



NEWS RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden

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Bush to Lead North Desert Division

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is honored to announce the promotion of Gary Bush from Battalion Chief to Division Chief, assigned to Division 2 (North Desert Division) effective November 29th. As Division Chief, Bush will take responsibility for fire and emergency medical response, and rescue operations in the North Desert region. Division 2 covers over 10,800 square miles, including its two contract cities of Hesperia and Adelanto and serves the communities of Wrightwood, Phelan, Pinon Hills, El Mirage, Lucerne Valley, Summit Valley, Windy Acres, and the Cajon Pass. Firefighters responded to over 21,000 emergency calls this past fiscal year in Division 2.

Chief Bush is a 34 year veteran of the fire service. Prior to joining the County Fire Department in 1998 as a Battalion Chief, Bush served in assignments as a Paid-Call Firefighter in Apple Valley, a Firefighter and Engineer Paramedic in Barstow and a Captain and Battalion Chief in Apple Valley. During his career, Bush has had the privilege of developing and implementing fire department paramedic programs in the communities of Apple Valley, Victorville, Fontana, Devore, Muscoy and Bloomington.

“It is an incredible honor to serve with such a talented and motivated group of County Firefighters.” stated Division Chief Bush. “As a Division Chief I will continue to strengthen relationships with community leaders in the High Desert, maximize the synergy of regional resources in order to provide great and sustainable service and continue to develop leaders within the organization.”

Faith, family and the fire service describe three of Chief Bush’s core values. He has been married to his high school sweetheart for 31 years and they have 3 grown children who are serving in human resources management, education and law enforcement careers. Gary & Rita live in Hesperia and are members of High Desert Church where they enjoy hosting and co-leading a church small group in their home each week. Chief Bush has a passion for fire service history and baseball. You can find him on his days off touring fire museums or enjoying ball games at Angel’s stadium.

Chief Bush steps in as Division Chief Britt Sipe retires following 25 years in the fire service. Chief Sipe looks forward to the next chapter in his life, serving as lead pastor in his home town of Temecula.

A photograph of Chief Bush is available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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