

UNIFIED



RESPONSE

Area "C" Quarterly Bulletin Winter 2004



Serving the cities of:

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

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Holiday Greetings to our Area C Colleagues!

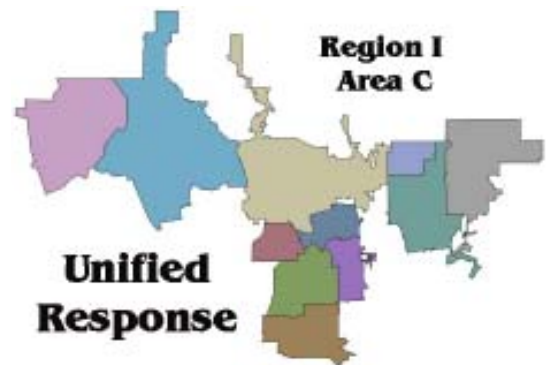
It is with a great deal of pride that I present our Unified Response Automatic Aid Plan. This plan has been several years in the making, with the active involvement and sweat equity of Chief Officers and staff members from all 11 of the participating fire departments.



The intention of an automatic aid plan is essentially “neighbor helping neighbor” in responding to incidents that exceed the current and immediate need of the affected jurisdiction. Parties to an automatic aid agreement lay out detailed response plans so that when an applicable situation arises, pre-determined personnel and equipment can be dispatched automatically, without delay or reaching through several layers of notification and approval. This cooperation will save lives and property while ultimately providing superior public safety to all of our residents and visitors. As we have witnessed over the years, a small fire can become a huge conflagration in very short order; the sooner the resources are there to put it out, the less property damage will result and the less likelihood of human casualties and damage to the environment. At the same time, an array of specialized emergencies can tax any one of us. Regional cooperation is the answer to best effect a favorable outcome.

As the following pages explain, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services considers the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Glendale, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena to be members of Mutual Aid Region I, Area C. The 11 fire departments of Area C work together as a team, and at the Area level we collaborate and cooperate with other operational areas in Los Angeles County and beyond.

As the Area C Coordinator, I have had the privilege of working closely with the other 10 Fire Chiefs to create an automatic aid response plan that expands the pool of equipment and trained personnel a jurisdiction can depend on for help in an emergency by essentially dropping the borders between cities and unifying our tactics to address various emergency scenarios. Where before



Continued from p.1

one of the smaller cities in Area C might have had two fire engines and a Battalion Chief to respond, under this automatic aid plan that city will theoretically have access to 40 engines, 11 trucks, 5 water tenders, 3 air utilities, and other specialized units, with trained personnel to staff them.

The benefits of such a plan are numerous, with the most obvious being response time, as mentioned earlier. The closest available resources will be dispatched to an incident automatically and immediately, without red tape or confusion, even if the nearest unit belongs to another city. There are also substantial financial benefits. For example, costly resources like hazardous materials units that are only used a few times each month can be shared by multiple cities instead of each city having to purchase its own. Such collaboration will also be helpful in justifying requests for federal and state grant monies that are currently available through homeland security initiatives because more citizens and a larger geographic area will stand to benefit from expenditures. This agreement will be the foundation for other joint opportunities, allowing us to leverage each other's strengths, resources and experience for mutual benefit. We will, however, closely monitor all activity to avoid any potential imbalance. Reciprocity is the key to a successful automatic aid agreement.

We will be initiating a six-month trial period commencing February 14, 2005. The trial is necessary to further refine the details of this plan and, where necessary, tailor it to the needs of individual jurisdictions or districts. Chief Officers from the 11 fire departments will participate in a workshop February 2, 3 or 4 to pave the way for borderless collaboration between fire agencies and to assure that all understand the incident command standards that have been agreed upon by the Fire Chiefs. The final plan generated through the refinements made in the trial period will be formalized as an automatic aid agreement that will be circulated, reviewed and approved by the 11 cities involved.

We are looking forward to this new phase of working together to further enhance the protection of our neighboring communities from fire hazards and other major emergencies. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this plan; my door is always open.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to you and your families.

Respectfully,

Christopher Gray
Fire Chief
Area "C" Coordinator

Unified Response Automatic Aid Plan Covering 11 Jurisdictions in Region I, Area C

Background

A year ago, Southern California experienced an unprecedented fire siege that devastated nearly a million acres, destroyed thousands of structures and took human lives. It was a grave reminder that no municipality has sufficient resources to handle all types and severities of major emergencies on its own.

Fortunately, systems are in place at the state, region, county and local levels to provide assistance in the form of equipment and trained personnel when such major disasters occur.

At the state level, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities. California's 58 counties are grouped into three OES administrative regions which are further subdivided into six mutual aid regions, I

through VI. Each mutual aid region is comprised of several operational areas, which may include a number of

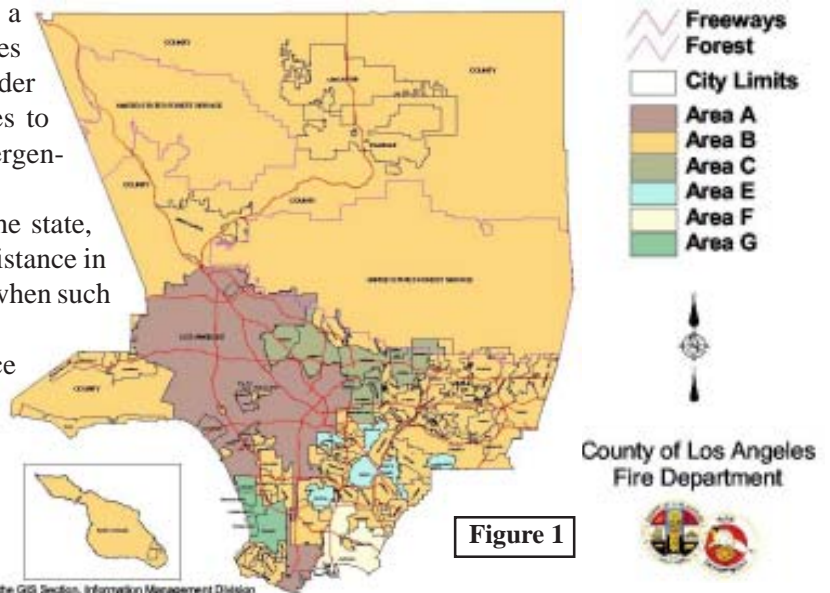


Figure 1

local jurisdictions. Region I covers five counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles County, which is further subdivided into Areas A, B, C, E, F and G, as shown in Figure 1.

This proposal involves Area C, covering approximately 126 square miles of Los Angeles County and including the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Glendale, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena (Figure 2).

Each of the 11 cities in Area C has its own fire department, and nine of these cities share fire/rescue dispatch services provided by the Verdugo Fire Communications Center in Glendale. Monterey Park will soon be joining the Verdugo dispatch system and Alhambra Police Department currently dispatches fire/rescue calls for their city. Verdugo Fire Communications is jointly owned by the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena and provides fire/rescue dispatch services to the other cities on a contract basis. A description of the benefits of this regional communication system is provided in Table 1.

There is tremendous variability in fire department resources available to each city. Many of the smaller cities lack the funding, equipment, personnel and other resources to handle a major incident, making them de-

pendent on the goodwill of neighboring jurisdictions to assist during crises. For example, some cities have no ladder trucks and must rely on neighboring agencies to assist when such apparatus are needed. Others may lack an air utility, USAR, hazmat unit or water tender.

Assistance provided by other jurisdictions is often negotiated and formalized as *mutual aid* or *automatic aid* agreements. Mutual aid refers to assistance that may be requested after local resources have exceeded their capacity. It can include such personnel, equipment, material and supplies as are customarily used within the sending party's jurisdiction. In contrast, automatic aid requires no formal request for deployment. It usually involves certain units or types of units within a specified area or district; the appropriate units are automatically dispatched to an incident under circumstances detailed in the agreement.

Both types of agreements generally stipulate that none of the participating fire agencies, in rendering aid to another jurisdiction, will be obligated to reduce their own resources to the extent that a situation is created that might be detrimental to its citizens. Table 2 shows the primary front-line resources available within Area C.

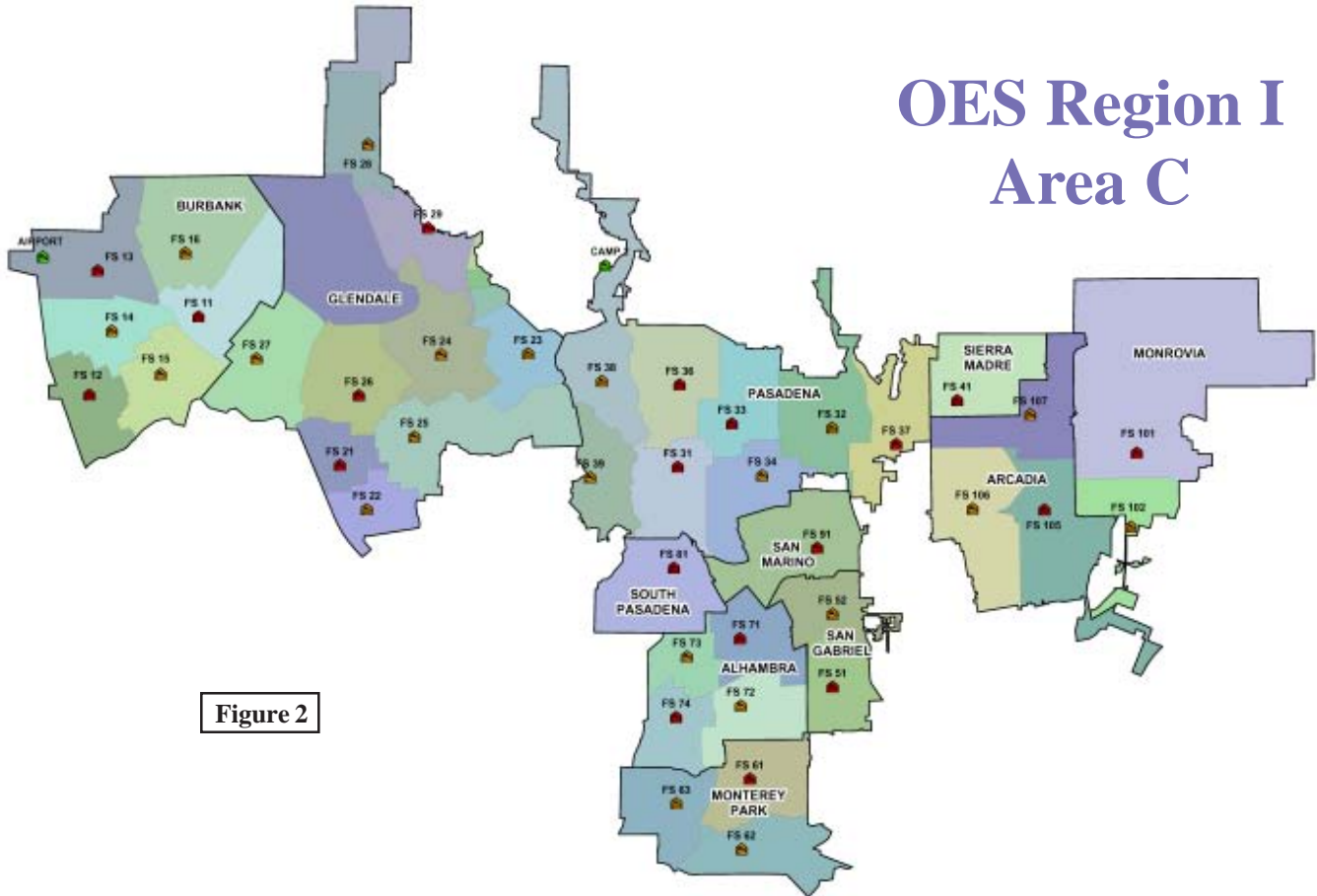


Table 1: Benefits of Participating in Verdugo's Regional Fire Communications Center

- Costs of personnel and computer, phone, dispatch and radio communication systems are shared between multiple agencies, lowering each agency's share and eliminating unnecessary and costly redundancy;
- Dispatchers who specialize in fire and rescue, who are able to provide Emergency Medical Dispatch instructions to callers prior to the arrival of paramedics;
- Centralized coordination of "unified responses" within the Area C mutual aid system;
- Fast access to OES Region I resources;
- Common radio frequencies enable relatively seamless operations on major incidents, increased safety on the fireground and faster initial responses;
- Redundancy of critical radio, telephone, and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems prevents unnecessary interruptions in service;
- Fire Stations are alerted automatically through CAD, which provides a hard-copy printout and displays dispatch information on mobile computer terminals (MCT's);
- Monthly Task Force meetings are held where Battalion Chiefs share decision making and keep their colleagues in the other Area C agencies updated and informed;
- Status changes and movements are recorded using MCT's, reducing radio channel congestion;
- Notifications to key personnel are automatically triggered by alarm level or incident type through CAD, or manually by the dispatchers;
- Detailed incident history information is recorded through CAD;
- The "ReddiNet" hospital status system displays local hospital emergency department status for EMS incidents;
- In-depth statistical analysis of fire and rescue incidents using data captured by the CAD system; and
- The forthcoming CAD upgrade will include mapping and automatic vehicle location capabilities, providing an ongoing visual record of unit locations relative to incident locations and helping to avoid "gaps" in deployment.

The Problem

There are currently over 40 aid agreements in place among and between Area C cities and the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, U.S. Forest Service and other agencies, involving mutual and/or automatic aid for fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials and rescue responses. A list of these agreements is provided in Appendix A.

In an emergency situation when time is of the essence and lives and property are at stake, there is not sufficient time to consult the finer points of 40-odd agreements to confirm which apparatus and personnel may be sent. Ideally, the closest units should automatically be dispatched to supply the necessary resources with a minimum of delay. Some agreements even stipulate that a Chief Officer's approval must be obtained before aid may be supplied, and this too can result in unfortunate delays.

Over the years, some gaps in coverage have evolved and situations are arising with increasing frequency that require a "dispatch first, ask forgiveness later" approach. A simpler, more comprehensive plan is needed.

The Proposed Solution

After extensive discussions among the 11 fire departments of Area C, a proposed solution has been

formulated involving the creation of a borderless fire response area where boundaries between the 11 cities would be dropped and Verdugo Fire Communications would dispatch the closest appropriate emergency equipment, regardless of its affiliation or where the fire occurs.

Table 2: Area C Primary Front-Line Resources

	Engines	Trucks	Air Utilities	Water Tenders	USAR	HAZMAT	Stations	Ambulances
Alhambra	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	2
Arcadia	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	2
Burbank	w	2	0	1	1	1	6	3
Glendale	9	3	1	2	1	1	9	4
Monrovia	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	(PM squad)
Monterey Park	3	1	0	0	0	0	3	2
Pasadena	8	2	0	0	1	0	8	4
San Gabriel	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
San Marino	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sierra Madre	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
South Pasadena	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
TOTALS	40	11	3	5	7	2	40	22

This proposal does not include provision of emergency medical services; existing interagency agreements for medical responses would remain in effect.

A system of “key stations” was developed by identifying 20 strategically placed fire stations that, if staffed and equipped during a major disaster, would still provide sufficient coverage for the entire geographic area under most circumstances. In Figure 3, a circle with a 1.5-mile radius surrounds each key station to show the immediate response area. Those areas that occur between circles are generally very lightly populated or unpopulated.

During a major incident with maximum draw-down of area resources, most or all of the key stations would remain staffed to respond to any other incidents that occur in the area. If at that point additional resources were needed for the major incident, mutual aid would be sought at the region or state level.

A deployment plan covering 30 types of fire incidents has been agreed upon by the 11 participating fire agencies, indicating the number of engines, trucks, rescue ambulances and Battalion Chiefs that should be dispatched when these types of incidents occur anywhere within Area C, as shown in Table 3 on the next page. Note that this applies to first-alarm incidents only.

When a large fire occurs and additional equipment and personnel are required, more are added in increments known as “alarms.” For example, if 3 engines, 2 trucks, 1 rescue ambulance and 1 Battalion Chief are normally dispatched to a garage fire, twice as many of each might be sent to a second-alarm garage fire. The Battalion Chief in charge, known as the Incident Commander, makes the determination whether and when to request a multiple alarm. Alternatively, equipment is sometimes ordered piece by piece when it does not appear another full alarm assignment is required.

Table 4 shows the proposed incremental addition of equipment as a single alarm progresses to multiple alarm levels under the proposed automatic aid agreement, as well as the number of units remaining available to respond to other incidents within Area C. The structure fire scenario would include house, apartment and garage fires, as well as all other structures.

In the past few years there have only been two fires that exceeded third-alarm status within Area C. Both were brush fires that reached the fourth-alarm level. Under the proposed agreement, even with 20 engines committed to a major brush fire, another 20 engines would remain available for other Area C incidents and many of them would most likely be deployed at key stations to

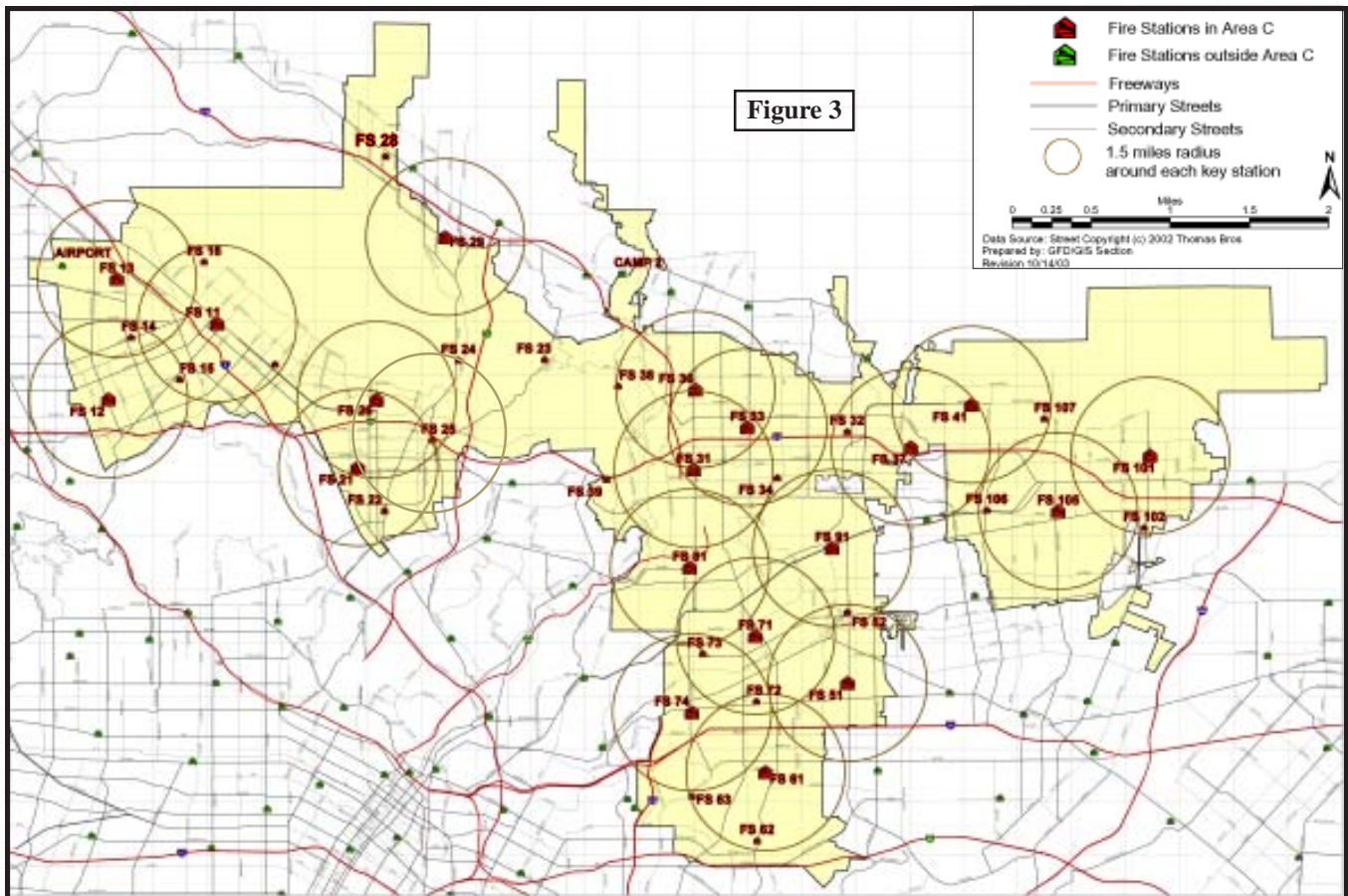


Table 3: Apparatus Dispatched by Incident Type

Type Code	Description	Engines	Trucks	RA's	BC's
ALARM	Fire Alarm	1	0	0	0
ALARMF	Fire Alarm-Full Assignment	3	2	1	1
APPL	Appliance Fire	2	1	1	1
APT	Apartment House Fire	3	2	1	1
ARC	Arcing Wires	1	0	0	0
BOMB	Explosives/Bomb Threat/Scare	1	0	0	0
BRUSH	Brush Fire	5	0	1	2
CARBON	Carbon Monoxide Alarm	1	0	0	0
ELECF	Electrical Fire	3	1	1	1
FLOW	Sprinkler System Activated	3	2	1	1
FNO	Fire Now Out	1	0	0	0
GARAGE	Garage Fire	3	2	1	1
HOUSE	House Fire	3	2	1	1
ILLEG	Illegal Burning	1	0	0	0
OUT	Miscellaneous Outside Fire	1	0	0	0
PERSON	Person On Fire	1	0	1	0
PLANE	Plane Accident, Down or Fire	3	2	2	2
POLE	Transformer/Street Light Fire	1	0	0	0
RAIL	Train Fire	3	2	1	1
REFUSE	Refuse Fire	1	0	0	0
RESET	Fire Alarm Reset	1	0	0	0
SMOKEI	Smoke in a Structure	3	1	1	1
SMOKEO	Smoke in the Area	1	0	0	0
STR	Structure Fire	3	2	1	1
UNKF	Unknown Type Fire	2	1	1	1
VAULT	Electrical Vault Fire	1	0	0	0
VEG	Vegetation Fire	1	0	0	0
VEH	Vehicle Fire	1	0	0	0
VEHFWY	Vehicle Fire on the Freeway	2	0	0	0
VEHSTR	Vehicle Fire in a Structure	3	2	1	1

minimize response time regardless of where additional incidents might occur.

Equitable Distribution

Reciprocity is the key to successful aid agreements. When a multiple-alarm incident exceeds the capacity of the home jurisdiction’s resources, the closest available units must be sent to assist, either in compliance with existing aid agreements or as dictated by the closest available equipment. The jurisdiction receiving the assistance then supplies personnel and equipment when another agency needs help.

Within the nine cities sharing Verdugo’s dispatch services, there are about 39 major fire incidents per year, on average, as shown in Table 5 (major fires are those with multiple-alarm status and/or resulting in at least \$100,000 damage and/or loss of human life). There are only about 19 multiple-alarm incidents per year in the

Table 4

SCENARIO 1: STRUCTURE FIRE

	1st Alarm	2nd Alarm	3rd Alarm	4th Alarm	5th Alarm	6th Alarm	7th Alarm
Engines	3	6	9	12	15	18	21
Engines Remaining Area Cwide	37	34	31	28	25	22	19
Trucks	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Trucks Remaining Area Cwide	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
Battalion Chiefs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Air Utilities	0	1	As Needed/Requested				
Rescue Amb.	1	As Needed/Requested					

SCENARIO 2: BRUSH/URBAN INTERFACE FIRE

	1st Alarm	2nd Alarm	3rd Alarm	4th Alarm	5th Alarm	6th Alarm	7th Alarm
Engines	5	10	15	20	25	30	35
Engines Remaining Area Cwide	35	30	25	20	15	10	5
Trucks	As Needed/Requested						
Battalion Chiefs	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Air Utilities	As Needed/Requested						
Water Tender	1 to certain locations	1	As Needed/Requested				
Rescue Amb.	As Needed/Requested						

Table 5: Significant Fire Incidents (1/2000-9/2004)

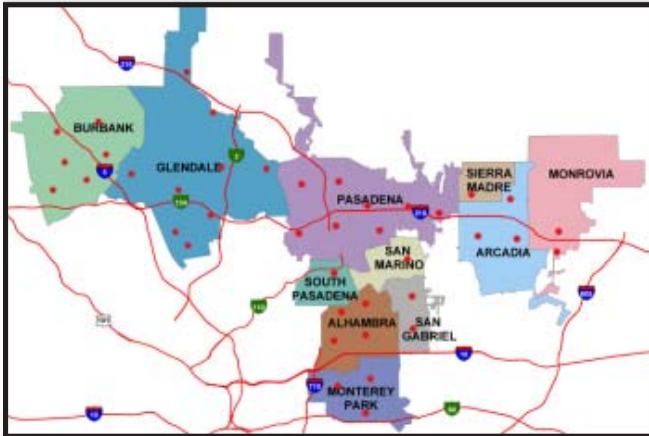
City	Alarm Level				Total Sig. Incidents	Fatalities
	1	2	3	4		
Arcadia	9	3	2	0	14	2
Burbank	16	18	1	1	36	3
Glendale	20	16	4	1	41	1
Monrovia	2	2	1	0	5	0
Pasadena	25	11	0	0	36	3
San Gabriel	3	1	1	0	5	0
San Marino	2	6	0	0	8	0
Sierra Madre	1	3	0	0	4	1
South Pas.	3	4	0	0	7	2

area covered by these cities – less than 2 per month – so the probability of a particular engine or truck company participating in more than one major incident per month is relatively small.

It is also important to note that each instance of automatic aid provided under this proposal would be of brief duration, at most a few hours. When an extreme incident occurs such as a fourth-alarm brush fire, off-duty personnel from the affected jurisdiction are recalled to duty and reserve apparatus are deployed so the fire companies from other agencies that initially responded to the incident may return to their cities and fire stations as quickly as possible.

During non-rush-hour traffic, a seemingly distant fire station might be able to supply the fastest response to some incidents via freeway. The following map shows freeways within and around Area C. Note that there may be times when Burbank or Glendale fire stations might

be able to respond rapidly to cities as distant as Monterey Park and Monrovia.



Uniform Coverage: Preventing “Gaps”

When a fire incident occurs, time is of the essence, so available units closest to the incident will be sent first, no matter which city the incident is in or which fire agency the units are from. This may create a “gap” in coverage around the incident as nearby stations are vacated to respond. Units from other fire stations nearby may be moved up to cover key stations around the incident, with priority given to covering an agency’s stations with its own units and personnel whenever possible. For example, if Arcadia’s only key station (105) is vacated to respond to an incident, personnel and apparatus from Arcadia Fire Station 107 might be asked to move up to Station 105 if they are available.

When an Incident Commander requires additional units, for example if the incident progresses to second-alarm status, those units that can arrive soonest will be dispatched first, even if they are already on move-up status from another city, manning a station near the incident. Verdugo will immediately dispatch additional units from non-key stations in nearby cities to cover any vacated key stations. This will be greatly facilitated by the addition of mapping and automatic vehicle location capabilities in the forthcoming upgrade to Verdugo’s computer-aided dispatch system (expected summer 2005) because it will provide an ongoing visual record of unit locations relative to incident locations on a map.

When a third-alarm structure fire occurs, at least nine engines and four trucks are required. Units from as many different agencies as possible will be dispatched to cover vacated key stations to minimize the impact on any one agency. Companies at the key stations will then cover any other incidents that occur while a major incident is in progress. Units enroute to a move-up would still be considered available if another incident arose near the unit’s location. Verdugo would dispatch that unit to the

new incident and identify a different unit for the move-up. Verdugo dispatchers have proven themselves adept at orchestrating such intricate and complex movements during rapidly changing multiple-incident scenarios.

To illustrate, imagine a target of concentric circles where the bulls-eye is an active incident. Units in the circle closest to the bulls-eye are sent to respond because they can get to the incident soonest. Other units from the next larger circle might be sent to cover if a key station in the first circle was vacated by this dispatch. If the fire is elevated to the next level, more units will be needed. Again, available units closest to the bulls-eye will be dispatched and any key stations vacated will be staffed by move-ups from slightly more distant non-key stations. Elevation to third-alarm status will generally pull units from most of the Area C cities to minimize the impact on any one fire agency or city. Using freeways during non-rush-hour times will facilitate some movements, for example moving an engine from an Alhambra station to one in Burbank.

What circumstances will trigger move-ups of units and personnel to other fire stations? If it appears that responding units will be committed 30 minutes or longer and one or more key stations have been vacated, move-ups will be considered. The Fire Communications Shift Supervisor will examine activity and coverage around the vacated stations and determine whether move-ups to key stations will be necessary or if sufficient coverage is already provided by the units at the next closest station. If the incident’s alarm level is increased, move-ups will occur immediately to eliminate any gaps in coverage.

Availability

Drills and training exercises are common in the fire service. Although most of these are completed in-service and in-district, occasionally units are taken out of service, potentially delaying fire company response. In our ongoing pursuit to ensure operational readiness, particularly when a drill involves several adjacent agencies, it is critical to the success of the proposed agreement that units remain in service whenever possible, asking Verdugo to place them “third up” or “fourth up” in the recommendation algorithm if they are in training so they will only be called after other nearby resources have been exhausted but they remain available for any major incident.

Training

A set of standards related to deployment of fire resources under various circumstances will be generated and training will be provided to Chief Officers throughout Area C to enable a level of consistency. Just as hav-

ing too few apparatus and personnel onscene can be disastrous, having too many can lead to logistical complications and even danger to those involved. Having numerous engines and trucks available is not sufficient reason to deploy them.

It is inevitable that there will be differences between agencies regarding how personnel and apparatus are deployed when a major fire is fought. When the proposed agreement is enacted, line personnel will be advised that direction from the Incident Commander is to be carried out to the best of their ability even though there may be slight deviations in operational protocols from city to city.

Maps

All Area C fire stations have been given a binder containing maps of the 11 Area C cities with detail maps of the district around each fire station and driving directions from the nearest freeway for locating an unfamiliar station for the first time. The maps in this binder were also distributed in Acrobat pdf (portable document format) version which can be loaded and displayed on the mobile computer terminals in the apparatus.

Notifications

The Verdugo paging system currently notifies a Chief Officer of a multiple-alarm incident only if it is occurring in a city that officer has requested notification for. Enactment of the Unified Response proposal will necessitate that virtually all on-duty Chief Officers be notified when a multiple-alarm incident is occurring anywhere in Area C due to the possibility of move-ups from their city to any other Area C city.

Exception

The city of Sierra Madre covers approximately 3 square miles of the 126-mile area under discussion. As the only all-volunteer fire department in Los Angeles County, Sierra Madre Fire Department will not be asked to leave their jurisdiction when fires occur in nearby cities, but the other fire agencies may respond into Sierra Madre when additional resources are requested.

Record-Keeping

NFIRS reporting and incident record-keeping will be the responsibility of each agency in accordance with state and federal guidelines and the agency's own policies and procedures. Each agency will also do its own data analysis and statistical reporting, however Verdugo will provide assistance when needed for ad hoc reports and non-routine requests.

Trial Period

We propose a six-month trial period commencing in February to identify any areas of the plan needing further refinement. During that time, Verdugo Task Force representatives will provide their agency's feedback at the regular monthly meetings and any urgent requests that arise between meetings will be implemented only after obtaining suitable approvals from the agencies involved.

Benefits of the Proposed Automatic Aid Plan

- Resources for fighting a fire will potentially arrive sooner because dispatches will be automatic – there will be no delays while approvals are sought. Arriving sooner means fighting a smaller fire, which reduces the likelihood of later requiring assistance from additional units. It also reduces the probability of loss of life or property and damage to the environment by minimizing the size of the incident as much as possible. This ultimately translates as improved customer service for the 641,450 residents and better fire protection for the nearly \$54.9 billion worth of property in Area C.
- In many cases, more apparatus and personnel will be provided to assist with fires than are currently being dispatched. In a number of fire districts, particularly in the smaller cities, only two engines, one truck, one ambulance and a Battalion Chief are dispatched to certain types of fire incidents. The proposed plan consistently provides for three engines, two trucks, one ambulance and a Battalion Chief on a first-alarm structure fire assignment. After arriving onscene and sizing up the incident, the Incident Commander is free to cancel any units that will not be needed.
- Although at least two ladder trucks are needed for most structure fire responses, only three of the eleven Area C cities have two or more trucks, and four cities have no ladder trucks at all. Sharing of trucks between agencies currently occurs in accordance with mutual or automatic aid agreements, however this sometimes leads to substantial delays while approvals are sought. By dropping city borders and sharing the eleven ladder trucks owned by the Area C fire agencies, sufficient trucks can be provided for all cities.
- Area C-wide, there are only two hazmat units, three air utilities, seven USARs (Urban Search & Rescue units) and five water tenders. Each of these specialized units can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase and equip, not to mention the cost of staffing the apparatus with specially trained personnel. Sharing these resources among eleven cities

eliminates the need for every city to purchase every type of apparatus and has the added benefit of providing additional experience and training opportunities that might never have occurred in the home jurisdiction.

- Improvements will be seen in inter-agency communications, training, experience and cooperation.
- The Master Mutual Aid Plan at the state level requires that automatic/mutual aid Areas have a plan in place and exhaust every possible resource in that plan before requesting assistance at the Region level. The proposed agreement creates a framework for such a plan.
- Although there are naturally going to be costs associated with responding to a neighboring agency's

incidents, the benefits of having such a vast arsenal of personnel and equipment available for a city's own major incidents, should the need arise, far outweigh these costs.

- Dramatically simplified response plan will be clearer and more efficient to implement due to being uniform throughout the area.
- Joining 11 fire response jurisdictions into a single regional response zone is likely to increase the likelihood of receiving federal and state grants because shared resources will potentially benefit a much larger area and population.
- Participation in such an automatic aid agreement may be beneficial to an agency's ISO score (see Appendix B).

APPENDIX A: AID AGREEMENTS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT

(In addition to but not superseded by the State Emergency Services Act, the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid Plan and the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement)

<u>PARTIES TO AGREEMENT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Arcadia (City and/or FD)			
El Monte, Monrovia, Sierra Madre	MA Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	Apr. 1960
Sierra Madre, Monrovia, LA County & USFS	M/A Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	1972
Monrovia	AA Agreement	Paramedic b/u	Oct. 1973
Monrovia	Automatic Aid	Fire	May 1987
USFS, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre	Forest Aviation Plan		Aug. 1996
USFS, Monrovia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre	Operating Plan	Fire	July 1998
Los Angeles County Fire Dept.	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	July 1998
Pasadena	AA MOU	Fire/EMS/Res.	Feb. 2000
Monrovia	AA/IA MOU	Fire/EMS/Res.	May 2000
Alhambra, Monrovia, Monterey Pk, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
Alhambra (City and/or FD)			
Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/Police	Aug. 1958
San Gabriel	AA/IA MOU	Fire	(no date)
San Gabriel	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	April 1985
San Gabriel and Los Angeles County	Urgency Ordinance	Hazmat	Jan. 1993
San Gabriel	AA/MA Agrmnt.	Fire	Jan. 1996
Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
Burbank (City and/or FD)			
Glendale	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS	July 1950
Pasadena	Agreement	Fire/Police	Nov. 1968
USDA FS Angeles National Forest	Agreement	Fire	Apr. 1996
LA County, Glendale, Pasadena	MOU	Fire/Hazmat	Aug. 2002
Glendale, Pasadena, LAFD	AA/MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Spec.	May 2003
Glendale (City and/or FD)			
Burbank	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS	July 1950
Los Angeles County FD	MOU	Fire/Rescue	Oct. 1991
LA County, Burbank, Pasadena	MOU	Fire/Hazmat	Aug. 2002
Burbank, Pasadena, LAFD	AA/MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Spec.	May 2003
Los Angeles County			
Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia & USFS	M/A Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	1972
San Gabriel	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	Apr. 1985
Glendale Fire Department	MOU	Fire/Rescue	Oct. 1991
San Marino	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	June 1992
Alhambra and San Gabriel	Urgency Ordinance	Hazmat	Jan. 1993

<u>PARTIESTOAGREEMENT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Los Angeles County (cont.)			
Pasadena Fire Department	MOU	Fire/EMS	Dec. 1995
USDA FS Angeles National Forest	Operations Plan		Apr. 1997
Arcadia Fire Department	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	July 1998
Monrovia	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	Aug. 1999
Sierra Madre Fire Dept. Order 99-007	Mutual Aid	Fire/EMS	Oct. 1999
Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena	MOU	Fire/Hazmat	Aug. 2002
Los Angeles (City and/or FD)			
Angeles National Forest	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire	Apr. 1996
South Pasadena	AA Agreement	Fire/Rescue	July 1998
Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena	AA/MA Agrmnt.	Fire/EMS/Spec.	May 2003
Monrovia (City and/or FD)			
Arcadia, El Monte, Sierra Madre	MA Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	Apr. 1960
Arcadia, Sierra Madre, LA County & USFS	M/A Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	1972
Arcadia	AA Agreement	Paramedic b/u	Oct. 1973
Arcadia	Automatic Aid	Fire	May 1987
USFS, Arcadia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre	Forest Aviation Plan		Aug. 1996
USFS, Arcadia, Pasadena, Sierra Madre	Operating Plan	Fire	July 1998
Los Angeles County Fire Dept.	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	Aug. 1999
Arcadia	AA/IA MOU	Fire/EMS/Res.	May 2000
Alhambra, Arcadia, Monterey Park, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
Monterey Park (City and/or FD)			
Alhambra, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/Police	Aug. 1958
Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, San Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
Pasadena (City and/or FD)			
Alhambra, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena	MA Agrmnt.	Fire/Police	Aug. 1958
Burbank	Agreement	Fire/Police	Nov. 1968
USDA FS Angeles National Forest	MA Agreement	Fire	Dec. 1990
Los Angeles County FD	MOU	Fire/EMS	Dec. 1995
San Marino	MOU	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 1996
Amendment		Fire/EMS/Res.	Dec. 1999
South Pasadena	AA MOU	Fire/EMS/Rescue	Aug. 1996
USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Sierra Madre	Forest Aviation Plan		Aug. 1996
USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Sierra Madre	Operating Plan	Fire	July 1998
Arcadia	AA MOU	Fire/EMS/Res.	Feb. 2000
LA County, Burbank, Glendale	MOU	Fire/Hazmat	Aug. 2002
Glendale, Burbank, LAFD	AA/MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Spec.	May 2003
San Gabriel (City and/or FD)			
Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Marino, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/Police	Aug. 1958
Alhambra	AA/IA MOU	Fire	(no date)
San Marino	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	1985
Alhambra	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	Apr. 1985
County of Los Angeles	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	Apr. 1985
Alhambra and Los Angeles County	Urgency Ordinance	Hazmat	Jan. 1993
Alhambra	AA/MA Agrmnt.	Fire	Jan. 1996
Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
San Marino (City and/or FD)			
Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/Police	Aug. 1958
South Pasadena	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	Dec. 1983
San Gabriel	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	1985
San Gabriel	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	April 1985
Los Angeles County Fire Dept.	AA/IA MOU	Fire/Rescue	June 1992
Pasadena	MOU	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 1996
Amendment		Fire/EMS/Res.	Dec. 1999
Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000

<u>PARTIES TO AGREEMENT</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Sierra Madre (City and/or FD)			
Arcadia and Monrovia	Agreement	Fire	June 1939
Revision	Agreement		Mar. 1955
USFS	Agreement	Fire	Apr. 1960
Arcadia, El Monte and Monrovia	MA Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	Apr. 1960
Arcadia, Monrovia, LA County & USFS	M/A Agreement	Fire/Emerg.	1972
Area "D" Mutual Aid	Procedures	Fire	Aug. 1977
West Covina	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS	Dec. 1978
USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena	Forest Aviation Plan		Aug. 1996
USFS, Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena	Operating Plan	Fire	July 1998
LA County Fire Dept. Order 99-007	Mutual Aid	Fire/EMS	Oct. 1999
Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
South Pasadena (City and/or FD)			
Alhambra, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino	MA Agreement	Fire/Police	Aug. 1958
San Marino	AA/IA Agrmnt.	Fire/Rescue	Dec. 1983
Pasadena	AA MOU	Fire/EMS/Rescue	Aug. 1996
City of Los Angeles Fire Department	AA Agreement	Fire/Rescue	July 1998
Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Pk, S. Marino, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena	MA Agreement	Fire/EMS/Res.	June 2000
Other Agencies			
Bob Hope Airport, Burbank Tower, Airport FD Ltr. of Agreement			Jan. 1992

APPENDIX B: DOES ISO CREDIT AUTOMATIC AID?

Automatic aid is assistance dispatched automatically by contractual agreement between two communities or fire districts. That differs from mutual aid, or assistance arranged case by case. ISO will recognize an automatic aid plan under the following conditions:

1. It must be prearranged for first-alarm response according to a definite plan. It is preferable to have a written agreement, but ISO may recognize demonstrated performance.
2. The aid must offset a need in the community ISO is surveying. For example, if a community needs a ladder company and the fire department does not have one, but a neighboring community's ladder company responds by automatic aid agreement, credit may be available.
3. The aiding ladder company must cover at least 50% of the needed ladder company Standard Response District by hydrant count in the community being graded.

Note: Various insurance underwriting plans may consider other criteria for automatic aid; therefore, ISO evaluates all automatic aid plans.

Credit for responding automatic aid companies depends on the value of the automatic aid arrangements, determined by the following criteria:

1. Communication facilities - The alarm dispatch circuit between the department communication centers, or between a central communication center and the aiding fire station, should be the equivalent of the needed facilities in the community that ISO is surveying.
2. Receipt of alarm - The aiding departments should receive all alarms from the community being surveyed and dispatch their companies, according to the dispatch protocol.
3. Interdepartmental training - The communities should conduct the following interdepartmental training:
 - a. Quarterly half-day, multiple-company drills with automatic aid companies
 - b. Semiannual half-day, multiple-company drills with automatic aid companies
 - c. Annual half-day, multiple-company drills with automatic aid companies
4. Fire ground communications
 - a. Common mobile and portable radio-frequency capability

SOURCE: <http://www.isomitigation.com/fire72.html#26>

ALHAMBRA

Population: 89,700

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

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

The Alhambra-based San Gabriel Valley Arson and Explosives Task Force, which provides local fire and police agencies with fire and explosives investigative services, has made 76 arrests so far this year.

The Task Force includes fire personnel from the Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Monterey Park, South Pasadena and West Covina Fire Departments. The Task Force also has a Police Detective Sergeant from the

Monterey Park Police Department and a Federal Agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (A.T.F.) assigned to the multi-agency investigative team.

The mission of the team is to respond to any city within the San Gabriel Valley and to investigate any fire at the request of the Incident Commander from that particular city. The Task Force was officially organized in 1999 as a result of a serial arsonist who was burning carports under apartment complexes in the West San Gabriel Valley.

The Task Force usually responds to large-scale incidents such as commercial fires, church fires, school fires and fatality fires. Members of the Task Force also provide training to other fire and law enforcement agencies in various disciplines related to arson, explosives and haz-

ardous materials investigations. In an effort to apprehend arsonists, the Task Force has the capabilities to conduct surveillance and saturation patrol operations.

Any fire agency requiring additional information regarding the San Gabriel Valley Arson and Explosives Task Force, please contact Alhambra Fire Division Chief John Kabala at 626-570-5192.



John Kabala, Alhambra's Fire Marshal. Photo by Greg Andersen/San Gabriel Valley Newspaper. Courtesy of the Pasadena Star-News.

ARCADIA

Population: 55,900

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

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

Personnel

On October 18, the Arcadia Fire Department hired a new recruit firefighter. Upon successful completion of the Basic Firefighter Recruit Academy, Firefighter Chen Suen received his first assignment on Engine 105 A Shift. He is currently under the direct supervision of Captain David Franta and his crew. This is Firefighter Suen's second appointment on the Arcadia Fire Department, as he spent approximately four months with us as an Auxiliary Firefighter. Firefighter Suen was also a Fire-

fighter for one year with the Downey Fire Department before returning to Arcadia.

In September 2004, the Arcadia Fire Department completed the testing process for Battalion Chief. An immediate appointment was made, and we would like to congratulate Battalion Chief David Haney on his promotion. Chief Haney has done an outstanding job for the past year in a long-term Acting Battalion Chief Assignment and has earned his permanent position. Chief Haney also completed a seven-week Management Training Program within the City of Arcadia, where he met and worked with managers and supervisors from all City departments. Fire Chief David Lugo implemented this program for all new Fire Department Chief Officers approximately two years ago and it has proven to be very beneficial for all departments within our City. Battalion Chief Haney's new assignment is B/C105 C Shift.

November 18 was the conclusion of the Arcadia Fire Department Captain's Examination. An official eligibility list has been established, with appointments to follow in the very near future. Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Stratton and Engineer Cody Cerwin are on the top of that eligibility list. Congratulations to both of you!

Finally, on Saturday November 20, the Arcadia Firefighters Association hosted their Annual Retirement Dinner. The event was held at the Front Runner Restaurant, located at the Santa Anita Race Track. A large crowd of over 160 people was present to honor four members of the department who retired over the past year. Honored members were: Retired Deputy Chief Rich Brown, Retired Battalion Chief Wayne Crabb, Retired Engineer Mike Clark, and Retired Engineer Rick Leff. Congratulations to all of you on your retirements! Additionally, we would

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like to send a special thanks to the Arcadia Firefighters Association for hosting such a fine event.



Apparatus

In April 2004, the Arcadia Fire Department took delivery of a new 2004 International 4400 Urban Search and Rescue Truck. The truck was manufactured by Emergency Vehicle Incorporated (EVI) in Lake Park Florida at a cost of \$184,682. In addition to the vehicle purchase, State and Federal Grant funds were used to purchase the specialized equipment required to meet the standard. Current staffing plans are to incorporate members of the Arcadia and Monrovia Fire Departments. It is anticipated that the truck will be staffed with three Arcadia Fire personnel and three Monrovia Fire personnel. Training between the two departments has been ongoing, however this training will now expand to meet the requirements of the specialized equipment.

On November 1, the vehicle and equipment were evaluated by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and we received our **OES Heavy Operational Certification**. Response guidelines will be established and forwarded through the Verdugo System by mid-December.

Training

On October 5, 6 and 7, Pasadena Fire Department demonstrated their Mass Casualty / Mass Decontamination Trailer to Arcadia Fire Department personnel. The trailer contains emergency response equipment to

provide decontamination and emergency care for 150 or more victims requiring advanced life support and 150 or more victims requiring basic life support.

The trailer contains inflatable decontamination shelters with up to four decontamination lines, including non-ambulatory victims. The trailer carries 20 cyanide antidote kits, decontamination-foam for contaminated equipment, several EZ-ups, water heaters, area heaters, M-8 paper and M-9 tape. The trailer has air monitoring equipment for Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) including an APD 2000 for nerve and radiological agents, 100 or more replacement respirator canisters for nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) agents.

On November 1, 2 and 3, the City of Arcadia Regional Training Pro-



gram hosted a 24-hour Trench Rescue Course taught by Buddy Martinette, Jr., Chief of Lynchburg, Virginia Fire and EMS and author of *The Trench Rescue Book*.

The purpose of the course was to familiarize first responders with procedures to conduct rescue operations that will mitigate most types of trench rescue collapse incidents. The delivery of technical rescue services, and in this case trench rescue collapse operations, involves a "layered or integrated system" which addresses the needs of first responders. The three-day course provided training to satisfy the 1999 NFPA 1670 Chapter 9 requirements for Trench and Excavation Search and Rescue - Technician Level.

The Trench Rescue Awareness Level is the first of a three-module series that is designed to give the student an overall awareness of trench



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rescues and to support a cognitive background on which to build the Operations Level.

The Operations and Technician modules provided information to familiarize the student with the equipment and techniques necessary to effectively render certain collapse situations safe for the rescue of entrapped victims.

Modules 4 through 19 included:

- Trench Incident Management & Support Operations
- Soil Physics
- Conditions and Factors that Lead to Collapse
- Types of Collapses
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Equipment & Tools for Trench Rescue Operations
- Air Bags for Trench Rescue
- Trench Rescue Assessment
- Hazard Control
- Atmospheric Monitoring for Trench Rescue
- Gaining Access
- Protective Systems in Trench Operations
- Victim Packaging
- Techniques for Trench Protection



Over the 3-day period, 30 students received the valuable training. The attendees included members from Arcadia, Alhambra, Monrovia, San Gabriel, La Verne, Bakersfield and Pasadena Fire Departments. There were also members representing City of Arcadia Public Works.

BURBANK

Population: 105,400

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

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

Highlights from Burbank

The recruitment process for seven firefighter recruits has been completed. The recruits are scheduled to begin training at the Burbank Fire Training Center on January 18, 2005.

The Chief held a series of “state of the department” meetings with all personnel in September. It was an opportunity to lay out his vision and direction for the department and to answer questions from employees.

Chief Mehling attended the LA Area Fire Chiefs Association Bear Paw Conference in Lake Arrowhead in October. He also represented the department at the October meeting

of the Tri-City Police and Fire Chiefs, City Managers, and representatives from the Bob Hope Airport, to discuss Tri-City Uniform Incident Response.

A contingent of Burbank personnel and apparatus, lead by Chief Mehling, attended the funeral of Jim Paige in Carlsbad on September 16.

Burbank Firefighters Local 778 completed development of a set of 16 baseball-style trading cards with pictures of department apparatus on one side and vehicle specifications and a safety tip on the reverse. They will be distributed to the youth of our community and handed out whenever a youngster approaches a rig to request a card. They are available for purchase at \$5 per set. Thanks to Local 778 for providing this program.

We are upgrading our UHF radio capability by adding Motorola XTS 5000 portables and Motorola XTL mobile radios department wide. The new radios will be replacing the Motorola Sabers that we currently carry. The radios are Apco 25 project compliant and have multi-mode

transmitting capability. They can operate in eight different modes including wide band, narrow band, trunked, digital or conventional. The project will be completed in the first quarter of ‘05.

We feel that the new radios will allow us to have better access to frequencies in an auto-aid and a mutual-aid environment. The new radios allow better interoperability with Federal, State and County agencies on mutual and auto-aid incidents. The radios have 32 zones with 16 channels in each zone for a total of 512 channels.

Furthermore, the radios have battery clamshells that hold “AA” batteries in the event the “NiCad” batteries fail. The batteries can be changed out very quickly and easily by the user. We hope the radios will increase the safety of our members by offering them better radio communication flexibility

The Admin Chief reports a busy fourth quarter working on budget issues, union negotiations, and completion of final revisions to the

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department's policy manual. Chief Stockton attended monthly Verdugo Task Force Meetings to discuss dispatch protocols, response districts, and restructuring of the Area C response plan.

The EMS Division continues to participate in the L A County EMS Providers' meetings to review proposed State EMS regulations on paramedics, EMT1's, education and quality assurance.

Three firefighters were selected to enter paramedic training in January 2005.

Fast Mag training is complete but the study group has not received the medication from the drug company which may delay the start of the trial, initially scheduled to begin Nov. 2004.

The Training Division is preparing for the firefighter recruit class starting in January 2005, and Captain's, Engineer's and Battalion Chief exams to be prepared and scheduled in the first half of 2005.

The Apparatus and Equipment Division is developing specifications

for replacement Haz Mat and USAR vehicles and a utility pickup truck.

The purchase of fire shelters is moving again with evaluation of the next generation shelters, previously delayed due to a product safety recall.

With approval from the Fire Chief and the Burbank City Manager, the department was able to donate two Hurst Tools to the Arroyo Seco Fire Academy.

The Fire Prevention Bureau began implementation of our new Firehouse Software System to record occupancy and inspection information, along with NFIRS reporting of emergency activity. Implementation and customization will be ongoing into 2005.

A series of fire safe programs were presented at local area schools in November and were well received.

The City of Burbank kicked off the holiday season in grand style on December 4 when Santa arrived at Burbank City Hall for the mayor's tree lighting ceremony in BFD's 1913 Moreland accompanied by car-

olers, Micki and Minnie Mouse, and Lil' Squirt. When the tree was alight, the parade of carolers, vintage cars, and the Moreland with Chief Mehling riding shotgun moved off through Burbank. See photos below.

Peace, health, and happiness to all this holiday season.



GLENDALE

Population: 205,300

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

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

Assistant Chief Retiring

Best wishes to Assistant Chief Don Biggs on his upcoming retirement from Glendale Fire Department. Chief Biggs joined the department in 1972, promoted to Engineer in 1978, Captain in 1982, Battalion Chief in 1986, and Assistant Chief in 2002.

In addition to commanding teams of firefighters at numerous major fires

over the years, Chief Biggs also managed the Operations, Training and EMS sections of the department before

promoting to Assistant Chief. We are grateful for his many contributions and look forward to collaborating with him in his new role as Fire Chief at Warner Bros. Studios.



Records Management System Upgrade

Work has been completed on design and programming of our new Records Management System (RMS) for incident reporting. For the past ten years, reporting has been ac-

complished using the RMS program associated with Verdugo's computer aided dispatch system (CAD). Unfortunately, that RMS program no longer provides needed flexibility in reporting and analysis options.

When a fire company returns from an incident, the Fire Captain is required to complete a report including pertinent details related to the incident such as victim's name, age, address and type of incident, as well as a narrative of what occurred. Some of the data fields are automatically filled in using data exported from CAD, such as dispatch time, units dispatched, and address of incident.

Fire incident reporting is an evolving field. Two of the more popular programs are FireHouse and SunPro, but neither program offers the fea-

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tures and flexibility we require. We made the decision to develop our own incident reporting program that would be compatible with our existing databases in Fire Prevention, Vehicle Maintenance, Administration and other areas, so a software developer with expertise in FileMaker Pro was hired for this purpose.

We worked with the developer to create a new program that not only provides the compatibility and flexibility we require, but also complies with National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) guidelines. NFIRS is operated by the National Fire Data Center in the United States Fire Administration, which is part of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It is a system that gathers, analyzes and reports on fire issues in the United States. While individual agency participation is voluntary, acceptance of federal Assistance to Firefighters Act funds has made our participation mandatory.

Training in use of the new program is ongoing and it is anticipated that transition to reporting in the new FileMaker Pro-based program will be completed by Jan. 1.

The other fire departments participating in the Verdugo dispatch system generally utilize either FireHouse or SunPro for their fire incident reporting. Earlier this year, FireHouse developed a software interface that takes incident data exported from Verdugo's CAD system and enters it in the appropriate fields in the reporting program. SunPro is planning to write a similar interface to their software product and one has already been programmed for GFD's new NFIRS application. Having certain data fields filled automatically not only saves personnel time but assures accuracy.



Fire Career Night

As a part of our ongoing effort to recruit future firefighters from the community, we held our first ever Fire Career Night on October 27. Some 80 area young people attended the event to introduce the community to the different aspects of, and opportunities with, the fire department. Topics included the Explorer Program, the Fire Cadet Program, the Recruit Academy, the Civil Service process and other aspects of becoming a part of the Glendale Fire Department.

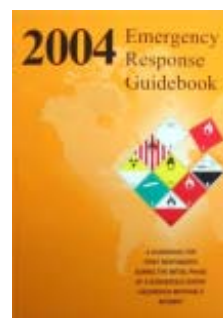
We will follow up this meeting with another in January to get into more detail about the recruitment process.

Recent Recruitment Efforts

Kudos to all who have been involved in recent recruitment efforts throughout the community, particularly Battalion Chief Harold Scoggins, Firefighter Brad Boyle, Cadet Hagop Kurdian and Captain Carlos Guerrero, Public Information Officer. Tanya Gregorian from Fire Prevention has also been instrumental in making many of the contacts. Over a dozen recruitment and career information events have been held in the past three months at various clubs, organizations, schools and television shows.

New Guide Books

The 2004 Emergency Response Guidebooks arrived a few weeks ago and were distributed to the various Area C fire departments. If you need additional copies, please contact Bonnie Paredes-Flores at the Glendale Fire Training Center (818) 548-4050. She still has quite a few copies available.



Upcoming Grants

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the Office for Domestic Preparedness, has provided financial assistance directly to selected jurisdictions through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to address the unique equipment, training, planning, and exercise needs of large urban areas, and to assist them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism.

The Los Angeles Urban Areas ("LAUA") consists of the City of Los Angeles, the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles, and 16 cities with contiguous borders, including Glendale. Urban areas were chosen based on a formula that takes into account factors including critical infrastructure, population density and credible threat intelligence information. Funding allocations among the cities, contiguous counties and mutual aid partners is based on an urban areas assessment and strategic plan.

At the November 2 City Council meeting, Council will be asked to approve agreements with the City of Los Angeles to receive Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program funds. The FY 2003 UASI grant is for \$450,000. The proposal is to use these funds for the purchase of specific equipment related to upgrading the city's ability to detect and respond to terrorist threats. The pro-

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posed action is to also appropriate \$200,000 received from the Southern California Gas Company in FY03/04 in connection with its franchise renewal. These funds will be used to help acquire a new hazardous materials response apparatus to be used for the same purposes.

Under the FY04 UASI grant, Glendale has been awarded \$649,717 for enhancement of its security and preparedness levels. Funds are being received for a number of items, including a new interdiction and response vehicle for SWAT team and Force Protection team, reimbursement of expenses associated with the "orange alert" of earlier this year and training funds.



A structure fire was reported at 75 E. Santa Anita Ave. in Burbank the morning of October 10. It rapidly progressed to second-alarm level when an explosion occurred. Engines 26 and 27, Trucks 26 and 29, AU28, HM27 and Battalion 2 from Glendale provided assistance. Damage was estimated to be \$5 million contents, \$2.5 million structure.

Photos by Miguel Porras

MONROVIA

Population: 38,800

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

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



Monrovia firefighters giving a safety and fire demo to the Boys and Girls Club.



All Monrovia Battalion Chiefs are required to attend training with the Phoenix Fire Department "Chief Officer Incident Command School" practicing ICS of every type of Incident. Battalion Chief Derek Young completed his training in November and other BC's are scheduled for January.



Monrovia firefighters joined Monrovia City employees in the annual "Make a Difference Day" assisting senior citizens, low income and disabled residents to clean, clear and build home improvement projects. Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Elmgren is shown with a senior citizen installing a smoke detector.



Monrovia Fire Department's newest member! While goats have been grazing in the hillsides of Monrovia for the last three months to reduce the threat of a wildfire, personnel found a newborn in the 500 block of Alta Vista. The baby goat held by BC Derek Young, who oversees the hillside fuel modification program, was the night before and will be well taken care of by George and Liz Gonzales, who own the goats.

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Fire personnel from all of area C, Los Angeles City and County fire departments and the U.S. Forest Service participated Oct. 12-14 in a brush fire/strike team training exercise in Monrovia. Over 200 fire personnel reviewed strike team deployment, wildland fire safety, pre-planned Monrovia foothills and had great food while networking together over these three days.



Snowing in Southern California? No, Monrovia firefighters are preparing for brush fires in Monrovia. A little over one year ago, southern California was hit by one of the worst fire storms ever. Twenty-four people died and approximately 3,400 homes were destroyed. Although it looks like a blizzard, the day this photo was taken temperatures were over 90 degrees and Red Flag (high fire danger) conditions existed.



State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva was a guest at the Monrovia Fire Department. Here he is seen with Fire Chief DiGiovanna at Station 101.



Monrovia firefighters fought this fully involved structure fire on Figueroa in Monrovia early one Saturday morning and a two-alarm apartment unit structure fire in the 500 block of East Olive in September. No one was injured in either fire, however the apartment fire displaced approximately 20 residents from their homes. The Monrovia Community Center served as a temporary shelter site for the displaced victims. Both fires are under investigation.



Monrovia and Arcadia firefighters training in trench rescue operations in the month of November.



Monrovia firefighters responded to a traffic accident on Duarte Rd. near 10th Avenue at approximately 3 a.m. on Nov. 17. A vehicle traveling westbound on Duarte Rd. at a high rate of speed (possibly illegal street racing) crashed through a steel guard rail and plunged 20 feet below into the Santa Anita water channel. Truck 101 personnel used the ladder and a stokes basket to lift the patients above to the street and waiting ambulances. Two victims who sustained severe traumatic injuries were treated by paramedics and transported to Huntington Memorial, where they were later listed in critical condition.

The next issue of **UNIFIED RESPONSE** will be published in mid-March 2005. Submissions of articles and photos are welcome through Mar. 7.

MONTEREY PARK

Population: 63,900

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

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



Monterey Park is proud to announce three new Firefighter/Paramedic hires that started the two-week training academy on December 4: James Lega, Dan Yessman and Eduardo Stary. They will begin shift work on December 18. James Lega was a Reserve Firefighter with Monterey Park who put himself through paramedic school and has been awarded a career with our department. Dan Yessman comes from Montebello Fire Department and we are glad to have his experience as he begins a new chapter in his fire service career. Eduardo Stary was a reserve firefighter with Orange County Fire Authority at Seal Beach Station 22 and worked with Southern California Edison as a fitness counselor. All three Firefighters are performing well through their orientation training and will make outstanding additions to our department.

Monterey Park Fire Department took delivery of a new Ford F550 crew cab utility Stake Bed truck with lift-

gate. Utility 6 was built to support the department's tiller-drawn aerial on any technical rescue call, USAR event or any other related incident. The unit is completely code-three equipped with the ability to carry tools, equipment, lumber and other related building materials. The utility will have a built-in 1000 watt generator when complete and is in the process of having MDC's and radios installed for the Verdugo transition.

Lastly, on the topic of Verdugo, Nida Communications is in the first month of installing MDC's and radios to all emergency vehicles. To date, Engine 61, Truck 61, Medic 61, Medic 62 and Reserve Engine 65 with Reserve Medic 63 have been outfitted. Engine 62, Engine 63 and Battalion 6, along with four sedans, are awaiting the process. Given the holiday season approaching, the hope is that all MDC's and radios will be installed by the middle of January for our upcoming transition into Verdugo. The members of the Monterey Park Fire Department are excited about the move and look forward to joining the Verdugo team in the near future.



PASADENA

Population: 144,000

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

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

Trench Rescue

On September 15 at 1446 hours, Alhambra Battalion 7 requested USAR 32 with personnel to assist with a male trapped in a trench. USAR 32 responded with Truck 32 and Engine 32. The crews were Captain II M. Johnson, Captain I Serna, Engineers Moore and Dickey, Firefighters Kenoly, Wickham, Amezola and Firefighter/Paramedic Meier.

PFD Crews arrived on scene at 1504 and found a male trapped in a trench below the grade of the sidewalk next to an apartment building. He had dirt up to his chest and there was no shoring in the trench. All rescue efforts were stopped and a quick assessment was made. Captain Johnson was in charge of the USAR team rescue and Captain Serna was assigned USAR team safety and logistics. Two team members were assigned as entry team with two additional members as their attendants. The attendants were rotated into the trench to replace the rescuers.



Non-USAR32 team members were assigned to remove the spoil that had been piled on to the sidewalk and caused the unshored trench to shear-in. A PFD USAR team member then shored the top of the trench with a waler using screw jacks. This prevented the spoil from creating further collapse. A vertical timber shore was built on the west side of the worker. This held into place a huge piece of soil that had also sheared in but was held by a sprinkler pipe. The atmosphere was monitored for any possible contaminants and was ventilated with a confined space blower.

With the trench shored it was now time to begin digging the worker out. The PFD USAR team members' first priority was to remove soil from around the chest area, then continue digging with small shovels and collapsible buckets to remove the soil. Alhambra Medic 71 started treatment of the patient.

After three hours of digging, the worker was removed from the trench by placing a pickoff harness around him and slowly hauling him out with a exterior leaning ladder that Alhambra Truck 71 had set up. The patient was then transported to the hospital.

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FF/Paramedic Honored

Pasadena Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Latham was recently awarded the California State Firefighter's Association Annual Award of Valor and the Purple Heart. These awards provide public recognition to those who have unselfishly provided their personal support to



From left to right: Fire Chief Dennis Downs, Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Latham, Captain Dan Rosetti, and Executive Assistant Chief Calvin Wells.

their fellow man and put their own life in jeopardy to save that of another.

Latham and partner Josh Ward were driving an ambulance to a public education demonstration when a citizen approached stating that a house was on fire a few blocks away. Upon arrival, a female was outside of the burning dwelling, frantically screaming that her baby was still inside. With the house fully involved with fire and heavy smoke, Latham swept the room with his hands and felt the limp body of the tiny baby. Latham and Ward began advanced life support while transporting the infant to the hospital in critical condition, suffering from smoke inhalation and burns. After transferring care to the emergency room doctors, Latham realized he had sustained deep second-degree burns to his hand. Almost a month after the incident, Latham was reunited with Baby Rocio at the Sherman Oaks Burn Center.

Bicycle Medics

Pasadena Fire worked with Los Angeles City Fire to train personnel for their Bicycle Medic Program. Pasadena Firefighter/Paramedics Wendell Eaton and Rich Roldan conducted three 8-hour classroom and field training sessions. These training sessions will lead to an efficient and effective program that will provide the patients and citizens of Los

Angeles with optimum patient care and exceptional community relations. EMS Captain Kevin Costa was instrumental in coordinating these efforts.

Recruitment

As the result of Pasadena Fire personnel volunteering in various recruitment committees and outreach efforts, over 2,000 individuals filed applications and approximately 1,700 participated in a written examination in mid-November. The oral examinations are being scheduled and a list of certified candidates should be announced by the end of the year.

Service Awards

The Pasadena Fire Department held their annual City Service Awards and Decorations & Awards Presentations in mid-October. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Battalion Chief Alvin Blades, Nurse Educator Cathy Gagnon, Volunteer Photographer Kenji Luster and Executive Secretary Peggy Galvan Palmer. Employee of the Year was awarded to Firefighter Vito Chiechi and Unit Citations were given to Captain II David Leonard, Engineer William Johnson, Firefighter Daniel Runnestrand and Firefighter Theodor Ecklund. The Medal of Valor was presented to Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Latham.

Strategic Planning

Over 30 civilian and sworn fire personnel have volunteered for the department's Strategic Planning Process to chart a course for the department for the next 3-5 years. A cross-section of city management and key stakeholders in the community made presentations and were interviewed by the committee. The committee will meet for four consecutive days in December to develop a draft of the plan.

SAN GABRIEL

Population: 41,900

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

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

What's the Haps?

– or –

San Gabriel did what?!

- The most interesting call in a long time happened on October 8, when an employee at the China Times was involved in a rare (for San Gabriel) industrial accident. He caught his right hand in a moving printing press and was dragged into the press up to his forearm before he could operate the emergency “off” switch. On arrival, units found the employee standing, with his right arm extended into the press, and hand apparently crushed between at least three rollers.

The entire press had been turned off, the system was locked out, and it looked as if this would be a situation of “sorry about what used to be your hand.” While the Paramedics stabilized the employee and made contact with Huntington Memorial Hospital, Captains Chris Cuzynski and Dave Pacela got together and formulated a plan to separate the rollers and free the victim without adding to his discomfort. The plan was complicated by the fact that the many rollers in the press were set in place during machine assembly and had no provision for removal as individual parts; the rollers could not be simply leveraged up/down to free the hand. This required cutting hardened steel roller spindles with minimal access to the portion being cut. Once the crews were able to cut three rollers, leverage with a pry bar allowed the with-

drawal of the employee’s hand and forearm.

The entire rescue took almost an hour. During the entire time, Paramedic Newton Ong was in cellphone contact with Huntington Memorial Hospital ER, keeping them apprised of the condition of what would soon be their patient. Because of the difficulty of accessing and freeing the limb and the length of time the rescue was taking, there was concern about a decline in the victim’s condition and discussion of whether a trauma surgeon would be needed to amputate the limb. The danger of “Crush Syndrome” was addressed, with meds given and supervised by Paramedic Alex Robbins, who had the responsibility of hands-on patient care throughout the entire rescue. When the patient was finally extricated, he was splinted, stabilized and transported to Huntington Memorial.

Last week that employee came by to visit Station 51, and he had good news. With the exception of the tip of the right ring finger, which may still need amputation if circulation doesn’t improve, he is looking at 60-70% use of his hand when all is said and done. He had no broken bones; we had feared a degloving of the skin but the flesh had been splayed outward in the crush, not pulled back, so despite remaining swelling he was able to move his fingers. He is in daily therapy, healing at a faster rate than the doctors initially expected, and can look forward to using that hand in the future. If you’ve ever seen a newspaper printing press in operation, you’ll realize how lucky this guy has been; it could have been a lot worse. Kudos to the “A”

shift guys at Stations 51 and 52 for the display of professional behavior and ability in resolving what was a very challenging situation.

- The Department had its DHS EMS audit on October 18. The audit focused on the Department’s adherence to the policies in the Pre-Hospital Care Policy Manual, the Paramedic Provider Service Agreement and our Quality Improvement Program. The EMS Agency reps met with Captain Bryan Frieders (Paramedic Coordinator) and Battalion Chief Mike Terry, and after a day of audit and inventory, San Gabriel was found to have no “action items” with which to contend. In short, we passed with flying colors.

- On November 10, the City of San Gabriel (along with many other cities in LA County) had a water contamination “disaster” which required opening the City’s EOC. City staff manned their SEMS positions throughout the morning as the “victims” began to pile up (not a good thing) and the five water companies in the city struggled to find the source/cause of the “contamination.” “Evacuations” were announced and “evacuees” relocated, “resources” were requested, and until late morning San Gabriel was definitely not the place to have a glass of tap water. When the contamination was deter-



Continued from p.21

mined to be a pesticide and the source was located, the appropriate agencies were contacted and the emergency was relegated to the file of "Successful Disaster Drills."

- On May 25, 1970, John Macrae was hired by the City of San Gabriel as a brand new Fireman (remember that job title?). He retired on Nov. 27, 2004 after 34 years on the job. Coinciding with John's retirement, the Department began an Engineer's promotional exam. As one may expect, the tension is high in the candidate pool. There's a lot of driving and pumping going on as the Captains make changes in their busy schedules to create "seat time" for the candidates. Having been through that type of exam, and considering there's an immediate opening at stake, I'll bet the butterflies are the size of pterodactyls (just dying to use that word). And, of course, with a promotion comes a chance for a new employee in the Department, and on the eligibility list those butterflies are probably the size of (you fill in the blank).
- The Department expects the new USAR rig in March of '05, and the new engine in June of '05. The 1957 Mack parade engine got the new outward facing bench seats made and

upholstered, the new generator for the parade lights installed, the lighting attached, and Santa (sitting in his new, custom between-the-booster-reels chair) rode into San Gabriel last week to start the official city Christmas celebration. Firefighter Eric Walton has been the mover and shaker for the Mack project and his efforts will be appreciated for years to come. That rig looks sharp, is safe and comfortable for the passengers, and shows why Eric was honored at the December 7 City Council meeting with the City's Award for Innovation.

- On October 5, the San Gabriel City Council honored the winners of the fourth-grade "Test Your Smoke Alarms" essay contest held during Fire Prevention Week. Fourteen fourth-grade classes from the elementary schools in the city participated, and the 14 winners (one from each class) were each given a "Certificate of Recognition" and a ride around the block on the engine from the closest station. Attached is the official photo of several of the winners in all their glory.
- San Gabriel's Jeff Powley is part of an effort to create an improved

and consistent standard for all RIC operations amongst the fire departments of San Gabriel, Alhambra, Monterey Park, and Glendale. The first meeting was on Nov. 15, during which the agencies formed a committee, identified several key areas of concern, and agreed on a minimum of like equipment each agency would be placing into service for RIC operations. The second meeting is scheduled for mid-December. The goal then is to complete a standard of operation.

- On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the City of San Gabriel acknowledged the contributions of its employees when it announced length-of-service awards at the beginning of the City Council meeting. The 10 members of the San Gabriel Fire Department who have reached milestones in their careers include: David Williams (5 years); John Adkins, Jeff Roy, and Liz Mendoza (10 years); Monte Mitchell (15 years); David Blancett, Mike Terry, Rich Garstang (25 years); and two of the guys who got tired of walking with Junipero Serra and said, "Right here's good enough," Chris Cuzynski and John Hostetter (30 years). My, my, how time does fly.

**RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS
September, October & November 2004**

AVERAGE ONSCENE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)	
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
ARCADIA	4.11
BURBANK	4.16
GLENDALE	4.09
MONROVIA	4.29
PASADENA	4.07
SAN GABRIEL	4.01
SAN MARINO	3.63
SIERRA MADRE	4.26
SOUTH PASADENA	4.20

PERCENT OF RESPONSES UNDER 5 MINUTES	
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Percent <5 min.</u>
ARCADIA	76%
BURBANK	75%
GLENDALE	78%
MONROVIA	72%
PASADENA	75%
SAN GABRIEL	79%
SAN MARINO	85%
SIERRA MADRE	70%
SOUTH PASADENA	75%

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.

SAN MARINO

Population: 13,600

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

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

Iraq War Comes Home

San Marino residents were stunned by the news that one of their own, Marine Second Lieutenant J.P. Blecksmith was felled by a sniper's bullet on November 11 during the assault on Fallujah. Blecksmith, a 2003 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and wide receiver on the football team, had just arrived in Iraq on September 10, two weeks before his 24th birthday. News of the death spread

quickly through the community and San Marino Firefighters and Police Officers visited the Blecksmith home to offer their condolences. In a memorial at Church of Our Savior in San Gabriel, over 1200 people heard Lt. Blecksmith eulogized as "a strong leader" and "the best of the best." Our thanks to the Pasadena and San Gabriel Fire Departments for their support and assistance at the memorial service. A complete story of the service is at <http://www.sanmarinotribune.com>.

Here's Santa!

San Marino Firefighters assisted with the city's annual Holiday Around the Drive festivities on Friday evening, December 3. Santa



arrived in style on Old Number One and listened to the wishes of young and old alike while firefighters opened up the firehouse to the community. There was food in abundance up and down the drive, including Dodger dogs and In N' Out burgers.

SIERRA MADRE

Population: 11,050

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

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

Updates

The Sierra Madre Fire Department continues to be the last all-volunteer fire department in Los Angeles County. We provide support to our community through our 50-member department 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Our equipment roster consists of three engines, one truck, one Type-3 Brush Engine, a Water Tender, one OES engine, and two Rescue Ambulances.

Sierra Madre provided Mutual Aid support for the Santa Clarita fire with two engines.



Training

Sierra Madre continues to emphasize hands-on training for all firefighters. Our training program includes weekly drills for hose lays, ventilation, ladder manipulation, fire behavior, strategy and tactics, ICS, tools, pre-planning, and EMS.

Three of our Firefighters completed Fire Academy earlier this year: Bret Chambers and Matt Bono completed the Glendale Arroyo Seco Fire Academy, and Quang Leba completed the Rio Hondo Fire Academy. Three Firefighters are currently attending the Glendale Arroyo Seco Fire Academy: Jen Dabney, Mark Chavez, and Jeff Putnam.

Mutual aid drills continue to take

place on a semi-annual basis with the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue team.

Resources

Three Firefighters were promoted to the rank of Engineer. Congratulations to Brent Bartlett, Tom Denison, and Robyn Bono for their effort.

Sierra Madre graduated another recruit class in the history of the department in September of this year. Congratulations to John Hoffman, Artamisa Pena, Mark Chavez and Jeff Putnam for their hard work and rigorous efforts.

We welcome new Firefighter recruits Josh Knowles, Vince Moran, Ross Coumans, Rene Larsen, Robert Newton, Nic Keezer and Robert Clemens to our department.



SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,500

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

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

South Pasadena is pleased to announce the hiring of our new City Manager, Mr. Mike Copp. Mr. Copp started with our city on October 18. He spent the last 20 years as City Manager of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, a resort community of 8,700 full-

time residents and 167 fulltime employees, located near Aspen and Vail. We are happy to welcome Mr. Copp to our City.

Battalion Chiefs Mike Clark, Phil Guiral and Jim Parker continue to act as Fire Chiefs while the city evaluates its options regarding contract services.

We recently hired three new Firefighter/Paramedics: Steve Alva, Cliff Snider and Rick Netro, and we are also in the process of giving a Captain's and Battalion Chief's exam.

Our Department would like to wish you and your families a very healthy and happy holiday season.



VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



Happy 25th Anniversary!

August 1 marked the 25th anniversary of Verdugo Fire Communications, which was begun as a joint operation by Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena and later expanded to provide contract fire/rescue dispatch services to six additional cities, soon to be seven with the upcoming addition of Monterey Park. Happy Anniversary, Verdugo, and thanks from all of us for all you do!

CAD System Upgrade

A proposal to upgrade Verdugo's CAD system has been received from the vendor, Northrop Grumman Public Safety, Inc. Total expenditures will be \$1.25 million including all new hardware, migration of the existing functionality to the new hardware, programming of 26 new functions and features, and the addition of mapping capability, automatic vehicle location



and automatic vehicle recommendation and routing. It is expected that the initial phase of the upgrade will be installed before summer 2005. The complete project will require 12-14 months.

Phone System Upgrade

Verdugo recently completed an upgrade to the Vesta 911 telephone system. Improvements included flat panel monitors, which provide for increased available desktop space on the work consoles. Seven new workstations were included, along with a new server and additional capability to account for all Verdugo line usage. Three additional workstations will use

existing hardware to provide for a total of ten 911 positions. The system upgrade was paid for with State 911 funds allocated for use by Verdugo.

Now Hiring: Lateral Dispatcher

A Job Opportunity Bulletin has been posted for Fire Communications Operator / Lateral Transfer. Candidates should have at least two years recent experience in a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) fire communications center as a call taker and radio operator. Applications may be obtained from Glendale Personnel or the City web site,

<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us>

GLENDALE ARROYO SECO FIRE ACADEMY

For the past six years, Glendale Community College has sponsored a CSFM-approved regional fire academy known as the Glendale Arroyo Seco Fire Academy. This program is a State Board of Fire Services-approved regional Fire Academy. The program is a partnership between Glendale Community College and the Glendale Fire Department.

Academy staff and instructors come from many surrounding fire departments like Glendale, Pasadena, San Marino, Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Vernon, Montebello, Torrance, and the United States Marine Corps. We currently have 18 instructors on staff ranging in rank from firefighter to Assistant Fire Chief. The program Advisory Committee meets every six months and consists of chief officers from several Area C departments including Burbank, Pasadena, San Gabriel and Glendale. We hope to eventually have instructors and committee representatives from each of the 11 Area C fire departments. Our staff is dedicated to quality fire service training and committed to being the best fire academy program in the State of California.

The basic fire academy program is offered on a weekend schedule for 11 months (780 hours), starting in the fall semester each year. Cadets who successfully complete the program receive 24 college units. The current class, "Class VIII," started on September 11 and consists of 56 cadets. Class VIII cadets will graduate in September 2005.

The basic fire academy program utilizes the standardized CSFM Firefighter I & FSTEP curriculums including the *Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills* by Publishers Jones and Bartlett. We utilize a variety of fa-

cilities, with Glendale Community College being our primary classroom. Other facilities include the Glendale Fire Department Training Center, Ontario Airport, Chevron Refinery, California City Fire Department Training Center, 29 Palms Marine Corps Base, LA County Fire Department Camp #2, Vernon Fire Department and LAFD Station 88.

To graduate from the GASFA, cadets must be successful on all exams. Graduating cadets must also be signed off on all tasks listed on the CSFM Firefighter I Training Record, currently certified as an EMT-B, and successfully pass the Bittle PAT. We



are currently transitioning from the Bittle PAT to the CPAT. Class IX will be the first class required to pass the CPAT.

The Glendale Arroyo Seco Regional Fire Academy is accredited to offer all of the Level I and Level II C.F.S.T.E.S. courses. The C.F.S.T.E.S. program is still being developed. The fire technology program (degree program) has been growing tremendously over the past six years. Prior to starting the basic fire academy program, GCC offered only one fire tech class per year. We are now offering, and filling to capacity, four classes per semester. Each semester, classes are filled with prospective fire academy cadets working towards their opportunity for acceptance into the next class.

Classes we currently offer as

part of our basic fire academy program include Rescue Systems 1, Trench Rescue Operational, Confined Space Awareness, Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational, WMD, NBC Weapons, Fire Control 1, 2, & 3 – Structural Firefighting, Flashover Recognition and Survival, Fire Control 4 – Compressed Gases and Flammable Liquids, Fire Control 5 – Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, Fire Control 6 – Wild Land Fire Behavior, S-190, S-330, S331, and Vehicle Extrication. All classes are taught by CSFM-registered instructors.

We currently do not offer EMT as part of the fire academy program, but are working with DHS and the Glendale Fire Department to develop it into the basic fire academy program.

The next basic fire academy class, Class IX, is scheduled to begin in September 2005. We are currently accepting cadet applications for this class. Applications are available at Glendale Community College or on our web site at

<http://www.glendale.edu/fire>

To have an application packet mailed, you can contact Isman Salas at (818) 240-1000, ext. 5156. For more information, please feel free to attend one of our monthly information meetings. Dates, times and location of the information meetings are posted on our web site.

If you have two years of experience as a full-time firefighter, have successfully completed CSFM Instructor 1A and IB, have a genuine interest in teaching our future firefighters, and would like to be a part of our instructional team, please e-mail me your resume and contact information at and I will send you an application packet.

– Anthony Bagan
abagan@cityofpasadena.net

VERDUGO INCIDENTS: FALL 2004 VS. FALL 2003

<u>FALL 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	252	382	398	128	865	81	48	30	73	2,336	18.3%
MEDICAL	747	1,635	2,789	610	2,621	373	142	114	232	9,349	73.4%
SERVICE	64	144	210	61	216	38	39	19	49	845	6.6%
OTHER	1	3	3	0	12	0	2	1	2	24	0.2%
OOV*	9	7	53	6	29	32	33	0	9	178	1.4%
TOTAL	1,073	2,171	3,453	805	3,743	524	264	164	365	12,732	

<u>FALL 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	184	341	486	110	749	74	52	28	60	2,185	17.2%
MEDICAL	726	1,719	2,871	566	2,728	328	134	130	249	9,556	75.4%
SERVICE	55	115	210	50	152	27	18	17	48	702	5.5%
OTHER	3	2	4	1	12	2	3	1	4	34	0.3%
OOV*	8	26	49	14	22	24	36	3	16	198	1.6%
TOTAL	976	2,203	3,620	741	3,663	455	243	179	377	12,675	

2003 vs. 2004 COMPARISON: Percent Difference

	<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	+37.0	+12.0	-18.1	+16.4	+15.5	+9.5	-7.7	+7.1	+21.7	+6.9
MEDICAL	+2.9	-4.9	-2.9	+7.8	-3.9	+13.7	+5.9	-12.3	-6.8	-2.2
TOTAL INCIDENTS	+9.9	-1.5	-4.6	+8.6	+2.2	+15.1	+8.6	-8.4	-3.2	+0.4

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

Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs' Asso.

Bear Paw Conference

Oct. 6-8, 2004

President:
John Penido

President-elect:
Mark Sauter

Secretary:
Neal Welland



Back row, left to right: Chris Gray (Glendale), Neal Welland (Santa Fe Springs), Rick Mehling (Burbank), Dave Lugo (Arcadia), Robert Engler (Redondo Beach), Jim Hone (Santa Monica), Dennis Downs (Pasadena), Joe Nestor (San Gabriel), Rich Elliott (West Covina), Ernie Mitchell (Pasadena, retired). Front row: Norm Angelo (El Segundo), John Nielsen (La Habra Heights), Russ Tingley (Hermosa Beach), John Penido (San Marino), Sam DiGiovanna (Monrovia), Tim Murphy (Monterey Park), Vince Kemp (Alhambra). Not pictured but in attendance: Jeff Eastman (Culver City), John Breaux (LaVerne), Dave Ellis (Long Beach), Bill Bamattre (LA City), Mike Freeman (LA County), Rick Bongard (Torrance) and Steve Parker (Vernon).

Partial Agenda: "Extreme Situation" Station Coverage - Principles for an Agreement • Countywide Communications Systems - Radio Systems and Dispatch Centers • Creating a Response Plan for Public Safety - Interests and Concerns • GIS Mapping and Inventory of Response Resources • Regional vs. Individual Training Plans - Economy or Efficiency? • Committee Reports: EMS (Assessment and Extension Engines, Measure B) • Company Officer Academy

Verdugo Fire System Units: Total Responses September, October & November 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	431	Glendale	E26	596	Pasadena	RA31	723		
	E106	555		(cont.)	E27		449	(cont.)	RA32	573
	E107	183		E28	168		RA33	872		
	RA105	415		E29	239		RA36	695		
	RA106	418		HM27	10		RA737	6		
	T105	125		RA21	943		T31	251		
	AU106	3		RA25	937		T32	185		
	USR06	1		RA26	829		USAR32	6		
Burbank	E11	568	RA29	415	San Gabriel	E51	309			
	E12	405	T21	257		E52	255			
	E13	383	T26	250		RA51	353			
	E14	341	T29	95	San Marino	E91	317			
	E15	496	USAR26	4		RA91	325			
	E16	189	WT26	1	Sierra Madre	E41	54			
	E18	35	WT29	1		RA41	168			
	HM12	10	Monrovia	E101	498	South Pas.	AU81	136		
	RA11	572		E102	376		E81	365		
	RA13	554		SQ101	435		RA81	245		
	RA15	672	T101	163	<u>Verdugo dispatching non-Verdugo units:</u>					
	T11	190	WT101	3	Alhambra	E71	22			
	T12	140	Pasadena	E31		948	E72	18		
	USAR11	4		E32	438	E73	7			
	WT16	1		E33	785	E74	4			
Glendale	AU28	6	E34	593	T71	23				
	E21	687	E36	677	RA71	8				
	E22	547	E37	352	RA74	3				
	E23	80	E38	159	Mont. Park	E61	1			
	E24	254	E39	136		RA61	1			
E25	699									

*Reserve rigs are included in the total for their assigned station. For example, the E41 total includes E241 & E341 responses.

UNIFIED RESPONSE

Upcoming Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring 2005	Mar. 7
Summer 2005	June 6
Fall 2005	Sept. 6
Winter 2005	Dec. 5

Mark your calendar!

UNIFIED RESPONSE

Editor: Christopher Gray, Area C Coordinator

Editorial Staff: Mike Matlock and Lenia Scanlon

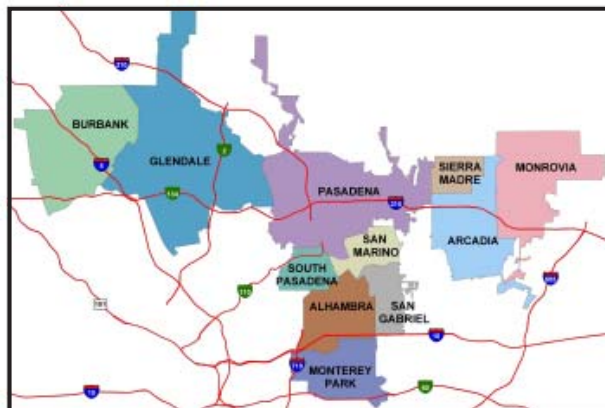
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OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: FALL 2004

The following tables show the number of out of jurisdiction responses for each fire department during September, October & November 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.



Fall 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	1	43	12	1	0	1	1	0	9	0	0	0	68
BU	1	X	61	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	0	0	76
GL	0	52	X	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	28	25	0	0	134
MO	68	0	1	X	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	76
PA	9	2	6	1	X	0	12	1	22	1	25	3	0	0	82
SG	1	0	0	1	0	X	12	0	0	17	15	0	0	0	46
SM	2	0	0	2	53	59	X	0	43	10	23	0	0	0	192
SI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SP	0	0	0	0	93	2	16	0	X	8	0	1	0	0	120
AL	1	0	0	2	1	24	5	0	8	X	0	0	0	0	41
CO	12	0	14	8	6	8	4	1	0	0	X	0	0	0	53
LA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	X	0	0	4
MP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	X	0	3
XB	11	35	1	583	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	633
Subtotals	105	90	84	640	201	95	49	4	81	36	108	35	0	0	1528

Fall 2003

Responding Agency:	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	XA	
AR	X	1	0	55	7	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	72
BU	0	X	82	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	15	0	0	110
GL	0	81	X	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	20	27	0	2	156
MO	65	1	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	2	80
PA	7	16	11	0	X	0	7	0	24	0	20	2	0	0	87
SG	0	1	0	0	0	X	8	0	2	14	9	0	1	0	35
SM	1	0	0	1	46	52	X	0	29	6	30	0	0	0	165
SI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
SP	1	1	1	0	95	3	17	0	X	9	2	5	0	0	134
AL	0	1	0	0	0	22	3	0	5	X	3	1	0	0	35
CO	11	1	13	12	6	10	4	0	0	0	X	0	0	2	59
LA	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	X	0	1	10
MP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	X	0	3
XB	11	23	4	553	5	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	X	600
Subtotals	96	128	114	621	187	90	39	1	64	30	118	50	1	10	1549