



NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: June 11, 2020

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San Bernardino County earns national achievement award for Damage Assessment

The Office of the Fire Marshal has been recognized with the 2020 Information Technology Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for their Damage Assessment Program. The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson said, “We are seeing firsthand now more than ever that counties work tirelessly to support our residents. This year’s Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America.”

Under the leadership of Fire Marshal Mike Horton, this team of experts has built the San Bernardino County Fire (SBCoFire) Damage Assessment Team over the past 14 years to a well-respected team in which other agencies have modeled after. This team has provided damage assessment ever since for every major incident from fires, floods and earthquakes, to civil unrest within our county.

“Our Team has worked tirelessly over the years to build a damage assessment team and continuously look to improve our assessment methods with the latest technology,” stated Fire Marshal Mike Horton. “We are honored to receive such recognition. Assisting our citizens in quickly recovering from a disaster remains a top priority.”

This team utilized the latest technology and developed a Rapid Damage Assessment Solution. This technology provides real time damage assessment utilizing live maps; conduct damage assessment field surveys digitally using mobile devices in order to provide real-time updates to the Incident Command; provides a dashboard to Incident Command and damage assessment personnel containing real-time situational awareness, the total number of buildings assessed, and their assessment rating; real-time live updating maps as to what geographical areas have been assessed and the location of damage assessment field personnel; allows for the collection of photos of the damage; creates automated reports and GIS based maps, and so much more.

This Team has changed the way damage is assessed in our county. The quickness of the Rapid Damage Assessment Solution is the greatest success. By being able to quickly provide the assessed damage reports to other County departments such as the Office of Emergency Services, SBCoFire can ensure residents receive the information they need to access much needed services in a time of crisis.

For more about SBCoFire, visit www.sbcfire.org.

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