

UNIFIED

Area "C" Quarterly Bulletin
Fall 2004



RESPONSE



Serving the cities of:

*Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank,
Glendale, Monrovia, Monterey Park,
Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino,
Sierra Madre and South Pasadena*

Inside

- Coordinator's Update . . . 1
- 'We Shall Never Forget' .3
- Remembering Sept. 11. . . 3
- 2004 Strike Teams. 3
- Press Release Excerpts .4
- ST Response Reminders.5
- Fire Safety Over 506
- Live Fuel Moisture6
- Alhambra 7
- Arcadia 8
- Burbank 9
- Glendale 11
- Monrovia 13
- Monterey Park 15
- Pasadena 16
- San Gabriel 17
- San Marino 18
- Sierra Madre 18
- South Pasadena 19
- FDNY Cross Country Tour.19
- Verdugo Fire Comm. . . . 20
- Area C Stats15,20,21,22

The day after we honored the memory of 9/11, a CDF Firefighter lost her life. Eva Schicke, 24, perished when she was overrun by fire in the Tuolumne River Canyon in the Stanislaus National Forest. Six other firefighters suffered injuries. She is the 70th firefighter fatality in CDF history and the first female CDF firefighter killed in the line of duty. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eva's family and co-workers.



We were also saddened to learn of the passing of former Monterey Park Fire Chief James O. Page on September 4. His contributions to the fire service, and in particular emergency medical service, were so substantial and varied that it is difficult to believe they were accomplished by a single person. It came as no surprise when *Fire Chief Magazine* named him one of the 20 most influential Fire Chiefs of the 20th Century. Monterey Park's current Fire Chief, Tim Murphy, provides an excellent article on Chief Page's life and accomplishments on page 15.

Today we were warned of the potential arrival of Santa Ana winds starting as early as next week. We usually don't see Santa Ana's until October. Then again, we were already having serious fires in May this year. This is the driest time of the year and conditions are worse now than a year ago. Stay alert and ready.



And just so you know, we are going to be utilizing CICC approval for appointed Battalion Chiefs to operate as Strike Team Leaders within Area C, pending further evaluation of Area C qualifications. Please continue with CICC training. September 2005 will be here soon. Please accept a Press Release from Gov. Schwarzenegger following this column regarding implementation of Blue Ribbon Fire

Commission Recommendations.

On a different subject...according to Webster, there are more than a few definitions for the word "Duck." Most of us are familiar with the term Lucky Duck...you know, the person down the street who wins the lotto, or the fast-moving Red Duck observed locally on the Crest. On rare occasion though, I refer to a different definition and believe it's worth expanding upon.

Continued from p.1

DUCK: “To evade a duty, question or responsibility.” As members of the Fire Service, without *question* we are always on-*duty* and have both accepted and been given a significant *responsibility*...from our families, departments and communities. As challenging as these jobs can be, they are also very rewarding and we are well taken care of. So read on with me and let’s turn these four letters around, using **DUCK** as an acronym to help guide us a bit, and maybe more specifically as Chief Officers in another way...in this case as *Depth*, *Understanding*, *Capability* and *Knowledge*.

It is my sincere belief that at no time in the history of the fire service has there been a greater need for Fire Officers to be able to really **stretch** in order to answer the diverse calls for duty that we receive. Of course to accomplish this, each one of us must develop great *Depth*...that is, “The quality of being profound (as in insight) or full (as of knowledge).” As we examine our *Depth*, hopefully we consider whether or not we are “an inch deep and a mile wide or an inch wide and a mile deep.” If we do, it will make a difference in the final outcome, and frankly I cannot think of too many fire departments that can afford to have Fire Officers without the proper degree of *Depth*, balance and ability to work together toward our stated mission and necessary objectives.

This is sometimes much easier said than done though and in its simplest form, really *getting it done* usually requires that you are happy...happy with yourself, your family and work. We all strive for balance, but regrettably it’s very difficult to achieve (have you ever tried walking on a balance beam?) and many folks wiser than myself have said that imbalance is an important part of just being human. I know of my own struggle and inevitably mixed success over the years at managing a personal and professional life. But we just need to keep at it.

In accomplishing the mission here, I think it’s better to set objectives that can be measured...balance, however, is pretty difficult to measure and may just frustrate you. So a few choices are necessary and there is really no replacing the fact that balance is probably just a way of describing the outcome. For increased *Depth* though, at work and home, it can be helpful to set defined objectives in diverse areas.

A solid level of *Understanding* is also important to best address our daily opportunities and challenges: “The power of comprehending, ability to form agreement of opinion and differences. Knowing, intelligent, tolerant, sympathetic.” *Understanding* doesn’t just happen; you have to consciously work at it. We really must have (not a should) full *Understanding* of ourselves and the organizations we serve. Someone once told me, “When you listen, you learn...when you speak, you say something

you already know.” Try hard to listen; if done in earnest, I’m sure you may better understand and therefore not evade but challenge and succeed when facing the real question here...our vast duty and responsibility. Some of this can be better put by comparing your life to a book with multiple chapters...our lives and circumstances change constantly with different priorities...life, family, marriage, kids, work...you know. Try to decide what’s important at this juncture and don’t let it overwhelm you. What’s important to *Understand* is achieving balance over the long haul.

Sometimes we limit our own *Capability* by presupposing our strengths and both over- and under-estimating them. *Capability* is a feature or faculty both physical and mental that we all have. *Capability* deals with potential; it can be developed. Again, we just have to believe in ourselves. As we live out the chapters of our lives, we need to exercise our *Capabilities* by reminding ourselves to focus on doing what brings us value and enjoyment.

As a complement to *Depth*, *Understanding* and *Capability*, we must have *Knowledge*. *Knowledge* is a term with many meanings depending on context, and usually is described as “the fact or condition of knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association.”

Knowledge can also be related to meaning, information, instruction, communication, representation, learning and mental stimulus. With *Knowledge*, only in the rarest of cases do you just have it. For most, it must be acquired...which makes us life-long learners and at the same time teachers, constantly working to acquire knowledge, which is essential in delivering today’s fire, medical and emergency services. In fact, we are really at a loss without it. No longer can we afford to limit our *Depth*, *Understanding*, *Capability* or *Knowledge* to a narrowly defined mission. The scope is much broader as a result of today’s challenges within a complex society and increasing economic reality. Use *Knowledge* to continuously look at yourself and your surroundings. Your priorities will likely change as you constantly reassess and appraise...and maybe if you consider these and apply them you’ll feel a bit better in the long term. You name the position within the fire service and we can all see the challenges. Helping each other can prevent the chance of having to DUCK. Besides, there are plenty of us to help; sometimes we just need you to ask. I won’t hesitate to ask or help.

Respectfully yours,

Christopher Gray
Fire Chief
Area “C” Coordinator



On this occasion of the third anniversary of 9/11, I felt that some of my thoughts on the first anniversary were worth repeating:

“We Shall Never Forget”

Rarely in our lifetime have we witnessed events as horrific as the terrorist attacks on America that occurred September 11, 2001...a day we will never forget. As the tragedies in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania unfolded, we could only think about how we might handle the situation and provide assistance.

As firefighters, our mission is to protect and preserve lives and property. Daily we respond to events of personal tragedy and misfortune to minimize loss and suffering while mitigating the emergency. It’s what we do...it’s our job to rescue folks and put the fire out. Through it all, firefighters generally don’t question much about why something happened...we just respond and help. Sometimes despite our best efforts, both civilian and firefighter lives are lost.

Many people perished on September 11 for reasons we’ll probably never fully understand. But a profound transformation also occurred that day, permanently changing America and the fire service. The past three years have marked a time of unparalleled patriotism. It makes me proud to see how our profession has risen to the calling in a time of global fear and grief. For many, our call to unity, resolve and patriotism as Americans was buoyed by the acts of three FDNY



firefighters who raised “Old Glory” on the battered masthead of a sailboat at Ground Zero. Our acts of service and helping people have never been more poignant.

This event also reshaped expectations about our collective response to future threats, creating a new call for preparedness. Fortunately, many communities in Southern California were already working to increase our level of homeland defense and response. This included Weapons of Mass Destruction training, adoption of a Metropolitan Medical Response System for disasters (creating caches and stockpiling supplies and equipment), training exercises with other agencies, and improvements in our Emergency Operations Centers. The Fire Service has responded and will continue to be there for anyone that needs assistance...after all, it’s what we do, help people. Regardless of the call, whether suspicious substance or fire or medical emergency, we respond to reassure and assist, along with our Police, City Services and Red Cross.

Since that fateful day, we will always look at a plane in flight or high-rise building differently, and yet hopefully we will look at each other and our flag with newfound respect and appreciation. We shall never forget the innocent victims’ and rescuers’ lives lost.



REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

THE SACRIFICES OF FDNY FIREFIGHTERS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS MADE BY FIREFIGHTERS IN NEW YORK, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON DC, AND PENNSYLVANIA WILL ALWAYS REMAIN ETCHED IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS. THE SACRIFICES OF THE ENTIRE FIRE SERVICE TO PROTECT THIS NATION SINCE SEPTEMBER 11TH WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED IN HISTORY AND STAND AS A TESTAMENT OF OUR RESOLVE TO PROTECT THE RESIDENTS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS. THE USFA STAFF PROUDLY JOINS WITH THE ENTIRE FIRE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES IN REMEMBERING THOSE FIREFIGHTERS AND FAMILIES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN AND CONTINUE TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO A SAFER NATION FOR OUR CHILDREN AND ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS. IN THEIR MEMORY.

- R. DAVID PAULSON, U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

2004 Strike Team Responses

<u>Team</u>	<u>Incident Name</u>	<u>Dispatch Date & Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Trainee</u>	<u>Release Date & Time</u>
1202A	Cerrito	5/4/2004 16:48	BC2 - Creasey	BC2 - Scoggins	5/6/2004 21:00
1204A	Cerrito	5/4/2004 16:50	BC3 - Gordon	BC10 - Lennox	5/6/2004 21:00
1803A	Pine	7/13/2004 13:20	BC10 - Cruz	BC10 - Young	7/17/2004 12:10
WT11	Pine	7/13/2004 17:01	Engr. McGee	Engr. McGaffin	7/19/2004 10:20
1203A	Pine	7/14/2004 21:18	BC3 - Law	BC105 - Norwood	7/17/2004 10:22
1205A	Pine	7/15/2004 4:02	BC5 - Beckman	BC7 - Khail	7/17/2004 10:47
1201A	Foothill	7/17/2004 16:19	BC1 - Pansini	Capt. Walbert	7/17/2004 21:00
1204A	Foothill	7/17/2004 16:36	BC2 - Howard	BC43 - Bamberger	7/17/2004 21:00
1202A	Foothill	7/18/2004 4:35	BC2 - Howard	BC6 - Donovan	7/20/2004 15:08
1205A	Foothill	7/18/2004 4:29	BC1 - Pansini	Capt. Walbert	7/20/2004 13:05
1203A	Crown	7/20/2004 16:24	BC3 - Law	BC5 - Terry	7/22/2004 10:56
1204A	Crown	7/21/2004 0:12	BC7 - Stedman	BC105 - Marston	7/22/2004 9:27
E13	Crown	7/21/2004 1:37	Capt. Barone	Single Res. - Helispot Prot.	7/22/2004 21:10

EXCERPTS FROM A PRESS RELEASE

SACRAMENTO—California Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman today announced 31 action steps that will enhance the ability of California’s fire and emergency preparedness agencies to more effectively respond to and prevent devastating wildfires. The plan announced today incorporates recommendations made by California’s Blue Ribbon Fire Commission (BRFC), which was formed by outgoing Governor Gray Davis and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to evaluate fire response in the aftermath of the 2003 Southern California wildfires.

Officials from California’s Resources Agency, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Office of Emergency Services used the BRFC report to develop 31 action steps that have either been completed or are underway. In the coming months, the state will implement and announce a number of subsequent measures as funding is secured and planning completed.

The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, comprised of members from federal, state and local jurisdictions, was charged with reviewing the response to the 2003 wildfires and providing recommendations for fire response, suppression and prevention. The recommendations released in May range from strengthening the fire safety councils and improving public education to staffing increases, communications, training and equipment upgrades.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) are working closely in responding to wildfires following recommendations from the commission. In addition, federal and local agencies are now working together more effectively with the state to ensure that programs and agreements for land use and fighting fires from the air are more efficient and effective.

Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Director Henry Renteria said, “The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services is committed to making every effort to mitigate the loss of life and property from wildfires.” He added, “We will continue to devote all available resources to assisting California communities in their wildfire preparedness and response efforts.”

The current 31 action steps include a governor’s executive order increasing resources for fire response, an initiative by the California Biodiversity Council to speed removal trees killed by bark beetles, a letter from the governor to county governments encouraging resi-

dents to be fire safe, a cooperative effort between CDF and the U.S. Forest Service for use of air tankers and the implementation of a \$39 million program to reduce hazardous fuels build-up in the Sierra Nevada range.

Further steps taken include:

- Extended flight days to fight fires from the air
- Fuel reduction progress
- Improved public information process
- Restoration of fire camp crew strength
- Use of military resources
- Stronger fire safe councils
- Equip OES and CDF with new technology
- Updated vegetation management plan
- Improved public education planning
- Modernization of the OES operational area satellite information system
- Disposal of biomass related to fire fuel reduction
- Requests for federal action
- Enhanced agreements for aerial fire fighting
- Local government surveys on protective gear and communications equipment
- Use of the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) as a program for air assets.
- Recommendations on additional fire engines needs in wildlands
- Expanding model training agreements
- Conducting a training needs assessment through the State Fire Board
- Conducting a training needs assessment for the National Guard and other military resources
- Statewide agreements to reimburse local governments for federal and state use
- Working with local governments to define structural protection issues
- Ongoing updates of mutual aid agreements
- Emergency Medical Services Authority’s role in mutual aid and the impact to private ambulance companies
- Local government education on implementing volunteer programs
- Continuing staff and technical assistance for community wildfire protection plans
- Working toward consensus with the federal government on the National Fire Plan.

Seven additional steps are dependent upon stable funding sources. These include:

- Create year-round firefighter capacity in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties
- Provide a plan to replace obsolete CDF fire engines
- Replace outdated helicopters
- Telecommunications and fire resource management plans
- Plan for 4.0 fire engine staffing
- Strengthen the California Fire Plan
- Propose a comprehensive post fire plan

For more information: <http://www.resources.ca.gov>

Strike Team Response Reminders

As we have started, and certainly will continue, a new and very committed strike team response season, there are a few changes in thought that may need to be appreciated by everyone responding on strike teams. These also apply to extended incidents and they are, or should be, a part of each strike team leader's briefing:

- Take advantage of every opportunity to learn. When you're in Base, talk to anyone you can and find out their experiences and how those experiences might apply to your next assignment. When you're in the field, and the fire's not bearing down on you, take the time to walk around the area and do an ongoing assessment of the conditions and the "what-ifs." *What if the fire comes down this slope or that slope? What if it jumps the road and comes back that way? What do I do if the fire gets on the roof of the house?* Take some more time to go over the "Watch Outs" and "Standard Orders." The field is a good place to see how they really apply.
- Think certification. Everyone is going to have to be certified by August, next year. Have a task book initiated by the Department for the position you're in and the next-up position in the chain of command. This applies to all ranks. Get evaluated on everything that happens. Wear out some pens.



- Think impression. We are the highest paid people on the incident. As such, we have a high responsibility to act like it. **All business, all the time.** No lawn chairs, sports equipment (none of it should even be on the apparatus), no leaving the apparatus unattended, no discourteous behavior, "nothing that you wouldn't want in the paper."

- Think Safety. When you're in the field assigned to a 24-hour operational period, someone must be on Lookout at all times to assess the team's area of responsibility. Know what the fire's doing and what your neighboring companies are responsible for. Know who they are and how to talk to them. **Identify Escape Routes and Safety Zones** wherever you go. You may not need them, but it's practice that makes safe. Do it every time. LCES.
- Spend this opportunity as a team to be better every time. Bring the experiences back to your City and pass the experiences around. Bring yourselves back safe. Do us all proud. You are your City's and your Department's representatives wherever you go.

Any questions? Talk to those who have survived close calls. There are lots of our people out there who have.

FIREFIIGHTERS QUEST FOR BURN SURVIVORS 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, October 18 at Spanish Hills Country Club, Camarillo



\$150 per person, or be "sponsored" with an auction item valued at \$300 and receive one complimentary entry. Entry fee includes breakfast, lunch, banquet and awards. Lots of prizes and trophies. Challenge your brothers and sisters from other departments to play and have a great time.

Auction Items Needed: If you know of someone who has contacts for that unique item, please make the contact and help us provide some great raffle and auction items. Anything is welcome; if you want it, so will others. Donors can use the donation as a charitable contribution and tax write-off utilizing our tax id (#95-4615023), and you can use it as your entry fee. They will also get great exposure for their company and/or product(s). For more info, email Tom Propst at: TPropst@ci.glendale.ca.us.

Fire Safety Facts For People Over Age 50

Each year, approximately 1,100 Americans ages 65 and older die as a result of a home fire. Compared to the rest of the U. S. population:

- People between 65 and 74 are nearly TWICE as likely to die in a fire.
- People between 75 and 84 are nearly FOUR times as likely to die in a fire.
- People ages 85 and older are more than FIVE times as likely to die in a fire.

With a few simple steps, older people can dramatically reduce their risk of death and injury from fire. These facts, combined with the knowledge that adults ages 50 and older are entering and caring for this high risk group, inspired the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to develop a national public safety campaign for adults ages 50 and older, their families and caregivers. USFA encourages you to:

Cook Safely

Many families gather in the kitchen to spend time together, but it can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the house if you don't practice safe cooking behaviors. Cooking is the third leading cause of fire deaths and the leading cause of injury among people ages 65 and older.

It's a recipe for serious injury or even death to wear loose clothing (especially hanging sleeves), walk away from a cooking pot on the stove, or leave flammable materials, such as potholders or paper towels, around the stove. Whether you are cooking the family holiday dinner or a snack for the grandchildren:

- Never leave cooking unattended. A serious fire can start in just seconds.
- Always wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you

cook. Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from flames.

- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house.

Heat Your Home Safely

During winter months, December, January and February, there are more home fires than any other time of year. Heating devices like space heaters and wood stoves make homes comfortable, but should be used with extra caution. Heating is the second leading cause of fire death and the third leading cause of injury to people ages 65 and older. Many of these deaths and injuries could be prevented with safe heating practices. So before you grab a good book and cozy up to the fireplace, make sure you do the following:

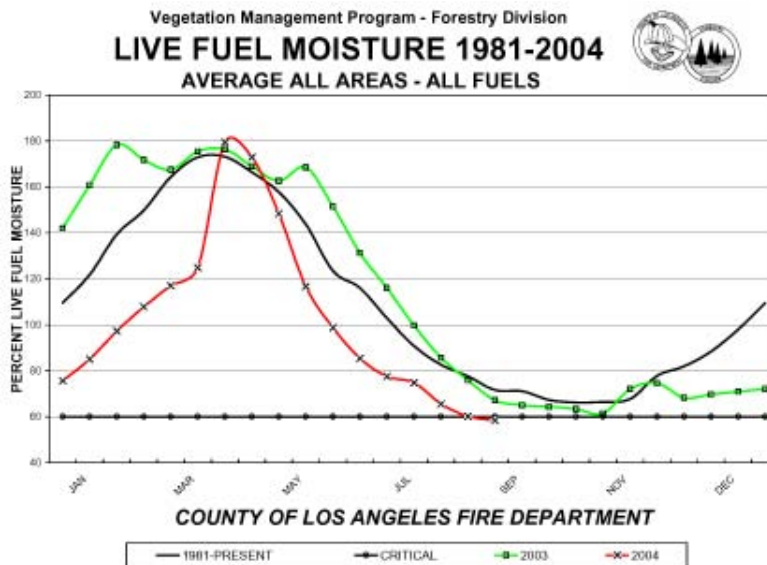
- Keep fire in the fireplace by making sure you have a screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs.
- Space heaters need space. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from heaters.
- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.

The "Get Out Alive" Home Fire Safety Steps

- Smoke Alarms: Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, test batteries every month and change them at least once a year.
- Home Fire Escape Plan: Develop and practice a fire escape plan regularly, at least twice a year. Keep exits clear of debris.
- Home Fire Sprinklers: If at all possible, install residential sprinklers in your home.

– United States Fire Administration

http://www.lacofd.org/Forestry_folder/LFM/AllAreas.pdf



ALHAMBRA

Population: 89,700

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$4,360,160,741



New Ambulance

The Alhambra Fire Department recently took delivery of a 2004 American LaFrance medium-duty ambulance. The ambulance is Type 1 aluminum modular body mounted on a Freightliner M2 chassis. Medicmaster, the ambulance division of American LaFrance, constructed the unit in Sanford, Florida.

This type of apparatus was chosen due to its payload capacity (nearly 5,000 pounds), the longer

service life of the chassis, and increased maneuverability. It has an air ride suspension that allows it to “kneel” to facilitate patient loading. It is additionally equipped with an electrically powered hydraulic oxygen rack for ease of loading cumbersome oxygen cylinders. The unit is powered by a Mercedes MBE engine, which is rated at 260 horsepower and 660ft./lbs. of torque, and is coupled to an Allison EVS 3000 transmission.

This is the third medium-duty ambulance purchased by the Alhambra Fire Department, with the first unit, Medic 74, being placed into service in the Spring of 1996. The older Medic 74 will become the reserve ambulance and Station 74 will accept the new ambulance as the in-service Medic 74.

Alhambra and Monterey Park Firefighters take the Gold Medal at the California Police & Fire Games

Eight firefighters from Alhambra and four from Monterey Park were awarded the first-place gold medal in basketball as participants of the California Police & Fire Summer Games held in June of this year.

The 2004 Games, which were

hosted in San Jose, California, brought together athletic competitors in numerous sports from throughout California police and fire departments. The Alhambra/Monterey Park basketball team finished the competition with an impressive 7-0 record and took the gold medal in four games. The team credits several months of regular practice prior to the event and exceptional camaraderie for their success during the Games.

The Games initially began in 1967 as “The California Police Olympics.” Only the top three winners in each sport were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively. Starting in 1971, fourth and fifth place medals were also awarded. In 1990, the Games were re-named “The California Police Summer Games” after the official United States Olympic Committee objected to the original title.

Starting in the year 2000, firefighters were invited to participate, and the name was changed again to “The California Police and Fire Games.” Beginning this year, fourth and fifth place medals will no longer be awarded. In summer 2005, the competition will include eight western states and will be the first year of “The Western States Police & Fire Games.”

The Alhambra/Monterey Park basketball team is looking forward to defending its gold medal during next year’s Games, which may be held in Hawaii.



From bottom left: Matt Hallock, Jasen Brown, Dan Claridge, Jay Foland and Doug Shonkwiler. From top left: Victor Lazaryan, Drew Respicio, Chris Thompson, Larry Ramirez, Alex Reyes, Darin Beal and James Manriquez.

The next issue of
UNIFIED RESPONSE
will be published in
mid-December 2004.
Submissions of articles and
photos are welcome
through Dec. 6.

ARCADIA

Population: 55,900

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

Assessed Value:
\$6,480,697,263

Personnel

The Arcadia Fire Department hired three new recruit firefighters on June 27. After successful completion of the Basic Firefighter Recruit Academy, all three received their first assignments. Firefighter Andres Vazquez was assigned to E105 A Shift, Firefighter Nik Pheng to E105 B Shift, and Firefighter Christopher Paladino to E105 C Shift.

In addition, the Arcadia Fire Department implemented a new Reserve Firefighter Program July 1. This program is managed by Fire Captain Dave Franta (E105 A Shift). Currently there are six Reserve Firefighters in the program, with the intent to further expand in the future. All Reserve Firefighters are assigned to Headquarters Station 105.

The Arcadia Fire Department Reserve Firefighters are: Joe Augino, Julio Estrada, Oscar Cortez, Drew Pryor, Ryan Patton and Matthew Hinig.

Finally, the Arcadia Fire Department would like to congratulate Engineers Rick Leff and Mike Clark on their retirements. Engr. Leff completed his last shift on July 28 with 27 years of service to the Arcadia Fire Department. Engr. Clark completed his last shift on August 24 with 30 years of service to the Arcadia Fire Department. We would all like to thank them for their years of service and dedication to the city, and wish



Rick Leff, Fire Engineer
1977 – 2004



Mike Clark, Fire Engineer
1974 – 2004

them the very best in their retirement years.

Regional Training Program – Technical Emergency Response

On July 13, 14 and 15, the City of Arcadia Regional Counter-Terrorism Training Program hosted three Technical Emergency Response Training Classes. The WMD Technical Emergency Response Training Course is an eight-hour training program designed to provide emergency responders instruction on responding to and operating in a WMD environment. The course covered chemical, ordnance/explosives, biological, and radiological/nuclear (COBRA) threats; the current domestic and international terrorist threat; managing a WMD scene; determining the breadth of a WMD incident area; and dealing with the media at a WMD incident. In addition, it provided hands-on familiarization training

with specialized protective clothing and equipment, chemical detection and identification equipment, decontamination, triage and ordnance/explosives recognition and response. The instructors for the course represented the Center for Domestic Preparedness located in Anniston, Alabama.

Over the three-day period, approximately 75 persons received this valuable training. The attendees included members from Arcadia, San Marino, San Gabriel and Burbank Fire Departments. Law enforcement agencies in attendance included San Marino and Beverly Hills. There were also members representing City of Arcadia Public Works, Riverside School District, Pasadena Unified School District and the City of Pasadena Emergency Management.



Continued from p.8

Strike Team Deployment

On Saturday, June 5 at 6:15 p.m., the Arcadia Fire Department responded on a mutual aid assignment. Battalion Chief Dave Haney responded as the Leader of Strike Team 1800 B to the Gaviota Incident, a wildland fire located in Santa Barbara County. The Strike Team was comprised of Office of Emergency Services Engines from Monrovia, Montebello, Sierra Madre, La Habra Heights, and Montclair Fire Departments. The units were deployed to the incident for five days and provided fire protection for a Union Pacific Railroad Trestle.

The cost to rebuild the trestle was unknown, but the fire loss to Union Pacific was valued by one railroad representative at \$1,000,000 an hour. It was estimated that it would take seven days for the trestle to be repaired. Strike Team 1800 B managed to save 150 ft. of the 750-foot trestle, which was 80 ft. in height.



Montebello Engine using a deck gun to extinguish fire from beneath the trestle.

Firefighting on the deck of the trestle was hazardous, so a 2,800 gal. water drop from a sky crane was utilized to extinguish the railroad ties.



Sky crane taking on water from the Pacific Ocean. Drafting 2,800 gallons of water would take approximately 30 seconds.

BURBANK

Population: 105,400

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$10,250,565,656

On July 1, Rick Mehling assumed command of the Burbank Fire Department as Interim Fire Chief. He hit the ground running due to his prior association with the department, having retired as Assistant Fire Chief from Burbank Fire four years ago. His early stated goals are to:

- Reassert a firm foundation on existing department policy and update it where necessary to meet current and future needs,
- Meet with both staff and union representatives to gain insight into current concerns,
- Streamline processes and procedures,
- Implement planned budget reductions, and
- Provide information about the specialized needs and concerns of the fire service to our City Manager and staff for their better and more complete understanding of the complex nature of the fire service.

Chief Mehling has scheduled a series of state-of-the-department meetings at the end of September to lay out his plans and current goals.

Mike Davis retired on June 30. Thanks to all who participated to make his retirement event a memorable occasion. Please update your e-mail addresses and mailing groups to add Rick Mehling and eliminate Mike Davis, now retired. We continue to receive e-mail for



Megan from the Muscular Dystrophy Association poses with Dave Gillotte (LA County FF's Local 1014), BFD Capt. Lew Stone and Lou Paulson, CPF President from CBS Studios in Hollywood, during MDA telethon Sept. 5.

Continued from p.9

Mike, but our Information Technology Department will be closing the account soon.

On August 3, Burbank Fire participated in the 21st Annual National Night Out sponsored by the City of Burbank, Burbank Police Department and Teens in Action at local block parties and at Johnny Carson Park. The event was well attended by the local community.

The Apparatus and Equipment Division recently purchased and placed into service new Camel Back "Hotshots" Water Hydration Systems: 102-ounce water capacity hydration bags that attach to wildland web gear. A planned purchase of new fire shelters is on hold due to a product safety recall. The A & E Division is also currently working on research and development of new vehicle specifications for Haz Mat and USAR vehicles, for possible purchase with grant funding. Five new generation Bullard T3 Max thermal imaging cameras have been purchased to equip all first line engine and truck companies. Installation of Storm King Mountain Technologies' "fire shield" on the cab and passenger area of apparatus is complete. With this upgrade, the front and side windows and rear firefighter jump seats will be fully covered by the fire shield.

The department continues to upgrade its VHF radio capability by adding Bendix King (BK) GPH radios to all front line apparatus, phasing out the Motorola MT 2000s. The new radios will provide better access to frequencies being used by Federal, State and County agencies on mutual aid incidents. The Bendix King radios have 15 zones with 16 channels in each zone, for a total of 240 channels. They can carry all other agency frequencies and have one zone that can be cloned in the field or hand programmed by the user. This will allow firefighters to put all incident

VHF frequencies in one zone per the incident communication plan. Also the repeater tones can be changed quickly depending on the area we are assigned to.

The radios have battery clamshells that hold AA batteries in the event the NiCad batteries fail, and these can be changed out very quickly and easily by the user. We anticipate the new radios will increase safety by improving radio communication flexibility, especially in the early stages of an incident where a "Communication Unit" has not yet been established. The Motorola units are being transferred over to our Disaster Preparedness Division.

EMS Division personnel continue to attend LA County EMS Provider and Advisory Committee meetings to monitor and review the proposed State EMS regulations covering paramedics, EMT 1's, education, and quality assurance. In addition they participated in the Medical Governance Task Force, the LA County Emergency Services Commission, the LA County Education Advisory Committee, the California Nurses' Association, and the LA County Quality Improvement meeting.

The EMS Division has completed a bid process to purchase a Multi-Casualty Incident Supply Trailer which will be put into service in December 2004. The trailer will provide a mobile supply cache that can respond to any major incident within the city. The trailer can be towed to an incident by any of the existing Burbank Fire Department utility trucks.

Our Medical Director provided information on current topics of particular interest to paramedics and emergency responders, including overcrowding at local emergency rooms, the use of pre-hospital 12-lead EKG's as a tool to divert chest pain patients from the nearest emergency departments to hospitals specifically



equipped to diagnose and treat coronary artery occlusion, and early experience and test results of the Fast-Mag County Pilot program.

The Burbank Fire Training Center has been the site of several area-wide meetings during the quarter, among them the L.A. Area Fire Chiefs meeting, L.A. County Region 1 Coordinators meeting, a two-week CSTI Hazardous Material Specialist class, L.A. County Unified Command Meeting, L.A. County Wildland Conference for Fire Chiefs, and the State FIRESCOPE meeting.

Our Training Division prepared and distributed the quarterly training schedules for July, August and September; provided Tri-City Brush and Fire Prevention training to all members; and revised and updated the Company Officer Training Manuals. In addition, the Training Officer attended the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) operational meetings in Arcadia, a Weapons of Mass Destruction suicide bomber class in Alhambra, the Foothill Training Officers meeting in San Gabriel, and the Area C Strike Team Refresher course in Glendale.

Verdugo Communications recently completed replacement of our station alerting system as part of the

Continued from p.10

system upgrades which required the purchase of new computer terminals for each station as well as the new software to run the program.

The process of recruitment and background checks for seven new firefighter positions is continuing. If current efforts stay on track, the potential exists for a joint recruit academy with Glendale Fire Department in early 2005.

The Disaster Preparedness Division sent nine City employees to a four-day workshop on Managing Sustained Operations and arranged for the Red Cross to conduct a Shelter Training Course for City and School District staff. Sixteen students graduated from our CERTs program, with the course extended by one week due to student demand! Thirty-two Community Disaster Volunteers participated in two simulated night time disaster drills at Burbank High School Boys and Girls Gym.

The Fire Prevention Bureau reports good progress with the installation of the new FireHouse Records

Management System. It is anticipated that during the second half of 2004 all Bureau fire prevention activity will be recorded in the FireHouse system. Our Information Technology Department recently completed a direct link to the Verdugo System through a Virtual Private Network and dispatch data are now transferred into the Firehouse system automatically. Data are being entered into the system manually for NFIRS reporting and occupancy inspections.



Over 500 new construction and tenant improvement inspections were conducted and development and construction activity is expected to remain high for the rest of the year. During this period we were able to improve the required brush clearance from 100 ft. to 200 ft. for structures within the Mountain Fire Zone (MFZ), consistent with California Fair Plan requirements and California Fire Service direction

as an industry-wide standard. With the approval of Burbank City Council, clearance of City-owned property has been completed within the MFZ. We continue to work with a few private parcel owners, and use of "leopard style" clearance in the second 100 feet of clearance has proven useful for those concerned with the appearance of newly cleared areas.

In anticipation of the summer season, Bureau personnel provided public safety messages regarding child pool safety and the dangers of drowning at Fire Service Day and on Channel 6. In addition, Fire Department personnel teamed with Burbank Police Department on their television show to highlight both drowning dangers and hillside fire safety.

A new program brochure has been developed for the Emergency Medical Services Membership Program, and beginning July 1, annual rates were increased to \$48. The program continues to grow, with 197 new memberships received in the second quarter.

GLENDALE

Population: 205,300

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$14,759,318,892

Brush Clearance PSA to Air

A 30-second public service announcement has begun airing on local cable channel GTV6 and we are approaching Charter Communications to see if they will agree to run it on their local networks. A BIG thank you to Capt. Carlos Guerrero, Engr. Craig Young, the members of E25B and the GTV-6 film crew for their assistance on this project.

The message we are trying to convey is aimed at the local residents who live in our urban/interface brush areas to **clear their brush!** As we all know, the importance of having a home with defensible space can make the difference between a structure saved or a structure lost. A home with good clearance can also provide safe refuge for fire companies caught in a bad situation.

9-1-1 Video Completed

An informational video, "911 & You," regarding the proper use of the 9-1-1 system has been produced and is now ready for distribution. Production of the video was funded by the Assistance to Firefighters Act and was completed through the hard work of Captains Tom Marchant and Carlos Guerrero, Chief Mike Haney

and the crew from GTV6.

We are strongly encouraging the distribution of these tapes and DVDs in Glendale whenever the Captain sees the need. This is an educational program with the goal of helping citizens understand the services available from "their" Glendale Fire Department.

There is also a short spot in the video regarding firefighting as a career option following the 9-1-1 message.

The videotape will also be broadcast on local cable access channels and distributed to local community groups. Videotapes are available in English, Spanish and Armenian language versions. The DVD has all three languages on the same disk. To obtain a sample copy, contact Capt. Guerrero at 548-4800.

Continued from p.11

Wellness Program

We are happy to announce that our new Wellness and Fitness Program has been a success. After much planning and many meetings, and upon reaching agreements between the City, the Fire Division and the Glendale Firefighters' Association, a new era of "taking care of our own" is in place.

The annual testing process is administered by Santa Ana College, which has been testing firefighters throughout Southern California for over 12 years. It is a comprehensive testing process that includes lecture, blood chemistry screening, physical fitness assessment, and a physical examination by a medical physician.

Blood was drawn from all sworn personnel and the results were explained in a lecture to provide a better understanding of the screening process. Important elements of the screening include glucose, total cholesterol and triglyceride values. These are imperative to computing coronary risk factors.

The comprehensive fitness evaluation includes a 12-lead EKG at rest and during treadmill exercise, body composition evaluation, abdominal endurance crunch test, grip strength, flexibility tests and lower body strength testing. An individualized fitness profile is compiled for all of the testing to provide results for all participants.

The results of all testing, as well as an additional physical examination, are provided by a cardiologist on an individual basis. The physician will review the results and administer any additional testing as deemed necessary. All results are confidential and results will not be released without written permission from the individual.

Saving lives is what we do and this program is sure to save the lives of our personnel. This program could not have been implemented without

the help and dedication of Fire Chief Chris Gray, B.C. Bob Doyle, Capt. Scott Mohlenbrok and FF/PM Vince Carpino.

Controlled Goat Grazing Project

The Whiting Woods Firewise Community/USA in the City of Glendale was awarded a grant to reduce the risk of wildfire damage in their community. Through the Sacramento Regional Foundation, the Glendale Fire Prevention Bureau is coordinating a community fuel reduction program. The objective is to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the built environment. Defensible space for the Whiting Woods Community will be established by using a biological control project, better known as "controlled goat grazing."

Biological fuel modification will consist of domestic livestock grazing (goats).



Nanny and Billy's Southern Oregon Goat Producers have been hired to provide goats for the hazardous vegetation abatement project. This is a different company than was previously used.

Although many of the sites are difficult to access due to steep slopes and many have poison oak, with proper control the goats can be used to scale back the fire threat in these

areas. The requirements of human supervision, careful management, rotation, portable fencing and other control measures will be used to maintain the local herds. The goats provide a natural means to reduce vegetation with limited impact to the environment and create a fuel break to protect homes from wildfire.

Goat grazing will be on public open space commencing in early September.



New Drafting Pit

For those who have not been to our Training Center lately, our drafting pit has recently been refurbished, tested, and re-certified. A very special thank-you to the GWP welders, who did an outstanding job. We also want to thank Firefighters Jon Payne and Jeff Rehm for taking on the project and seeing it through. So come on down and use it! (But call first...818-548-4050.)

For those not familiar with what a drafting pit is, it's a pit in the ground that is covered by a series of pipes that can be hooked up to a fire engine to calibrate the engine's pumping pressure, which must be maintained within a certain standard range.

New Chief Assignments

The following reassignment orders have been issued for our Fire Command Staff effective January 1, 2005:

<u>Chief Officer</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>Upcoming Assignment</u>
Don Biggs	Assistant Chief	Assistant Chief / Verdugo
Corey Creasey	Operations "A" Platoon	Training Chief
Robert Doyle	Operations "C" Platoon	Fire Prevention Bureau
Michael Haney	Fire Prevention Bureau	Support (EMS/Shop)
Steve Howard	Operations "B" Platoon	Operations "A" Platoon
Harold Scoggins	Training Chief	Operations "C" Shift
Don Wright	Support/Verdugo	Operations "B" Shift

MONROVIA

Population: 38,800

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,512,801,096



During a presentation Monrovia firefighters gave to a neighborhood watch group at 911 Norumbega regarding brush fire safety and awareness, a local bear stopped by for a swim.



Monrovia firefighters, assisted by the U.S. Forest Service and Sierra Madre Fire Department, apply phoscheck fire retardant to roadways in the hillsides of Monrovia.



The Goat Grazing pilot program has officially started in the hills of Monrovia. This is another one of several fuel modification projects with the goal to eliminate the threat of a wildfire in our community. Bat-

talion Chief Young has done an excellent job in obtaining this program.

Congratulations to Monrovia Fire Cadet Jeremy Phipps for recently graduating from Paramedic School on June 15. Jeremy is the son of Captain Greg Phipps of the Glendale Fire Department. Jeremy is a great kid, says fire chief Sam DiGiovanna. The only problem is that we need to get him hired before he gets hired elsewhere.



What's Pasadena Fire Chief Denis Downs doing with that knife? (Notice the helmet number on the right side of the photo?) Monrovia firefighters whipped up a carrot cake for Chief Downs during a recent lunch with Chief DiGiovanna, welcoming him to Monrovia and Area C. We had a great time with Chief Downs, say Monrovia firefighters. The only question we have is: where's that knife?



Progress continues at Monrovia's new station in the foothills. Negotiations continue with the U.S. Forest Service for a cooperative agreement for staffing the station. We are looking at a September 2004 finish date! We are very proud of the hard work personnel have been doing. It is a great team builder as all three shifts work closely together under the direction of Battalion Chief Steve Lennox and Engineer Kirk Bates.



On Aug. 2 at approximately 9 p.m., Monrovia firefighters were dispatched to a reported brush fire at the end of Norumbega near the border of the city of Bradbury. En route personnel noticed a small working brush fire in the foothills of Monrovia. While we had a first alarm brush response from Verdugo, a unified command was set up with Los Angeles County Fire Department and the U.S. Forest Service as the flames crept in a northwest direction.

Pasadena Police Department provided air support and an excellent bird's eye description of the fire's location and activity. Access was through the city limits of Bradbury and the command post was established at the end of Norumbega.

The fire, located in Spanish Canyon near Monrovia/Bradbury, burned less than ¼ acre. Had this been in the daytime or several weeks ago, a much different scenario certainly would have played out. The cause is suspicious in origin and we have one lead we will be following up on. Thank you to all the mutual aid cities who responded to assist!

We want to congratulate all participants in the recent promotional exams. All candidates passed successfully and are eligible to work as actors. Below is the list of the top candidates in alphabetical order who will be interviewed if and when openings occur.

FIRE BATTALION CHIEF

Mike Cate, *Scott Haberle, Fernando Rodriguez, John Rooks

FIRE CAPTAIN

Kirk Bates, Ben Exparza, Shawn Morton, Brian Patrick, Kenneth Struckus

*Does not meet minimum experience requirements.

Our intention is to hold promotional exams for each position every year, so keep studying! Again, congratulations to all of you.



Monrovia Fire units responded to a multiple vehicle accident on the 210 freeway at Myrtle. There were several vehicles involved, with two of the vehicles overturned. In all, three patients were transported to local area hospitals. Two of the patients sustained minor injuries and the third was transported to Huntington Memorial's trauma center with severe injuries.



Monrovia firefighters responded to a traffic accident on Peck Road just south of Live Oak. One vehicle had apparently been racing or driving at a high rate of speed when it bumped the curb or another vehicle. The car then rolled over, snapping a wooden telephone pole. These victims were very fortunate that they did not receive any injuries at all.



Like all of us here in Area C, Monrovia firefighters were called upon to assist in both the Lake Hughes fire and the Foothill fire, both in Northern Los Angeles County, during July. We really enjoyed working with all of you during these fires. Thanks for all you do!

From Chief DiGiovanna

It can be very rewarding as a Fire Chief, and it can be very difficult in today's climate. As Chiefs, we are all very proud of you. Many of us greatly miss being on shift and the camaraderie associated in the suppression ranks. We miss going on the calls. After all, like you, that's what attracted us to this job, to serve and be where the action is.

As Chiefs, we want to see all of you be successful and reach your goals within your career. You can help us help you as we are all part of the same family.

Here are a few tips we can practice that will work for all of us:

- Renew your expiration date. Like a carton of milk, the day you get hired, you begin your expiration date. Renew it often through participating in promotional exams, requesting different assignments and being a participant in the organization, not just a spectator.
- Don't gossip! Gossip kills organizations and institutions. Yes, we all have faults and weaknesses. Remember, the person you gossip about has to live with them. Is there a need to remind them of their faults? When you hear gossip or

have the urge to gossip, don't participate in it! We all really know why gossip exists...it is for the weak and insecure.

- Be positive. We are very lucky to have such great careers. Why would we complain about what we have? Is there something else you would rather do other than being in the fire service?
- Support one another from one end of the ladder to the other. Yes, from Cadet to Chief, we are all on the same team!
- Communicate with one another. Communicate properly. Don't be afraid to ask, but do so respectfully.
- Understand things won't always go your way, that's just the way it goes. But a real test of one's character comes from difficult times, not when we always get our way.
- Respect each other and each other's space. Unlike most other professions, we live with one another and patience is necessary. Patience is possessed by few and desired by many. Learn to be patient.
- Treat your community and the citizens you serve with respect and dignity. They are the ones we serve. A simple and reassuring statement to an injured person such as, "It's okay, the worst is over and we are here to help" will go a long way.
- Learn to forgive yourself and others. Don't continue to live with consequences of the past!

Please don't take this as preaching. I certainly have my share of faults and weaknesses, and like I mentioned above, the worst part is that I have to live with them!

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you too can become great.

— Mark Twain

MONTEREY PARK

Population: 63,900

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$3,573,608,976

On Saturday, September 4, former Monterey Park Fire Chief James O. Page passed away. Chief Page's career was distinguished and was punctuated with numerous innovative concepts. Among these were his service as a technical advisor for the incredibly popular television show "Emergency," which was possibly the single most effective medium for popularizing and promoting the marriage between fire departments and paramedic services that is so universally accepted today.

Chief Page was also the founder and editor of JEMS Magazine, a periodical that enjoys national circulation and is generally considered the premier publication in the field of pre-hospital care.

Jim Page told the story of walk-

ing by the Monterey Park fire stations as a young man growing up in Monterey Park, and talking with the firefighters about what they did. These talks inspired him to become a firefighter, and on his twenty-first birthday, the earliest allowable date, he walked into Monterey Park City Hall and applied for a position as Firefighter.

Chief Page began his illustrious career on August 7, 1957 when he was hired as a Firefighter by the City of Monterey Park. On October 30, 1959, he resigned to accept a position with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, where he eventually became involved with the development of their newly instituted paramedic program.

While with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Chief Page attended law school and passed the California Bar Examination. He eventually left Los Angeles County to head to North Caro-

lina, where he became Chief of EMS for the State of North Carolina in the mid-70's.

After being away for approximately ten years, Chief Page returned to California. He was hired as the Fire Chief of Monterey Park on April 14, 1986, a position he held until January 13, 1989 when he resigned to devote more time to his duties as Editor of JEMS and to his practice of law.

James O. Page was a visionary and an advocate for the fire service and for paramedics. We are proud of our association with him and will miss his inspiration and enthusiasm.



RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS

June, July & August 2004

AVERAGE ONSCENE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
ARCADIA	4.07
BURBANK	4.06
GLENDALE	4.01
MONROVIA	4.20
PASADENA	3.97
SAN GABRIEL	4.00
SAN MARINO	3.35
SIERRA MADRE	4.34
SOUTH PASADENA	3.75

PERCENT OF RESPONSES UNDER 5 MINUTES

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Percent <5 min.</u>
ARCADIA	75%
BURBANK	77%
GLENDALE	80%
MONROVIA	73%
PASADENA	78%
SAN GABRIEL	79%
SAN MARINO	84%
SIERRA MADRE	70%
SOUTH PASADENA	81%

Note: Dispatch to arrival times may vary due to many factors such as the city's geographical layout, the time of day or night, traffic density, road conditions and emergency unit availability. They can also be adversely affected by human error – the failure to press ONSCENE on the mobile computer terminal (MCT) when arriving at an incident.

PASADENA

Population: 144,000

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$12,535,751,509



New Rescue Cushion

Pasadena has a new rescue cushion, tentatively designated RC32, for jumper/rescuer situations. It is now operational and ready to be used in rescues. The bag requires 10 certified people for deployment and is inflated using fans. It is available to all Area C cities.

Personnel Updates

Battalion Chief Duncan Baird has retired from the Pasadena Fire Department. Chief Baird was a member of the department for 35 years, serving the last 15 as Battalion Chief.



The Pasadena Fire Department responded to a Mass Vehicle Incident on Aug. 12 on the 210 Freeway. Special thanks to Glendale, San Marino and Arcadia Fire and AMR Ambulance for their response in treating and transporting patients. Unfortunately, there were three fatalities as the result of a solo SUV roll-over with eight passengers in the vehicle. Six people were not wearing seatbelts and were ejected.

Captain II Alvin Blades was selected to serve as Acting Battalion Chief (B shift).

Battalion Chief Ray Gordon (A shift) has been assigned to Training Chief and Captain II Harry Crusberg will serve as Acting Battalion Chief (A shift). Crusberg is a third generation member of the Pasadena Fire Department.

Firefighter II Henry Moreno was selected for promotion to Fire Engineer effective Monday, September 6. Moreno will be assigned to Fire Station 33-A effective Tuesday, September 7. Firefighters Joshua Ward and Michael Batterson were also selected for appointment as Fire Engineers.

Firefighter/Paramedics Emilio Heraldez and Todd Witt were recognized by Pasadena Police Chief Bernard Melekian for providing details to police officers of a suspect attempting to coax a juvenile female

into his truck. The suspect drove away from the scene upon seeing the ambulance. The suspect was ultimately arrested and charged.

The Pasadena Fire Department and Local 809 hosted a barbecue for over 1,000 Marines and their families who were recently deployed to Iraq. The 4th LAAD Battalion of the United States Marine Corps is based in Pasadena.

The Pasadena Fire Department has formed a committee to develop a brochure and marketing and advertising strategies to recruit Entry Level Firefighters, Auxiliary Firefighters and Explorers. Twenty-eight personnel have volunteered to serve on this committee.

Additionally, Chief Downs is establishing a Strategic Plan Committee, consisting of fire personnel, with the first meeting scheduled for the end of September.

Benefit Golf Tournament in Honor of Firefighter Greg Otto

San Luis Obispo City Firefighter Greg Otto has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and a Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Avila Beach Golf Resort on Oct. 12 to raise funds for him and his family. Format will be four-person scramble. Tee sponsor: \$200. Table sponsor at dinner: \$100. Call Scott French (805-390-9604) or Greg Leptich (805-773-6838) for additional information.

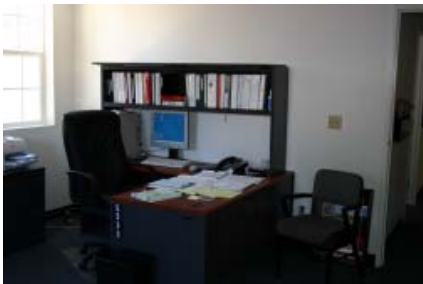
SAN GABRIEL

Population: 41,900

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,300,382,449

When last reported, the San Gabriel Fire Department Headquarters was adding three new office spaces, expanding one, and reconfiguring another. Well, it's done and the moving in continues. The Captains have finished their move-in, the BC dorm room still awaits the last locker (and anything that can pass as interior decorating so it doesn't look like a cell), the two workstations in the old BC office are in almost constant use (some of it job related), and the Fire Inspector, Don Berry, has a freshly painted office and a new desk that's still unassembled because it came with no assembly hardware. The rest of the furniture for the BC office is due within two days, and then we can get the books, manuals, catalogs, records, and odds and ends of an office into some semblance of order.



The 1957 Mack (a Model B125 for the old fire truck aficionados amongst us) is back from the fabricators. It went out as a pumper and came back as a parade queen, complete with bench seats for the lucky passengers and a welded steel chair permanently fastened between the hose reels for Santa. No more ol' Santa (face as white as his hair) holding on to a café chair tied down with webbing...we're talking *safety*. As for the entertaining spectacle of people trying to climb up into the hosebed for the trip around town, well, that's over. Now it'll be a dignified step up into the much lowered bed and a seat on the outward-facing

benches, and fasten your seat belt.

Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Riley-Walton, who moonlights as the mechanic-in-charge of the Mack conversion, has been under, inside, on top of, and now in front of that old rig making changes that will add to the safety and durability of our very own parade float. Christmas will be here before we know it, and I for one can't wait to see Santa on his new throne with portable audience behind him, causing all that ruckus and disruption on Valley Boulevard as he wishes all a Merry Christmas.

Specifications are being drawn up for a Pierce Quantum to replace the 1995 E-One at Station 52, and a new Battalion command vehicle is in the works for later this year to replace the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban. When the new BC car arrives, we will have the luxury of a reserve command car for those times when the front line rig goes out for service, repair, or (what Chief Beckman prays for) on a strike team. It'll beat the heck out of that Ford crewcab pickup that we've been using.

On a serious note, in late July Battalion Chief Mike Terry was injured in a traffic collision when another driver crossed the centerline and ran head-on into Mike's truck. Mike's son was driving, but sustained only scrapes and bruises. Mike suffered a broken leg and has been off work since then. He's finally up and around on crutches, putting up with residual pain, and hoping to be released to duty on Sept. 6. If the doctor gives the ok, Mike will be back to work on the 10th, maybe not able to run sprints but in San Gabriel the BC's don't do that anyway.

SAN MARINO

Population: 13,600

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,841,777,470



Employee of the Year

Colleen Altizer, Executive Secretary to the Fire Chief, was awarded the “San Marino Fire Department Employee of the Year” in a ceremony before the City Council on Septem-

ber 8. In his remarks before the Council, Chief John Penido said, “When I decided to make all members of the department eligible, Colleen was the unanimous choice of the firefighters for the award.”

Colleen has been with the department for 12 years, having transferred over from the city library. If you wonder how she made the transition from the quiet environment of the library to the fire station, the answer is simple, she has six brothers. Congratulations, Colleen, on a well deserved award.

Local Citizen Saves a Life

In a ceremony at the San Marino City Council Meeting on September 8, Dulcie Covington was recognized by the Council and the American Red Cross for her quick actions in saving the life of a patron in her restaurant. On July 28, Dulcie noticed a male patron choking on an



Dulcie Covington receives a proclamation from Mayor Bob Twist, with Chief Penido looking on.

unknown object. She quickly went to his aid and delivered what would later be described by Capt. Mark Phillips as “a legitimate Heimlich maneuver.” When paramedics arrived a few minutes later, the victim was breathing fine and wanting to refuse treatment. Dulcie has recently sold the Colonial Kitchen restaurant, but the experience will stay with her forever.

SIERRA MADRE

Population: 11,050

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$1,035,611,332

Updates

Sierra Madre is working with City officials to identify baseline service levels and funding alternatives. The City engaged Citygate, a private firm, to conduct a study of the department and its operations. The Sierra Madre Fire Department has reviewed the report issued by Citygate

and sees the report as a positive affirmation of the service we provide to the City. Our level of service puts us in the top 12% of all Fire Departments *nationwide*, and our response times are comparable to neighboring communities.

Training

Firefighters Matt Bono and Bret Chambers completed their training at the Glendale Arroyo Seco Fire Academy. The program was a full-year curriculum which was conducted every Saturday and Sunday. Three more SMFD firefighters are joining Class 8, which starts September 11. The new candidates are

Jen Dabney, Mark Chavez, and Jeff Putnam.

Resources

Firefighter Brent Bartlett has been promoted to the position of Acting Captain II, working with Captain Raymond Smith.

The department welcomes new Firefighter recruit Robert Newton.



SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,500

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,138,130,078

The South Pasadena Fire Department is going through some very challenging times. Chief Elliott has moved on to West Covina and is missed in South Pasadena. He brought a level of professionalism to our organization and has raised the bar in both expectations and performance.

At this time, B.C.s Parker and Guiral will be acting as Chief when they are on duty. B.C. Clark is scheduled to return to work September 16 after his recuperation from back surgery. Retired B.C. Rich Brown from Arcadia was a great asset as a temporary replacement for Mike Clark.

Our City Council has requested proposals from both Los Angeles City Fire Department and the Pasadena Fire Department to provide fire protection for the city of South Pasadena. These proposals are expected to be submitted by mid-September and we anticipate that the City Council will reach a preliminary decision by the end of the year. Should the City chose instead to retain its fire department, a search will commence for a new Fire Chief.

Due to a projected retirement, long term IOD and a recent resignation, we will be conducting a FF/PM entry-level exam as well as a B.C. and Captain's promotional exam. FF/PM Eric Zanteson has been promoted to Paramedic Coordinator.

The department continues to look forward to the challenges the future will bring.

FDNY Cross Country Tour

On Sunday, September 12, South Pasadena firefighters met the FDNY Cross Country Bike Tour in Oceanside after they completed a 42-mile promotional bike ride out of San Diego. The FDNY riders and crew were brought to South Pasadena Fire Station 81, where they were fed a family-style barbeque and put up for the night. Also at the barbeque were off-duty members and their families, along with on-duty personnel from Pasadena Station 31.

Prior to the start of the cross-country bike tour from L.A. to New York, the FDNY riders were honored at the San Diego "Release of Souls Exhibit & Concert" on September 11. South Pasadena and Pasadena Firefighters also hosted Release of Souls prior to the San Diego event on September 3.

Because of the work done on the Release of Souls project and the National Firefighters 9-11 Memorial Patch, FDNY Cross Country Bike Tour organizer Joshua Gallo wanted to bring the team to South Pasadena prior to leaving on their official tour to raise money for their UFA Widows' & Children's Fund. Both South Pasadena Firefighters 9/11 Tributes are also sponsors of the FDNY bike tour.

The 42-day tour will also be stopping in several other firehouses along their way, commemorating the brotherhood of firefighters and remembering the lost as they raise funds.

<http://www.fdnycrosscountry.org/sponsors>

<http://firefighting.org/9-11patch>

<http://www.releaseofsouls.org>



VERDUGO INCIDENTS: SUMMER 2004 VS. SUMMER 2003

<u>SUMMER 2004:</u>	<u>AR</u>	<u>BU</u>	<u>GL</u>	<u>MO</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>SG</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>SI</u>	<u>SP</u>	<u>VFCC</u>	<u>VFCC%</u>
FIRE	209	340	387	119	784	63	58	16	64	2,142	17.2%
MEDICAL	657	1,639	2,817	573	2,601	406	146	111	286	9,305	74.9%
SERVICE	70	109	193	48	179	31	27	19	38	727	5.9%
OTHER	2	0	18	0	8	3	1	0	2	34	0.3%
OOV*	17	18	54	21	22	32	33	4	15	217	1.7%
TOTAL	955	2,106	3,469	761	3,594	535	265	150	405	12,425	
<u>SUMMER 2003:</u>	<u>AR</u>	<u>BU</u>	<u>GL</u>	<u>MO</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>SG</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>SI</u>	<u>SP</u>	<u>VFCC</u>	<u>VFCC%</u>
FIRE	188	318	444	127	772	79	46	24	65	2,154	16.8%
MEDICAL	744	1,588	2,921	590	2,766	407	159	155	260	9,656	75.1%
SERVICE	78	130	204	77	166	36	12	14	50	776	6.0%
OTHER	0	0	17	7	60	1	4	3	2	94	0.7%
OUTSIDE VERDUGO*	10	16	41	14	21	27	36	2	7	174	1.4%
TOTAL	1,020	2,052	3,627	815	3,785	550	257	198	384	12,854	
<u>2003 vs. 2004 COMPARISON: Percent Difference</u>											
	<u>AR</u>	<u>BU</u>	<u>GL</u>	<u>MO</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>SG</u>	<u>SM</u>	<u>SI</u>	<u>SP</u>	<u>VFCC</u>	
FIRE	+11.2	+6.9	-12.8	-6.3	+1.6	-20.3	+26.1	-33.3	-1.5	-0.6	
MEDICAL	-11.7	+3.2	-3.6	-2.9	-6.0	-0.2	-8.2	-28.4	+10.0	-3.6	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	-6.4	+2.6	-4.4	-6.6	-5.0	-2.7	+3.1	-24.2	+5.5	-3.3	

*Responses outside the Verdugo System are to such locations as Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Alhambra and Monterey Park.

VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

VHF Channel Plan

Through a joint venture between LA County Fire, LA City Fire, Verdugo and South Bay City Fire Departments, a VHF channel plan has been devised as a common radio platform for the metropolitan area. The plan includes FIRE-SCOPE VHF channels and the narrow band updates as imposed by federal and state decrees and will be reviewed and updated annually.

Special thanks to Bob Hewitt, Kevin Nida, John Grimaldi and the host of others who have had a hand in making this come together.

New Digital Recorder Online

On June 24, Verdugo's new Mercom Audiolog digital logging recorder was installed and personnel were trained in its operation. This device records all 9-1-1 calls and radio transmissions. The previous recorder had reached the end of its usable life and needed to be replaced. State 911 funds were used to pay for the new unit.

From now on, requested tapes of 911 calls or radio traffic may be sent as an email or CD instead of the audio tapes we have been using. One workstation of the old system will be retained for accessing stored data tapes for those instances when an older incident is requested. Verdugo currently stores phone/radio tapes dating back to September 1996.

Contract Dispatch Service

New contracts are being worked out to replace soon to expire agreements with Arcadia, Monrovia and Sierra Madre. Discussions are also underway concerning South Pasadena's status in the event they contract for fire service with Pasadena. Entry of Monterey Park's geocode information has been completed in anticipation of Monterey Park joining the Verdugo System in the very near future.



UNIFIED RESPONSE Upcoming Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Winter 2004	Dec. 6
Spring 2005	Mar. 7
Summer 2005	June 6
Fall 2005	Sept. 6

Mark your calendar!

Verdugo Fire System Units: Total Responses June, July & August 2004

	<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>		<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>		<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>				
Arcadia	E105	363	Glendale (cont.)	E26	569	Pasadena (cont.)	RA31	717				
	E106	521		E27	497		RA32	564				
	E107	206		E28	183		RA33	877				
	RA105	359		E29	265		RA36	706				
	RA106	412		HM27	8		RA737	8				
	T105	123		RA21	1,000		T31	260				
	AU106	2		RA25	888		T32	162				
Burbank	E11	585		RA26	800		USAR32	4	San Gabriel	E51	318	
	E12	342		RA29	440		E52	246		San Marino	E91	300
	E13	415		T21	213		RA51	385			Sierra Madre	E41
	E14	283	T26	196	T29	74	RA41	150				
	E15	491	USAR26	1	WT29	1	South Pas.	AU81	144			
	E16	174	Monrovia	E101	496	E81		416	RA81	302		
	E18	20		E102	370	Verdugo dispatching non-Verdugo units:	Alhambra	E71	32			
	HM12	4		SQ101	392			E72	14			
	RA11	625		LF101	134			E73	9			
	RA13	523		USAR01	117			E74	3			
	RA15	650		WT101	5			T71	27			
	T11	169		Pasadena	E31			875	RA71	12		
	T12	97			E32			413	RA74	3		
USAR11	7	E33			775			Mont. Park	E61	9		
WT16	1	E34		532	RA61				3			
Glendale	AU28	5	E36	733								
	E21	709	E37	350								
	E22	560	E38	158								
	E23	40	E39	162								
	E24	199										
	E25	742										

*Reserve rigs are included in the total for their assigned station. For example, the E41 total includes E241 responses.

Action Photo of the Month



Sheared hydrant in Glendale on Aug. 23

UNIFIED RESPONSE

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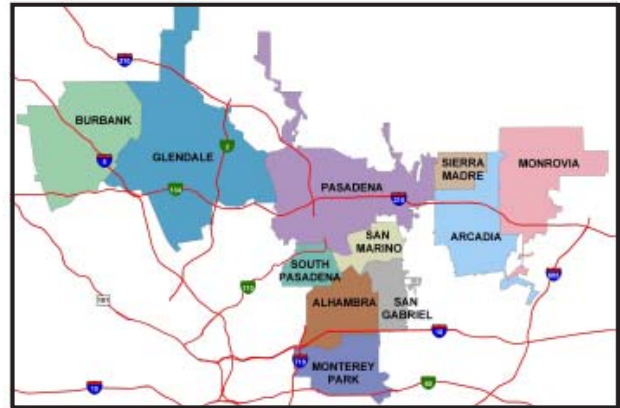
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OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: SUMMER 2004

The following tables show the number of out of jurisdiction responses for each fire department during June, July and August 2004, compared to the same three months a year earlier. This includes only those incidents that were dispatched by Verdugo Fire Communications Center. The leftmost column shows which agency responded; columns to the right show where that agency responded and how many times they responded to that jurisdiction during this time period. "XA" refers to locations outside the normal Area C/Los Angeles response region. "XB" includes units such as private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles and helicopters.



Summer 2004

Responding Agency:	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	XA	
AR	X	0	0	58	15	6	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	0	96
BU	0	X	73	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	0	3	92
GL	1	50	X	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	17	36	0	1	128
MO	61	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	1	82
PA	19	1	11	3	X	1	7	0	26	0	16	5	0	1	90
SG	0	0	0	2	0	X	7	0	1	19	10	0	2	1	42
SM	1	0	0	2	51	59	X	0	36	10	21	0	1	1	182
SI	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	X	0	0	3	0	0	1	6
SP	0	0	0	0	103	9	24	0	X	9	2	3	0	1	151
AL	3	0	0	1	0	31	4	0	10	X	2	0	0	2	53
CO	14	0	12	10	4	10	3	0	0	0	X	1	0	1	55
LA	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	X	0	0	12
MP	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	1	10
XB	11	21	5	562	4	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	X	608
Subtotals	111	72	104	640	202	124	45	0	81	39	116	53	4	16	1607

Summer 2003

Responding Agency:	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	XA	
AR	X	0	0	37	12	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	60
BU	0	X	76	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	0	0	96
GL	1	57	X	1	25	0	0	0	1	0	21	20	0	0	126
MO	72	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	86
PA	11	1	10	2	X	0	4	0	28	0	16	5	0	0	77
SG	1	0	0	0	1	X	3	0	0	18	9	0	0	0	32
SM	1	0	0	2	45	59	X	0	38	5	31	0	0	0	181
SI	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
SP	0	1	0	0	87	3	19	0	X	4	1	2	0	0	117
AL	3	0	0	1	0	29	2	0	7	X	2	0	0	0	40
CO	13	0	20	11	7	8	1	1	0	0	X	0	0	0	61
LA	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	X	0	0	6
MP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	0	2
XB	24	17	2	612	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	657
Subtotals	124	76	111	666	182	100	29	2	78	27	117	33	0	0	1545