



NEWS RELEASE

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Chief John Salvate Tapped To Head Two County Fire Divisions

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Fire Department announces the reassignment of Division Chief John Salvate to head Division 4 (Mountain) and Division 5 (South Desert).

“I feel privileged to serve these two Divisions, which are diverse and unique regions,” Salvate said. “I intend to work with dedication to provide the most efficient and professional service to the residents.”

For the past year, Salvate has been Division Chief of Division 1 (Valley). Chief Salvate began his fire service career as a paid-call firefighter with San Bernardino County in 1983. He realized his love for community service through his paid-call firefighting as well as working as a Reserve Deputy for the County Sheriff’s Department and as an emergency medical technician with private ambulance companies.

Chief Salvate’s full-time career started in 1986 with the Fort Irwin Fire Department. In 1990, Chief Salvate was hired as a captain for the Apple Valley Fire Protection District and spent nearly 10 years working in the community where he and his family live. During his tenure with Apple Valley he rose to the rank of Division Chief of the operations section.

Chief Salvate returned to his roots - the San Bernardino County Fire Department - in November 1999 as a Battalion Chief and has served throughout the County.

Chief Salvate replaces Division 4 Chief George Corley who has worked in the fire service for 40 years and is now heading up Division 3 (High Desert). Chief Salvate also replaces Division 5 Chief Gary Benedict, who recently retired after more than 30 years in the fire service.

Division 4 covers 616 square miles of vegetation-covered mountains, foothills and valleys. County Fire works closely with the local community in the mountains through the Fire Safe Councils, and the multi-agency Mountain Area Safety Taskforce. Division 5 encompasses many different aspects of terrain and topography in the County’s South Desert that draw visitors from around the world to the Colorado River and Joshua Tree National Park. The South Desert Division also neighbors the U.S. Marine Corps Air/Combat Training Center in Twenty-Nine Palms.

A photograph of Chief Salvate is available on our website at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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