

# NEWS

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## Assistant Chief Dennen appointed County Fire Chief

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today announced that Assistant Fire Chief Patrick A. Dennen will succeed Peter Hills as County Fire Chief/Fire Warden when Chief Hills retires next month.

"I'm very pleased with this appointment," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus. "Assistant Chief Dennen is a highly qualified public safety professional with a strong record of leadership. The public will benefit from his experience and talent."

Assistant Chief Dennen, 48, resides in Apple Valley with his wife and family and has a 30-year career in the firefighting profession. Since 2004, Dennen has served as Assistant Fire Chief overseeing Fire Suppression Operations and the Training, Safety and Emergency Management Division.

He began as a paid-call engineer with both the Big Bear City and Apple Valley fire departments in the late 1970s until being appointed as deputy fire chief at the Fort Irwin National Training Center, where he served until 1995.

During this time, he also served as the volunteer fire chief of the Newberry Springs Community Services District. He then served as fire chief of the Running Springs fire department from 1995 to 1998 before joining the County's fire department as a division chief for the North Desert region, a position he held through 2004. In that year, he was promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations where he has been responsible for all operations related to the department's 67 fire stations and 1,000-member staff.

"It's nice to know that we've been able to develop capable and knowledgeable executives from within the department to fill a position of this importance," said Norman Kanold, Assistant County Administrator who oversees the County Fire Department. "This is in large part reflective of Chief Hills' leadership and management of the department, which has included succession planning for the top job."