



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Mark A. Hartwig**  
*Fire Chief / Fire Warden*

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## **Walls to Lead SBCoFD North Desert Division**

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is pleased to announce the promotion of Ron Walls from Battalion Chief to Division Chief, assigned to Division 2 (North Desert Division) effective February 20. As Division Chief, Walls will take responsibility for rescue operations, fire and emergency medical response in the North Desert region.

Division 2 covers a vast area including its contract city of Hesperia, and the communities of Wrightwood, Phelan, Pinon Hills, Baldy Mesa, Lucerne Valley, Summit Valley, Windy Acres, and a portion of Cajon Pass. Firefighters responded to over 23,000 emergency calls in Division 2 this past fiscal year.

Division Chief Walls began his emergency services career in 1983 as a U.S. Army rescue climber and combat medic. After his honorable discharge from the military, he moved to Southern California and began his civilian training for a career in fire service.

Walls began as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Hesperia Fire Department in 1988. He advanced through the ranks to the position of Fire Captain and transitioned to the San Bernardino County Fire Department in 2004. He spent several years as a County Fire Captain before being promoted to Battalion Chief.

Over the last nine years, Walls has worked assignments in every Division in the County as a County Fire Battalion Chief. He has been responsible for the Critical Incident Stress Management/Peer Support/Chaplain team for the Department, functioned as the Operations Chief for the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center (Aircraft Rescue Firefighting School), and has served as the HIPAA compliance Privacy Officer for the Department. He also has extensive background and training in trauma care and enhanced threat scenarios including 28 years of experience as a paramedic.

Walls has been a part of many large scale incidents including the Old Fire, Slide Fire, the "38 Incident" (MCI Bus Crash), the Dorner Incident, and most recently was deployed as a part of County Fire's Type 3 Incident Management team to the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino. Division Chief Walls currently serves on a Type 1 Incident Management Team which provides command and control for large scale events such as major wildfires and mass casualty incidents.

He has managed several large projects including the transition and annexation of Crest Forest Fire into the County Fire Department and deployment of the Mountain Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

"I am excited to be returning to the North Desert Division. I am confident that my previous experience with the Hesperia Fire Department and recent experience with the LAFCO annexation process will be beneficial to the ongoing work in Hesperia and the continued premiere service provided by the Division," Walls said.

Chief Walls holds two Bachelor's Degrees in Business and a Master's Degree in Leadership and Management from the University of La Verne.

In his off duty time he enjoys traveling with his wife Patti, recreational shooting and teaching the use of Firearms to civilians and Law Enforcement Officers.

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