



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

For months now, we at the OCFA have prepared our agency and the communities we serve with a stark reality: The record rains of winter and spring could result in record wildfires in summer and fall. Varying weather patterns and increased fuel loads aside, our wildfire suppression performance goal remains unwavering: Keep all vegetation fires 10 acres or less 95% of the time.

With rare exceptions, the OCFA consistently meets this goal thanks in large part to our proactive and ongoing training and preparation. Case in point, in May, Chiefs Perkins and Sherwood sent a Wildland Response Expectations Memo, bolstering efforts in everything from wildland fire training and firefighter PPE inspections to Strike Team refresher courses and the review of historic fire behavior in our region. At the same time, when not assigned to wildfires in- and out-of-county, our Hand Crews have been hard at work on hazardous fuels reduction and restoring fire roads washed out during the rains.

Not to be outdone, our Community Risk Reduction team elevated their year-round work of engaging and educating our communities on vegetation management, home hardening, and defensible space. Corporate Communications kicked off our Wildfire Awareness campaign and launched a new PSA that speaks to the combustible nature of the fuel loads throughout our region.

All the while, OCFA led the expansion of game-changing wildfire resources that better protect not just our county but the entire region and state. The Quick Reaction Force (QRF), which we innovated with Southern California Edison back in 2019, has now upgraded from one to three Boeing CH-47 Helitankers. On top of that, FIRIS, which we piloted and built, just transitioned to a state-wide program, and the Director of Cal OES, the Fire Chief of Cal OES, and the Governor of California publicly thanked us for our vision and work in creating this invaluable mutual aid asset.

So, where does all this training, preparation, and innovation leave us in achieving our goal to keep all wildfires 10 acres or less 95% of the time? As you all know, over the past month, that goal has been tested by numerous vegetation fires in Orange County, and all of them were put to bed well under our 10-acre goal, often in collaboration with our partners, including Naval Weapons Station 31, CAL FIRE / Riverside, Laguna Beach Fire Department, Orange City Fire Department, and Anaheim Fire & Rescue.

All this, while our firefighters continue to respond to 500 in-county calls a day and provide out-of-county assistance on wildfires raging around the state. And of course, the behind-the-scenes excellence of our professional staff continues to drive and support our success.

Thank you, all of you — from HR, CRR, and Fleet Services to ECC, EMS, and Field Operations. Your flat-out and full-throttle wildfire prevention and suppression work coupled with the kindness and care you instill in our communities on every call is as inspiring as it is lifesaving.

Yes, peak fire season is just ahead, and more challenges are on the horizon, but together, we will continue to meet and exceed our wildfire suppression goal and further emerge as a national model for protecting life and property.

Sincerely,

Brian Fennessy
Fire Chief

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Recent Vegetation Fires

As stated above, our goal to keep all wildfires 10 acres or less was tested numerous times over the past month, and the below video highlights just a handful of our successes in collaboration with partnering agencies.



Niguel Incident
7/18/2023

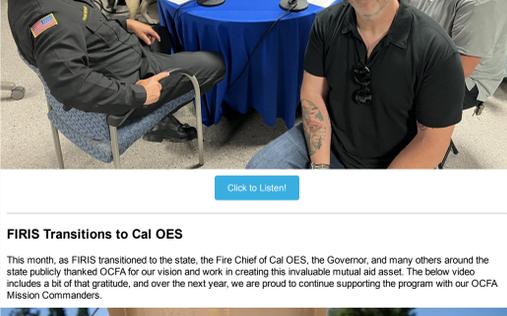
Hit hard with ground and aerial resources

Held to less than 5 acres

Contained to the hillside and kept out of the homes

Pass-Along Podcast - Investigations

On this episode of the Pass-Along Podcast, Assistant Chief of Field Operations Shane Sherwood sits down with Captain Shaun Miller, Chief Jason Truhill, Captain Bill Suohm, Irvine PD Detective Justin Russell, Captain Scott Dierdorff, and Freedom to discuss our Investigations Section. Listen to the full conversation at the link below!



[Click to Listen!](#)

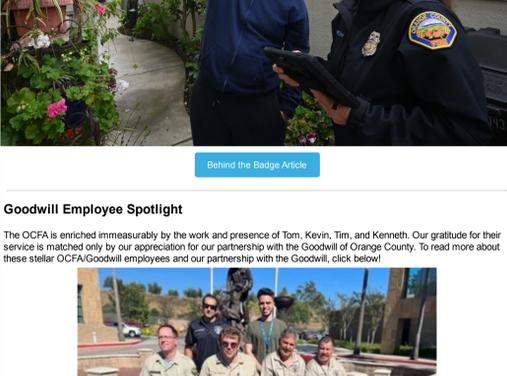
FIRIS Transitions to Cal OES

This month, as FIRIS transitioned to the state, the Fire Chief of Cal OES, the Governor, and many others around the state publicly thanked OCFA for our vision and work in creating this invaluable mutual aid asset. The below video includes a bit of that gratitude, and over the next year, we are proud to continue supporting the program with our OCFA Mission Commanders.



Behind the Badge Feature on Community Risk Reduction

OCFA Assistant Fire Marshal Kim Brown and Fire Inspector Francisco Rivera were recently highlighted in a Behind the Badge article on home hardening. Click below to read about the tremendous work of Community Risk Reduction!



[Behind the Badge Article](#)

Goodwill Employee Spotlight

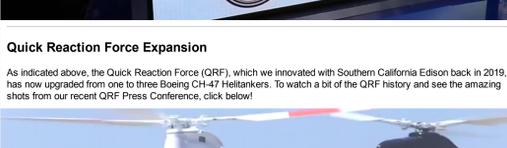
The OCFA is enriched immeasurably by the work and presence of Tom, Kevin, Tim, and Kenneth. Our gratitude for their service is matched only by our appreciation for our partnership with the Goodwill of Orange County. To read more about these stellar OCFA/Goodwill employees and our partnership with the Goodwill, click below!



[Click to Read the Goodwill Supported Employment Newsletter](#)

OCFA on ABC World News Tonight!

For the second time in just a few months, the OCFA was featured on ABC World News Tonight! This time it was to honor one of our newest members of the OCFA Family - Live Find Canine Nanci! To learn more about Nanci, her partner FAE Morville, and the work they will do together on California USAR Task Force 5, watch the full story below!



Quick Reaction Force Expansion

As indicated above, the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), which we innovated with Southern California Edison back in 2019, has now upgraded from one to three Boeing CH-47 Helitankers. To watch a bit of the QRF history and see the amazing shots from our recent QRF Press Conference, click below!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the past month OCFA's social media platforms had:

- Over 2.1 million impressions (eyes on our content)
- 104,569 engagements (interaction with our content)
- 845 link clicks/redirections
- 572 new followers

Despite this social media success, we are always looking to improve and share information of interest with each other and the communities we serve. To that end, there is now a new area on the HIVE for all OCFA personnel (safety and non-safety) to submit photos, videos, and story ideas for news on OCFA's social media accounts and other information-sharing platforms.

[Click to Submit Photos/Videos](#)

[Click to Read the Memo](#)



Top Social Media Posts

Special Olympics Yorba Linda Event



Firefighters were at the Chili's restaurant in Yorba Linda waiting on tables with OC Sheriff Department Yorba Linda deputies to benefit the Special Olympics of Orange County.

[Click For Social Media Post](#)



Irvine Commercial Strip Fire

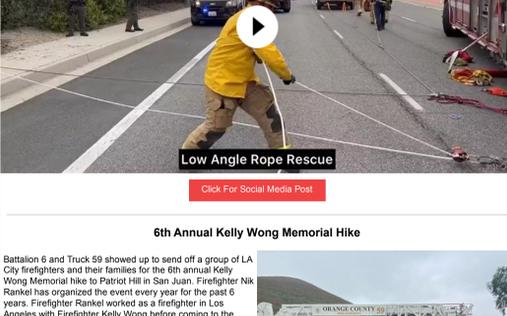


Firefighters responded to the 5400 block of Walnut Ave in Irvine for a fire in a commercial strip center. Engine 126 was the first-arriving unit and reported smoke from the roof area of a business. A second alarm was requested and subsequently a third which brought over 50 firefighters to the scene. Thanks to an aggressive attack, a knockdown was declared in 43 minutes; isolating the damage to one unit. No injuries reported and a cause has not been determined yet.

[Click For Social Media Post](#)

Rancho Santa Margarita Vehicle Rescue

After a vehicle drove off the side of Alicia Pkwy near Santa Margarita Pkwy in Rancho Santa Margarita and ended up 120 feet down a hill, OCFA firefighters quickly executed a low angle rope rescue. Once the patient was safely rescued, our firefighter paramedics transported the patient to a local hospital. We are proud of the teamwork that made this rescue go so quickly, smoothly, and safely.



[Click For Social Media Post](#)

6th Annual Kelly Wong Memorial Hike

Battalion 6 and Truck 59 showed up to the 6th annual of LA City firefighters and their families for the 6th annual Kelly Wong Memorial hike to Patriot Hill in San Juan. Firefighter Nik Rankel has organized the event every year for the past 6 years. Firefighter Rankel worked as a firefighter in Los Angeles with Firefighter Kelly Wong before coming to the OCFA.

[Click For Social Media Post](#)



Orange County Fire Authority In the News

Man acquitted of igniting massive Holy fire in California's Orange and Riverside counties
Miami Herald - Jun 1, 2023

Man acquitted of igniting massive 2018 Southern California wildfire
MSN.com - Jun 1, 2023

Orange County Teen Invents Wildfire Detection Device
The Epoch Times - Jun 2, 2023

Violent Attack on US Marines Results in Suspects' Arrest
USNA News - Jun 5, 2023

Man, 28, Killed in Single-Vehicle Crash in Irvine
The Epoch Times - Jun 10, 2023

28-year-old man dies after losing control of vehicle in Irvine
KTLA-TV - Jun 10, 2023

Truck Crashes Into Embankment, 1 Rescued in Rancho Santa Margarita
Patch.com - Jun 13, 2023

Firefighter suffers minor burns battling house fire in Irvine
CBS News - Jun 18, 2023

Motorcyclist dies after crashing into utility box in Santa Ana
CBS News - Jun 19, 2023

Crime and Public Safety | Three alarm fire breaks out at Irvine Strip Mall
The Orange County Register - Jun 20, 2023

Man Accused Of Arson At South OC Grocery Store Arrested
Patch.com - Jun 20, 2023

Are You Wildfire Ready In Rancho Santa Margarita?
Patch.com - Jun 21, 2023

3-Alarm Fire Burns South Orange County Business Tuesday
Patch.com - Jun 21, 2023

3-Alarm Fire Engulfs Restaurant at Irvine Strip Mall
The Epoch Times - Jun 21, 2023

Police officers train for active shooter situation
Patch.com - Jun 23, 2023

Brush Fire Reported In South OC Friday Afternoon
Patch.com - Jun 23, 2023

Crime and Public Safety | Brush fire stopped at 5 acres near 91 Freeway...
The Orange County Register - Jun 25, 2023

Kitten takes a wild ride underneath Orange County woman's SUV
KTLA-TV - Jun 26, 2023

Firefighters in Buena Park rescue kitten that was trapped inside an SUV
CBS News - Jun 28, 2023

Kitten vanishes when driver stops to help. Then she heard meowing in SUV hours later
Yahoo! News - Jun 28, 2023

Home hardening can help property owners avert fire disaster
Patch.com - Jun 30, 2023

Promotions

- Remi Barthe, Firefighter
- Remmy Calising, Firefighter
- Dalton Conard, Firefighter
- Matthew Eberhardt, Firefighter
- Matthew Erickson, Firefighter
- Stefanos Grigoriou, Firefighter
- Luke Hawkins, Firefighter
- Brandan Jacob, Firefighter
- Trent Kina, Firefighter
- Mitchell Lerma, Firefighter
- Antonio Maldonado, Firefighter
- Jess Marcon, Firefighter
- Ryan Mccauley, Firefighter
- Eric Orta, Firefighter
- Chad Patterson, Firefighter
- Craig Perry, Firefighter
- Michael Pierson, Firefighter
- Patrick Reich, Firefighter
- John Rowlands, Firefighter
- Nathan Smith, Firefighter
- Gabriel Struchen, Firefighter
- Jarred Terry, Firefighter
- Jared Thorne, Firefighter
- Carlos Violante, Firefighter
- Andrew Cheung, Fire Captain
- Jeff Garbaczewski, Fire Captain
- John Lopez, Fire Captain
- Victor Soto, Fire Captain
- Chris Trokey, Fire Captain
- Dalat Truong, Fire Captain
- Joshua Friedman, Fire Captain
- Chin Chien Huang, Fire Captain
- Francisco Ochoa, Fire Captain/Pm
- Samuel Semirgon, Fire Captain/Pm
- Joshua Feldman, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Christana Espino, Administrative Assistant

June Retirements

Juliet Lipschin, Office Services Specialist

RETIREMENTS

