



San Bernardino County

**FIRE**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
JULY 2011-JUNE 2012

# COMMUNITIES SERVED

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



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# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**Brad Mitzelfelt**  
First District



**Janice Rutherford**  
Second District



**Neil Derry**  
Third District



**Gary C. Ovitt**  
Fourth District



**Josie Gonzalez**  
Fifth District



## CEO's MESSAGE

The San Bernardino County Fire Department stood as a leader and a partner as our community faced serious challenges in 2011.

In September, the world watched the men and women of the department bravely tackle the 1,200-acre Hill Fire. Five months earlier, County firefighters led the way in making public service a priority by accepting benefit reductions over service and personnel cuts. This year will almost certainly bring its share of challenges, some we can foresee and some we cannot. I look forward to working with Chief Hartwig and the rest of County Fire as we prepare for and face our future.

*Gregory C. Devereaux*  
Chief Executive Officer



## COUNTY VISION

In June 2011, the County of San Bernardino and San Bernardino Associated Governments set out to identify the Vision our community has for its future. This Vision is a destination established by our residents, employers, educators, and community and faith-based organizations. It is the place where the leaders of this county must take them.

As part of County Fire's role in the formation of this Vision, we are working closely with the County Sheriff and local cooperators to investigate opportunities for regional solutions to enhance public safety, communications and service delivery.

To achieve a countywide vision to build a complete community, we must work together to improve each essential element of our society, including public safety. To view the entirety of the County Vision statement, please visit [www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov).

Service Motto

Duty, Honor, Community...



# WORD from the *FIRE CHIEF*

Welcome to San Bernardino County Fire. We are a Board Governed Fire District serving seven cities and towns and 50 communities over 17,000 square miles. The County Fire District is the largest provider of fire, rescue, emergency medical, and prevention services in the County. In order to report our yearly activities in alignment with our financial reporting, this annual report will cover the fiscal year. County Fire relies on three major sources of revenue to carry out its mission; property tax revenue,

voter-approved assessments and fees, and contract revenue. In light of the substantial loss of property tax revenue, County Fire has had to cut back on some services throughout the County. In order to remain effective, we are also looking for ways to provide services more efficiently. We are working with our dispatch center (Confire) to fully implement emergency medical dispatching (EMD) and look forward to accreditation by October 2012. A fully implemented EMD program will allow us to better identify the medical needs of our 911 callers and allocate the most appropriate compliment of resources. The goal is to provide the right resource to the right location at the right time. County Fire Stations are strategically positioned throughout our service area in order to provide the timeliest service when it's needed. We will begin construction on two much needed replacement stations in Spring Valley Lake and Angelus Oaks. Plans are progressing on a replacement station for Station 31 in Needles as well.



We are excited about transitioning to electronic field reporting for fire and EMS. This will enable crews and inspectors to collect and evaluate data that will aid us in developing more effective and efficient ways to deliver services. We will also be able to bill insurance companies for emergency medical service in real time which will increase collection rates.

I am proud to represent the men and women of County Fire that serve and protect our communities from 56 fire stations from San Antonio Heights on the Los Angeles County line to Mountain pass and Needles on the Nevada and Arizona state lines respectively.

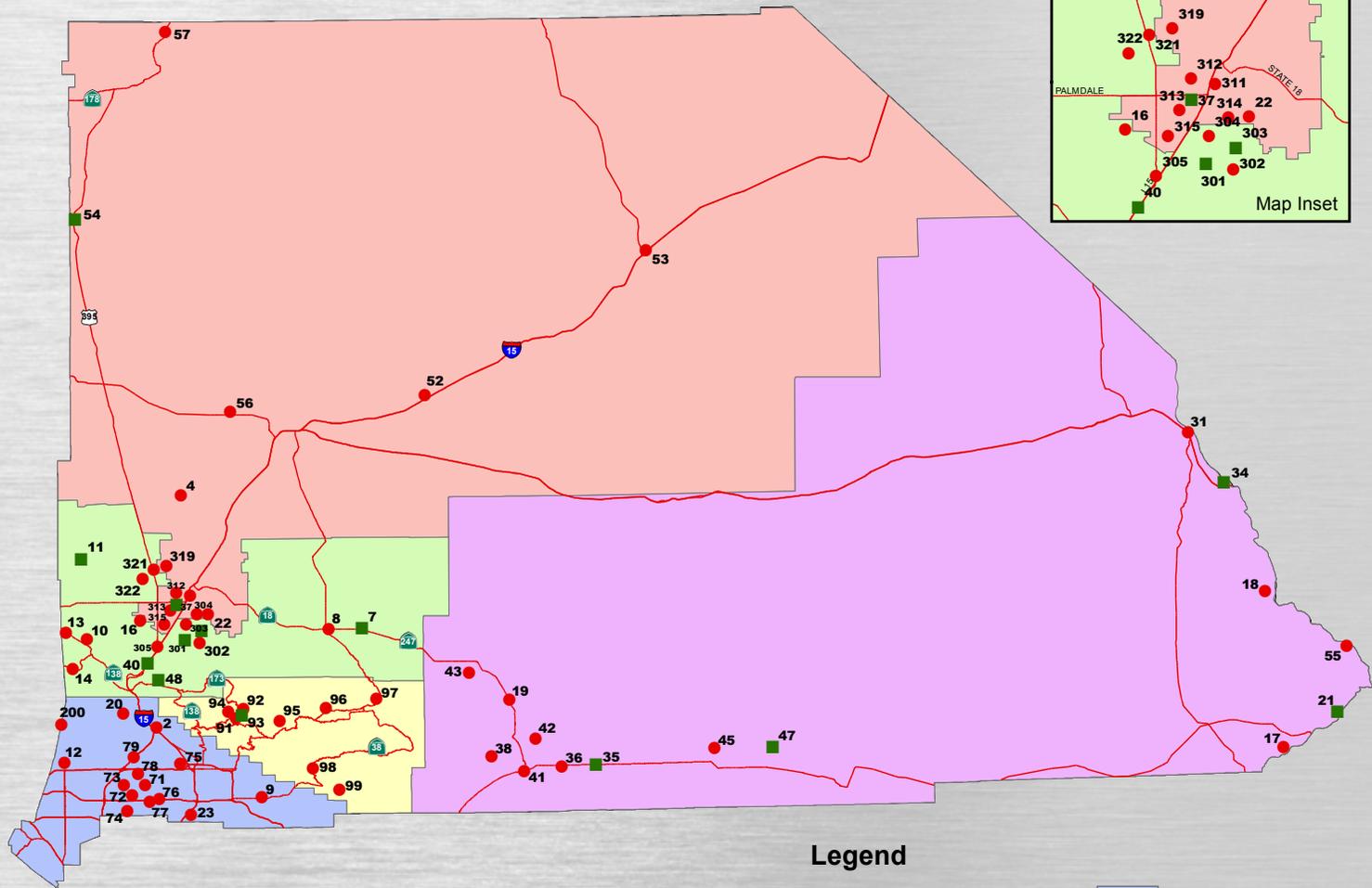
**Mark A. Hartwig**  
San Bernardino County Fire Chief



Vision

Committed to providing Premier Fire Services

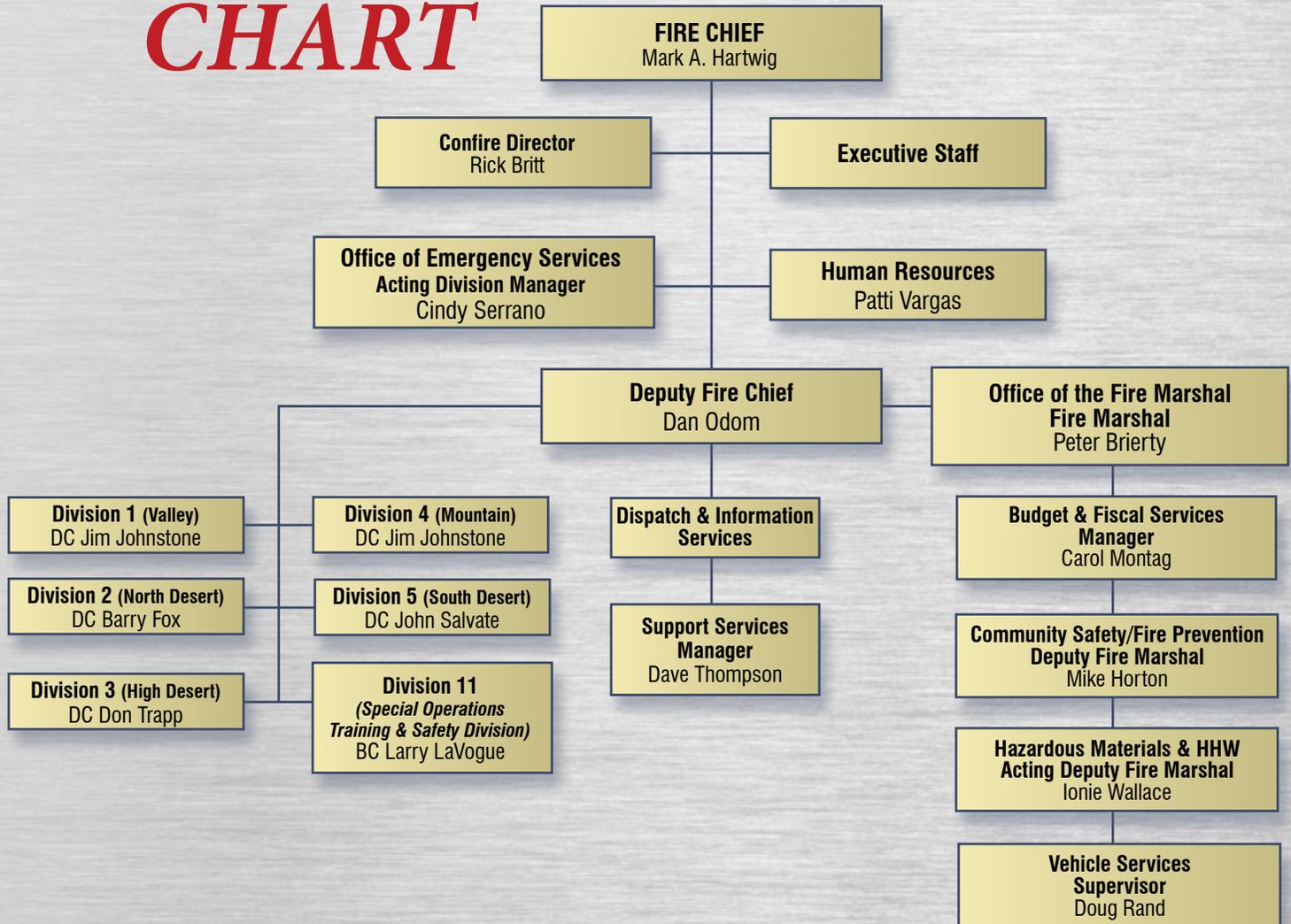
# SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE STATIONS



## Legend

- Fire Stations Operated
- Inactive
- by County Fire
- DIVISION 1
- DIVISION 2
- DIVISION 3
- DIVISION 4
- DIVISION 5

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## 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



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 and 54 communities.

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 Active Fire Stations	56
Number of County Fire Personnel	965
Number of Fire Suppression Personnel	705
Calls for Service	71,699
County Fire Budget	\$ 162,127,071



Roof Ventilation

**EQUIPMENT**

Airport Rescue Units	8
Ambulances	32
Boats	4
Brush Engines (Type 3)	23
Brush Patrols (Type 4)	22
Command Posts	4
Communication Support Vehicles	1
Dozers	2
Fire Engines (Type 1 & Type 2)	76
Foam Unit	1
Haz-Mat Rigs	3
Haz-Mat Squads	6
Ladder Trucks	7
Loaders	7
Rescues	8
Snow Cats	7
Squads	11
Water Tenders	18

**PERSONNEL**

<b>FUNDED POSITIONS</b>	
Fire Chief	1
Deputy Chief	1
Fire Marshal	1
Deputy Fire Marshal	2
Division Chief	5
Battalion Chief	17
Captain	128
Engineer	93
Firefighter	150
Limited-Term Firefighter	45
Paid-Call Firefighter*	265
<b>SUPPRESSION TOTAL</b>	<b>705</b>
Professional Staff	257
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>965</b>

*Figures reflect Board-approved budget changes through 3/31/12.*

*\* Paid-Call Firefighter positions fluctuate throughout the year.*

The Human Resources Division averaged 3 suppression recruitments and 10 non-suppression recruitments FY 11/12, including new and replacement positions.

Standard of  
Commitment

Where Courage, Integrity and Service Meet



# OPERATIONS

*Pallet Fire, Fontana*

County Fire is an all-risk/full-service fire department committed to providing the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost effective manner. Suppression Operations consists of five Divisions with over 700 firefighters and is managed by four Division Chiefs.

County Fire has numerous resources for specialized rescues in a region that has deserts, snowy mountaintops, steep and winding roads, as well as vast bodies of water. These rescues include fire rescue boats, dozers and snow cats. The Swift-Water Rescue Team, the Urban Search & Rescue Task Force, and Ice Rescue Team are specially trained and ready to respond.

County Fire takes great pride in its Honor Guard and Explorer Program. Professional Firefighters Local 935 recently formed a Pipes & Drums Band.

County Fire continues to move forward on the implementation of Airship and Hand Crew Programs through a partnership with the County Sheriff.

*Dan Adams*  
Deputy Chief  
Operations

# CALLS FOR SERVICE

	<b>DIVISION 1 (Valley)</b> + Contract City of Fontana	<b>DIVISION 2 (North Desert)</b> + Contract City of Hesperia & Adelanto	<b>DIVISION 3 (High Desert)</b> + Contract City of Victorville	<b>DIVISION 4 (Mountains)</b>	<b>DIVISION 5 (South Desert)</b> + Contract City of Needles	<b>TOTALS</b>
Structure Fires	264	213	206	37	102	<b>822</b>
Vegetation Fires	146	233	193	17	64	<b>653</b>
Vehicle Fires	204	105	165	11	69	<b>554</b>
Other Fires*	142	131	143	7	47	<b>470</b>
Rescues	39	26	10	7	17	<b>99</b>
Medical Calls	13,970	13,133	11,680	1,463	5,560	<b>45,806</b>
Traffic Collisions	1,593	1,441	1,331	145	448	<b>4,958</b>
Traffic Collisions with Extrication	50	19	46	9	12	<b>136</b>
Hazardous Materials Incidents**	643	392	346	60	150	<b>1,591</b>
Public Service***	5,619	3,994	4,255	857	1,885	<b>16,610</b>
<b>FY 11/12 Totals</b>	<b>22,670</b>	<b>19,687</b>	<b>18,375</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>8,354</b>	<b>71,699</b>

\*Other Fires include rubbish fires, cooking fires, outside storage fires

\*\*Hazardous Materials Incidents include explosions, fireworks, hazardous calls

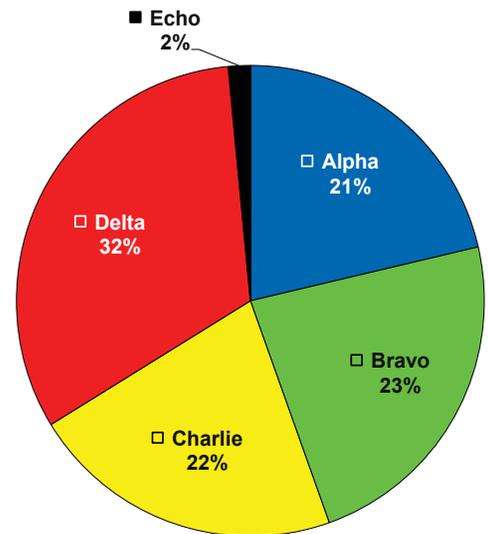
\*\*\*Public Service calls include false alarms & weather related incidents

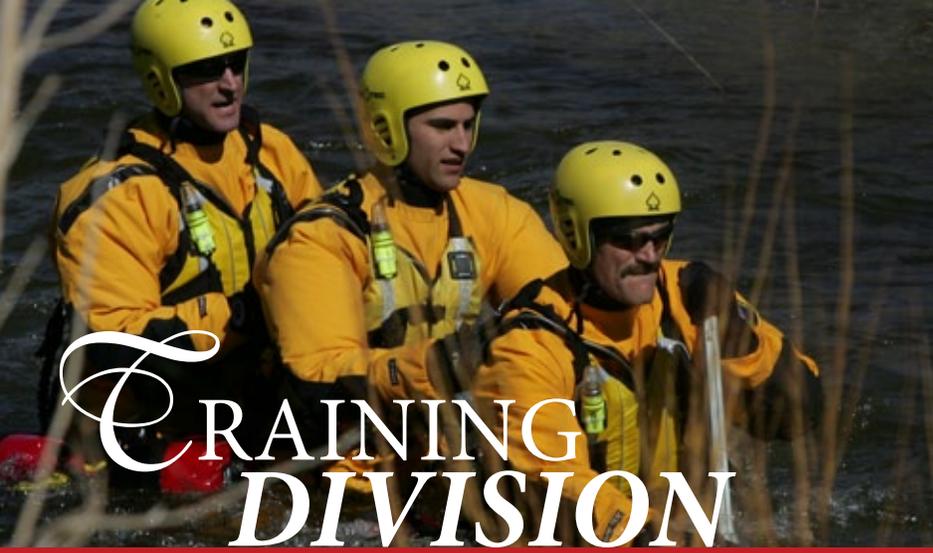


# EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH

The Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) is a medically-approved, unified system used to dispatch appropriate aid to medical emergencies including systematized caller interrogation and pre-arrival instructions. MPDS starts with the dispatcher asking the caller key questions. These questions allow the dispatchers to categorize the call by chief complaint and set a determinant level ranging from A (minor) to E (immediately life threatening) relating to the severity of the patient's condition.

Letter	Severity	Resources	Response
Alpha	Non Life-Threatening	Basic Life Support	Non-Emergency
Bravo	Possibly Life-Threatening	Basic Life Support	Emergency
Charlie	Life-Threatening	Advanced Life Support	Emergency
Delta	Serious Life Threat	Advanced Life Support	Emergency
Echo	Life Status Questionable	Closest Available (Multiple Resources Sent)	Emergency





# TRAINING DIVISION



Richard Sewell Training Center Classes .....	22,523
Emergency Medical Services Training.....	9,295
State Apprenticeship Commission Training .....	16,012
Fire Station Level Training.....	63,790
On-Line Training.....	11,208
Aircraft Rescue Firefighting.....	628
<b>Total Training Hours.....</b>	<b>123,456</b>

Incident  
Information Line

909.355.8800



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) 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. Hazmat serves the entire County of San Bernardino including its incorporated cities. 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. Hazmat is engaged in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents involving hazardous materials and wastes. The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program is committed to providing safe and efficient hazardous waste management services 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.

*Peter Brienzy*  
Fire Marshal

<b>Hazardous Materials Regulation, Response, Remediation Statistics</b>	<b>FY 2011/12</b>
Regulated Facilities	6,789
Facility Inspections	3,450
Non-Emergency Calls	208
Hazmat Team Responses	226
Underground Storage Tank Facilities	813
Underground Storage Tank Systems	2,254
Underground Storage Tank Installations & Modifications	329
Site Remediation Cases	8
Requests for Records & Certified Records Research	667
Administrative Enforcement Actions	40
Civil/Criminal Enforcement Actions & Referrals	348
<b>Household Hazardous Waste &amp; Small Business Waste Statistics</b>	
HHW Permanent & Temporary Facilities	26
Pounds of Hazardous Waste Managed	3,388,924
Residents Served	50,078
Businesses Served	254
Haz-Mat Budget - Regulation, Response, Remediation	\$13,435,142
Positions	51
HHW Budget - Household & Small Business Waste Disposal	\$3,052,817
Positions	19
<b>Total Haz-Mat Division Budget</b>	<b>\$16,488,229</b>



*HHW Collection*



*Haz-Mat Spill*

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# COMMUNITY SAFETY

Action Film Shot

Description of Services	County Areas	City of Fontana	City of Hesperia	City of Victorville	TOTALS
Investigations	195	44	69	45	353
Special Events*	169	62	15	52	298
Annual Inspections	805	N/A	630	1,252	2,687
Plan Reviews	1,991	1,998	458	384	4,831
Planning Inspections	2,013	4,402	331	4,342	11,088

\*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.

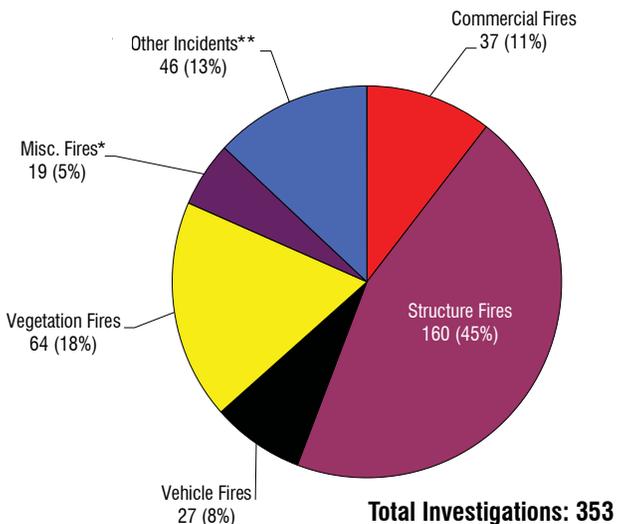


Fire Investigation

The Community Safety Division's responsibilities include enforcement of codes and ordinances, plan review and inspection of commercial buildings, fire investigations/law enforcement, public education, post-disaster damage assessment and safety oversight of special events that occur within the County. The Division's professional staff is dedicated to providing a comprehensive life-safety role for all citizens served by County Fire.

*Mike Austin*  
Deputy Fire Marshal

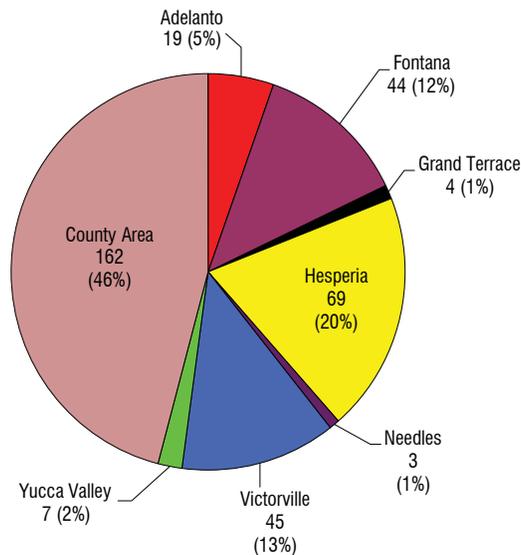
### INVESTIGATIONS



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

\*\*general law enforcement, fire alarm, firework investigations, etc.

### CALLS BY LOCATION



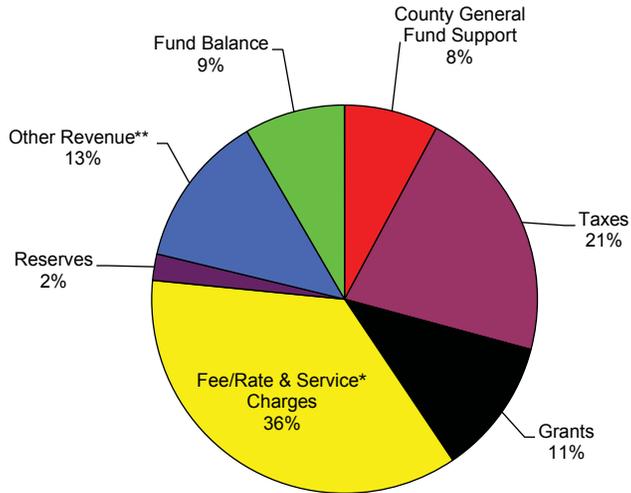
Sign up for the Telephone  
Emergency Notifications at

[www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org)

# BUDGET

Pinon Hills Vegetation Fire

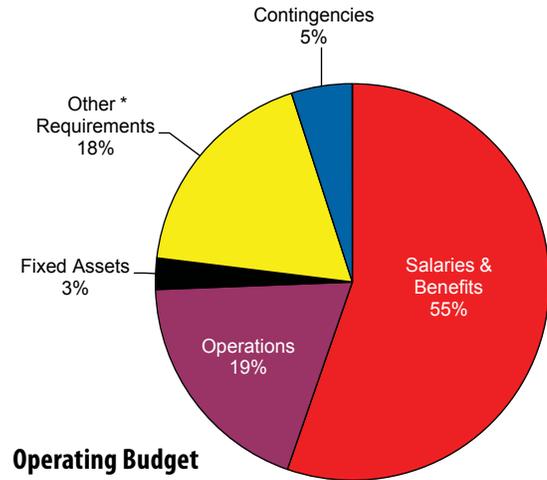
## FINANCING SOURCES



\*Fee/Rate & Service Charges include service contracts

\*\*Other Revenue includes but is not limited to, intra/inter fund transfers in, fines, & interest

## EXPENDITURES



**Operating Budget**  
**\$162,127,071**

\*Other Requirements includes but is not limited to, intra/inter fund transfers out & reimbursements

Figures reflect Board-approved budget changes through 3/31/12



# GRANTS

## Homeland Security Grant Program/Emergency Management Performance Grant

The 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.

Since 1999, OES has administered over \$43 million in federal homeland security grant funds, which are distributed to local jurisdictions such as Public Health, law enforcement agencies, fire jurisdictions, twenty four cities/towns, emergency management and other local agencies. Of the \$43 million, approximately \$12 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 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, better prepare and plan for disasters, whether natural or man-made. The EMPG program has supported the County for more than twelve continuous years, allowing local participants to fund staffing, equipment and training projects. The EMPG grant allocation was \$506,169 for the 2011 FY.

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## GRANTS *Continued*

Structure Fire

### **Mountain Residents Receive Assistance with Roof Replacement**

County Fire has been working with FEMA to implement a grant to replace wood shake shingle roofs in mountain residential areas. These areas are designated high fire hazard in the County's Development Code and eliminating wood shingle roofs will reduce the potential for a catastrophic wildland fire. The funding was obtained with the support of Congressman Jerry Lewis and is called a Legislative Pre Disaster Management Grant or LPDM grant. County Fire has partnered with Big Bear Lake Fire and is currently identifying and prioritizing the list of almost 2,000 wood roofs that will require replacement.

Working through these agencies and within the FEMA guidelines, the homeowner can obtain reimbursement from FEMA in the form of 75% of the replacement cost up to \$4,000.

It was anticipated that some of our mountain residents would not be able to provide their 25% match due to their own financial circumstances due to age or low income status. To resolve this, the Department partnered this year with the American Red Cross and received a generous donation of \$25,000. This funding is from the American Red Cross' Recovery Planning and Assistance Program that was set up specifically to serve communities affected by the 2007 wildfires.

This cooperative government effort is another example of the excellent partnerships that found their beginnings in the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) and were forged during the Bark Beetle Emergency and the Fires of 2003 and 2007.



*Air Rescue Firefighting Truck*



## **New ARFF Vehicle Ready for Use**

San Bernardino County Fire Station 319 located at Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville has taken possession of a new 2012 Oshkosh Striker 3000 airport rescue and firefighting (ARFF) vehicle. The vehicle is one of four that County Fire uses to maintain the airport's firefighting capability as mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Striker 3000 holds 3000 gallons of water, 420 gallons of Aqueous film forming foam and 450 pounds of Purple K dry chemical agent to combat fires involving flammable liquids. It has a 50 foot Snozzle with a piercing tip for penetrating the skin of an aircraft and 6 wheel drive for operation in difficult terrain. Other features include a camera on the tip of the Snozzle as well as a FLIR camera to aid in the location of heat, fire and passengers. The vehicle was purchased for \$755,000 through a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. It replaces a 1975 Oshkosh P-4, which will now be used as a reserve.

Visit  
our website

[www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org)



# MOVING FORWARD

## **Hartwig & Odom Team Up to Lead County Fire**

In May 2011, the Board of Supervisors appointed Mark Hartwig as Fire Chief, with Dan Odom as Deputy Chief, to lead San Bernardino County Fire into the future.

Chiefs Hartwig and Odom have a vast array of knowledge of the fire service, with over 54 years of fire suppression and emergency medical service experience combined. They have the leadership skills to lead the over 950 County Fire personnel, including over 700 suppression personnel who handle in excess of 71,500 calls for service a year, and manage an operating budget of \$156.9 million.

## **County Fire Hand Crew Ready to Respond**

The first County Fire Hand Crew Program has been put into action. The 18 person Hand Crew, known as Crew 40, is comprised of Paid-Call Firefighters (PCF) who have undergone rigorous training including wildland fire behavior, advanced wildland firefighting tactics, saw and hand tool techniques, helicopter operations,

confined space awareness, structure protection techniques and Haz-Mat responder functions. All crew members are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or first-responder trained.

Under the leadership of two full-time firefighters, Crew 40 is ready to provide assistance and support on all incidents within San Bernardino County, including vegetation fires, structure fires, floods, search & rescues, and other all-risk incidents. Crew 40 may be available to relieve company fire crews on extended assignments, allowing for those crews to go back into service. The Crew is available 24 hours a day and is available to assist local agencies, including state and local federal agencies.

## **Fire Station 71 in Fontana Renovation**

Construction continues on the renovation and expansion of the busiest fire station in San Bernardino County, Station 71; originally built in the 1920's. The newly renovated single story, 16,000 square foot station will allow room for additional paramedic staffing and will be completed this year.



*Pallet Fire, Fontana*

## **EMS Remains a Priority**

2011 was a busy year for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section. In addition to the day to day business of providing regional mandatory education to the suppression staff, the local EMS Authority began the Regional Stroke Program in the Inland Counties. This program will provide timely and quick access to the specialized care a stroke patient requires. The EMS section also added new equipment and training to our already highly specialized and technical 12 lead cardiac monitors to assist in airway control of the medical and trauma patient.

San Bernardino County Fire Paramedics continue to update their knowledge on the treatment of patients experiencing a heart attack. The paramedic's ability to recognize a ST Elevation MI (Heart Attack) in the field has led to the successful resuscitations of many patients. Pre-hospital treatment and transport of victims to the right facility that provides immediate interventions to open blocked vessels is a primary component of the treatment of a heart attack and increases the chances that a patient can return to a normal life when released from the hospital.

The EMS Section is dedicated to providing the most up-to-date education and internal customer service to our suppression staff. In 2012, we plan to almost double the amount of hands on training to each Division and introduce more advanced airway training, with special focus placed upon the critically ill pediatric patient.

## **County Fire Assists FAA with Firefighting Research**

The San Bernardino County Fire Department was approached by the FAA to support their research in tactics and strategies for fighting cargo fires on freighter aircraft. FedEx donated a retired Airbus A-310 freighter aircraft to the FAA to conduct full-scale live fire testing.

In March 2012, the FAA Research Team and San Bernardino County Fire personnel conducted a number of research fires. At the conclusion of every fire evolution, County firefighters made entry into the aircraft, extinguished the cargo fire, performed ventilation and monitored air quality until deemed safe for entry by researchers. There are multiple fire research testing events scheduled through September of 2012. This research will provide validation of the



*Fuel Reduction Crew*

effectiveness or lack thereof of a number of theories, tactics and strategies. The testing will also evaluate the latest technologies used on cargo fires on freighter aircraft.

### **County Fire Hosts Bomberos**

San Bernardino County Fire hosted fifty firefighters from various regions of Mexico in 2011 for a week of specialized training as part of the Bombero Program. The Bombero Program provides valuable firefighting tools and techniques to our fellow firefighters of Mexico, in turn helping them provide their citizens with better fire protection. As part of the program, the Bomberos chose the techniques they would like to learn more about. Due to the earthquakes they have been experiencing, they chose to learn structure collapse, rapid intervention, incident command and ventilation.

The Bombero Program is a partnership between Californian and Mexican fire departments that started more than 45 years ago. Each year a group of firefighters from Mexico are brought to the United States for training, and thousands have graduated over the past three decades.

### **County Fire Fuel Reduction Crews Making a Difference**

In an effort to assist residents with clearing their property and creating a defensible space, County Fire Fuel Reduction Crews are once again offering free curbside chipping in the mountain communities. Last year over 3,470 tons of fire fuels were chipped or cut into firewood throughout our local mountain communities. In the first quarter of this year, over 1,250 tons have already been processed. If this trend continues, we will surpass last year's totals by at least 20%.

Hundreds of residents recently attended a fire wise Community Demonstration Open House in Mt. Baldy or Wrightwood. County Fire Fuel Reduction Crews removed over 20 tons of material (overgrown brush, tree branches, dead trees, etc.) to create a defensible space around the structure and property, bringing the property in compliance with the County fire fuels reduction ordinance. In 2011, there were seven demonstration homes in the mountain communities, with over 83 tons of fire fuels removed.



*Emergency Operations Center*

Two weeks after a home demonstration event, County Fire Fuel Reduction Crews go through the targeted community with chipper trucks and chip all material left at the curb at no cost to the homeowner. For more information regarding the County Fire Curbside Chipping Program, call toll-free (855) 686-2447.

### **Sprinkler Ordinance**

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Ordinance adopting the 2010 California Fire and Residential Codes went into effect on January 14, 2011. The Ordinance requires the installation of an Automatic Fire Sprinkler System in all new 1- and 2-family dwellings, including manufactured homes.

This was a change from previous Code requirements that held that an automatic fire sprinkler system was only required in 1- and 2-family dwellings, including manufactured homes if an adequate and approved fire service water supply was not available.

### **High Desert Government Center Public Safety Operations Center**

2012 brought about the completion of a major development to enhance emergency operations and public safety communication throughout the County. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved the use of a portion of the new two-story 66,775 square foot High Desert Government Center (HDGC) in the City of Hesperia for a new Public Safety Operations Center (PSOC). The High Desert PSOC will provide approximately 2,600 square feet of critically needed space to house an alternate County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of a natural and/or man-made disaster that impacts the EOC in Rialto or cuts the Valley off from the High Desert. The HDGC will also provide solutions for other critical public safety issues such as the construction of much needed space for Sheriff and Fire dispatch communications in the High Desert to meet limited communication gaps due to the natural topography, especially in the valleys north and south of the Cajon Pass.



The development of an alternate County EOC will further enhance the County's ability to communicate and respond in the event of a disaster. This site is designed to include multiple technological features to support video and presentation needs primarily for EOC activations. The alternate County EOC will also provide adequate security and accommodate work space for the five EOC sections, including a break-out room and a large multi-purpose room.

The HDGC project was a successful collaboration of efforts between the County Administrative Office, County Fire's Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Department, County Communications Centers, the Department of Architecture & Engineering and the Information Services Department.

### **2012 Golden Guardian Exercise Series**

During a two-month period from May through June, the San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services set a new standard for exercise planning and execution by conducting three separate tabletop exercises targeting three distinct and unique

themes: Cajon Pass Critical Infrastructure, the disaster capabilities of the 24 Cities/Towns within the Operational Area, and Mass Care & Shelter Operations.

The exercise series kicked-off with a private tour of the Cajon Pass and San Andreas Fault for key stakeholders and responders and set the stage for the 58 tabletop exercise participants that focused on site incident management and restoration of lifelines.

The City/Town Tabletop brought together 151 total participants from the County and 23 of the County's 24 cities/towns to engage in face-to-face discussions regarding emergency operations center management, information sharing, and resource management.

The series concluded with a Mass Care & Shelter exercise involving 81 representatives from County Departments and the American Red Cross to exercise elements of the County's Mass Care and Shelter Plan related to staffing capabilities and resource management.



### **First Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert System**

On November 9, 2011, the San Bernardino County Fire and public safety agencies from across the United States, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission conducted the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The National Emergency Alert System is a public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies. State and local governments also broadcast alerts and warnings regarding weather threats and civil emergencies. The nationwide test involved broadcast radio and television stations, cable television and satellite radio and television services.

### **ShakeOut 2011**

Formed by multiple earthquake faults, including the well-known San Andreas Fault, the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains are a vivid reminder that San Bernardino County is earthquake country.

On October 20th at 10:20 a.m., 593,000 people living and working in San Bernardino County participated in the 2011 Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill. People all over San Bernardino County practiced the Drop, Cover and Hold On exercise. At the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands, hundreds of children learned about earthquake safety and, along with Fire Chief Mark Hartwig, participated in the earthquake drill.

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

The San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services continues to see growth in the CERT Program Countywide. CERT Members now number over 925 in the sixteen unincorporated community programs. Fourteen CERT Basic Training classes were conducted last year, adding to the number of San Bernardino County residents who are better equipped to care for themselves and their families in times of disaster.

CERT Members in the communities of Lake Arrowhead, Wrightwood and Big Bear Valley conducted disaster exercises. These exercises help to hone skills learned in the CERT Basic Training and assist

Service Motto

Duty, Honor, Community...



*Hill Fire, Oak Hills*

CERT Members to identify and better respond to hazards specific to their communities. Wrightwood CERT saw a busy year as they were activated on two occasions to assist Station 14 during phone and 911 service outages. CERT Members fanned out across the community to check in on individuals who had previously identified themselves as needing assistance during emergencies.

In April, the hard work and dedication of all CERT Members was praised in a Board Proclamation recognizing the accomplishments of CERT and OES' other volunteer programs. These volunteers take personal responsibility for preparing themselves, their families and the communities they call home.

### **California Disaster Corps**

The California Disaster Corps is a first-in-the-nation effort to professionalize, standardize and coordinate highly trained disaster volunteers statewide. This program harnesses the power and passion of Californians to ensure our communities are safer, stronger and more resilient. California Volunteers developed the Disaster Corps program in partnership with California Emergency

Management Agency to integrate volunteer resources into the state's emergency management system.

Five Operational Areas (San Bernardino, San Diego, Riverside, Los Angeles, and San Francisco) were initially awarded funding to hire a Volunteer Coordinator to provide assistance to the Disaster Corps volunteer programs and the Operational Area. In 2012, San Bernardino OA received a second round of funding to continue building the Disaster Corps. Currently 85 volunteers have been selected, under the recommendation of the local San Bernardino County CERT Fire Liaisons and CERT Coordinators, from the already existing CERT programs located within the unincorporated communities of San Bernardino County.

### **Hill Fire Burns through Desert Communities**

Labor Day weekend proved to be very busy for firefighters as they battled a wind driven blaze from the ground and air. Although the 1,158 acre brush fire destroyed 3 homes, damaged 2 others, and destroyed several vehicles, firefighters saved hundreds of homes and numerous animals.



*Swift Water Rescue*

The fire started on northbound Interstate 15 in the center median just south of Oaks Hills Road in Cajon Pass and quickly jumped southbound lanes, continuing into the ranch style communities of Oak Hills, Baldy Mesa and Hesperia. About 1,500 homes were evacuated and Interstate 15 was closed intermittently throughout the busy holiday weekend. The fire was fully contained by September 5th.

### **2011 Winter Storms**

The San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) rang in the New Year by activating to support flood and recovery efforts countywide. Beginning December 20, 2010, a series of unusually strong storms produced heavy rains and flooding around San Bernardino County resulting in the activation of twelve City/Town EOCs. County Fire/Office of Emergency Services staff, along with EOC responders from multiple County Departments, worked through the holidays and into the New Year to ensure the various needs of the residents of San Bernardino County were met during the storms. A record seventy-three Mission Requests were submitted to the

California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) for resources to aid in the protection of life and property.

As the storms progressed, the County, thirteen Cities/Towns and the State proclaimed emergencies. Initial Damage Estimates collected by OES totaled \$97,389,291 countywide and ranged from damaged streets and bridges to entire neighborhoods buried in mud.

Following the storms, CalEMA's Acting Secretary, Mike Dayton, County leaders, representatives from CalEMA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) toured many of the damage sites. Sites visited included neighborhoods in Highland and the heavily damaged Highway 330 near Running Springs. Findings of the site visits resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration on January 26, 2011.

Visit  
our website

[www.sbcfire.org](http://www.sbcfire.org)



# COUNTY FIRE OBTAINS PIECE OF HISTORY

In October, County Fire took possession of a steel artifact from the World Trade Center (WTC). This unique piece of steel was part of a column from one of the WTC buildings that collapsed on September 11, 2001.

Getting the 11,000 pound piece of history, measuring 20'x3'x8", to County Fire Station 79 in Fontana was no easy task but through the efforts of Firefighters Local 935 and YRC World Wide Trucking Company, the steel was safely delivered on October 21. It traveled by train to San Bernardino, where it was loaded onto a flatbed truck and escorted by a County Fire Engine and two Fontana Police Department units to Station 79. Personnel from County Fire's vehicle services were able to unload the item and place it on rail ties. County Fire personnel then draped the steel with an American flag. Smaller flags and lights line both sides of the steel, where it will remain until a monument can be erected.

When YRC World Wide Trucking discovered what it was they were transporting, they generously declined to take payment for their delivery services, a cost estimated at over \$3,000.





In Loving Memory

# Our Brother... Lost in the Line of Duty

**Engineer Ronald Scott Reed**

*November 17, 1960 – August 18, 2011*

Engineer Ron “Ronbo” Reed proudly served the citizens of San Bernardino County for 22 years. Ron went to be with the Lord after a valiant battle for 3½ years with fire service related renal cell carcinoma.

Ron started his fire service career as a Paid-Call Firefighter with the Victorville Fire Department, later hiring on full-time with Adelanto Fire, and then serving the majority of his career with the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Ron’s name will be added to the California Professional Firefighter Memorial Wall in Sacramento, where the names of over 1,100 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice as California firefighters are displayed and honored.

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## Forever in Our Memory



**Ed Solis**

*March 21, 1956 – December 22, 2011*

Computerized Mapping Technician  
13 years of service, CONFIRE



*Duty, Honor, Community...*