



Verdugo System Quarterly Bulletin  
Winter 2011

*Serving the cities of:*  
 Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank,  
 Glendale, Monrovia, Montebello,  
 Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel,  
 San Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena

**From the Coordinator**

The new year is off to a fast start in the region. Just last week, the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs were briefed that three local firefighters had been injured in the line of duty since the year began. Los Angeles Fire Department had a Fire Captain injured while battling a vehicle fire when the car exploded, a Firefighter from Manhattan Beach received burns to his hands while on a structure fire, and a Fire Captain was injured when he fell through a roof while battling a structure fire.

This is once again a reminder that we work in a dangerous profession. On any given day, we could be called to assist one of our Unified Response partners and be given the most critical assignment on the incident. The Rapid Intervention Company (RIC) assignment can be overwhelming, challenging, and very complex to accomplish all the functions of the assignment. In Area C, we have worked hard to create one RIC policy that will allow our agencies to support one another in a common manner. As we start off this year, let's make sure we all take the time to review, discuss, and train on our RIC policy. We never know when we may be called upon to fulfill this incident-critical assignment.



As the year changes, so do many personnel assignments. In each of our communities, we all border someone. We must ensure that we are taking the time to foster new and old relationships. Strengthening our relationships will open up communication, inspire drilling amongst our agencies, and expose our differences, which will allow us to build on our commonalities. I also believe that strengthening and building our relationships will lead to safe and efficient outcomes in the multi-agency incidents we will be responding on this year.

We must also spend the time to make sure our individual agencies are prepared to assist when called upon. In today's environment, our challenges are many and we can become consumed by them. We cannot let issues that are out of our control monopolize our attention and threaten our mission as firefighters. I think we all know that the challenges will continue to be there, we will continue to respond to the calls, and the better prepared we are, the better the outcomes will be for each of our communities. Let's all stay focused on our mission as firefighters.

*Harold D. Scoggins*  
*Fire Chief, Glendale Fire Department*  
*Area C Coordinator*

*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*  
 – Bishop Desmond Tutu

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<http://www.Unified-Response.org>

## Foothill Training Officers Update

The importance of professional development cannot be overemphasized. It is essential to increase a firefighter's knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs so that they may combat the current challenges in Fire and EMS protection across the nation. Only by continually arming oneself with the latest research, techniques, and knowledge in the profession can you hope to stay effective in your career.

Professional development does not end as soon as probation terminates. It becomes much more important as you synthesize into your position, whether it be Firefighter, Firefighter/Paramedic, Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, or Fire Chief. As we experience real life situations, we can relate to people teaching new philosophy or reiterating old knowledge through new voices. Any professional career has associations, community groups, and committees that help promote lifelong learning and increased professionalism.

A mentor once suggested I remove myself from the 7.65 square miles that I protect and learn what others do to protect their communities. The one thing I have learned and confirmed since that recommendation 11 years ago is that firefighters are the same in Area C as they are in Chicago, Illinois, with subtle idiosyncrasies.

Today's fire service needs people who are willing to get involved and continue the development of this profession. It can be through involvement with the community education through local CERT programs, teaching CPR to community groups, EMS prevention and public education, disaster management through involvement in urban search and rescue, fire prevention and code modification, or developing training programs for the ongoing

professional development of our brother firefighters.

A current trend in the fire service suggests professional credentialing through IFSAC, Proboard, and/or CPSE. The Center for Public Safety Excellence accredits fire departments, chief officers and company officers. It takes into consideration experience, education, community involvement, and professional contributions. This trend coincides with many other professions, such as education, where credentials are based on certifications, degrees and capabilities. Many fire departments will not accept degrees or certificates from a non-accredited college or fire academy to meet hiring or promotional requirements.

The Foothill Training Officers Association is working for and with the Foothill Fire Chiefs to continue to develop and provide necessary training opportunities. The training officers were tasked with providing a cost and plan for the next phase of manipulative ventilation training. Additionally, they are looking at updates to the RIC policy to address recent communications and equipment changes. New business for the next meeting includes rehabilitation training and simulation training.

Don't forget that the State Training Officers Association provides quarterly training, both north and south, and an annual conference every November to advance professional development. On February 1, Bakersfield is hosting "Dynamic Risk Assessment" by Chiefs Fratus and Alder, San Bernardino City Fire Department (Flyer: <http://www.unified-response.org/training.asp>)

Recently, the International Association of Fire Chiefs' *On Scene* newsletter published an article called "The Predictability of Occupancy Performance and Tactical Patience." The author, Chief Christopher Naum,

stated, "Emerging and operating command and company officers need to increase their knowledge about modern building occupancy, building construction, and fire-protection engineering."

The course offered by Chiefs Fratus and Alder centers around tactical decision making and a sound occupancy profile. Chief Naum also indicates, "Strategies and tactics must be based on occupancy risk, not occupancy type. Staffing, fire flow, and tactical patience must be orchestrated in a manner that identifies with the fire profiling and the predictability of the occupancy profile and that accounts for presumptive fire behavior." Chiefs Fratus and Alder's course illustrates through real life video that a seven-sided approach reduces risk by proper scene evaluation and sound tactical decision making.

As this communication started discussing experience and real life situations and relating to people teaching new philosophy or reiterating old knowledge through new voices, I would be remiss in not recognizing the many years of knowledge and guidance that Chiefs Bob Trowbridge and Marty Johnson have contributed to the younger generations. Their assistance to the Foothill Training Officers will be sorely missed. We wish them both a happy and productive retirement.

We will need some new voices to step up and fill the void. Our next meeting will hold elections for this group. Look for the announcement for the next meeting and become part of the solution and help drive us forward. Thank you for the dedication of all Area C firefighters in training for this dangerous career.

Sincerely,

*John C. Cermak, President  
Foothill Training Officers Asso.*

## ALHAMBRA

Population: 89,501

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$6,510,933,746

### Alhambra Fire Chief Retires

On November 19, Alhambra's former Fire Chief, Bruce Stedman, worked his last day with the city, completing a 31-year career with the fire department.



Chief Stedman joined the Alhambra Fire Department as a firefighter in 1979 and was later appointed as a Battalion Chief in 1992. He was promoted in 2006 to the position of Deputy Chief and served as the city's Fire Chief from October 2008 to November 2010.

At the age of only 51, a factor contributing to Chief Stedman's decision to retire was an opportunity to apply for the position of Fire Chief in the city of Arlington, Washington. He applied and an initial applicant list of

40 was eventually narrowed to five finalists, with Chief Stedman among them.

He described the application and hiring process as "long and rigorous," including multiple interviews with council persons, community representatives, and city staff. In the end, he was selected as the new Fire Chief and he has now relocated to Washington.

Former Fire Chief Vincent Kemp, whom Chief Stedman replaced in 2008, has come out of retirement temporarily to serve as Interim Fire Chief for Alhambra until a permanent Chief is appointed.

### Sandbag Saturday

On Saturday, January 8, Alhambra firefighters, CERT volunteers, fire cadets and fire explorers participated in Sandbag Saturday, an event planned and organized to help the community cope with present and fu-

ture heavy rains and related problems.

The 1,000 volunteers present that Saturday filled over 1,000 sandbags in just over an hour. The filled bags were then evenly distributed among the four Alhambra fire stations for future distribution to residents. Citizens residing within city boundaries can come to any of the four fire stations and request up to five filled sandbags free of charge.

The event was another successful example of the important work and volunteer spirit demonstrated by CERT program team members and those assisting them. Over 500 volunteers have been trained in Alhambra's CERT program, covering all aspects of disaster preparedness, since its inception in the year 2000.

The next group will go through the CERT training classes beginning in April of this year. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings over a six-week period.



## ARCADIA

Population: 56,719

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$9,620,638,609

On December 15, the department hosted an extremely successful Holiday Open House for all City employees. For two hours, City employees were able to tour Station 107, social-

ize with other employees, and snack on a variety of side dishes and desserts by an open-pit fire.

### Incidents

Engine 106, Rescue Ambulance 106, Truck 105, and Battalion 105 responded to a traffic collision in 300 block of West Huntington Drive. Upon arrival, fire personnel found a two vehicle accident with two patients trapped in one vehicle. Truck 105 extricated the two patients utilizing vehicle stabilization equipment and Jaws



of Life hydraulic tools.

Engine 105, Engine 107, Truck 105, Rescue Ambulance 105, Battalion 105, with units from the Monrovia Fire Department, responded to a re-

ported structure fire in the 400 block of North Second Avenue. Upon arrival, fire personnel found heavy smoke coming from the area of a public storage facility. After further investigation, fire personnel determined the fire was located in a homeless encampment under the Colorado Street Bridge along the Los Angeles County Flood Control wash.



Engine 105, Engine 106, Truck 105, Rescue Ambulance 105, and Battalion 105, with units from the Monrovia Fire Department, responded to a reported structure fire on West Le Roy Avenue. Upon arrival, fire personnel encountered smoke showing from the residence and discovered a fire that initiated in the sub-flooring of the structure due to construction activities.



Engine 107, Engine 105, Engine 106, Truck 105, Rescue Ambulance 105, Battalion 105, and one unit from the Monrovia Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire in the 500 block of Santa Rosa Road. Upon arrival, fire personnel found a single story residential structure with heavy smoke coming from the entire structure. Fire personnel forced entry to the front door, found the seat of the fire, conducted a primary and secondary search for pos-

sible victims, extinguished, ventilated, and investigated the fire.



### **Training**

This past quarter, the Arcadia Fire Department hosted and participated in several training exercises and classes. Department personnel participated in our annual Defensive Driving Training and conducted our annual Hazardous Material Operations refresher course. The department participated in several training exercises hosted by other agencies. These exercises included a show and tell and drill of Burbank's HazMat unit hosted by South Pasadena Fire and an MCI Drill hosted by Pasadena Fire. In addition, the training division conducted its annual confined space entry training for department personnel at the U.S. Forest Service facility.

Finally, the Training Division, over the last quarter, completed a three and a half week training cadre for one new firefighter recruit. This cadre included basic hose lays, ground ladders, truck operations and other essential suppression disciplines.

### **Apparatus/Equipment**

Construction on our new Ford E450 Super Duty Type III Rescue Ambulance from Road Rescue is proceeding on schedule with an estimated delivery date of April 1, 2011. This new Rescue Ambulance will be placed at Station 106 as RA106 and will be identical to RA 105.

All crews continue to train with the new Sperian Warrior SCBA's with an anticipated in-service date in early 2011.

A new Vehicle Exhaust Extraction System for Station 106 has been awarded to Plymo-Vent and installation should begin in January. This system was made possible thru the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) and the Arcadia City Council.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Two events took place under the umbrella of emergency preparedness during this past quarter. On October 9<sup>th</sup> the Department and the Arcadia Public Library the city hosted an ACTION (Arcadians Caring Together Improves Our Neighborhoods) Workshop. Working together with our police and public works departments, we provided emergency preparedness and crime prevention information to one hundred residents. A second ACTION workshop is scheduled on April 16, 2011 in an effort to continue to inform Arcadia citizens about being prepared.

On October 21, 2010 the City of Arcadia took part in the Great California Shake Out. Fire Department and City personnel took part in an EOC exercise dealing with the City of Arcadia's response to a large earthquake in the Southern California Area. At the same time the department exercised our internal earthquake plan. This included all companies performing windshield surveys of their districts and reporting into the duty battalion chief the status of equipment, personnel and critical facilities within each district.

## Fire Prevention

The 2010 California Fire Code was approved by City Council on December 7, 2010. Local amendments included sprinkler systems for existing buildings, access requirements for photovoltaic systems, and emergency radio coverage systems.



The Arcadia Unified School District Bond Improvement Phase 1 continues under construction. In December, Arcadia High School's new Student Services Center was completed. The two-story structure will include general and special education classrooms, three computer labs,

television studio, graphic design and digital photography classrooms, and the high school's career center and administrative offices.



The high school grandstand was completely rebuilt with new bleachers, press box, and storage areas as well.

## Personnel

The Arcadia Fire Department recently promoted Engineer James Miller to Captain on December 19, and he is currently assigned to Engine 105A.

On December 2, 2010 the City held its annual Service Awards Dinner honoring the following Fire De-

partment members: Battalion Chief Rick Braun was honored for 30 years of service; Captain Mike MacGregor, Captain Dave Hutcheson, and Engineer Tom Silcott were honored for 25 years of service, Captain Mike Stratton was honored for 20 years of service and Captain Mike Lang was honored for 10 years of service. Engineers Matt Hinig and Joe Augino along with Firefighter/Paramedic Drew Pryor and Firefighter Joe Herrick were all honored for 5 years of service.



## BURBANK

Population: 108,469

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$15,586,950,908

### Administration Division

*Assistant Chief Tom Lenahan*

**Promotions/Transfers/Retirements:** During this quarter, the department was sad to see the retirement of Firefighter Jim Finerty after 30 years of dedicated service. A retirement celebration held for Jim at Station 14 on September 30 was attended by Jim's family, friends, and fire department personnel.

Battalion Chief Robert Trowbridge officially retired from the Burbank Fire

Department on December 22, after 30 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Burbank and surrounding communities. Bob's passion for the job and work ethic will be missed and the Training and Safety Division will have big shoes to fill! The department wishes to thank all of our colleagues within Area C who attended Bob's retirement party.



**Recruitment/Testing:** On October



4, over 1,800 firefighter candidates took the written examination for entry level firefighter at the Airport Marriot. During the week of November 15, 215 firefighter candidates progressed to the oral interview stage of the exam. The department is beginning the background process on 35 candidates for approximately 7 positions. The recruit academy is scheduled to begin April 1, 2011.

**Budget:** The main focus of administration beginning the new year has been to develop strategies to maintain operational effectiveness during the current budget crisis being experienced statewide and nationally. This

effort has been a collaboration between management, labor, and City administration to maintain the high level of emergency services provided to the community. The department continues to research methods of providing the highest level of service during fiscally austere times.

**Strategic Plan:** The Strategic Plan was completed and presented to the City Council in November 2010. The department began the process of formulating a five-year Strategic Plan in January 2010. This was a comprehensive effort by the department with the cooperation and collaboration of all personnel, including labor, City departments, and City administration.

**Standards of Coverage:** The department began the process of a Standards of Coverage document during the month of October. This comprehensive look at service delivery will work in conjunction with the Strategic Plan. The projected completion of the Standards of Coverage document is June 2011.

**Emergency Medical Services Division**  
*Battalion Chief Kenet Robertson*

**Live Fire Training:** On December 6, 7 and 10, all shifts were trained on the phase 1 burn containers. This training was valuable in preparing for interior fire attacks. The instructors provided an instructional refresher and dry run-through, along with a nozzle technique station prior to the live fire flashover training. The following pictures show the fire inside the container



just after the doors were opened and the second is post-training review, facilitated by the instructors. Thank you to all the instructors who take the time to make this such a quality training exercise.

**Community Involvement:** The Aktion Club was gracious enough to provide the “B” shift with some holiday cheer on December 16. The Aktion Club is a group of gifted adults that showed their gratitude for us by bringing cookies and singing Christmas carols.



**Emergency Management Division**  
*Fire Captain Daryl Isozaki*

**Great California ShakeOut:** On October 21, at 10:21 a.m., the city of Burbank participated in the Great California ShakeOut earthquake exercise. This is known to be the largest earthquake exercise in the world where all participants “duck, cover, and hold on,” in a simulated earthquake event. Participating cities, businesses, and special districts use this annual exercise to test their alerting systems and evacuation plans. This is the third year that the City of Burbank participated in the event. We will continue to use the ShakeOut event to educate

and train our city employees on an annual basis.



The City of Burbank and cooperating community partners from Providence Saint Joseph’s Medical Center, Providence High School, Disney Studios, NBC-Universal and employees and volunteers from the City of Burbank collaborated in creating an event that demonstrated the private/public cooperation within the community.

Although the ShakeOut exercise was headlined as a state-wide earthquake event, this year’s exercise drew interest from the international disaster community. Delegations from Chile and Turkey spent time with the state, operational area, and local emergency management communities to better understand earthquake preparedness efforts that are taking place in California and to use those same training concepts in their own countries.



Matt Bettenhausen, Secretary of CalEMA and Mayor Anje Reinke spoke at the conference about the private/public partnerships and the importance of planning and exercises, but they also stressed the need for citizens and businesses to become more involved in self-preparedness.

**Burbank Fire Corps Program Volunteer Hours:** The Burbank Fire Corps Volunteer Program provided a total of 4,237 hours of



service between December 1, 2009 and November 30, 2010. These hours include all service hours, response hours, training & exercise hours, as well as meeting hours.

**Annual Hours**

General Meetings:	1,988
Pub Ed & Outreach:	465
Training & Exercise:	1,363
General Service:	221
Incident Response:	79
Miscellaneous:	121
<b>Total hours:</b>	<b>4,237</b>



The following are highlights of 2010 made possible by the hard working BFCP volunteers.

- Transition from Burbank Community Disaster Volunteers (CDV) to Burbank Fire Corps Program (BFCP). This organizational switch rebranded the volunteer program from a disaster organization to an emergency support organization for the many duties, responses and projects that fall under the Fire Corps umbrella.
- Developed and hosted the first annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) invitational competition. This local event set the template for future CERT competitions with the direction to continue bridging community CERT programs, providing a safe and competitive atmosphere for CERT-trained members, and to reemphasize the importance of trained and prepared individuals in the

community.

- Presented two 28-hour courses of CERT instruction for the local community.
- Developed and activated a Burbank Fire Corps Program website with future plans to have BurbankFireCorps.org & ReadyBurbank.org on the city website. The direction to improve citizen preparedness is fueling the development of this site.
- Acquired an emergency support trailer for volunteer response and public outreach.
- Developed a draft family preparedness quick reference booklet that takes a comprehensive look at personal and family preparedness. Availability of the booklet may be as early as January 2011.

**EOC Training Workshop For Operational Area Cities:**

On Nov 4, 15, and 29, the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management and L.A. County Disaster Management Area Coordinators developed and sponsored a four-hour Emergency Operations Center workshop open to all operational area cities. The half-day workshop focused on areas of emergency management specific to coordination, communications, and resource management.



This workshop included a lecture

and scenario driven group session to discuss the relationship between field, department operations centers, and emergency operations centers. There were 14 City of Burbank employees who took advantage of this training.

**New Emergency Management Coordinator:**

There will be a new face in the Emergency Management Division for the City of Burbank. Captain Jeff Howe has been selected to assume the duties of the Emergency Management Coordinator effective January 9. Captain Daryl Isozaki will be rotating out of his current assignment and will be reassigned to Fire Station 15C to assume the role and responsibilities of a Paramedic Shift Coordinator.

**Hazardous Materials Division**

*Battalion Chief Steve Briggs*

Three Burbank Firefighters recently completed their Hazardous Materials Specialist training in Long Beach. Pictured from left to right below are Firefighters Chris Piligian, Scott Trowbridge and Clint Coe. Congratulations!



**GLENDALE**

Population: 207,902

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$21,728,487,387

**House Fire**

On November 27 at 1:31 a.m., six

companies of Glendale firefighters, two Rescue Ambulances, one Air Utility Unit, and one Arson Investigator, all under the direction of Battalion Chief Tom Propst, responded to a reported house fire in the 300 block of Brockmont Drive.

Engine 26, the first unit to arrive, reported heavy fire involvement on the first floor of the structure. Initial reports stated the occupant was still in-

side. Engine 26 initiated an aggressive fire attack and primary search. It was determined that the only occupant had escaped to the outside. Due to the advanced stage of the fire on the first floor and sub-level portion of the structure, Glendale firefighters set up a defensive operation. Crews on scene protected the exposures and extinguished the fire.

The fire was confined to the struc-

Photo by Ross Benson



ture of origin. Glendale firefighters performed an extensive overhaul to confirm extinguishment of the structure and contents. No civilian or firefighter injuries or fatalities occurred. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Damage was estimated at \$1,000,000 for the structure and \$300,000 for the contents.

### Fire on Chevy Chase

Another house fire was reported in the early morning of December 15 in the 2500 block of E. Chevy Chase Dr. Five companies of Glendale firefighters, one Rescue Ambulance and one Arson Investigator under the direction of Battalion Chief Tom Propst were dispatched.

Initial reports by Engine 23 indicated there was smoke showing from the two-story, single family residence and that there was fire to the rear exterior of the structure that had penetrated into the structure. Units on scene conducted a primary search for occupants and pets. Truck company members performed vertical ventilation on the roof of the structure to allow smoke to escape and checked for extension of the fire into the attic area.

It took four minutes for the first fire company to arrive after dispatch and the fire was knocked down after ten minutes of firefighting operations. Overhaul was performed to confirm extinguishment. One civilian was treated on scene for possible smoke inhalation.

The Incident Commander provided a damage assessment of \$40,000 to the structure and \$5,000 damage to the contents.

Photo by Jerry Jacobs



### \$5,000 Grant

Fire Chief Harold Scoggins and Captain Craig Skidmore accepted a \$5,000 donation from State Farm Insurance Company on December 16. State Farm's Good Neighbor program has donated over \$2.5 million to community organizations in California in 2010.

This donation will support hazardous materials and urban search & rescue team training for 11 fire departments by providing essential materials and props related to mitigation and response to mass casualty and terrorism incidents in the Los Angeles operational areas.

### Paramedic Training

Firefighters Sean Haug and Kellen McLaughlin are doing great at PTI and will begin their clinical rotations soon, followed by their internships in February.

Firefighters Scott Deruso and Scott McMahon completed their paramedic pre-training with Daniel Freeman and Judy Grimaldi and began with PTI Class #218 on January 3. Congratulations to them both.



### BLS Program

Class 4 of the Glendale Fire Department Ambulance Operator Academy began January 3. Congratulations to our six new Ambulance Operators:

Vanessa Acosta, Adam Davidson, Andy Galvin, Grant Ognibene, Bradley Olmedo, and Bryan Soboleski.

### Public Education

Two days before Christmas, the Glendale Fire Department participated in a special detail for two brothers who are experiencing serious health challenges. Gerardo, 8 years old, was diagnosed with leukemia, and Juan, age 14, has renal failure and is in need of an organ transplant.

When the Make a Wish Foundation contacted the GFD and asked if we would be interested in helping them fulfill a wish of the boys to meet firefighters, the response was great. Just before Christmas, at the Americana at Brand, the two brothers were greeted by the Glendale Fire Department and whisked away by firefighters onto a Fire Engine which transported them to Station 21, where their family was invited to have dinner with the B-shift Station 21 family. Fire Chief Harold Scoggins, Battalion Chiefs Ron Gulli and Tom Propst, FF/PM Aide Terry Williamson, Captain Bill Lynch and Engine 21's crew, and Captain Cordell Harges and Truck 21's crew welcomed Gerardo and Juan into the station and spoiled them with toys and pizza for one night where all the boys' wishes came true.



The 2010 Spark of Love Toy Drive was a big success. We distributed about 3,700 toys this year. Many thanks to the GFD Cadets who were instrumental in helping with the pickup, organization, and distribution of this year's toy drive. Thanks also to 4over,

Inc. and Technicolor for their generous donation of toys and support for Spark of Love. Recipients of the toy drive included:

- Head Start Schools
  - New Horizons Family Center
  - Glendale Youth Alliance
  - Pacific Clinics Counseling Center
  - Glendale Unified School District (62 families)
- Several local churches and families in the area



Other public education events in recent months included:

- On Nov. 1, Tanya Gregorian and Eric Indermill provided a four-hour presentation to the staff at Columbus Elementary School on emergency preparedness. Subjects covered were triage, search and rescue, ICS, and radio communications. Teachers had hands-on training in each subject and requested to have the class annually as a staff development day.
- On Nov. 9, Tanya spoke to the Assistance League of Glendale on the subject "Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety for Service Organizations." The program was very well received and the membership was encouraged to establish a disaster committee to prepare their patrons for the next big emergency.
- On Dec. 6, Tanya spoke regarding the Spark of Love program to the

PEO Chapter at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Subjects such as emergency preparedness, community preparedness and the Church, and the Glendale Medic program were also discussed. The chapter donated over 40 toys to the Spark of Love program.

- Junior Fire Program details are being finalized and an entirely new manual and presentation will be presented to the fifth-grade students this year. Presentations to the schools by fire department personnel are set to take place from February to April 2011.

- Tanya Gregorian and GTV 6 have completed a CERT public service announcement with hopes of promoting the program for the new year. Tanya and Christie Mochinaga are currently working with GTV6 to put out a PSA for Household Hazardous Waste collection options for the community.

### **"Sharps" Collection Program gets Sharper**

The Fire Prevention & Environmental Management Center was awarded the 2010 Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) Community Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to improve our Sharps and Prescription Medication Collection program and to educate the public about our programs.



On November 20, FP&EMC personnel assisted the Glendale Police and Public Works Departments in collecting more than 1,000 pounds of prescription medications and sharps in the Montrose area.

### **Electronic Reporting to Cal/EPA**

Regulated businesses and local

governments will be required to submit their regulatory reports electronically by 2013. The regulated community will be able to report through the Cal/EPA electronic reporting system or directly to their local regulatory agency. Regulated businesses and local governments will be able to exchange data with Cal/EPA using web technologies. Cal/EPA will in turn exchange data with local governments and U.S. EPA. Additionally, Cal/EPA will create a public access website that will allow access to the information collected from businesses and local governments.

### **Used Motor Oil Recycling Program Gets Funded**

Our application for a Used Motor Oil Recycling Grant has been approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The program will receive approximately \$31,000 to collect and recycle used motor oil during the 2011-12 fiscal year. Each year, the program collects more than 6,000 gallons of used motor oil.

### **WMD Terrorism Training**

On Nov. 12-14, Hazmat 24 took part in a multi-agency WMD Terrorism drill at the Downey Studios in the city of Downey. The drill was hosted by LA County Fire Department HazMat and USAR programs. HazMat and USAR teams from LA County Fire, LAFD, Burbank, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, Alhambra, Ventura County, Orange County, and military bases participated, as well as bomb squads and HazMat teams from LA CO Sheriff, LAPD, the FBI and other agencies.

The drill scenarios were simulated WMD terrorism events occurring simultaneously at four locations in Southern California: at the Staples Center, Bob Hope Airport, USC Olympic Swim center, and Disneyland. Each scenario included an ex-

plosion with injuries, building collapse, with a WMD chemical involvement. Each drill was assigned an Incident Commander, with each event led by a Branch Manager. On each day, the Hazardous Materials Captain was assigned as Branch Manager for the assigned event. There were three Hazmat teams, a USAR team, and two engines from various agencies assigned to the incident. Teams had to work together to accomplish chemical release mitigation, building collapse shoring, and rescue of victims.

The drill was a unique opportunity to mitigate a scenario that had both Hazmat and USAR components. Both specialties had to work together side by side. USAR could not enter an area until Hazmat determined it was safe, and rescues could not take place until USAR shored up the structure. Overall it was a valuable learning experience for all involved.

**Personnel**

On November 1, Fire Chief Harold Scoggins proudly promoted



three members of the Glendale Fire Department during a badge pinning ceremony. Firefighter Brad Boyle promoted to the rank of Fire Engineer, Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Vancil was promoted to Fire Captain, and Captain Ron Gulli became the department's newest administrative Battalion Chief. Two weeks later, Anita Shandi was promoted to fill the Executive Secretary position that was recently vacated due to a retirement. Congratulations and best wishes to all four!

We closed out 2010 by saying goodbye to several



more members of the GFD family who have donned their turnouts for the last time. Each of these individuals contributed to the growth of the organization during the course of their career and they will all be truly missed. Pictured left to right below: Battalion Chief Corey Creasey, Engineer Steve Egbert, Engineer John Deneen, Fire Captain Ed Ackerman, Fire Captain Mario Vasquez, and Fire Captain Mike Carroll (not pictured: Firefighters Darryl Priestley and Gary McCarter). We wish them well in the next stage of their journey!



**MONROVIA**

Population: 39,984

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$3,817,574,223

**Medical Aid – Infant Dog Bite**

On December 13, Monrovia firefighters responded to the 600 block of Laurel Lane for a report of a dog bite. Upon arrival, paramedics found a six month old female suffering from multiple injuries sustained from an attack by a Great Dane. The patient was immediately treated by Monrovia paramedics and was airlifted by helicopter to LA County-USC Medical Center. The Great Dane thought the

infant was its normal play toy, as the owners of the dog used a stuffed doll that was similar in size to the baby girl. The dog dropped the child from its mouth after running down the street, leaving the child in serious condition. Fortunately, thanks to the quick actions of MFD paramedics and the air squad response, the child was released from the hospital, making a miraculous recovery from her injuries.

**California FireSafe Grant**

The Monrovia Fire Department, through a grant from the California FireSafe Council, has removed 45 highly flammable trees from residents' properties at no cost to the residents. To date, \$26,000 has been spent on these removals, which have been performed by the city's contractor at the request of the residents. The trees

removed have all been within the Very High Fire Hazard Zone (VHFHZ), and have included eucalyptus, fan palm, pine and other conifers, and dead or dying exotics.

These tree species are notorious for their tendency to spread fires through residential neighborhoods, especially if not properly maintained, for example, by removal of palm thatch. However, the cost to maintain or remove such trees has proved prohibitive for many homeowners. In particular, many of Monrovia's eucalyptus trees have grown to immense size over the decades. One of the eucalyptus trees removed was over 100 feet tall and, due to accessibility issues, the wood had to be manually carried





from the work site. The grant has enabled the work to be done by a highly professional tree removal service at a lower negotiated rate than the individual residents would have been able to obtain, resulting in a significant reduction of hazardous fuels in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. The grant period runs from October 2009 to October 2011 and includes projected removal of another 25 residential and street trees, fuels reduction on city-owned open space adjacent to VHFHZ homes, preparation of a CWPP, and public education and outreach.

### Storm damage

The recent storms left a mark on the hillside area of Monrovia with slides and debris flow. No structures were damaged, but several access points along the wilderness preserve were blocked. The lower clamshell motorway and a key road to one of the city's water tanks had several areas affected by landslides. An initial damage assessment was entered into OARRS as we await the findings of the FEMA team that will determine if the State-declared emergency will be accepted by the President for Federal support. In the meantime, Public Works is determining corrective actions to open access in those areas that have been blocked.



### Probation Testing

The trend of probationary training continues as three Firefighters with Paramedic assignment completed comprehensive six-month probationary testing during this quarter. The employees were put through a series of manipulative drills to assess their competencies in hose lays, ladder evolutions, fire extinguishing techniques and rescue operations, to name a few. In addition, the three completed a written exam to test their understanding of firefighter knowledge and street identification (a critical component of testing to ensure that firefighters understand locations and quick travel routes for efficient service delivery). This is part of the comprehensive 18-month probationary firefighter training requirements which ensures employees are developing appropriate baseline skills. At the same time that the six-month test was being administered, another group of new employees were being tested in the three-month written requirements. This further illustrates the transformation that is underway with new recruits.

### Toys For Tots

A very deserving thank you is in order to our community for the generous donations during this holiday season. This year the department received 620 toys and \$1,250 in cash donations. It was a very busy month for firefighters, collecting and distributing all of the donations. Through the "Stuff the Trolley" event on November 27 and the fire station collection points, we were able to distribute toys to many local children this year. The majority of the toys were passed on to the Foothill Unity Center, with the remaining toys being distributed to three local schools. The \$1,250 collected was donated to the California Community Foundation.

For the last several years we have teamed up with the "Spark of Love" toy drive and Channel 7 News. This

has increased exposure, resulting in more donations than in previous years. Firefighter Ernesto Moreno is the department coordinator for the collection and distribution of the toys and cash donations. Thank you, Ernesto, for all of the extra work you have put in this holiday season.

### Strategic Planning

Monrovia was one of 20 departments participating in a regional strategic planning process related to fire service training & education. As part of the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association (LAAFCA), Monrovia was invited to the two-day planning process and will stay involved for the next two months and beyond as critical efforts are taken to improve regional training. Currently the 31 departments serving Los Angeles County are coordinated in regional training efforts through six Battalion Chiefs funded through Homeland Security grant funds. These six Chief Officers are tasked with those more broad topics such as Hazardous Material responses, Urban Search & Rescue and Terrorism Liaison Officer Training.

Moving forward, LAAFCA is interesting in tasking these six Battalion Chiefs to coordinate a wide spectrum of training, from baseline firefighting standards through educational requirements to become a Fire Chief, and the five-year strategic plan is the tool that will be used to put the wheels in motion. This is an exciting opportunity for the Monrovia Fire Department, as well as the Los Angeles region, as we look to standardize and coordinate the efforts of nearly 10,000 professional firefighters.

### Company Officer and Chief Officer Classes in Monrovia

The MFD is continuing to host the Company Officer and Chief Officer series through 2011. Firefighter Michael Bailey is the department co-

ordinator and arranged to have both series offered at the Monrovia Community Center and the new Monrovia Public Library. All of the classes have a minimum enrollment requirement, so students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to avoid risking the chance of cancellation.

The entire schedule has been

posted on the Unified Response website. Registration is done through Santa Ana College. Any specific questions can be directed to Firefighter Michael Bailey by emailing him at [mbailey@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:mbailey@ci.monrovia.ca.us). FF Bailey is personally responsible for making all the provisions necessary to bring these classes to us locally and

can answer most typical questions that may arise. Management 1 is being offered in February 2011 and Command 1A in March 2011. Check the Unified Response website (<http://www.unified-response.org>) or the CSFM training website for the other dates and classes being offered.

## MONTEREY PARK

Population: 65,027

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$5,205,674,548



### Fill the Boot

On October 1-3, Monterey Park Firefighters Local 1014, along with volunteers from the Fill the Boot/MDA, raised over \$16,000. This was the fourth year our department has volunteered and has collected more donations each successive year. Firefighter Daniel Park (FS 61A) is the coordinator for our agency. He has done a fantastic job of coordinating all members for participation and handling the logistical and safety issues



with this event. Our members have been using the busy intersection of S. Atlantic Blvd. and Avenida Cesar Chavez near East L.A. College for collections. All donations collected go directly to the MDA to help children and families who suffer neuromuscular disease.

### Fire Station 62 Upgrades

Over the past couple months, Fire Station 62 on South Garfield has been receiving some new improvements. Under the coordination of Captain Rich Tullius (FS 62C), the station has been repainted and upgraded on the apparatus floor as well as the living quarters. In light of the current budget constraints, Captain Tullius used creative funding for all the materials and upgrades to the station. The next part of Captain Tullius' plan is to remodel the front landscaping. Station 62 is considered one of the oldest fire stations in the San Gabriel Valley. It was built in the 1950's and was designed to house one engine company but currently houses Engine 62 and RA62. There is a plan to replace this station in the future to meet current requirements, but the new paint and upgrades are much appreciated by all that are assigned there.

### Rescue Ambulance 62

At a recent City Council meeting, Acting Fire Chief Jim Birrell received approval to purchase a new RA for Fire Station 62. Leader Ambulance of El Monte was the successful bid-

der and will provide the third consecutive ambulance locally made by them for our fleet. The replacement project was coordinated by a committee of paramedics led by FF/PM Ron Price (FS 61C) with assistance and specifications provided by FF/PM's Justin Birrell (FS 61A), Curtis Cacciatori (FS 62C), and Robert DeRosa (FS 61B). The new ambulance will be a Ford diesel with a modified modular box designed to fit in the narrow quarters at Fire Station 62. The delivery date is scheduled for the middle of March.

### Radovac Training

Recently at a conference at CSTI, Captain Neil Lakin (FS 61C) made contact with a training specialist from Lawrence Livermore Labs. Our department was provided a three-day training course in the use of the portable radiation detectors we carry on our apparatus. The instructor provided actual radiation samples to show the proper use and effectiveness of the Radovac units. If any other agencies would like to receive this free training, please contact Captain Lakin at (626) 307-1271.

### New Captain

Fire Engineer Matt Hallock was appointed to the position of Acting Captain effective November 15. Matt was hired with Monterey Park Fire in March 2002. He started his career here as a Reserve Firefighter while working for Southern Califor-

nia Edison. Captain Hallock is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography and a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Administration. During his career here, he has held the rank of Firefighter, Engineer, USAR team, and now Fire Captain. Matt is our Disaster Preparedness Coordinator as well as our CERT Team agency representative. Captain Hallock also functions as the agency PIO in the event of a significant incident or the activation of our EOC. Matt has been assigned to Fire station 61 on the "B" platoon.



## MONTEBELLO

Population: 65,781

Area: 8.3 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$4,394,543,508

### New Fire Chief

The Montebello Fire Department is pleased to announce the appointment of our new Fire Chief, Tim A. Wessel. Chief Wessel started his fire service career as a seasonal firefighter for the old CDF (now Cal Fire) in Yucaipa, California. His first full-time firefighter position was with Downey Fire Department in 1986. He moved on to the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department after three years with Downey. In 1999, Chief

Wessel moved to San Bernardino County Fire Department as Battalion Chief. He was later promoted to Division Chief and finally to Chief of Operations for the County. His experience included serving as Fire Chief in both Hesperia and Adelanto and running all operations for 60 stations with over 800 personnel. He has also served nine years on a U.S. Forest Service Type 2 Incident Management team, with three years as Operations Section Chief.

Chief Wessel has a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne and is a Certified Chief Officer by the California State Fire Marshal.

Chief Wessel and his wife Jetta live in the San Bernardino Valley. Chief Wessel has two sons and enjoys NASCAR, rodeo, country music, and riding his Harley.

On Jan. 13, a Badge Ceremony for Chief Wessel

took place at Montebello City Hall. Attendees from various fire departments were present, including Chiefs from San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. The event was a great opportunity for surrounding fire agencies to meet our new Chief.

### 3rd Alarm Commercial Structure

On December 18 at 0034 hours, Verdugo Fire Communications dispatched Montebello Engine 56, Engine 57, Engine 55, Truck 55, Battalion 55, and LACOFD Engine 50 to a reported structure fire at Beach and Vail Ave. Montebello Engine 56 arrived first at 760 S. Vail and reported a large one-story commercial concrete tilt-up building with heavy smoke and fire showing through the roof on the north side of the structure. Due to the heavy volume of fire, a second alarm response was requested from Verdugo. The fire spread was very rapid and it is estimated that the entire building was fully involved within three minutes of fire companies arriving on scene.

First-alarm fire units were confronted with multiple steel roll-up doors needing to be cut by a rotary saw for entry and also a significant hazard existed with high voltage electric lines being impinged by fire along the entire south side of the fire. Addi-



tionally, an exposure building (1616 W. Beach) to the immediate east of the fire building contained large access openings that could contribute to fire spread through the common wall.

Second-alarm units consisted of Monterey Park Engine 62, Truck 61, and Battalion 6, Downey Engine 63, Vernon Engine 14, Downey Squad 642, and Air Utility 828. Second alarm units assisted with fire attack on the south and east side of the fire focusing on the exposure building at 1616 W. Beach.

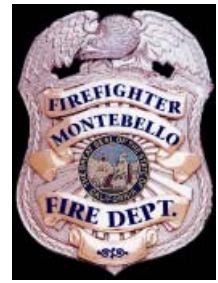
Due to the heavy volume of fire and extreme spotting of large firebrands downwind of the fire building, a third alarm was requested. The third alarm consisted of Vernon Engine 13, Compton Engine 44, LACOFD Engine 9, Downey Truck 611, Vernon US&R 161, Downey Battalion 604,

Vernon Battalion 104, and LACOFD Battalion 3. Third-alarm units were assigned to assist existing divisions of the fire for fire attack, rapid intervention crew, control of utilities, and salvage. A total of seven master streams including four aerial ladder streams were deployed on this fire.

The building at 760 S. Vail housed a business that manufactured wooden chairs and had a large storage area of cardboard boxes. The building measured approximately 300' x 150' and was considered a total loss. The exposure building at 1616 W. Beach belonged to the same company as the original fire building and suffered significant smoke and water damage, however the structure was minimally damaged by fire. Crews made an aggressive interior stop of the fire in this building, saving a large portion of its

contents.

Fire Marshal Kurt Johnson is handling the cause and origin investigation with assistance from Santa Fe Springs Fire & Rescue, and the ATF. At this time, the fire is under investigation and a cause has not been determined.



### Spark of Love Toy Drive

With the generous donation of gifts from the community, the Montebello Firefighters delivered hundreds of toys to various charitable organizations within the community. The department also assisted with the serving of meals to more than 4,000 people at the Quiet Cannon Christmas Eve luncheon, and delivered Santa Claus via truck 55.

## PASADENA

Population: 151,576

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$20,066,134,768

### Rose Parade/Game Planning

October is just not another month in Pasadena; it kicks off Tournament of Roses Parade Planning and Logistics meetings. Topics this early in the event include general information issues like float building and security. It's not until mid-November that band issues, equestrian concerns, float formation and, of course, security become hotter topics. By early December, the teams are announced and the real planning and crunch time for the parade takes place. Simultaneously, across the hall, Game Management operational meetings addressing the stadium, concessions, VIP parties, parking, public safety and security are

conducted. A ton of effort goes into this event, and as we have stated in the past, it could not be done without the cooperation of Area C resources including Glendale, Burbank, South Pasadena, San Marino, Arcadia, Monrovia, San Gabriel, Monterey Park and the Verdugo Fire Communications Center.

### Captain's Academy

Pasadena Fire conducted a Fire Captain's Academy, designed to prepare candidates for what's expected from new company officers. The captain's exam was on the heels of that training, with Chief's interviews to be the final phase sometime in January.

### MCI Refresher Training

I would like to thank the three EMS Captains at Station 37, Captain Fitch, Captain Barilla, and Captain Contreras for taking the lead role in this year's MCI refresher training. Feedback was favorable and the tabletop was a precursor to 2011's full

scale practical drill.

### Truck 32

Truck 32 is back in service. On December 14, the Operations Division's \$725,000 managed savings goal was achieved and Truck 32 was placed back in service. Truck 32 personnel will be staffing the department's new 100-foot Seagrave ladder truck.

### New Urgent Care Facility

On October 6, the City of Pasadena in cooperation with the Huntington Foundation opened an Urgent Care center on the east end of Pasadena. The Del Mar location is expected to lighten the load on Emergency Department overcrowding at Huntington Memorial as well as other surrounding facilities.

### UCLA vs. USC Game

Finally, thanks to those agencies that assisted Pasadena with the now infamous Rose Brawl Game held on December 4, when UCLA met USC

at the Rose Bowl. Who could have predicted that 17 hours of tailgating prior to an evening game would lead to conflict between the two teams? Answer: Anyone.

### Bus Versus Vehicle

On November 16, Engine 34 (Captain La Presle) and Rescue Ambulance 31 were dispatched to a traffic collision at the intersection of Cordova and Madison Ave. Upon Engine 34's arrival and assessment of the situation, the call was balanced out to a Rescue Assignment for an MTA bus vs. auto with the bus driver trapped. Battalion 3 requested USAR 32 to assist with stabilization of the bus.



Truck 31 extricated two people from the bus, Engine 31 (Captain Fung) ran the Medical Group which treated and transported total of three patients. All patients were transported by Pasadena RA's with minor injuries.

### Pasadena Adopts and Amends 2010 California Fire Code

The City of Pasadena recently adopted and amended the 2010 edition of the California Fire Code in order to better meet local conditions and needs. The increased use of decreased property line setbacks and increased development densities throughout the city has necessitated several amendments due to topographic conditions.

Specifically, the following local amendments were established to allow for early and effective evacuation of building occupants, improved

fire department access to properties and enhanced early warning and protection of premises:

- For new construction of 10,000 square feet or more, an approved automatic fire alarm system shall be installed in compliance with NFPA 72. Smoke detectors and/or other approved devices must be installed in all rooms and areas. Both audible and visual notification are required.
- An approved emergency voice/alarm communication system shall be provided in every existing high-rise building. The system must provide for communication from a location designated by the Fire Department to all public areas.
- An approved fire alarm shall be installed in existing buildings and structures when additions result in an additional level above or below grade, a total increase of more than 1,000 square feet, an increase of more than 50% in total floor area, change of occupancy (to a more hazardous use), and when building are converted to a residential occupancy.

Numerous other amendments were made to enhance public safety when tents are occupied by the public, above ground tanks are utilized and/or tested, permanent fire lane signage is installed, and buildings or structures are altered in the interface areas of the city. For additional information, please contact the office of the Fire Marshal at 626-744-4657.

### Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Pasadena Fire Department's Spark of Love Toy Drive for 2010 was a resounding success. Captain Danny Serna spearheaded our efforts for the last three years, and he did a great job. Sean English recently took over, and he coordinated this year's charitable work. The toy requests started coming in early November, before the toy drive officially kicked off! In fact, Honda of Pasadena had started a box themselves, giving customers a dis-



*Chief Downs and Capt. Sean English collect stuffed animals for the Spark Of Love Toy Drive from the Girl Scouts.*

count on vehicle service with the donation of a new toy! The Girl Scouts donated stuffed animals, and Optical Research (a small business) filled three boxes. Pasadena Roving Archers and Sansei Skeet Gun Club both had holiday events where they collected donations.

A total of 28 non-profit organizations requested help with serving those in need this Christmas. We had collection boxes at each of our eight fire stations. We were also able to successfully partner with 29 local businesses, clubs and service organizations. Together, and with the extreme generosity of Pasadena residents, guests and visitors, we were able to meet nearly every request. With donations exceeding 8,000 toys, this was certainly a Merry Christmas for those who needed our help.

At a meeting of the Pasadena Rotary Club, Captain English was heard



to say, “Your website asks the question, ‘What would it take to change the world?’ The answer is one good deed.” This holiday season, there were many good deeds!

### **PFD Promotions**

Fire Chief Dennis Downs has announced the promotion of Battalion Chief Kevin Costa to the role of Deputy Fire Chief assigned to the

Operations Division effective January 3. Additionally, Seaton King has been named Battalion Chief and Robert Sepulveda was appointed to the rank of Fire Engineer.

## **SAN GABRIEL**

Population: 42,984

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$3,604,594,269

### **Zoll Autopulse® Used in Medical Call**

November 16, RA51 and E51 used the Zoll Autopulse® and had a successful save. A 64-year-old female San Gabriel resident went into cardiac arrest while she was baby-sitting her 11-year-old grandson. The grandson performed rescue breathing with a SGPD officer doing CPR until E51 and RA51 arrived. Paramedics found the patient pulseless and apneic with confirmed asystole. The Autopulse® was placed on the patient and took over the compressions. When care was transferred at San Gabriel Medical Center ER, the patient had a blood pressure and pulse. She was admitted to the ICU and was found to have a large cranial bleed. Life support was stopped two days later.

### **US&R Training**

Engr. Alex Robbins, FF/PM Chris Eakman, FF/PM Sean Irwin and FF/PM Steve Wallace attended a Heavy Lifting and Rigging class at Ft. McClellan Air Base near Sacramento. Engr. Kevin Murphy, FF/PM Chris Eakman and Engr. Alex Robbins went to a Tech Search class in San Diego. Not to be out done, US&R Program Coordinator Capt. Newton Ong at-



tended two FEMA-sponsored classes, US&R Safety Officer (Rio Hondo) and US&R Task Force Leader (Universal City). This training makes 18 of our 34 sworn members involved in the US&R program. Keep up the hard work.



### **Did you hear who the Chief picked?**

Congratulations to Dennis Barwick and Alex Robbins. With the recent retirements of Scott Harvey (Dec. 20) and Tod Smith (Dec. 28), Engr. Dennis Barwick was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain. Dennis has been with SGFD since 1989, started San Gabriel’s CERT program, has his B.S. degree in Public Administration from Cal State Long Beach and State Fire Officer Certification, is a past L-2197 Vice President, and is very involved in the San Gabriel community.

FF/PM Alex Robbins was promoted to the position of Engineer. Alex has been with SGFD for 8 years and is involved with the CERT program, US&R, L-2197 Treasurer and is the Auxiliary Coordinator.

Battalion Chief Mike Terry also retired after 30+ years (Dec. 26). Unlike Scott and Tod, Mike hasn’t had enough abuse yet. He has contracted back with the city for 960 hours, which should last him until sometime around the end of April. Job well done, gentlemen!

### **Captains’ Exam Almost Finished**

December 9 was the orientation and written exam for the Fire Captain exam. Donnoe & Associates was contracted for the first time to administer the entire exam. The results of the written were mailed out just before Christmas and the nine candidates finished the Emergency Simulator, Supervisory Simulator, Fire Prevention Problem, and Oral Interview on January 11.

### **Santa Rained Out**

Each year, the city of San Gabriel is divided up into quarters. Santa rolls down almost every street in San Gabriel on top of a 57-foot Mack with lights glaring and holiday music blaring. For over 30 years, Santa has made an appearance on December 20-23 in San Gabriel. This year is the first time in over 20 years that he was rained out three of the four nights. Needless to say, many residents were disappointed, as were many families and friends of department members who get to ride with Santa each year.

## SAN MARINO

Population: 13,415

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$4,108,178,980



The San Marino Fire Department has gone through some personnel changes over the past few months. Captain Kevin Lennox retired in November, creating a vacancy in three positions. Captain Lennox also served as our Paramedic Coordinator and Nurse Educator. His presence and professionalism will be sorely missed; however, his vacancy has also created some creative challenges and opportunities for internal movement.

What was once encompassed into one role is now distributed into three positions. Engineer Mark Dondanville was promoted to Fire Captain. The Paramedic Coordinator position has been filled by Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Maza. The Nurse Educator role

will be contracted out and we are close to finalizing a deal this month. Finally, we were able to hire a new Firefighter/Paramedic, Jeff Tsay, to fill the vacancy created by the promotions. We expect good things from FF/PM Tsay in the future.

We here at the San Marino Fire Department would like to thank Captain Lennox for his many years of service to the community, his leadership to the department, and his expertise in the medical field. We hope he enjoys his retirement.

From a training aspect, we now have two personnel trained at the basic TLO level and one certified at the Intermediate level. Our end of the year training records indicated that we were well above the 260 training hours per person requirement. FF/PM Rob O'Neill successfully passed the last portion of his 18-month probation and received his commercial class B driver's license.

In November, we completed our Engineer's examination process and we now have four candidates who have been placed on a promotional list. We also had the opportunity to participate in Pasadena Fire's MCI training and we would like to thank them for proctoring another successful event. We would also like to thank South Pasadena Fire and Burbank Fire for conducting and hosting the decon-

tamination training back in October. Lastly, we successfully passed our annual DHS site audit without any "action items."

From a public relations standpoint, the annual San Marino Day Out event held on Sunday, October 17 from 1400 to 1600 hours at the San Marino High School was a success. This event was well attended and provided our customers the opportunity to meet with elected officials, department heads, fire and police personnel, and it raised the level of awareness for personal safety and security within the community. At this event, we introduced the CERT program which we are planning on teaching in January and February.

In addition, on Christmas Day our Fire units did their annual drive of the city and handed out candy canes to the children. Once again, our toy drive was a great success over the holidays and the recipients, Casa de San Gabriel, were very appreciative of the efforts of those who gave in the Christmas spirit.



## SIERRA MADRE

Population: 11,099

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$1,559,464,740

The past few months have been relatively quiet in terms of responses for the Sierra Madre Fire Department. The wettest December in many de-

acades brought service calls and limited debris flow events. At the same time, this Fall has brought an increased focus on our community outreach and department training.

In October, we conducted a drill in conjunction with the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team. This organization responds to wilderness emergencies all over the western United States, as well as working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Their particular area of re-

sponse along the front country of the San Gabriel Mountains coincides with our area of response. The drill gave both agencies the opportunity to see



the resources that can be brought to bear, as well as an appreciation for the particular skills of each. The day also included a practical, hands-on exercise.

Another training opportunity was offered for our officers and command staff in November. This involved the use of a computerized system for the simulation of multi-company responses to a variety of scenarios. Unfortunately, the scheduled use of the Northtree Burn Trailer had to be postponed.

Sierra Madre has long enjoyed the participation of the Fire Department in community events. One such event was the Annual Halloween Parade. Engine 41 and RA 41 provided the escort for hundreds of costumed children as they processed along Sierra Madre Boulevard.

Other Fire Department sponsored events included our Annual Fireman's Dance and our Christmas Stocking



Give-away on Christmas Eve.

Finally, the Sierra Madre firefighters participated in fund raising for good causes this Fall. We raised over \$4,800 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association through the "Fill the Boot" program.



In November, many of our firefighters participated in "Movember," the effort to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer research.

We look forward to a safe and productive new year and wish the same for all of our neighbor departments.



**SOUTH PASADENA**

Population: 25,881

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

Assessed Value: \$3,170,709,193

**Rain Storms**

The city of South Pasadena has survived the recent rains without much in the way of serious damage. Citizen response to free sand and bags at the fire station helped prevent many of the problems that could have occurred.

**Training**

Six members of the department are taking advantage of a fire department grant offering Terrorism Liaison Officer training. The basic class will take place in January with subsequent

classes offered later in the year.

**Operations**

Plans are underway to place our Sperian SCBAs in service. Some updates to the units are needed as well as completing fit-testing for the remaining personnel.

**Air Utility 81**

A pilot program giving South Pasadena a four-person engine company has been implemented starting January 1. The Air Utility unit would



be placed in service when requested. The Engineer on that unit would otherwise be placed as a fourth person on the engine.

**Public Relations**

The Fire Department is planning to host a spaghetti dinner in March with the help of the local Kiwanis Club.

**UNIFIED RESPONSE**  
Upcoming Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Spring 2011	Apr. 12
Summer 2011	Jul. 12
Fall 2011	Oct. 11
Winter 2012	Jan. 11

## VF ACCESS Radio Channel Procedures

Should any radio display either of the following, field personnel are directed to use the Verdugo Fire ACCESS radio channel for further communications, whether for a planned or unplanned event.

- **SITE TRUNKING**
- **FAIL SOFT**



Field personnel can locate VF ACCESS on their mobile or portable radio as the last channel in their Home Zone. It is a conventional channel that is simulcast across the Verdugo System agencies. This radio channel should also be used to hail Verdugo dispatchers in the event that personnel are unable to communicate after several attempts.

Tactical Channel assignments for full assignments under these circumstances will be made as follows:

Agency	Primary Channel	Tactical Channel
Alhambra Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED9 - Direct
Arcadia Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED10 - Direct
Burbank Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED9 - Direct
Glendale Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED10 - Direct
Monterey Park Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED11 - Direct
Monrovia Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED12 - Repeated
Montebello Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED10 - Direct
Pasadena Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED9 - Direct
San Gabriel Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED12- Direct
San Marino Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED11 - Direct
Sierra Madre Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED12- Direct
South Pasadena Fire	VF ACCESS [R]	RED11 - Direct

## Continuity of Operations

Verdugo has identified an alternate site to conduct dispatch operations in the event an evacuation of the primary site ever becomes necessary. An agreement has been reached with Burbank Police Chief Scott LaChasse for use of a room in the Burbank police station on E. Orange Grove Ave. In the coming months, this room will be outfitted with workstations, computers, and all the necessary equipment and connections for phone and radio operations.

## Two Departures

Fire Communications Operator Jean Osmond retired in mid-November, having completed nearly 23 years with Verdugo. Jeannie was a public-safety dispatcher for Sierra Madre Police, Los Angeles Police, and Pasadena Police Communications prior to working at Verdugo, with a total of 28 years' experience in this field.

We are all extremely proud of Jeannie's accomplish-

ments and service. Jeannie will remain widely respected for her practical knowledge and the technical proficiency she applied to every call she handled over the years. Her professional demeanor with all parties, whether they were callers in distress or Chief Officers asking for information, was always well received.



Fire Communications Operator Lena Savaiinaea will be working her final day at Verdugo on Feb. 4 before moving back to Hawaii to be closer to her family. Lena has been with Verdugo 4½ years and can be very proud of her professional achievements and the certifications earned during this time. She will be greatly missed by her co-workers.

## Two New Dispatchers

A warm welcome to Clayton Collins and Andrea Robles, who joined our staff as Fire Communications Operators in recent weeks. A third dispatcher is expected to begin training later this month.



## UNIFIED RESPONSE

**Editor:** Harold Scoggins

**Editorial Staff:** Lenia Scanlon, Mike Matlock, Anita Shandi

**Fire Chiefs:** James Anderson, Chris Donovan, Dennis Downs, Steve Heydorff, Vince Kemp, Ray Krakowski, Joe Nestor, James Birrell, Harold Scoggins, Tony Trabbie, Jerry Wallace, Tim Wessel

**Contributors** (In addition to the Fire Chiefs mentioned above): Tom Lenahan, Steve Briggs, Kenet Robertson, Daryl Isozaki, Dominic Hebert, John Cermak, David Haney, Rick Mayhew, Derrick Doehler, Ken Leasure, Phillip Guiral, Sam DiGiovanna, Matthew Hallock, Robina Sarkisian, Lenia Scanlon, Shari Miller, Lisa Derderian, Don Wise, Stu Stefani, Tanya Gregorian, Celia Quezada, Bertha Marquez, Mylene Tam, Jerry Jacobs, Ross Benson

## INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY: 2010 vs. 2009

2010	ALH	ARC	BRK	GLN	MPK	MRV	MTB	PAS	SGB	SMD	SNM	SPS	Verdugo Total	Percent
Fire	529	692	1,243	1,592	399	485	654	2,838	248	97	179	242	9,514	14.0%
Medical	3,872	3,294	7,568	13,073	3,013	2,380	3,825	12,076	1,702	659	536	1,166	53,807	79.2%
Service	270	200	485	696	186	182	237	696	89	101	65	152	3,383	5.0%
Other	1	2	10	19	1	0	1	35	3	0	1	0	75	0.1%
OOV*	5	44	121	416	71	35	64	143	29	23	144	11	1,131	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>9,427</b>	<b>15,796</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>4,781</b>	<b>15,788</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>67,910</b>	

2009	ALH	ARC	BRK	GLN	MPK	MRV	MTB	PAS	SGB	SMD	SNM	SPS	Verdugo Total	Percent
Fire	552	710	1,284	1,530	447	477	595	2,833	261	125	168	296	9,734	14.6%
Medical	3,931	3,228	7,238	12,995	2,953	2,569	3,230	11,861	1,698	588	582	1,171	52,766	78.9%
Service	255	223	425	635	145	186	173	617	86	91	45	137	3,051	4.6%
Other	4	3	1	11	5	0	0	39	1	0	0	1	67	0.1%
OOV*	7	31	141	472	106	43	90	161	36	10	149	8	1,274	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>9,089</b>	<b>15,643</b>	<b>3,656</b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>15,511</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>66,892</b>	

\*OOV = Responses outside the 12 Verdugo cities to such locations as Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Downey, Compton, etc.

## RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS: 2010

### NFPA 1710

*Turnout Time:* 80 sec. for fire & special operations response; 60 sec. for EMS response.

*Travel Time:* 240 sec. or less travel time for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident or for the arrival of a unit with first responder with automatic external defibrillator (AED) or higher level capability at an EMS incident.

*Goal:* Not less than 90% for the achievement of specified turnout time and travel times.

Agency	Cat.	90th Percentile Times		
		Turnout	Travel	Total Response
GOAL:		1 min. or 1:20	4 min.	5 min. or 5:20
ALH	Fire	02:04	05:44	06:54
	Med	01:39	05:13	06:17
ARC	Fire	02:09	06:10	07:47
	Med	01:43	05:12	06:17
BRK	Fire	01:41	05:30	06:33
	Med	01:41	04:49	05:57
GLN	Fire	01:35	06:10	06:55
	Med	01:44	05:02	06:04
MPK	Fire	02:14	06:44	07:48
	Med	01:59	05:39	06:52
MRV	Fire	02:03	05:36	06:43
	Med	01:40	05:07	06:19
MTB	Fire	01:42	06:45	08:07
	Med	01:38	06:34	07:33
PAS	Fire	01:49	05:44	06:44
	Med	01:44	04:59	06:01
SGB	Fire	01:53	05:33	06:45
	Med	01:36	04:54	05:53
SMD	Fire	01:51	05:00	06:03
	Med	02:14	05:35	06:53
SNM	Fire	02:01	05:11	06:11
	Med	01:42	04:59	06:08
SPS	Fire	01:37	04:46	06:15
	Med	01:45	04:52	06:08

Agency	Cat.	Percent of Responses Meeting Std		
		Turnout	Travel	Total Response
GOAL:		90%	90%	90%
ALH	Fire	61%	55%	56%
	Med	52%	72%	70%
ARC	Fire	63%	60%	63%
	Med	54%	73%	72%
BRK	Fire	82%	66%	77%
	Med	51%	79%	77%
GLN	Fire	82%	63%	71%
	Med	55%	75%	74%
MPK	Fire	67%	50%	59%
	Med	41%	66%	59%
MRV	Fire	64%	63%	64%
	Med	46%	71%	68%
MTB	Fire	81%	28%	42%
	Med	60%	49%	49%
PAS	Fire	73%	61%	72%
	Med	55%	78%	77%
SGB	Fire	70%	62%	64%
	Med	63%	75%	75%
SMD	Fire	74%	86%	83%
	Med	36%	76%	71%
SNM	Fire	67%	62%	64%
	Med	53%	76%	74%
SPS	Fire	76%	70%	74%
	Med	51%	79%	77%

## UNITS DISPATCHED BY VERDUGO: 2010 vs. 2009 and 2008

Agency	Unit	2010	2009	2008	
<b>ALH</b>	E71	1,662	1,602	1,763	
	E72	1,376	1,475	1,415	
	E73	1,049	965	965	
	E74	1,196	1,276	1,170	
	RA71	2,346	2,309	2,406	
	RA74	1,800	1,938	1,809	
	T71	637	651	719	
	USR71	1	6	4	
<b>ARC</b>	E105	1,627	1,677	1,683	
	E106	2,173	2,068	2,135	
	E107	818	854	917	
	RA105	1,615	1,642	1,685	
	RA106	1,835	1,765	1,827	
	T105	550	550	626	
	AU106	7	4	6	
	USR106	7	5	5	
<b>BRK</b>	E11	2,748	2,662	2,571	
	E12	1,493	1,387	1,489	
	E13	1,590	1,572	1,732	
	E14	1,435	1,341	1,329	
	E15	1,980	1,887	1,900	
	E16	812	797	822	
	E18	43	56	105	
	HM12	38	35	38	
	RA11	2,890	2,728	2,553	
	RA13	2,421	2,280	2,425	
	RA15	2,883	2,809	2,752	
	T11	797	689	749	
	T12	512	482	561	
	WT16	2	4	5	
	<b>GLN</b>	AU28	18	21	12
		BLS21	1,869	0	0
BLS25		1,657	0	0	
E21		3,343	3,221	3,345	
E22*		2,314	2,368	2,424	
E23		282	307	283	
E24		1,041	961	938	
E25		3,059	3,020	3,084	
E26		2,773	2,712	2,769	
E27		2,163	2,190	2,266	
E28		682	770	750	
E29		997	963	974	
HM24		28	38	40	
RA21		3,944	3,454	3,479	
RA22		192	2,414	2,502	
RA25		3,661	3,426	3,381	
RA26		3,528	3,580	3,582	
RA29		1,633	1,553	1,508	
T21		1,191	1,082	1,155	
T26		1,015	974	961	
T29		300	297	282	
USR22		20	22	18	
WT21	1	7	6		
OES WT11	2	3	6		

Agency	Unit	2010	2009	2008
<b>MPK</b>	E61	1,772	1,741	1,717
	E62	1,410	1,404	1,233
	E63	1,037	1,096	1,083
	RA61	1,892	1,741	1,796
	RA62	1,452	1,493	1,405
	T61	552	513	546
	<b>MRV</b>	E101	1,966	2,109
E102		1,475	1,576	1,628
SQ101		1,644	1,748	1,671
T101		440	479	485
<b>MTB**</b>	WT101	3	5	7
	AU55	5	4	**Joined Verdugo Feb. 2009
	BR55	3	12	
	BR56	5	15	
	E55	2,572	1,938	
	E56	1,151	1,036	
	E57	1,442	1,603	
T55	1,068	761		
<b>PAS</b>	T56	89	315	
	USR55	8	11	
	E31	3,706	3,521	3,734
	E32	1,764	1,857	1,876
	E33	3,331	3,116	3,321
	E34	2,080	2,098	2,148
	E36	3,182	3,158	3,118
	E37	1,484	1,419	1,429
	E38	706	705	712
	E39	686	597	682
	RA31	2,878	2,781	2,891
	RA32	2,174	2,206	2,252
	RA33	3,077	2,999	3,097
<b>SGB</b>	RA34	2,138	2,111	2,186
	RA36	2,945	2,975	2,943
	T31	1,442	1,351	1,480
	T32	376	798	865
	USR32	30	25	17
	E51	1,222	1,180	1,256
	<b>SMD</b>	E52	1,117	1,151
RA51		1,680	1,610	1,599
USR51		0	4	0
<b>SNM</b>	E41	297	311	245
	RA41	847	776	829
	WT41	0	2	1
<b>SPS</b>	E91	890	897	991
	RA91	996	1,085	1,021
<b>SPS</b>	AU81	178	247	216
	E81	1,594	1,694	1,548
	RA81	1,191	1,210	1,225

- Total *unit responses* for an agency will be much higher than the number of *incidents* they responded on because two or more units respond on most types of incidents.
- Total *completed responses* for each unit will be somewhat lower if the unit was occasionally cancelled enroute to an incident.

## OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: 2010 vs. 2009

The following tables show the number of out of jurisdiction dispatches (not necessarily completed responses) for each fire department for 2010 and 2009. 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 the year. Columns labeled "XAA" refer to locations outside the normal Verdugo System/Los Angeles response region. Rows labeled "XAA" generally refer to responses by private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles, and helicopters.

Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred																			Subtotals	
	2010	ALH	ARC	BRK	GLN	MPK	MRV	MTB	PAS	SGB	SMD	SNM	SPS	USF	XAA	OOJ	DNY	SFS	LAC		LFD
ALH	X	1			178	3	3	23	187		50	129						3	2		579
ARC		X		2	3	201	2	84		20	2				1			43			358
BRK	1	3	X	271	2	3		14				1	3		1			15	102		416
GLN	1	1	360	X	2	3		72	1			4	3		1			73	339		860
MPK	285				X	1	247	3	88			5						70	1		700
MRV	5	258				X	2	5		14					1			34			319
MTB					127	1	X						1		4	25	1	31	1	1	192
PAS	18	70	11	61	7	6	1	X	10	10	45	87		2				93	48		469
SGB	185	1	1		51	1	5	6	X		38	1						29			318
SMD				1				3		X					1			22			27
SNM	22	14			1	4		117	114		X	115						144			531
SPS	37	1			4			136	2		50	X							11		241
USF			1			1							X					8			10
XAA	2	127	47	7	48	2,383	3,911	12		13		1		X	2	3		5	1		6,562
OOJ								5							X						5
DNY							40									X		1	1		42
SFS							4										1	X			5
LAC		52		61	66	38	74	41	20	4	21	1						X			378
LFD	1		26	64	2			10				14						3	X		120
CMP							3													X	3
VER							4														4
Subtotals	557	528	446	467	491	2,645	4,296	531	422	61	206	358	7	2	11	29	1	574	506	1	12,139

Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred																			Subtotals		
	2009	ALH	ARC	BRK	GLN	MPK	MRV	MTB	PAS	SGB	SMD	SNM	SPS	USF	XAA	XBB	OOJ	DNY	SFS		LAC	LFD
ALH	X			1	192	3	3	36	205		37	91	2				2			2	1	575
ARC	1	X		2	1	201		81	2	15	4	1	1				2			28		339
BRK	1	5	X	231	5	3		13				4	12				1			16	112	403
GLN	1	4	284	X	7	2	2	76	1	1		4	11	2			2			82	375	854
MPK	276			1	X		224	3	82		1	5	2	1	1	2				89		687
MRV	1	301			1	X		4		9			2				3			37	1	359
MTB	1	1		2	127		X	3	3			1	2				8	29	1	51		229
PAS	22	75	5	58	12	11		X	19	6	44	83	5	3	1	3			106	43	496	
SGB	143	3		1	31	2	3	5	X		35	2	2	1			1			32		261
SMD		1							1	X							1			7	1	12
SNM	36	9			2	4		134	138	1	X	116	1						148		589	
SPS	22	3		1	7	1		180	3		49	X					1			1	6	274
USF			1											X								1
XAA	3	143	61	9	17	2,585	3,322	16	2	8	1		1	X			1	6		17		6,192
XBB															1	X						1
OOJ								1									X			1		2
DNY							19								1			X		1		21
SFS							3											X				3
LAC		48		65	55	38	31	43	29	7	31			7					X		354	
LFD	1		25	44	1			17				10		2					1	X		101
VER							3															3
CMP							1															1
Subtotals	508	593	376	415	458	2,850	3,611	612	485	47	202	317	42	18	2	26	36	1	619	539	11,757	

# Verdugo Fire Academy at Glendale Community College



Verdugo Fire Academy Class 13 graduated on January 8, 2011. Class 14 began two days earlier, on January 6, with a total of 20 sponsored Cadets. This is testimony of the commitment and dedication from Area C and beyond.

Verdugo Fire Academy exists thanks to Glendale Fire Department, every Area C agency, Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, and Glendale Community College. We cannot thank everyone enough for all their support as we continue moving forward into 2011.

The Verdugo Fire Academy staff and instructors from throughout Area C and Los Angeles are greatly appreciated. Without their skills and expertise, the Cadets would not become the professional firefighters to serve our communities. I personally want to thank Captain Tony Bagan (Pasadena Fire) and all the VFA staff and instructors. Your hard work, dedication, and endless hours make the academy one of the best in the nation!

On behalf of all of us at the VFA/GCC, thank you and Happy New Year!

*Sam DiGiovanna, Fire Chief  
Verdugo Fire Academy*



*“It is not what happens that determines  
the major part of your future.  
What happens, happens to us all.  
It is what you do about what happens that counts.”  
– Jim Rohn*