



# NEWS



## News Headlines 11/22/2019

- San Bernardino County's new fire chief started as fulltime firefighter in 1998
- Assistant Chief Munsey appointed new San Bernardino County Fire Chief
- Oro Grande fire guts half of abandoned building

## San Bernardino County's new fire chief started as fulltime firefighter in 1998

Sandra Emerson, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: November 21, 2019



Assistant Chief Dan Munsey has been named chief of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. (Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County)

San Bernardino County has a new fire chief.

Assistant Chief Dan Munsey officially took the position as head of the county's fire protection district Wednesday, Nov. 19, a county news release said. He succeeds former Chief Mark Hartwig, who left in February to become chief for Santa Barbara County.

Munsey started working for county fire in 1995, getting paid per call. He became a full-time firefighter in 1998 and was assigned to Lake Arrowhead. He was promoted to captain in 2004 and assistant chief in 2014.

While assistant chief, Munsey was responsible for rescue operations, fire and emergency medical response in the High Desert region, which is the largest of the five covered by the department.

The **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** has about 1,000 employees and covers about 19,000 of the county's 20,105 square miles. It serves more than 60 cities, including Grand Terrace, Hesperia, Needles, San Bernardino, Twentynine Palms, Upland, Yucca Valley and unincorporated areas. The district also contracts with Adelanto and Fontana.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/11/21/san-bernardino-countys-new-fire-chief-started-as-fulltime-firefighter-in-1998/>

## **Assistant Chief Munsey appointed new San Bernardino County Fire Chief**

Staff Writer, Inland Empire Community News

Posted: November 22, 2019

Assistant County Fire Chief Dan Munsey will serve as the new Fire Chief for the **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District** effective immediately following his appointment by County Chief Executive Officer Gary McBride, with concurrence from the Board of Supervisors.

Munsey, who has served with County Fire since 1995, succeeds Mark Hartwig, who left the department in February to accept a job as fire chief for Santa Barbara County. Deputy Fire Chief Don Trapp has served as interim chief since Hartwig's departure.

Munsey's appointment concluded a nationwide recruiting effort that began shortly after Hartwig's departure and yielded a broad field of applicants.

"There were several outstanding candidates," McBride said. "But the Board and I concluded that Assistant Chief Munsey offered the best combination of the traits we were seeking: the leadership skills and commitment to operate County Fire effectively and professionally, and the ability and desire to work productively with public safety agencies throughout the county."

"Being chosen to serve as fire chief for this organization is a tremendous honor," Munsey said. "This is a team of highly skilled, dedicated professionals who serve a great community. I am excited about this opportunity to lead them and provide them with the tools and the environment they need to help County Fire fully achieve its great potential."

In his most recent assignment as Assistant Chief, Division 11, Munsey was responsible for rescue operations, fire, and emergency medical response in the High Desert region, which is the largest of the five regions served by San Bernardino County Fire.

Munsey began his career in the fire service in 1995 as a paid-call firefighter. He became a full-time firefighter in 1998, where he was assigned to Lake Arrowhead. He has worked in every division of County Fire, promoting to captain in 2004, battalion chief in 2008, and assistant chief in March 2014.

Munsey holds a master's degree in public administration with an emphasis on business and government and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Grand Canyon University. Munsey is the current president of the Operations Section of the California Fire Chiefs Association and president of the Hi-Desert Water District Board of Directors. He has been active for a decade in the Rotary Club of San Bernardino, Victorville, and Yucca Valley.

In 2013, Munsey graduated from the San Bernardino County Management & Leadership Academy, a program that provides comprehensive management and leadership training to county employees. Participants gain theoretical and practical knowledge of public service management and leadership practices, with specific emphasis on understanding their application within San Bernardino County government.

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District has about 1,000 employees, covers approximately 19,000 of the county's 20,105 square miles, and serves more than 60 incorporated municipalities and unincorporated communities within four Regional Service Zones – Mountain, North Desert, South Desert and Valley – including the City of Grand Terrace, City of Hesperia, City of Needles, City of San Bernardino, City of Twentynine Palms, City of Upland, Town of Yucca Valley, and unincorporated areas. Additionally, County

Fire provides contractual fire protection services to two cities: Adelanto and Fontana, via its independent fire protection district.

<http://iecn.com/assistant-chief-munsey-appointed-new-san-bernardino-county-fire-chief/>

## Oro Grande fire guts half of abandoned building

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: November 22, 2019



Firefighters work to extinguish a blaze at an abandoned apartment building in Oro Grande on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019. A local resident said it was one of several questionable fires that have ignited recently in the area. [Martin Estacio, Daily Press]

**ORO GRANDE** — A fire tore through part of a building filled with scrap metal before firefighters were able to control it on Thursday.

The blaze broke out at about 2:42 p.m. in an abandoned, single-story apartment building at a complex in the 19600 block of National Trails Highway. A thick column of black smoke could be seen for miles around.

Firefighters extinguished most of the flames about 10 minutes after arriving, said **San Bernardino County Fire Battalion Chief Doug Nelson**. Nelson said half of the four-unit building escaped serious damage.

Jim, a resident who lives in the complex, said the building had been used to store old fridges, water heaters and other scrap. He suspects an arsonist to be the cause of Thursday's blaze and a string of other questionable fires that have occurred in the area.

Nelson said the abandoned building had ignited before. County Fire had responded to several fires within a couple blocks of the complex, Nelson confirmed, which were mostly burning vegetation and another structure fire.

The cause of the fire remained unknown. Arson investigators and Sheriff's deputies could be seen interviewing people in the complex.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20191121/oro-grande-fire-guts-half-of-abandoned-building>