



# OCFA Monthly Bulletin - April 2024

## From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

In the February Bulletin, I wrote about our Annual Statistical Report and the ongoing uptick in emergency incidents we respond to. I applauded our personnel for updating our response in the face of these increases and recognized the impact it's had on all of us. Still, it has since occurred to me that there is another context through which higher call volumes should be considered. Each of those thousands more annual incidents represent someone enduring a terrifying experience, and the courage, compassion, and care with which we respond not only saves lives, but often forever changes their.

Case in point: at last month's Board of Directors meeting, we played the tape of a 9-1-1 call made by a young mother, and we heard the calm, professional demeanor of Probationary Dispatcher Wilbert Medina as he helped her perform CPR on her drowned baby. We then met the mother and her baby, who made a full recovery, and what struck me most in seeing that child alive and well in our boardroom was the eternal impact Probationary Dispatcher Medina and the responding crew from Engine 28 had on just that one incident. To think of all the dreams, joys, and wonders of life that will occur for that child and her family, all of which could have been lost here if not for our people doing what they do at the highest level.

Multiply that by 178,000 times in 2023 (up 3,000 incidents from 2022), and you begin to comprehend the enduring impact of our increasing volume of work. Of course, no statistical report can quantify that influence, but like the mother returning to thank us for rescuing her baby, we are occasionally reminded of it. This past month, those reminders came in various ways — from Captain Michael Maschane's reunion with a man whose life he helped save more than a decade ago to Senator Dave Min adjourning a senate meeting with a personal testament to Captain Rob Culp's "stable presence and deep kindness" in responding to his home during an emergency for one of his children.

April's Chief's Bulletin features these and other inspiring stories, understanding that our impact endures long after a call ends, a career concludes, or, in Rob's tragic case, a life is lost in service of others.

Indeed, in so many ways that rising call numbers cannot capture, our service is forever embedded in the lives and family legacies of the patients we save, the communities we protect, the victims we rescue, and the kindness we share during what is often the worst moment in someone's life.

No matter the call volume, no matter the danger, and always "In Service of Others."

Sincerely,

Brian Fennessey  
Fire Chief

## MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

### National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week: Celebrating OCFA Dispatchers!

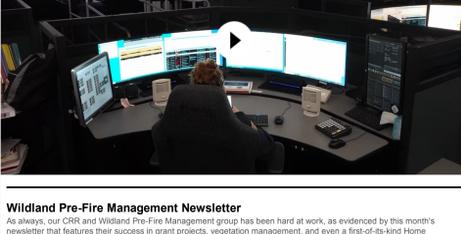
Dispatch Week is dedicated to recognizing emergency dispatchers who work around the clock to respond to calls, offer life-saving assistance, and dispatch firefighters and apparatus to those in need. We spent the week recognizing some of their highest achievements, including (from l to r) Lori Jones, Mindy Miller, and the recently retired Dawn Hale, each of whom were recognized at the 2023 Southern California Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APSCO) Awards.



Emergency Command Center Updates

### ECC Updates!

This month's ECC updates is replete with dispatcher excellence, including recognitions and proclamations in various cities, including the City of Seal Beach and the City of Westminster.



### ECC Advancements Video

Our Social Media Team created a quick look video that juxtaposes ECC in 1998 with ECC today!



### Wildland Pre-Fire Management Newsletter

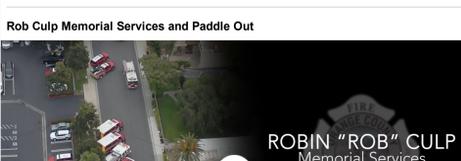
As always, our CRR and Wildland Pre-Fire Management groups has been hard at work, as evidenced by this month's newsletter that features their success in grant projects, vegetation management, and even a first-of-its-kind Home Hardening Coloring Book that teaches kids how to become "Ember Defenders!"



Click Here for Wildland Pre-Fire Management Newsletter

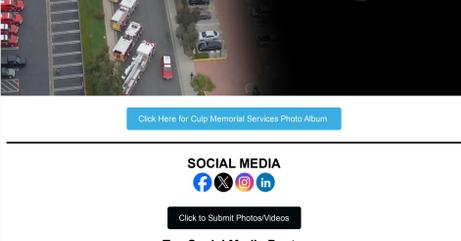
### OCFA Reunion

More than 13 years after a Hermelindo Monroy was severely electrocuted atop a roof in Los Alamitos, he was reunited with Captain Michael Maschane, one of the OCFA firefighters who helped save his life.



ELECTROCUTED MAN REUNITES WITH OCFA RESCUERS

### Rob Culp Memorial Services and Paddle Out



ROBIN "ROB" CULP Memorial Services

April 20, 2024

Click Here for Culp Memorial Services Photo Album

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Click to Submit Photos/Videos

### Top Social Media Posts

### We Hope Everyone Had a Happy Easter!

Happy Easter from the Orange County Fire Authority! 🐰 Let's see if Freedom, our accelerant detection K-9 can find Sparky! Sparky is hiding somewhere in Fire Station 27 with Easter eggs containing a tiny bit of accelerant. Accelerant detection means that he can locate ignitable liquids such as gasoline and lighter fluid by using his sense of smell. This is extremely helpful when our fire investigators are working to identify the cause of a fire. 🐾 He is a great asset to OCFA!

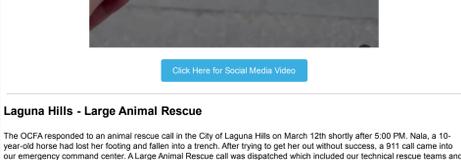


FREEDOM Accelerant Detection K-9 and Good Boy

Click for Social Media Post

### Throwback Thursday - OCFA Fire Stations Throughout the Years

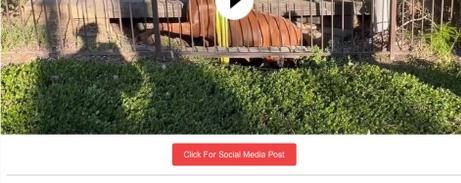
The appearance of our fire stations may have changed, but our commitment to serving and protecting our community remains the same! The first photo was taken on Opening Day of Station 22 in 1966, now recognized as one of OCFA's busiest stations. We love reflecting on our history for #ThrowbackThursday! Image 1: Station 22, Laguna Hills, 1966. Image 2: Station 9, Mission Viejo, Circa 1980s. Image 3: Station 16, Modjeska, Circa 1970s



Click Here for Social Media Video

### Laguna Hills - Large Animal Rescue

The OCFA responded to an animal rescue call in the City of Laguna Hills on March 12th shortly after 5:00 PM. Nala, a 10-year-old horse had lost her footing and fallen into a trench. After trying to get her out without success, a 911 call came into our emergency command center. A Large Animal Rescue call was dispatched which included our technical rescue teams and a helicopter. Thanks to specialized training and experience, firefighters worked with a veterinarian on the scene to sedate the horse and provide for rescue. The crews faced tight access which made it a challenging rescue for our technical rescue firefighters — requiring we reflect on our history for #ThrowbackThursday! Image 1: Station 22, Laguna Hills, 1966. The veterinarian staff checked her out and confirmed she was ok. We're glad we could be of service and ecstatic that Nala is doing great!



Click For Social Media Post

### Garden Grove Garage Fire

On March 8th, firefighters extinguished a garage fire in Garden Grove before it could extend into the house. The rapid-fire attack saved not only property but family belongings as well. Fortunately, no one was injured. The cause is under investigation.



Click For Social Media Post

"Routine call?" Not this morning for the firefighters from station 61 in Buena Park. Crews were called to the scene to assist a woman who was inside a trash truck, and sleeping in a dumpster when it was emptied into the truck.

Our firefighters accessed the patient, began treating her, and executed a high-point operation to extricate her from the truck. These types of "out of the ordinary" calls are what our crews constantly train for!



## Orange County Fire Authority In The News

### Woman Fatally Struck By Vehicle In OC

Patch.com - Mar 1, 2024

### Kitchen Fire Explosion Causes Concern At San Juan Capistrano Apartments

WNews.com - Mar 2, 2024

### Residents evacuated due to kitchen fire explosion at San Juan Capistrano apartments

CBS News - Mar 2, 2024

### OCFA Fire Captain Paramedic Dies After Serving Community For 26+ Years

MSN.com - Mar 5, 2024

### Orange County Firefighters Honor Fallen Captain With Procession

Patch.com - Mar 6, 2024

### Justin incurs hefty hangar fire cleanup costs while waiting on Navy funding

Los Angeles Times - Mar 6, 2024

### Firefighters rescue horse from ditch in Laguna Niguel

The Orange County Register - Mar 11, 2024

### Horse loses footing, falls into trench, California video shows 'challenging' rescue

CBS News - Mar 12, 2024

### 16 injuries reported, most minor, from blast during OC Sheriff's training exercise at FBI center in Irvine

The Orange County Register - Mar 13, 2024

### 16 injured in explosion at FBI training facility in Irvine

CBS News - Mar 13, 2024

### Toppled tree displaces Lake Forest apartment residents as Santa Ana gusts hit Orange County

The Orange County Register - Mar 14, 2024

### Man chases after pet parrot and stumbles off 'steep cliff,' California officials say

Yahoo! News - Mar 18, 2024

### Gaseous Odor In Seal Beach Prompts Investigation

Patch.com - Mar 18, 2024

### Peer support: The key to combating occupational stress

Police1 - Mar 18, 2024

### Firepower Meets Horsepower

Associated Press - Mar 18, 2024

### Woman sleeping in bin in Buena Park survives being loaded into trash truck

The Orange County Register - Mar 22, 2024

### California woman sleeping in bin survives being loaded into trash truck

The Mercury News - Mar 23, 2024

### SIG ALERT: 16 At A Dead Stop Through Mission Viejo Wednesday

Patch.com - Mar 27, 2024

### Woman killed in head-on crash in Santa Ana

CBS News - Mar 31, 2024

## Promotions



- Regan Bentz, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Matthew Carey, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Nicholas Champion, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Grant Cota, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Finn Erickson, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Torrence Granzella, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Charles Harrison, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Benjamin Lawrence, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Travis O'Leary, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Francis Petruzzella, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Diego Sanchez, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Erik Straub, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Garrett Valsek, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Martin Wills, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Ryan Wood, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Kevin Young, Firefighter Trainee - Academy
- Bryan Bear, Fire Battalion Chief
- Webster W. Bernhardt IV, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Lee Catron, Fire Battalion Chief
- Antonio Castanon, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Justin Chan, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Daniel Franks, Fire Captain
- Christian Colfer, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Justin Doyle, Fire Battalion Chief
- James Emaline, Fire Battalion Chief
- Kevin Gerard, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Jacob Goodwin, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Christopher Hogarth, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Sean Kelly, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Kyle Kuhlthaus, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Michael Robert Jayson, Fire Captain
- Jaime Martinez, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Adam Mekler, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Jeremy Quinn, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Brett Reynolds, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Joshua Salmons, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Chad Swanson, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Ryan Boselo, Fire Prevention Specialist
- Evan Carey, Fire Prevention Analyst
- Shannon Chan, Fire Prevention Specialist
- Kevin Parkh, Budget Analyst
- Rosanne Sisman, Senior Human Resources Specialist
- James Slocjan, Treasurer

## Years of Service

- Jerald Hill, Fire Captain/PM
- James May, Fire Captain/PM



- Nathaniel Williams, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Stanley Bennett, Firefighter
- Daniel Goodwin, Fire Captain
- Paul Anthony Morales, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Brandon Zinsmeister, Fire Captain
- Jose Fraces Gilbert, Firefighter/PM
- Todd Mulenburg, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Shawn Stacy, Fire Captain/PM
- Christopher Tamm, Fire Apparatus Engineer/PM
- Christopher Finley, Fire Captain
- Brian David Hersh, Firefighter
- Daniel Young, Fire Captain - Academy Trainer
- Craig Binnett, Fire Captain
- Brett Paul Buffington, Fire Battalion Chief
- Jaime Torres, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Ryan Wood, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Justin Chapman, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Ryan Christopher Higgins, Fire Captain
- Ethan Martinez, Fire Captain/Heavy Rescue

## Retirements



- Robb Culp, Fire Captain/PM
- David Terresler, Firefighter/PM
- Grady Marquez, Fire Captain
- Darryl Franks, Fire Captain
- James Yavin IV, Fire Apparatus Engineer/PM
- David Morgan, Communications Technician
- Donald Friedman, Fleet Services Supervisor
- Andres Vazquez, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Jason Jones, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Francisco Hernandez, Fire Technology Manager
- Kimcoah Phay, Information Technology Analyst
- Patricia Jacobus, Treasurer
- Dawn Hale, Fire Communications Dispatcher
- David Hahn, Heavy Fire Equipment Operator
- Michael Richards, Fire Communications Dispatcher
- Ramon Munoz, Fire Captain/PM
- Jerald Hill, Fire Captain/PM
- Andrew Loch, Fire Captain
- Kurt Woods, Fire Captain/PM
- Kurt Biedinger, Firefighter
- Alexander Van, Firefighter
- Jacob Stein II, Fire Captain
- Rosanne Sisman, Senior Human Resources Specialist
- Lawrence Underwood, Fire Captain
- Jose Garcia, Firefighter