



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Fire opens new Fire Station in Needles

Community members and dignitaries attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house today in Needles for the new San Bernardino County Fire Station 32. The ceremony kicked off with a welcome from Assistant Chief Tom Marshall and an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by the Rev. Canon Janet Hurley, Vicar of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church. First District Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood was in attendance as the guest speaker, followed by remarks and unveiling of a dedication plaque from Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. The ribbon cutting ceremony officially welcomed San Bernardino County's newest fire station to the City of Needles.

San Bernardino County Fire has administered fire protection services for the City of Needles since 1977. The new 6,300 square foot station will help San Bernardino County firefighters continue to proudly serve the City of Needles, the unincorporated region of the county, including Park Moabi, the Colorado River recreation area, and the Interstate 40 and Highway 95 corridors. The current Fire Station 31, built in 1953 at 633 Front Street in Needles is no longer adequate or large enough to support the needs of County Fire.

"The opening of this state-of-the-art fire station is part of my commitment to enhancing public safety throughout San Bernardino County," Supervisor Robert Lovingood said. "The men and women of the San Bernardino County Fire Department do an outstanding job, and this new station will be an important part of their mission to serve residents."

The new fire station includes an apparatus bay for housing two engines, sleep rooms, restrooms, an exercise room, lobby, kitchen and dining areas. There is also a 600 square foot equipment storage building constructed adjacent to the main station. The construction meets the current state title 24 energy standards, and the rock scape provides for California's drought concerns with no need for irrigation.

"The City of Needles and San Bernardino County Fire remain committed to providing sustainable fire, rescue and emergency medical services to its citizens and visitors," stated Fire Chief Mark Hartwig. "We look forward to serving the area from fire station 32 which now allows room for future growth of fire protection services to the City and surrounding communities. We are honored and proud to serve you."

The \$3.6 million construction project was funded from a Community Development Block Grant and the County's discretionary general fund. Construction began November 12, 2015 and is scheduled to open right on time and is on track with the project budget.

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In 2012, the Board of Supervisors approved STK Architecture Inc. to design a fire station in Spring Valley Lake and use the design template for future fire stations at a cost savings to taxpayers. The contractor on the Needles project is D. Webb Incorporated of Yucca Valley.

Your Needles fire station mans a fire engine, a brush patrol and a water tender and is staffed 24 hours a day with a professional Fire Captain, Engineer and Firefighter Paramedic; responding to over 1,100 calls for service annually.

Courtesy photos of the ribbon cutting ceremony can be located at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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