



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

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CONTACT: *Mike Horton, Fire Marshal & Ionie Wallace, Deputy Fire Marshal*
(909) 386-8431

Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Unveils New Unit Patch

On January 1st, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) unveiled its new unit patch identifying the three divisions within the OFM. Historically, Hazardous Materials Inspectors, Emergency Responders, Fire Prevention Officers, Fire Investigators and select Household Hazardous Waste staff have proudly worn the Department's Class C uniform with the designated San Bernardino County Fire Department patch. When management made the decision for staff to wear dual shoulder patches it was decided that a distinction between fire suppression and other uniformed County Fire staff would reduce confusion to the public and within our ranks.

The OFM is made up of Fire Prevention (Community Safety), HazMat (CUPA) and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) staff that provides regulatory, enforcement and service functions related to fire and life safety, as well as support of our fire suppression units in the form of emergency response and fire investigations. Our mission is to protect the public, our firefighters and business owners and the environment from hazards associated with building construction, fire code enforcement, hazardous materials handling and the disposal of hazardous waste in a safe and responsible manner. The OFM provides additional closely related services through Hazardous Materials emergency response, fire investigations and law enforcement activities that directly support our firefighters. Many times, OFM staff has been mis-identified as fire suppression personnel.

The new patch is a right should patch that identifies OFM's Divisions (HazMat, Prevention, HHW and Arson), which also reflects our mission of support through education, engineering and enforcement within the fire department. Our connection to the department is represented by the Maltase Cross, as well as San Bernardino County's distinct arrowhead is proudly displayed in the center of the patch.

The creation of the patch was taken seriously by staff. Several members participated in a competition to create a design that proudly represented our Department with respect, professionalism and distinction. The new OFM right shoulder patch will be worn on all class A, B & C uniforms. Some other changes to the uniform policy included the replacement of red structure helmets with yellow and the removal of collar brass for all OFM staff, with the exception of Supervisor's and management staff.

Moving into the future, the OFM continues to proudly serve San Bernardino County businesses, residents and County Fire staff.

A photo of the new patch can be located at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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