

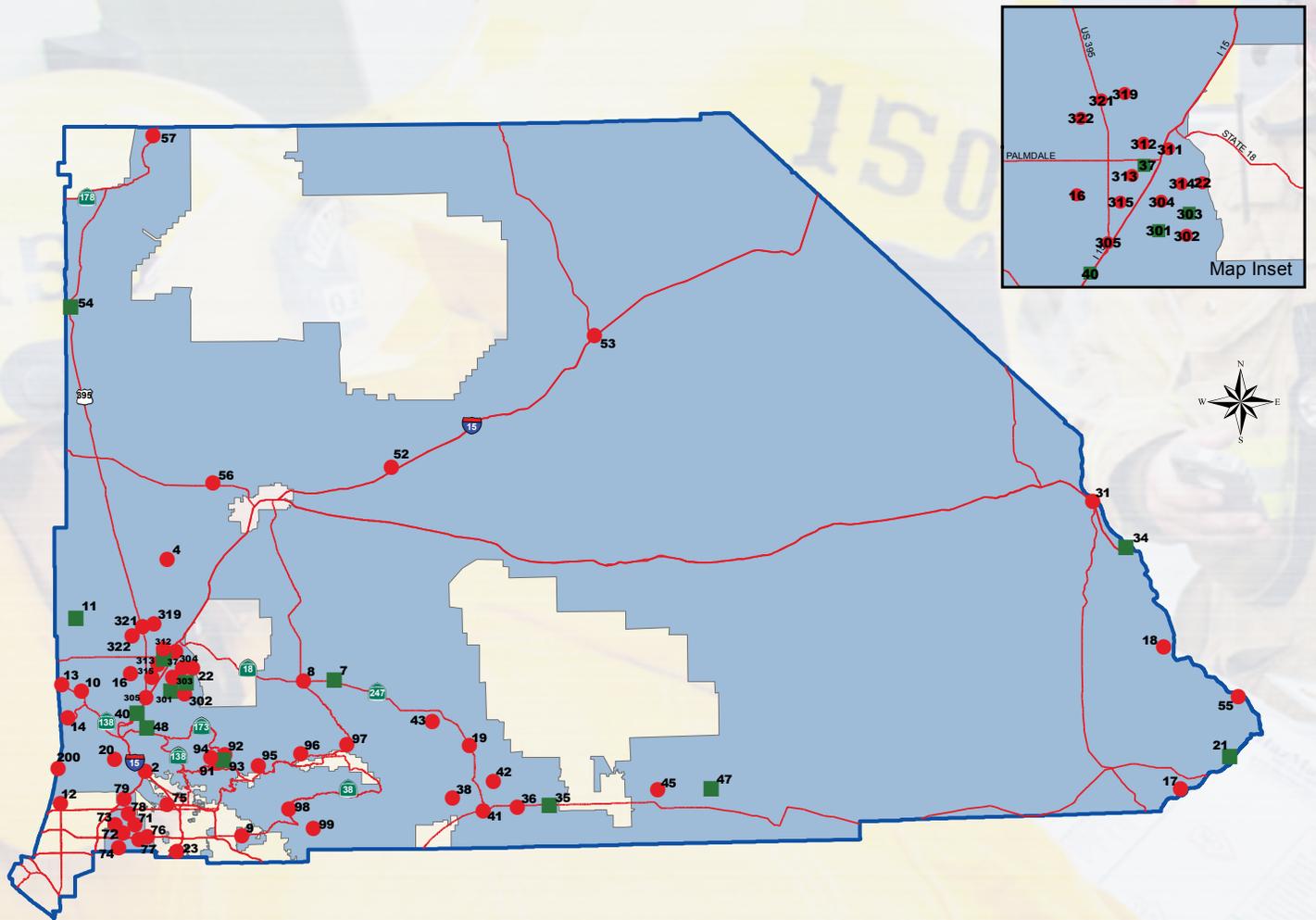


SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE

ANNUAL REPORT | JULY 2013 - JUNE 2014



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE STATIONS



Legend

- SBCo Fire Station
- Inactive Station
- ▭ SBCo Fire Service Area

DID YOU KNOW?

In order to provide the highest level of patient care, SBCoFD staffs highly trained Firefighter Paramedics on its engines ensuring rapid advanced life support delivery when time is truly the difference between life and death.



WORD from your FIRE CHIEF

San Bernardino County spans 20,000 square miles making it the most expansive county in the United States. It is the 12th most populous county in the nation with a little over 2 million residents. The County Fire District covers over 75% of land mass and over 1/3 of the population of San Bernardino County. We are a dependent fire district of the County which means that the County Board of Supervisors acts as the Fire Board of the Fire District. The County Fire District was reorganized in 2008 pursuant to Fire Protection District Law (Health & Safety Code §13800, et seq.). Fire District Law is the source of statutory authority for more than 380 fire protection districts in California. Our responsibilities as a fire district include fire protection services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, ambulance services, and other services relating to the protection of lives and property critical to the public peace, health, and safety of San Bernardino County.

Our Mission is to provide these critical life safety services efficiently through a regional network of firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, fire prevention officers by way of fire engines, ambulances, rescue squads, heavy rescue rigs, haz-mat units and staff vehicles. Our administration offices are staffed by highly trained professionals and technicians that are placed strategically throughout the four service zones of the Fire District.

We pride ourselves in being your small town fire department even though we serve such a large area. Our size allows for a depth of resources that benefit even our smallest communities. Accountability to and participation in the cities and communities that we serve is part of the culture of our organization. We work hard to bring a local sensitivity to each and every call for service.

As you will read throughout the Annual Report, the men and women of County Fire have been working hard to develop partnerships with our county and city partners to serve our communities better. County Fire and the County Sheriff have never worked more closely in order to maximize the level of service delivery to our residents and visitors. County Public Health and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center have partnered with County Fire to provide more comprehensive health services in our communities through a State Pilot Program that utilizes Fire District paramedics that are scattered around the County and available 24 hours a day/365 days a year.

We are proud to wear the County Fire Rescue and EMS patch as we meet your expectations each and every day. We hope you never have to ask us for help, however, we will be ready when you do.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief/Fire Warden



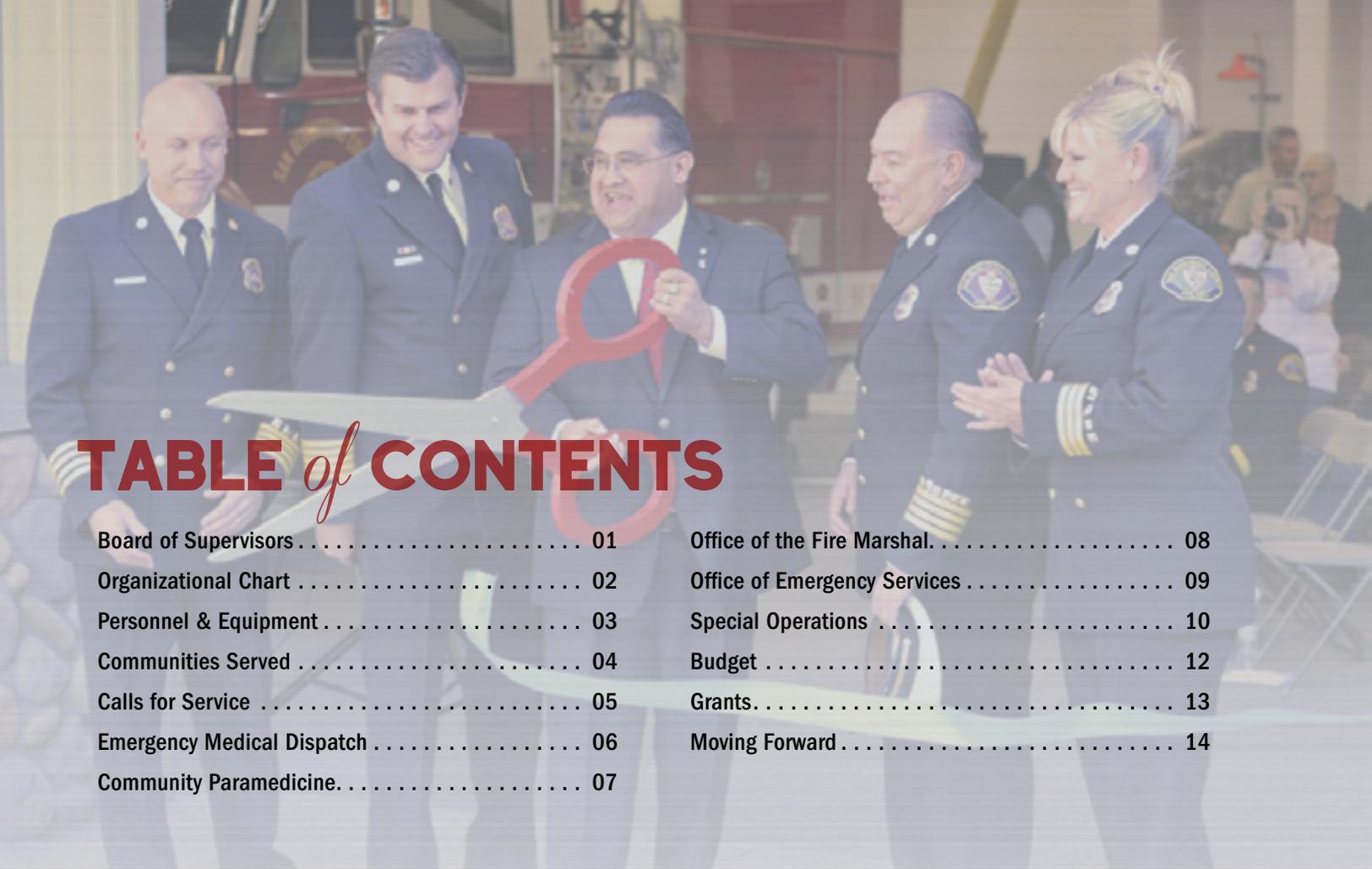


TABLE *of* CONTENTS

Board of Supervisors	01	Office of the Fire Marshal.	08
Organizational Chart	02	Office of Emergency Services	09
Personnel & Equipment	03	Special Operations	10
Communities Served	04	Budget	12
Calls for Service	05	Grants.	13
Emergency Medical Dispatch	06	Moving Forward	14
Community Paramedicine.	07		

AT *A* GLANCE

San Bernardino County is the fifth largest county in California in terms of population, at just over two million residents, and the largest county in the contiguous U.S. in terms of land area.

San Bernardino County Fire proudly serves the citizens of the City of Adelanto, City of Fontana, City of Grand Terrace, City of Hesperia, City of Needles, City of Victorville and the of Town of Yucca Valley.

Square Miles in County	20,160
Square Miles Covered by County Fire	16,535
Population of San Bernardino County	Over 2 million
Incorporated Cities	24
Number of Active Fire Stations	56
Number of County Fire Personnel	865
Number of Fire Suppression Personnel	642
2013/14 Calls for Service	78,058
County Fire Budget	\$ 146,372,503

Board of Supervisors



Robert Lovingood
First District



Janice Rutherford
Second District



James Ramos
Third District



Gary Ovitt
Fourth District



Josie Gonzales
Fifth District



CEO Message

San Bernardino County Fire stands as a great source of pride for the County organization and the county community as a whole. The department's ongoing commitment to professionalism, innovation, efficiency, collaboration, and public service exemplify the County's efforts to achieve our shared Countywide Vision. I look forward to working with Chief Hartwig and the rest of County Fire as we prepare for and face our future.

Gregory C. Devereaux
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MISSION STATEMENT

“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.”

SERVICE MOTTO

Duty, Honor, Community

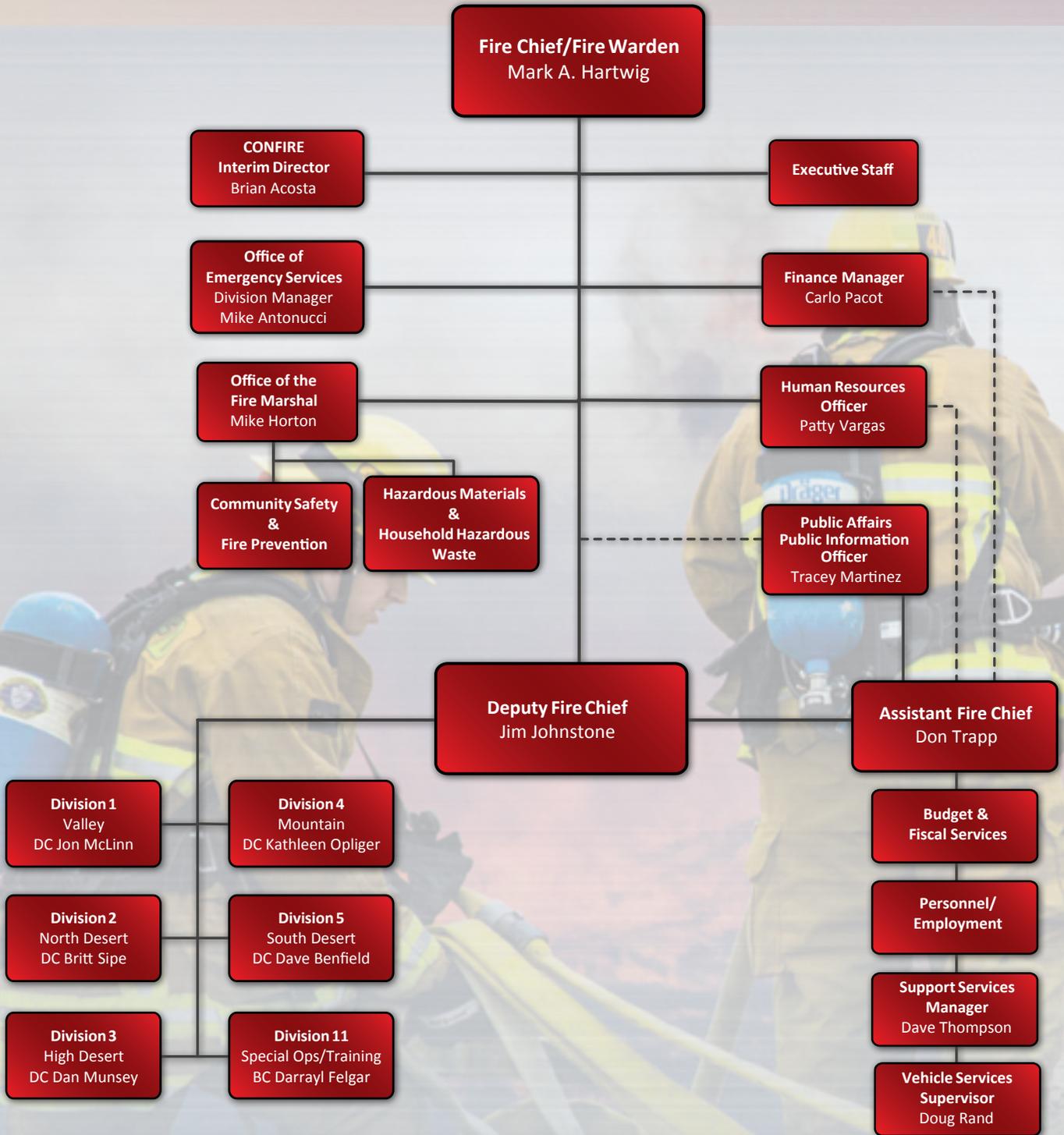
VISION STATEMENT

“Committed to Providing Premier Fire Services”

STANDARD OF COMMITMENT

“Where Courage, Integrity & Service Meet”

ORGANIZATION CHART



DID YOU KNOW?

A grand total of 2,838,306 lbs. of household hazardous wastes were diverted from the local landfills in the last year through participation in the San Bernardino County Household Hazardous Waste Regional Program.

PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT

Funded Positions	FY 13/14
Fire Chief	1
Deputy Chief	1
Assistant Chief	1
Fire Marshal	1
Deputy Fire Marshal	1
Division Chief	6
Battalion Chief	16
Captain	121
Engineer	103
Firefighter	138
Limited-Term Firefighter	99
*Paid-Call Firefighter	154
Suppression Total	642
Professional Staff	223
TOTAL PERSONNEL	865

* Paid-Call Firefighter positions fluctuate throughout the year.

Airport Rescue Units	6
Ambulances	35
Boats	4
Brush Engines (Type 3)	23
Brush Patrols (Type 6)	26
Command Posts	3
Communication Support Vehicles	3
Crew Carriers	4
Dozers	2
Fire Engines (Type 1 & Type 2)	74
Foam Units	2
Haz-Mat Rigs	2
Haz-Mat Squads	9
Ladder Trucks	7
Loaders	10
Rescues	7
Snow Cats	8
Squads	12
Water Tenders	22



Communities **SERVED**

Proudly serving the following cities, towns and communities:

City of Adelanto
Amboy
Angelus Oaks
Baker
Baldy Mesa
Barton Flats
Big River
Black Meadow Landing
Bloomington
Cedar Glen
Crest Forest FPD
Crest Park
Deer Lodge Park
Devore
Earp
El Mirage
Fawnskin
Flamingo Heights
City of Fontana
Forest Falls
City of Grand Terrace

Green Valley Lake
Harvard
Havasu Landing
Helendale
City of Hesperia
Hinkley
Johnson Valley
Joshua Tree
Lake Arrowhead
Landers
Lucerne Valley
Ludlow
Lytle Creek
Mentone
Mount Baldy
Mountain Home Village
Mountain Pass
Mountain View Acres
Muscoy
City of Needles
Oak Hills

Oro Grande
Panorama Heights
Park Moabi
Phelan
Pinon Hills
Pioneer Town
Red Mountain
San Antonio Heights
Searles Valley/Trona
Silver Lakes
Sky Forest
Spring Valley Lake
Summit Valley
City of Victorville
Windy Acres
Wonder Valley
Wrightwood
Town of Yucca Valley





CALLS *for* SERVICE

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE STATISTICS

INCIDENT TYPE	DIVISION 1 (Valley) + City of Fontana		DIVISION 2 (North Desert) + City of Hesperia & Adelanto		DIVISION 3 (High Desert) City of Victorville		DIVISION 4 (Mountains) + Crest Forest FPD (contract July 2013)		DIVISION 5 (South Desert) + City of Needles		TOTALS	
	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 12/13	FY 13/14
Structure Fires	96	110	104	77	112	92	23	22	52	49	387	350
Vegetation Fires	120	107	129	94	96	83	20	22	26	29	391	335
Vehicle Fires	175	156	94	101	139	127	6	7	49	45	463	436
Other Fires*	273	250	161	232	229	215	16	38	83	75	762	810
Rescues	34	39	19	17	22	24	17	11	11	15	103	106
Medical Calls**	14,204	14,799	12,372	13,679	12,326	11,757	1,279	2,398	5,147	5,091	45,328	47,724
Traffic Collisions	1,328	1,290	1,027	1,022	1,100	968	120	125	323	326	3,898	3,731
Traffic Collisions with Extrication	26	42	20	19	47	45	6	3	20	23	119	132
Hazardous Materials Incidents***	387	388	173	184	220	170	48	93	97	104	925	939
Public Service****	1,246	1,368	1,176	1,382	1,066	985	139	328	641	656	4,268	4,719
Other Incidents	3,968	4,952	4,412	4,415	4,999	6,648	1,057	1,050	1,872	1,711	16,308	18,776
FY 12/13 Totals	21,857		19,687		20,356		2,731		8,321		72,952	
FY 13/14 Totals		23,501		21,222		21,114		4,097		8,124		78,058

* Other Fires include rubbish fires, chimney fires, cooking fires, outside storage fires

** Medical calls detailed on the following page

*** Haz-Mat Incidents include explosions, fireworks, hazardous materials such as chemical, biological, and electrical hazards with no fire involved

**** Public Service calls include false alarms & weather related incidents



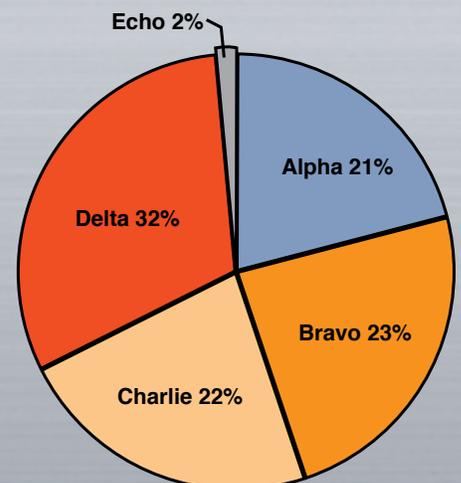
EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH

MEDICAL AID CALLS

The Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) is a medically-approved, unified system used to dispatch appropriate aid to medical emergencies including systematized caller interrogation and pre-arrival instructions. MPDS starts with the dispatcher asking the caller key questions. These questions allow the dispatchers to categorize the call by chief complaint and set a determinant level ranging from A (minor) to E (immediately life threatening) relating to the severity of the patient's condition.

Each call is also assigned a sub-category or code, often used as a means of gathering further statistics about performance. It also helps when analyzing the calls for how the call was described by the informant, compared to the injury or illness found when the crew attends. This can then be used to help improve the questioning system which gives the MPDS classification. Each category is numbered from 1 (abdominal pain) through 32 (unknown). This is usually used for brevity and privacy over the radio.

LETTER	SEVERITY	RESOURCES	RESPONSE
Alpha	Non Life-Threatening	Basic Life Support	Non-Emergency
Bravo	Possibly Life-Threatening	Basic Life Support	Emergency
Charlie	Life-Threatening	Advanced Life Support	Emergency
Delta	Serious Life Threat	Advanced Life Support	Emergency
Echo	Life Status Questionable	Closest Available (Multiple Resources Sent)	Emergency





COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

WHAT IS MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

In short, Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) is the provision of healthcare using patient-centered, mobile resources in the out-of-hospital environment. Since the creation of modern emergency medical services (EMS), EMS has largely been considered a transportation system for people suffering a medical or trauma related healthcare emergency. However, recent changes in healthcare have created an exciting opportunity for EMS to evolve from a transportation service to a fully integrated component of our nation's healthcare system. EMS is uniquely situated within the communities and with the proper medical oversight, can efficiently and effectively direct patients to the right care, in the right setting at the right time.

Community Paramedicine (CP) is one aspect of MIH in which paramedics function outside their customary emergency response and transport roles in ways that facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations. The focus is on providing services, where access to care is limited, or a short term medical intervention is needed. CP programs are typically designed to address specific local problems and therefore vary in nature. Interest in community paramedicine has substantially grown in recent years based on the belief that by targeting locally identified health care needs, and offering a creative solution to fill local health

care gaps, CP helps to increase access to care, and often reduces health care costs by providing the right level of care based on the individual's medical need.

San Bernardino County Fire was awarded the opportunity to participate in a Community Paramedicine pilot study on post discharge follow-up of the congestive heart failure (CHF) patient. In this study, we will partner with Rialto Fire Department, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center to provide a post discharge follow up visit to the patient's home in order to perform a home safety evaluation and a physical assessment on the patient to ensure they are following their hospital discharge plan as directed. During the follow up visit, the Community Paramedic will also verify the patient's understanding of their disease process and discharge medications. Should the patient require further medical treatment, the Community Paramedic will assist the patient in accessing primary care.

The paramedics chosen to participate in this study will be required to complete 160+ hours of intense additional training including classroom and clinical work. The pilot study is currently slated to begin in March 2015.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and injuries, followed by heating equipment malfunctions.

OFFICE *of the* FIRE MARSHAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	COUNTY AREAS	CITY OF FONTANA	CITY OF HESPERIA	CITY OF VICTORVILLE	TOTALS
Investigations	196	59	34	59	348
Plan Reviews	1,539	752	270	327	2,888
Planning Inspections	1,338	3,236	125	1,620	6,319

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATION, RESPONSE, REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, CUPA	FY 12/13	FY 13/14
Regulated Facilities	6,733	6,596
Facility Inspections	4,683	5,355
Non-Emergency Calls	396	540
Haz-Mat Team Responses	331	233
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	811	801
Underground Storage Tank Systems	2,242	1,830
Requests for Records & Certified Records Research	722	788
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & SMALL BUSINESS		
Pounds of Hazardous Waste Managed	3,341,423	2,838,306
Residents Served	49,836	48,130
Businesses Served	221	201



OFFICE *of* EMERGENCY SERVICES

In 2013-14 OES answered the call to activate the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) five times, for a total of 16 response days, all but one EOC activation was for a fire incident. In the fall of 2013, a pair of 200+ acre vegetation fires caused evacuations in the community of Wrightwood and in unincorporated communities in the Cajon Pass. In both cases the OES Duty Officer was deployed to the Incident Command Post as the OES Field Liaison Officer and the OA EOC was activated to Level I to support the incident. The deployment of an OES Field Liaison Officer has been an invaluable opportunity for the Duty Officers to enhance the coordination of information between the ICP and the EOC during significant incidents.

In February of 2014, the SBCOA EOC was activated to Level I to support the Flood Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) preparations for the extreme flood potential forecast by National Weather Service. The EOC remained activated as several waves of heavy precipitation swept the County causing multiple road closures, power outages and interrupted phone services. During the 4 day activation, the EOC coordinated the Lytle Creek CERT activation to a Level 1 "Alert" and monitored the Rim Communities COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) activation to

assist a Running Springs resident relocate evacuated pets. The Rim Communities COAD is one of seven COAD groups countywide that includes non-profit and community-based organizations who may support response and recovery efforts after a disaster. The seven COADs are organized under the San Bernardino County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in partnership with County OES.

In April 2014, there were two EOC activations in quick succession. The SBCOA EOC activated in support of the Etiwanda Fire and the City of Rancho Cucamonga. During the first day of the incident the EOC staffed a 24-hour A/B shift and OES Field Liaisons were deployed to the ICP and to the Rancho Cucamonga EOC. Before the EOC could ramp down from the Etiwanda Fire, the EOC stood up support for the City of Hesperia. The Rancho Incident thrust San Bernardino County into the National spotlight and thrust the City of Hesperia into a transportation nightmare as welding sparks set the Rancho Overpass on fire and it collapsed during primetime, causing the temporary full closure of Interstate 15 and forcing tens of thousands of commuters to seek alternate routes.

DID YOU KNOW?

For the first time, OES entered into a 3-year contract with the Cities of San Bernardino and Fontana for emergency management services.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

COUNTY FIRE HAND CREWS READY TO RESPOND

In July 2012, County Fire announced the creation of the first County Fire Hand Crew, dubbed Crew 40. The 18 person Hand Crew, comprised of Paid-Call Firefighters who volunteered for this assignment, have undergone rigorous training including wildland fire behavior, advance wildland firefighting tactics, saw and hand tool techniques, helicopter operations, confined space awareness, structure protection techniques and Haz-Mat responder functions. All members are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or first-responder trained.

Under the leadership of two full-time firefighters, Crew 40 is ready to provide assistance and support on all incidents within San Bernardino County, including vegetation fires, structure fires, floods, search & rescues, and other all-risk incidents. A hand crew primarily fights fire by cutting, chopping and scraping away vegetation with chain saws, axes and other hand-held tools.

San Bernardino County Fire's hand crew program continues to validate itself, both on and off the fire line. The program has secured numerous contracts with San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department for fuel modification projects. Perhaps the most tangible indication of Crew 40's success is that it has spawned a whole new crew. In July 2014, a second initial-attack team, Crew 41, was placed in service.

A few of Crew 40's recent accomplishments include a 42-mile hike from Ft. Irwin to Barstow to support the Soldiers Home Charity; 217 parcels abated for fire hazard abatement; numerous fuel modifications for San Bernardino County departments; and initial attack on the Etiwanda Fire and the Freeway Fire #1 and #2; several residential and commercial fire overhaul/mop-up operations.

There is a need for a Hand Crew to be readily available within our County at all times. Crew 40 and 41 will help meet this need and is an additional County Fire resource of trained firefighters who are available to respond wherever needed in the County; providing additional manpower not only to fight wildland fires but assist with any all-risk department response. With near record-level draught conditions expected to continue in Southern California, Crews 40 and 41 will be available for this upcoming fire season.

FIRE & SHERIFF PARTNERSHIP CREATES VALUABLE LOCAL RESOURCE

In 2013, Fire Chief Mark Hartwig and Sheriff John McMahon announced a partnership between County Fire and the Sheriff's Department - the first County Inmate Hand Crew Program.

DID YOU KNOW?

A Water Tender can hold up to 3,000 gallons of water, and the ladder on a Tiller Truck can extend 100 feet.

With the inmate realignment, many of the inmates used on fire crews by the State are now at local jails, placing the responsibility and opportunity to provide fire crew services at a local government level. With fire season being year round and the amount of fuels reduction projects, the need for more fire crews in our County is more prevalent than ever. The program teaches the crew member skills that they can use to gain future employment. Educating offenders while incarcerated is a step closer to reducing recidivism.

The first 15 member Glen Helen inmate hand crew began their training in May 2013 and was ready to respond by July. In March 2014, an additional inmate hand crew, designated Glen Helen 2, completed their training. Plans to further expand the program are underway.

The fire crew's main objective is to respond to fire suppression incidents, as well as other types of emergency operations such as sandbagging. The crews also assist with local fuels reduction programs and chipping operations; assisting other county departments in meeting their mission in a cost effective manner. Since inception, the GH1 fire crew has responded to several calls for service. In addition to assisting on wildland fires, the Fire Crew has responded to several urban fires, including a commercial fire at a recycling plant in Fontana where they conducted overhaul and mop up operations, relieving firefighters and medic engines to return back to service. During a recent rain storm GH1 responded to Pinon Hills where a levee had broken, threatening several homes. The Crew quickly went into action filling sandbags and diverting water away from the homes. The Crews are currently involved in multiple service projects including curbside chipping in our mountain communities.

County Fire hand crews recently participated in the annual Bautista Drill (an annual drill to certify the type of inmate hand crew under Ca. FIRESCOPE's guidelines). Both inmate crews far surpassed the minimum qualifications to meet the Type 1 inmate crew standard; certifying County Fire crews to perform direct attack (hotline) and conduct burning operations, among other duties.

The Inmate Fire Crew Program is yet another tool in our arsenal of firefighting resources.

DOZER PROGRAM

Everyone knows that the San Bernardino County Fire Department has fire engines to help mitigate any fire that threatens life or property, but did you know that county fire also has bulldozers? The dozer program consists of two bulldozers, two dozer transports, and one front loader tractor.

County Fire dozers have been deployed to all major fires in the last fifteen years. The Old Fire of 2003 and the Slide/Grass Valley fires of 2007 both had the dozers cutting fire line to save life and property. More recently, the program was pivotal in the suppression effort of the Etiwanda fire north of Rancho Cucamonga. When not fighting fires, the program is contracted for work such as road clearing and snow removal by other county departments.

County fire has taken delivery of a brand new 2014 D6N bulldozer. This will replace and retire the dated D6C, a 1968 model. So the next time you see a fire in the county, rest assured there is a strong possibility a County Fire dozer is up there helping fight the fire.



Jeff Zimmerman/EPN

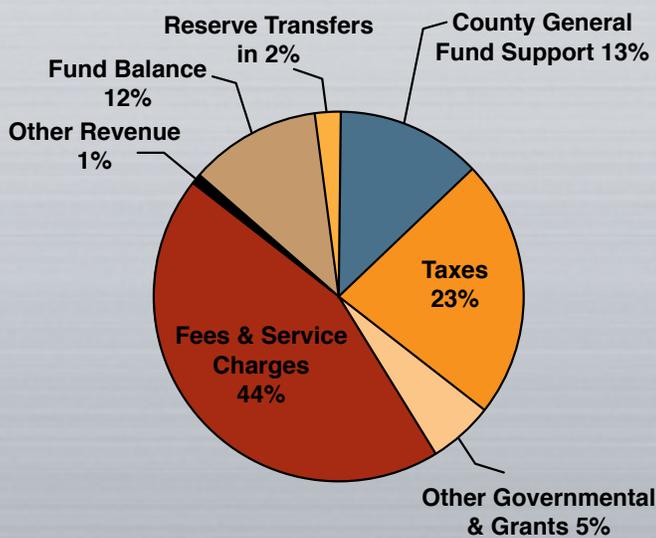


Jim Quigg/VV Daily Press

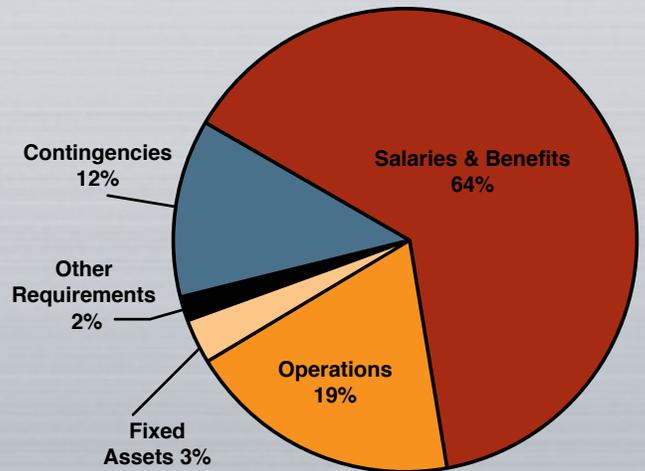


BUDGET

FINANCING SOURCES



EXPENDITURES



Total: \$146,372,503

CAPITAL SET-ASIDES

Capital Replacement	\$32,976,041
Termination Benefits	\$5,796,698
Total	\$38,772,739

*Fees & Service Charges include service contracts

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for the management of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for the operational area of San Bernardino County. Through coordination with the Approval Authority, the grant award is allocated among local jurisdictions, law enforcement and fire agencies, twenty-four cities/towns and other local agencies for planning, training/exercise and equipment projects that meet the objectives and strategies of HSGP.

The 2013 HSGP allocation of \$1,977,820 represented an increase of \$368,183 from the previous year's allocation. The 2013 HSGP has enabled local fire jurisdictions, including County Fire, to purchase portable radios, chargers, batteries and Jaws of Life extrication equipment to meet HSGP's objectives to guard against terrorism, respond to other catastrophic events and to improve readiness, response and recovery from disasters.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT

The San Bernardino County emergency management community has completed various planning, equipment and training projects with funding from the 2013 Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG). For 2013, the County applied for, and was awarded \$547,610 in grant funding. Under EMPG funding, OES completed the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of San Bernardino, while the Public Information Officer - Joint Information Center/System workshop provided hands-on training in gathering, writing, production, analysis, and dissemination of emergency public information. Local jurisdictions completed numerous other projects under this grant. HSGP and EMPG continue to provide funding for essential projects for emergency management and disaster-preparedness and mitigation for the County.

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANTS

The City of Victorville and County Fire were awarded two Assistance to Firefighter grants totaling nearly \$550,000 by the U.S. Fire Administration. The Victorville City Council continues to place a high priority on public safety and is being rewarded for such. A majority of these grants are awarded for safety equipment such as protective clothing and breathing apparatus. However, in this

case, due to the City of Victorville's dedication to public safety, especially during the economic downturn and their commitment to not close or brown out fire stations, they are being awarded this rare grant to purchase fire apparatus. The grants will be used to purchase a Type I Structural Fire Engine as well as 7 fire-engine mounted Mobile Data Computers (MDC).

The City of Fontana was also successful in acquiring two Assistance to Firefighters Grants totaling \$260,000 for Automatic Vehicle Locator Devices, MDCs for their apparatus, two Exhaust Extractions Systems and three Extractors.

The MDC's are a valuable tool to provide firefighters with strategic information at their fingertips and allows for quicker response times. The purchase of the exhaust extraction systems keeps the diesel exhaust from migrating to the firefighter's barracks and allowed for the City to have all of its fire stations to come in compliance with OSHA requirements. The washer/extractors allow firefighters to safely and effectively remove dirt and potential contaminants from their safety clothing.

GRANTS

DID YOU KNOW?

SBCoFD covers a large unfunded area including the Interstate 40 corridor from Barstow to Arizona as well as an approximate 100 mile stretch of Route 66 from Amboy to Needles.



MOVING FORWARD

LOGO REFLECTS COMMITMENT

You may have noticed San Bernardino County Fire has a new logo. Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is dedicated to providing the upmost in Emergency Medical Service to its customers. The new logo and patch reflects this dedication with "Rescue" and "EMS" being displayed; holding ourselves to a higher standard in EMS. San Bernardino County Fire is an all-risk, 24-hour fire and emergency medical service provider. We remain committed to finding new and innovative ways to provide you a higher level of service.



AIR RESCUE PROGRAM PROVING SUCCESSFUL

The San Bernardino County Joint Fire/Sheriff Air Rescue helicopter is a trial program which began in mid-December of 2013. It is staffed ten hours a day, four days a week with staffing consisting of a pilot and crew chief/emergency medical technician from the Sheriff's Dept., as well as a captain and firefighter, both of whom are paramedics, from County Fire.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE WELCOMES CREST FOREST FPD

In July 2013, County Fire welcomed the Crest Forest Fire Protection District and its 21 employees to the County Fire organization. Founded in 1929, the Crest Forest FPD operates two full-time stations, one in Crestline, the other in Twin Peaks, along with 4 paid-call stations, covering 23 square miles and serving the communities of Agua Fria, Blue Jay, Cedar Pines Park, Crestline, Rim Forest, Twin Peaks and Valley of Enchantment. The district serves a population over 25,000. Combining the 2 fire stations and PCF stations with the 3 fire stations in Lake Arrowhead has improved Fire & Emergency Medical Services on the west side of the mountain, ultimately providing regionalized services to its citizens.

Air Rescue's primary mission is to provide Command and Control capability to the High Desert corridor, namely I-15, I-40, and Highways 395 and 58. In these zones, response times can exceed one hour for ground units due to the enormity of the area which makes the helicopter the perfect choice for providing service. Air Rescue also carries a full complement of Advanced Life Support equipment including cardiac monitors, intravenous solutions, drugs, and advanced airway supplies. Additional roles of the Air Rescue Program include technical rescue via hoist and "E-draulic" extrication equipment as well as initial attack fire suppression. Both airships are outfitted to carry bambi buckets as well as fixed tanks capable of both water and foam drops.

In the seven months that this trial program has been underway, Air Rescue has positively impacted a number of lives throughout the County. From victims of car accidents between Barstow and Needles, to injured

hikers in the back-country of the San Bernardino National Forest. The outstanding partnership between the Sheriff and Fire Department's Air Rescue Program has significantly decreased the time citizens and visitors to our county previously experienced in their need to receive lifesaving medical treatment and services.

EXPLORER PROGRAM

San Bernardino County Fire has participated in the Explorer program for over 30 years; where youths 14 to 21 have the opportunity to explore the fire service as a career. Through the leadership of career and paid-call personnel these individuals have an opportunity of a real world firefighting experience. They train along the full-time personal learning many of the same skills. After their training, they are allowed to ride on the fire engine on many calls. To date, there have been over 40 Explorers that have advanced into career positions from Phelan Fire Station 10 alone, and this program continues to be a hiring pool for the department. The explorer posts conduct fundraisers throughout the year to provide for equipment and training.

PARAMEDIC SERVICE AVAILABLE IN BALDY MESA

On June 25, Fire Station 16 in the High Desert community of Baldy Mesa, was staffed with a full-time professional firefighter/paramedic and a limited term firefighter on a Paramedic Brush Patrol. A Brush Patrol is capable of handling medical aids, traffic collisions with extrication, and assisting other Engine Companies with fires of all types. With the transition to full-time staffing, residents of Baldy Mesa have increased service capabilities and response times have decreased.

HESPERIA SERVICES ENHANCED

On August 12, County Fire increased both the number of emergency response units and personnel in the City of Hesperia. Medic Engine 301 and Medic Ambulance 301 proudly returned to service, adding an engineer to each of its three shifts; increasing staffing of two personnel each day to the standard of three; a fire captain, engineer and firefighter paramedic.

In December 2013, the City was awarded the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response grant (SAFER grant); a program geared toward public safety agencies that have been forced to cut resources due to budget constraints. SAFER grants create the opportunity to bring response capabilities back to levels that were in place prior to the needed reductions. In January of 2012, Fire Station 301 located on 11th Avenue south of Main Street was closed in an effort to reduce the City's increasing budget deficit. This closure resulted in increased response times throughout Hesperia, as citizens were relying on only two fire engines to serve its population of 90,000.

This grant funding increased the City of Hesperia's fire resources to a total of three fire engines with advanced life support (paramedic) capability and five paramedic ambulances. Adding a fifth ambulance was a vital addition to the City due to the steady increase in calls over the past years.

ANGELUS OAKS HAS A NEW FIRE STATION

Angelus Oaks is a vibrant community of San Bernardino County that sits in Division 4. Angelus Oaks is staffed with very active Paid Call Firefighter's (PCF's) and this past year those PCF's welcomed a new fire station. Fire Station 98 serves over 400 residents of Angelus Oaks, Barton Flats, and Seven Oaks, along with State Highway 38 from Valley of the Falls Drive to Onyx Summit. On average, Station 98 firefighters respond to 175 calls a year, mainly medical calls and traffic collisions. They actively assist the Sheriff's Department with search and rescues, as well as the U.S. Forest Service. Station 98 has been serving the community since the 1970's, but now boasts a 5,500 square foot state-of-the-art fire station to house firefighters for many years to come.

NEW FIRE STATION READY FOR SERVICE IN SPRING VALLEY LAKE

In December, community members and dignitaries attended the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the new San Bernardino County Fire Station 22 in Spring Valley Lake. The new facility replaces the temporary fire station that has been serving the community of Spring Valley Lake and surrounding area for the past 21 years out of an aged and substandard single-wide trailer, with its apparatus stored in an adjacent butler building. The 6,300 square foot facility includes an apparatus bay for two engines, living quarters, and an approximate 600 square foot equipment storage building.

This state-of-the-art facility was designed to serve the lakeside community of Spring Valley Lake; serving over 10,000 Spring Valley Lake residents, and the Victor Valley College, the Sterling Inn & Commons and responds to incidents along the busy Bear Valley Road from the Mojave River West to Industrial Blvd. Station 22 houses a brand new Type I fire engine, used for structural firefighting, as well as a Type III fire engine used for wildland firefighting.





COUNTY FIRE AUGMENTS SHERIFF'S BOAT WITH PARAMEDICS

In a cooperative effort to maximize services and provide Advance Life Support (ALS) medical care in a timely manner on the river, two County Firefighter Paramedics were placed on one of the many Sheriff's boats that patrol the Colorado River during the holiday weekends. The Colorado River traditionally sees an influx of river traffic from 25,000 to 50,000 people per holiday weekend. The normal response time for ALS intervention on the river is about 45 minutes. With this augmented staffing, response times were reduced to less than 10 minutes.

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT A SUCCESS

In March, County Fire announced the job opening for full-time professional Firefighters, a position that has not been offered since 2009. An extensive campaign took place, reaching out to a diverse work force, offering open houses and information meetings. As one of the most progressive, fastest growing fire departments in Southern California, County Fire received over 2,200 applications. The application process is rigorous, with applicants required to pass a written exam, oral interview, physical agility exam, a psychological exam as well as a medical and background check. Candidates must also pass a Biddle physical agility test. Successful candidates will start the Firefighter Academy in September and be ready for public service in November 2014.

RED FLAG PROGRAM ENACTED

San Bernardino County Fire, in an effort to provide premier fire services to the local community, has implemented a Red Flag Community Notification Program to warn citizens within the county when conditions for extreme fire danger arise. When enacted, a Red Flag will be flown below the American flag at each fire station as a visual reminder that extreme fire weather conditions have been predicted and/or are present. Residents of San Bernardino County know all too well the dangers of winds and wildfires; this program is designed to inform those citizens so that this hazard can be further prevented.

RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In June, County Fire announced the return of its Residential Assessment Program (RAP). County Fire commenced its second year of this program which provides no-cost evaluations of defensible space on residential property. RAP promotes hazard reduction around homes that exist in our mountain, wildland, and watershed communities. This program is mutually beneficial in that it assists the homeowners while increasing the effectiveness of fire suppression efforts as well as firefighter safety.

County Fire has been out in the community going door-to-door handing out information and, should any resident desire, offering to walk the property with the homeowners. During these visits, firefighters provide specific advice on how best to create defensible space for your home. These visits are free of charge and without penalty.

EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION

CONFIRE (Consolidated Fire Agencies of San Bernardino County) was recognized as an Accredited Center of Excellence by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch in September 2013. They are only one of three accredited centers of excellence in Southern California and one of 129 accredited worldwide.

They use the ProQA Emergency Medical Dispatch system which is an internationally recognized triage system that guides call takers through a scripted interview to reach a medical determinant code that is standardized worldwide. This system prioritizes equipment and crews to be dispatched to medical emergencies that precisely meet the victim's medical needs. The reporting parties are also given physician approved first-aid instructions over the phone to provide immediate aid until emergency personnel can arrive. These instructions can range from keeping a patient calm, to assisting with a child-birth or performing CPR.

DID YOU DROP, COVER & HOLD ON?

The Great California ShakeOut has become bigger and better each year that San Bernardino County Fire Office of Emergency Services (OES) has participated. On October 17, 2013, at 10:17 a.m. County OES staff and volunteers along with County Fire, county departments, the 24 cities and towns, County Superintendent of Schools Office, and San Bernardino County Museums in Redlands and Apple Valley practiced the scenario of a major earthquake that shook Southern California followed by the possibility of significant structure fires.

Over 620,000 San Bernardino County participants registered on www.ShakeOut.org, with nearly 18,000 of them being county employees. With the significant threat of a major earthquake looming over the residents of San Bernardino County it has become evident that we need to continue making those around us aware of how to prepare for what lies ahead. Plan to join in the Great California ShakeOut on October 16, 2014, at 10:16AM.

OES CONDUCTS MASS CARE AND SHELTER EXERCISE

Over 150 participants from 24 County Departments and several local partner agencies participated in a functional exercise which featured the activation of a Shelter Operations Compound (SHOC). Over 40 VIPs at the State, Southern Region and County level were able to view shelter operations in real-time, as partnering County Departments and agencies provided a variety of client services to volunteer “shelter residents” fleeing an exercise scenario of a mountain region wildfire that forced the evacuation of whole communities.

The exercise was conducted to test the activation of the County’s SHOC Plan, an all-inclusive and innovative approach to Mass Care. A SHOC provides a one-stop shop for access to a Local Assistance Center (LAC), a co-located animal shelter, reunification and communication centers in addition to basic shelter services and access to advanced medical and mental health services.

The SHOC “concept” has been practically employed by the County in both the 2003 and the 2007 wildfires. After considerable refinement, coordination and training, this programmatic approach to mass care and sheltering is being held up as a model for multi-jurisdictional, multi-discipline mega-sheltering.

RESPONDERS ORGANIZED FOR PASS EMERGENCIES

First Responders and Private Sector partners from San Bernardino County came together to participate in the San Bernardino County Responders Organized for Pass Emergencies (ROPE) Table Top Exercise. The exercise scenario addressed the challenges of accessing the Cajon Pass after a 7.8 earthquake. With the San Andreas Fault cutting through southwestern San Bernardino County, which houses some of the most densely populated areas in the region, the likelihood of post-earthquake challenges in the Cajon Pass are evident. Due to the fact that the Cajon Pass incorporates a major transportation corridor (Interstate 15), rail, and utility resources; infrastructure coordinated operations are essential to the response and recovery of San Bernardino County and the Southern California region. The exercise focused on Incident Command objectives and priorities, Operational Communications and Operational Coordination, including strategic areas north and south of the Cajon Pass to facilitate emergency responses, along with analyzing any gaps within the ROPE planning process.

At the conclusion of the exercise more than 100 participants now feel prepared to respond to an incident within the Cajon Pass using the newly established ROPE Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) and the ROPE Field Operations Guide (FOG) for all-hazards

ONE STOP SHOP

The Planning & Engineering Division of County Fire is one of many agencies participating with the new “One Stop Shop” concept proposed by the Board of Supervisors; with shops located at the Government Centers in San Bernardino and Hesperia. The concept behind these centers is

to allow the customer the opportunity to consult and submit plans with Fire, Building and Safety, and Land Use Services Departments during a single visit. The program has shown to improve efficiencies for both customers and the different County agencies by offering knowledgeable staff from multiple departments in a centralized location.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Along with providing planning, permitting and inspection services for many types of special and temporary events throughout the County, the Special Events Section of the Office of the Fire Marshal was hard at work coordinating NASCAR events, public fireworks displays, film shoots, minor to major scaled events, tents and concerts at the San Manuel Amphitheater, just to name a few activities. Our Special Events Coordinator, Curtis Markloff, was a runner up for the California on Locations Award as 2013 Public Employee of the Year. He was nominated by the Inland Empire Film Commission for his dedication and tireless efforts in balancing film industry dreams with fire code realities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION REIGNS

Fire Prevention Week focused on “Preventing Cooking Fires”. The message of Cooking Safety was reinforced and select County Firefighters shared their favorite recipes on cards provided to the public. Additionally, providing fire related education involved hosting two separate Juvenile Fire Safety Academies. During these academies, information was provided on the dangers of juveniles playing with fire. A partnership with Probation and Public Health, along with County Fire, provided a 6 hour class for juveniles and their parents/guardians on issues ranging from the legal ramifications of being involved with fire to the mental health issues that may contribute to juvenile’s behavior. Additional safety messages ranging from Ready, Set, Go for our mountain and wildland areas to everyday message of drowning prevention, cooking safety, and the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors continued to be key educational themes.

CUPA ENACTS ELECTRONIC REPORTING

During 2013 and continuing into 2014, the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) began implementing a statewide electronic reporting system. The California Environmental Reporting System, also known as CERS, is an electronic database used to report hazardous materials. Facilities in San Bernardino County that handle, store, use hazardous materials and/or generates hazardous waste, were required to submit chemical inventories to the CUPA on paper until 2013. Now, this information is entered into CERS.

CUPA staff has been challenged with educating approximately 6,500 facilities on how to use CERS. This was accomplished through outreach by inspection staff during routine inspection and support staff which developed and coordinated more than 20 workshops, along with arranging individual appointments with customers, either in our San Bernardino office or at the facility, to assist with meeting this new compliance requirement.



UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM

With what began as a project to facilitate cleanup of abandoned gas stations throughout California, the Underground Storage Tank program continued the effort here in San Bernardino County. Titled the "Abandoned Underground Storage Tank Initiative," staff in the Underground Storage Tank program began the tedious project of identifying abandoned underground storage tank systems throughout San Bernardino County.

By reaching out to the property owners and educating them on the potential impacts these abandoned systems can play on potential groundwater contamination, the program has been successful in removing numerous abandoned underground storage tanks systems. Once the systems are removed and evaluated for contamination, these sites are providing new opportunities to use the land in ways that benefit the environment, businesses and residents of San Bernardino County.

COUNTY FIRE RESPONDS, SEARCH FOR FUGITIVE TURNS DEADLY

The story of a cop killer played all over the news agencies as Southern California residents wondered where the fugitive was. Little did anyone know the gripping story would come to a horrible conclusion in the mountains of Division 4.

When word came that the fugitive was possibly hiding in the mountains around Big Bear, Sheriff's Deputies swarmed the area diligently looking for their criminal. Blizzard like conditions was present, so County Fire assisted by providing transportation for deputies via Snowcats. When a standoff occurred in an Angelus Oaks cabin, County Fire provided suppression efforts as a fire raged. Wherever the Sheriff needed assistance, County Fire was ready and willing to jump to the plate.

A hero was lost that day in the standoff and the pain of that loss extended to the County Fire family as the story unfolded. Detective Jeremiah MacKay, who gave his life that day, was the son of Alan (A.D.) MacKay, who recently retired from fire station 92 as a long time Fire Engineer. County Fire and all of the mountain community will forever remember the life of Jeremiah as a nearly 9 foot tall statue was erected in his honor in the Lake Arrowhead Village to serve as a reminder of his sacrifice.

PARKER BRIDGE FIRE

A new bridge under construction to replace the dilapidated Parker Bridge, which connects Earp California to Parker Arizona, caught fire on September 23 at 6:45 p.m. Most of the heavy timbers were in place for the concrete work that was to follow. The fire, which burnt for more than 24 hours, completely destroyed the wood frame work, causing more than \$6 million in damage. San Bernardino County Fire was assisted by Parker Fire, Buckskin Fire, CRIT Fire, CalTrans and the Arizona Department of Transportation. The cause of the fire was ruled accidental and started during a welding and re-bar cutting operation.

RANCHERO OVERPASS CATCHES FIRE

The Rancho and I-15 Bridge caught fire and partially collapsed on the afternoon of May 5, closing Interstate 15 in both directions, backing up traffic for miles and forcing a total demolition of the bridge. Suppression efforts were hampered at many points during the extended attack. Falling debris and ongoing collapses prevented crews from fighting the fire from beneath the structure. Once personnel pulled back out of the collapse zone, constant winds of 25 mph with 35 mph gusts kept hose streams from penetrating deep into the bridge and to the seat of the fire. These same winds contributed to the quick spread as flames were pushed through the construction area much like a wildland environment. Cause of the fire was determined to be from a rebar cutting operation in which blowtorches carried fire into the falsework of the bridge.

OFF-DUTY FIREFIGHTER TO THE RESCUE

On February 2, while enjoying the football game at The Yard House's Town Square location in Las Vegas, a group of County firefighters noticed a commotion at an adjacent table. They quickly identified a 51 year old female having difficulty breathing. As a crowd began to develop, the firefighters stepped in and escorted the victim outside while asking the restaurant staff to call 911. Once outside, the female, who had initially been coughing, suffered a complete blockage of her airway. Recognizing this life-threatening situation, off-duty Firefighter/Paramedic Rob Cisneros unhesitatingly administered the Heimlich maneuver. This act dislodged a piece of food that was in the victim's trachea and immediately restored her ability to breathe. Rob and his partners continued to monitor and evaluate her as her level of distress continued to diminish.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION EMERGENCY RESPONSE

From responding to chemical emergencies, providing ongoing training, and participating with public outreach opportunities, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Emergency Responders continue to protect human, health and the environment. Transportation related releases continued to require OFM Emergency Responders to leap into action. As an example, in December, a truck hauling hydrochloric acid developed a leak that found its way to a nearby storm drain. Approximately 600 gallons leaked from the truck, thus evacuating an estimated 200 people from a truck stop and surrounding area. Then in February, a semi-truck transporting 48,000 pounds of liquefied natural gas rolled over on the I-40. The roll over severely damaged the tank resulting in an uncontrolled release of highly flammable, non-odorized methane gas, causing intermittent closures of the I-40 in both directions for over 24 hours. The tanker was eventually up righted and tanker contents safely evacuated in a monitored and controlled process.

But transportation related incidents weren't the only emergencies the OFM Emergency Responders responded to. Drug labs are making a come-back. Recently, OFM Emergency Responders were requested to a clandestine methamphetamine lab in Hinkley. Once on scene, testing revealed that the property in question was heavily contaminated as a result of the illicit operations and the property was posted as unsafe to occupy. OFM Emergency Responders worked with the property owners on a site remediation plan for the building.

Additionally, OFM Emergency Responders responded to a report of flammable gas contained in a manhole in Redlands. Upon arrival, monitoring efforts discovered flammable gas in ranges that could be harmful to human health and the environment. Local agencies evacuated a medical building and elementary school as a precaution, until further air modeling could be conducted. Residents in the area were asked to "shelter in place" until the emergency was over.

COUNTY FIRE ANSWERS THE CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

San Bernardino County Firefighters responded to multiple wildland fires from Northern California south to the San Diego County complex fires, to the Etiwanda Fire in our back yard of Rancho Cucamonga, answering calls for assistance with structure defense, and to battle these raging wildland fires.

San Bernardino County Fire is committed to the master mutual aid program in the State of California. As such, County Fire has deployed several strike teams this past year. A Strike Team consists of a strike team leader and 5 engines (staffed with 20 firefighters). On wildland fire assignments, these teams often work in steep rugged terrain cutting line and constructing firelines and fuelbreaks to suppress the fire, or they may provide structure defense to homes and businesses, and other valuable resources. A strike team assignment can last as many as 14 days if not longer. It is not uncommon for firefighters to spend numerous days away from home either on the fire assignment itself or backfilling a station left empty due to the strike team leaving.





SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE

157 West Fifth Street, 2nd Floor | San Bernardino, CA 92415 | 909.387.5940

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

WWW.SBCFIRE.ORG

Like us on Facebook: San Bernardino County Fire and Twitter: @sbcountyfire