



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *April 22, 2015*
CONTACT: *Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer*
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307

WeTip Names Fire Marshal Horton as Fire Marshal of the Year

San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Mike Horton received the Fire Marshal of the Year award from WeTip at today's annual National Crime-Fighting Conference, held at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside.

According to an announcement from WeTip, the recognition was part of its 2015 *Outstanding Service Awards* presented to "those individuals who have shown extraordinary efforts and outstanding service in the field of crime prevention and WeTip service."

Fire Marshal Horton has been with County Fire for ten years now, however his fire service career spans 28 years.

The Office of the Fire Marshal includes the Hazardous Materials Division, Household Hazardous Waste, and the Community Safety and Public Education Division. The Fire Marshal office leads the inspection, investigation, and regulatory functions of County Fire. While active in emergency preparedness and response to fires and hazardous materials incidents, it also accomplishes the vital purpose of preventing emergencies through the education and enforcement of health and safety laws and regulations.

"WeTip has been a great resource for the department. County Fire investigators have received several leads through the WeTip hotline, ultimately leading to arrests and convictions," stated Fire Marshal Horton.

WeTip is a reporting resource and tool to aid fire and law enforcement agencies. The Rancho Cucamonga based nonprofit was started in 1972 as a completely anonymous source for community members to report crime. It is currently used all across the country by fire and law enforcement agencies, as well as public schools and universities.

The WeTip National ARSON Crime Reporting Hotline is setting national records. Every year arson fires claim lives, property, and natural resources and result in millions of dollars of damage. WeTip provides fire services and law enforcement agencies with arson information that has been called in by concerned, anonymous citizens.

San Bernardino County Fire Department investigates suspected arson cases. If you have information about an arson fire, please call County Fire at 909-386-8400 or WeTip at 1-800-47-ARSON (800-472-1166).

To learn more about WeTip and their programs visit www.wetip.com. For more information about the Office of the Fire Marshal, visit www.sbcfire.org.

A courtesy photo of today's event can also be found at the County Fire website, under latest news.

###