

As Fire Chief, I have the responsibility of sharing the tragic news of a line-of-duty death with the family, sitting with

Dear OCFA Family: and consoling them as they absorb and grieve their unimaginable loss.

family to Yosemite to spread Ken's ashes.

And I have learned that of everything we do to honor their loved ones — from the bands we wear on our badges to the processions we orchestrate on our freeways — nothing provides them more comfort than the promise we repeatedly make in those first heartbreaking hours: We, the OCFA Family, are not just here for you in the immediate

wake of your loss; we are here for you in the weeks, months, years, and even decades ahead. We honor that promise when firefighters from Engine 30, Engine 5, Truck 49, and Battalion 6 show up for a high school graduation to stand with Captain Rob Culp's daughter at her first significant milestone without her dad. We honor that promise when the crew of Engine 21 delivers flowers to Captain Tom Wall's daughter on every anniversary of his 1998 line of duty death.

We honor that promise when we join the family of one of our fallen for an annual fishing trip in his memory, a tradition now in its 15th year for James "Jimmy O" Owen.

We honor that promise when one of our captains and his wife accompanied Ken Caley's widow, Karla, and the Caley

And on June 26th, we honored that promise with our Fallen Heroes Memorial. Organized and led by Chief Sheehan,

Chief Medina, and the Ceremony, Awards, and Protocol Committee, the event undoubtedly had a lasting impact on all attendees. For me, it was the affirmation of the deep ties that bind us as OCFA Family and the sense that this connection begins with — and is constantly strengthened by — our collective work to protect life and property. Standing atop the ridge on the Rancho Fire in Laguna Beach on Monday, I was awash in the stunning excellence with which we do that work.

Yes, we were in unified command with Laguna Beach Fire Department, but let's be clear: the OCFA stamp of excellence was at every level of this firefight — from 18,000 feet where the FIRIS platform (a program we created and piloted), mapped the fire in real time, to the depths of the canyon where our boots-on-the-ground firefighters battled the blaze in treacherous terrain. Between those layers of OCFA excellence, the helitankers of the Quick Reaction Force (another program we

spearheaded), and our OCFA aircraft repeatedly hover-filled, often from a Helopod we opened just last year, ultimately dropping more than 100,000 gallons. Moreover, weeks before the fire even started, OCFA chief officers honed their wildfire strategies by participating in an interagency tabletop exercise based on this exact scenario in this exact region.

As a result of all this OCFA innovation, training, and execution, you could hear the community's cheers as their homes were saved. Standing atop the ridge with many of those residents, it was clear that, like me, they knew they were witnessing a special response from a special agency. As an old wildland guy, I follow the unwritten rule of never sharing it's your birthday with your fellow firefighters – good

rarely comes from the admission. However, since I was "outed" by Chief Perkins in front of the entire Academy Cadre a few hours before the Rancho Fire started, I suppose it's safe to share that normally guarded information here. Yes, Monday was my birthday, and while I enjoyed the good-natured ribbing and off-key singing from the Cadre, watching our personnel save lives and property that afternoon was truly the greatest gift of all. For me, these are the incidents that strengthen our familial bonds beyond measure, and, as I shared at the memorial

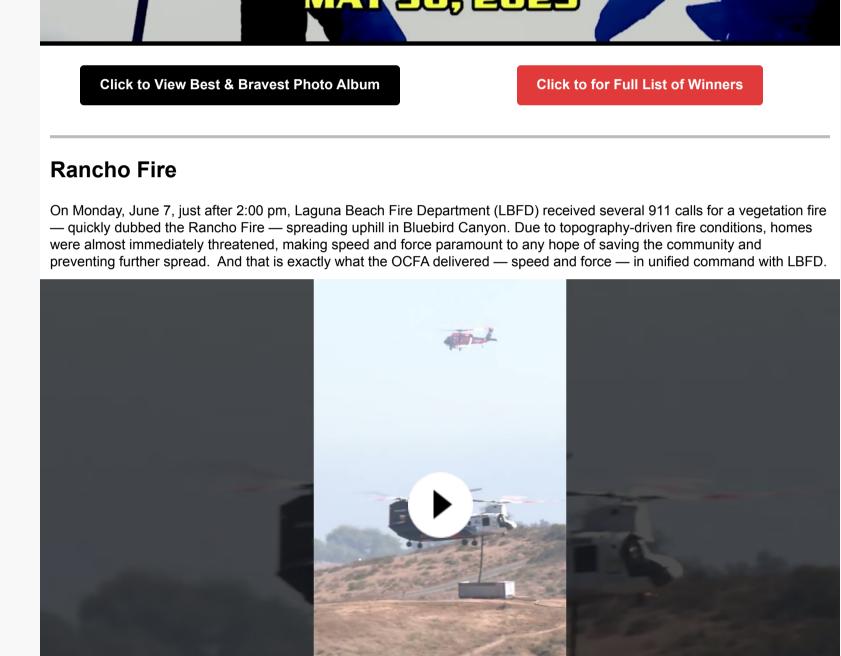
event, these are also the moments we breathe new life into the sacred oath our OCFA fallen heroes gave their lives to uphold. As we approach peak fire season, let us continue to strengthen those familial ties by looking out for one another and building upon the public trust earned by those who came before us – especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sincerely, **Brian Fennessy** Fire Chief

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE Ask the Chief - June 2025 June's Ask the Chief, which was released on YouTube on June 12th, covers a variety of topics -- from the Ambulance Proposal and 5-Year Hiring Plan to our Reserve Fleet and the rebuild of Station 24. Click below for all that and more!

ASK THE

June 2025 Best and Bravest Thank you to everyone who joined us in person or tuned in online for the 17th Annual Best and Bravest Awards Ceremony, held on Friday, May 30. This year's honorees represent the very best of OCFA—those who consistently go above and beyond in service, leadership, innovation, and excellence. Click below to watch the full ceremony! ORANGE



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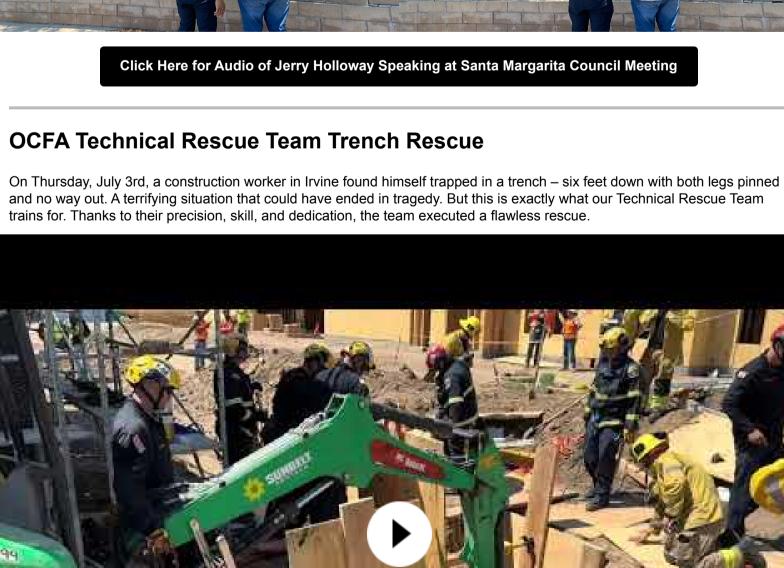
As the sponsoring agency of FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 5, OCFA deployed two of our highly trained canine detection teams to assist in the ongoing search and recovery efforts. We are proud to support our partners and stand with the

Texas Floods Recovery Efforts

communities affected during this challenging and tragic time.

Going Above and Beyond - Andrew Amante On June 11, at the RSM City Council meeting, Council Member Jerry Holloway praised the exceptional work of our home inspection team. After requesting an inspection through our RSG site, he was amazed by the swift response, even encouraging his neighbors to sign up for inspections. A big thank you to Andrew and the team for their dedication and efficiency in

supporting our community. Your commitment to excellence does not go unnoticed!



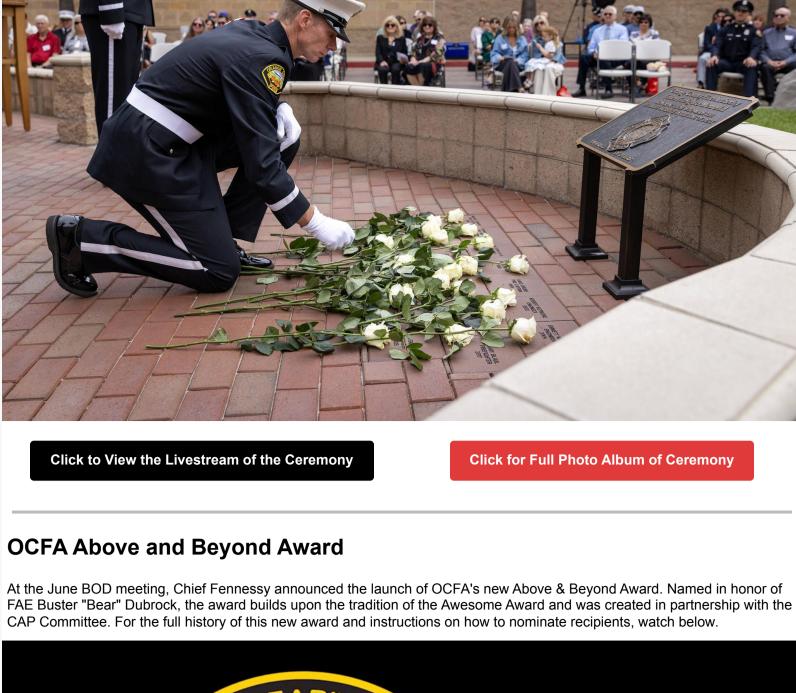
Academy 61 Graduation

Congratulations to the 34 newest OCFA firefighters! After weeks of dedication, resilience, and hard work, these individuals graduated from the academy, celebrating this milestone alongside their friends and family. We look forward to seeing them serve our communities with compassion, strength, and integrity.

On Thursday, June 26th, the Orange County Fire Authority unveiled a new memorial area dedicated to the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Families of the fallen, along with members of our fire family gathered for a bellringing tribute. The event served as a powerful reminder of the service and sacrifice of those who protect our communities.

Click for Full Photo Album of Ceremony

Click Here for the Push-In Ceremony Photo Album



ALIFORNI

On June 3rd, OCFA hosted its annual drowning prevention press conference and mock drowning scenario. For the first time,

an OCFA patient (and their family) who recently had a very real scare at a pool party, joined the OCFA for the press conference, making the event all the more impactful and expanding the story's reach to more than 100 million.

Annual Drowning Prevention Press Conference

TOP POSTS OF THE MONTH Vegetation Fire in Mission Viejo Quick work in Mission Viejo as Firefighters held a vegetation fire to one acre in just 13 minutes. Crews arrived quickly after the fire was reported and knocked it down using only ground resources — OCFA Air Ops was en route but not needed. Click Here for Full Social Media Post

Six people were evaluated during a hazardous materials incident - two were transported in stable condition. The business was evacuated while our Hazardous Materials Response Team worked with OCSD and cooperating agencies to determine what

Click Here for Full Social Media Post

Angels Stadium Flyover

High above the Big A, in real-time on the Jumbotron, and on

Responders & Law Enforcement Appreciation Day yesterday.

All the views were incredible as OCFA Air Operations

helicopters flew over Angels Stadium in honor of First

the field with rotors thundering overhead.

was in a letter. An investigation revealed there wasn't a hazard, and the building was released back to the occupants.

Thankfully, all occupants made it out safely, and no injuries We were proud to salute our fellow first responders and law were reported. enforcement partners alongside our amazing community. Click Here for Full Social Media Post

Hazmat Incident in Laguna Hills

Engine 62 - Buena Park Garage Fire

Here's what Engine 62 encountered upon arrival at a garage

fire on Somerset Street in Buena Park yesterday, with reports

Crews arrived within four minutes, searched the home, and

of residents possibly still inside the home.

CBS News - May 3, 2025

Yahoo! News - May 4, 2025

CBS News - May 6, 2025

Associated Press - May 16, 2025

Los Angeles Times - May 19, 2025

Los Angeles Times - May 21, 2025

NewsBreak -US - Jun 16, 2025

FireRescue1 - Jun 17, 2025

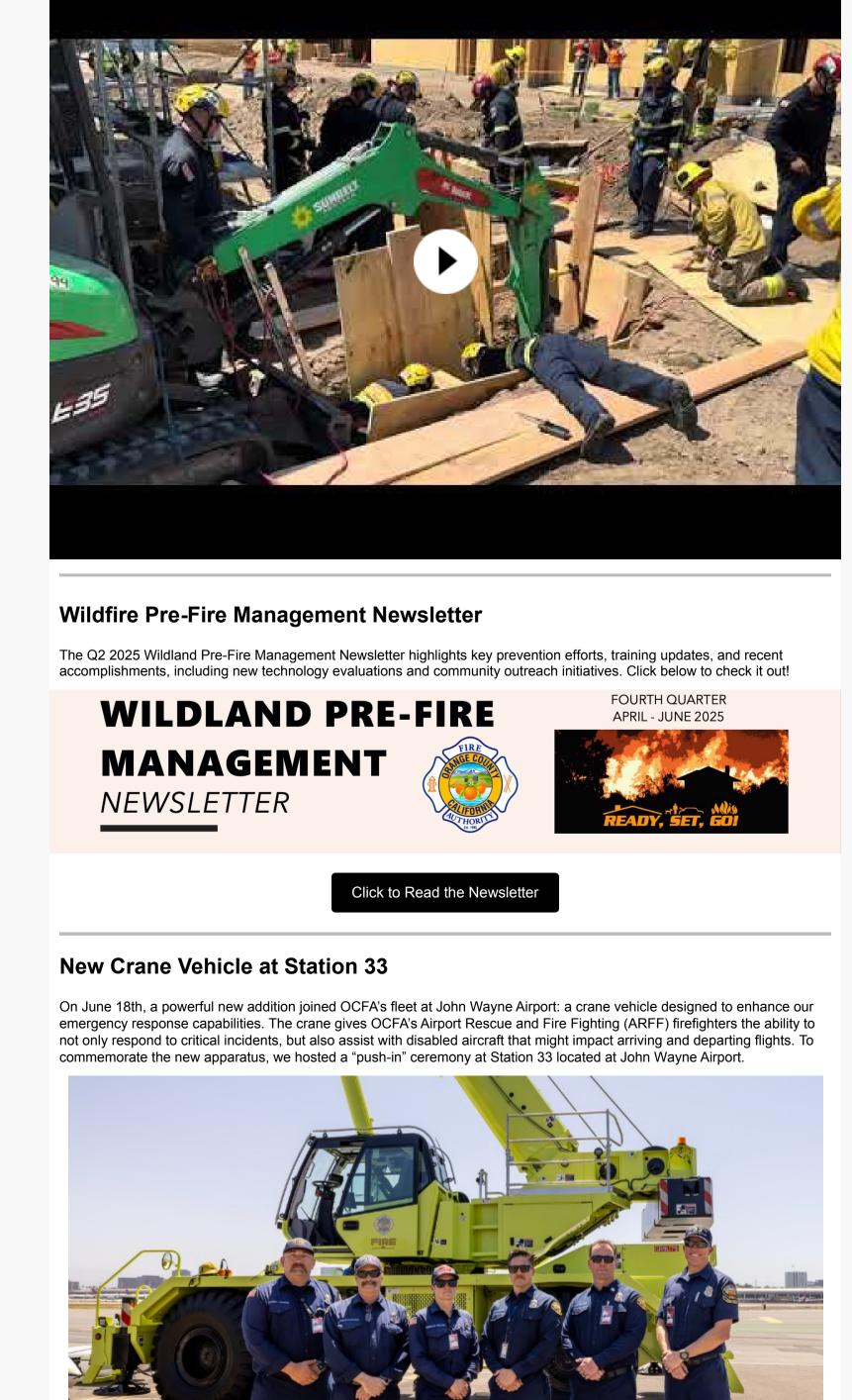
Patch.com - Jun 27, 2025

FULLERTON - Fullerton Airport welcomes public for Airport Day

attacked the fire — quickly limiting its spread.

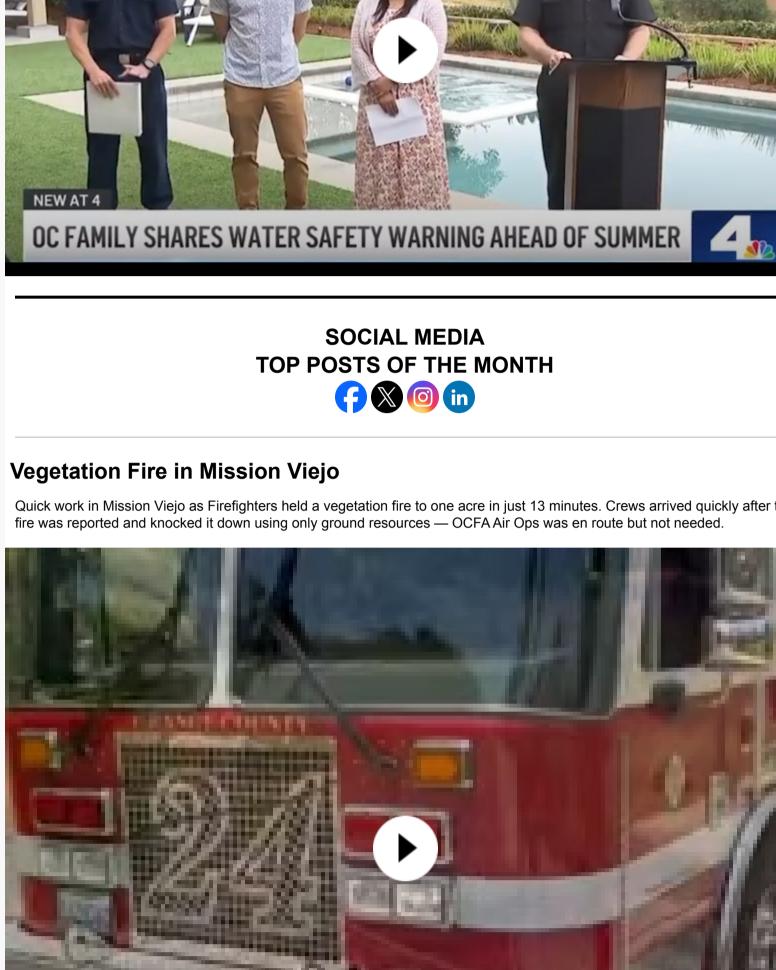
YORBA LINDA - Southern California authorities use new technology to save stranded biker MSN.com - May 21, 2025 COSTA MESA - Landing gear collapse on Alaska Airlines 737 caused by 'excessive grinding' during maintenance, **NTSB says** CNN - May 27, 2025 ORANGE - 'White powder' in mail no mere prank - it's a felony Patch.com - May 29, 2025 WESTMINSTER - Man uses bear spray on 3 people at Westminster grocery store, leading to evacuation The Orange County Register - Jun 2, 2025 SANTA ANA - Man found fatally shot in Santa Ana The Orange County Register - Jun 2, 2025 GARDEN GROVE - OC parents share near-drowning scare to raise awareness about pool dangers this summer MSN.com - Jun 4, 2025 SAN GABRIEL VALLEY - Prescribed Burn Set For East SGV To Reduce Wildfire Risk: Officials Patch.com - Jun 5, 2025 SANTA ANA - <u>Driver shot to death in Orange County, detectives searching for witnesses</u> MSN.com - Jun 15, 2025 COSTA MESA - 3 Costa Mesa businesses displaced by 3-alarm fire north of the 405 Freeway Los Angeles Times - Jun 16, 2025 IRVINE - Firefighting Family Tradition Runs Deep In OC Patch.com - Jun 17, 2025 MISSION VIEJO - Fire Destroys Mission Viejo Garage Patch.com - Jun 16, 2025 MISSION VIEJO - Mission Viejo Garage Fire Prevented from Spreading

GARDEN GROVE - Hazmat Team Contains Leak At Orange County Industrial Facility Patch.com - Jun 23, 2025 TUSTIN - Debris removal from torched Tustin hangar is almost complete NewsBreak -US - Jun 23, 2025 IRVINE - OC Fire Authority uses explosive demonstration to urge fireworks safety The Orange County Register - Jun 24, 2025 SEAL BEACH - School grounds are training ground in Seal Beach, site of O.C.'s deadliest shooting Los Angeles Times - Jun 25, 2025 IRVINE - <u>Orange County Fire Authority emphasizes firework safety ahead of July 4 celebrations</u> Citizen Portal AI - Jun 26, 2025



Click to View the Livestream of the Ceremony

Fallen Heroes Memorial Ceremony



Click Here for Full Social Media Post **Santa Ana Commercial Fire**

it had a chance to spread to adjacent buildings, containing the fire to the outside storage area.

On June 15th, firefighters responded to a fire in the outside storage area of a commercial property in Santa Ana. Crews arrived to find a large volume of fire involving a collection of recyclable materials. The blaze was quickly knocked down before

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Orange County Fire Authority In the News

STANTON - Alleged DUI driver arrested for crash that killed one, injured another in Orange County

DANA POINT - One teenager dead, five others injured after truck slams into tree in Dana Point

YORBA LINDA - Gunfire erupts at park in Orange County; 3 people hospitalized

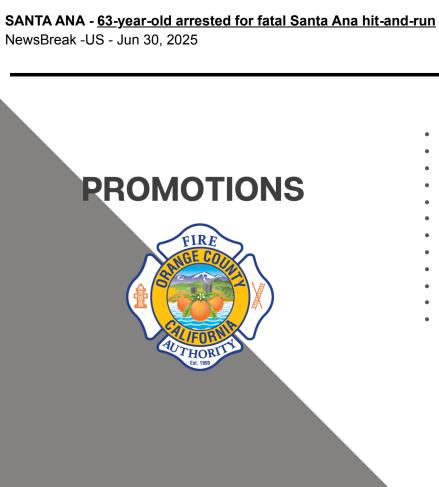
SANTA ANA - 2 teens turn themselves in after stabbing at Santa Ana High School

MSN.com - May 8, 2025 STANTON - \$650k in fire damage to home NewsBreak -US - May 10, 2025 ORANGE COUNTY - <u>Early-season Southern California heat wave results in dozens of rescues</u> MSN.com - May 12, 2025 LAGUNA BEACH - Homeowners in Laguna Beach urged to do their part to stave off wildfire disaster Los Angeles Times - May 16, 2025 ORANGE COUNTY - Southern California Edison's Wildfire Mitigation Plan Leverages Grid Innovations to Advance **Community Safety**

GARDEN GROVE - Costa Mesa motorcyclist critically injured in collision with truck in Garden Grove

COSTA MESA - Reported trash fire becomes a 3-alarm industrial building blaze in Calif.

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA - Residents Urged To Attend Fire Safety Meeting In RSM Patch.com - Jun 18, 2025 IRVINE - Should irresponsible hikers be forced to pay for their rescue? This sheriff says yes MSN.com - Jun 20, 2025



TRABUCO CANYON - Brush Fire Breaks Out In Trabuco Canyon: OCFA

 Maxwell Harter, Fire Apparatus Engineer Jonathan Melendez, Senior Accounting Support Specialist • Ryan Ness, Fire Apparatus Engineer • Brice Reiner, Fire Apparatus Engineer • Priscilla Rodriguez, Fire Prevention Specialist • Sebastian Rodriguez, Fire Apparatus Engineer Gregory Schwan, Fire Apparatus Engineer · Randall Sossaman, Fire Apparatus Engineer • Nathan Babbitt, Senior Fire Prevention Specialist · Aaron Hicks, Fire Prevention Specialist

 Jonathan Melendez, Senior Accounting Support Specialist • Sabina Pehrson Boselo, Senior Administrative Assistant