



Fire

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



James C. Ramos
Chair, Third District Supervisor



Robert A. Lovingood
Vice Chair, First District Supervisor



Janice Rutherford
Second District Supervisor



Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor



Josie Gonzales
Fifth District Supervisor



Gregory C. Devereaux
Chief Executive Officer

CEO MESSAGE

In government, no one accomplishes anything by themselves. Thanks to fire administration, County firefighters, the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Office working as a team, County Fire continues to make great strides toward increasing levels of stability and sustainability. Together we have explored several strategies to provide reliable, long-term revenue to County Fire, such as air ambulance service, ground transportation, and requiring jurisdictions that want County Fire service to annex to the district rather than simply contract. Crest Forest and most recently San Bernardino and Twentynine Palms have annexed, and we expect more in the future. I look forward to continuing to work with County Fire as we continue to help the County achieve its goal of creating a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.

Gregory C. Devereaux
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY VISION STATEMENT

We envision a complete county that capitalizes on the diversity of its people, its geography, and its economy to create a broad range of choices for its residents in how they live, work, and play.

We envision a vibrant economy with a skilled workforce that attracts employers who seize the opportunities presented by the County's unique advantages and provide the jobs that create countywide prosperity.

We envision a sustainable system of high quality education, community health, public safety, housing, retail, recreation, arts and culture, and infrastructure, in which development complements our natural resources and environment.

We envision a model community which is governed in an open and ethical manner, where great ideas are replicated and brought to scale, and all sectors work collaboratively to reach shared goals.

From our valleys, across our mountains, and into our deserts, we envision a county that is a destination for visitors and a home for anyone seeking a sense of community and the best life has to offer.



*"Where Courage,
Integrity and
Service Meet"*

Photo credit: HLM Photography

table of CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| YOUR FIRE CHIEF | 1 |
| COMMUNITIES SERVED | 3 |
| ADVANTAGES OF ANNEXATION | 4 |
| COUNTY FIRE STATIONS | 6 |
| AT A GLANCE | 9 |
| ORGANIZATION CHART | 10 |
| PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT | 11 |
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH | 12 |
| STATISTICS | 13 |
| OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHALL | 14 |
| OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES | 15 |
| BUDGET | 16 |
| GRANTS | 17 |
| MOVING FORWARD | 18 |
| YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT | 29 |

Like us on Facebook: San Bernardino County Fire
Follow us on Twitter @SBCountyFire
Sign up for emergency alerts at www.sbcfire.org

Photo contributions by SBCoFire photographers Louis Penna & Brandon Barsugli unless otherwise noted.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Community based all risk emergency services organization dedicated to the health and well-being of the citizens of San Bernardino County through a balance of regionalized services delivery and accountability to the local community."

VISION STATEMENT

"Committed to Providing Premier Fire Services"

Photo credit: HLM Photography

YOUR FIRE CHIEF

Duty, Honor, Community

SERVICE MOTTO



responders are expected to be experts in more skills and subjects today than ever before. There is often not enough time during a typical shift for the amount of technical training and formal education that firefighters and first responders must complete between calls for service.

The knowledge and expertise required by the staff that support our firefighters and first responders including inspectors, dispatchers, mechanics, emergency services officers and haz-mat specialists is equally as daunting. San Bernardino County, by its sheer size and geographic diversity, is presented with unique challenges every day. As an example of the operational complexities facing our personnel, at the same time that District Fire crews were deployed to a recent vegetation fire this past year, other County Fire teams were responding to swift water rescues in another part of the District.

One of the challenges of serving such a large and diverse area is maintaining accountability to our local communities. We work hard to bring the operational

We often challenge each other at County Fire to "be better". We believe when our communities need us we must be at our very best, and simply being "proficient" often isn't good enough.

Firefighters and District first

responders are expected to be experts in more skills and subjects today than ever before. There is often not enough time during a typical shift for the amount of technical training and formal education that firefighters and first responders must complete between calls for service.

and financial benefits of regional service delivery and still be your small town local fire department. We empower our employees at all levels to make decisions. We hire great people at County fire and immediately start preparing them for the next step in their career by involving them in decision making and problem solving. We believe that our role as leaders at County Fire is to develop the next generation of leaders.

Currently Count fire serves roughly 1 million residents. This past year we worked closely with the cities of San Bernardino and Twentynine Palms to join the County Fire District. These cities along with Needles, worked for most of the year to transfer their respective fire powers into the County Fire District through annexation. Annexation provides the most sustainable long-term solution for the regional delivery of fire, rescue and emergency medical services. Annexation involves the permanent transfer of property taxes to the District and therefore requires the consideration and approval of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The process is lengthy but is through and transparent.

I have been privileged to lead County Fire for over 5 years. I couldn't be more proud to serve alongside such a dedicated and professional group of men and women. We will continue to find ways to "be better" every day as we proudly serve as your County Fire District.

Yours in Service,

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief/Fire Warden



COMMUNITIES SERVED

City of Adelanto
 Amboy
 Angelus Oaks
 Baker
 Baldy Mesa
 Barton Flats
 Big River
 Black Meadow Landing
 Bloomington
 Blue Jay
 Cedar Glen
 Crest Park
 Crestline

Deer Lodge Park
 Devore
 Earp
 El Mirage
 Fawnskin
 Flamingo Heights
 City of Fontana
 Forest Falls
 City of Grand Terrace
 Green Valley Lake
 Harvard
 Havasu Landing
 Helendale

City of Hesperia
 Hinkley
 Johnson Valley
 Joshua Tree
 Lake Arrowhead
 Lake Gregory
 Landers
 Lucerne Valley
 Ludlow
 Lytle Creek
 Mentone
 Mount Baldy
 Mountain Home Village

Mountain Pass
 Mountain View Acres
 Muscoy
 City of Needles
 Oak Hills
 Oro Grande
 Panorama Heights
 Park Moabi
 Phelan
 Pinon Hills
 Pioneertown
 Red Mountain
 San Antonio Heights

Searles Valley/Trona
 Silver Lakes
 Sky Forest
 Spring Valley Lake
 Summit Valley
 Twin Peaks
 City of Victorville
 Windy Acres
 Wonder Valley
 Wrightwood
 Town of Yucca Valley

THE ADVANTAGES OF FIRE PROTECTION ANNEXATION

Throughout the years, the San Bernardino County Fire District has assumed fire protection services in a growing number of communities throughout the county. This has happened as SBCoFD has offered itself as an option to cities and fire districts looking to partner with their neighbor.

In 2016, two cities were annexed into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, transferring fire protection responsibilities to SBCoFD. Each city has decided to annex in order to enhance services to their communities.

Of all the different methods that can lead to SBCoFD services, annexation may be the least understood process.

Annexation simply transfers land and associated services from the control of one entity to another. In regards to fire protection, it typically involves the transfer of services from one jurisdiction to another. SBCoFD views annexation as the preferred way of joining the San Bernardino County Fire District.

The recent transfer of service in the cities of Twentynine Palms and San Bernardino demonstrates a number of tangible benefits a community receives from annexation into SBCoFD.

First, annexation provides for a long-term, secure, and sustainable solution to establishing fire protection services in a community. Unlike service contracts, which are typically short-term and are more expensive over the long haul, annexations are a permanent cost-effective approach to acquiring fire protection services.



Second, annexed areas and its citizens benefit from SBCoFD's depth of resources and programs. While areas serviced under annual contracts may only receive the services contracted for, special emergency services such as urban search and rescue, swift water rescue, air operations, dozer operations, aircraft rescue and firefighting, hand crews, and more are immediately available to areas within SBCoFD's protection district. Additionally, communities circumvent the large investment required to establish these programs.

Citizens in communities that annex into SBCoFD also benefit from economies of scale. A proportionate savings is achieved because costs are spread out over a larger regional service model. SBCoFD's operational efficiencies and synergy of service reduce variable costs that can typically affect smaller departments, resulting in greater strength of service and cost stability.

Other benefits to citizens and cities include reduced overhead costs due to centralized management and dispatch services, increased opportunities for grants and federal programs they may not have qualified for before.

San Bernardino County Fire and the County of San Bernardino believe that annexation is a municipality's most beneficial approach to securing fire protection services for their community.



Photo credit: Terri Nielsen



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE STATIONS

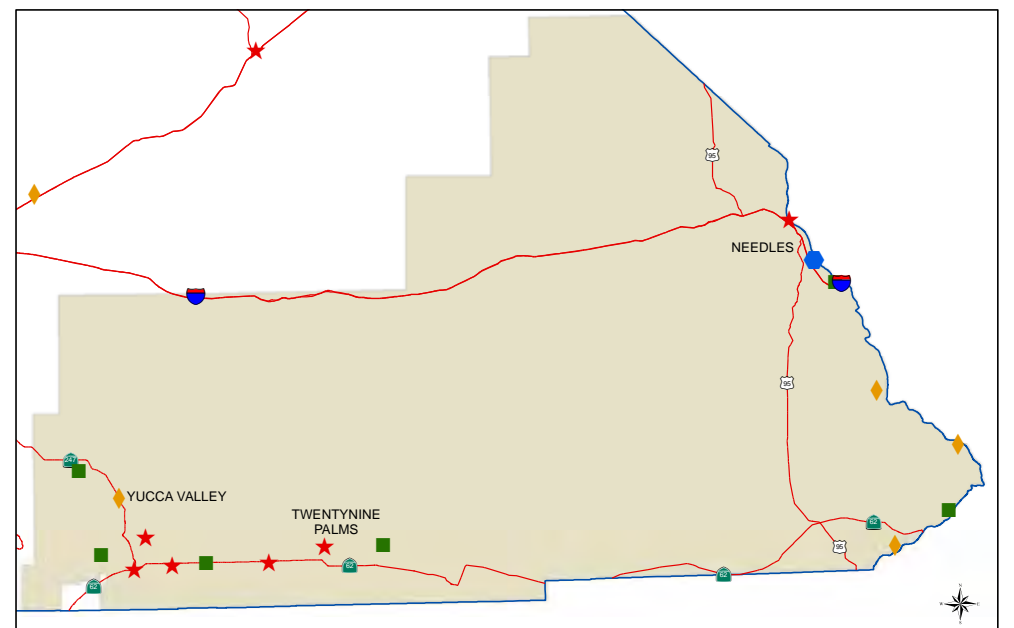
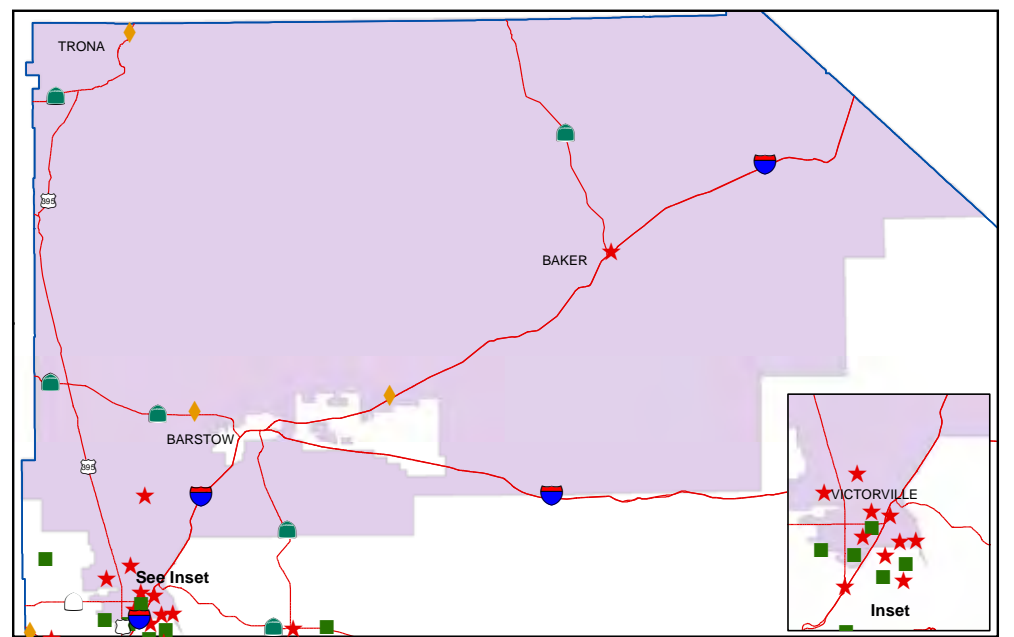
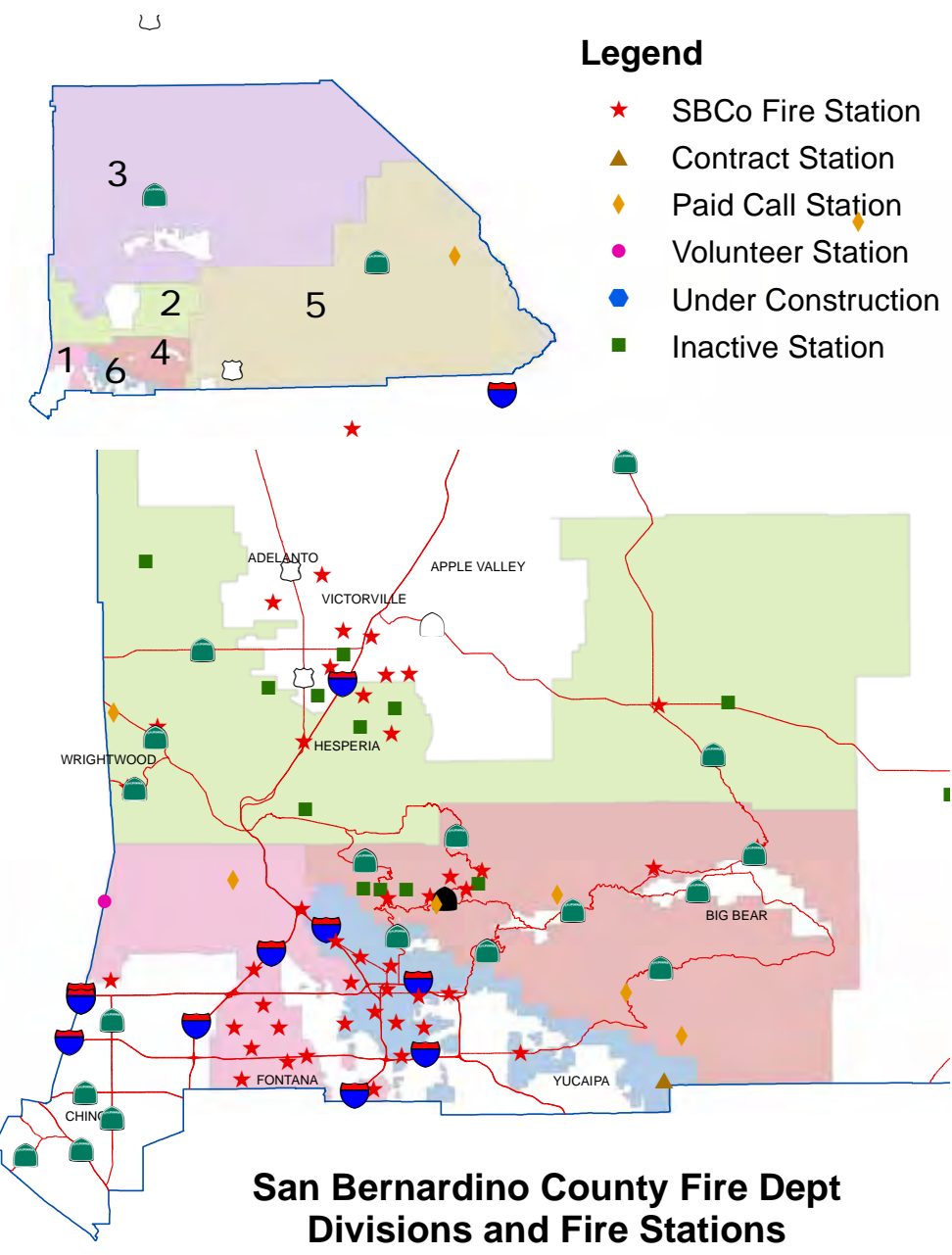


Photo credit: HLM Photography



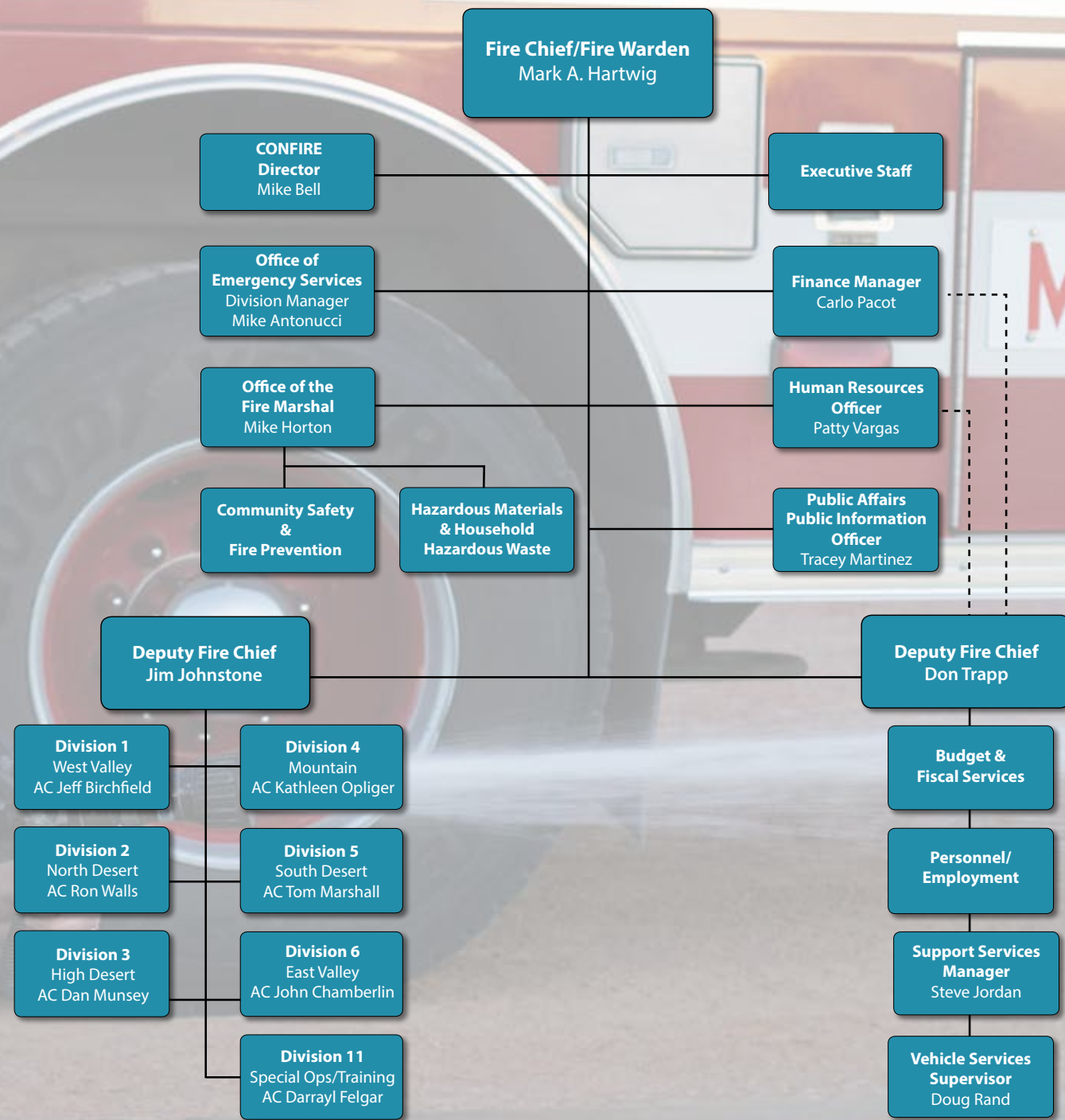
| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Square Miles in the County | 20,160 |
| Square Miles Covered by County Fire | 19,130 |
| Population in San Bernardino County | Over 2 Million |
| Incorporated Cities | 24 |
| Number of Active Fire Stations | 65 |
| Number of Fire Personnel | 843 |
| Number of Fire Suppression Personnel | 511 |
| 2015/16 Calls for Service | 88,996 |
| County Fire Budget | \$161,328,133 |

AT A GLANCE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

- The fifth largest county in California in terms of population with just over two million residents
- The largest county in the contiguous U.S. in terms of land area
- SBCoFire proudly serves San Bernardino County. The cities of Adelanto, Fontana, Hesperia, Needles and Victorville contract with SBCoFire for fire, EMS, and rescue services.



Photo credit: Kristian Cavada



PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT

| Personnel Position | SBCo Fire | SB City & 29 Palms |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Fire Chief | 1 | |
| Deputy Chief | 1 | |
| Assistant Chief | 1 | 1 |
| Fire Marshal | 1 | |
| Deputy Fire Marshal | 1 | |
| Division Chief | 6 | |
| Battalion Chief | 16 | 3 |
| Captain | 123 | 39 |
| Engineer | 115 | 39 |
| Firefighter | 152 | 45 |
| Limited-Term Firefighter | 24 | |
| *Paid-Call Firefighter | 70 | 1 |
| Suppression Total | 511 | 128 |
| Professional Staff | 219 | 2 |
| Fire Suppression Aides | 41 | |
| Ambulance Operators | 72 | |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL | 843 | 130 |

* Paid-Call Firefighters fluctuate throughout the year
7/1/16 San Bernardino City & 29 Palms Fire Depts will annex into Co Fire

| Equipment | SBCo Fire | SB City & 29 Palms |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Airport Rescue Units | 6 | |
| Ambulances | 42 | |
| Boats | 3 | |
| Brush Engines (Type 3) | 22 | 5 |
| Brush Patrols (Type 6) | 31 | 1 |
| Command Posts | 3 | |
| Communication Support Vehicles | 3 | |
| Crew Carriers | 12 | |
| Dozers | 2 | |
| Fire Engines (Type 1 and Type 2) | 80 | 22 |
| Foam Units | 2 | |
| Hazardous Materials Rigs | 2 | 1 |
| Hazardous Materials Squads | 9 | |
| Ladder Trucks | 7 | 5 |
| Loaders | 9 | |
| Rescues | 6 | 2 |
| Snow Cats | 8 | |
| Squads | 11 | 1 |
| Water Tenders | 23 | |

7/1/16 San Bernardino City & 29 Palms Fire Depts will annex into Co Fire

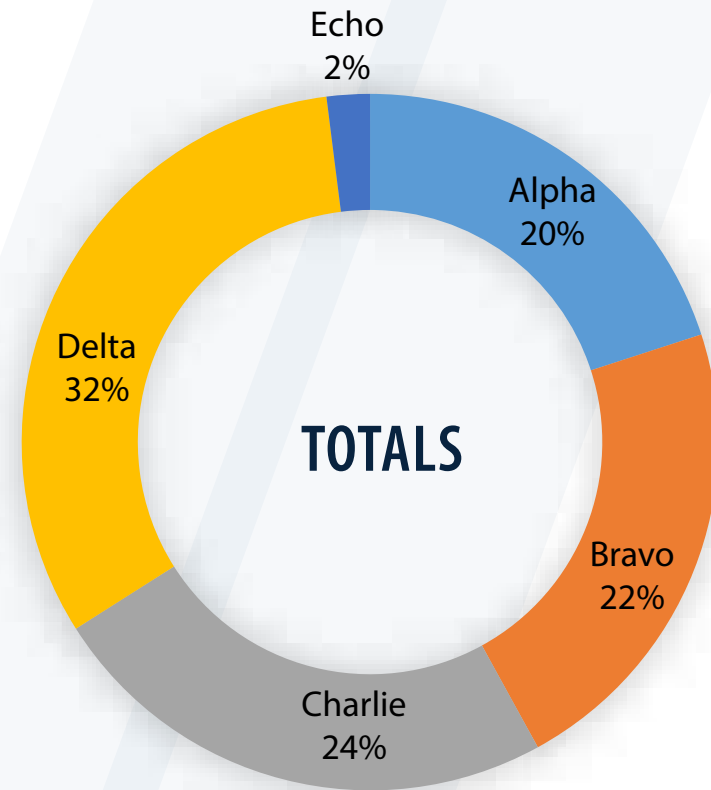


EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH

The Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) is a medically-approved, unified system used to dispatch appropriate aid to medical emergencies including systematized caller interrogation and pre-arrival instructions. MPDS starts with the dispatcher asking the caller key questions. These questions allow the dispatchers to categorize the call by chief complaint and set a determinant level ranging from A (minor) to E (immediately life threatening) relating to the severity of the patient's condition.

Each call is assigned a sub-category or code, often used as a means of gathering further statistics about performance. Each category is numbered from 1 (abdominal pain) through 32 (unknown). This is used for brevity and privacy over the radio. It also helps in analyzing the call; comparing how the call was described by the informant, to the injury or illness found when the crew attends. This can then be used to help improve the questioning system which gives the MPDS classification.

| LETTER | SERIOUS LIFE THREAT | RESOURCES | RESPONSE |
|---------|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| Alpha | Non Life-Threatening | Basic Life Support | Non-Emergency |
| Bravo | Possibly Life-Threatening | Basic Life Support | Emergency |
| Charlie | Life-Threatening | Advanced Life Support | Emergency |
| Delta | Serious Life Threat | Advanced Life Support | Emergency |
| Echo | Life Status Questionable | Closest Available (Multiple Resources Sent) | Emergency |



MEDICAL AID CALLS



STATISTICS

| INCIDENT TYPE | DIVISION 1 (Valley) + Contract City of Fontana | | DIVISION 2 (North Desert) + Contract City of Hesperia & Adelanto | | DIVISION 3 (High Desert) + Contract City of Victorville | | DIVISION 4 (Mountains) | | DIVISION 5 (South Desert) + Contract City of Needles | | TOTALS | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|---|----------|--|----------|------------------------|----------|---|----------|----------|----------|
| | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 |
| Structure Fires | 179 | 190 | 157 | 166 | 182 | 193 | 32 | 34 | 70 | 74 | 620 | 659 |
| Vegetation Fires | 137 | 145 | 113 | 120 | 131 | 139 | 32 | 34 | 46 | 48 | 459 | 488 |
| Vehicle Fires | 270 | 287 | 167 | 177 | 239 | 254 | 35 | 37 | 95 | 101 | 806 | 857 |
| Other Fires * | 333 | 354 | 254 | 270 | 256 | 272 | 35 | 47 | 98 | 104 | 986 | 1,048 |
| Rescues | 51 | 54 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 17 | 18 | 26 | 27 | 145 | 154 |
| Medical Calls | 16,396 | 17,435 | 14,818 | 15,757 | 11,729 | 12,472 | 2,725 | 2,897 | 5,706 | 6,067 | 51,374 | 54,631 |
| Traffic Collisions | 1,487 | 1,581 | 1,200 | 1,276 | 730 | 776 | 149 | 158 | 297 | 315 | 3,863 | 4,107 |
| Traffic Collisions with Extrication | 48 | 51 | 34 | 36 | 50 | 53 | 8 | 9 | 27 | 28 | 167 | 177 |
| Hazardous Materials Incidents ** | 434 | 461 | 266 | 282 | 276 | 293 | 89 | 94 | 117 | 124 | 1,182 | 1,256 |
| Public Service *** | 1,954 | 2,077 | 1,696 | 1,803 | 1,601 | 1,702 | 436 | 463 | 664 | 706 | 46,351 | 6,753 |
| Other Incidents | 3,300 | 3,509 | 4,285 | 4,556 | 7,647 | 8,131 | 1,017 | 1,081 | 1,493 | 1,587 | 17,742 | 18,866 |
| FY 14/15 Totals | 24,589 | | 23,014 | | 22,868 | | 4,585 | | 8,639 | | 83,695 | |
| FY 15/16 Totals | | 26,144 | | 24,468 | | 24,316 | | 4,872 | | 9,181 | | 88,996 |

*Other Fires include rubbish fires, chimney fires, cooking fires, outside storage fires - **Haz-Mat Incidents include explosions, fireworks, hazardous materials such as chemical, biological, and electrical hazards with no fire involved
 ***Public Service calls include false alarms & weather related incidents - Calls are anticipated to increase by an estimated 36,000 with the completion of the annexation of San Bernardino City and 29 Palms Fire Departments.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

| DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES | COUNTY AREAS | CITY OF FONTANA | CITY OF HESPERIA | *CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO | CITY OF VICTORVILLE | TOTALS |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Investigations | 231 | 75 | 56 | 40 | 98 | 500 |
| Annual Inspections | 455 | N/A | 441 | 129 | N/A | 1,025 |
| Plan Reviews | 1,175 | 1,209 | 238 | 320 | N/A | 9,943 |
| Planning Inspections | 2,317 | 4,512 | 154 | 855 | N/A | 7,838 |
| Special Event Inspections | 207 | 21 | 20 | 28 | N/A | 276 |

* City of San Bernardino investigation STATS are from Oct. 2015 - July 2016



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION

| HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATION, RESPONSE, REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, CUPA | FY 14/15 | FY 15/16 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Regulated Facilities | 6,629 | 6,834 |
| Facility Inspections | 5,403 | 5,671 |
| Non-Emergency Calls | 330 | 316 |
| Haz-Mat Team Responses | 166 | 146 |
| Underground Storage Tank Facilities | 783 | 821 |
| Underground Storage Tank Systems | 2,164 | 2,258 |
| Requests for Records & Certified Records Research | 780 | 717 |
| HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & SMALL BUSINESS | | |
| Pounds of Hazardous Waste Managed | 3,352,654 | 3,424,154 |
| Residents Served | 51,664 | 53,875 |
| Businesses Served | 201 | 230 |



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated a total of seven times in the reporting period between June 2015 and June 2016. Ironically in a year that was forecast by National Weather Service to be an "El Nino" flood year, the Operational Area EOC activated only twice in 2015 for local "flood events", although in January of 2016, there was a "Winter Storm Event" triggered by snowfall.

On July 17, the North Fire erupted in the median between north and southbound Interstate 15 traffic in the Cajon Pass during the peak of the usual Las Vegas weekend migration. Within minutes, the conflagration trapped motorists and first responders alike. The final 4,250 acres burned with fire damaging three houses and eight out buildings. Twenty vehicles were destroyed when flames overtook stranded motorists and another 10 were damaged.

The largest of the flood related EOC Activations was for the "Hurricane" Delores Storm Event that followed immediately on the heels of the fast moving North Fire. Between the fire and the resulting flood damage, the pair of summertime natural disasters ran up combined initial damage estimates of nearly \$900,000.

Finally, no incident the County OA EOC activated for in 2015 or in years prior, has ever had a more devastating human toll than the Waterman Terror Incident of December 2, 2015. From the very first reports of gunfire at the Inland Regional Center relayed to us by San Bernardino City SWAT members participating in Terrorism II Training in the OES training room, OES Staff and Management began developing situational awareness and developing the "big picture" for the county policy group and OA stakeholders.

In this activation, we were victims as well as responders; we lost county coworkers and friends. In the chaotic first hours while first responders were still in harm's way, there was much to do in support of both the City of San Bernardino and County leadership. OES immediately activated the County EOC, fulfilling the division's mission to "strengthen countywide emergency management to ensure the protection of life and property".

OES earned the title of "first responder" in every sense of the phrase during this activation, deploying an Officer as an ICP/EOC Liaison to the Waterman Incident Command Post. EOC Director Mike Antonucci coordinated response planning meetings for the County Executive Officer from the OES Conference Room and the EOC facilitated the delivery of vital resources such as lighting, IT support and relayed the initial request for the support of our SBCFD Type III IMT on behalf of the Waterman Deputy Incident Commander.

OES can also be counted among the County's "last responders", as from the beginning of the recovery phase, OES was involved in the coordination of the FBI Family Assistance Center at the Orange Show. Six months later, OES continues to support Waterman Incident cost recovery, ongoing resource requests and after action activities that may well carry into 2017.

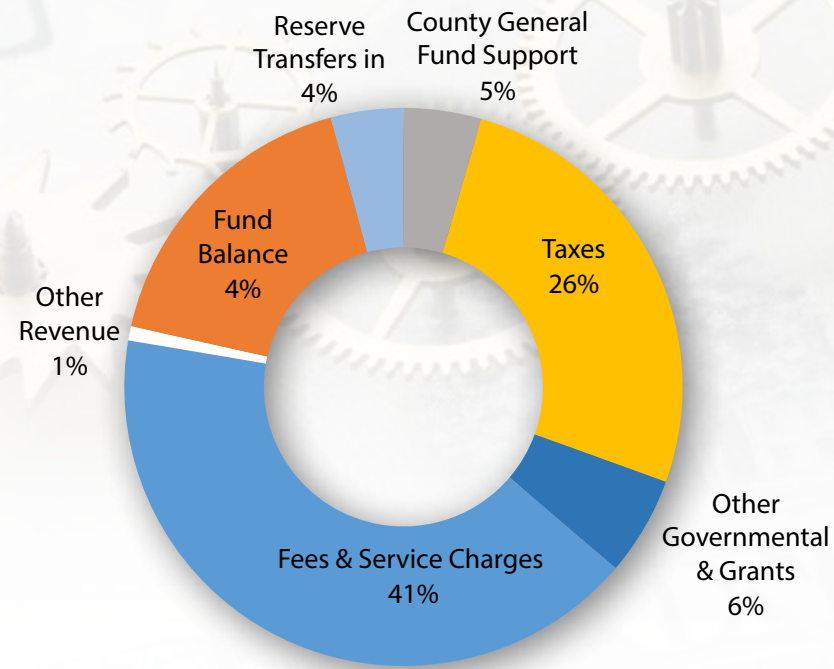
OES is grateful to have fulfilled our county fire role and to have served our purpose as emergency managers in this shared tragedy. We mourn with and for our County Environmental Health friends and are proud of the collaboration with so many county departments. Moving forward, there is no better use of our time and talents than to honor those who lost their lives and those whose lives forever changed on December 2nd than to continue to support and coordinate the Waterman Incident recovery efforts of our county leadership.

2015-2016 BUDGET

San Bernardino County Fire Department Budgeted Revenue & Expenditures by Category Fiscal Year 2015/2016

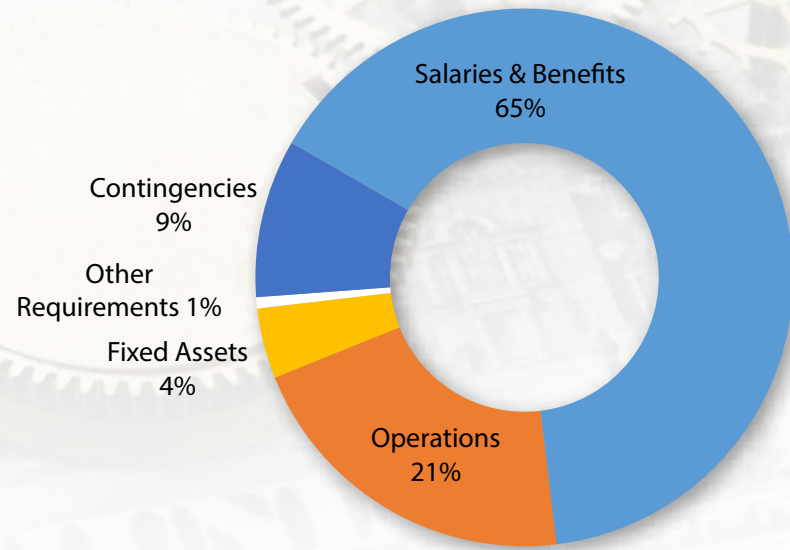
Financing Sources

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| County General Fund Support | \$7,261,338 |
| Taxes | \$41,987,757 |
| Other Governmental & Grants | \$9,227,589 |
| Fees & Service Charges | \$66,829,912 |
| Other Revenue | \$1,335,588 |
| Fund Balance | \$27,923,999 |
| Reserve Transfers In | \$6,761,950 |
| TOTAL | \$161,328,133 |



Expenditures

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits | \$104,473,272 |
| Operations | \$33,596,471 |
| Fixed Assets | \$6,827,885 |
| Other Requirements | \$1,086,226 |
| Contingencies | \$15,344,279 |
| TOTAL | \$161,328,133 |



Capital Set-Asides

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Capital Replacement | 23,163,582 |
| Termination Benefits | 6,152,466 |
| TOTAL | \$29,316,048 |

GRANTS

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The San Bernardino County Fire-Office of Emergency Services (OES) manages the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for the San Bernardino County Operational Area (OA). Through coordination with the Approval Authority, the grant award is allocated among local jurisdictions, law enforcement and fire agencies, and other local agencies for planning, training/exercise, and equipment projects that meet the objectives and strategies of HSGP.

The 2015 HSGP award for the entire OA was \$2,199,196. Cal OES encouraged that a majority of the projects focus on countering terrorism, therefore the jurisdictions used their HSGP allocations to purchase personal protective equipment for special task force units to respond and assist in response to active shooter incidents, thermal imaging optics for identification and informational field purposes, public address systems, and personnel/package screening systems. OES continues the enhancement of the San Bernardino County CERT program through CERT equipment (backpacks, hardhats, and vests), Portable Video Teleconferencing systems, and vehicles for emergency management first responders. With these grant funds, OES is also developing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, a requirement of FEMA to be eligible for mitigation grant funding which supports several public works projects.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT

The FY2015 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) allocation of \$560,626 allowed the emergency management community of San Bernardino County to complete various training, planning, and equipment projects. Utilizing 2015 EMPG, cities/towns were able to revise their Emergency Operations Plans (EOP), develop and implement a Multi-Year Training Plan, and enhance or maintain their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs. Cities/towns, and County departments were committed to provide resources while responding to and repairing damage caused by severe weather storms. OES used its 2015 EMPG allocation to purchase an Earthquake Simulator Training Trailer to train all residents about the important aspects of Drop, Cover, and Hold On and information about the Great California ShakeOut program.

MOUNTAIN RESIDENTS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE WITH ROOF REPLACEMENT

County Fire continues working with FEMA to execute the Legislative Pre Disaster Management Grant (LPDM) grant to replace wood shake shingle roofs in mountain residential areas. As these areas are designated high fire hazard in the County's Development Code, eliminating wood shingle roofs will reduce the potential for a catastrophic wildland fire. By working in collaboration with County Fire, Big Bear Lake Fire, the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce, and Cal OES, and within the FEMA guidelines, the homeowner can receive from FEMA 70% of the replacement cost up to \$4,500.

Through team efforts of County Fire and Big Bear Lake Fire, the planning phase (PL14) and the implementation of the re-roofing project (PJ02) have been completed ahead of schedule which resulted in savings that were reallocated to the final re-roofing project (PJ15) of the LPDM grant. As of June 30, 2015, the last re-roofing project (PJ15) is 90% complete and is ahead of schedule. The LPDM grant would be considered complete after re-roofing 23 remaining wood shingle roofs with the period of performance ending in April 2017.



MOVING FORWARD

SBCOFD ESTABLISHES DIVISION 6

A new division has been added to San Bernardino County Fire's organizational structure for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Division 6, also known as the East Valley Division, was created in early 2016 to accommodate the completion of the City of San Bernardino's annexation into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District.

The division's boundaries split the former Valley Division (Division 1) into two, renaming Division 1 as the West Valley Division. Division 6 encompasses all of the City of San Bernardino and the East Valley region with a total of 11 full-time fire stations. The division's most western boundary begins near the I-215/I-15 interchange, travels northwest to southeast along the base of the San Bernardino mountains and contains Station 9 in Mentone before ending along the Riverside/San Bernardino county line.

Assistant Chief John Chamberlin, previously assigned as Division Chief of the South Desert Division, has been reassigned to lead the new division and help guide the transition of the San Bernardino City Fire Department into SBCoFD. Service from Division 6 stations goes into effect July 1, 2016.



ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY IN SAN BERNARDINO CITY

On July 1, 2016, SBCoFD will assume fire protection and emergency medical service responsibilities in the City of San Bernardino and welcome over 100 new employees into the County Fire family from the San Bernardino Fire Department. The transfer of command will finalize the city's annexation into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, estimated to save the city \$7 million annually while filling 17 previously vacant positions.

SBCoFD will staff 10 city stations with full-time personnel to cover the 60 square mile service area that is home to over 200,000 residents. A new squad unit will be assigned within the city to respond to low-severity medical aid calls, increasing availability and ensuring quicker response to higher-level calls. Residents can also expect nearby county fire stations to help provide faster response times and assist city units during high call volume. New resources will be directly available in the city such as heavy equipment dozers and front loaders, hand crews, and Type III incident management team.

San Bernardino has received the highest level of fire protection from their fire department for over 100 years, and San Bernardino County Fire is honored to continue that level of service moving forward.

CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS TO JOIN THE COUNTY FIRE FAMILY

This year SBCoFD will also see the completion of the annexation of fire protection services in the Twentynine Palms Water District, the overseeing agency of the Twentynine Palms Fire Department over the last 58 years. As of July 1, 2016, SBCoFD will staff a full-time crew including a firefighter paramedic, at fire Station 43 (formerly Twentynine Palms Fire Department Station 421) to cover the 88 square mile service area that responds to approximately 2,500 calls for assistance each year.

With SBCoFD's economies of scale, nearby county fire stations will help improve response times and assist units during high call volume. Residents can rely on new resources made available to their communities such as full-time paramedic service, hand crews, dozer operations, and an incident management team. True to our vision statement, we are committed to providing premier fire services in the communities we serve while preserving a regionalized service delivery. San Bernardino County Fire is proud to now serve the city of Twentynine Palms and its residents with the highest level of fire protection and professionalism.

STATION 32 BREAKS GROUND

On November 9, 2015 community members and dignitaries witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fire Station 32 in Needles.

The 6,300 square foot station will allow room for future growth of fire protection services to the City of Needles and unincorporated regions of the county including Park Moabi, the Colorado River recreation area, and the Interstate 40 and Highway 95 corridors.

The project budget is \$3.6 million with funding from a Community Development Block Grant and the county's discretionary general fund. Construction is projected to be completed by November 2016.

About 1,100 calls for service occur in the Needles area annually. SBCoFD has supervised fire protection services for the City of Needles since 1977.





STATION 73 HOSTS GRAND OPENING

Hundreds of people gathered in Fontana on March 18, 2016 to watch Fire Station 73 open its bay doors for an official Grand Opening. The ceremony included a building dedication in honor of two Fontana firefighters, Retired Captain Dennis Cunningham and Retired Captain Robert Green. Both men served as firefighters at the original Fire Station 73 on Arrow Boulevard that opened in 1959.

With Fontana growing at a rapid pace, the new Fire Station 73 will have the most effective and efficient delivery of services for fire protection, emergency response, paramedic, ambulance, and disaster preparedness to residents and landowners while assisting the surrounding communities as needed.

The new location will continue to serve residents near the heart of the city as well as those in the northern stretches of Fontana. By moving just one mile away from the original location, response times will be improved when accessing all properties north of Foothill Boulevard.

SBCoFD would like to thank and congratulate all the partners that made Station 73 possible: Mayor Acquanetta Warren and the Fontana City Council, City of Fontana, PCN 3 Inc. Contractors, WLC Architects, Inc., and San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935.

911: CALL IF YOU CAN, TEXT IF YOU CAN'T

Another option to call for emergency help became available to residents in 2015, text to 9-1-1.

"Call if you can, text if you can't," is the slogan developed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as the new technology made its debut in parts of California.

Local San Bernardino County law enforcement and fire agency dispatch centers are equipped to receive and respond to mobile phone SMS text to 9-1-1 messages. This service is available for use by the deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech impaired, and in situations where it is too dangerous to make a voice call to 9-1-1.

To text to 9-1-1 during an emergency, simply write a message on your phone and send it to 9-1-1. San Bernardino County Dispatch Centers are trained and ready to assist callers who, for whatever reason, are unable to call 9-1-1.

RED GUIDE TO RECOVERY

The Red Guide to Recovery (Red Guide) is a comprehensive, easy-to-read post incident recovery tool that walks disaster survivors step-by-step through the recovery process. Utilizing 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) grant funds, OES engaged in a planning project to customize the Red Guide to meet the needs of the County Fire service areas. Starting with the basic Red Guide template, San Bernardino County specific contact information, programs, and services were added to the document. The guide includes detailed chapters on topics including:

- Emergency services to secure/protect property
- Displacement and relocation tips
- Disaster relief and financial assistance
- Homeowners & renters insurance issues
- Personal property considerations
- Smoke and water damage information
- Selecting a qualified contractor
- Public insurance adjuster services
- Hazardous material concerns
- Safety and precautions after a disaster
- Trauma intervention and grief counseling
- Avoiding disaster scams
- Phone directory and websites
- Estimating repair costs to structural damages

In March 2016, copies of the Red Guide were distributed to the engine companies and the Office of the Fire Marshal inspectors as their personnel will be the first line of contact for those impacted by home fires, floods, etc. Personnel can now hand out Red Guides on-scene as a lifeline and offer that little glimmer of hope to those in despair who undoubtedly feel hopeless.



SBCOFD EQUIPS ITS FIRST FEMALE INMATE HAND CREW

The first County Female Inmate Hand Crew, also known as Glen Helen Crew 15-9, was announced in November 2014. The 13-member female inmate hand crew began their 8-week training in July 2015, with a curriculum consisting of wildland fire suppression techniques, along with the basic Incident Command System, first-aid, CPR, confined space awareness, chainsaw operations, and small engine and facility repair.

The hand crew's main objective is to assist with local fuels reduction programs and chipping operations, and assist other county departments in meeting their mission in a cost effective manner, saving the county an estimated \$1,000,000 per year. The crew also responds to fire suppression incidents as well as other types of emergency operations such as sandbagging.

The program's benefits are multifold as it provides a cost-effective approach to completing various labor intensive projects and teaches crew members the skills they will need upon their reentry to gain future employment.

Since completing the academy, the female inmate hand crew was deployed to assist in a Victorville vegetation fire and in preparation for El Nino. With the implementation of AB109 (inmate realignment), many inmates are receiving longer sentences and are good candidates for this program.

LOCAL FIRE EXPLORERS EARN LEADING ROLES AT ACADEMY

The SBCoFD Fire Explorer Program is open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21. Explorers participate in a wide variety of firefighter training, and gain experience that may lead them to a career in professional firefighting.

Part of their training can include the annual Explorer Academy, held at the Fort Irwin National Training Center. Run by the Inland Empire Fire Explorer Association (IEFEA), the Academy is a five day camp where Explorers participate in a number of drills while getting hands on experience in fire suppression.

This year, two San Bernardino County Fire Explorers were selected for high ranking leadership roles. Jacob Sobrito, from the Lucerne Valley Post, served as Explorer Chief, the highest ranking position at the academy. From Victorville, David Hernandez achieved the rank of Division Chief.

The Academy offered training in three specific areas over three days of exercises. Explorers practiced drills such as self-rescue, how to rescue a down firefighter, and live structure fire which teaches about fire behavior and attacking fires.



HAND CREWS INCREASE ROLE IN FIRE SUPPRESSION

SBCoFD hand crews have become increasingly deployed during incidents over the last year. In addition to their work in wildland areas, hand crews are assigned to mop-up areas after fires are put out, ensuring that hotspots don't flare up and the fire is fully extinguished.

Hand crew teams such as Old Cajon Crew 6-1 and Glen Helen Crew 15-1 serve multiple roles in fire suppression as they can create firelines, defensible space, and conduct mop-up operations, improving efficiency and relieving firefighters and medic engines to return back to service.

SBCoFD hand crews have also played a role in community beautification efforts. In Feb. 2016, the Needles Downtown Business Association decided to help restore a historic landmark, the Needles Wayside Rest Area. Glen Helen Crew 15-1 lent a helping hand by removing invasive vegetation and bringing the aesthetic appeal of the landmark back to what it once was.

Hand crews are just one of many ways that SBCoFD serves with Duty, Honor, and Community.





ENGINES OUTFITTED WITH NEW TABLET TECHNOLOGY

Division 2 apparatus were equipped with new iPads in March 2016, allowing for the delivery of safer and more efficient service to the public.

Funded by a Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters grant, the iPads will serve as mobile data computers (MDCs) that allow for real-time incident notifications, mapping, and resource tracking for SBCoFD firefighters.

The devices have the latest incident command software which allow incident commanders to tap-and-drag emergency units onto an incident map, track progress against critical checklists, and time stamp every maneuver and benchmark throughout an emergency response. These features improve crew safety by maintaining real time accountability throughout an incident and allowing vastly more accurate after-action reviews. Other wildland and EMS-related applications can assist personnel map out trainings, identify medications, and simulate other emergencies typically responded to.

SBCOFD LAUNCHES REDESIGNED SBCFIRE.ORG

A redesigned sbcfire.org launched in July 2016 with new user friendly navigation and features. SBCoFD added some new features to the website such as:

- Real-time Current Job Openings on the Human Resources page
- New Fire Stations map in Google Maps format
- Redesigned safety preparedness information on the Public Education page
- New Volunteer Programs page that details volunteer opportunities for residents
- Press Room page that includes multimedia content such as press releases, newsclips, SBCoFD produced videos, and TV news video clips highlighting the department
- Mobile optimization for easy access and Smart device compatibility

SBCOFD TRAINS IN MULTI-AGENCY ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS

In 2016, SBCoFD Firefighter Paramedics in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 (West Valley, High Desert, North Desert) participated in three-part escalated threat drills. During these drills, firefighters teamed up as a rescue task force which combines an engine company with law enforcement for protection. The goal is to quickly triage, treat massive hemorrhage, and remove victims from the hazardous area. This specific drill was centered around an active shooter at an abandoned school in the city.

This is a new concept and a shift from past operations. Previous procedures required firefighters to stage outside the area in question until law enforcement cleared and secured the entire scene. This new concept emphasizes a unified command approach between the two agencies. As areas are cleared rescue task force teams enter to rapidly triage, treat, and remove victims. This was all initially made possible with a Federal Homeland Security Grant of \$414,000 to purchase the initial vests, triage packs, and ballistic helmets; in all over 400 vests were purchased.

SBCoFD will continue to deploy this type of training throughout the communities we serve.

TOWERS 6 & 7 GRADUATION

SBCoFD added 66 new Firefighter/Paramedic Trainees to its department roster in the 2015-16 fiscal year as Tower 6 and Tower 7 cadres completed their combined 30 weeks of training with Captain Dustin Krajieski and the Training Division team.

Tower 6 began their training August 2015 and concluded in November 2015 with 18 new graduates moving on to active duty. Tower 7 started training March 2016 and finished July 2016 with 48 graduates.

All of the graduates endured intense physical and mental training as they overcame fears and learned to work together as a SBCoFD team. Each of the graduates hit the ground running and assigned to stations throughout the county immediately following their graduations.



HERO KID SAVES FAMILY FROM FIRE

In the early morning of November 7, 2015, SBCoFD received numerous 911 calls reporting a structure fire near the community of Phelan. First arriving units reported heavy smoke and fire showing from two sides of a single story home. Crews were met by the occupants of the home, a 5-year-old boy named Nathaniel Stocks and his grandmother, stating that everyone was out of the home except the family dog, a Chihuahua.

Firefighters immediately went into offensive attack mode in an effort to locate and confine the fire, and conduct a primary search. As a result of this search, the family pet was located hiding in the bathroom and was rescued by county firefighters. Preliminary investigation determined the origin to be a space heater placed too close to combustible materials.

Coincidentally, just the week before, a group of kindergarteners from Phelan Elementary School toured County Fire Station 10 in Phelan. All the students were given lessons on fire safety which included "Stop, Drop and Roll," EDITH drills (Exit Drills in the Home), and when to call 911. Among the students was Nathaniel, the young boy who awoke coughing from the smoke and noticed the fire burning in his room. He exited his bed and crawled beneath the smoke up the hallway to alert his grandmother to the fire. Because of this young hero's actions, both he and his grandmother were able to escape the growing inferno.

Nathaniel was praised as a hero after his efforts helped save his grandmother and himself, and his story made national headlines. Station 10 decided to honor him with a special plaque commemorating his actions, and the Board of Supervisors gave him special recognition during the January 12, 2015 board meeting.

County Fire gives station tours and fire safety lessons to schools, scouts, and other community groups. Knowing this information proved valuable for Nathaniel, and it has proven valuable for others during emergencies as well. Teaching kids skills such as stop, drop and roll, and to crawl beneath smoke will help ensure that other families make it out of burning buildings alive.



ADT HONORS SBCOFD WITH LIFESAVING AWARD & \$5,000 GRANT

SBCoFD proudly received the LifeSaver Award from ADT in January 2015 for their response to a carbon monoxide call on December 29, 2015 to a Fontana family residence. ADT also presented a \$5,000 grant to SBCoFD that will be used to purchase lifesaving monitors which detect gas leaks producing the silent killer, carbon monoxide.

In the case of the Sandoval family, high winds blew out the pilot light on their water heater causing CO levels to build up in their home. Luckily, the Sandoval's carbon monoxide detector alarmed them to go outside where they waited for SBCoFD first responders. SBCoFD encourages residents to install carbon monoxide detectors and carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARDED FOR "CREATING CULTURE OF CONNECTIVITY"



The California Emergency Services Association awarded the Office of Emergency Services (OES) in September 2015 for demonstrating exceptional efforts in the field of emergency preparedness, emergency services, and emergency response.

OES earned the award through their development of the San Bernardino

County Operational Area (SBCOA) WebEOC Program, a tool that provides information sharing among county departments in the event of a local emergency. The WebEOC has expanded to be a daily operations tool for the OES management with over 40 county departments depending on the web-based information resource during disaster.

The end result is a proven communications model and the embodiment of the San Bernardino County Fire OES Mission: "Through leadership and guidance, strengthen countywide emergency management capabilities..."



FOREST FALLS RESCUES

A growing number of hiker injuries and air rescues have forced officials to close Upper Big Falls for one year as of October 8, 2015 for concern of public safety. Big Falls, a 500-foot-long series of waterfalls on Falls Creek that lead into Mill Creek in Forest Falls, saw three times as many rescues in 2015 compared to previous years. SBCoFD performed 14 rescues in 2013 and 16 rescues in 2014, but over 50 people suffered injuries in 2015 climbing up or down a 25-foot section of rock in the falls area.

MT. BALDY RESCUES

On February 8, 2016 U.S. Forest Service officials closed Baldy Bowl, Bear Flats, Icehouse Canyon, the Three Ts, Chapman and Devil’s Backbone trails near Mt. Baldy after the deaths of two hikers and multiple injuries required rescues in the week prior.

The trails reopened on February 12 after conditions warmed up, melting some of the ice and snow. On February 21 the narrow trails claimed its third fatality that month. San Bernardino County rescuers found a man 1,000 feet down the mountainside and transported him to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center where he was later pronounced dead.



OFF-SHORE HURRICANE BRINGS FLOODING TO COUNTY

Remnants of Hurricane Linda brought heavy rain storms, lightning, and bursts of hail to San Bernardino County in September 2015, breaking rainfall records while leaving multiple communities flooded and one man dead.

The slow moving storm caused flash floods in Forest Falls, putting hikers in danger. A Rancho Cucamonga man was swept away while attempting to cross Mill Creek’s swift waters; SBCoFD’s swift-water rescue team later found him dead.

SBCoFD crews rushed to aid High Desert residents when flooding near Bear Valley Road and Jacaranda Ave. left several vehicles trapped and one man swept away by rushing waters. SBCoFD’s swift-water rescue team was able to pull the man to safety after he was sucked into a storm drain and dumped into a small lake.

Thousands of residents were left without power from the storm. Flash flood watches were issued along with heat advisories as temperatures climbed upwards of 100 degrees in portions of the County.

DECEMBER 2ND ATTACK

The morning of Wednesday, December 2, 2015 started out like any other; go to work, take the kids to school, run errands. But around 11:30 a.m. the day turned into anything but normal. TV and radio programs switched over to live coverage of reporters talking about an active shooter in San Bernardino. Facebook and Twitter feeds filled with video clips of panic and tweets of uncertain fear. Our city quickly became national news for the worst reason.

While we all were trying to come to terms with what was happening and find out where our loved ones were, first responders rushed to the scene to do their jobs, saving lives and helping people.

As San Bernardino City Fire Department responded to the Waterman Incident with SBCoFD assisting with medical treatment, SBCoFD personnel also covered SBFD’s local stations and calls, providing fire and EMS services to the city. SBCoFD’s Type 3 Incident Management Team also responded to the scene, providing emergency resources and assistance where needed.

After the attack, SBCoFD served as a member of the presidential motorcade, escorting President Obama during his visit to San Bernardino on December 18 to meet with families and first responders.

SBCoFD will always remember the victims and families from the December 2 shooting. The County Fire family is proud to be, like the rest of our community, San Bernardino Strong.

EL NIÑO PREPARATION

Knowing that more deaths occur due to flooding than any other weather hazard, SBCoFD took a number of extra safety measures in 2015 in preparation for the El Niño storm system. Community meetings were held in Victorville, Yucca Valley, Rancho Cucamonga, and near Mt. Baldy/San Antonio Heights to raise awareness in neighborhoods most at-risk for flooding and precipitation-caused disaster. The first 50 attendees at these meetings received personal disaster preparedness kits from California Volunteers.

A multi-agency press conference was held in November 2015, encouraging residents to remember “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” when roads are flooded. A social media campaign was also launched to further inform and prepare stakeholders countywide of the risks of floodwaters and El Niño rains. In addition, SBCoFD emergency personnel participated in a floodwater training in December 2015 and were strategically placed throughout the county in anticipation of flash flooding.





DOG RESCUED FROM MINESHAFT

On December 31, 2015 just before 11:30 a.m., SBCoFD Heavy Rescue units responded to a report of a fall victim in a mine south of Lucerne Valley. Further inquiries from dispatch revealed that the victim was a small dog that had fallen down a mineshaft.

First units on scene met with a local family who stated they were crawling through a mine entrance when Julie, their 15-pound poodle, ran ahead and fell down a shaft about 30 feet into the mine.

SBCoFD responders located the mineshaft and determined it to be 35-feet deep. Julie was visible at the bottom moving and barking on the floor. A rope system was established, anchored into the hillside, and extended into the mine where Julie was brought out of the mine and reunited with her family. There were no injuries to Julie, rescue personnel, or civilians.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CERT, BEST IN THE STATE!

The San Bernardino County Operational Area Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is the proud recipient of the 2015 Governor's Volunteering and Service Award for the Disaster Volunteer Program of the Year. This award recognizes the work of all City/Town, unincorporated, tribal, campus and teen CERT programs in the County. Mike Antonucci and Michael A. Ramirez accepted the award at a ceremony conducted on the West Steps of the State Capitol on October 15, 2015.

Thousands of San Bernardino County residents have been trained in CERT, empowering individuals to care for themselves, their neighbors and their communities in the event of a major disaster. In addition to their ongoing training, these volunteers donate numerous hours in their respective communities. Affiliated CERT volunteers assist at planned events, performing duties such as conducting crowd control as well as providing critical disaster preparedness information to the public. CERTs are also called into service during actual emergencies to provide logistical support for fire basecamps, assistance with evacuees and door-to-door notifications during emergencies.

CERT is an important part of preparedness in San Bernardino County. This award recognizes the hard work of individuals who bring programs to their respective communities and their mission of "doing the greatest good, for the greatest number."



YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT



THE NORTH FIRE

CROSSES CAJON PASS, VEHICLES ABANDONED & EVACUATIONS FORCED

On July 17, 2015 the North Fire started on Interstate 15, just in time for the Friday afternoon Vegas commute. Mandatory evacuations were ordered for the Baldy Mesa area where seven homes, 16 outbuildings, and 44 vehicles were destroyed. People abandoned their cars on the freeway as 20 vehicles including two semis were destroyed and 10 others damaged when hot winds fanned the fire across the I-15 at the Cajon Pass. The fire was 100 percent contained on July 21, more than 200 firefighters fought the 4,250-acre blaze.

This incident gained national headlines due to hobby drones; five of the unmanned aircraft systems forced officials to halt tanker operators for 25 minutes for fear of a mid-air collision. The incident prompted the safety message "If you fly, we can't!" In the following days, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors issued a \$75,000 reward for information leading to identifying the drone operators that interfered with air operations at three separate fires, and state representatives proposed legislation regarding drones in airspace during emergencies.

Photo credit: Jeff Zimmerman



Photo credit: Jeff Zimmerman



THE PIRATE FIRE

A vegetation fire along the Arizona-California border burned 2,232 acres over a week and required 165 personnel to completely contain and extinguish. The blaze began on April 6, 2016 forcing the evacuation of Moabi Regional Park, Pirate Cove Resort, and Park Moabi RV Park. Strong winds pushed the fire from Arizona to California, requiring response from San Bernardino County Fire in unified command with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Land Management, Mohave Valley Fire Department, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fire was 100 percent contained on April 12, no injuries were reported from civilians or firefighters.



OUTSIDE AGENCIES CALL FOR SBCOFD ASSISTANCE

On July 17, 2015, the same day as the North Fire, the Pines Fire started in the Angeles National Forest northwest of Wrightwood and burned 200 acres, threatened structures, and required the evacuation of hundreds from nearby camps and campgrounds. SBCoFD responded in mutual aid to the U.S. Forest Service to help suppress the fire and provide structure protection.

SBCoFD responders also assisted in firefighting the 1,700-acre blaze within the Angeles National Forest known as the Cabin Fire that started August 14, 2015. The fire prompted mandatory evacuation orders for two cabins near State Route 39 and in two campgrounds. Triple digit temperatures and low humidity fueled the flames and proved challenging as 11 firefighters suffered heat related injuries and four structures were destroyed.

SBCoFD units were also summoned to the Summit Fire that started south of Big Bear Lake on August 23, 2015 and forced the evacuation of about 400 homes as it burned through 55 acres of rugged forest terrain. SBCoFD personnel rushed to the scene to aid the lead agency, San Bernardino National Forest, with the initial attack and a Gel Task Force to support structure protection. Crews 6-1 and 15-2 were also deployed.

SBCoFD assisted multiple agencies that battled the Border Fire in San Diego for 12 days before it was reported 100 percent contained on June 30, 2016. The 7,600-acre fire destroyed homes and prompted widespread evacuations. SBCoFD Strike Teams were assigned to help suppress the fire.





SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE

157 West Fifth Street, 2nd Floor | San Bernardino, CA 92415 | 909.387.5940

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2015 2016

www.sbcfire.org

Like us on Facebook: San Bernardino County Fire and Twitter: @sbcountyfire