



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief

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Mike Wakoski Joins County Fire

SAN BERNARDINO – It is with great pleasure to announce the appointment of Mike Wakoski to Battalion Chief assigned to Special Operations, Training & Safety Division, effective June 1st.

Chief Wakoski brings with him over 37 years of fire fighting experience; starting his career as a seasonal fire fighter with CDF. From serving on a hot shot crew, fire fighting engine companies, to management, rising through the ranks of the U.S. Forest Service to Division Chief on the San Bernardino National Forest, Mike has experience in all aspects of fire fighting and emergency management. Chief Wakoski has served as the Incident Commander of U.S. Forest Service Southern California Incident Management Team 3 for the past 4 years and will continue to serve in that capacity. Prior to this, he served over 25 years in various roles on incident management teams.

“Wakoski’s knowledge and expertise in wild land fire fighting is a huge asset to County Fire and the citizens we serve and protect”, stated Operations Deputy Chief Dan Odom. “His experience is invaluable”.

Chief Wakoski will focus his efforts on the further development of County Fire Hand Crews, ensuring their readiness in fire fighting and will assist in the development of the County Fire emergency medical service and fire fighting helicopter program. Mike will also serve a role on the San Bernardino County Incident Management Team.

Chief Wakoski has a certificate in wildland studies from Humboldt State University and an Associate degree in fire science.

Mike and wife Noelle have two children in college and are committed to their family and community. They are all outdoor enthusiasts and enjoy most activities from the desert and mountain regions to the beautiful ocean.

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. At 20,160 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the continental United States and our jurisdiction encompasses 17,500 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 five contract cities, more than 54 communities, and all unincorporated areas of the county.

San Bernardino County Fire remains committed to providing Premier Fire Services.

Photos of Chief Wakoski can be obtained at www.sbcfire.org under latest news,
http://www.sbcfire.org/news_releases/default.aspx.