



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFER GRANT BRINGS INCREASED FIRE STAFFING TO HESPERIA

On Monday, August 12, 2013, the San Bernardino County Fire Department will be increasing both the number of emergency response units and personnel in the City of Hesperia.

This past December, the City was awarded a federal grant. The Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response, or SAFER grant, is 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 has resulted in increased response times throughout Hesperia, as citizens have been relying on only two fire engines to serve its population of 90,000.

Beginning next week, Medic Engine 301 and Medic Ambulance 301 will proudly return to service. Under the terms of the grant, Medic Engine 40 in Oak Hills, which has responsibility for the southwest section of Hesperia, will be adding an engineer to each of its three shifts. This will increase the current staffing of two personnel each day to the standard of three, a fire captain, engineer, and firefighter paramedic.

"The SAFER grant will increase the City of Hesperia's fire resources to a total of three fire engines with advanced life support (paramedic) capability and five paramedic ambulances." stated Division Chief Britt Sipe. "This fifth ambulance is a vital addition to the City due to the steady increase in calls over the past years."

The grant term is for two years, a period that anticipates economic recovery and bridges the gap until local governments have the ability to fully fund fire resources.

For more information on SAFER, go to:
www.fema.gov/staffing-adequate-fire-emergency-response-grants

For information on San Bernardino County Fire Department, please go to:
www.sbcfire.org
[www.twitter.com/SBCountyFire](https://twitter.com/SBCountyFire)

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