

A row of American flags is shown at the top of the page, slightly out of focus. The stars and stripes are clearly visible against a light blue background.

# 2010

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



## *Annual Report*

*Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet*

A small, stylized shield logo is positioned in the center of the bottom text. It is a golden-brown color with a simple, abstract design.

*Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet*



# 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*



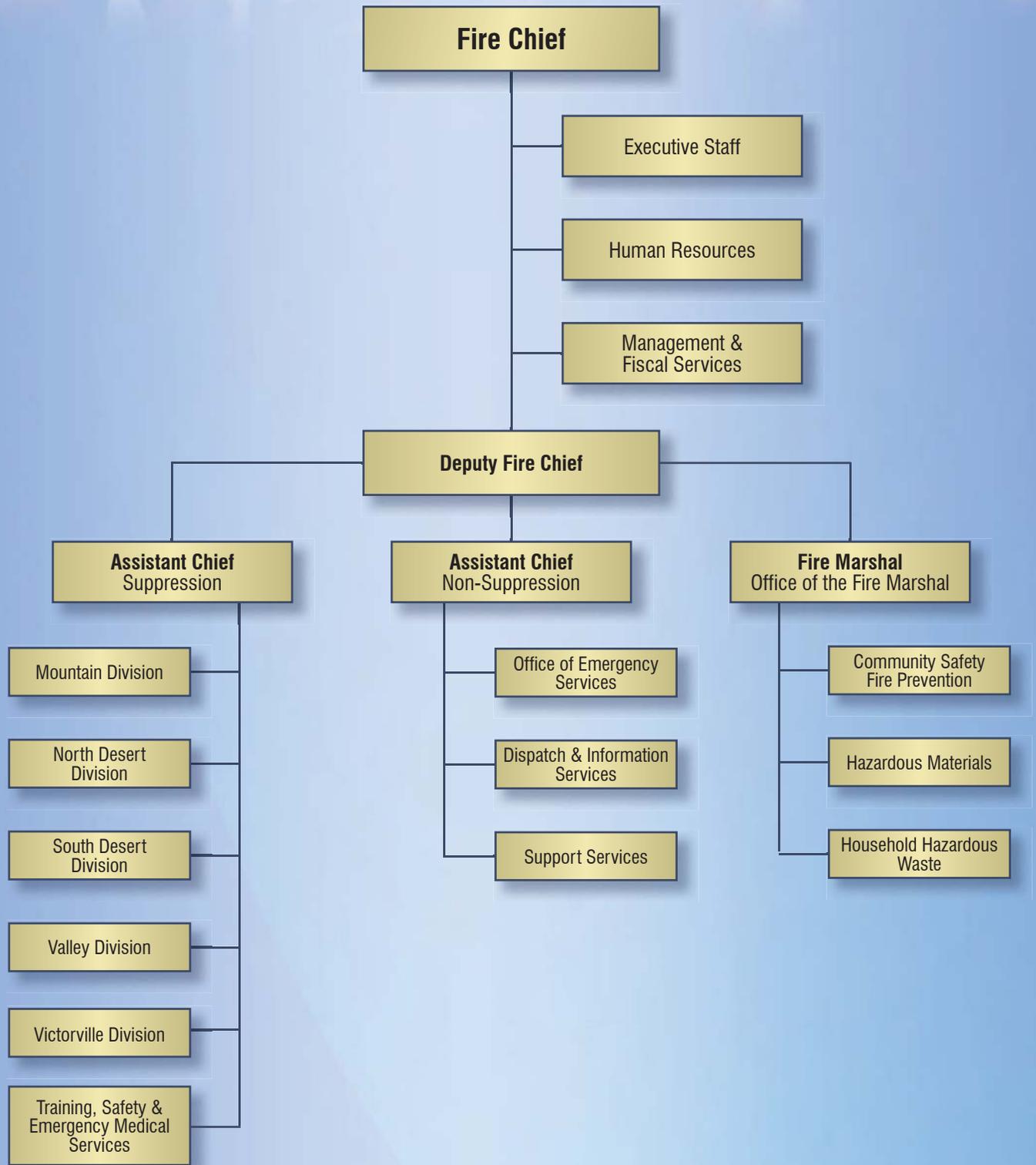
## SERVICE MOTTO

*Duty, Honor, Community...*

*Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet*



# ORGANIZATIONAL *Chart*



# MESSAGE *from the Chief*



Dan Wurl  
Fire Chief

I am proud to present the 2010 Annual Report – a printed testimony to the hard work and accomplishments of our 1242 employees.

2010 was a year free of major wildfires, but there were still challenges to face including budgetary issues, changes in leadership, lives lost in house fires, and the winter storms at both the beginning and at the end of the year that were devastating to so many in our community.

There are many rewards that are benchmarks that make one's career so fulfilling. Station 305 in Hesperia became fully operational this year. This station is an example of how our partnerships within the community can enhance many aspects of our jobs – even emergency response. This station was funded through a partnership between the City of Hesperia, the County of San Bernardino and San Bernardino County Fire, and provides full-time firefighting and paramedic services. A replacement station is being built in Angelus Oaks. This station will include a community room so that the residents may feel a sense of ownership as well. In 2010 we worked on plans for new fire stations in Needles and Spring Valley Lake that will be built in the upcoming year.

The adoption of the “Out Of County” Type 3 XBO and BDC Strike Teams by the San Bernardino County Chiefs' Association was another major milestone in 2010. This puts all County Fire engines and personnel with a County Fire Battalion Chief and trainee. This enabled our crews to be safer and promote more unity and has proven to be effective when put into practice. As intended, when strike teams are deployed, the department does not suffer any reduction of initial attack forces since the drawing of resources are County-wide instead of by zone as we have done in the past.

We began the process of submitting responses for several Requests for Proposals from fire districts around the County. Depending on certain factors, San Bernardino County Fire could be expanding once again in 2011. Ideally, County Fire can offer an alternative choice to cities or districts that are experiencing difficulties. We are not attempting to take departments over – we are merely offering a different option.

We hope that 2011 will see us making some of the gains we made in 2010. Our successes would not have been possible without the support of our labor organizations: San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 and the Safety Employee Benefit Association.

I have announced that I will be retiring in Spring 2011. During my 37 years in the fire service, my four years as Deputy Chief, six years as Assistant Chief, and this past year serving as your Fire Chief, I have been proud to represent the fire profession and even prouder to represent the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

*Dan Wurl*  
Fire Chief



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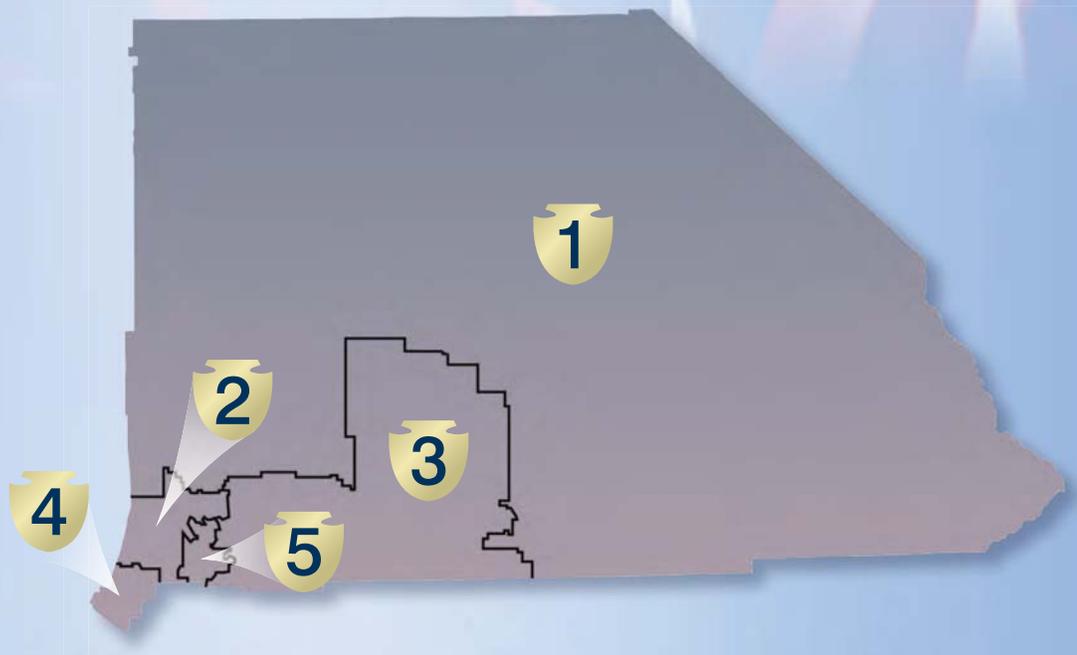


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# Board of Supervisors



**Josie Gonzales**  
Fifth District Supervisor  
Chair



**Brad Mitzelfelt**  
First District Supervisor  
Vice-Chairman



**Janice Rutherford**  
Second District Supervisor



**Neil Derry**  
Third District Supervisor



**Gary C. Ovitt**  
Fourth District Supervisor

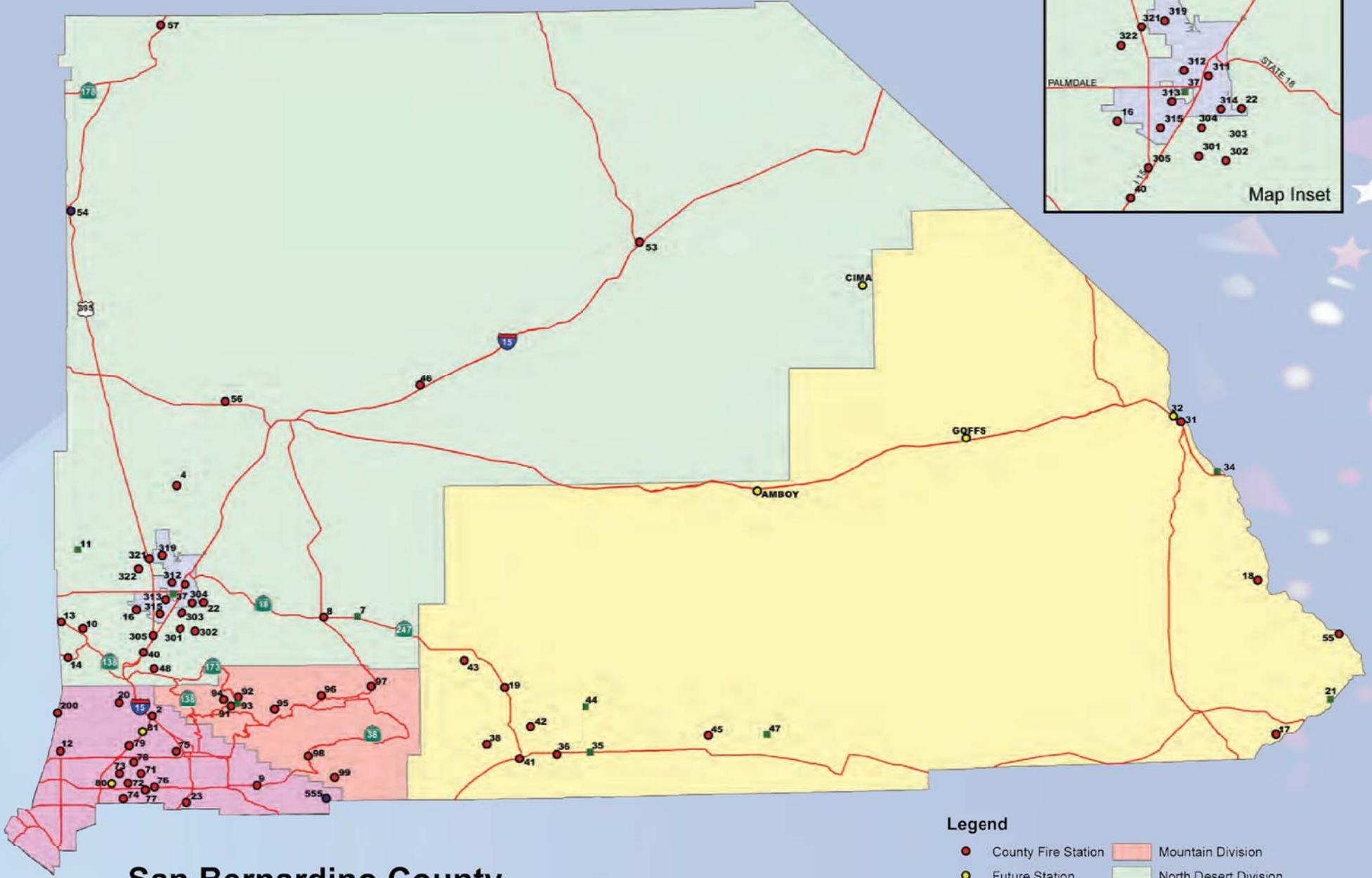
## CEO's Message



In 2010, our county was once again blessed by the absence of major catastrophe. However, the men and women of the San Bernardino County Fire Department stood ready and each day responded to smaller emergencies, making a difference in the many lives they touched. The county continues to reel from the downturn in the economy and faces many more years of enormous budget shortfalls. Although all areas of the county budget will be affected, the Board of Supervisors has made it clear that public safety will remain its highest priority.

*Gregory C. Devereaux*  
Chief Executive Officer





# San Bernardino County

## County Fire Stations

- Legend**
- County Fire Station
  - Future Station
  - Contract Station
  - Inactive
  - Mountain Division
  - North Desert Division
  - South Desert Division
  - Valley Division
  - Victorville Division

# AT a Glance

San Bernardino County is the fifth largest county in California in terms of population, at just over two million residents, and the largest county in the contiguous U.S. in terms of land area.

San Bernardino County Fire proudly serves the citizens of its five contract cities: Adelanto, Fontana, Hesperia, Needles and Victorville.

Square Miles in County	20,160
Square Miles Covered by County Fire	17,432
Population of San Bernardino County	Over 2 million
Incorporated Cities	24
Number of Fire Stations	58
Number of Fire Stations Proposed or In-Progress	6

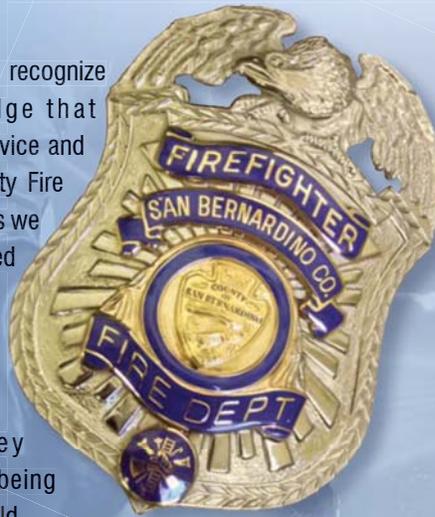
In-Active Fire Stations	11
Administrative Facilities	10
Number of County Fire Personnel	1,242
Number of Fire Suppression Personnel	908
2010 Calls for Service	68,066
County Fire Budget	\$145,721,269

## WHAT IS A BADGE?

It is important that we recognize the symbolic badge that represents the fire service and the San Bernardino County Fire Department. The badge, as we know it today, was adopted from the early Roman warriors. They carried a shield into battle to protect themselves. If they were injured or killed, they deserved the honor of being carried home on their shield.

The fire service adopted this shield as a symbol of protection. In early fire departments, shields covered the wearers' entire chest area. Of course, for convenience, we have reduced the size, but the shape of our badge resembles the Roman shield.

At the top of our shield stands a bird which symbolizes two things; American freedom and the mythical fire bird, the Phoenix. The Phoenix, according to tradition, consumes itself by fire every 500 years and a young phoenix springs from its ashes. Its claws and wings are spread across the top of the shield to represent protection.



Around the circumference of the badge is a never ending ribbon. This symbolizes the never ending service provided 24 hours a day, forever.

The rank of the firefighter is proudly displayed in two places, one on top and one on the bottom. The words are inscribed on top for all to read and the bottom shows a symbol of the responsibilities of that particular position.

The county seal is in the center of the badge. It is in the shape of an arrowhead, a natural phenomenon, that is a well known landmark on our local mountains and overlooks our headquarters. The seal is encircled in blue, a symbol of the protection we provide the county.

The badge is made of silver and gold, two very precious metals. When the badge is issued to a deserving firefighter, they accept the responsibilities of that symbolism.

They wear the badge over their heart to protect themselves and as a sacred trust. They carry the shield for the citizens that are represented by the county seal and dedicate themselves to their protection. They accept the precious metal for safekeeping.

***When a firefighter takes the oath of office, it is for life.***

*Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet*



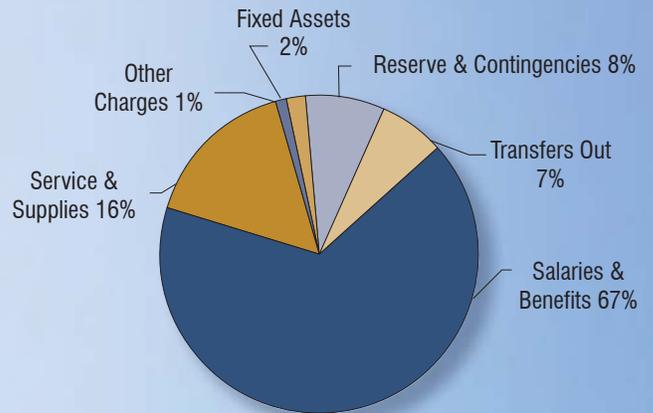
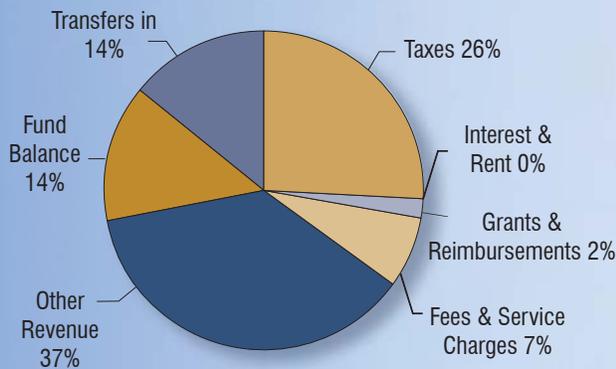
# BUDGET

## Revenue

Taxes .....	\$38,452,230
Interest & Rent.....	\$207,003
Grants & Reimbursements .....	\$2,744,001
Fees & Service Charges .....	\$10,495,541
*Other Revenue.....	\$52,797,581
Fund Balance .....	\$20,706,527
**Transfers In .....	\$20,318,386
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$145,721,269</b>

## Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits .....	\$97,967,183
Service & Supplies .....	\$22,659,015
*Other Charges .....	\$73,314
Fixed Assets.....	\$2,563,300
Reserves & Contingencies.....	\$11,973,447
**Transfers Out.....	\$10,485,010
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$145,721,269</b>



\* **Other Revenue:** Reimbursements from Contract Cities, Los Angeles County FD, Chemehuevi Tribe, and Confire

\*\* **Transfers In Include:** Support from County of San Bernardino General Fund, Support from District Attorney for Hazardous Materials Prosecution, and Ambulance Fees

\* **Other Charges:** Interest on Leased Fire Engines

\*\* **Transfers Out Include:** Transfers to General Reserves, Regional Service Zones, Enhanced Services (Administrative Staff, Fire Prevention, Vehicles and Warehouse Services), Construction Projects, Reimbursement for Shared Office Staff (Fontana & Special Districts), Purchasing Supplies and Software

# PERSONNEL *and 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	6
Battalion Chief	2	6	3	4	6	1	22
Captain	13	39	18	15	39	4	128
Engineer	9	24	18	9	33		93
Firefighter	21	48	18	12	57		156
Limited-Term Firefighter	9	18		15	9		51
*Paid-Call Firefighter	98	132	34	79	111		454
Suppression Total	152	268	92	135	256	5	908
Non-Suppression Personnel (FT, PT, contract)							334
Total Personnel							1,242

Funded positions FY 10/11

\* Paid-Call Firefighter (PCF) positions filled as of 12/31/10. PCF figures fluctuate throughout the year.

The Human Resources Division averaged 3 suppression recruitments and 24 non-suppression recruitments in 2010, including new and replacement positions.

## Equipment

Division	Mountain	North Desert	Victorville	South Desert	Valley	Total
*Airport Rescue Unit			5			6
Ambulances	6	18		7		31
Boats	2			2		4
*Command Posts						3
*Dozers						2
Foam Unit			1			1
*Loaders	6					9
Fire Engines	11	23	10	14	21	79
Ladder Trucks		1	2	1	3	7
Brush Engines	3	9	4	4	7	27
Brush Patrols	3	9	1	6	5	24
Hazardous Materials Rigs		1	1	0	1	3
*Hazardous Materials Squads						5
*Communication Support Vehicles						2
*Mechanic Trucks						10
Rescues	3	3		2	2	10
Snow Cats	6	1				7
Squads	2	3		1	5	12
Water Tenders	4	7	1	4	5	21

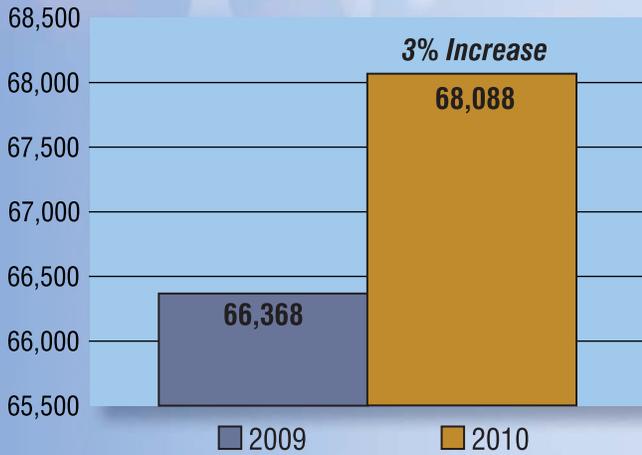
\*Department Wide



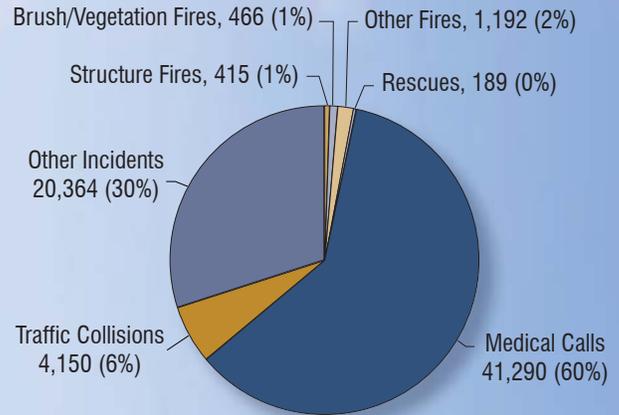


# STATISTICS

## 2009/2010 Comparisons



## 2010 Calls for Service



## 2010 Calls for Service

Incident Type	Mountain Division		North Desert Division		South Desert Division		Valley Division		Victorville Division		Totals	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Structure Fires	50	39	123	109	59	60	169	131	129	76	530	415
Brush/Vegetation Fires	23	14	141	117	43	62	150	178	83	95	440	466
Other Fires	34	25	435	356	132	173	461	387	186	251	1,248	1,192
Rescues	22	14	42	56	17	21	85	71	25	27	191	189
Medical Calls	1,330	1,354	12,548	12,885	5,131	5,168	12,951	12,561	9,314	9,322	41,274	41,290
Traffic Collisions	180	151	1,523	1,515	454	412	1,333	1,249	826	823	4,316	4,150
Other Incidents	949	1,184	4,791	5,354	1,968	2,135	6,329	7,015	4,332	4,676	18,369	20,364
<b>2009 Totals</b>	<b>2,588</b>		<b>19,603</b>		<b>7,804</b>		<b>21,478</b>		<b>14,895</b>		<b>66,368</b>	
<b>2010 Totals</b>		<b>2,781</b>		<b>20,392</b>		<b>8,031</b>		<b>21,592</b>		<b>15,270</b>		<b>68,066</b>

Due to the completion of the fire reorganization, the following changes took place in 2009 and reflect in the statistics: Station 9 (Mentone) was moved from the Mountain Division to

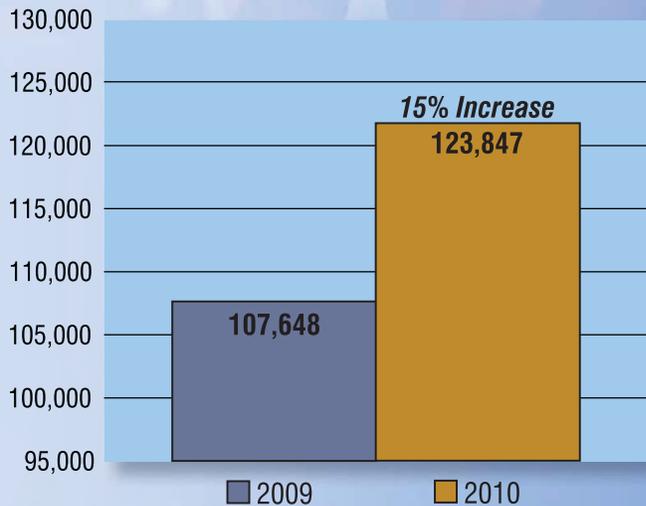
the Valley Division. Station 22 (Spring Valley Lake) & Station 37 (Victorville) were moved from the North Desert Division to the Victorville Division.



## Training

Richard Sewell Training Center .....	46,297
Emergency Medical Services Training.....	8,393
Joint Apprentice Commission Training .....	10,488
Fire Station Level Training.....	81,777
Target Safety .....	11,906
Aircraft Rescue Firefighting.....	5,067
<b>Total Training Hours .....</b>	<b>153,440</b>

## Calls Dispatched



## Office of Emergency Services

In 2010, the County's Emergency Operations Center activated five separate times: three times at a Level I activation and twice at a Level II activation in support of local emergencies related to the January 2010 Winter Storm and the Severe Winter Storms, Flooding and Debris and Mud Flows Incident in December 2010 and January

2011. The Level I activations were in support of Havasu Landing during a power outage that occurred during extreme heat, with temperatures reaching 108 degrees; and in support of a Perchlorate Water Contamination that affected the City of Barstow and the surrounding unincorporated communities.

## Emergency Communications Service (ECS)

ECS volunteers, at a minimum, are licensed Technician Radio Operators and provide emergency communication services via amateur radio.

Number of Volunteers.....	241
Training Hours.....	4,617
Operation Hours.....	7,489
<b>Total Volunteer Hours.....</b>	<b>12,106</b>

## Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The CERT program engages community and family safety programs as a way to prepare communities for potential emergencies, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism. CERT volunteers are trained in various disaster preparedness and response activities so that they can help themselves, their family and their community during a disaster.

	Unincorporated	City/Town
CERT Programs	17	13
Volunteers	697	*534

\*Data is presently being collected. Number reflects figures provided by 11 of the Cities that have responded to the survey.

# OFFICE of the Fire Marshal

## Hazardous Materials

<b>Regulation, Response, Remediation Statistics</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Regulated Facilities	6,983	6,794
Facility Inspections	3,378	3,972
Non-Emergency Calls	452	109
Hazmat Team Responses	294	339
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	848	838
Underground Storage Tank Systems	2,292	2,261
Underground Storage Tank Installations & Modifications	465	269
Site Remediation Cases	133	76
Requests for Records & Certified Records Research	505	805
Administrative Enforcement Actions	204	135
Civil/Criminal Enforcement Actions & Referrals	229	416
<b>Household and Small Business Waste Statistics</b>		
HHW Permanent & Temporary Facilities	28	28
Pounds of Hazardous Waste Managed	3,549,831	3,889,710
Residents Served	46,512	51,620
Businesses Served	311	282
Budget - Regulation, Response, Remediation	\$7,490,507	\$8,074,582
Positions	47	55
Budget - Household & Small Business Waste Disposal	\$2,929,446	\$3,011,571
Positions	20	19
<b>Total Hazmat Division Budget</b>	<b>\$10,419,953</b>	<b>\$11,086,153</b>
<b>Total Hazmat Division Positions</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74</b>



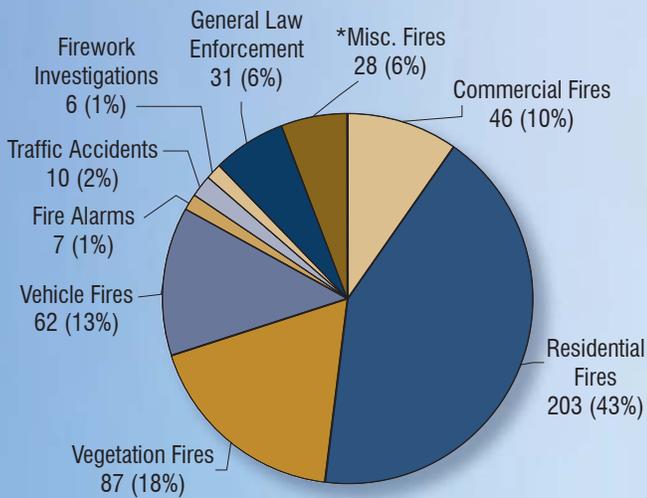
## Community Safety

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	COUNTY AREAS	CITY OF FONTANA	CITY OF HESPERIA	CITY OF VICTORVILLE	TOTALS
Investigations	221	103	59	97	480
*Special Events	109	12	17	17	155
Annual Inspections	687	N/A	988	1,465	3,140
Plan Checks	899	945	323	139	2,306
Planning Inspections	1,094	1,566	201	1,059	3,920

\*Special Events Unit provides planning, permitting and inspection services for many events throughout the County, such as public firework displays, film shoots, NASCAR and other races, concerts, public community events and more. Revenue for these permits totaled \$78,559 in 2010.

The Public Education Unit provides awareness, education, and fire safety training. There are several major events such as Fire Prevention Week and the Spark of Love Toy Drive that are conducted throughout the year. In 2010, the Public Education Unit reached out to over 32,000 citizens through various public education programs and twenty-four juveniles completed the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program; a program dedicated to reducing the number of deaths, burn injuries and the amount of property destruction caused by juvenile firesetting.

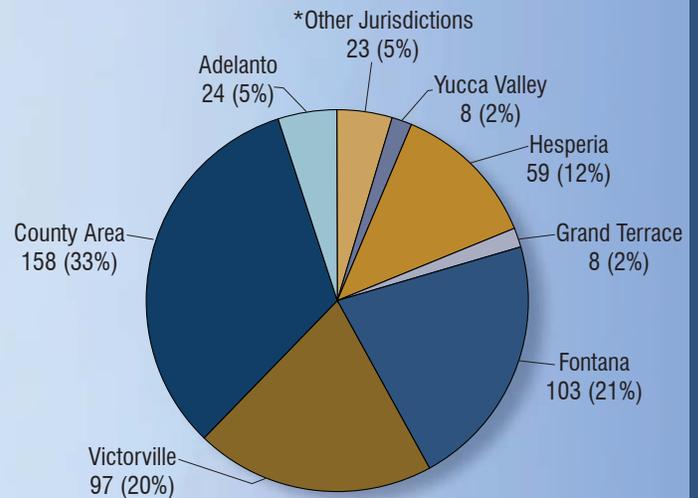
### Investigations



**Total Investigations: 480**

\*Misc. Fires include commercial investigations, dumpster, improvement, refuse and other types of fires

### Calls by Location



\*Other jurisdictions include Barstow City, Colton, Crestline, Morongo Valley, Newberry Springs, Redlands, Rialto, Running Springs, and Yermo



# MOVING *Forward*

## Wurl Takes Fire Chief Helm

Dan Wurl was sworn in as County Fire's Chief on June 11, 2010. Wurl was chosen on the basis of his unique knowledge of the County Fire Department's complex organizational and finance structure, and the leadership skills he has developed during his 36 years in the fire service.

Starting as a volunteer firefighter and working his way through the ranks, Wurl served in the Mountain and Valley Divisions prior to his 2001 appointment as Assistant Chief and helped implement a long-anticipated Fontana paramedic program. As Assistant Chief, he was assigned to oversee the department's fire stations and more than 700 suppression personnel, and eventually moved into the administrative support section. In 2007, Wurl was promoted to Deputy Chief to manage the administrative and management operations of the department.

Wurl played a leading role in the formation of the Mountain Area Safety Task Force, a state-of-the-art

partnership for managing natural disasters that became a model for the nation. Wurl was also instrumental in bringing the Fire Reorganization Plan to fruition. The plan dissolved 27 separate fire districts and merged them into a single fire protection district with four regional service zones. The reorganization plan ultimately improved many systems, solidified revenues, and improved the overall efficiency of the department. It also allowed for greater flexibility in the use of department resources and assets and more effective use of executive management to oversee day-to-day operations.

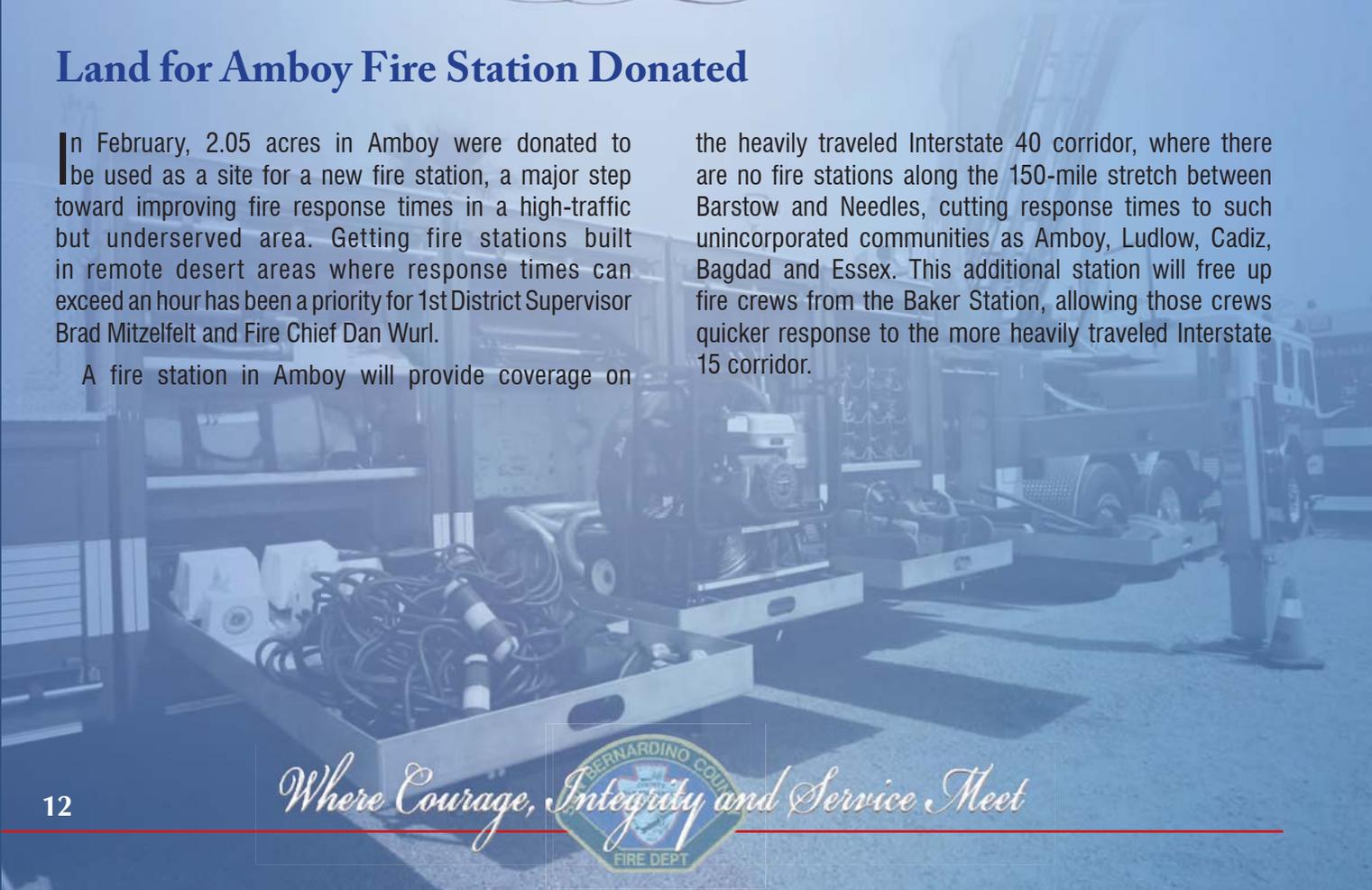


## Land for Amboy Fire Station Donated

In February, 2.05 acres in Amboy were donated to be used as a site for a new fire station, a major step toward improving fire response times in a high-traffic but underserved area. Getting fire stations built in remote desert areas where response times can exceed an hour has been a priority for 1st District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt and Fire Chief Dan Wurl.

A fire station in Amboy will provide coverage on

the heavily traveled Interstate 40 corridor, where there are no fire stations along the 150-mile stretch between Barstow and Needles, cutting response times to such unincorporated communities as Amboy, Ludlow, Cadiz, Bagdad and Essex. This additional station will free up fire crews from the Baker Station, allowing those crews quicker response to the more heavily traveled Interstate 15 corridor.



## Fire Code Changes Adopted

In December, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2010 edition of the California Fire Code and California Residential Code, as amended from the International Fire Code (IFC). Previously, the County used the statewide-accepted 2007 edition California Fire Code as amended from the Uniform Fire Code (UFC) in order to promote standardization in fire protection planning, construction and enforcement for new construction and existing facilities. The IFC and the UFC model codes are similar, with the IFC containing enhancements based on building use and occupancy type. The California Building Code was also amended by the State of California from the model International Building Code, as well as locally by the County of San Bernardino Building Official.

Among the significant code changes is the requirement

that all R3, one and two family residential dwellings built after January 1, 2011 must have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed. Other significant changes/amendments to the California Fire Code by County Fire include: prohibiting unpermitted open burning with limited exceptions and enhanced safety precautions; enables the fire code official and his representatives to issue administrative citations for code violations; repeated false or nuisance fire alarms may be subject to an administrative citation; a one-time operational permit and registration is required for any commercial automatic or manual fire alarm system; and the storage, possession, handling, sale, use, or transportation of illegal and dangerous fireworks anywhere in the County are subject to the imposition and payment of an increased administrative penalty in a minimum amount of \$1,250.



## County Fire Adds Emergency Texting to Alert System

New features of the County's emergency notification system will allow public safety personnel to reach more residents than ever before during disasters. The County's Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) is managed out of the County Fire Communications Center, and uses listed and unlisted numbers in the region's 911 database to alert residents of life-threatening emergencies.

TENS has placed hundreds of thousands of calls during wildfire and flood events since its creation in 2004. However, the 9-1-1 database only includes landline telephones, so County Fire in 2010 included the ability for residents to receive an emergency alert text message on their cell phone or an emergency call on their Voiceover Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone. Residents sign up by visiting a link from the Fire Department's website.



# MOVING *Forward*

## Homeland Security Grant Program

The San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for the management of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for the County of San Bernardino Operational Area (OA).

Since 1999, OES has administered over \$40 million in federal homeland security grant funds, which are distributed to local jurisdictions such as Public Health, law enforcement agencies, fire jurisdictions, 24 cities/towns, emergency management and other local agencies. Of the \$40 million, approximately \$13.6 million of homeland security grant projects are ongoing.

In the past year, OES has made significant progress in filling equipment and resource need gaps. OES will continue to work with the Approval Authority, the 24 cities/towns and other local agencies in the OA to make wise investments using HSGP grant resources that capitalize on multi-use capabilities and promote greater efficiency

in emergency management operations and homeland security.

Over the past several years, the San Bernardino County emergency management community has steadily improved its disaster planning and preparedness capabilities due to federal grant funding such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. This program supports comprehensive emergency management at the local level. All 24 Cities and Towns and the County, as members of the San Bernardino County Operational Area, participate in order to better prepare and plan for disasters, whether natural or man-made.

The EMPG program has supported the County for more than 12 continuous years, allowing local participants to fund staffing, equipment and training projects. The Fiscal Year 2010 EMPG grant allocation is \$480,901.



## Completion of Hazard Mitigation Plan

The San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services is leading a unique effort within California to update 53 Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP), including the Unincorporated County Area, the 24 cities/towns of San Bernardino County and 28 Special Districts.

The goal of the HMP is to identify and develop mitigation strategies for those natural disasters most likely to affect San Bernardino County. Once identified, projects can then be developed to address the hazards and mitigate its effects. A Planning Team for the unincorporated County area HMP consisting of representatives from Public Works Department, Land Use Services, the Museum, Architecture and Engineering Department, Economic Development Agency, Sheriff's Department, and Fire

Department assisted with the development of the 2010 HMP. The Planning Team reviewed hazards, developed goals and objectives, and created a new listing of projects to include in the HMP.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are mandated to be updated and approved every five years by FEMA. With a FEMA approved HMP, local jurisdictions including the County are eligible to apply for Hazard Mitigation program grants, Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants and FEMA Flood program grants. The County has already benefited from these types of grants for completion of flood control projects and bark beetle mitigation projects.



# MOVING *Forward*

## Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program Mass Care and Shelter Care

First in the state, San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services is pioneering a one-stop shelter concept, known as a Shelter Operation Compound (SHOC) for its Mass Care & Shelter Plan. Like an ad hoc community, it will have a shelter for evacuees and an animal shelter nearby to keep beloved pets close. Additionally, a Local Assistance Center (LAC) will be on-site providing information and public services, while access to cell phone companies, postal services, and other private companies in the Non-LAC unit will only be a short walk away. Three employees were hired through the 2007/2008 City of Los Angeles Regional

Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP) to work on the planning projects.

If cots or other shelter supplies are needed during incidents, the Care and Shelter Trailer/Cache Program, which is still in progress, will be activated. Upon completion, this project will have 36 trailers/caches equipped with mass care and shelter supplies, strategically placed around the County for immediate deployment, ready to serve more than 7,200 residents. The 2008 & 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program and 2009 Riverside Urban Area Security Initiative funds this program.



## SAFER Grant Completion Provides for Enhancement of Fire Services

In May 2009, County Fire was awarded funds to recruit, train and retain Paid-Call Firefighters for the enhancement and continued service to the citizens in the remote areas of the county. Through the SAFER Grant (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) section of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, San Bernardino County Fire was awarded \$532,025.

Twenty-six SAFER Cadets were provided training to take them from untrained recruits, to an entry level firefighter. This training included: Emergency Medical

Technician; Fire Technology; Basic Firefighter Skills; Fire Control; Firefighter 1; Introduction to Fire Prevention Practices; Fire Technology; Physical Fitness Standards; Incident Command System (ICS) 100, ICS 200, ICS 700; Hazardous Materials FRO; Swift Water Awareness; Confined Space Awareness; Health Care Provider CPR; Fire Weather; Leadership; Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics; Automobile Extrication; State Fire Training; Building Construction; and Hazardous Materials Decontamination.







# MOVING *Forward*

## San Bernardino County Disaster Corps... Leading the way to Preparedness

San Bernardino County is one of five counties in the State of California that received a grant from California Volunteers to develop a “first-in-the-nation” Disaster Corps Program. The grant provides for materials and two grant-funded contract positions to coordinate and administer the new program. California Disaster Corps is the realization of a vision by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger “to professionalize, standardize and coordinate highly trained disaster volunteers statewide.” The Governor personally launched the Disaster Corps Program during an event this past summer at Los Angeles City Fire Department’s Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center. Twenty-four CERT members from nine different San Bernardino County communities participated in the event.

San Bernardino County’s Disaster Corps Program will draw from existing Community Emergency Response



Team (CERT) Members in the unincorporated CERT communities. Members will receive advanced training in addition to the regular 20-hour CERT Training. This additional training will include skills such as First Aid/CPR and will allow Disaster Corps members to be deployed to other communities in the County when needed most – during a disaster.

## Great California ShakeOut

Over 561,000 San Bernardino County residents registered to participate in the 3rd Annual Great California ShakeOut Drill at 10:21 a.m. on October 21, 2010. Fire Chief Dan Wurl and Office of Emergency Services Division Manager Denise Benson attended the County’s largest ShakeOut event at the San Bernardino County Museum where almost 600 students from local schools demonstrated their “Drop, Cover and Hold On” skills. County Fire’s Public Relations division promoted the ShakeOut’s message of preparedness with flyers, press releases, County websites, and on electronic billboards along freeways around the County.

County Executive Officer Greg Devereaux threw his support behind the ShakeOut effort and as a result, tens

of thousands of County employees performed the “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill. In addition, County Fire Suppression Personnel executed earthquake protocol including evacuating personnel, removing equipment from bays, and establishing communications with the dispatch center. At OES, all employees and students attending on-site training on that day practiced their earthquake drill while the “sounds” of a massive earthquake thundered from the overhead speakers. An assessment of the facility and utilities was done prior to allowing re-entry into the building.

The Great California ShakeOut is the nation’s largest earthquake drill and each year Californians make it bigger and better!

## High Desert Government Center

The North Desert Community Safety Office, responsible for residential and commercial plan reviews, inspections, and fire investigations, moved from its Victorville location to the new High Desert Government Center in the City of Hesperia. The environmentally-friendly, LEED-Gold qualified, 66,000 square foot

facility, is the High Desert’s first county office building. County Fire Community Safety, the County Clerk & Recorder, Assessor, Code Enforcement, Environmental Health, Public Works, Planning, Building & Safety, and Veterans Affairs have offices at the location. This new location provides a “one stop shop” for its citizens.



# COMMUNITY *Involvement*

From boxing up gifts to boxing each other, this past year was one of giving and being a part of the community for the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the employees truly exemplified the Service Motto of “Duty, Honor, Community” in 2010.



Move over Mohammed Ali and George Foreman. The historic match of 2010 was between Fire Chief Dan Wurl and Sheriff Rod Hoops, who met in the ring in November for a good cause – the kickoff of the Victorville Police & Fire Activities League. The City of Victorville, San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and the San Bernardino County Fire Department have formed a partnership to create a non-profit Public Benefit Corporation, dubbed Victorville Police & Fire Activities League, Inc., for charitable purposes. The specific purpose of this corporation is to provide a common meeting ground for police, fire, citizens and the youth of Victorville in the area of sports, education, and recreational activities in order to foster and encourage faith in American principles and the traditions of sportsmanship, good will and friendship.

Police Activity Leagues were founded more than 35 years ago. Today there are more than 100 Police, Sheriff, and Youth activity leagues throughout the State of California. The Victorville program is unique because it is the first activity league in the nation that incorporates the Fire Department as part of its program.

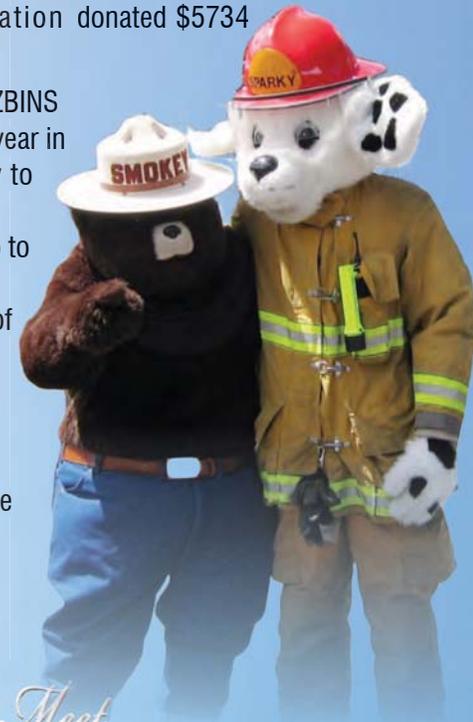
The program includes a boxing facility located adjacent



to the Victorville Police Station. The city refurbished the former public works building, and a professional boxing ring was installed. Volunteers include a professional Olympic boxing coach along with Sheriff Deputies and Firefighters who give of their time to help the community’s youth. And the winner of this year’s friendly sparring bout? The youth of Victorville!

San Bernardino County Fire personnel participated in numerous community outreach events in 2010 including the annual Quest Rally fundraiser for The Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors. The Quest is a non-profit organization managed by firefighters and civilians who volunteer their services and are dedicated to assist those who have been affected by burn injuries. The Quest started in the High Desert and traveled throughout the County stopping at various County Fire stations along the way and this year, the San Bernardino County Firefighters Association donated \$5734 to the cause.

The County Fire HAZBINS Team rode for its fifth year in the Annual MS150 Bay to Bay bike ride from Anaheim to San Diego to raise money and awareness in support of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Since 2006 Team HAZBINS has raised approximately \$30,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.





The 2010 Spark of Love Toy Drive made children smile all around San Bernardino County this year! Fire Stations collected donations of unwrapped toys throughout the County. All in all, about 11,500 toys were collected and distributed to children and families in need. And up in Lake Arrowhead, the San Bernardino County Firefighters' Association warmed up the cold mountain air with hot dogs, hot chocolates and a bonfire in the annual community event. Santa even came and distributed gifts for all the kids.

Also in the holiday spirit, Explorers from the Victorville Division made it their job to put food on the table for families in need this past winter holiday season. These junior Samaritans joined forces with the Victorville Sheriff Explorers and raised enough money to buy holiday dinners for 50 families.

County Fire personnel are not afraid to get dirty and that was evidenced in the 2010 Annual Sheriff's Mud Run. Runners powered through obstacles and grueling conditions to help out a good cause. The 2010 Mud Run raised more than \$52,000 and benefited Sheriff's divisions, the Loma Linda University Medical Center Children's Hospital, Explorer posts, and more.

County Fire also joined in the Sheriff's 8th Annual "Shop with a Cop" event and County Fire personnel escorted underprivileged children on a shopping spree as the children picked out \$200 in presents. This year, the Safety Employees Benefit Association-sponsored event made Christmas joyful for 565 children.

In 2010 County Fire personnel once again were active participants in the "Relay for Life," where teams of people camped out at a local high school, park, or fairground and took turns walking or running around a track or path.

Relays are 24 hours in length; representing the reality that cancer never sleeps. By participating, County Fire honored cancer survivors, and raised \$1,200 to help fight cancer.

The Chili's Tip-a-Firefighter fundraisers to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital were successful again this year and firefighters participated at the Chili's Restaurants in Fontana and Victorville. During the Tip-a-Firefighter events, firefighters make the evening fun for the customers by teaming up with and assisting Chili's servers, and thousands of dollars were raised for this worthy cause!

The 2nd Annual Guns & Hoses tournament pitted firefighters against the Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol in a series of three sports: soccer, softball and basketball. The 2010 Tourney took place in Yucca Valley with Mayor Chad Mayes calling



the shots as referee. Guns & Hoses benefited the Yucca Valley Rotary Club.

County Fire's Safety Trailer was in high demand in 2010 as the Public Education Division hosted booths at safety fairs throughout the County including a Safety and Preparedness Fair in Fontana, a mountain safety fair at Rim of the World High School, as well as visiting far-flung areas such as Trona to spread the safety message. And, in August, County Fire joined the multitudes of citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from thousands of communities from around the nation at National Night Out events throughout the County including a Safety Trailer in Hesperia, a table display in Muscoy and Bloomington, and block parties in Fontana.

# DEPARTMENT *History*



Fire Chief R. J. Keen

One question comes up often. How did we become County Fire? And depending on whom you ask the answer may vary. This is mainly due to County Fire being such a large extended family. The true history of our department can be directly traced to the Fontana Fire Department. Sure, we have had many independent departments and districts join our family, but the Fontana link is a direct blood line, if you will. That's not to say that those areas don't also enjoy a rich and colorful history of their own.

The Fontana Fire Department was organized in 1928 and it covered a mere 22.5 square miles. The appointment of Earl B. Reeves as the Chief was made by the fire commission on November 28, 1928. Reeves was a former Captain with the San Bernardino City Fire Department and president of the Fireman's Relief Association of San Bernardino. He inherited a force of 12 volunteers who were mainly farmers and ranchers in the area.

In 1929 there was a need for police protection in the city and Chief Reeves took on that responsibility as well. Several of the volunteer firemen accepted police responsibilities. We did it all!



Muscoy Fire District

The Fontana Fire Department continued to grow with the city, and in October 1953 a new recruit was hired by the name of R.J. sounds familiar, it should. He was the father of our fallen brother, Engineer Eddie Keen, who we lost on July 14th, 2008. R.J. Keen served with the U.S. Marines during World War II and saw 29 months of action in the Pacific, including Guadalcanal. Keen made Battalion Chief in

1958, Assistant Chief in 1968, and was named Acting Fire Chief in 1971, just 22 days prior to his 54th birthday. A

year later, he was named Fire Chief of the Fontana Fire Department.

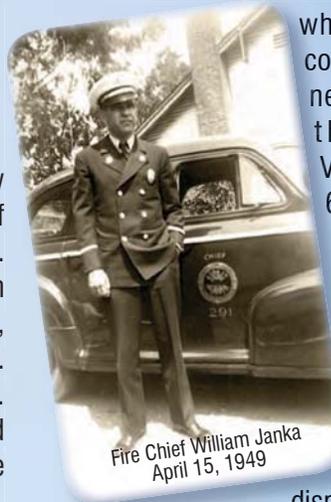
R.J. Keen quickly approached the Muscoy Fire Protection District and the Bloomington Fire Protection District to discuss joining forces. The Fire Chief of Muscoy was Earl Mathiot and the Fire Chief of Bloomington was Nate Alvarez. An agreement was formed for a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and this new department was called the Central Valley Fire Protection District. This occurred in 1973, and laid the foundation upon



Station #2, Fontana



Headquarters Station Fontana



Fire Chief William Janka  
April 15, 1949

which we stand. Many more consolidations would be in our near future. R. J. Keen was the "Father of County Fire." Central Valley would eventually cover 66 square miles.

With the birth of this new department, a centralized dispatch center was needed. The new location for this center would be in the front office of Fire Station 71 in Fontana. One of the key people in developing this new dispatch center was Emergency Communications Supervisor Dave Dowling. Like Keen, Dowling would be laying the groundwork for the future. So if Keen was the "Father of County Fire," Dowling would





Christmas Toy Giveaway, Fontana Fire - December 1956

be the "Father of CommCenter."

Central Valley did very well, in terms of wages and reputation, and that carried them into the 80's. In 1982, the Chino Fire Protection District joined Central Valley FPD. With

the addition of the fourth agency, Central Valley FPD became the West San Bernardino Valley Fire Agency.

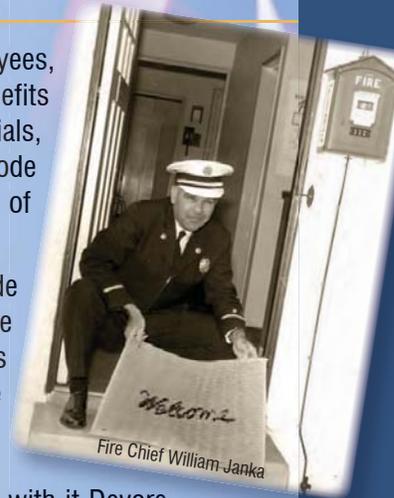
In 1985, Chino Fire decided to become an independent agency once again. We ended up losing one department but gained eight others that year. 1985 was the year we formed the San Bernardino County Fire Agency. The San Bernardino County Fire Agency was designed to provide a management umbrella over the Districts, providing a single fire chief, administrative management, fire prevention, and vehicle and training services. The joining Districts include Lake Arrowhead, Yucca Valley, Lucerne Valley, Wrightwood, Hinkley, Searles Valley, Green Valley Lake and Forest Falls.

In 1994 the County Consolidated Fire District (San Bernardino County Fire Department) was formed to manage all the fire protection districts, county service areas (CSA), and improvement zones, with the exception of CSA 38. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) continued to manage CSA 38 at that time. The District eliminated all district chief positions,

encompassed all district employees, standardized pay scales and benefits and added Hazardous Materials, Household Hazardous Waste, Code Enforcement and the Office of Emergency Services.

In 1997, in an effort to provide effective fire service and streamline cost, the County cancelled its contract with CDF and directed the unfunded areas and CSA 38 to be transferred to County Fire; bringing with it Devore, Grand Terrace, Needles, San Antonio Heights, Mentone, Phelan, Fawnskin, Baker, Harvard and the unfunded areas of the County.

San Bernardino County Fire has since grown. County Fire received its first contract for fire protection and emergency medical services in 1999 with the City of Adelanto. This contract paved the way for two other cities to contract as well; the City of Hesperia in 2004 and the City of Victorville in 2008.



Fire Chief William Janka



Fire Chief Earl B. Reeves



Central Valley FPD



Fontana Fire Department - July 14, 1929



• 2008 •

**VICTORVILLE FIRE**  
Joins County Fire

• 2004 •

**HESPERIA FIRE**  
Joins County Fire

• 1999 •

**ADELANTO FIRE**  
Joins County Fire

• 1998 •

**CSA 38 & Needles Contract**  
ABSORBED

• 1994 •

**COUNTY FIRE FORMED**

• 1985 •

**SB County Fire Agency Formed adding**  
Lake Arrowhead, Forest Falls & Yucca  
Valley FPDs, Lucerne Valley, Wright-  
wood, Hinkley, Searles Valley &  
Green Valley Lake CSAs

• 1985 •

**CHINO F. P. D. LEAVES**

•1982•

AGENCY RENAMED  
WEST SAN BERNARDINO  
VALLEY FIRE AGENCY &  
CHINO F. P. D. JOINS

•1973•

COMMCENTER (DISPATCH)  
CREATED

•1973•

CENTRAL VALLEY F. P. D.  
FORMED

•1972•

R. J. KEEN NAMED  
FIRE CHIEF

MUSCOY

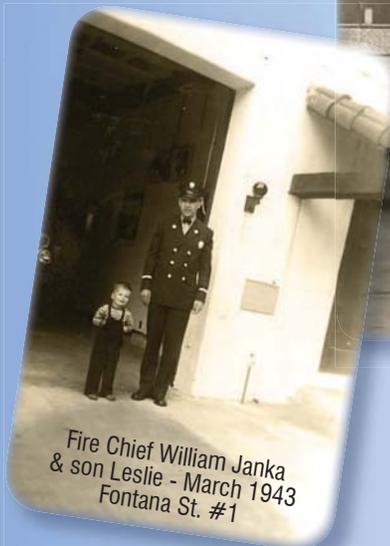
FONTANA

BLOOMINGTON

1928

The Fire Reorganization Plan was finalized and became effective July 1, 2008; dissolving 27 separate fire districts and merging them into a single fire protection district with four regional service zones. This reorganization created the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, 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 were created by special elections remained in place. This reorganization has 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.

San Bernardino County Fire now provides service to 17,432 square miles. We have certainly grown from the original 22.5 square miles in Fontana.



Fire Chief William Janka  
& son Leslie - March 1943  
Fontana St. #1

*Thank you to Captain Shawn Millerick for his contribution and extensive work in compiling the department's history.*

# FIRE CHIEFS *History*



Fire Chief  
Earl B. Reeves



Fire Chief  
Guy Kuykendall



Fire Chief  
William J. Janka



Fire Chief  
R. J. Keen

Date	Department	Fire Chief
Nov 1928 - 1950	Fontana Fire Dept.	Earl B. Reeves
1950 - 1957	Fontana Fire Dept.	Guy Kuykendall
1957 - 1971	Fontana Fire Dept.	William J. Janka
1971 - 1972	Fontana Fire Dept.	R. J. Keen (Interim Chief)
1972 - Aug 1977	Central Valley Fire Protection District	R.J. Keen (Chief)
Aug 1977 - April 1982	Central Valley Fire Protection District	Duane Mellinger
1982 - 1986	West San Bernardino Valley Fire Agency & San Bernardino County Fire Agency	Max Short
1986 - 1989	San Bernardino County Fire Agency	Jim Laurence
April 1989 - July 1993	San Bernardino County Fire Agency	Dan Schuler
July 1993 - Nov 1997	San Bernardino County Fire Dept.	Richard Sewell
Mar 1998 - April 2006	San Bernardino County Fire Dept.	Peter R. Hills
April 2006 - June 2010	San Bernardino County Fire Dept.	Pat A. Dennen
June 2010 - Present	San Bernardino County Fire Dept.	Dan Wurl



Fire Chief  
Duane Mellinger



Fire Chief  
Peter R. Hills



Fire Chief  
Pat A. Dennen



Fire Chief  
Dan Wurl





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*Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet*



# 2010

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## *Annual Report*



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