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Chief Jim Topoleski to Lead Wildland/Aviation Programs

By Tracey Martinez PIO, LOMA LINDA CITY NEWS

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Chief Topoleski comes to the County after spending 35-years with the Redlands Fire Department and prior service with CAL FIRE.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey is pleased to announce the hiring of Jim Topoleski as Division Chief; overseeing the Wildland/Aviation programs. Chief Topoleski comes to the County after spending 35-years with the Redlands Fire Department and prior service with CAL FIRE. Chief Topoleski has held every position from firefighter/paramedic to fire chief while at Redlands. During his tenure, he has served on numerous EMS and training committees throughout the County.

Chief Topoleski has spent the last 22-years serving on both Federal and State Type I and Type II Incident Management Teams where he has served in the capacity of an Operations Section Chief, Operations Branch Director, Division Supervisor, and Safety Officer. During this time, he responded to numerous fires and complex incidents across the United States, with the most recent incidents including the Mendocino Complex, Caldor, Dixie and Thomas Fires.

"We couldn't be prouder to welcome Chief Topoleski to the County Fire family," said Fire Chief Dan Munsey. "Jim's extensive experience in wildland and aviation firefighting provides a tremendous asset that will help us continue to protect the residents of San Bernardino County and their property. As the threat and intensity of wildland fires continue to grow by the year, **San Bernardino County Fire** is well positioned to mitigate and contain these continual threats to our great county."

"It has been a great honor to serve the people of Redlands over my career," said **San Bernardino County Fire** Division Chief Jim Topoleski. "Redlands Fire is a fantastic organization. I look forward to using the knowledge and experience I have acquired in my career in Redlands to serve the residents of San Bernardino County."

Throughout his career, Chief Topoleski has continuously sought higher education and training. He holds an associate's degree in General Studies and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from Columbia Southern University.

Chief Topoleski will succeed Division Chief Shane Glaze in leading the Wildland/Aviation program. Chief Glaze is retiring with over 23-years of service to the residents of San Bernardino County. Shane has been instrumental in advancing County Fire's dozer and handcrew programs. County Fire thanks Chief Glaze for his tireless efforts to protect San Bernardino County.

https://lomalinda.citynewsgroup.com/articles/chief-jim-topoleski-to-lead-wildlandaviation-programs

Public Works geared up and ready for storm season

By Staff Writer, MOHAVE VALLEY DAILY NEWS

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During storms, Public Works Operations Staff works 24 hours a day to plow up to 558 miles of road.

SAN BERNARDINO — Winter is here.

The official storm season for San Bernardino County Public Works started Oct. 15 and will continue through April 15.

As storms approach, Public Works, the Office of Emergency Services, law enforcement, County Fire and other internal and external agencies coordinate efforts to maximize the storm response.

Public Works is staged and ready for the season with 68 pieces of storm equipment and 97 during severe weather. During storms, Public Works Operations staff works 24 hours a day to plow up to 558 miles of roads.

Public Works has created a website for everything snow related with weather conditions, road closures, maps and links at https://snowinfo.sbcounty.gov/.

When visiting the mountains, check weather and road conditions, bring chains, and pack a blanket and emergency supply kit before you leave. Law enforcement will be ticketing illegally parked vehicles and reminds travelers that no side-of-the-road snow play is permitted at any time.

After the El Dorado and Apple Fire, San Bernardino County Flood Control began preparing for potential flooding in the burn scar areas. Residents should never ignore evacuation orders and can sign up for the Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS System) to receive emergency text messages on their smartphones.

To register, visit http://www.sbcounty.gov/SBCFire/TENS/TENSContact.aspx. Those without internet connections can sign up by calling 211 or 909-980-2857.

Public Works also created a website for residents near the El Dorado/Apple Fire burn scar area to help be prepared at https://burnareainfo.sbcounty.gov/.

https://mohavedailynews.com/news/136325/public-works-geared-up-and-ready-for-storm-season/