

UNIFIED



RESPONSE

Area “C” Quarterly Bulletin Summer 2006

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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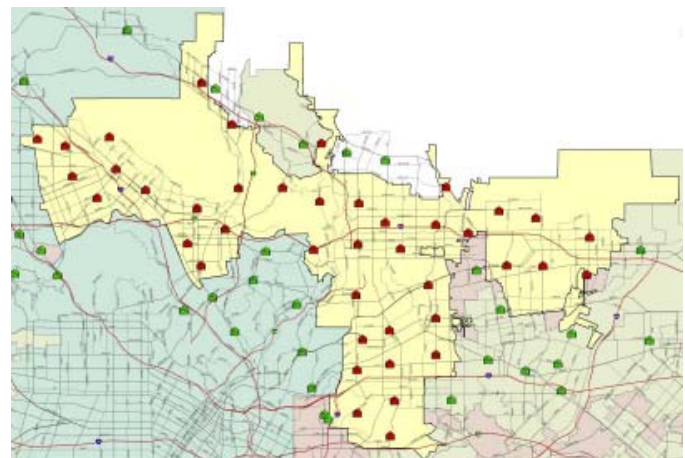
Coordinator's Update

As the summer draws to a close and we head into Labor Day weekend, we already have several strike team responses under our belts for the year and the driest months are yet to come. I am happy to report that the Area C Strike Team Task Force met last week and discussed several revisions to the current strike team policy, with an eye toward more equitable distribution of opportunities and providing as many chances as possible for Battalion Chiefs to earn and keep current their CICCIS Strike Team Leader credentials. With only a handful of strike team responses each year for Area C personnel and several dozen Chief Officers, this will continue to be a challenge, but we are confident that revisions to the policy will help to maximize opportunities for this critical operational experience.



A warm welcome to Jerry Wallace, South Pasadena's new Fire Chief, as he joins the Area C team.

This fall will mark our first tri-cities Firefighter Academy as Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena join forces to train 40 new recruits beginning October 2. The 15-week academy will be held at various locations in all three cities, with instruction shared between the three agencies. Over time, it is hoped that additional joint academies may be held among Area C fire departments.



After nearly a year and a half of operating informally through verbal agreements be-

tween Fire Chiefs, Unified Response will soon be formalized as the last few cities are reviewing and ratifying the Unified Response Automatic Aid Agreement between the 11 cities. This substantial achievement is already benefiting all participating cities as evidenced by the smooth and efficient collaboration between agencies as they worked together to extinguish several major structure fires in Area C cities recently. This is teamwork at its finest and all participants are to be commended, from their Fire Chiefs on down the line.

Next time you're on the Internet, check out our new web site: <http://www.unified-response.org>. It was designed by Behrang Abadi and his City of Glendale web development team. Past issues of this newsletter may be found there, along with maps, statistics, and a brief history of the Unified Response system.

In recent months, Verdugo has welcomed three new dispatchers and held their first dispatcher training academy. Sarah Cohan, Tiffany Harry and Lena Savaiinaea are a welcome addition to our superb dispatch team.

Do you know the difference between a Meyers Manx and a Hummer or a Crown Coach Convertible and a Pierce Quantum?

The differences are huge and the real separator is time. In 50 years, vehicle safety has changed significantly. One of the questions we should have asked ourselves during the recent Firefighter Stand Down was, "Have drivers changed in the past 50 years?" You may wonder, if you look at accident rates. I'll tell you though, frequency of driving is up as indicated by our number of collision-related responses, and there are more obstacles out there than ever before: traffic, pedestrians, medians, speed humps...you name it, we face it. Oh yeah, and the knucklehead factor...novel concept, yielding to emergency vehicles...in Glendale the siren seems to be a signal that the race is on. Bottom line: be safe, it's a jungle out there, and learn from others where

UNIFIED RESPONSE
11 AGENCIES, 1 GOAL

Home History Agencies Maps Statistics Newsletter Archive Authorized Users

UNIFIED RESPONSE: Strength in Numbers

When your house is on fire, you need emergency assistance NOW. You want the closest fire units to be dispatched to your address immediately. But what if you live near the city boundary and the closest fire engine and ladder truck actually belong to another city? Or what if the fire engine from the station down the street is already on a call... who will respond to your house fire? Having the closest unit respond immediately to an emergency – regardless of jurisdictional boundaries – is the key. Thanks to the efforts of 11 Fire Chiefs in Southern California, the citizens in their cities now enjoy this type of coordinated assistance.

It began with a tri-city collaboration in 1979, when the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena agreed to operate as a borderless system for fire incidents dispatched by Verdugo Fire Communications Center. The success of this system later prompted the suggestion that all 11 of the cities in the local area should enter into a similar collaboration. The details were ironed out at monthly Verdugo Task Force meetings, with input and



Mangled fire engine

you can. There are plenty of daily examples at <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com>.



The Ultimate Brain Workout

Sudoku puzzles (pronounced *sue-doe-koo*) were introduced by a Swiss mathematician in 1783 and have recently become popular in the crossword sections of newspapers and magazines. The word is Japanese for single number, and these puzzles do not require any special knowledge of math, just patience and logical reasoning.

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in:

- Each of the nine vertical columns
- Each of the nine horizontal rows
- Each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes

And no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box. The solution to the puzzle below will be in our next issue. Happy puzzling!

8			2			4		
				8	4	2		
	2		5	1			7	
	6	5	1			7	3	
	1	2			5	6	9	
	5			3	7		2	
		9	8	5				
		7			2			1

<http://www.4puz.com>

Don't Be a Perpetual Critic

Critical thinking skills are an important part of being an effective leader. A good leader has to be able to look at processes and strategies, and then use logic and reason to identify the good and bad in a situation, challenge conventional thinking, and identify better ways to execute and get desired results. You can't be a good leader without having good ability in this area.

While this is a "must have" skill, it can also cause a lot of problems when taken to the negative extreme. Instead of constructively sharing ideas with other people, some leaders become "perpetual critics," finding fault with any idea not their own. They spotlight the negative in every operation or project. Pretty soon, their critical thinking skills turn into cynicism and antagonism as they become very verbal about what is wrong with company leadership, the new business strategy, the way a project was executed, etc. They spend time at the coffee pot or in e-mail exchanges giving push-back and espousing an "everyone is dumb but me" philosophy and saying things like, "If I were in charge of this project, I would focus on this or that." It can become so bad that people are afraid of approaching these critics for fear of getting an earful of negativity on any idea.

Times are challenging right now in Corporate America. Leading organizations are facing radical change, global competition and challenging environments. This type of environment can add fuel to the fire for perpetual critics. I have received feedback from some hiring managers concerning some of their former military officers falling into this trap.

The saddest fact about perpetual critics is that they are usually smart and capable problem solvers, and as such, high potential leaders. Their mistake is in using their intelligence and critical thinking skills toward the wrong objectives. In some cases, the smarter you are, the more susceptible you are to becoming one. Instead of working well with other people to hone in on a good business strategy or solve a tough problem, perpetual critics invest their energy finding fault with the organization. Over time, this type of cynicism becomes habitual and a dark cloud follows the critics everywhere they go in an organization, eventually killing their career. After all, nobody enjoys a critic who is always bringing out the gloom and doom in the organization.

Few perpetual critics are aware of this weakness in themselves and, therefore, they are unaware of the need to improve. Other people (including bosses) avoid confronting perpetual critics because they are usually so defensive (critics are much better at giving criticism than receiving it). The tell-tale sign for a perpetual critic is in

being passed up for a leadership promotion. Any good organization will keep the perpetual critic away from a position where he/she can directly influence other people. After all, perpetual critics are most dangerous to an organization when they mass in numbers. Instead of allowing them to move towards positions of greater influence, perpetual critics are usually stove-piped into specialist type roles where their attitudes won't poison others in the organization. It's a sad situation which happens more often than most people know.

How do you keep critical thinking skills in check so you don't become a perpetual critic? Here are a few ideas:

1. Be honest with yourself. Are you using your critical thinking skills constructively, or are you a perpetual critic? What type of attitude do you keep during the day when things go wrong? Do you fly off the handle and focus on the negatives? How many of your sentences begin with, "If I were in charge...?" How often do you think this way? Like any weakness, fixing it starts with self honesty.

2. Be a good listener. While you may be smart and capable, remember, there are a lot of smart people out there with good ideas. Listen to others around you, solicit a variety of opinions, and welcome suggestions. When you approach your work in this collaborative manner, people will see your critical thinking skills in a positive way.

3. Don't be an egomaniac. There will be days when you feel surrounded by incompetence. All organizations are composed of people, and people make mistakes and commit an array of organizational blunders. Regardless, you can't approach work with an "everyone is dumb except me" mentality. It's virtually always a career killer.

4. Be constructive. Problems abound in any organization. Instead of expending energy on the cause of problems, focus your time on how to solve them. Don't be judgmental towards everything that is happening around you. Rather, be a light inspiring others around you in dealing with the problems. Doing so will move your organization forward (as well as your career).

5. Keep a good attitude. When you combine great critical thinking skills with a good attitude, it is always an asset to you and your organization. Every challenging problem is an opportunity for you to combine critical thinking with a positive attitude to bring about change.

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ALHAMBRA

Population: 89,326

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$5,103,093,384

On June 16 at 1:35 a.m., Alhambra Fire units responded to the Wondries Chevy Car Dealership at 1247 W. Main Street for a reported structure fire. Alhambra Engine 73 was the first unit on scene, and the crew immediately reported heavy smoke showing and requested a second alarm as they pulled lines to initiate an interior attack.

As units arrived, they were deployed to assist with the interior attack as vertical ventilation was being conducted by two truck companies. Soon after the first ventilation hole was cut, the roof collapsed in the front part of the building, sending 40 to 50 foot flames in the air. Those charged with fire attack were then redeployed to the west side of the building with other units in an attempt to hold the fire to the front side of the structure. Eighteen min-

utes after the second alarm was called, the IC (Chief Mosack) called for a third alarm. Truck 71 and Truck 31 cut two more ventilation holes and then initiated and completed a trench cut in the back third of the building.

As more units arrived, they were deployed to the west and east sides of the building to make entry and hold the fire to the fire side of the trench cut. After the trench cut was completed, all units were ordered off the roof and the decision was made to evacuate the building and go into a defensive mode.

After the evacuation of all personnel, three ladder pipes were put into service, along with several hand lines positioned on the outside of the building to hold the fire to the fire side of the trench cut. This strategy proved effective in keeping the fire from spreading to the Parts Department and offices that were located in the rear of the structure.

While there was heavy smoke and water damage throughout the structure, thousands of dollars in parts, as well as important documents, were saved. After investiga-



tion, the fire was determined to have been caused by an electrical short in the attic. Based on observations of the first arriving units and the amount flames shooting from the roof, the fire had been burning a while in the attic prior to being reported.

The estimated dollar loss from the fire, including structure and contents, was near \$3,000,000, yet there were no injuries from the fire or during the firefighting efforts. A total of nine engines, four truck companies, three Battalion Chiefs, one medic ambulance and one air unit were deployed on this incident, for a total of 58 personnel assigned.

This combined effort of our Area C mutual aid cities was highly effective in confining and extinguishing this large-scale incident, and the Alhambra Fire Department appreciates the assistance of all those involved.

ARCADIA

Population: 56,145

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

Assessed Value:
\$7,552,672,371

Special Recognitions

Firefighter/Paramedic Chen Suen has recently returned from paramedic school after six months of

dedication and hard work. FF/PM Suen was a member of the 197th class of the Paramedic Training Institute in the City of Commerce. His class graduated 29 newly trained paramedics, with Chen leading the group. He was honored as the Class Valedictorian with the highest GPA in his class.

FF/PM Chen Suen's training included clinical experience at St. Francis Medical Center, Huntington Memorial Hospital, Long Beach Memorial Hospital, and County USC Hospital. His field internship also included training with the Downey Fire Department. With his training

completed, FF/PM Suen states that he is very happy to be back home with the Arcadia Fire Department. Congratulations and welcome back, a job well done!

On May 19, Engineer Steve





Sinnott was honored as Arcadia Fire Department's 2005 Firefighter of the Year. The ceremony was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Arcadia, with Fire Chief David Lugo making the presentation. Engr. Sinnott began his career with the Arcadia Fire Department in June 1999 and was promoted to Engineer in October 2002.

Throughout Engr. Sinnott's seven-year career, he has been involved with several apparatus and equipment committees, including apparatus specifications on several new pieces of equipment. In addition, Steve has also been involved with the Arcadia Fire Department USAR Program and was key in the recent reclassification of our USAR Truck to a State OES Heavy.

Engr. Sinnott is also the Arcadia Fire Department's Assistant Maintenance and Repair Coordinator. Steve can often be found in the early morning and late night hours at the repair desk, coordinating equipment service and repair.

Congratulations to Engr. Steve Sinnott, Arcadia Fire Department's 2005 Firefighter of the Year! Thanks again for your dedication to the AFD.

New Reserve Firefighters

The Arcadia Fire Department would like to announce the hiring of two new Reserve Firefighters (RFF). RFF Ben Cheung started on April 16, and RFF Kenneth Galindo started on June 11. RFF Cheung has been assigned to work a 24-hour shift every Friday and RFF Galindo has been assigned to work a 24-hour shift every Tuesday. Both RFF's are assigned at Station 106. Congratula-

tions and welcome to the Arcadia Fire Department!

Trench Rescue Training

On June 9 and 10, the Arcadia Fire Department hosted a 16-hour Trench Rescue Course. The purpose of the course was to familiarize first responders with procedures for conducting rescue operations that will mitigate most types of trench collapse incidents.

The course was designed to give



the students an overall awareness of trench rescues and to familiarize them with the equipment and techniques necessary to effectively mitigate collapse situations, providing safety for both the rescuers and trapped victims. The course focused on the following points:

- 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

Thirty students received this valuable training. The attendees included members from Arcadia, Alhambra, Monrovia, La Habra Heights and Compton Fire Departments.

Live Fire Instruction

On June 12 and 13, the Arcadia Fire Department hosted training classes on Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS). The classes were developed to provide training in the use of CAFS, including training on the correct application of CAFS while conducting an interior fire attack, and training for all Engineers in the correct method of supplying CAFS hose lines for interior fire attack.

The training was conducted in structures donated by a local developer and in compliance with the strict requirements of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA).

Forty-eight students from the Arcadia, Monrovia and San Gabriel Fire Departments received this valuable training.



New Fire Headquarters (Station 105)

Demolition of “old” Fire Headquarters (Station 105) officially began July 5. The City of Arcadia Development Services and Fire Department staffs continue to work diligently on the rebuild of Fire Station 105 at 710 S. Santa Anita Avenue. The plans call for a 450-day or approximately 15 month construction phase. Thursday, July 20 will be the official ground breaking for the construction phase.

As a reminder to all Area C agencies, the Fire Administration, Fire

Prevention Bureau, Truck 105 and Battalion 105 continue to be located at Fire Station 106 (630 South Baldwin Avenue). Engine 105 and RA105 continue to be located in a converted single family dwelling at 141 Alice Street.

Battalion Chief David Haney is the Project Coordinator for the Fire Department. The new Headquarters will feature a modern two-story design with the Administrative Offices, including Fire Prevention, on the first level and the suppression living quarters on the second level. Also featured is a large four-door apparatus

room designed to house all Station 105 apparatus.



BURBANK

Population: 106,879

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$11,900,455,179

With a combined total of 71 years of service to the Burbank Fire Department, Craig Canfield (32 years) and Al Simmons (39 years) retired on June 30. They will be dearly missed, but their talents, good humor and many contributions will remain with us for years to come. They were hosted at several events including a golf tournament, lunch at Warner Bros., and ice cream and cake. With Craig’s departure, Ray Krakowski assumed the Assistant Chief’s position. Congratulations also to our newest Battalion Chief, Tom Lenahan, who assumed command of the C shift platoon effective July 1.

We are currently preparing for a recruit academy in October for approximately eleven recruits. We are working with both Glendale and Pasadena Fire Departments on the

details of this joint recruit academy.

In May, the Burbank Fire Department was saddened but proud to host a memorial service for friends, family and department colleagues in Southern California in memory of Capt. Dean White (retired) at the request of Linda Coogan, a member of our dedicated Verdugo Communications Center personnel. Dean passed away in Oregon on March 19. Dean had 23 years of service with the Burbank Fire Department.

BFD celebrated Fire Service Day with an open house at Station 11 on May 13. Although this is always a very popular event, this year we included the addition of a Pancake Breakfast provided by Burbank YMCA. This was a great success, appreciated both by the citizens and staff while being a good fundraiser for the Y. Many thanks to all our volunteers who, this year, included cadets from our ROP group and from the Verdugo Fire Academy, together with our CDVs and BEARS. Our thanks to all involved.

We again participated in the Every 15 Minutes program aimed at reducing the incidence of high schoolers drinking and driving drunk. This took place at John Burroughs High School on May 22 and 23. Our

personnel were involved in the staged accident, a round table for youth in the evening, and in the debate the following day. The timetable was impacted by weather conditions, but with flexibility from all groups involved, they worked through it in three days instead of two. According to feedback from the school district, students and parents, this program is proving to be a popular and useful event. Capt. Ron Bell in our Fire Prevention Bureau had the lead with this.

Disaster Preparedness Coordinator Rich Baenen is on military leave for a month, expecting to be back on Aug. 7. In his absence, his backup is Devin Burns.

The Quest Caravan came through Burbank on schedule on June 9. We are delighted to learn that donations and contributions to this

The next issue of **UNIFIED RESPONSE** will be published in mid-October 2006. Submissions of articles and photos are welcome through Oct. 9.

worthy cause exceeded those of last year, and included generous donations from BFF Local 778, BCEA and other local groups. We are always proud to offer our support to Quest and to have our personnel (present and retired) and vehicles participate in the parade.

The department participated in the annual IAFC Firefighter Stand Down for all three shifts on June 21, 22, and 23. Our Training Officer and the President of BFF Local 778 put together a dynamic program. In addition to honoring fallen firefighters and focusing on firefighter safety to reduce the number of fire service fatalities and injuries, our program also included a review of the American Heat video on the Cove Street Fire and Rescue, an infectious disease safety review to increase awareness and understanding of the increasing incidence of cellulitis and MRSA, and a review of emergency vehicle and roadway safety.

The review of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) and cellulitis was included due to a recent rash (pun intended) of skin outbreaks possibly caused by virus contamination exacerbated by insufficient hygiene in the station and/or gyms, gym equipment. While not conclusive to be staph or MRSA related, the department decided to take a proactive position, and with our Training and Safety Officer, the city Safety Officer, BFF Local 778 President, Human Resources and our EMS Medical Director, to focus attention on the need for increased hygiene and vigilance in this area. Our review has demonstrated the rising prevalence of MRSA in the fire service and the increased need for vigilance by fire service personnel to protect against infectious disease through regular and thorough decontamination of apparatus and equipment, and increased custodial service to all shared facilities such as the gym, gym equipment,

shower, and dorm areas, to keep these problems at a minimum.

Also on the health front, this year the Burbank Fire Department is embarking on a totally new program of Wellness and Fitness training through Santa Ana College. The program includes nutrition lectures, health and fitness orientation, and blood draws for all three shifts and our civilian personnel. The nutrition segment, provided by a nutritionist, has been completed and was well received by all members.

May saw the implementation of our Telestaff system. Ray Krakowski and Peter Hendrickson have borne the brunt of the training and implementation, and continue their dedication to make the system work.

At the request of Burbank City Council, we are investigating the technology and availability of Reverse 911 systems to notify citizens of impending disasters. We anticipate presenting options to Council in August. Since undertaking this review, we have been made aware of the multiple different technologies and systems available, such as phone or cell phone calls and text messages. Recent press reports show that this type of notification is also being considered at the Federal level and by LA County.

In an effort to continue to offer the very best service to our local studios, we have arranged with Warner Bros. to provide an on-site Burbank Fire Captain to oversee fire safety and fire safety officers. Our on-site Captain will work very closely and in cooperation with Warner Bros. Fire Department personnel to maintain necessary oversight while en-



Swift water rescue on May 22.

hancing production fire safety and training and, by means of this position, eliminate some of the needs to provide fire safety officers in routine cases. In the past, we filled requests for fire safety officers through the permit procedure. The position is currently held by Fire Captain Jeff Williams, and though still in the early stages, the new plan and Jeff appear to be off to a good start.

We are the recipients of a \$157,000 Heritage Grant from Firemen's Fund for the purchase of a Swede System Flashover Training Building. We are and will be working closely with both Glendale and Pasadena Fire Departments to put this system into service, and once installation is complete, it will be offered as a training opportunity to all Area C cities. The grant opportunity was facilitated through DeWitt Sterns Insurance Services of Van Nuys.



GLENDALE

Population: 206,308

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$17,278,729,026

Second Annual National Stand Down for Firefighter Safety

The IAFF and IAFC have combined forces in an effort to eliminate firefighter injuries and deaths. As part of their agenda, they have developed a program that involves taking one shift out of the year and setting all activities aside that do not involve improving firefighter safety.

This year the Glendale Fire Department participated in the Stand Down on June 21, 22, and 23. Training was conducted that was focused on vehicle safety. Here are the highlights:

- Second only to heart attacks, vehicle accidents claim the most firefighter lives every year.
- These deaths and injuries are mostly preventable.
- More than 80% of vehicle-related deaths for fire service personnel involve those that are not wearing a seatbelt.
- Seatbelts must be worn by all personnel when the apparatus is in motion.
- Backing accidents are the most common type of accidents.
- The new GFD Backing Policy states:
 - * Backing should be done as a last resort.
 - * Minimum of one spotter when backing all fire apparatus and RAs.
 - * Partially remove headset and roll down window to hear spotter.

- * Always keep spotter in sight when backing; no spotter, stop the apparatus.
- * Rear-looking cameras are only to be used as a supplement to having a spotter and must never replace having a spotter.
- Many accidents involve vehicles that respond in an unsafe manner.
 - * Maintain speed that makes apparatus controllable at all times.
 - * Stop at all red lights and stop signs.
 - * Ensure that any vehicle in need of repair is pulled out of service for repair.
- On streets and freeway incidents, ensure that all personnel are protected by using the engine as a shield of protection.
 - * Take the lane involved and another lane for personnel to work in.
 - * Coordinate traffic control measures with CHP.



Taking the time out once a year to focus on safety is something that will prove to be beneficial to all members. We would like to thank all members who contributed their thoughts and ideas during this year's training. *Stay safe so we can all go home safely.*

CERT Training

The Glendale Fire Department conducted its first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training in June at Glendale's Seventh Day Adventist Church. For four consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m., the group of 25 enthusiastic individuals received training covering

basic skills that will be important to know in a disaster, when emergency services might not be available.

The CERT program objective is to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people, including protecting oneself from becoming a victim. The course takes approximately sixteen hours to complete and is free of charge. Participants learn disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical triage, light search and rescue, organization and management, terrorism and disaster psychology. Upon completion of the course, students received a certificate of training in CERT Level 1.

Individuals or CERT teams who wish to become city-certified will complete an application and background check, and will receive a city I.D. along with basic CERT equipment.

We were very proud to hold the first CERT graduation on June 28. These individuals voluntarily participated in their free time to better prepare our community. We are extremely pleased by their achievements!

The next CERT class will be scheduled in September 2006, and the classes will also be available in Spanish and Armenian.



Traffic Signal Preemption

Our final proposal from 3M was approved for the Opticom Preemption System (signal control devices) for 35 intersections in downtown Glendale, along with installation on all front-line apparatus. A company called J & J, Inc. will do the actual installations.

Personnel Update

- Congratulations to two of our newest paramedics, Phil Ambrose and Steve Elliott. They have both successfully passed the National Registry Exam.

- Good luck to Chris Mays and Tyler Richardson, who started at Paramedic Training Institute July 3.
- Congratulations are also in order for Firefighters Jeff Brooks, Jeff Casilli, Jose Escobedo, Karlow Krikor and Zach Zarrilli on successful completion of their 12-month probationary period.
- Thanks and best wishes to Capt. Gerry Duss on his retirement after 32 distinguished years of service. Our very first GFD Fire

Academy was held in 1974 and Gerry is the last one of those seven recruits to retire.

- Patrick Shelton and Alan Dearden were promoted to the rank of Fire Captain on April 4. Congratulations to both!

- Verdugo is pleased to welcome three new dispatcher trainees: Sarah Cohan, Lena Savaiinaea, and Tiffany Harry.

- Fire Administration welcomes Christina Kazazian, who joined our support staff in April. In her brief time here, she has already become a valued and integral member of our team.



Fire Service Day 2006



Swift Water Rescue



Patient to be Transported



Trench Rescue Drill



House Fire - Roof Ventilation



"Every 15 Minutes" Exercise



Truck Over the Side on 134 Fwy



Car Into Supercuts



Rainy Day Rescue

MONROVIA

Population: 39,006

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,938,208,033

Fire Station Relocation

After several years of much needed repairs, the City Council voted 5-0 to support the first step in a major fire station renovation project. Fire Station 101, located at 141 E. Lemon Avenue, is in need of repair and will shortly undergo an estimated million dollar renovation. The project includes rebuilding the firefighter dormitories, the Captain office and sleeping quarters, the Battalion Chief office and sleeping quarters, the Administration office, the Prevention office, the conversion of the existing gym to a new conference center (the gym will be relocated within the station) and a new office for the Fire Chief. This project is estimated to take between 9 and 12 months and the fire personnel will have to be stationed out of the existing structure. The temporary fire station will be located at the NE corner of Olive and Ivy, including E101, Squad 101, Battalion 101 personnel, Fire Prevention and Fire Administration. The temporary site should be ready to occupy within 10-12 weeks, at which time the station renovation project can begin.

USFS Cooperative Agreement

After several years of hard work and negotiations, with special thanks to Battalion Chiefs Dave Dennis and Derek Young, a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the City of Monrovia was signed on Tuesday, May 9. This long-awaited agreement

clears the path for reciprocal fire protection services, training and fire prevention activities. This agreement will allow for the automatic dispatch of fire resources from the U.S. Fire Service upon the initial dispatch of a fire in the foothills, and will allow for quicker response times for many of the specialty pieces of equipment needed to control wildland fires. For instance, the agreement calls for the response of the following units from the U.S. Forest Service into the City of Monrovia:

- 5 Fire Engines (Type III)
- 2 Water Tenders (minimum 1500 gallon)
- 2 Dozers
- 2 Air Tankers (2000 gallons each)
- 1 Air Attack Supervisor
- 1 Lead Aircraft
- 2 Helicopters
- 2 Patrols/Investigators
- 2 Chief Officers

This signed agreement has also opened the door to continued negotiation related to the staffing of the wilderness station with U.S. Forest Service personnel. It is the department's goal to have seasonal staffing in place this year. By doing so, the City of Monrovia will be afforded even faster service to emergency calls in our foothills. The Monrovia Fire Department is certainly pleased with this progress and look forward to continuing excellent relations with our fellow Federal Firefighters.

Rodriguez Family Trust Fund

Following the horrific events of last month, the Monrovia Fire Department has been moving forward and working through the tragedy. The primary focus has certainly turned to the three Rodriguez children, Nathan, Myriah and Michael, that have been left without parents, without the family unit that is so important to young children and with

limited support. It is in the hopes of helping them with financial needs that a trust fund has been established. The Monrovia Fire Department is also working on fund-raising events that we will be announcing in the near future. Donations may be sent to:

Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union
P.O. Box 60890
Los Angeles, CA 90099-4303

Please reference the Rodriguez Memorial Fund/Monrovia Fire Dept. in the note/memo section of your check!

NIMS Training

On July 12 and 26, the City hosted National Incident Management System Training at the community center. There were two four-hour sessions each day from 8 a.m. to noon and again from 1 to 5 p.m. Students received instruction covering ICS 100 and ICS 700. Upon completion of the training, each student will go online and complete the exam for the certification of each course.

Phoscheck Fire Retardant Spraying

In Monrovia, wildfire management is a major part of our day to day operations. Our annual residential brush clearance program is supplemented by a grant-funded brush chipper program. This program allows the residents to cut their brush and pile it up at the curbside in front of their house. Then we will have a contractor come haul it away for free. The brush will then be chipped and turned into mulch.

An equally important tool in our wildland management toolbox is our annual Phoscheck fire retardant spraying. Our goal is to have this retardant spraying completed by the end of June, just in time before the 4th of July weekend. It is applied to the hillside roadways starting at the entrance to our Canyon Park and along the road leading to the Trask

Boy Scout Camp. This fire retardant works especially well to reduce flammability of hazardous vegetation and helps to stop the accidental fire starts from the illegal use of fireworks and cigarettes being tossed out of car windows along the roadway. Our Engine 101, Sierra Madre Water Tender 44, and U.S. Forestry personnel assisted in the spraying this year.

This is a collaborative effort that was started in June 2000 and has been a very successful program for us. Special thanks to Sierra Madre's Fire Marshal Rich Snyder, who drives the water tender and has helped coordinate this effort from Monrovia to Pasadena over the last six years.



Fire Service Day

During Fire Service Day, Monrovia Firefighters served pancakes to over 1,500 people at our 18th annual pancake breakfast. In addition to serving pancakes, firefighters performed live demonstrations for the crowd in vehicle extrication, a vehicle fire, and fire extinguishers. Various other static displays provided residents with earthquake prepared-



ness kits and tips, an Urban Search and Rescue display, as well as a competition event for children with a Junior Firefighter Challenge. Each child received a medal for participating in the challenge, which included a hose drag, a ventilation prop, carrying a hose bundle, and knocking down a simulated fire prop with a hose stream.

New Fire Cadet

The newest cadet to join the Monrovia Fire Department is Danny Salcido. Danny works as an ER Tech at Arcadia Methodist Hospital and San Dimas Community Hospital when he's not working at Monrovia as a Fire Cadet. Danny attended the Mt. Sac Fire Academy and has worked previously for San Gabriel Fire Department as a Cadet and has five seasons with the U.S. Forest Service.



MONTEREY PARK

Population: 64,387

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$4,092,636,015

Fourth of July

In preparation for the Fourth of July holiday, the City of Monterey Park Fire Department developed and implemented an Administrative Citation Program. This Administrative Citation and City Ordinance was unanimously passed by the Monterey Park City Council in order to combat the use, transportation, discharge and sales of illegal and dangerous fireworks.

The administrative fine amounts range from \$500 to \$1,000, depend-



ing on the level of violation. These amounts are predetermined by California State regulations. Violators can be fined for the possession and discharge of illegal fireworks and/or unapproved use or tampering with "Safe and Sane" fireworks. The city ordinance also identified more specific dates and times for the sale and discharge of "Safe and Sane" fireworks.

This year the Monterey Park Arson Task Force, comprised of Police and Fire personnel, engaged in fireworks suppression patrol from June

28 through the evening of July 4. Several administrative citations and numerous Notices of Violations were issued, generating thousands of dollars for the Monterey Park General Fund and serving as a warning to residents. In addition to the revenue generated, over 500 pounds of dangerous and illegal fireworks were confiscated in the interest of public safety. There were no reports of injury to any Monterey Park citizens related to fireworks.

Promotions

After successfully completing several promotional tests, the Monterey Park Fire Department is proud to announce the following promotions:

- Battalion Chief Jim Birrell (A-Shift)
- Captain Ken Leasure
- Captain Neil Lakin

- Engineer Scott Kelly
- Engineer Chris Thompson
- Shift Fire Investigators: Capt. Randy Harper, Capt. Neil Lakin, Capt. Dave Kauffman, Eng. Gunnar Nelson, Eng. Paul Cubak, FF/PM Drew Respicio.

We formally congratulate these members of the Monterey Park Fire Department and offer them our support and confidence. Congratulations and good luck!

Operations

Monterey Park Fire has been busy working to complete several critical operational projects this quarter. These projects consist of the expansion of the office area at Station 61, the construction of a Breathing Apparatus Clean Room at Station 61, a new Hose Tower at Station 63, and a 60 x 40 foot Butler Building at Station 63. The Butler Building will provide the department with four large bay doors and enough storage space for reserve apparatus, equipment and storage. In addition to these exciting changes, we are expecting delivery of a new KME Type-I Fire Pumper (slated to replace Engine 63) sometime in late August, and the property for the future Station 62 relocation has been acquired. Building for



that station has not been determined at this time, but we look forward to assisting with the station architectural design and floor plan layout.

The Training Staff have successfully completed the 18-month probationary testing of two members of our department. FF/PM James Lega and FF/PM Ed Stary have completed all the requirements of our extensive probationary period and deserve our congratulations for this accomplishment. Several other members are scheduled for 4-month, 8-month, and 12-month testing in the near future.

Major Incidents

During the past quarter, the Monterey Park Fire Department had several notable fire incidents. Though we have experienced our normal fire, hazmat, EMS, and rescue related responses, there have also been a several significant incidents to report. Of those incidents, cer-

tainly the most memorable was the Lincoln Plaza high-rise incident. This incident was located at 123 South Lincoln Ave., in the City of Monterey Park:

- July 4, 8:13 a.m.
- Seven-story hotel
- 3rd alarm (plus additional individual units)
- Responding fire departments: MPK, ALH, ARC, GLN, PAS, SGB, SPS, LACO, MPKPD,
- Additional agencies: American Red Cross, Edison, SOCAL Gas Company, Nextel, LACO Department of Health, and many others.
- Incident completed at 2:14 p.m.

Units responded from all corners of Area C to help provide fire suppression support. PASFD units were moved into Station 61 to cover the city, and the American Red Cross provided food, refreshments and temporary shelter for all hotel guests in need. Truly a “Unified Response.”



PASADENA

Population: 146,138

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$14,937,558,499

Carnival Ride Rescue

On May 6, Bike Team 31 was assigned to the Cinco De Mayo Festival at the Rose Bowl when they heard the sound of mashing metal and saw the “Kite Rider” ride come to a halt.

A sink hole about 3½ feet deep had developed under one support arm of the ride, causing it to tilt approximately 30 degrees. A full US&R response was dispatched to support the ride and remove the six remaining children from the upper cars, while



seven other riders were able to exit the ride immediately. One hour later the six were successfully removed and evaluated by medical personnel. Three were transported with minor injuries.

Trench Rescue

A plumbing company was repairing a sewer line on S. Orange Grove when a trench they were digging collapsed, trapping one worker. The victim was in a trench approximately 4 feet wide, 8 feet deep and 12 feet long. US&R 32 stabilized the ground around the trench with plywood and



set up speed shores to secure the dirt before lowering two US&R members into the hole. The extrication took almost three hours and the patient was transported with neck and back pain.

Near-Drowning

Arriving units were told a three-year old had just been pulled from the bottom of a pool and was unconscious. Aggressive airway management with suction and laryngoscopy pulled 30cc's of fluid, food and leafy debris from the patient's airway. Enroute to the hospital, the patient had spontaneous eye opening and a weak cry. The child was held for observation for 24 hours and released.



Church Fire

Just before 1 a.m. on June 18, a report of smoke initiated a full assignment to a 120,000 sq. ft. church and office building. First-in units found an office on the second floor fully involved in fire, extending to the hallway. A second alarm was requested. Crews were met with extremely hot temperatures and smoke

conditions before ventilating the roof. Aggressive fire attack contained the fire to the office building and it did not extend to the attached church.

Apartment Fire

Witnesses reported heavy fire and smoke coming from a rear, second floor window of a two-story apartment building on Orange Grove Drive. First-in units were met with a large amount of trash, furniture and assorted materials that crews had to climb over to reach the fire. A second alarm was requested when police reported possible tenants trapped inside the structure. All tenants were successfully evacuated, although one patient was transported with trouble breathing as a result of smoke inhalation.



Multiple-Victim Incident

The Good News Church was the site where a 60-year-old female driver with two passengers drove into the structure while a service for approximately 20 parishoners was being conducted. Five patients were transported to local emergency rooms with minor injuries. US&R 32 stabilized the structure after the vehicle was removed. The rest of the service was held on the front lawn of the church.



US&R Region I Task Force Meeting

Pasadena Fire hosted the Region I task force meeting on June 28. This meeting was to plan training and response in a standardized manner. The committee chairs met with counterparts from Areas E and F. Area C was typed as a US&R regional task force after 10 months of hard work by members of Area C.

Retirement

After almost 34 years with the Pasadena Fire Department, Fire Marshal Scott Pursell has retired. He will serve out his term on the Fire & Police Retirement Board. Scott is looking forward to spending more time on the golf course and with his grandkids (not necessarily in that order).



Battalion Chiefs

Battalion Chief Fred Law has been assigned as the EMS BC, effective June 26, while Battalion Chief Kevin Costa has assumed the role of C-shift BC.

New Recruit Class

The department is in the last phase of the hiring process and anticipates initiating a Recruit Class for 17 entry-level Firefighters the first part of August. Additionally, the Department's Training Chief is working closely with Burbank and Glendale Fire Departments in anticipation of a Tri-Cities Recruit Class slated for this fall.

Generous Donation

Through a grant made possible by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company through Bolton & Company

Insurance Brokers, the fire department received two Thermal Imaging cameras. A press conference was held with the personnel at Station 33 to allow the media the opportunity to use the camera in a simulated smoke-filled room and showcase the community partnership.



News from Chief Downs

Chief Downs has announced his candidacy as President Elect of the California Fire Chiefs' Association. The term includes two years as President Elect and two years as President. In addition, Chief Downs has been named to the Executive Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Pomona



Chapter of the American Red Cross and serves as Chair of their Public Affairs Committee.



SAN GABRIEL

Population: 42,320

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,688,594,458

San Gabriel has a new Captain at Station 51. On May 23, Derrick Doehler was sworn in at the beginning of the City Council meeting. His new Captain's badge was pinned on by his wife Jody while his two daughters, Cassidy and Abigail, sat proudly in the audience. Captain Doehler has been assigned to the "C" shift to replace Captain Roy, who had moved to Station 52 to take the place of now-retired Captain John Hostetter.

At that same Council meeting, John Hostetter was presented with a plaque celebrating his years of service with the San Gabriel Fire Department. Captain Hostetter, who retired in December 2005, stated what we seem to realize only when we've gained some years: time seems to fly

by and in the end one's career (in his case 32 years) does not seem that long. If appearances are any indication, both John and his wife Lori are truly enjoying his retirement. The Department wishes both of them the very best in their future endeavors.

Deputy Fire Marshal Don Berry and Engineer Dennis Barwick have received approval to start a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in San Gabriel. On June 20 and 21, they attended a "Train the Trainer" program in Long Beach in preparation for presenting the program to the community and recruiting volunteers for San Gabriel's first CERT training class.

The annual Open House was held on May 13 and was another huge success. The supply of free hot dogs and water was gone in under two hours, necessitating a fast run to the store for resupply. The best display this year was FF Charlie Hisserich's fire helmet collection, which includes helmets from the "good ol' days" to now, with leather, aluminum, plastic, and fiberglass models, sometimes in shapes that can cause a member to mumble, "You couldn't pay me to wear that!" The most representative

of the last category was the Czechoslovakian helmet, probably created by an admirer of early medieval military design, that could only have been comfortable on a person with a head shape sometimes seen on "Saturday Night Live." But hey, maybe that guy in Czechoslovakia feels about that medieval-appearing helmet the way some of us do about the New Yorker: ya put it on and the "stud" quotient goes up a good 50 points.

San Gabriel Parks and Recreation will again be hosting "Kids Day" on August 6 at Smith Park. This annual event is for San Gabriel kids and their families, and offers hot dogs and refreshments, free swimming in the park pool, and a penny carnival with game booths for prizes and candy.

Construction continues, albeit slowly, on the improvements to the front of Station 52 and the garage extension at Station 51. The single piece apparatus door for 52's has been ordered, and is about four weeks out.

Training for USAR continues, as does equipment acquisition and placement on the rig, in preparation for the day (soon, hopefully) when

USAR 5 is typed, manned, and ready to roll.

In June, the “B” shift held a training day for the department’s Auxiliaries. Basic firefighting evolutions were the theme of the day, as evidenced by the adjacent pictures.



SAN MARINO

Population: 13,482

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$3,271,681,646

Dominic Petta is the newest addition to the San Marino Fire Department. He is a product of our fine Auxiliary Firefighter program. After attending Mt. SAC Fire Academy, Dominic worked as an auxiliary for two years before going to paramedic school at the UCLA-Daniel Freeman Paramedic Education Program. You may also have seen Dominic during his internship at 32’s. Dominic lives in Upland and is looking forward to

a long and productive career in San Marino.



SIERRA MADRE

Population: 11,010

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$1,209,753,445

curriculum and the IFSTA manual. Our training program has also involved resources from other areas who need refresher or specialized classes. Classes are held each Wednesday night (excluding the third Wednesday of the month) at Station 41 and at locations throughout the city. Chief Beckman (San Gabriel) is administering the program and is the primary instructor. BC Robert Burnett is available to answer any questions.



Our EMS training continues through UCLA and is conducted the last Wednesday of every month. Please contact BC Steve Heydorff for further information.

Resources

Congratulations to new probationary Firefighter Mark Wolnisty, who recently moved into Sierra Madre and quickly joined the depart-

ment.

Mike Delgatto has rejoined the department as an Engineer. Mike had been with the department for many years prior to his resignation as a Captain in 2005. Mike has been able to modify his schedule to permit him to participate again in a active capacity.

Andy Lanyi, also a former Sierra Madre Firefighter, is participating again after a five-year absence.

Events

The Sierra Madre Fire Department prides itself on the level of sup-

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.

Training

Rio Hondo is the primary provider of training for Sierra Madre, following the normal Fire Academy

port we provide to the community. Funds raised through our events are allocated back for things like junior sports events and teams, trips to Washington, D.C. for deserving teens

who have been nominated by their schools, repairing athletic fields at our elementary school, underprivileged families, Easter Egg hunts, and other special needs. The 2006 Fourth

of July event included a very successful Beer Garden on the third (over 28 kegs of beer sold) and concluded with the parade down Sierra Madre Blvd. on July 4.

SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,674

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,491,710,424



The South Pasadena Fire Department is pleased to welcome our new Fire Chief, Jerry Wallace. Chief Wallace comes to South Pasadena with 32 years' experience, including 10 years as Fire Chief for Lynwood Fire Department, as well as Director of Public Safety, Assistant City Man-

ager, and Interim City Manager. Chief Wallace's first day on the job was June 12.

The Apparatus Committee completed the specifications for a new fire engine and the City Council approved. We are scheduled to receive the new Pierce sometime in January 2007.

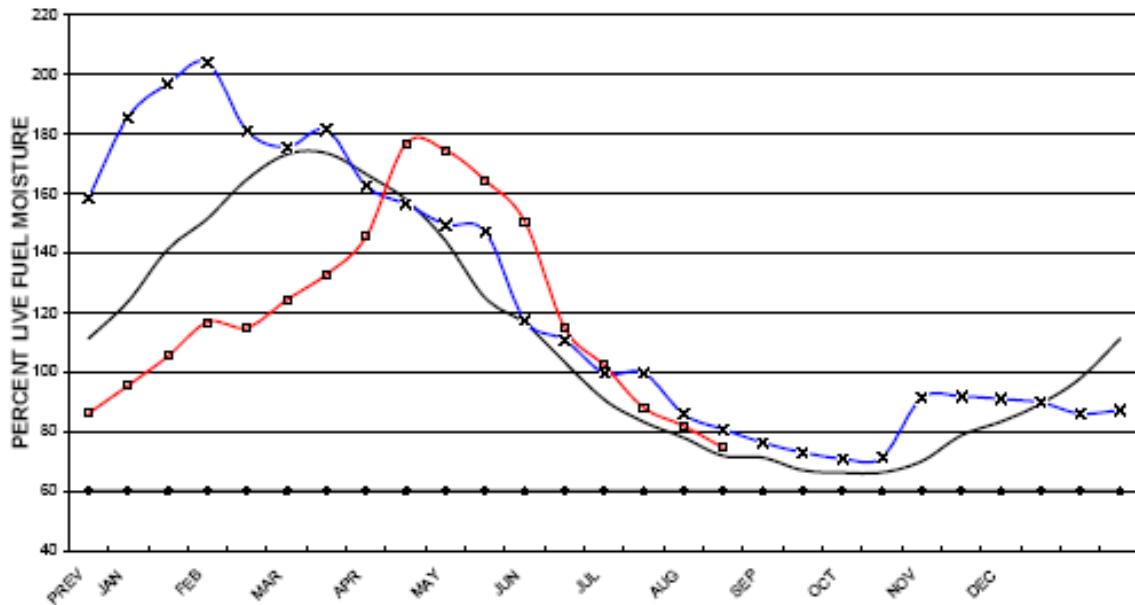
Finally, Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Dunn successfully completed his one-year probationary period and Firefighter/Paramedic Jordan Barnes has successfully passed his first and second quarterly probationary exams.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LIVE FUEL MOISTURE 1981-2006



AVG ALL AREAS - CHAMISE, CEANOTHUS, SAGES, SAGEBRUSH



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



<http://www.lacofd.org/Forestry/FireWeatherDangerLiveFuelMoistureAllAreas.asp>

VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Verdugo CAD Upgrade - A Brief Summary

Phase 1: Alpha Migration + Enhancements

The Alpha migration was completed a year ago on June 15, 2005; 25 additional programming enhancements were completed in Spring 2006. All hardware and software functioning as specified. The dispatchers are happy with the increased speed and functionality of the upgrade. Technical staff is happy with vastly improved hardware. Jason Pfau created a superior new MIS system and all of the Area C fire departments have their own RMS applications, such as FireHouse, SunPro, GLENFIRS, etc.

Phase 2: Mapping (Dispatch and Mobile)

Verdugo's new mapping function will be added in two steps. Mapping on dispatch floor is now in the early testing phase. Mapping on the mobile computer terminals (MCTs) in the front-line and reserve apparatus will be installed later this year. We are still working with the vendor to refine the appearance and functionality of the mobile system. So far this has been at no additional cost.

Phase 3: Automatic Vehicle Location

A total of 170 Garmin-18 USB receivers have arrived and two are in E21 and RA21 on a test basis. Verdugo is paying for receivers and installation, although City radio shops may be asked to assist with installations. GPS testing has begun but is limited because the AVL Client cannot be installed on Verdugo's server until mapping has been implemented.

Verdugo's CAD vendor recently completed an AVL installation in Idaho, their first such project on a system like Verdugo's, and the lessons they learned there will be applied to streamlining and refining Verdugo's AVL implementation.

Phase 4: Automatic Vehicle Recommendation & Routing

This phase will begin after AVL is completed.



Verdugo Call Statistics: May 2006

Call Summary

911 Calls: 3,460
911 Hang-ups: 2
Other Incoming Calls: 6,134
Incoming Call Hang-ups: 34
Outgoing Calls: 2,983
TOTAL: 12,577 (405.7 calls per day)



Ring Time: 911 Calls

0 - 5 seconds: 96.4%
6 - 10 seconds: 3.1%
11 - 30 seconds: 0.5%

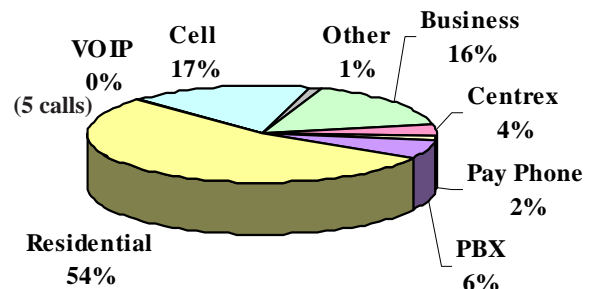
Note that 99.5% of 911 emergency calls were answered in 10 seconds or less, day or night, 24/7.

Average 911 Call Duration*

0 - 30 seconds: 4.9%
31 - 60 seconds: 28.5%
61 - 90 seconds: 33.8%
91 - 120 seconds: 16.9%
121 - 500 seconds: 15.7%
500+ seconds: 0.3%

*Upon receiving a 911 call, the Fire Communications Operator determines the nature and location of the incident from the caller, then immediately transfers this information to the dispatcher so the appropriate units and personnel can be sent. The caller often remains on the line to provide additional details about the incident or victim and to receive pre-arrival instructions, such as having someone outside to guide fire personnel, and emergency medical dispatch instructions, for example how to assist a person who is having difficulty breathing.

Type of Phone Used for 911 Call



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS: Spring 2006 vs. Spring 2005

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS: April - June 2006

CATEGORY	VERDUGO		ALHAMBRA*		ARCADIA		BURBANK		GLENDALE		MONROVIA	
FIRE	2,253	15.1	135	12.8	165	16.9	342	15.4	389	11.0	118	14.7
MEDICAL	11,446	76.8	835	79.4	752	76.8	1,731	77.9	2,890	81.6	623	77.8
SERVICE	828	5.6	82	7.8	52	5.3	127	5.7	192	5.4	57	7.1
OTHER	159	1.1	0	0.0	1	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.1
OOV*	215	1.4	0	0.0	9	0.9	21	0.9	71	2.0	2	0.2
TOTAL	14,901		1,052		979		2,223		3,543		801	

CATEGORY	MONTEREY PARK		PASADENA		SAN GABRIEL		SAN MARINO		SIERRA MADRE		SOUTH PASADENA	
FIRE	105	11.9	724	18.8	80	16.9	35	15.0	19	13.0	63	16.6
MEDICAL	698	79.1	2,907	75.5	361	76.3	154	66.1	109	74.7	278	73.2
SERVICE	34	3.9	184	4.8	24	5.1	16	6.9	17	11.6	38	10.0
OTHER	0	0.0	6	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0
OOV*	45	5.1	29	0.8	7	1.5	28	12.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
TOTAL	882		3,850		473		233		146		380	

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS: April - June 2005

CATEGORY	VERDUGO		ALHAMBRA*		ARCADIA		BURBANK		GLENDALE		MONROVIA	
FIRE	2,102	15.6	* Alhambra joined the Verdugo System on 4-13-06.		195	20.2	348	16.8	404	11.2	117	14.3
MEDICAL	10,347	76.9			710	73.4	1,588	76.5	2,966	82.0	636	77.5
SERVICE	752	5.6			57	5.9	120	5.8	186	5.1	55	6.7
OTHER	23	0.2			0	0.0	3	0.1	5	0.1	0	0.0
OOV*	234	1.7			5	0.5	16	0.8	54	1.5	13	1.6
TOTAL	13,458				967		2,075		3,615		821	

CATEGORY	MONTEREY PARK		PASADENA		SAN GABRIEL		SAN MARINO		SIERRA MADRE		SOUTH PASADENA	
FIRE	122	13.4	628	17.6	78	14.4	39	18.4	21	14.4	42	11.2
MEDICAL	668	73.6	2,748	77.1	412	75.9	135	63.7	115	78.8	267	71.2
SERVICE	61	6.7	151	4.2	31	5.7	18	8.5	8	5.5	51	13.6
OTHER	1	0.1	9	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.5	2	1.4	1	0.3
OOV*	56	6.2	30	0.8	22	4.1	19	9.0	0	0.0	14	3.7
TOTAL	908		3,566		543		212		146		375	

AVERAGE ENROUTE & ONSCENE TIME BY CITY: Spring 2006

Agency	Av. Dispatch to Enroute (min:sec)	Av. Dispatch to Onscene (min:sec)	Percent Onscene <5 min	Total Incidents (Apr-Jun)
ALH*	1:12	4:21	72.9%	1,052
ARC	1:13	4:19	71.7%	979
BRK	1:13	4:23	72.1%	2,223
GLN	1:13	4:11	75.7%	3,543
MPK	1:16	5:00	55.6%	882
MRV	1:16	4:23	69.3%	801
PAS	1:11	4:21	70.4%	3,850
SGB	1:16	4:21	72.3%	473
SMD	1:45	4:19	69.0%	146
SNM	0:46	3:56	77.9%	233
SPS	1:04	4:10	75.8%	380

Average times from dispatch to enroute (leaving the station) and from dispatch to onscene (arrival at incident) for the first unit arriving at an incident are shown for incidents that occurred in each city during April to June 2006. These include those instances where a unit providing automatic aid arrived onscene first.

Dispatch to onscene 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 (failure to press ONSCENE on the mobile computer terminal when arriving at an incident) or failure of the mobile computer terminal to transmit the ONSCENE message.

UNITS DISPATCHED BY VERDUGO: Spring 2006

Fire Department	Unit	# Dispatches	Av. Enroute Time (min.)	Av. Onscene Time (min.)
ALH	E71	375	01:27	04:25
	E72	332	01:05	05:06
	E73	224	01:18	04:43
	E74	274	01:31	06:31
	RA71	521	01:07	05:06
	RA74	370	01:14	05:27
	T71	178	01:30	06:29
ARC	E105	378	01:11	05:08
	E106	475	01:07	04:09
	E107	243	01:21	05:17
	RA105	390	01:21	05:11
	RA106	428	01:10	04:21
	T105	146	01:33	06:21
	AU106	0	–	–
	USR106	2	02:35	22:39
BRK	E11	674	01:13	04:21
	E12	369	01:11	05:16
	E13	385	01:20	05:28
	E14	347	01:10	04:43
	E15	485	01:16	05:00
	E16	200	01:19	05:35
	E18	24	00:54	03:58
	HM12	8	02:52	15:54
	RA11	655	01:22	04:58
	RA13	532	01:17	05:50
	RA15	681	01:09	04:54
	T11	168	01:18	05:18
	T12	108	01:11	05:55
	USR11	3	04:16	*
	WT16	2	*	*
GLN	AU28	2	*	*
	E21	751	01:06	04:25
	E22	567	01:20	04:01
	E23	58	01:11	06:21
	E24	210	01:21	05:22
	E25	708	01:28	05:00
	E26	588	01:26	05:02
	E27	505	01:05	04:26
	E28	172	01:20	04:50
	E29	236	01:11	04:52
	HM24	9	04:05	12:12
	RA21	1,008	01:09	04:56
	RA25	904	01:07	05:13
	RA26	861	01:12	05:56
	RA29	412	01:16	06:15
	T21	201	01:14	05:16
	T26	196	01:19	05:39
	T29	61	01:11	06:14
	USR29	8	03:19	11:46
	WT21	1	03:09	*
	WT29	0	–	–

Fire Department	Unit	# Dispatches	Av. Enroute Time (min.)	Av. Onscene Time (min.)
MPK	E61	378	01:27	05:03
	E62	312	01:20	06:00
	E63	281	01:12	06:23
	RA61	431	01:17	05:26
	RA62	344	01:12	05:59
	T61	130	01:40	06:50
MRV	E101	454	01:19	04:19
	E102	438	01:23	05:32
	SQ101	403	01:15	04:26
	T101	120	01:29	05:50
	WT101	0	–	–
PAS	E31	880	01:09	04:25
	E32	449	01:02	04:54
	E33	763	01:10	04:22
	E34	573	01:11	05:01
	E36	763	01:25	04:41
	E37	393	01:35	05:40
	E38	188	01:07	06:26
	E39	159	01:22	05:10
	RA31	767	01:08	05:24
	RA32	681	01:01	05:43
	RA33	872	01:08	05:05
	RA36	809	01:08	05:26
	T31	303	01:16	05:29
	T32	212	01:12	09:46
	USR32	10	03:15	14:10
SGB	E51	283	01:14	04:29
	E52	259	01:26	04:43
	RA51	346	01:08	05:13
SMD	E41	38	02:46	07:46
	RA41	139	01:47	04:47
	WT41	0	–	–
SNM	E91	241	00:53	04:17
	RA91	310	00:42	05:18
SPS	AU81	63	01:47	07:38
	E81	408	01:08	04:41
	RA81	297	00:58	04:31

Notes:

- Total *responses* for a given agency will be much higher than the number of *incidents* they responded on because two or more units respond on most types of incidents.
- Reserve rigs are included in the total for their assigned station. For example, the E21 total includes E721 and E821 responses.
- Alhambra joined the Verdugo System on 4-13-06, so data from April 1-12 are not included.
- Specialized units such as HM, USR and AU often have longer response times due to responding into other cities.

* *Data unavailable or dispatch was cancelled.*

OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: Spring 2006 vs. Spring 2005

The following tables show the number of out of jurisdiction responses for each fire department during April, May and June 2006. 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. "XBB" refers to locations outside the normal Area C/Los Angeles response region. "XAA" includes units such as private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles and helicopters. Note that Alhambra joined the Verdugo System on April 13, 2006.



Spring 2006

Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred:														
Spring 2006	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS	ALH	LAC	LFD	XBB	Subtotals
ARC	X			82	2	27	3	1	1		1	9			126
BRK		X	79			3	1					3	18		104
GLN		65	X	1		45		1				21	50		183
MRV	77			X	1	1						4			83
MPK				1	X		20				68	28		17	134
PAS	30	3	9	5	5	X	5	10		20	4	21	8		120
SGB						12	X	8			43	6		1	70
SNM	2		1			100	47	X		23	7	28			208
SMD	1								X	1					2
SPS	1		1		3	51	1	21		X	17	1			96
ALH	1				54	7	52	15		27	X				156
LAC	12		10	16	18	9	8	1				X			74
LFD		2	3			1				3		1	X		10
XAA	30	25	9	642	20	2	1		1		1		1	X	732
Subtotals	154	95	112	747	115	246	138	57	2	74	141	122	77	18	2,098

Spring 2005

Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred:														
Spring 2005	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS	ALH	LAC	LFD	XBB	Subtotals
ARC	X			56		6	1		2			5			70
BRK	1	X	75			1						6	10		93
GLN		67	X		1	21		1				20	34		144
MRV	72		1	X								13			86
MPK				1	X		18				26	17		13	75
PAS	26	4	15	4	4	X	1	7		24	1	26	3		115
SGB	2	1		2	17	1	X	3		1	15	7			49
SNM			1	2	1	70	42	X		24	5	14			159
SMD									X						0
SPS				1	1	24		16		X	11		3		56
ALH				1	64	1	35	4		13	X				118
LAC	12		16	6	16	4	10	2	1			X			67
LFD			3							1			X		4
XAA	24	16	8	637	27	5	2	1			3	1	1	X	725
Subtotals	137	88	119	710	131	133	109	34	3	63	61	109	51	13	1,761

VERDUGO FIRE ACADEMY

It has been a very busy six months at the Verdugo Fire Academy. I said it in the last issue and I will say it again: I am amazed at the hard work and dedication the staff members contribute to the academy. They devote a great deal of personal time and energy, and that is what is making the academy what it is today.

We are fortunate to have a very talented pool of instructors from most all the departments within and some outside Los Angeles. They bring an enormous amount of experience that provides quality education and training to the recruits. Thank you to the many Area C departments that have attended training days, and for the use of resources.

We have made several changes in the program (mostly minor) and we will continue to do so as this academy develops. I appreciate everyone's patience during these times and their continued "can-do" attitude. It takes time for everyone to adjust to these changes and it does not come easy. I truly believe we will ultimately see an Area C Regional Training Center as plans for a first "full-time" recruit fire academy for newly hired firefighters are under-way.

– Sam DiGiovanna, Academy Coordinator



UNIFIED RESPONSE

Editor: Christopher Gray, Area C Coordinator

Editorial Staff: Mike Matlock and Lenia Scanlon

Fire Chiefs: Chris Donovan, Dennis Downs, Chris Gray, Vince Kemp, Roger Lowe, David Lugo, Cathleen Orchard, Joe Nestor, Tracy Pansini, John Penido, Jerry Wallace

Contributors: (In addition to the Fire Chiefs mentioned above)
Sam DiGiovanna, Steve Howard, Tony Trabbie, Rick Mayhew, Rich Garstang, Jim Anderson, Lenia Scanlon, Julie Schaeffer, Roberta Mirzayans, Lisa Derderian, Shari Miller, Jerry Jacobs, Jodie Dennis

Proofreading: Janet Scollard, Christina Kazazian

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