



OCFA Monthly Bulletin - March 2024

From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

Our promise to protect property and save lives becomes all the more poignant when we are reminded that our firefighters put their lives on the line to uphold that commitment. Sadly, this reminder too often comes in the form of one of our colleagues making the ultimate sacrifice.

This past month, that tragic cost was once again incurred with Captain Rob Culp's passing. As with all Line of Duty Deaths, our responsibility to honor Rob transcends the bands we wear across our badges, the flags we fly over our stations, the processions we orchestrate over our freeways, or the service through which we will celebrate his life.

While those protocols are warranted and deserved, they are also finite, underscoring our responsibility to honor Rob and all fallen firefighters in ways that, like their service, affect eternity. In other words, just as Captain Culp's impact lives on—in the lives of the patients he saved, in the homes of the communities he protected from fire, and in the hearts of those with whom he served—so too must our efforts to continuously honor him and the legacies of all fallen firefighters.

I visited with Rob a few times in the weeks before his passing, and even as he battled the spreading cancer, his pride in our work and service was beyond evident. Reflecting on those conversations now, I am reminded that there is indeed no greater honor we can bestow upon our fallen comrades than to better and more faithfully serve the sacred oath they gave their lives to uphold.

In doing so, their legacies become inextricably woven into our mission, and I am grateful for the firefighters, professional staff, TCTI, OCFA Peer Support, Local 3631, and our extended fire family who continue to honor Rob and all fallen firefighters in this special, enduring way.

Sincerely,
Brian Fennessy
Fire Chief

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

Captain Rob Culp Procession

On March 4th, OCFA Fire Captain Rob Culp passed away from cancer surrounded by family and friends at UCI Medical Center. Within hours of his passing, OCFA honored him with a procession from UCI to O'Connor Mortuary in Laguna Hills. The below offers just a small glimpse into how beloved Rob was and the familial ties that bind all of us here at the OCFA. Services will be held on April 20, 2024 at Capo Beach Church in Dana Point.



ROBIN "ROB" CULP
1971 - 2024

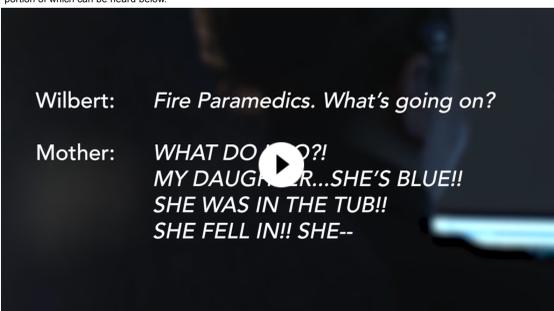
2024 OCFA Open House

Thank you to all the firefighters & professional staff who made Open House 2024 our biggest and best attended in history! Check out the video recap below!



ECC Dispatcher Excellence

In 2023, our ECC dispatchers answered more than a quarter of a million calls for an average of 632 calls per day. And they're not only dispatching the appropriate resources well under the 64-second national standard, but they're doing it while communicating instruction with the calming and caring demeanor that saves lives. Case in point, Probationary Dispatcher Wilbert Medina was honored at the March Board of Directors meeting for his professionalism on a near drowning call, a portion of which can be heard below.



March Promotions & Years of Service Honorees

Our monthly promotion ceremony was jam-packed in March as we celebrated two 30-year honorees (Division Chief Craig Covey and Firefighter Robert Carrera) along with the promotions of 16 new FAEs and four new Battalion Chiefs, BC Bear, BC Cabrera, BC Doyle, and BC Enterline. Congratulations to all the honorees!



[Click Here for All the Ceremony Photos!](#)

Mental and Behavioral Health Awareness

Our commitment to mental and behavioral health awareness within the fire service continues to reverberate beyond the borders of our service region. This past month during First Responder Wellness Week, Chief Fennessy served on a Leupold webinar to share some of our best practices with the hope of embedding them throughout the fire service.



[Click to Read the Article / Watch Panel](#)

Equity, Inclusion, Outreach, and Recruitment

Cal State Fullerton Outreach & Recruitment

Led by Frank Granados, current OCFA Captain and former starting point guard for Cal State Fullerton basketball, our Outreach and Recruitment Team (ORT) was once again a key presence to CSUF's Fullerton Athletics Career Expo (FACE) program. As the only CSU in Orange County, Cal State Fullerton has a rich connection to the OCFA with countless Titan alumni serving as firefighters and professional staff. Thank you, Captain Granados and ORT, for continuing to build this Titan-to-OCFA pipeline!



FEATURE: Student-athletes' skill set gives them a leg up, employers say

3/8/2024 9:18:00 AM | By: Bill Sheehan

[Click to Read the Article!](#)

Women's History Month

We began Women's History month with the below video review of the history of women in the fire service followed by profiles of a few of our highest reaching women firefighters and professional staff, including Training Program Analyst Jocelyn Casillas, Deputy Fire Marshal Jennifer Bower, and FAE Candice Acosta.



[Click Above Thumbnail for OCFA's "History of Women in the Fire Service" Video Narrated by Women OCFA Firefighters](#)



[Click Above Thumbnail for FAE Acosta's Video Profile](#)



[Click Above Thumbnail for Deputy FM Bower's Profile](#)



[Click Here for Training Program Analyst Casilla's Post](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



Top Social Media Posts

Fire Captain Academy Graduation

We are excited to announce the promotions of 14 new Fire Captains. These individuals successfully passed a challenging Captain's Academy that both prepared and assessed their ability to lead a crew of firefighters. Please join us in congratulating them on their accomplishments and wish them all the best in their new role as Fire Captain.



[Click For Social Media Post](#)

Engine 86 In Service of Others!

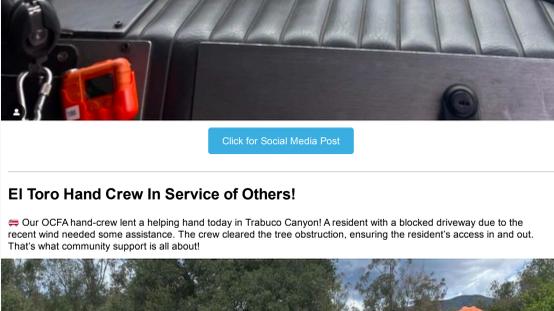
Engine 86, a paramedic engine company serving the east side of Garden Grove, noticed a blind woman standing on an island in traffic trying to navigate her way across a busy street. Fortunately, the crew was in the right spot at the right time to turn on their warning lights and stop traffic to assist her across. We are always In Service Of Others.



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EI Toro Hand Crew In Service of Others!

Our OCFA hand-crew lent a helping hand today in Trabuco Canyon! A resident with a blocked driveway due to the recent wind needed some assistance. The crew cleared the tree obstruction, ensuring the resident's access in and out. That's what community support is all about!



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