

# NEWS

From the Office of

## Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County



For information, contact  
David Zook (909) 387-4830  
[www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt](http://www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt)

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### Thirty Firefighters to be Added with Homeland Security Grant

SAN BERNARDINO – An additional 30 paid-call firefighters will be recruited after the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors secured a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for additional staffing.

“Our county has seen more than its share of devastating fires in recent years,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “This funding will give a much needed boost to our fire department staffing levels and will improve the safety of both firefighters and the public by ensuring they have adequate resources.”

The County secured a \$532,025 grant from the Department of Homeland Security under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. The grant will enable the County Fire Department to recruit, train and retain 30 paid-call firefighters for two years. The SAFER program is designed to assist local fire departments to increase their staffing and deployment capabilities with paid-call firefighters to enhance response times and provide more efficient service during emergency situations.

Paid-call firefighters are similar to volunteer firefighters except that they receive a modest hourly wage while on duty. They work side-by-side with full-time firefighters, providing critical support and reinforcement during emergency incidents.

“Particularly in remote areas, such as the desert, paid-call firefighters are a critical component in protecting the public,” said San Bernardino County Fire Chief Pat Dennen. “Our full-time and paid-call firefighters are proud of the excellent service they render to the public, and expanding this program means we can provide an even higher level of service.”

The County has roughly 300 paid-call firefighters. Recruitment of the additional 30 is under way immediately. Information is available at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org).

“I would like to thank the paid-call firefighters who are willing to perform this dangerous job in the service of their communities,” said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. “They work shoulder-to-shoulder with our full-time firefighters to help make our communities safer.”