



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Donald W. Trapp**  
Interim Fire Chief / Fire Warden



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**CONTACT:** Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer  
(909) 387-5950, (909) 936-5511 mobile

## ***Havasu Lake Fire Station Fully Operational Full-Time Paramedic Staffing Added***

Havasu Lake, Ca. – San Bernardino County Fire Station 18, located at 148808 Havasu Lake Road, is now staffed 24 hours with a Captain and a Firefighter/Paramedic, effective August 5. Averaging 500 calls annually, Station 18 provide fire, rescue and EMS services to the community of Havasu Lake and surrounding highways, including Hwy 95, and may be called to assist in Needles. Station 18 also provide service to over 28,000 acres of tribal land and respond to boat incidents and medical needs at Havasu Landing.

In addition to having a fire engine, water tender and firefighting boat at the ready, a medic brush patrol is being relocated to Havasu Lake; reducing response times and providing advance life-support services. Funding has been set aside to purchase a new firefighting boat in 2020.

“This operational change is crucial due to the remoteness of the area and the unsustainable Paid-Call Firefighter program,” stated Assistant Chief Tom Marshall. “The need for full-time staffing and adding paramedics in this region is long overdue.”

For numerous years, Station 18 has been manned with paid-call firefighters (PCF). When a call for service comes in, if a PCF is available, they would respond to the call. If none available, the next closest unit would respond, usually from Needles. Due to the limited interest and availability of PCFs in outlying communities, encompassed with the amount of required training to maintain firefighter and EMT status, the PCF program has declined county-wide.

Staffing and operating costs for this station is about \$1.1 million and is coming directly from the department’s regional budget. A new fire station and additional staffing are in the planning stage.

Due to limitations of the fire station, firefighters will be at the station from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. After which, they will respond directly from their resident post. Through a partnership with the Sheriff’s Office, living quarters was procured for on-duty firefighters in a nearby manufactured home.

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*The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. At 20,160 square miles, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the continental United States and our jurisdiction protects about 19,200 square miles; with diverse environments that stretch from the Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange County borders to our south and west, the Colorado River and Arizona to the east, to the Nevada State line and Kern and Inyo counties on the north. In the middle lies the snow-capped San Bernardino mountain range. We are the local fire department for over 60 communities, from rural towns to major cities, and all the unincorporated areas of the county. San Bernardino County Fire remains committed to providing Premier Fire, Rescue and EMS Services.*