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# Annual Report

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**PAT A. DENNEN**  
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

# *Going Green*

**San Bernardino County Fire**  
*Doing our part  
to preserve resources  
for the future.*



# *Department Statements*

## Mission

**Community-Based All-Risk Emergency Services Organization, dedicated to the Health and Well-Being of the Citizens of San Bernardino County through a balance of Regionalized Services Delivery and Accountability to the Local Community, supported by Centralized Management and Services**

## Vision

**Committed to providing Premier Fire Services in Southern California**

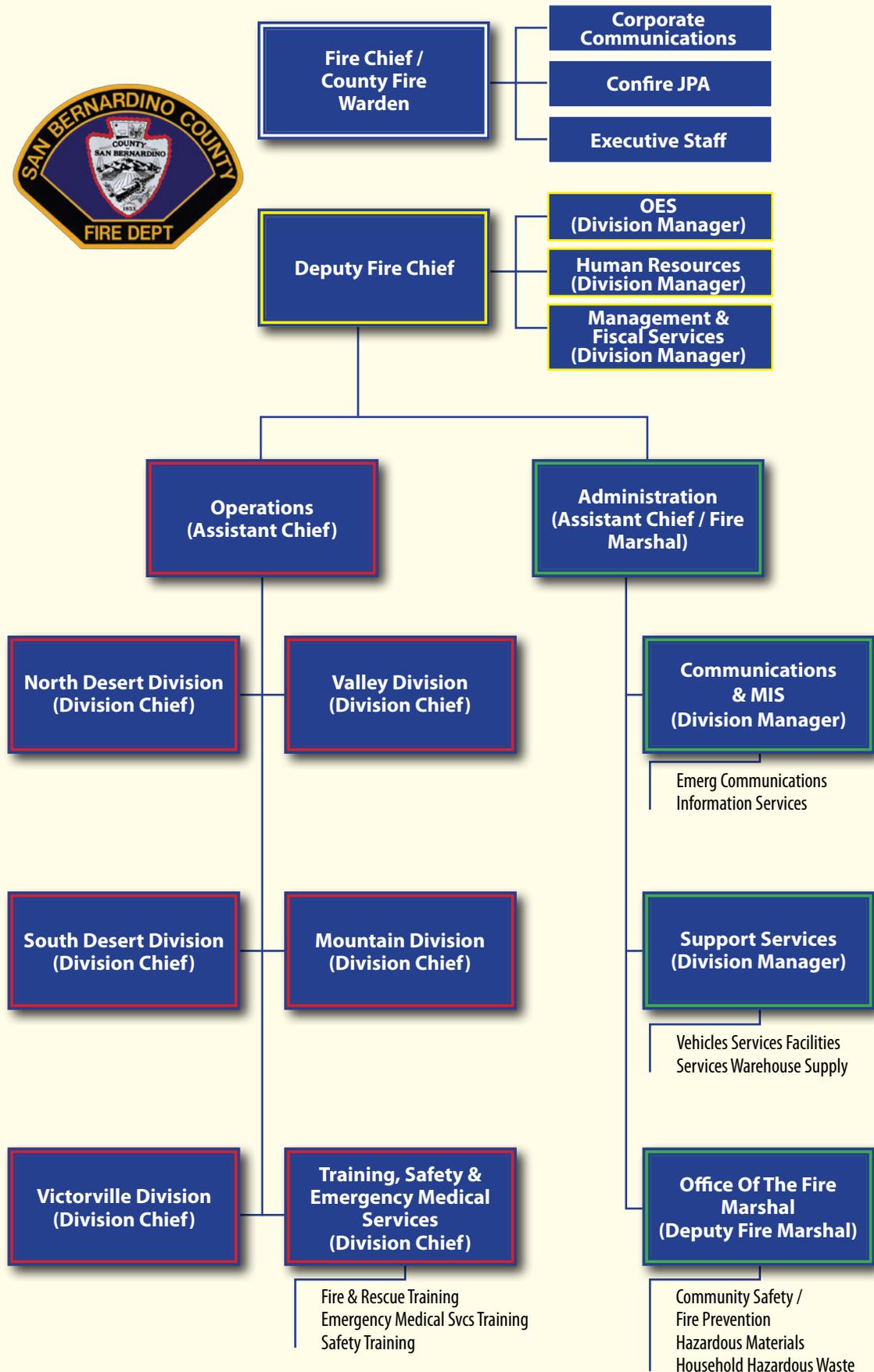
## Standard of Commitment

**Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet**

## Service Motto

**Duty, Honor, Community...**

# Organization Chart



# Message from the Chief



Greetings,

Once again I am proud to present to you, the men and women of the San Bernardino County Fire Department in recognition of their commitment to the citizens and the communities they serve.

This past year was an extremely busy time and a year that presented many unique challenges as well as many opportunities. The most significant event of 2008 was the completion of a 5-year project to completely reorganize the Fire Department through the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) process. We were successful in dissolving 27 fire districts and 8 special tax districts, each with their individual budgets, and re-forming them into one single entity with four (4) Regional Service Delivery Zones and eight (8) special tax areas. This allowed us to vastly improve our ability to meet the needs of the citizens and visitors of San Bernardino County. As the largest and most complex project in the history of LAFCO, the successful completion of this undertaking could not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of everyone involved.

We also welcomed the City of Victorville's fire department employees to our County Fire family, which increased our fulltime suppression force to 405. At the request of their City Council, we were able to begin operations from their five fire stations and initiate a Paramedic Program for the City in less than 45 days. This was nothing short of remarkable.

We also found opportunities in 2008 when Hurricane Gustav followed the path of Hurricane Katrina into the City of Gulfport, Mississippi. The City of Gulfport contacted County Fire and requested an Incident Management Team to respond and assist in the recovery process. Also, our Office of Emergency Services took the lead in presenting Golden Guardian 2008, a simulated 7.8 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, which began with the Great Shakeout for the County of San Bernardino. Simultaneously, our Hazardous Materials Division and Training Division employees worked with the California National Guard, 9th Civil Support team supporting the "Vigilant Guard" during the Golden Guardian exercise. Our ability to work with our partners is one of our greatest strengths.

Once again, 2008 was not without its price. Fires plagued Northern California early in the fire season, with a record 2,000 fires burning at the same time, and claimed the lives of many firefighters. Then, the fires turned south devouring hundreds of homes in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties. While San Bernardino County "dodged the bullet" this time, these losses are felt by all of us as our County firefighters fought alongside other firefighters on each of these fires. I remain proud of the men and women of County Fire and it's truly an honor to lead this distinguished and professional organization.

*Pat A. Dennen,*  
Fire Chief / County Fire Warden

# Table of Contents

Department Statement . . . . .	iii
Organizational Chart . . . . .	iv
Message from the Chief. . . . .	v
Table of Contents. . . . .	vi
CAO's Message . . . . .	1
County Fire Map . . . . .	2
Areas Served. . . . .	3
Interesting Facts . . . . .	5
Union Message . . . . .	7
Moving Forward . . . . .	8
Budget . . . . .	14
Personnel & Equipment. . . . .	15
Gel Task Force . . . . .	17
Statistics . . . . .	19
Fire Explorers . . . . .	23
Hazardous Materials . . . . .	24
Household Hazardous Waste . . . . .	25
Community Safety . . . . .	26
Golden Guardian & ShakeOut . . . . .	29
Vigilant Guard . . . . .	31
Community Involvement. . . . .	33
9-11 Tribute . . . . .	34
In Loving Memory . . . . .	35

# CAO's Message



**Brad Mitzelfelt**  
*First District Supervisor*



**Paul Biane**  
*Second District Supervisor*



**Neil Derry**  
*Third District Supervisor*



**Gary Ovitt**  
*Fourth District Supervisor  
Chairman*



**Josie Gonzales**  
*Fifth District Supervisor  
Vice-Chairman*



Our County was blessed this year by an absence of major wildfire, but the men and women of the San Bernardino County Fire Department were nonetheless busy in 2008 serving our communities with the best in fire protection and setting an example for all County departments in terms of responsiveness, readiness, and dedication. Members of the Fire Department team traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi to once again help the people of our adopted city cope with the aftermath of a devastating hurricane. The department also took the leading role in yet another historic Golden Guardian disaster exercise, from which we will all benefit when our County faces a major catastrophe. Everyone in the County should be proud of the work done by our Fire Department.

**Mark H. Uffer,**  
*County Administrative Officer*



# Proudly Serving

the following cities, towns and communities:

City of Adelanto	Landers
Angelus Oaks	Lucerne Valley
Baker	Lytle Creek
Baldy Mesa	Mentone
Barton Flats	Mountain Home Village
Big River	Mt. Baldy
Bloomington	Mt. View Acres
Cedar Glen	Muscoy
Crest Park	City of Needles
Deer Park Lodge	Oak Hills
Devore	Oro Grande
Earp	Phelan
El Mirage	Pinon Hills
Fawnskin	Pioneer Town
Flamingo Heights	Red Mountain
City of Fontana	San Antonio Heights
Forest Falls	Searles Valley
City of Grand Terrace	Silver Lakes
Green Valley Lake	Sky Forest
Harvard	Spring Valley Lake
Havasu Landing	Summit Valley
Helendale	Trona
City of Hesperia	City of Victorville
Hinkley	Windy Acres
Johnson Valley	Wonder Valley
Joshua Tree	Wrightwood
Lake Arrowhead	Town of Yucca Valley





# Interesting Facts

## Paid-Call Firefighting Forces

The San Bernardino County Fire Department has a long and rich history involving our Paid-Call Firefighter forces within our Department. Every one of our fire districts that now makes up the County Fire Department started as a Volunteer or Paid-Call Department. As many of these communities developed into cities so did the need for those fire companies to develop into full-time all-risk fire departments.

Today, in many areas of our County, communities still cannot afford to provide for full-time firefighter response, but have citizens that still want to help in their respective community and make their hometown a safer place to live – these are our San Bernardino County Fire Department

Paid-Call Firefighters. The foundational concept for these PCF companies is that these are citizen firefighters that are there to help their fellow residents within their community and within our County any time there is a need. Trained and responding many times from their home, these firefighters come together to assist our communities against fire, accidents, and to provide emergency medical aid as needed.

San Bernardino County Fire currently has 351 PCFs proudly serving the citizens of San Bernardino County.



## Quick Facts

Square Miles in County . . . . .	.20,160
Square Miles Covered by County Fire . . . . .	.17,432
Population of San Bernardino County . . . . .	Over 2 million
Number of Fire Stations . . . . .	.69
Number of Fire Stations Proposed or In-Progress . . . . .	8
Number of County Fire Personnel . . . . .	.1,164
Number of Fire Suppression Personnel . . . . .	.817
2008 Calls for Service . . . . .	.59,687
County Fire Budget . . . . .	\$146,954,445

## Interesting Fact

- ☞ 2008 produced 5,812 wildland fires in California, burning 1,339,839 acres.
- ☞ Nation wide 80,094 wildland fires broke out, scorching 5,254,109 acres.
- ☞ There are an estimated 30,185 fire departments in the United States.
- ☞ 1,148,800 firefighters protected the United States in 2007. 323,350 (28%) were career firefighters and 825,450 (72%) were volunteer firefighters.
- ☞ Most volunteer firefighters (95%) are in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 and more than half are located in small, rural departments that protect fewer than 2,500 people.
- ☞ Medical aid calls have tripled since 1980.
- ☞ Nationally, a fire department responds to a fire every 20 seconds.
- ☞ In 2007, there were an estimated 14,650 collisions involving fire department emergency vehicles, while departments were responding to or returning from incidents.

Source: National Fire Protection Association and the National Interagency Coordination Center



# Union Message



## International Association of Firefighters Local 935



2008 will likely be remembered as difficult financial times. Hopefully, it will be remembered as the end of an economic crisis. During these turbulent financial times, I am very proud of the men and women

of Local 935. Without missing a beat, we have performed to our creed of being a Premier Fire Service.

The men and women of Local 935 continue to respond to all risks of emergencies, including all types of fires, vehicle accidents, hazardous materials events, technical rescues, medical emergencies, and numerous other calls where people have a personal emergency and believe a friendly firefighter could help. We have

accomplished this, literally, in every climb and place, from the desert to the mountains, from the snow to the heat of the desert.

The men and women of Local 935 have not let trying times dictate what we are, we strive to continue to be the Premier Fire Service in Southern California with emphasis on the communities we serve.

Duty-Honor-Community.

Sincerely,

*Bret L. Henry*

President  
San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters



## Firefighters Association

The Firefighters Association mission is to promote and protect the membership, while creating and maintaining a fraternal spirit and attitude among all members, both active and retired, including their families.

The Association supports many community outreach programs and activities, such as health fairs and school programs. The Association also supports many charity organizations like the Loma Linda Children's Hospital and the American Cancer Society.



# Moving Forward



## Victorville Fire Department Joins County Fire Team

On July 5, we welcomed the Victorville Fire Department to the County Fire Team. The Victorville City Council approved this contract on May 13, 2008 with the expectation of transitioning its employees and starting a paramedic program for residents of the city within 45 days. We are proud to say that we accomplished this request and believe to have met all the employee needs. County Fire is dedicated to providing professional fire protection services, including investigations, advanced life support

services, rescue services and aircraft rescue and fire fighting to the citizens of Victorville and establishing a long term relationship with the City of Victorville.

Sid Hultquist was promoted to Division Chief and assumed the helm of the Victorville Division, where he once served as a Paid-Call Firefighter. Chief Hultquist has spent over 45 years in the High Desert and grew up in Victorville, with family ties dating back to the mid 1940's.



## Department Reorganization Finalized

The Fire Reorganization Plan was finalized and became effective July 1; dissolving 27 separate fire districts and merging them into a single fire protection district with four regional service zones.

were created by special elections will remain in place. All revenue collected from each area will continue to be spent only within that area, and each will be identified as a Service Zone.

This reorganization created the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, dba San Bernardino County Fire Department, the parent organization that provides all administration, payroll, fiscal and support services, as County Fire's administration had done in the past. Four regional service zones were created, leaving functions unchanged, but securing property taxes on a regional level that will provide continued fire services well into the future. In addition, within the new fire protection district, existing special taxes that

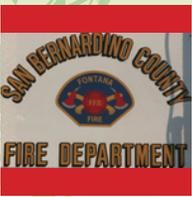
The reorganization of County Fire, which began its process in February 2002, is a big step in the advancement of County Fire, as it has already resulted in simplified budgeting and fiscal operations, greater flexibility in the use of department resources and assets and more effective use of executive management to oversee day-to-day operations. The reorganization will continue to improve the delivery of fire services and the department's overall operating efficiency.



## Newly Formed Fontana Fire District Signs Contract with County Fire

Concurrent with the reorganization of County Fire was the reorganization of fire services in Fontana resulting in the formation of the Fontana Fire Protection District (FFD). The FFD signed a 10-year contract with County Fire for all-risk emergency response, fire prevention

and support services. By virtue of being the Division Chief of the Valley Improvement Zone, Terry Welsh was named the Fire Chief of the FFD and is responsible for contract administration, operations and maintenance of the District's seven fire stations and equipment.



## Fire Chief Pat Dennen Elected as President-Elect of the California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs)

In June, Fire Chief Dennen was elected to serve a two-year term as president-elect of the CalChiefs, after which he will take the helm as President of this prestigious organization. CalChiefs boasts the largest membership of fire service managers in California, dedicated to serving the fire service needs and issues

that face California's fire service. CalChiefs gives not only fire agencies the opportunity to discuss pertinent concerns and issues regarding fire service throughout the state, it allows the opportunity to offer solutions, speaking with one voice for the fire service.



## County Fire Haz-Mat Expert Chosen to Serve on Regional Incident Survey Team

County Fire Hazardous Materials and Counter Terrorism Coordinator, Gail Beckham, was chosen to serve on the Western Regional Incident Survey Team (RIST). RIST is a key component of the development of the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center, which will collect and analyze hazardous materials

incident response data in order to enhance first-responder safety, operations policy and training. By participating, County Fire will have the opportunity to shape the training, equipment and standard operating procedures for hazardous materials response at a national level.



## Preserving Resources for the Future

County Fire has purchased several clean-burning, fuel-efficient hybrid electric vehicles for non-emergency functions, such as travel to safety inspections, educational programs and fire station maintenance activities. County Fire remains committed to replacing current vehicles with hybrid and energy efficient vehicles as warranted, thus reducing fuel costs and saving our precious air quality.

Several County Fire facilities have been converted to energy efficient lighting, saving thousands of watts of energy daily. Auto-off light switches have also been installed.

San Bernardino County Fire participates in several recycling programs; recycling vehicle batteries, small batteries, tires, used oil filters, cell phones and

accessories, scrap metal, and much more. Anti-freeze/coolant is collected, reprocessed and reused in County Fire vehicles. Used motor oil is disposed of through environmentally safe disposal facilities.

County Fire also participates in the county-wide recycling and shredding program, collecting and recycling paper products throughout the department. Electronic forms are being utilized to reduce paper usage.

County Fire's Household Hazardous Waste Division has several facilities conveniently located throughout the County and offers numerous options for residents and businesses to dispose of hazardous waste.

San Bernardino County Fire - doing our best for a green future.



## 12 Lead Program Fully Operational

San Bernardino County Fire has implemented the 12 Lead Program throughout the County. This program provides life saving training and equipment, which allows for early diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from a heart attack. The monitor is a

diagnostic tool used by emergency personnel in the field to assist in the detection of a patient who may be having a heart attack, which in turn aids in ensuring the patient receives lifesaving care and is transported to hospitals specializing in cardiac care.



## County Fire Lends Assistance to Gulfport, Mississippi

In response to the immediate need of assistance by our adopted Gulf Coast neighbor, Gulfport, Mississippi, County Fire assembled an Incident Management Team to provide assistance in dealing with the predicted destructive force of Hurricane Gustav. The four-member team assisted Gulfport authorities in evaluating their emergency plan to increase effectiveness, helped to make monumental tasks much more manageable and developed an Incident Action Plan that can be used by the city in the future.

The journey also laid the groundwork for exploring future concepts such as "Virtual Command Posts" wherein a department outside the affected area could assist a department that may have had its infrastructure destroyed by a disaster.

The County's relationship with Gulfport began shortly after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, as the county sought to provide direct relief to a fellow local government agency, and became aware of Gulfport's plight.



# Moving Forward *(continued)*



## Homeland Security Grants

The Office of Emergency Services administers the Federal Homeland Security Grants Program for the county, which dating back to 1999 exceeds \$30.6 million dollars. In 2008, San Bernardino County Operational Area received over \$4.6 million for first responder equipment, mobile command posts, security software and to sustain various programs.

On February 1, the U. S. Department of Homeland Security announced the inclusion of the cities of Ontario, San Bernardino and the County in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant program. The UASI

grant award for FY08 is approximately \$2.6 million and is intended to assist the above jurisdictions in developing integrated regional systems for prevention, protection, response and recovery.

On November 3, San Bernardino County received a grant award in the amount of \$657,875 for the Buffer Zone Protection Program for the purpose of enhancing the security of critical infrastructure sites located in San Bernardino County against terrorist attacks and threats.



## USFS Grant Awarded

Utilizing a \$3.5 million U.S. Forest Service grant awarded in July, County Fire crews continue their efforts in removing green fuels (overstocked trees, brush and undergrowth) on private lands in our local mountains and the wildland urban interface

areas. County Fire continues to work closely with its cooperators in a continuing effort to build firebreaks around the mountain communities and reduce the potential for a catastrophic fire.



## Assistance to Firefighter Grant Provides Valuable Equipment

County Fire received over \$958,000 from the Assistance to Firefighter federal grant program towards mobile driving simulators for the County Fire Training Facility and forty-four Mobile Data Communication computers

(MDC) to be distributed to agency members of the Consolidated Fire Agencies of the East Valley Joint Power Authority as part of the new CAD system.



## Grant Provides for Communication Equipment

A \$200,000 grant from the Fire Intervention Relief Effort Campaign, a fund of the McCormick Foundation, provided for much needed portable hand-held radios,

batteries and accessories. These radios have enhanced firefighter communication capabilities and safety.



## Department Emergency Plans in Development

In 2008, The Office of Emergency Services undertook the development and implementation of County Department Emergency Operation Plans (DEOPs) so that each of the 43 County Departments will have a

standardized emergency plan to provide for their staff's safety and continuity of government during a disaster.

## CERT Trailers Ready for Use to Roll in Trainings and Disasters

In April, seven Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training/Response Trailers were rolled out to communities within the county for the purpose of assisting in CERT training and to provide supplies for CERT-trained volunteers to help their community during times of disaster. The Office of Emergency Services purchased the CERT Training/Response Trailers with the help of federal Homeland Security grant dollars.

Five of the seven trailers are located in the county's five emergency management zones in the Town of Apple

Valley, Big Bear City (CSD), Ontario, Redlands, and the Town of Yucca Valley. In addition one trailer is located at Fire Station 2 in the unincorporated community of Devore, and one at the County Emergency Operations Center in Rialto.

The CERT program trains residents to assist in preparing for, and responding to, disasters until professional emergency personnel can arrive. More than 6,000 County residents are CERT-trained and there are currently more than 20 active CERT programs throughout the County.



## Property Owners Taking Steps to Protect their Property from Wildfire

Public awareness and knowledge about fire safety measures increased significantly in our local mountains since San Bernardino County and the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) launched a public outreach campaign in 2006. In September, MAST conducted a survey as a follow-up to a study performed in January 2007 to assess mountain property owners' awareness of wildfire prevention efforts. The general results of the 2008 survey found that respondents reported greater awareness of wildfire prevention measures, were more

prepared for a natural disaster and had taken more steps to prevent the spread of wildfires and potential danger to their property.

MAST is a coalition of government agencies, community organizations and businesses that was formed in 2002 to address the problem of bark-beetle infestation in our local mountains. To learn more about MAST and view survey results, visit [www.calmast.org](http://www.calmast.org).



## Creating a Safer Environment for Mountain Residents

The County Fuels Crew has successfully removed hundreds of tons of hazardous vegetation in our local mountains. This 12-member crew also assisted with clearing fuel breaks around our mountain

communities; providing a safer place for mountain residents, as exemplified during the 2007 Grass Valley Fire.



## Supervisors Approve Ordinances to Prevent Catastrophic Loss

In September, the County Board of Supervisors approved modification of two county ordinances; the roofing ordinance and the fire hazard abatement ordinance.

The Roof Ordinance mandates that all roof coverings be either non-combustible or of fire-retardant material not composed of organic fiber with a minimum Class A rating. Prior to July 1, 2014, all properties within the San Bernardino County Fire Safety Zones are required to be in compliance with the roof ordinance. Replacement of wood shake roofs is an important factor in reducing the potential for catastrophic fires that result in millions of dollars in property loss and potential loss of life.

The Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance effective in the County Fire Safety Overlay areas was modified to include green vegetation management, not just dead fuel reduction. The ordinance also gives specifications on all defensible space and vegetation management. The County of San Bernardino goes beyond the state requirement and is mandating 100 feet of clearance to include adjacent property where there is a hazard. Time and again excessive fuels around homes have contributed to wildfires, destroying too many homes. There is ample evidence that homes with excessive fuels can and will cause the destruction of homes that abide by the defensible space mandate.



# Moving Forward *(continued)*



## Two New Community Safety Offices Opened

To meet the increasing planning and inspection needs of our customers, County Fire opened Community Safety offices in the City of Fontana and the Town of Yucca Valley. Both offices are dedicated to making our services more convenient and efficient for our customers and to offer all community safety services, including accepting residential and commercial

applications, and plans for review and approval. In addition, the Annual Inspection Program was implemented in November in the South Desert communities, ensuring that businesses are in compliance with permit and fire codes.



## Supplemental Staffing Approved

Realizing the critical need for fire stations to be adequately staffed during the height of fire season, on June 10 the Board of Supervisors approved

supplemental funds of \$290,000 for additional firefighter staffing for several communities throughout the county.



## Future Fire Stations Underway

☞ The Board of Supervisors approved funding to replace the 1960's fire station known as Station 15 in Angelus Oaks. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009, with full completion in 2010.

☞ Fire Station 80 in the unincorporated area of Fontana along San Bernardino Road near the Auto Club Speedway has been delayed due to project concerns.

☞ Construction on replacement Station 10 on Beekley Road in Phelan is underway, with anticipated completion in 2009/2010.

☞ The County has acquired land in Amboy and Goffs along the heavily traveled I-40 freeway for two future fire stations. Efficient fire services along this stretch of busy highway are much needed and will surely save lives.

☞ Fire Station 315 is under construction at Eucalyptus Street and Topaz Road in Victorville and is expected to go into service in 2009. Funding for this project is solely supported by the City of Victorville.

☞ Groundbreaking took place in October for Station 305 in Hesperia on Caliente Road, west of I-15. This station will also serve as the North Desert Division headquarters, with facility completion in 2009. The City of Hesperia, in partnership with the County, is funding this project.



## Emergency Operations Center Expansion Approved

In late 2008, the Office of Emergency Services was awarded a FEMA grant to expand the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). With a projected cost of over \$500,000, the grant will assist the County in providing for the much needed expansion. San Bernardino County was the only jurisdiction in California to be awarded this grant, which is expected

to improve cramped conditions in the EOC during disasters and improve day-to-day emergency management capabilities. Groundbreaking is slated to begin in early 2009 and the project's anticipated completion timeframe is late summer.



# Wildland Fires



## Big Horn Fire

The Big Horn Fire started May 13 in the San Gabriel Mountains near the community of Mt. Baldy, scorching 490 acres. Firefighters were able to keep the brush fire from reaching the community resulting in no evacuations.



## Acoma Fire

On June 7th the Acoma Fire ignited along the boundary of the Town of Yucca Valley and the Joshua Tree National Park and quickly spread towards the town, threatening structures and scorching 387 acres. Fortunately no homes were damaged or lost.



## Foxborough Fire

Started by illegal fireworks, the Foxborough fire started in North Fontana and quickly moved west into Rancho Cucamonga. The fire started on October 22 during a treacherous Santa Ana wind event with gusts topping 70 miles an hour. However firefighters were able to contain the fire to 250 acres, resulting in few evacuations.



## Northern and Southern California Fires

Fires plagued Northern California early in the fire season, with a record 2,000 fires burning at the same time. Then, the fires turned south devouring hundreds of homes in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties. San Bernardino County Fire sent Strike Teams and Gel Task Force Teams to assist our fellow brothers and sisters in battling these fires.



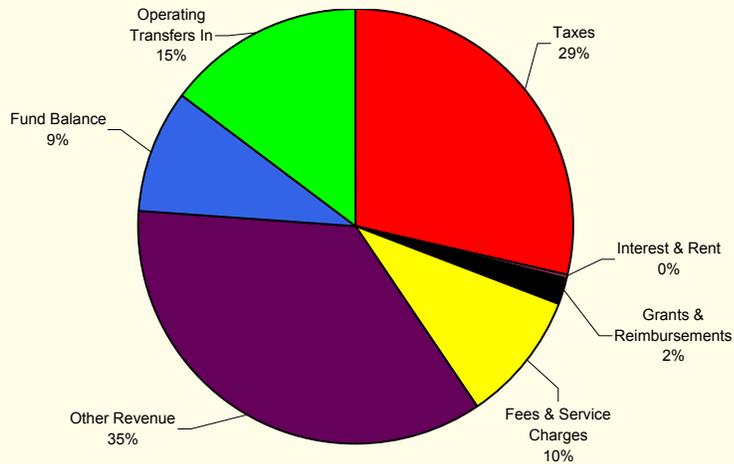
# Budget

## San Bernardino County Fire Department Budget Revenue & Expenditures Fiscal Year 2008/2009



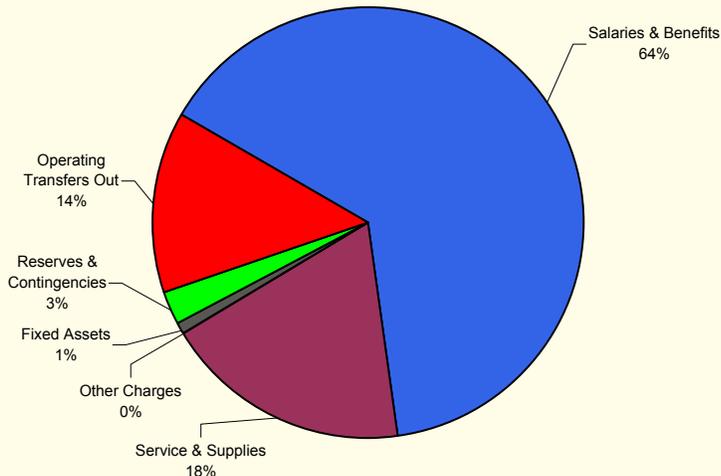
### Revenue

Taxes . . . . .	\$42,038,974
Interest & Rent . . . . .	\$607,107
Grant & Reimbursements . . . . .	\$2,611,887
Fees & Service Charges . . . . .	\$14,513,780
Other Revenue . . . . .	\$52,098,209
Fund Balance . . . . .	\$13,448,654
Operating Transfers In . . . . .	\$21,635,834
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$146,954,445</b>



### Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits . . . . .	\$94,802,164
Service & Supplies . . . . .	\$27,370,065
Other Charges . . . . .	\$21,171
Fixed Assets . . . . .	\$1,001,535
Reserves & Contingencies . . . . .	\$3,760,493
Operating Transfers Out . . . . .	\$19,999,017
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$146,954,445</b>



# Personnel & Equipment

## Personnel

Division	Mountain	North Desert	Victorville	South Desert	Valley	Training Division	Total
Fire Chief/Warden							1
Deputy Chief							1
Assistant Chief							2
Division Chief	1	1	1	1	1	1	* 7
Battalion Chief	3	6	3	6	6	1	25
Captain	13	36	21	15	39	6	130
Engineer	9	24	18	9	33		93
Firefighter	21	45	21	12	57		156
Limited-Term Firefighter	6	21		15	9		51
Paid-Call Firefighter	56	109	33	84	69		351
Suppression Total	109	242	97	142	214	8	817
Non-Suppression Personnel							347
Total Personnel							1,164

Funded positions FY 08/09. \*Includes Administrative Division Chief.

The Human Resources Division averaged nine suppression recruitments and thirty-eight non-suppression recruitments in 2008, including new and replacement positions.

## Equipment

Division	Mountain	North Desert	Victorville	South Desert	Valley	Total
*Airport Rescue Unit			4			5
Ambulances	6	19		7		32
Boats	3			2		5
*Command Posts						3
*Dozers						2
Foam Unit			1			1
*Loaders						7
Fire Engines	12	25	10	13	21	84
Ladder Trucks		2	2	1	3	8
Brush Engines	3	9	4	3	7	27
Brush Patrols	3	9	1	6	5	24
Haz-Mat Rigs		1	1	1	1	4
*Haz-Mat Squads						5
*Communication Support Vehicles						2
*Mechanic Trucks						13
Rescues	3	1		1	2	8
Snow Cats	6	1				7
Squads	2	3		3	6	14
Support Trailers	14	9	5	8	5	76
Water Tenders	5	7	1	5	5	23

\*Department Wide





# Gel Task Force

The San Bernardino County Fire Department mantra of “Never trade a life for a structure” goes hand-in-hand with a new phrase that’s attracting attention these days: “Gel, then leave.”

No firefighter thinks his or her job will be danger free. But, as technology advances, new and improved products are creating ways to reduce the innate danger of battling blazes.

So when County Fire officials discovered an exciting product—a gel that can be sprayed on a building and left there to protect it while the fire rages through the area— they recognized it as a potential lifesaver.

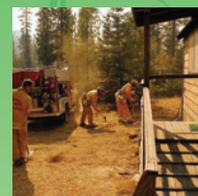
Thus, County Fire formed the Gel Task Force Teams, originally known as the Pretreatment Gel Teams and decided on the use of Thermo-gel, a concentrate that is carried in five-gallon containers in backpacks. When water is added to the concentrate, it transforms into a fire-resistant and heat-absorbing gel. The gel is effective because it can adhere to any surface – even vertical windowpanes. It lasts several hours and is said to make a structure so fire resistant that, as a last resort, a person could even take shelter in it. A one percent solution of the gel can also be used to cover vegetation to create firebreaks.

There are some drawbacks. It is expensive. And, it is heavy. Each five-gallon container in the backpack weighs 47 pounds – and that’s without the weight of the hose and nozzle.

But when put to the test, the gel proves to be worth its weight. During the Butler II Fire in 2007, firefighters recognized the fire was quickly approaching Camp Whittle and its campus of wooden buildings and cabins – a buffet for a quickly moving wildfire.

One task force consisting of four Type 4 teams and a water tender was deployed to Camp Whittle. The teams gelled the buildings and then left as the fire swarmed the area. Only one structure – an outhouse – did not get gelled. When firefighters returned to the camp, every cabin and every lodge room was still standing except one – the outhouse.

County Fire strives toward the goal of not only protecting both life and property but also finding safer means of doing so, such as using teams like the Gel Task Force. “We are constantly striving to find new ways to reduce the inherent dangers in firefighting to protect the brave men and women in our department,” said Fire Chief Pat Dennen.





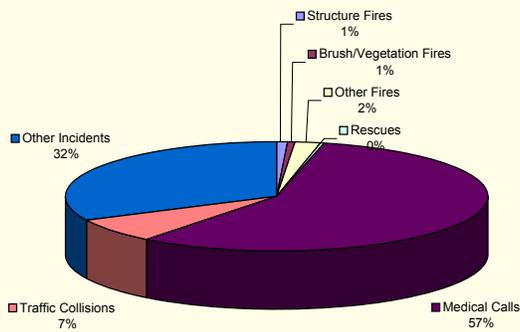
# Statistics

## Calls for Service 2007 & 2008

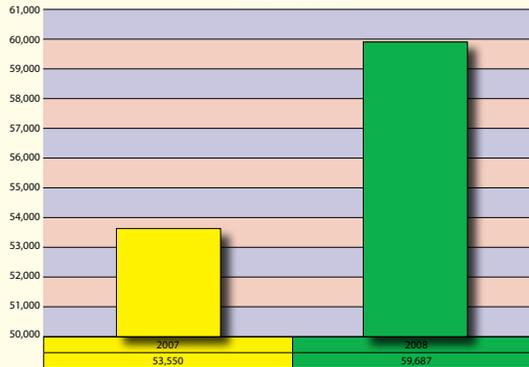
Incident Type	Mountain		North Desert		Victorville	South Desert		Valley		Totals	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Structure Fires	58	45	160	137	66	76	44	151	127	445	419
Brush/Vegetation Fires	34	37	278	131	34	73	40	126	157	511	399
Other Fires	94	49	894	470	69	339	147	702	463	2,029	1,198
Rescues	13	20	42	49	4	21	12	93	75	169	160
Medical Calls	1,873	1,866	11,621	12,225	3,410	4,906	4,763	11,414	11,756	29,814	34,020
Traffic Collisions	289	266	2,419	1,752	350	536	444	1,632	1,386	4,876	4,198
Other Incidents	1,179	1,357	6,069	6,216	2,106	1,829	2,283	6,629	7,331	15,706	19,293
2007 Totals	3,540		21,483			7,780		20,747		53,550	
2008 Totals		3,640		20,980		* 6,039	7,733		21,295		59,687

\*Victorville Division statistics reflect start date of July 5 and count for five Victorville contract stations only.

## 2008 Calls for Service



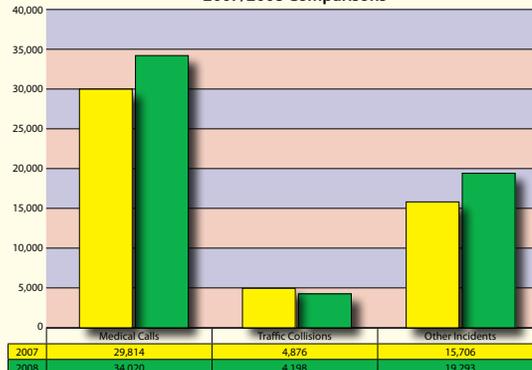
### Calls for Service



### 2007/2008 Comparisons



### 2007/2008 Comparisons



# Statistics (continued)



## Communications

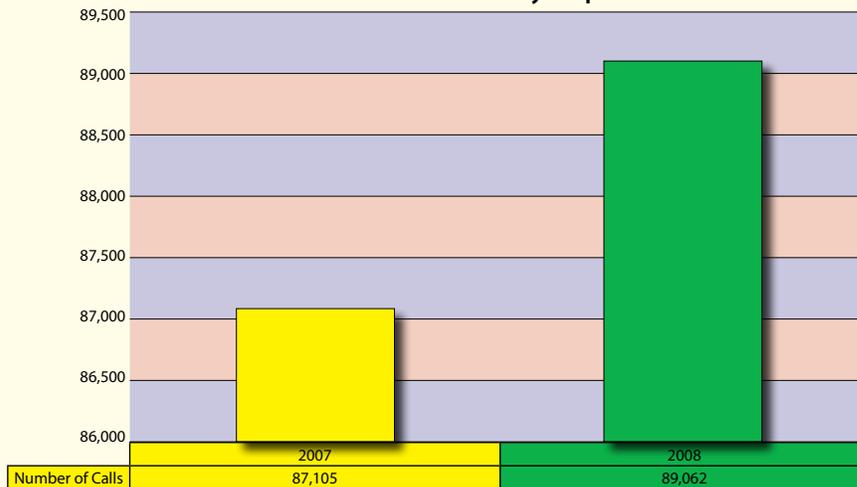
The CONFIRE Communications Center, better known as CommCenter, is a multi-agency emergency Fire/EMS dispatch center. The mission is to provide 24/7 direct Fire/EMS dispatch services, full spectrum Management Information Systems (MIS) service and support, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) services. CommCenter provides services to the following fire departments: San Bernardino County Fire, Colton Fire, Loma Linda Fire, Redlands Fire, Rialto Fire, Running Springs Fire District, and Twenty-Nine Palms Fire. CommCenter currently dispatches for a total of 80 fire stations, and the San Bernardino County Roads Department. Beyond the direct fire dispatch role, CommCenter also functions as the San Bernardino County

operational area dispatch, which provides large incident coordination for fire, local government and for emergency medical services on a countywide basis.

In December 2008, CONFIRE implemented a new TriTech CAD system to accommodate progressive changes in technology and the projected growth of the area. The new CAD is a map-based system that will allow CONFIRE to move towards closest resource dispatching, emergency medical dispatching and the use of mobile data computers to give field personnel access to current CAD information and incident status.



Calls Received by Dispatch



## Office of Emergency Services

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) Division is responsible for disaster planning and Emergency Management coordination in San Bernardino County executing the four phases of Emergency Management: planning, response, recovery, and mitigation. As such, OES serves as the lead agency for the San Bernardino County Operational Area (OA), coordinating disaster preparedness efforts with the 24 cities and towns, over 40 County departments, the private sector and volunteer organizations. OES also facilitates multi-agency and interagency coordination at the local, state, and federal levels. One of the key functions of the office is the readiness of the County/OA

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for response during an incident/disaster.

In 2008, the EOC was activated 12 separate times, nine times at a Level I activation, twice at a Level II activation, and once at a Level III activation in support of the Golden Guardian Earthquake Exercise. The Flood Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) and Concept of Operations still remains an integral role in the aftermath of the 2003 Old and Grand Prix fires (and multiple fires since then) to prepare for and respond to potential flooding and debris.



# Statistics in Training

## Training, Safety & EMS Division

The Training, Safety and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division continued the work of standardization throughout the department with the graduation of 17 new full-time Firefighters from "Tower 2" in January and 11 new full-time Firefighters from "Tower 3" in May of 2008. These new employees received 6 weeks of intensive training to prepare them to function within the County Fire system. Additionally, on-going entry-level training was conducted for newly hired Limited Term Firefighters and Paid-Call personnel.

County Fire believes that EMS excellence is achieved by using a combination of critical thinking, appropriate assessments and superior execution of advanced skills. With the continuous quality improvement process, the EMS section creates opportunities for continual learning and professional development. In 2008, the EMS section provided 16 Annual Review Curriculum Courses, 19 Advanced Scope Skills Days, 6 Advanced Cardiac Life Support classes, 12 Basic Life Support Classes, 38 hours of field care audits and twenty-one 12 Lead ECG Interpretation courses. In the past year, approximately 4,430 continuing education hours were issued in the classroom and 4,821 continuing education hours were provided through on-line Target Safety training. With the introduction of Target Safety, the on-line learning program, pre-hospital care providers are now able to obtain additional continuing education at work or at home.

The Training, Safety and EMS Division manages the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Program (ARFF). Nearly 40,000 student hours of ARFF instruction has been provided resulting in a safer workforce and an enhanced response capability. The facility provides required annual training primarily for airport firefighters that are required through the FAA to conduct annual live fire training.

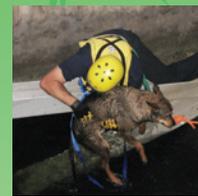
The Technical Rescue program has been quite active throughout 2008. Nearly 16,000 hours of technical rescue training has been conducted at the Training Center including the following types of training: Swiftwater Awareness, Confined Space Awareness, Low Angle Rescue, Rescue Systems 1 & 2, River & Floodwater Operations, Confined Space Rescue Operations, Trench Rescue Operations.

2008 was filled with many milestones for the Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Program. We were successful in creating a training-rich environment for HazMat responders with courses that were timely and relevant. Diverse topics spanned a wide range of venue as required in an ever evolving and more complicated response world. Courses included Agroterrorism, Street Drug Manufacturing and Recognition, Incident Command and Management, and a Counter-Terrorism Summit, to name a few.

The Department also added fourteen new HazMat Technicians and six HazMat Specialists to our rosters. Increased numbers of trained personnel has helped move our three-year hazardous materials response plan forward. We are currently in the second year of the plan and are right on schedule with equipping and staffing two critically located State certified Type I vehicles.

The Training, Safety and EMS Division has created a partnership with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to co-locate and assist each other with driver training and Emergency Vehicle Operations training. This driver training includes didactic training, driver simulation, skidpan simulation of slippery road conditions and various manipulative scenarios. Nearly 8,000 student hours of driver instruction has been provided resulting in a safer workforce.

Richard Sewell Training Center . . . . .	31,499 hours
Emergency Medical Services Training . . . . .	20,791 hours
Joint Apprentice Commission Training . . . . .	37,005 hours
Fire Station Level Training . . . . .	55,961 hours
Aircraft Rescue Firefighting . . . . .	40,000 hours
Total Training Hours . . . . .	185,256 hours





# Fire Explorers

**F**ire Explorers are training to be the heroes of tomorrow. Just like firefighters, these enthusiastic young men and women give of themselves for the safety and betterment of the community. They must assume an important role assisting in emergencies, be dedicated to practicing their newly learned fire skills, and be team players.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department instituted the Explorers Program, which is a branch of the national program "Learning for Life," more than 25 years ago. Since then, several hundred young men and women have passed through the program annually in a quest to join the ranks of County Fire.

As early as 14 years of age, these young residents who join the Fire Explorers program will begin learning about what it takes to become a firefighter. By fulfilling the requirements, they start with some important qualities already – they must be capable students interested in the field of firefighting, and able to work with others in their group, which is known as a Post.

There are 10 Posts around San Bernardino County with at least one in each of the geographic divisions. An adult volunteer from the Fire Department acts as an advisor to each Explorer Post and mentors the young men and women who are studying under them. With this guidance they undergo training that focuses on five tenets: leadership experience, citizenship, character education, career opportunities and life skills.

Although adults oversee each post, it is the Explorers themselves who run the internal machinations of each post, such as scheduling,

training and setting up educational field trips. Explorers also pitch in and help out at community events and Fire Department fundraisers.

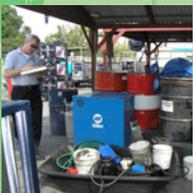
Each year, the Explorers have a chance to practice their skills with others around the region who have been training under similar conditions. The Inland Empire Fire Explorer Association (IEFEA) holds annual events leading up to the Fire Academy at the end of the year for Explorers from San Bernardino and Riverside counties. In 2008, the Academy focused on Fire Control Training (Structural Fire Training). An explorer from the Hesperia Post, Jonathan Hearn, was honored with the position of Fire Chief for the 17th Annual Fire Academy. Chosen from hundreds of Explorers, Hearn oversaw an Assistant Chief, and the four Division Chiefs that made up the leadership team, as well as more than two hundred explorers who participated in this year's Academy. The responsibility was doubly great as the Academy was held in two separate locations – the Army National Training Center at Fort Irwin and at the Marine Corp Logistics Base in Yermo. Another San Bernardino County Explorer – a young woman from the Victorville Post, Emily Hernandez – was chosen to hold a Division Chief position.

The experience that Explorers receive through these courses is invaluable. It will help them throughout their lives, whether they choose a career in the fire service or elsewhere because this program has taught them "Learning for Life."

To learn more, please visit our website at [www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org)



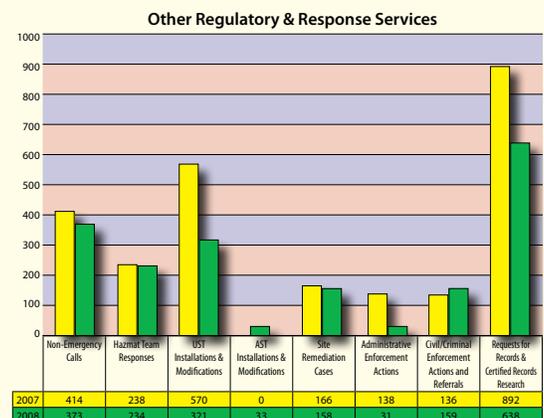
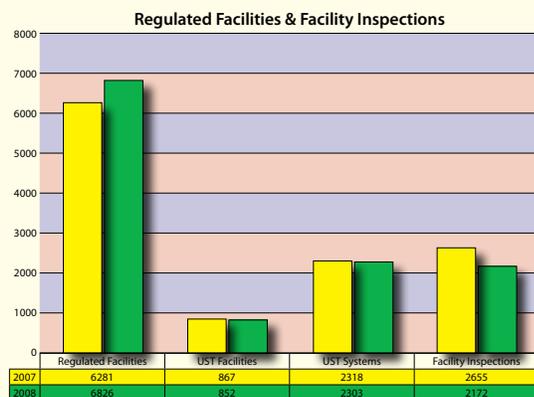
# Hazardous Materials



The Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) Division protects the health and safety of the public and the environment by improving the management of hazardous materials through inspection, emergency response, site remediation, and hazardous waste management services. Haz-Mat serves the entire County of San Bernardino including its incorporated cities except the City of Victorville. The Division is very proactive and involved at the State level with legislative and

regulatory developments and other statewide efforts in order to keep high quality, effective, and achievable hazardous materials and waste management programs. Haz-Mat is engaged in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents involving hazardous materials and wastes. Our basic approach is education through field inspection, consultation, and public outreach.

Regulation, Response, Remediation Statistics	2007	2008
Regulated Facilities	6,281	6,826
Facility Inspections	2,655	2,172
Non-Emergency Calls	414	373
Hazmat Team Responses	238	234
UST Facilities	867	852
UST Systems	2,318	2,303
UST Installations & Modifications	570	321
AST Installations & Modifications	39	33
Site Remediation Cases	166	158
Requests for Records and Certified Records Research	892	638
Administrative Enforcement Actions	138	31
Civil/Criminal Enforcement Actions and Referrals	136	159
<b>Household and Small Business Waste Statistics</b>		
HHW Permanent & Temporary Facilities	27	28
Pounds of Household Waste Managed	3,123,551	3,781,766
Residents Served	52,509	50,948
Businesses Served	297	279
<b>Budget – Regulation, Response, Remediation</b>	<b>\$6,077,716</b>	<b>\$7,212,083</b>
Positions	45	46
<b>Budget – Household and Small Business Waste Disposal</b>	<b>\$2,976,189</b>	<b>\$3,222,768</b>
Positions	20	21



# Household Hazardous Waste

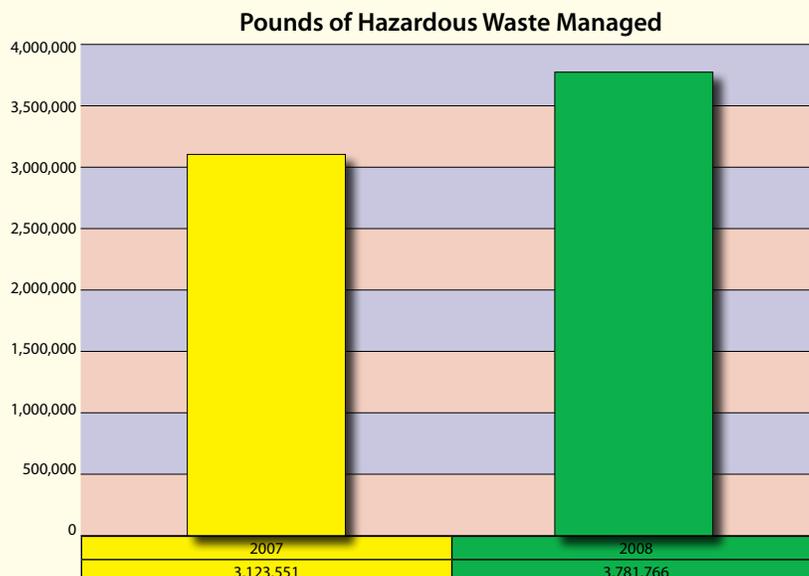
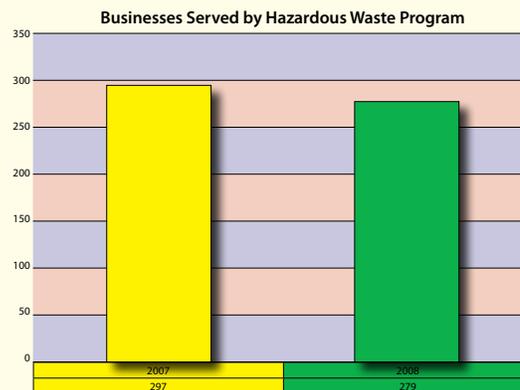
The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program is committed to providing safe and efficient hazardous waste management services. The ultimate objective is to protect health, natural resources and the environment. HHW manages and operates permanent and temporary HHW/Universal Waste collection facilities and events, and compiles a variety of waste management reports required by state and municipal agencies. A main focus of the HHW Program is to establish new HHW collections and expand existing facilities to accommodate emerging HHW waste streams. Additional services include door-to-door HHW management services for the elderly and disabled, and provide HHW management services to small businesses. Education responsibilities include comprehensive training to all county and municipal HHW facility and event staff, public education outreach to county residences and business, and free distribution of household products and paint through a material re-use store.

In 2008, the HHW program obtained a grant to fund the collection of Home-Generated Sharps (HGS) such as hypodermic needles, pen and lancets. State law currently bans the disposal of HGS in the Solid Waste Stream. The program now collects HGS at ten permanent and all temporary HHW collection facilities. Program staff transports the HGS to ARMC where it is treated in their permitted state of the art Microwave Disinfection Unit, currently at no cost to the program.

Program staff assisted the North America Hazardous Material Management Association in developing a HHW/CESQG training manual that is now been used in HHW training classes nationally.



1-800-Oily Cat



# Community Safety



The primary focus for the Community Safety Division for 2008 was the establishment of regionalized Fire Prevention services supporting each of the five suppression divisions. The Division is dedicated to ensuring the highest degree of safety for both the public and

emergency responders through fire-safe design practices and the proper installation of fire protection systems as prescribed by the recently adopted International Fire Code with California amendments.



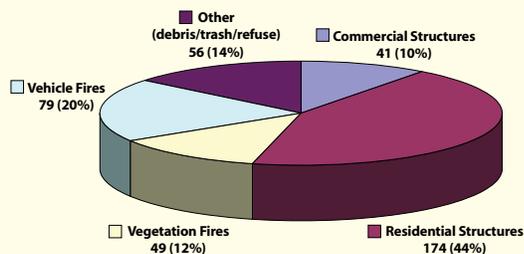
## Investigations

With five sworn peace officer/investigators, the mission of the Fire Investigation Unit is to investigate fires in order to determine the cause and origin as well as to identify and apprehend those persons responsible for the commission of arson and crimes related to arson. The Unit also investigates negligent fires and pursues cost recovery, conducts dangerous fireworks interdiction operations, assists Fire and other

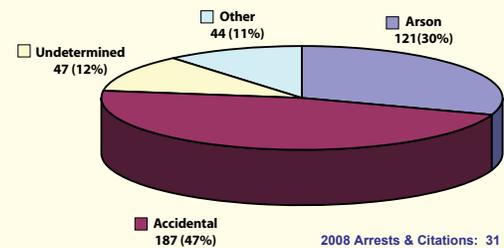
County departments in inspection and search warrants, and provides law enforcement related functions as needed. In conjunction with our Public Education section, investigators also conduct Juvenile Firesetter Intervention counseling.



### Fire Investigations



### Fire Causes and Arrests



## Public Education

The Public Education division strives to facilitate the implementation of fire and life safety education into every facet of the communities served by San Bernardino County Fire. We participated in events from local school programs to large-scale health fairs. Community-wide events like the Wrightwood Wildfire Awareness Day and the National Orange Show brought out thousands of people to learn about fire prevention. Several campaigns were

implemented county-wide with the support of the County Board of Supervisors and City Councils such as: Arson Awareness Week, National Night Out, Fire Prevention Week, and the Spark of Love Toy Drive. The toy drive ends our year on a festive note where firefighters throughout the County help bring joy and a smile to deserving children. This year we gave away over 9,250 toys.



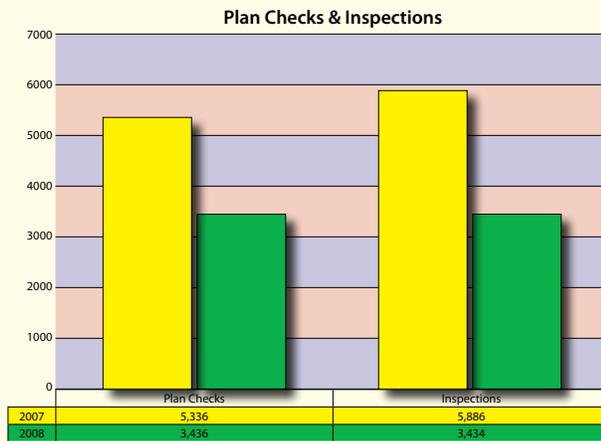
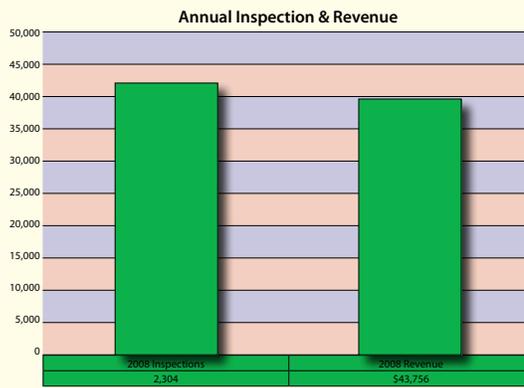
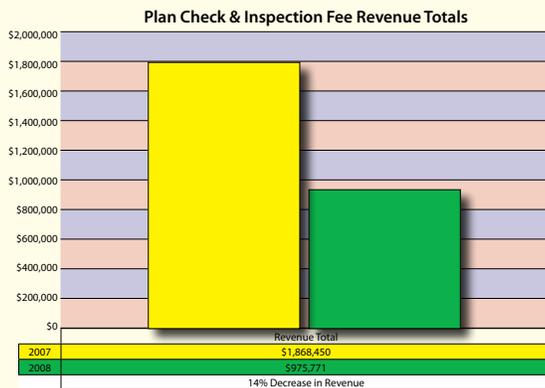
Public Events	Schools	Juvenile Intervention Program
82	70	35
Reached out to over 77,000 citizens of all ages		

## Planning & Engineering / Inspections

Planning and Engineering provides technical plan review, fire code and building code enforcement, consultation, standards review, interpretations and construction inspections on new construction and existing construction modification projects occurring in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County and contract cities.

A fully operational Annual Inspection Program was implemented in February 2008. Annual

inspections ensure businesses and facilities are maintained in such a manner as to reduce potential fire risks to occupants and members of the public. Annual inspections generally focus on places of assembly, multi-family housing and other occupancies that have the potential to present significant fire risks to the public and emergency responders.



## Special Events

The Special Events section provides permitting and inspection services for many types of special and temporary events that occur throughout the county. These events include public firework displays, film shoots, NASCAR and other races,

concerts, public community events, circuses and other assemblies using tents, and many other assembly-related events.

Concerts	Festivals	Film Shoots	Pyro Shoots	Races	Revenue
11	6	44	24	28	\$78,281



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CREDIT UNION  
PARK

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shakeout.org

The Great  
Southern California  
**Shake  
Out**

# Golden Guardian & ShakeOut

## Golden Guardian

Golden Guardian 2008 is a Statewide Disaster Scenario based on a 7.8 earthquake on the southern section of the San Andreas Fault. Coordinated by the Office of Emergency Services (OES), the San Bernardino County Operational Area (OA) 2008 Golden Guardian Exercise preparation activities began in early 2007. OES held three OA Planning Conferences that averaged an attendance of about 150 participants, leading up to the start of the exercise on Nov. 13th.

The first two days of the exercise were a bustling success with almost 200 players and visitors in the EOC each day to exercise eight objectives including mass care and shelter, communications, restoration of lifelines, EOC management, economic and community recovery, medical surge, public safety and security, and emergency public information. Public Information Officers from around the region crowded into one of the Department's mobile command vehicles to form a Joint Information Center for the exercise.

Multiple federal, state and local agencies as well as all 43 County Departments and all 24 Cities and Towns in San Bernardino County participated in some form.

OES used the County's WebEOC Crisis Management program, which provides a common operating picture and real-time situational awareness for all County/Operational Area EOCs and Department Operation Centers. About 260 people participated in the WebEOC Dress Rehearsal and 76 people were trained in the use of the software at EOC training sessions in the Fall of 2008.

Several Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) around the area also participated in Golden Guardian and the communities of Wrightwood, San Antonio Heights and Phelan/Pinon Hills each held exercises.

Simultaneously, OES coordinated an extensive public preparedness outreach effort in partnership with the Great Southern California ShakeOut and more than half a million San Bernardino County residents actually registered to participate.



## Shake Out

The ShakeOut Drill turned out to be the largest earthquake preparedness event in U.S. history. The earthquake scenario used in both the ShakeOut and in Golden Guardian is a realistic portrayal of what would happen to this region in a major earthquake, and promoted the need for earthquake awareness and preparedness for the 22 million residents of Southern California. On the day of the ShakeOut, 5.47 million people participated from eight Southern California counties in the "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill. San Bernardino County was a major player in the ShakeOut, offering events countywide, with the San Bernardino County Museum providing the main event on the day of the ShakeOut.

First District Supervisor and California Seismic Safety Commissioner Brad Mitzelfelt led the ShakeOut effort in San Bernardino County and

together with County Administrative Officer Mark Uffer engaged schools, community groups as well as all 43 County departments and 19,000-plus County employees with the goal of encouraging residents around the County to prepare for the likelihood of a massive earthquake in our region. In addition, OES used grant money to create and print 250,000 ShakeOut Fliers to promote preparedness.

The end result of the combined effort of the Golden Guardian Exercise and the ShakeOut was the enhanced disaster readiness and preparedness of emergency management agencies and the public in general.



MX 2189  
LWT 19500 LBS / 8850 KGS  
LT WGT 6800 LBS / 3080 KGS

W  
28

# Vigilant Guard

No year would be complete without a large exercise component and this year the Operational Area HazMat Team went big! The five-day, full-scale exercise known as Vigilant Guard ran parallel to the statewide Golden Guardian disaster exercise. Vigilant Guard and Golden Guardian were both based on the same scenario of a 7.8 earthquake that causes mass destruction and shortage of resources, as well as the potential for 1,600 fires, 1,200 of which would require a multiple engine response.

Wildfires actually occurring at the time of the exercise made for a very realistic scenario as one by one, HazMat responders were reassigned to firefighting tasks until there was almost no team left at all and the Unified Command Team was forced to seek other resources. Eventually, even members of our command team were reassigned to a Multi-Area Command Center. Help came in the form of five Army Civil Support Teams. These five teams came from Northern and Southern California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii to participate in this complex and ambitious undertaking. Objectives included a test of interoperable communication abilities, the establishment of Incident Command and the execution of a relief in-place operation. Response issues included a train derailment involving chemicals, overturned tanker trucks, structural collapses with victims to rescue, triage and treat, an airplane emergency and an attack from terrorists who seized upon the opportunity of the existing disaster to strike the weakened area and a hostage situation requiring a SWAT operation.

With activities at three separate locales running simultaneously, the communications and logistics were demanding. Teams did not have all the equipment they were accustomed to using and some teams were using substitute members based on personnel availability. Many

responders received on-the-spot training as they were tasked with assignments that required the use of unfamiliar equipment and processes. Responders were up to the challenge and displayed a great amount of resiliency and were quick to improvise as the situation demanded. Difficult roadblocks were thrown out at every stage and responders stretched themselves and their abilities well beyond their comfort level to accomplish the goals and objectives set by the Command Team.

The responders were impressed and challenged by the complexity of the scenarios. On top of it all, a two-star general and a delegation from the Ukrainian military visited to view the exercise activity. Overall, it presented a challenging but positive learning experience for the local, state and federal teams.

Lessons learned included:

- Further examination of protocols for local and military hazmat response to allow for a more seamless and timely integration of the teams
- Development of an integrated EMS-based response protocol
- Development of contact cards to enable communication between responders
- Standardization of equipment
- Realization that past training has prepared responders to take on ever more challenging incidents and successfully mitigate them
- Continued local responder cross-training among the different disciplines
- Additional training of this caliber in the near future





CAPTAIN

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# Community Involvement

## Giving Back to the Community

When firefighters team up for community benefit, great things can happen. 'Duty, Honor, Community' is County Fire's Service Motto. County Fire's employees live up to this motto, in part, by remaining actively involved in their communities. In 2008, their community service took many forms.

Firefighters assist with the training of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medial operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following a disaster and can take a more active role in preparing their community.

County Fire is an active fundraiser for the Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors, a non-profit organization managed by firefighters and civilian volunteers, which is dedicated to assisting persons affected by burn injuries.

Through the International Firefighters Association Local 935, County Fire employees held "Fill the Boot" fundraisers raising funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and other campaigns that raise funds to assist families of firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty.

The "Haz-Bins", County Fire's cycling team, continued their fundraising efforts for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Haz-Bins pedaled their way in several events, including 100 miles from Irvine to San Diego, held silent auctions and gained support of corporate sponsors; raising over \$9,000 for the MS Society.

Two County Fire running teams braved the mud pits, low crawls and water and participated in the County Sheriff's Department Mud Run to raise money for the C.O.P.S., Concerns of Police

Survivors. This foundation assists families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

County Fire loves putting a smile on a child's face. County Fire employees raised over \$4,000 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital during a "Tip-A-Firefighter" fundraiser at Chili's Restaurant. Year-round, County Fire also supports another children's charity, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which helps make wishes come true for seriously ill children. County firefighters and Haz-Mat specialists were also featured in photos with young cancer patients for the Candlelighters, an Inland Empire charity that benefits child victims of cancer.

At Christmas, County Fire stations in all parts of the county participated in toy giveaways that distributed thousands of toys to hundreds of disadvantaged families through the annual "Spark of Love" Toy Drive, sponsored by Southern California fire departments and KABC Channel 7. Toys from public donations, or purchased with money donated for that purpose, were collected at County Fire stations for distribution. The County Fire Softball team participated in and captured the championship of the Southern California Firefighters Spark of Love Tournament in Riverside, collecting additional gifts for this great cause.

County Fire's Fire Safety Trailer visited National Night Out celebrations, safety fairs, senior citizen events, and the National Orange Show. During National Fire Prevention Week in October, the Safety Trailer visited many community events with the message, "Prevent Home Fires". The Safety Trailer also visited a number of schools throughout the year, often with Sparky the Fire dog, a national symbol of fire safety, as a passenger. County Fire personnel also participated as volunteer readers at schools in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday.



# 9-11 Tribute

The World Trade Center was a seven-building complex in Lower Manhattan, and for more than 35 years was a hub of bustling business and commerce. The World Trade Center's most prominent structures – The Twin Towers – were New York City icons, even briefly holding the record as the tallest buildings in the world.

On September 11, 2001, al Qaeda terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower at 8:46 a.m., followed seventeen minutes later by a second team of hijackers who crashed United Airlines Flight 175 into the South Tower. By 10:30 both towers had collapsed, killing thousands of people. In Arlington, Virginia, a third plane was crashed into the Pentagon building while a fourth airliner crashed in Pennsylvania in a related but aborted hijacking.

Throughout the nation, those who lost their lives are honored during the month of September to preserve the memory of the victims, the peace officers who risked their lives to save the World

Trade Center's occupants, and the 343 New York City firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice there.

At the five-year anniversary of the attacks, Fire Department personnel began exploring ways to honor their brethren lost at the World Trade Center. Although the memorial badge is available for purchase around the country, the San Bernardino County Fire Department is the only department that officially designated the badge as a temporary replacement for its department badge.

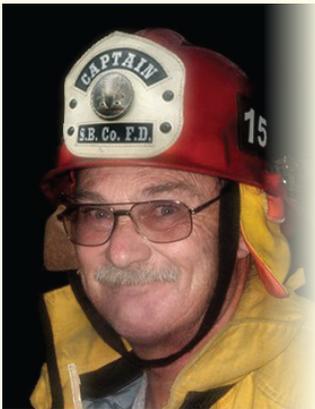
To date, about 500 badges have been provided to County Fire personnel. The badge is worn throughout the month of September. Those staff members who do not wear a uniform may wear the memorial pin.

The World Trade Center site is currently being rebuilt with six new skyscrapers and a memorial to the fallen.



# *In Loving Memory*

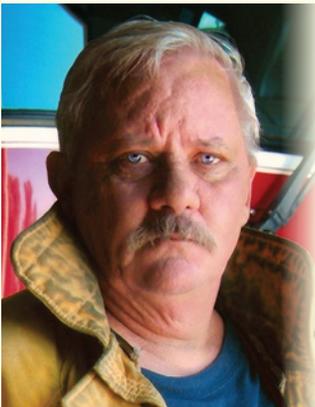
## **Our Brothers... Lost in the Line of Duty**



### **Captain Vance Tomaselli**

June 21, 1947 – February 21, 2008

Captain Tomaselli proudly served for 28 years with the San Bernardino County Fire Department as a paid-call firefighter assigned to Station 15 in Angelus Oaks. On February 16, Captain Tomaselli made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his community when he suffered a stroke while responding to a structure fire in Angelus Oaks. Captain Tomaselli, always dedicated to serving his community and the travelers who encountered him on their way through the mountain communities, dedicating his life to serving others.



### **Engineer Eddie Keen**

July 1, 1949 – July 14, 2008

Engineer Eddie Keen passed away on July 14, following a long battle with illness. Engineer Keen proudly served the citizens of San Bernardino County for 33 years. Eddie held a special position in many hearts of this department as he was known as a prankster, but always had the spirit and dedication of a firefighter.

## **County Fire Family... Forever In Our Memory**



### **Jim Ogden**

March 26, 1942 – July 26, 2008

Administrative Supervisor, Office of Emergency Services

*You will be missed, but never forgotten...*



OR, COMM



