



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief / Fire Warden

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Chamberlin Tapped to Lead South Desert

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Mark Hartwig is honored to announce the promotion of Battalion Chief John Chamberlin to Division Chief, assigned to Division 5 (South Desert). As Division Chief, Chamberlin will take responsibility for fire and emergency medical response, and rescue operations in the South Desert region.

Division Chief John Chamberlin began his full time career with San Bernardino County Fire with the contracting of services for the City of Adelanto in September 1999, as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Prior to this, he served as both a Fire Dispatcher and Paid-Call Firefighter for both the County of San Bernardino and City of Victorville.

During his time with the County Fire, Chamberlin worked his way through the ranks becoming a Captain in 2004 and a Battalion Chief in 2013. Chamberlin has served on various committees and special projects including oversight of the Fire Suppression component of the department's Hazardous Materials Response Team and its nearly 60 members. He is also an active member of the department's Urban Search and Rescue Team – RTF 6.

"I am honored and privileged to serve the citizens and firefighters of our South Desert Communities," stated Chief Chamberlin. "I am looking forward to continuing the great work set forth by retiring Division Chief Benfield and embracing the local communities as partners in public safety."

Chamberlin is currently assigned to Southern California Incident Management Team #3 as a Safety Officer Trainee and is qualified as a Type 3 Division Supervisor and Incident Commander, Operations and Logistics Section Chief. He also holds a double Associate of Science in Fire Technology and Paramedic Studies, a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration, and received his Chief Officer Certification from the California State Fire Marshal.

Chief Chamberlin lives in Beaumont with his wife Krystal and has 3 children, daughters Gabryelle and Reilly and son Nick. John enjoys golf, bowling and riding his Harley Davidson.

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 eastern Mojave Desert, from Yucca Valley and the Joshua Tree National Park to the Colorado River. This division also neighbors the U.S. Marine Corps Air/Combat Training Center in Twenty-Nine Palms. Division 5 encompasses the City of Needles and the communities of Havasu Lake and Big River drawing millions of visitors each year for river and lake front recreation.

Chamberlin will succeed Chief Dave Benfield, who has proudly served the South Desert region since August 2013. After serving 34 years in the fire service, Benfield is retiring to pursue other dreams. Chamberlin will start his transition with Chief Benfield March 7, officially taking over operational responsibilities March 21. Photographs of Chief Chamberlin are available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.