

NEWS

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For more information, contact
David Wert, Public Information Officer
(909) 387-4082
dwert@sbcounty.gov

County Fire Chief Peter Hills announces retirement plans

County Fire Chief/Fire Warden Peter R. Hills has informed County administrators of his intention to retire from the County at the end of March.

Mr. Hills was appointed County Fire Chief in March 1998, replacing Chief Richard Sewell, who died while serving in the position. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Hills had served as both the fire chief and interim city manager for the City of Loma Linda.

"Chief Hills will be difficult to replace," said Norman Kanold, Assistant County Administrator for the County's Public & Support Services Group, which oversees the County Fire Department. "From the outset, Chief Hills has been a 'working fire chief' who not only effectively managed a large and complex organization but directly assumed workload associated with major departmental issues such as the County Fire Department reorganization, the bark beetle emergency, and a myriad of personnel and operational issues. It will be a challenge finding a successor of Peter's management caliber and work ethic."

The County Administrative Office will develop a recruitment strategy to fill the position.