



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **County Fire Places New Ladder Truck in Service in the City of Hesperia; First “Tiller Truck” in the High Desert**

This week new Truck 304 was placed in service. The 2019 Pierce Ascendant Tractor Drawn Aerial (also known as a Tiller) totes a 107-foot ladder, 1500 gallon per minute (GPM) pump, 300 -gallon water tank and large equipment cache. Truck Companies are vital in our response to structure fires, rescues and vehicle extrication calls. Truck crews are commonly tasked with vertical ventilation, laddering buildings and deploying the ladder pipe on fires. The truck can reach the roof of a seven-story building, can flow 1000 GPM from the ladder and carries a complement of ground ladders. The benefit of the tiller apparatus is maneuverability in tight spaces and increased equipment storage space on the trailer.

The new apparatus will serve from Fire Station 304 at 15660 Eucalyptus in the City of Hesperia. The resource will be a great addition to Hesperia and the entire High Desert region as the amount of commercial and industrial occupancies continue to grow each year.

### **Truck 304 Specification Highlights:**

- 107' Heavy Duty Aerial (750 tip load)
- 600 HP Cummins ISX15 Powerplant
- Waterous 1500 GPM pump
- 300 Gallon Water Tank
- Rear “Tiller” driver for increased maneuverability
- Pre-plumbed waterway capable of flowing 1000 GPM
- Full Complement of Ground ladders
- Extrication and Rescue Equipment
- Chainsaws & Rotary Saws
- Basic Hose Complement
- Large equipment cache to support all risk model

San Bernardino County already operates five tiller apparatus each day across the County in San Bernardino, Fontana and Upland. Each SBCoFD Truck Company is similarly outfitted for consistency across the fleet. San Bernardino County Fire’s Apparatus Committee worked on the truck from conception to completion, with multiple trips to Pierce for inspections. The committee is made of floor personnel, mechanic staff and Chief Officers. The committee works together to ensure each apparatus is built to specification. With each apparatus built, the committee works to improve the performance, safety and ease of maintenance. San Bernardino County Fire continues to strive for a current, safe and cost-effective fleet. The truck was purchased utilizing a competitive bid process.

"This is the largest county in the continental US. We respond to all risks in densely populated areas with high-rise buildings, mountain regions, and vast expanses of desert," says Battalion Chief Dan Wooters who is one of the chief officers on the apparatus committee. "Pierce's Ascendant tiller gives us much-needed versatility, with large compartment space, easy setup, and extreme maneuverability in tight urban streets."

An additional feature includes TAK-4® Independent front suspension. This improves ride quality & control, shortens stopping distances, increases load carrying capacity, advances braking performance, and maximizes maneuverability & cramp angle. TAK-4 provides the highest cramp angle in the fire industry; you can safely and effectively maneuver into strategic locations when responding to a fire. The maximum cramp angle achievable on TAK-4 is 45 degrees, with a minimum of 40 degrees.

"This ladder truck is a significant upgrade to our fire and emergency response in the City of Hesperia, and all other areas of the North Desert that we serve," says Assistant Chief Dave Corbin. "With the continued commercial development in our region, as well as the amount of structures with difficult access, the additional ladder length and vastly improved maneuverability associated with a tractor-drawn aerial will greatly assist us operationally. It is our commitment to the community to responsibly utilize available funding to upgrade our fleet to the safest and most advanced technology available. The public we serve depends on it. " Local crews have been training on other SBCoFD Tiller apparatus to ensure they are ready for the new delivery. Each personnel assigned to a Truck Company has gone through specific training on aerial ladder use, vertical ventilation practices and driving skills. Truck 304 is staffed with a Captain, Engineer and a Firefighter-Paramedic.

*The San Bernardino County Fire Department is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost-effective manner to the citizens and communities that we serve. Our jurisdiction encompasses 19,278 square miles of extremely diverse environments that stretch from the Los Angeles County line on the west, to the Colorado River on the east, to the Nevada State line and Kern and Inyo counties on the north. We provide services to more than 60 communities/cities and all unincorporated areas of the county.*

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