity campaign to encourage communities, businesses and homeowners to follow its example, using the slogan: "A thin forest is a healthy forest, and a healthy forest is a fire-resistant forest."

The publicity program included new MAST web pages at www.calmast.org, and distribution of posters, newsletters and calendars that include recommendations, advice and information designed to encourage the creation of "defensible space" within 100 feet of homes, buildings and neighborhoods. Defensible space activities include clearing trees, vegetation and flammable materials within 30 feet of buildings, and assuring proper spacing of trees and brush from 30-100 feet away.

MAST is a coalition of government, community organizations and businesses that was formed in 2002 to address the problem of bark-beetle infestation.

Fuels Crew Has a Rewarding Year

County Fire's Fuels Crew completed its second year of helping mountain communities become more fire-safe and better prepared for wildland fires. This hard-working crew has 12 members, headed by Crew Supervisor Scot Turknette and Captain Gary McCord.

Using special equipment that includes chain saws, chippers, a small dozer and a dump truck, the crew carries out its mission in several ways. Personnel and equipment pick up and process brush and trees



that residents clear from their yards. Last year the team removed more than 500 tons of fuel from homes in communities from Wrightwood to Angelus Oaks. In addition, the crew cuts and removes brush and trees from areas of high fire danger in mountain communities, including Deer Lodge Park, Hook Creek and areas around Lake Arrowhead. The Fuels Crew also helps residents clear brush and trees after wildland fires.

After the Grass Valley fire, Deer Lodge Park residents held a barbecue to express gratitude for the Fuels Crew's vegetation-clearing work that kept the blaze from reaching the community, which is located next to the fire's starting point.

Supervisors Approve Fire Code Changes

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors adopted the amended California Fire Code on December 18, 2007, to take effect January 18, 2008. Among the code changes are new permit requirements for fixed fire extinguishing systems and pallet yards; new requirements for fire sprinkler systems in commercial buildings; and new regulations for fire safety systems within industrial warehouse buildings.

Interdiction Team Targets Dangerous Fireworks

Using surveillance, traffic stops, citations and confiscations, the 2007 San Bernardino County Fireworks Interdiction Team, including County Fire investigators, intercepted dangerous, illegal fireworks that were purchased out-of-state before they could reach California destinations. The 2007 team made a total of 932 traffic stops from April through the Fourth of July holiday. These traffic stops resulted in 13 arrests, 157 citations for violating California dangerous fireworks possession laws, and confiscation of nearly 30 tons of illegal fireworks, valued at \$128,352.

Grant Funds Purchase Accident Rescue Equipment

A \$300,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety purchased equipment that helps firefighters at 15 County Fire stations to hasten removal of victims trapped in vehicle wreckage, and to treat and rescue victims from steep slopes after "over-the-side" accidents. The Board of Supervisors approved the grant on August 21.

Grant Enhances Household Hazardous Waste Collections

On May 15, the Household Hazardous Waste Division received about \$284,000 in grant funds for the collection of both recycled motor oil and sharp disposable items, like hypodermic needles, used to administer medications at home.

New Division Chiefs Named

Two County Fire Battalion Chiefs were promoted to Division Chief positions on November 6. Battalion Chief Al Stocker was named Division Chief in the South Desert Division, replacing retired Division Chief Paul Summers. Battalion Chief Terry Welsh became Division Chief of the Valley Division. Division Chief Thom Wellman, the former Valley Division Chief, took on duties at Fire Department headquarters.

CommCenter Among First To Meet State Standard

The CONFIRE Dispatch Center (CommCenter) became one of the first operational area dispatch centers in the State to meet the training and data entry requirements for the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) on July 10. CommCenter functions as the operational area dispatch for the County of San Bernardino. Under this function, CommCenter is responsible for coordinating mutual-aid needs within the County and for processing mutual-aid requests to and from the Region 6 Operations Center of the California Office of Emergency Services, located in Riverside.



Moving Forward (continued)

Mobilization over Thanksgiving Weekend

With powerful winds predicted over Thanksgiving weekend, the Governor's office asked County Fire to staff and operate a Mobilization Center in support of 125 fire engines, multiple dozers and water tenders—along with about 600 firefighters and support staff, beginning November 22. This was accomplished by the San Bernardino County Interagency Incident Management Team under the direction of County Fire Assistant Chief Tim Sappok, who was named the Incident Commander.

Future Firefighters

Young men and women ages 14-21 who are interested in firefighting are invited to join a Fire Explorer Post to learn about firefighting careers and acquire some of the basic skills of the profession. County Fire sponsors posts at fire stations located in Adelanto, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Phelan, Fontana, Lytle Creek and Yucca Valley.

In 2007, about 250 Southern California Fire Explorers spent five rigorous days in the annual Fire Explorer Academy at Ft. Irwin. They learned firefighter discipline and skills related to removing victims from vehicle wreckage and other challenging entanglement situations. County Fire's Jay Hausman and Nick Landry served as drill instructors. In addition, Explorers participated in "musters", which feature skills competition and other fun events. Up to 75% of Fire Explorers go on to careers in firefighting and related areas, such as emergency medical technicians and paramedic specialties and law enforcement. Explorers learn other skills and gain firefighter career knowledge at regular meetings year round. They also participate in community involvement activities, including fundraising.

More information about Fire Exploring is available at www.sbcfire.org/programs/fire_explorer.

Station 79 Begins Operations

Fire Station 79 in Fontana began operations on September 17. The station was built by the city of Fontana at a cost of \$5.2 million. County fire operates the station, which is located in the northern Fontana community of Hunters Ridge.

Proposed Fire Stations

Fire Station 80 is proposed for a location in an unincorporated area along San Bernardino Road west of Fontana, near California Speedway. The station is expected to be completed in 2009/2010. Construction on replacement Station 10 at 9625 Beekley Rd., Phelan is expected to start in early 2008. Two new stations are expected to begin construction before July 2008 in Hesperia. Station 301 will be completely rebuilt at its current site at 9430 11th Avenue and Station 305, a brand new station, will be erected on Joshua Street west of I-15. Other planned stations include Station 81 on Glen Helen Parkway, Devore, and Station 31 at 3240 Needles Highway, Needles.

Paramedic Service Begins in Spring Valley Lake

San Bernardino County Fire Department began Paramedic Service delivery in Spring Valley Lake on January 16. This increase in the level of service was approved by former 1st District Supervisor Bill Postmus and implemented by the Fire Department in an effort to provide the highest level of service possible, both fire and medical.

Supervisors Approve Ambulance Purchases

County Board of Supervisors approved purchase of four ambulances for Yucca Valley, Lake Arrowhead, Wrightwood and Hesperia on March 20.



Wonder Valley Quarters Approved

County Board of Supervisors approved modular living quarters to provide 24-7 coverage in Wonder Valley on April 24.

Supplemental Staffing Receives OK

On June 28, the County Board of Supervisors approved supplemental funds of up to \$550,000 for County Fire to provide additional firefighter staffing for six months in mountain and foothill communities.

WILDLAND FIRES/INCIDENTS

Las Flores Fire

Las Flores Fire burned 4,100 acres and forced evacuation of about 235 homes for a few hours in the foothill neighborhood of south Hesperia from March 31 to April 1. In all, structural damage was limited to a storage shed and some scorching on the roof of one home. About 150 firefighters responded to the blaze.

Butler II Fire

The Butler II Fire fire burned 14,039 acres of forestland in the Big Bear Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains north of Fawnskin for 10 days beginning September 14. County Fire provided assistance in the form of crews; equipment, including dozers; and management. County Fire personnel were among 2,505 firefighters involved with this incident. The blaze destroyed three outbuildings at Camp Whittle, near Fawnskin.

Grass Valley and Slide Fires

County Fire provided firefighters, equipment and management support for the Grass Valley and Slide fires in the San Bernardino National Forest from October 22 to November 1. These destructive blazes, fanned by Santa Ana winds gusting up to 85 miles per hour, were part of the Southern California Firestorm that also affected Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange and San Diego counties.

The Slide Fire swept through 12,789 acres of forest and brush land and destroyed more than 260 homes, damaging 53 others. The Grass Valley Fire charred 1,247 acres of timber and brush, destroying 178 structures and damaging 22 others.

Sierra Fire

The Sierra Fire burned more than 500 acres along Interstate 15 north of Rialto on November 6. Wind gusts topping 40 miles an hour pushed the fire south along the border between Rialto and Fontana, igniting a pallet yard and prompting hundreds of residents from both cities to leave their homes. Firefighters were assisted by air tankers and water-dropping helicopters. No homes were burned and no injuries were reported.

Trench Rescues

County Fire's Technical Rescue crews performed two trench rescues that received wide notice in 2007. In February, about 20 firefighters worked for two hours to rescue a 25-year-old construction worker from a trench in Fontana that had collapsed on him, burying the worker to his waist in soil and injuring his ankle. In May, firefighters worked professionally and carefully for more than six hours to rescue a San Bernardino man from a 15-foot-deep hole in a Muscoy back yard. The man had been buried to his neck under tons of dirt and cinder blocks but emerged free of major injuries. About 50 firefighters performed this rescue.

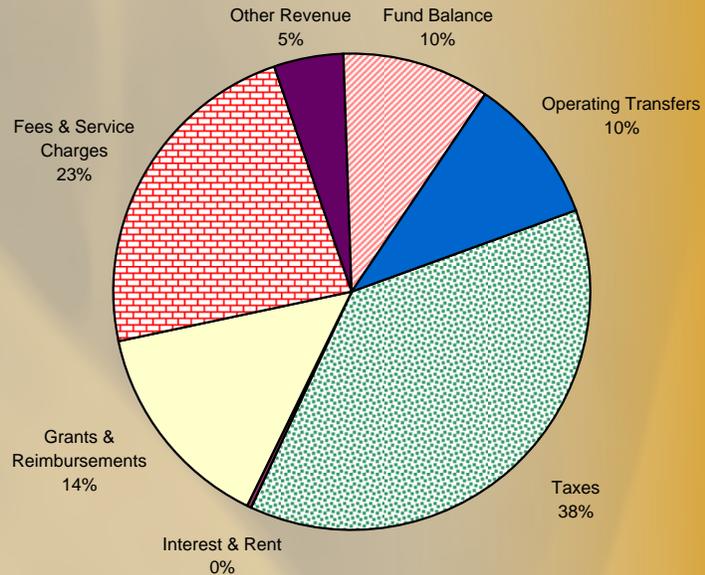




San Bernardino County Fire Department BUDGETED REVENUE & EXPENDITURES Fiscal Year 2007/2008

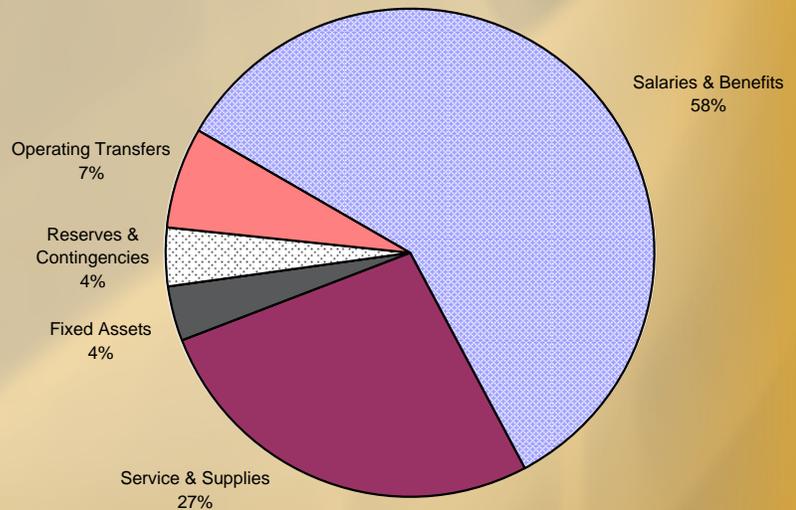
Revenue

Taxes	\$ 52,250,300
Interest & Rent	\$ 437,210
Grants & Reimbursements.....	\$ 20,093,442
Fees & Service Charges	\$ 31,925,521
Other Revenue	\$ 6,577,861
Fund Balance	\$ 13,903,541
Operating Transfers In.....	\$ 14,003,856
Total	\$ 139,191,731



Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 81,859,283
Service & Supplies	\$ 37,448,083
Other Charges.....	\$ 136,300
Fixed Assets	\$ 4,920,300
Reserves & Contingencies	\$ 5,595,017
Operating Transfers Out	\$ 9,232,748
Total	\$ 139,191,731





SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY



FIRE DEPARTMENT

BY THE PEOPLE

PARAMEDIC

Sandy YUCCA VALLEY

BCC
ME 121

Personnel & Equipment

Fire Suppression Personnel

	North Desert	South Desert	Valley	Mountain	Training Division	Admin	Total
Fire Chief/Warden						1	1
Deputy Chief						1	1
Assistant Chief						2	2
Division Chief	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Battalion Chief	6	6	6	3	1		22
Captain	39	15	36	16	6		112
Engineer	24	9	30	12			75
Firefighter	45	12	57	21	1		136
Limited-Term Firefighter	18	12	6	9			45
Paid-Call Firefighter	171	98	69	70			408
Total							808

*Funded and filled Suppression positions for 2007

Equipment

	North Desert	South Desert	Mountain	Valley	Total
*Airport Rescue Unit					1
Ambulances	17	6	5		28
Boats		2	2		4
*Command Posts					3
*Dozers					2
*Loaders					6
Fire Engines	28	17	10	23	78
Ladder Trucks	2	1		3	6
Brush Engines	12	4	4	7	27
Brush Patrols	10	6	2	5	23
Haz-Mat Response Vehicles	1 rig	1 rig		1 rig	3
*Haz-Mat Vehicles					6
*Communication Support Vehicles					2
*Mechanic Trucks					12
Rescues	3	2	3	2	10
Snow Cats	1		6		7
Squads	2	2	2	5	11
Water Tenders	7	7	4	5	23

*Department Wide



Training Towers

In 2007, 36 new firefighters began their full-time County Fire careers with six weeks of exhaustive training, including physical fitness, structural and wildland fire fighting, firefighter rescue operations, terrorism and emergency medical care. In the process, they learned standard procedures for everything from throwing a ladder to ventilating a roof, to loading a hose.



In groups of 19 and 17 respectively, they made up Towers 1 and 2 of County Fire's new Firefighter Tower training and orientation program. The Tower is another new step in the selection process for full-time firefighters. For each Tower, the recruits were chosen from a field of about 100 applicants for full-time positions.

The goal of the Tower is to help standardize procedures throughout County Fire to meet the highest level of state and federal guidelines, and ensure that firefighters in all areas of the county use the same set of procedures. Standardization improves efficiency and the level of service County Fire provides to the communities it serves. Doing the same things in the same way saves time, and saving time saves lives.



Members from each suppression division assisted the Training Division in conducting Tower training programs. The Service Center provided logistical support during both of the six-week Towers.

This enhanced training program has produced a noticeable difference between Tower graduates and new firefighters who have not received this training. Tower graduates demonstrate a higher degree of attention to their work, studies, appearance, and overall attitude. They also show better performance in two ways:

1. Their exposure to "the County Fire way" has reinforced the attitude, motivation and expectations during the probationary period.
2. In hands-on skills, recruits who have completed the Tower are solid at the fundamentals and are standardized in their methods, increasing their effectiveness and raising confidence among supervisors.

County Fire plans to conduct additional Training Towers in 2008, with plans to further expand this program in to a full 12 week fire academy.

Training & Safety Division

The San Bernardino County Fire Department's Training, Safety, and Emergency Medical Services Division provides full-service training, from orientation of new employees to the most advanced training available in fire departments today.

The Training Division conducted 108,736 student hours of training in 2007 and implemented qualifying tests for Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter ranks, as well as for Limited Term employees. The Division has also created mentoring and development academies to accelerate qualification for the positions of Captain and Engineer in order to meet the challenge of serving the county's growing needs for firefighters and fire officers.



In addition, the division provides

service in the following areas: Hazardous Materials, Counter-Terrorism, Urban Search and Rescue/Technical Rescue, Aircrash Rescue Fire Fighting, and Emergency Medical Services. The division also deploys trained safety officers and technical experts to large-scale emergencies to provide expertise and leadership, and to ensure safety of public safety personnel.

Richard Sewell Training Center	36,874 hours <i>(includes 8,800 hours of Tower training)</i>
Emergency Medical Service Training	10,138 hours
Station Level Training	44,149 hours
Joint Apprenticeship Commission Training	17,575 hours
Total Training Hours	108,736 hours

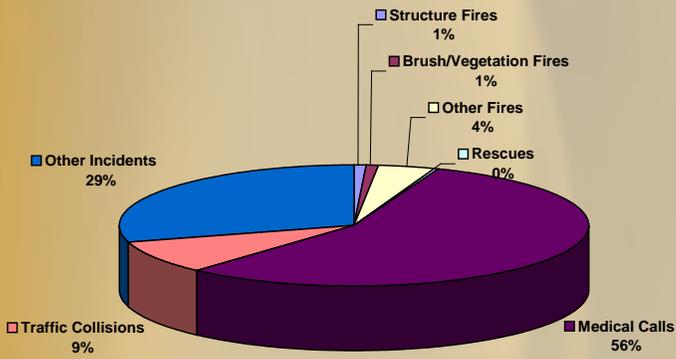


Statistics

Calls for Service 2006 & 2007

Incident Type	North Desert	North Desert	South Desert	South Desert	Valley	Valley	Mountain	Mountain	2006 Totals	2007 Totals
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007		
Structure Fires	152	160	66	76	139	151	48	58	405	445
Brush/Vegetation Fires	339	278	91	73	170	126	35	34	635	511
Other Fires	883	894	331	339	671	702	100	94	1,985	2,029
Rescues	53	42	13	21	65	93	10	13	141	169
Medical Calls	11,451	11,621	4,770	4,906	10,999	11,414	1,813	1,873	29,033	29,814
Traffic Collisions	2,513	2,419	648	536	1,726	1,632	261	289	5,148	4,876
Other Incidents	5,596	6,069	2,036	1,829	6,172	6,629	971	1,179	13,787	15,706
2006 Totals	20,987		7,955		19,942		3,238		52,122	
2007 Totals		21,483		7,780		20,747		3,540		53,550

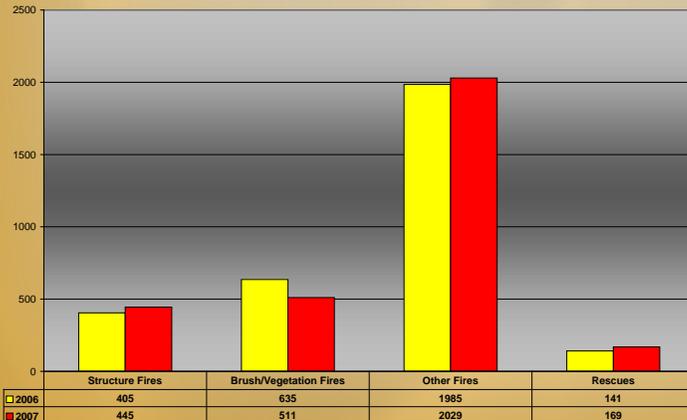
2007 Calls for Service



Calls for Service



2006/2007 Comparisons



2006/2007 Comparisons



Statistics (continued)

Human Resources

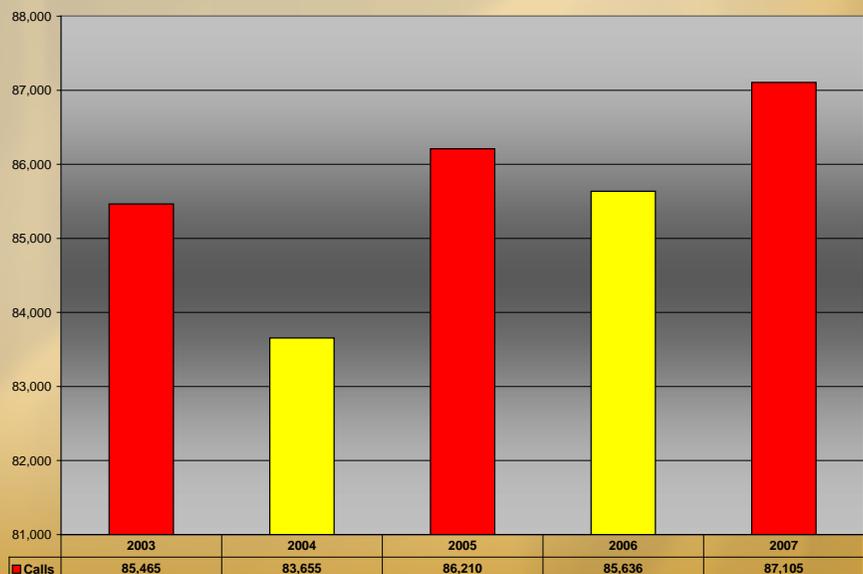
The Human Resources Division has been averaging 13 suppression recruitments per year and an average of 40 non-suppression recruitments per year, including new and replacement positions.



Communications

The CONFIRE Communications Center, better known as CommCenter, is a multi-agency emergency Fire/EMS dispatch center. The mission is to provide 24/7 direct Fire/EMS dispatch services, full spectrum Management Information Systems (MIS) service and support, and Geographical Information System (GIS) services to the Consolidated Fire Agencies of the East Valley Joint Power Authority (CONFIRE JPA), and several contracting fire agencies. The member agencies of the CONFIRE JPA are the San Bernardino County Fire Department, Colton Fire Department, Loma Linda Fire Department, Redlands Fire Department, and Rialto Fire Department. In addition, the agencies that currently contract for dispatch services with the CONFIRE JPA are Running Springs Fire District, Twenty-Nine Palms Fire Department and San Bernardino County Roads Department. They currently dispatch for a total of 80 fire stations. Beyond the direct fire dispatch role, CommCenter also functions as the San Bernardino County operational area dispatch, which provides large-incident coordination for fire, local government and emergency medical services on a countywide basis.

Incidents Processed by CommCenter

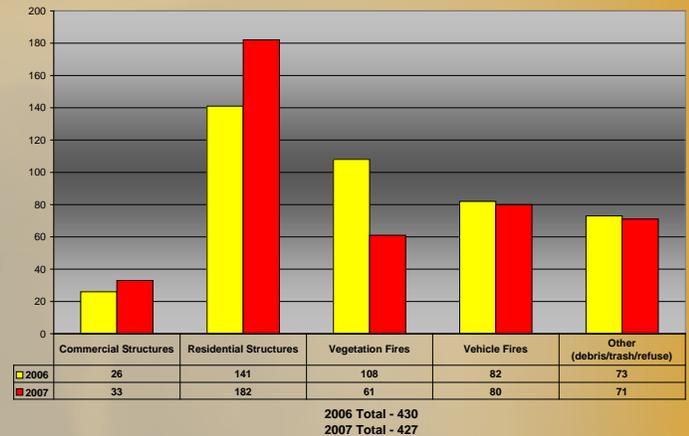




Community Safety

Utilizing the three “E’s” of Fire Prevention: Education, Engineering and Enforcement, the Community Safety Division encompasses investigations, planning and engineering, inspections, special events and public education. Our focus is on fire prevention and protection for citizens and the business community. Each section provides services and strategies from fire protection equipment plan review, to field inspection, to maintaining business continuity.

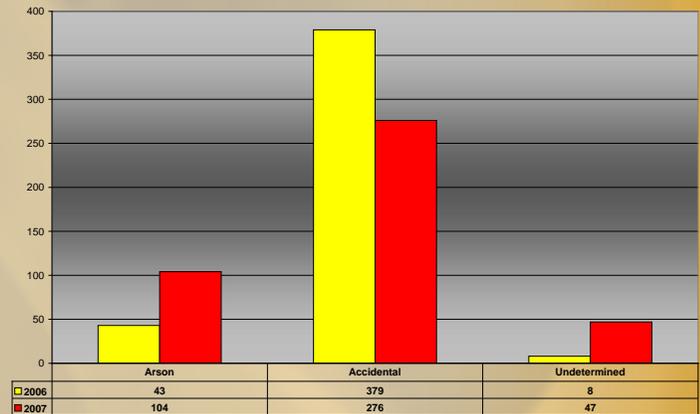
Fires Investigated



Arrests



Cause of Fire



Special Events

The main focus of the Special Events section is to oversee and ensure safety precautions are observed at various events that occur within San Bernardino County.

Races	Film Shoots	Pyro Shoots	Concerts	Festivals
14	86	26	10	19

Public Education

The Public Education Division of Community Safety attended many community events and participated in several safety awareness campaigns.

The Public Education Division also played a major role in the Spark of Love Toy Drive in conjunction with KABC Channel 7 and Southland fire departments, distributing thousands of toys to kids throughout San Bernardino County.

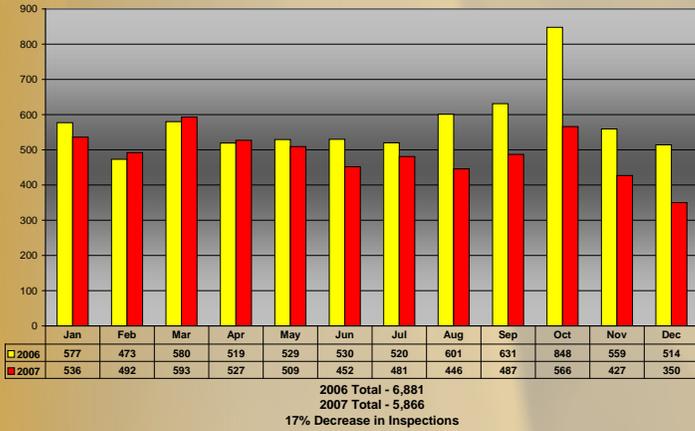
School Programs	Annual Events	Juvenile Interventions
20	55	12
7,035 participants	45,450 participants	

*Statistics are accumulated based on programs administered through the Public Education Division and do not reflect events that each station provides individually.

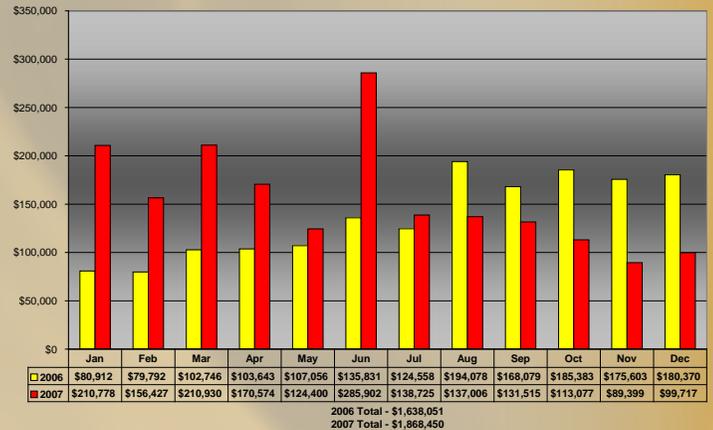
In 2007, the San Bernardino County Fire Department established a revised fee schedule and database for the Annual Fire Permit Inspection Program. This inspection program works in conjunction with the inspections performed by engine companies, but is primarily conducted by Community Safety staff and regulates occupancies and businesses that require annual fire permits, as specified in the California Fire Code.

Occupancies that contain special hazards and uses, such as welding, combustible storage, and places of assembly, are among those that are inspected by trained Fire Prevention Officers and Specialists. After these facilities pass inspection, they receive permits that must be renewed annually. The result of these inspections is not only compliance with all applicable codes and regulations, but also a much higher level of fire and life safety for firefighters and occupants of the County's businesses.

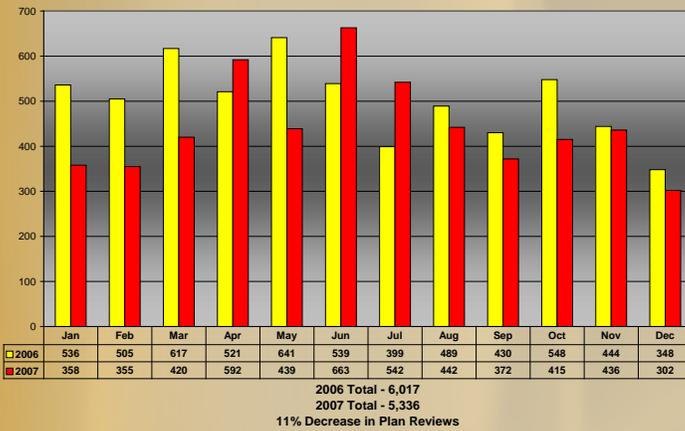
Inspections



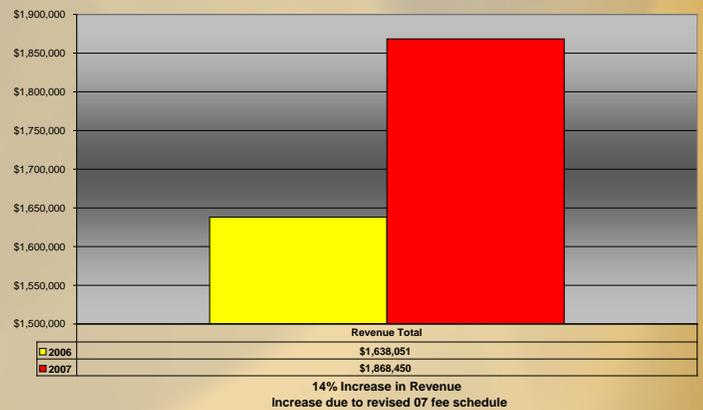
Plan Check & Inspection Fee Revenues



Plan Reviews



Plan Check & Inspection Fee Revenue Totals



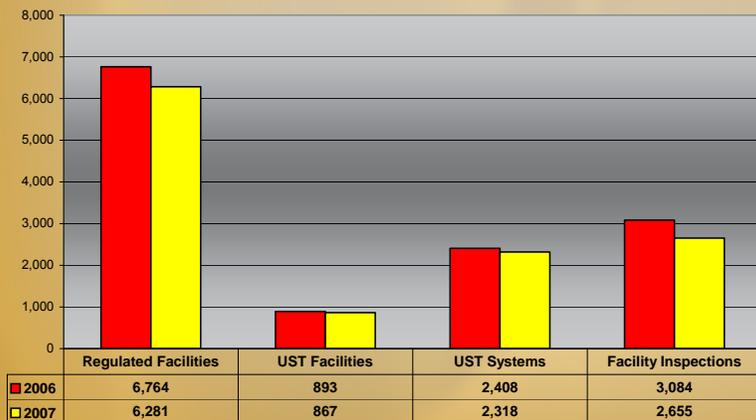
Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Division protects the health and safety of the public and the environment by improving the management of hazardous materials through inspection, emergency response, site remediation, and hazardous waste management services. Haz-Mat serves the entire County of San Bernardino including its incorporated cities except the City of Victorville. The Division is very proactive and involved at the State level with legislative and regulatory developments and other statewide efforts in order to keep high quality, effective, and achievable hazardous materials and waste management programs. Haz-Mat is engaged in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents involving hazardous materials and wastes. Our basic approach is education through field inspection, consultation, and public outreach.

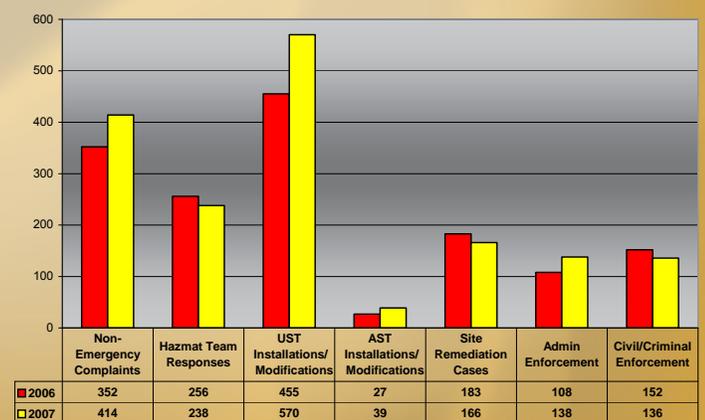
Regulation, Response, Remediation Statistics	2006	2007
Regulated Facilities	6,764	*6,281
Facility Inspections	3,084	2,655
Non-Emergency Complaints	352	414
Haz-Mat Team Responses	256	238
UST Facilities	893	867
UST Systems	2,408	2,318
UST Installations & Modifications	455	570
AST Installations & Modifications	27	39
Site Remediation Cases	183	166
Requests for Records and Certified Records Research	868	892
Administrative Enforcement Actions	108	138
Civil/Criminal Enforcement Actions and Referrals	152	136
Household and Small Business Waste Statistics		
HHW Permanent & Temporary Facilities	25	27
Pounds of Household Waste Managed	2,150,679	3,123,551
Residents Served	39,906	52,509
Businesses Served	291	297
Budget – Regulation, Response, Remediation	\$5,597,338	\$6,077,716
Positions	39	45
Budget – Household and Small Business Waste Disposal	\$2,548,664	\$2,976,189
Positions	21	20

*Reduction in regulated facilities due to facilities that were active but previously exempt from billing and found to be out of business.

Regulated Facilities & Facility Inspections



Other Regulatory & Response Services



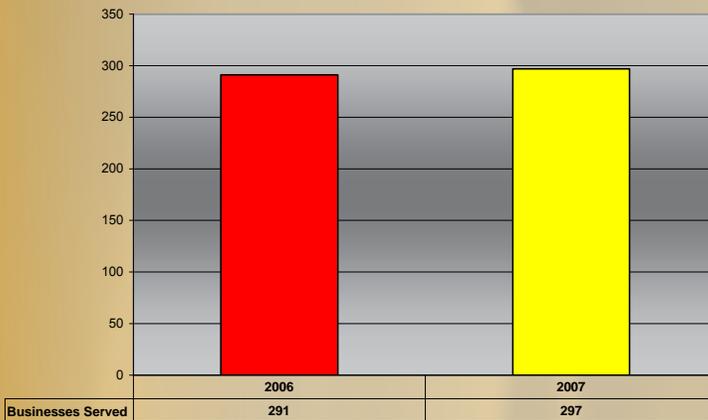
Household Hazardous Waste



1-800-Oily Cat

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program is committed to providing safe and efficient hazardous waste management services. The ultimate objective is to protect health, natural resources and the environment. HHW manages and operates permanent and temporary HHW/Universal Waste collection facilities and events, and compiles a variety of waste management reports required by state and municipal agencies. A main focus of the HHW Program is to establish new HHW collections and expand existing facilities to accommodate emerging HHW waste streams. Additional services include door-to-door HHW management services for the elderly and disabled, and HHW management services to small businesses. Education responsibilities include comprehensive training to all county and municipal HHW facility and event staff, public education outreach to county residences and business, and free distribution of household products and paint through a material re-use store.

Businesses Served by Hazardous Waste Disposal Program



Residents Served by Hazardous Waste Disposal Program





The "Blossoms of Peace"
In honor of the
sacred spirit of life
and love

Office of Emergency Services

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) Division is responsible for disaster planning and Emergency Management coordination in San Bernardino County utilizing the four phases of Emergency Management: planning, response, recovery, and mitigation. OES serves as the lead agency for the San Bernardino County Operational Area (OA), which coordinates disaster preparedness efforts with the 24 cities and towns, over 40 County departments, the private sector, and volunteer organizations. OES also facilitates multi-agency and interagency coordination at the local, state, and federal levels. Another primary responsibility includes readiness of the County/OA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for response during an incident/disaster.

CERT FACTS	
Communities/ Cities/Towns with CERT Programs	Number of trained CERT Volunteers Countywide
21	6,000
And still growing!	

In addition to managing numerous programs, the Office of Emergency Services takes an active role in the Citizen Corps Program, which officially rolled out the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program in 2006.

The office also has the responsibility for the administration of multiple grant programs. Cumulative grant dollars for Federal Homeland Security Grants Program, dating back to 1999, exceeds \$26 million. 2007 marked the sixth year of managing the Hazard Fuels Reduction Program Grants, which as a tool of the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) organization, provides for the removal of trees killed by bark beetle infestation in the San Bernardino mountains. In addition, the Emergency Management Performance Grant distributed to the 24 cities and towns, and the County, is entering a second decade of management.

In 2007, the County's Emergency Operations Center was activated seven separate times; once at a Level I activation, five times at a Level II activation, and once at a Level III activation in support of local emergencies, including the Butler II, Grass Valley and Slide fires.

During the course of the Grass Valley and Slide fire incident, the EOC accommodated over 1,000 people, maintained an average of 71 EOC Responders on a daily basis, evacuated over 34,000 people, issued five Emergency Orders, coordinated the establishment of a Fire Emergency Local Assistance Center (FELAC), and facilitated the re-entry process which included the placement of potted flowers at every destroyed home with the intent of adding a little beauty to the destruction. The Flood Area Safety Taskforce and Concept of Operations played an integral role in the aftermath of the fire to prepare for and respond to potential flooding and debris. OES develops After Action Reports, which describe the lessons learned from these catastrophic events.

In the last half of 2007, OES implemented several new public information tools, including a Disaster Information Website. In conjunction with the County Administrative Office, OES created the website with real-time disaster information during the Butler II fire to provide residents with internet access the most current emergency information. Once the fires were contained, a Disaster Recovery Website was created to complement the FELAC. That website has also been in use during the multiple rain events that have posed flood and mudslide dangers to the recent burn areas. The website received 56,014 visits for the first three weeks of its activation and 78,192 views -- mostly in the first week.

During the Grass Valley and Slide fires, the County Office of Emergency Services also utilized the San Bernardino County 2-1-1 Hotline as an emergency phone bank. Call-takers were provided with the most up-to-date information that was being broadcast simultaneously on the website and the Fire Department's Incident Information Line, and were thus able to pass that along to the residents. All in all, 2-1-1 call-takers answered more than 7,000 calls from residents asking specifically about information related to the fires.

Disaster Website:

www.sbcounty.gov/evocRecovery.asp



Community Involvement

Duty, Honor, Community is County Fire's Service Motto. County Fire's employees live up to this motto, in part, by remaining actively involved in their communities. In 2007, their community service took many forms. Firefighters assist with the training of Community Emergency Response Teams. County Fire has worked closely with several Fire Safe Councils in the county's mountain communities since 1993.

County Fire is also active in fundraising for the Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors, a non-profit organization managed by firefighters and civilian volunteers, which is dedicated to assisting persons affected by burn injuries. In 2007, County Fire fundraising efforts produced more than \$8,000 in donations to Quest. Members of the Phelan Fire Explorer Post kicked in \$700 from their own fundraising efforts.

County Fire's Fire Safety Trailer visited National Night Out celebrations, safety fairs, senior citizen events, and the National Orange Show. During National Fire Prevention Week in October, the Safety Trailer visited many community events with the message, "Practice Your Escape Plan." The Safety Trailer also visited a number of schools throughout the year, often with Sparky the Firedog, a national symbol of fire safety, as a passenger. County Fire personnel also participated as volunteer readers at schools in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Through the International Firefighters Association Local 935, County Fire employees raised



funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and "Fill the Boot" fundraising campaigns that raise money to assist families of firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty and other worthy causes.

In October, the nine-member Haz-Bins, County Fire's cycling team, bicycled 100 miles from Irvine to San Diego for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The team raised \$8,968 for the MS Society.

At Christmas, County Fire stations in all parts of the county participated in toy giveaways that distributed thousands of toys to hundreds of disadvantaged families through the annual "Spark of Love" Toy Drive, sponsored by Southern California fire departments and KABC Channel 7. Toys from public donations, or purchased with money donated for that purpose, were collected at County Fire stations for distribution.



County Fire Stations from Baker to Fontana reported successful giveaways to needy families.

In another holiday fundraising project, County firefighters were featured in photos with young cancer patients for the Candlelighters calendar. Candlelighters is an Inland Empire charity that benefits child victims of cancer.

Year-round, County Fire employees support another children's charity, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which helps make wishes come true for seriously ill children.



Safety and Prevention Tips

SAFETY TIPS

- Prepare a home escape plan that allows for rapid evacuation. Make sure everyone knows at least two ways to escape from every room and where to meet after leaving the house. Also, make sure all know safe places to go within the home in case of an earthquake. Practice by quizzing kids every six months and conducting family fire and evacuation drills.
- Second story homes should have a ladder for escape and family members should know how to use it.
- Never return to a burning building for any reason. Your belongings can be replaced – you can't!
- Ensure your address is clearly visible from the street.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Make sure your home is equipped with approved working smoke detectors. They can double your chances of surviving a fire. Don't forget to install, test, and maintain these devices in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Home portable fire extinguishers are labeled A, B or C for the type of fire they're designed to fight. An ABC type extinguisher can be used on all three types of fire. Class A fires involve paper and other ordinary combustibles. Class B fires involve flammable liquids, and Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment.
- With an ABC-type extinguisher, you should shake the extinguisher several times a year in order to keep the chemical from caking.
- Be sure to keep your portable fire extinguisher in an accessible location.
- Although a portable fire extinguisher can be used for a kitchen fire, if you have a grease pan fire the best approach is to slide a lid over the pan on fire.
- Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions.

PREPARE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

- Ask about the specific hazards and risks that threaten your community--fires, floods, and earthquakes, for example, so you can prepare your family to survive a disaster.
- Stock emergency supplies and assemble a disaster supply kit, including important documents, medications, water, photographs, and other necessities.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by phone (fire, police, ambulance, etc.).
- Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Services number for emergency help.
- Show each family member how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type), and show them where it is kept.
- Replace stored water every three months and stored food every six months.

WINTER HEATING SAFETY TIPS

- Change furnace filters before cold weather begins.
- Place all space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, walls, curtains, or anything that burns. Make sure to turn them off when you leave home or go to bed.
- Check thermostats. Often thermostats are set to automatically start the furnace, which can cause fires if vents are blocked.
- Check vents periodically to make sure they are not blocked.
- Never install unvented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms, where the small room size poses danger of rapid carbon monoxide build-up.
- Never use a charcoal barbecue to heat a home. Charcoal produces deadly amounts of carbon monoxide gas that is odorless, tasteless, and invisible.

FIREPLACE SAFETY

- Have your chimney inspected by a professional before each heating season and cleaned regularly.
- Never use a fireplace during extreme winds, especially if you have a wood-shake roof.
- Make sure tree branches are cleared at least 10 feet from the chimney opening.
- Store paper, kindling, and other flammable material at least three feet from the fireplace.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container. Even apparently cool ashes may contain enough heat to ignite paper, cardboard or plastic containers.
- Be sure you have in place a fireplace screen large and sturdy enough to prevent flying embers and rolling logs from escaping onto your floor.
- Never burn trash, paper, or green wood in your fireplace. These materials cause a combustible build-up on the lining of your fireplace.

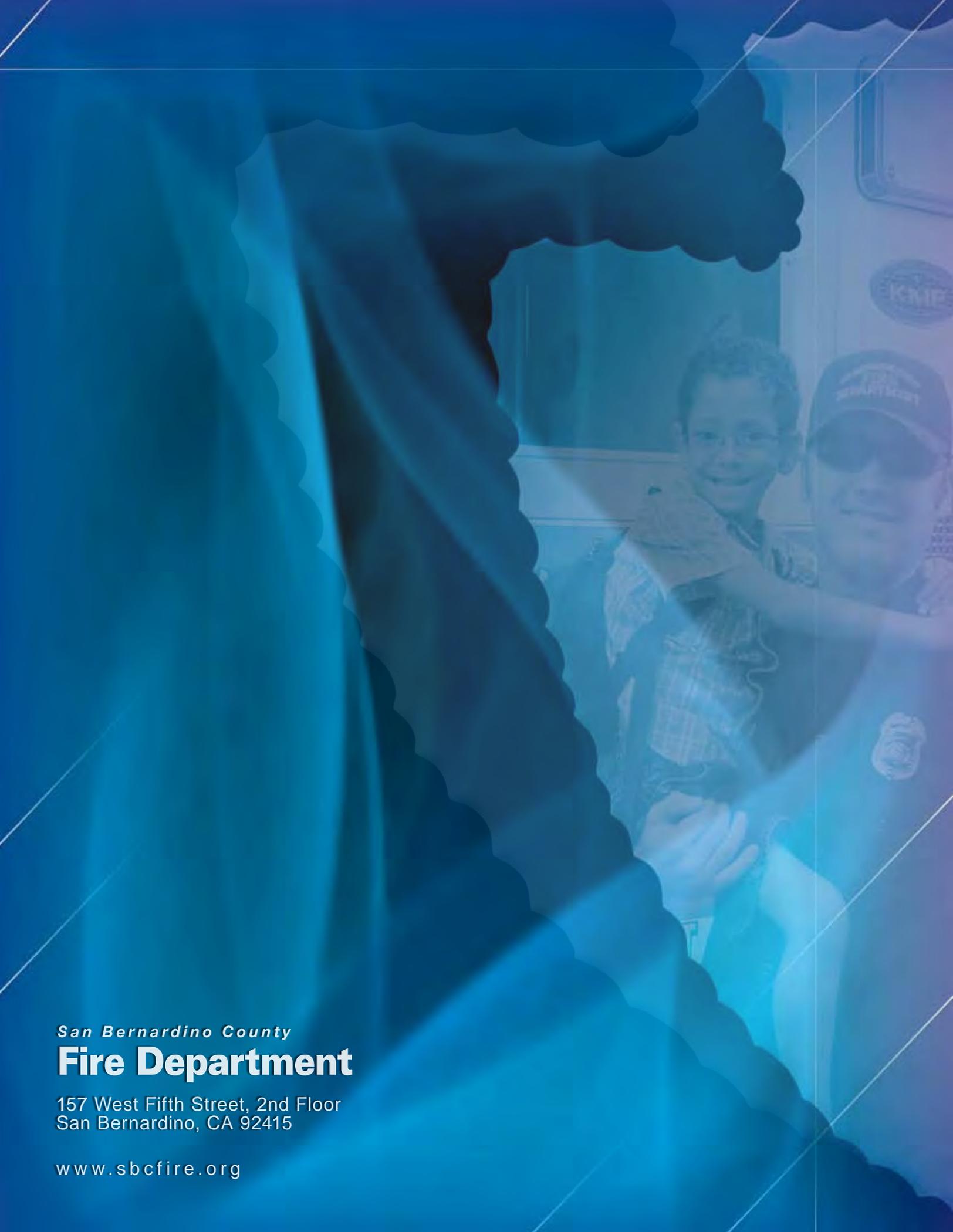
IF YOUR HOME IS NEXT TO A WILDERNESS AREA

- Create a defensible area, firebreaks that divert flames around property, by clearing weeds and dry grass at least 100 feet around your home.
- Remove tree limbs and vegetation that overhang the roof.
- Remove all tree branches lower than 6 feet.

San Bernardino County Fire Incident Information Line (909) 355-8800

Emergency Alert Radio Stations

- | | | |
|------------|------|------------------------------|
| • 95.1 FM | KFRG | Valley/High Desert/Mountains |
| • 93.3 FM | KBHR | Big Bear Valley |
| • 98.9 FM | KHWY | High Desert |
| • 102.3 FM | KZXY | Victor Valley |
| • 107.7 FM | KCDZ | Yucca Valley/Joshua Tree |



San Bernardino County
Fire Department

157 West Fifth Street, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

www.sbcfire.org