



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*PAT A. DENNEN
Fire Chief /
County Fire Warden*

DATE: *April 23, 2010*
CONTACT: *Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-5950, 800-426-8689, pager #3307*

Fire Chief Dennen Announces Retirement

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Pat Dennen today announced his retirement effective June 25. Chief Dennen has served 36 years in the Fire Service. Chief Dennen was appointed San Bernardino County's Fire Chief/Fire Warden in April 2006, having served the citizens of San Bernardino County for more than 12 years in various ranks.

Under Chief Dennen's command, County Fire underwent a reorganization, which included consolidating 27 separate fire districts, and six special tax districts into one "mega" fire district. (This endeavor was the largest fire department consolidation in state history); established the County Fire Honor Guard; developed a state recognized Urban Search & Rescue Team, established County Fire strike teams, developed a Gel Taskforce responsible for preventing millions of dollars in losses due to wildland fires in the Urban Interface setting, and assembled a County Fire Incident Management Team (IMT) for incident support. Under Dennen, the department also developed a dozer program and a fuels management program. Another feat was County Fire's leadership in the development of the Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST). Together with all of the MAST partners and cooperators, County Fire helped develop a state-of-the-art partnership for managing natural disasters, creating a national model.

County Fire became a member of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (Metro Chiefs) which is only afforded to a very small number of departments worldwide. Chief Dennen was asked to serve on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force after the 2003 fires and again after the 2007 fires, a commission he still serves on today. Chief Dennen also represents all fire districts in the southern half of the state on the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors. He serves as the Operational Area Fire & Rescue Coordinator for San Bernardino County, and as the Region Coordinator for CalEMA Region 6; which includes Inyo County, Mono County, San Bernardino County, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties. Chief Dennen serves as the Approval Authority Chairman responsible for distributing millions of dollars countywide between fire departments, police and sheriff departments, and Public Health.

Chief Dennen teaches Masters and Bachelors level classes for upcoming inspiring students in the field of fire science.

"County Fire is an amazing team of true professionals who are unconditionally committed to our vision of being the Premier Fire Service Provider in Southern California. Their dedication simply amazes me. Together, we have collectively built one of the most widely respected fire departments in the state, if not the nation. It has been my honor to be the Fire Chief and Fire Warden for the largest fire protection district in the State of California, and in the largest county in the United States," Chief Dennen said. "To the men and women of County Fire, it has been an honor to be your Fire Chief."

###

157 West Fifth Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, Ca. 92415-0451

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
157 West Fifth Street, Second Floor • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0451
(909) 387-5974 • Fax (909) 387-5542

PAT A. DENNEN
Fire Chief
County Fire Warden

April 23, 2010

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Bernardino

Mr. Greg Devereaux
County Administrative Officer

Mr. Jeff Rigney
Special Districts Director / CAO's Office

RE: NOTIFICATION OF PENDING RETIREMENT

Dear members and administrators

It is with careful consideration that I tender my notice of retirement as your Fire Chief and County Fire Warden effective June 25, 2010. This is adequate notice to finalize critical transition issues as well as to finish the budget process before the beginning of the next fiscal year, but the exact retirement date may fluctuate.

I have had extraordinary opportunities while employed by the county fire department and I think I have offered some innovative leadership over the past 12 years as well. It is time for me to seek new opportunities and to make myself and my family my number one priority as I transition into retirement.

I want to thank the board and our county leadership team for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Also, thank you for allowing me to lead such an outstanding group of people who are performing some amazing work serving our citizens. Your fire department is one of the best in the Nation.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat A. Dennen".

Pat A. Dennen
Fire Chief / County Fire Warden
San Bernardino County Fire Department

GREG DEVEREAUX
County Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
BRAD MITZELFELT First District
PAIII BIANE Second District

NEIL DERRY Third District
GARY C. OVITT Fourth District