



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mark A. Hartwig**  
*Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

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## **Johnstone takes Leadership Role as Deputy Fire Chief**

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Fire Assistant Chief Jim Johnstone has been appointed to serve as Deputy Fire Chief effective March 22; overseeing all aspects of firefighting operations.

“Jim possesses strong leadership and management qualities to lead this department into the future.” stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. “Jim is well-respected for his operational knowledge, skills and abilities. He has been and continues to be a mentor to many.”

Chief Johnstone began his career with the San Bernardino County Fire Department in 1985 as a Firefighter Paramedic in Lake Arrowhead. During his career with County Fire, Chief Johnstone has worked his way through the ranks, promoting to Battalion Chief in early 2008, Division Chief in 2011 and Assistant Chief in August 2014.

Chief Johnstone has served as a Technical Rescue Coordinator in the Mountain Division, and as a Rescue Team Manager on County Fire’s Regional Taskforce 6. Chief Johnstone is qualified as a Type 2 Operations Chief through the Fire Incident Management System and has served as a Division/Group Supervisor on Southern California Incident Management Team #2. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of California Riverside in Administration.

“I look forward to the challenge and opportunity in the pursuit of a world class fire organization.” stated Deputy Chief Jim Johnstone. “County Fire employees are exemplary in their field of work. I am proud to be a part of this team.”

Johnstone fills the vacancy left by Deputy Chief Dan Odom upon his recent retirement after serving 42 years in the fire service. Odom had an exceptionally diversified work history with the fire service, including serving as interim fire chief.

Chief Johnstone and his wife Bridgett reside in Lake Arrowhead and have seven grown children and three grandchildren. He and his family enjoy numerous outdoor activities together.

Photographs of Chief Johnstone are available at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org) under latest news.

*The San Bernardino County Fire Department is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost effective manner to the citizens and communities that we serve. At 20,160 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the continental United States and our jurisdiction encompasses 16,500 square miles of extremely diverse environments that stretch from the Los Angeles County line on the west, to the Colorado River on the east, to the Nevada State line and Kern and Inyo counties on the north. We provide services to five contract cities, more than 58 communities, and all unincorporated areas of the county. San Bernardino County Fire remains committed to providing Premier Fire Services.*