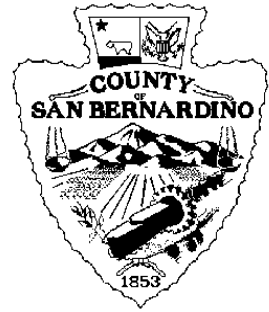


NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

www.sbcounty.gov/Biane



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grant to Boost Paid-Call Firefighter Staffing

SAN BERNARDINO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors accepted a \$532,025 federal grant to boost the number of paid-call firefighters (PCFs) in the County.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant will allow County Fire to provide 30 people with the two years of emergency medical and firefighter training they need to become PCFs. The County Fire Department plans to target young people such as Fire Explorers who have already shown interest in becoming emergency responders.

Paid-call firefighters respond to fires and other emergency incidents when called upon by the Fire Department. Many of the firefighters also hold down full-time jobs. About 370 PCFs currently work with County Fire; however, there is a great deal of turnover because many of them become full-time firefighters or leave to focus on their full-time jobs. In the past three years, nearly 400 have been removed from the County Fire Department's PCF roster.

“Paid-call firefighting isn't the most glamorous or high-paying job, but these firefighters play a vital public safety roll and it's critical for County Fire to ensure it has on-call firefighters who can respond when they are needed,” Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said.

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