



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

In October, the OCFA experienced yet another year-over-year increase, with our dispatchers receiving 19,890 calls and our firefighters responding to over 15,100 all-hazard emergencies.

My pride in our operational excellence amid this ongoing uptick is tempered by the fact that it does not always come without a cost to our firefighters.

Yes, we are a national model when it comes to the largest effort ever undertaken to understand and reduce the risk of cancer among U.S. firefighters, as evidenced by the recent designation as the first agency in California and the first large metro in the nation to achieve [Gold Helmet Department](#) status from the National Firefighter Registry (NFR).

Yes, on work-related cancer alone, the OCFA continues to implement best practices — from new station designs that prioritize reductions in carcinogen exposure to our progress in securing what will likely be the state's first department-issued enhanced liquid CO2 dry cleaning machines.

And yes, with Local 3631, we've made real progress in destigmatizing mental and behavioral health awareness and encouraging members to seek support.

All that success notwithstanding, the dangers of this work cannot be completely mitigated. And while all OCFA firefighters willingly take those risks, the reality of the job's dangers was all the more poignant the past two months as the OCFA and Local 3631 participated in several annual events honoring our fallen, including the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial, the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, and the Orange County Fire Services Memorial.

These events, coupled with the first anniversary of the Handcrew buggy rollover on the Airport Fire and the fifth anniversary of the burnover on the Silverado Fire, are stark reminders of the dangers of our work and the courage with which our OCFA firefighters answer the call. It also underscores the importance of the entire OCFA family who ensure our frontline first responders have the equipment, training, and support they need not only to protect life and property, but also to return safely home to their other family — spouses, children, and loved ones.

With that in mind, before you scroll through this Bulletin, I ask that you watch the short video below, which captures just a few of the touching moments from each of our recent memorial ceremonies. In doing so, you join all of us who had the privilege of attending these events in honor of the OCFA firefighters who passed away in recent years, including the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in Service of Others.

And just as their impact will forever endure — in the careers of those they mentored, in the lives of the patients they saved, in the homes of the communities they protected, and in the family legacies of the children they raised — so too must our efforts to continuously honor them.

That is the gift our fallen heroes leave us with, and I'm honored to join all of you in further sharing it through the kind of OCFA excellence highlighted throughout this Bulletin.

Sincerely,

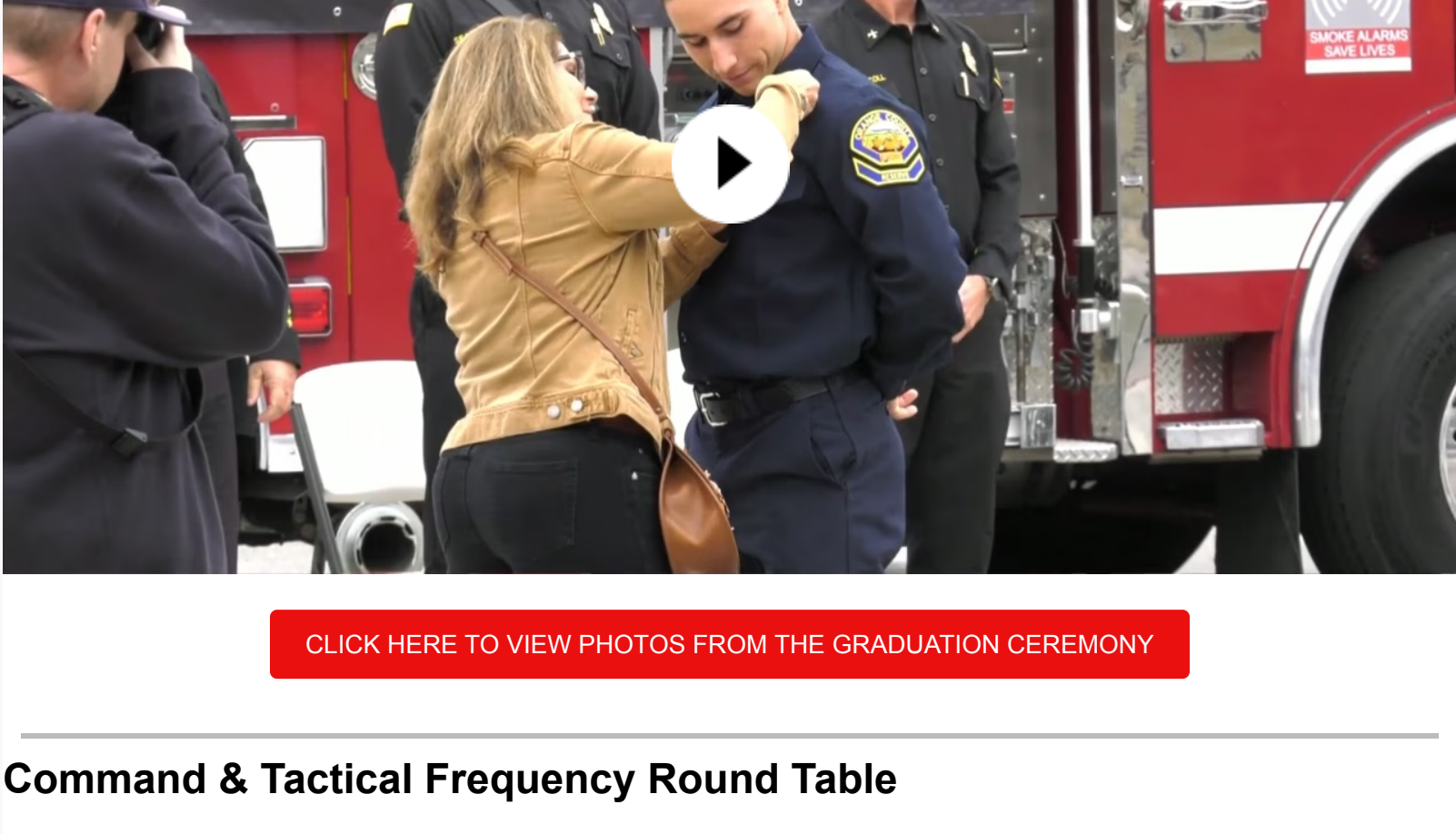
Brian Fennessy
Fire Chief



MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

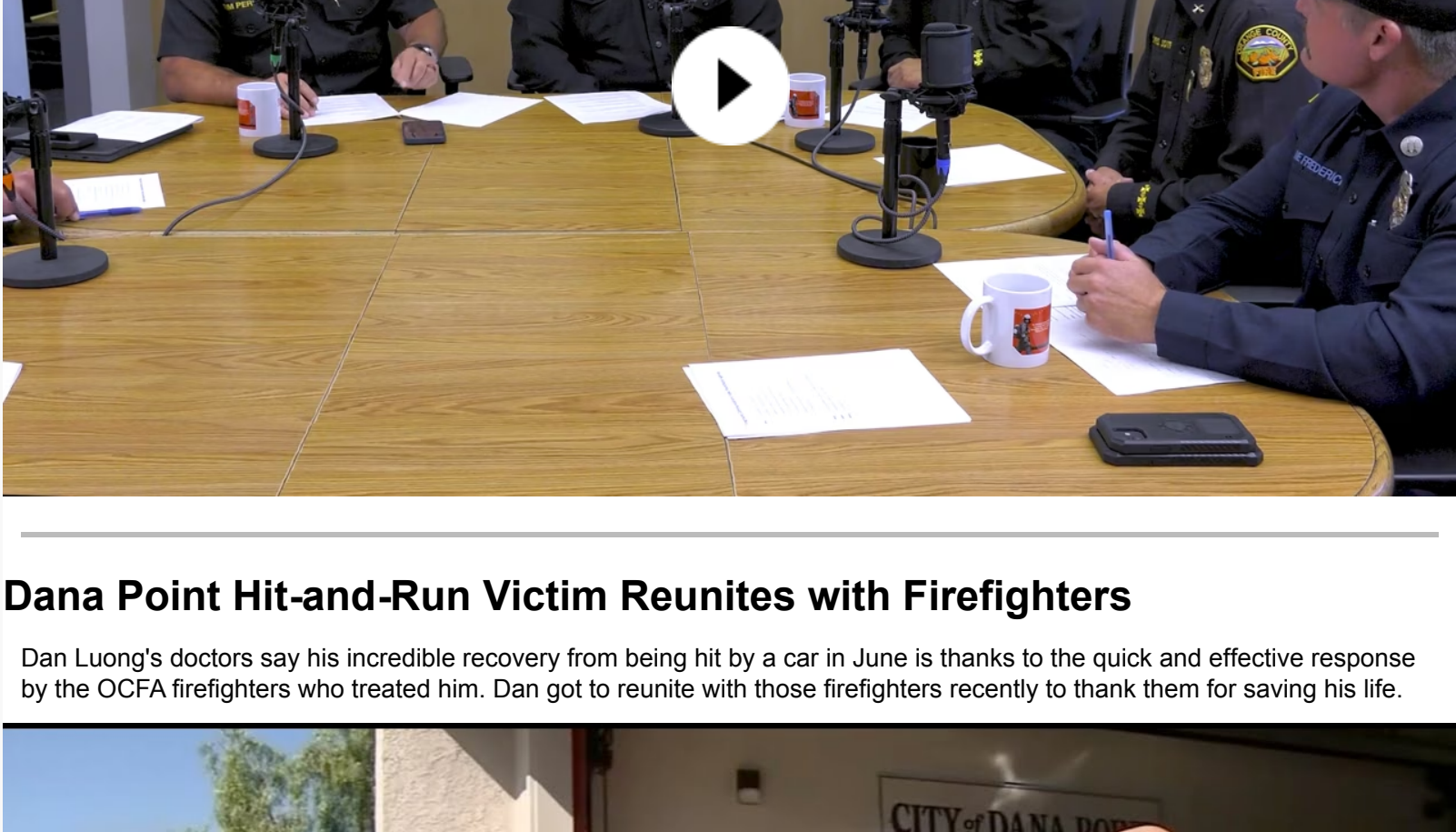
Orange County Fire Service Memorial

Firefighters from across Orange County gathered on Tuesday, October 14th, with family, friends, and community members to honor the lives and service of fallen firefighters at the annual Orange County Fire Service Memorial in Irvine Regional Park. It serves as a solemn reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of those who gave everything in Service of Others. OCFA honored a total of 10 members, including two from the Santa Ana Fire Department. Click to watch full ceremony.



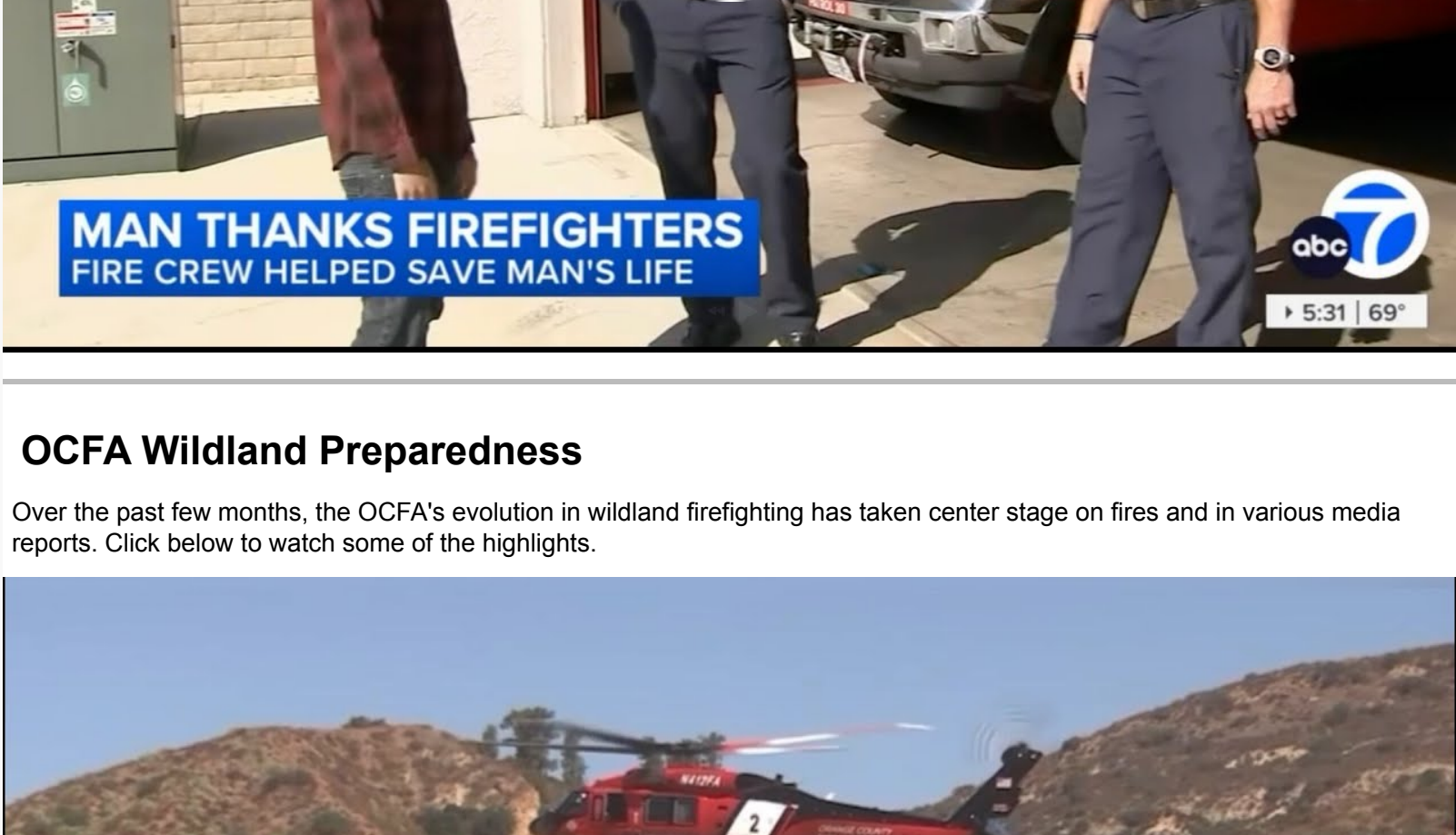
Reserve Firefighter Academy 28 Graduation

On Saturday, October 26th, a graduation ceremony was held for the 27 members of Reserve Firefighter Academy 28. After a 15-week academy that consisted of coming in on nights and weekends to learn the roles and responsibilities of a reserve firefighter, we can finally say: congratulations to all our new reserve firefighters and welcome to the family!



Command & Tactical Frequency Round Table

Chiefs Perkins and Hunter held a round table earlier this month with a number of operations personnel to discuss the rollout of the new Command and Tactical frequencies on the fire ground. Click below to watch.



Dana Point Hit-and-Run Victim Reunites with Firefighters

Dan Luong's doctors say his incredible recovery from being hit by a car in June is thanks in part to the quick and effective response by the OCFA firefighters who treated him. Dan got to reunite with those firefighters recently to thank them for saving his life.



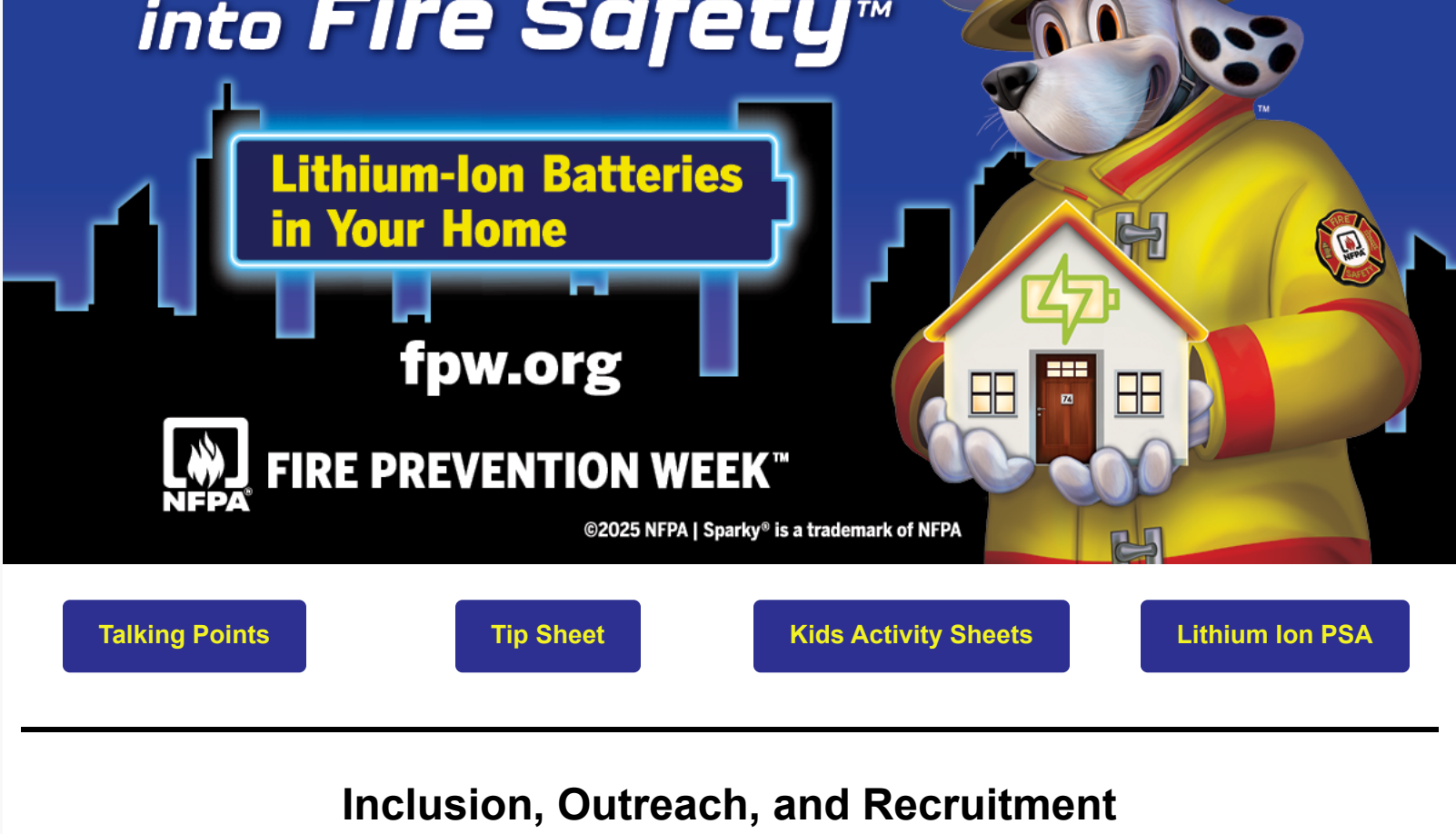
OCFA Wildland Preparedness

Over the past few months, the OCFA's evolution in wildland firefighting has taken center stage on fires and in various media reports. Click below to watch some of the highlights.



October Recognition Ceremony

On October 2, we recognized our recently promoted firefighters at our monthly Recognition Ceremony: Jeremy Alvarez - FAE; Douglas Robarge - FAE; Colin Ingraham - FAE; Andrew Matsumoto - FAE; Sean Bell - Paramedic Student. In addition, Fire Captain Rich Ventura received his 40 Year Badge. Congratulations to everyone!

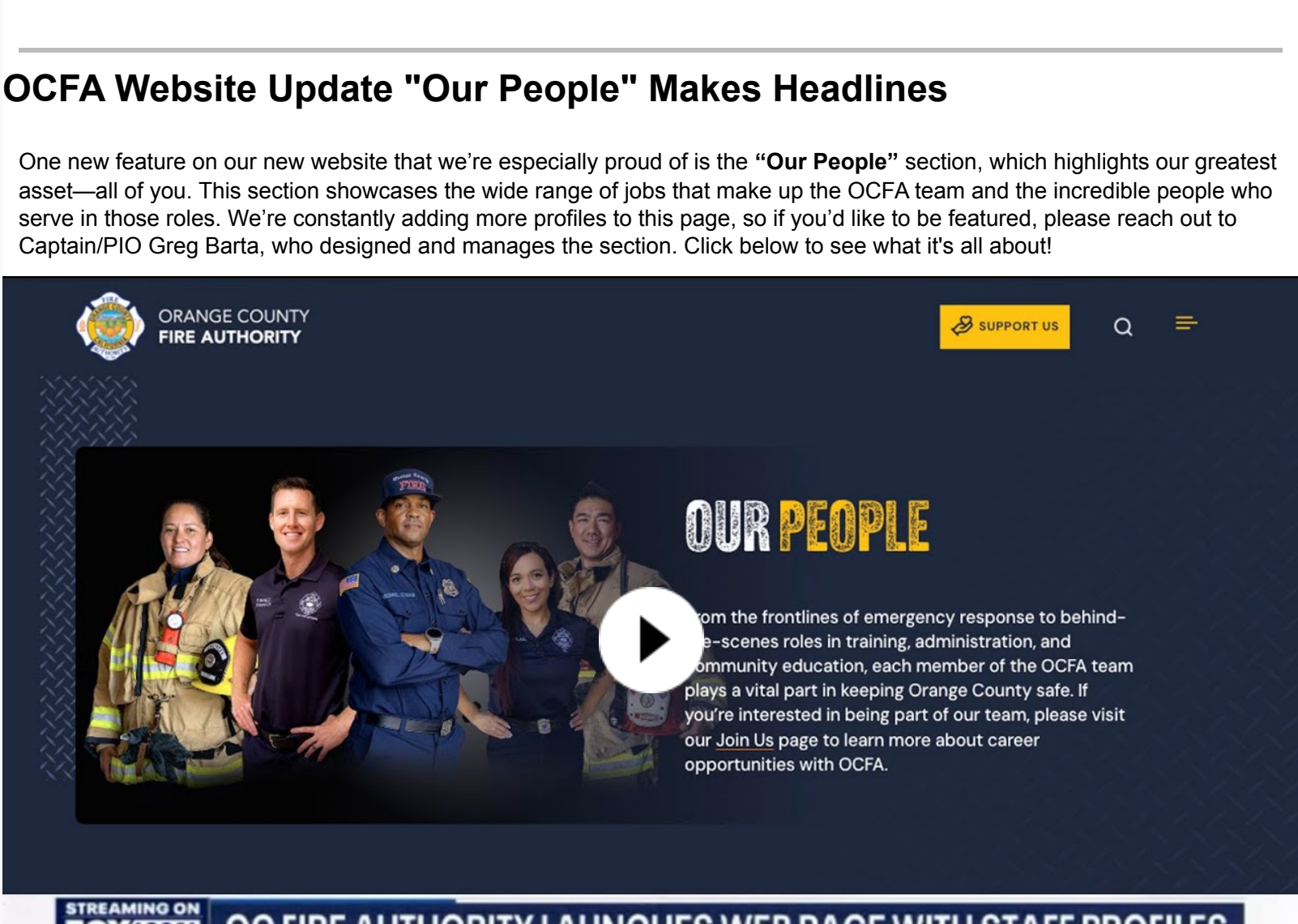


The OCFA Foundation is Here to Support



Fire Prevention Week 2025

OCFA teamed up with NFPA to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11. Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries In Your Home. Be sure to make smart choices when it comes to buying, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries — because the wrong move can lead to a fire.



Inclusion, Outreach, and Recruitment

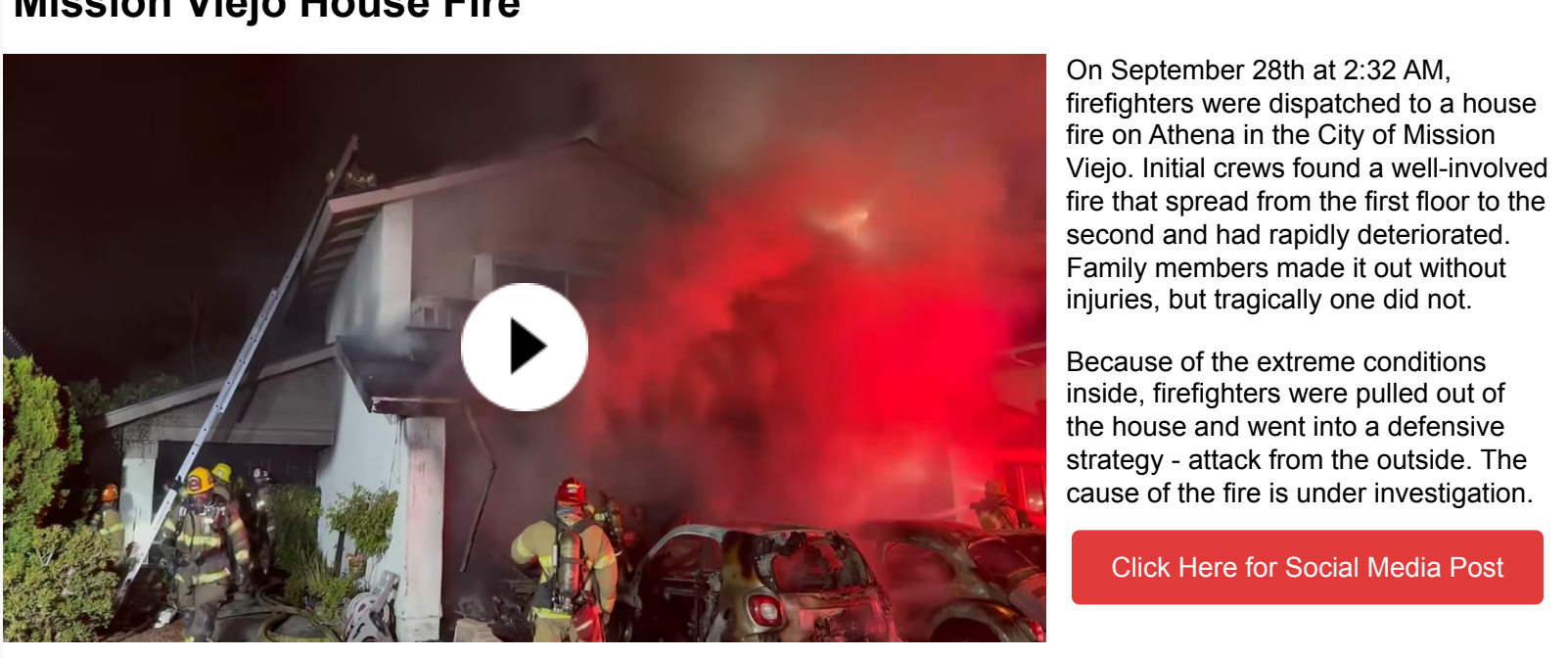
Fire Station Open House

On Saturday, October 11th, 24 OCFA fire stations throughout the county welcomed residents into their facilities to meet the firefighters, tour the station, and learn about fire safety. The day was a huge success!

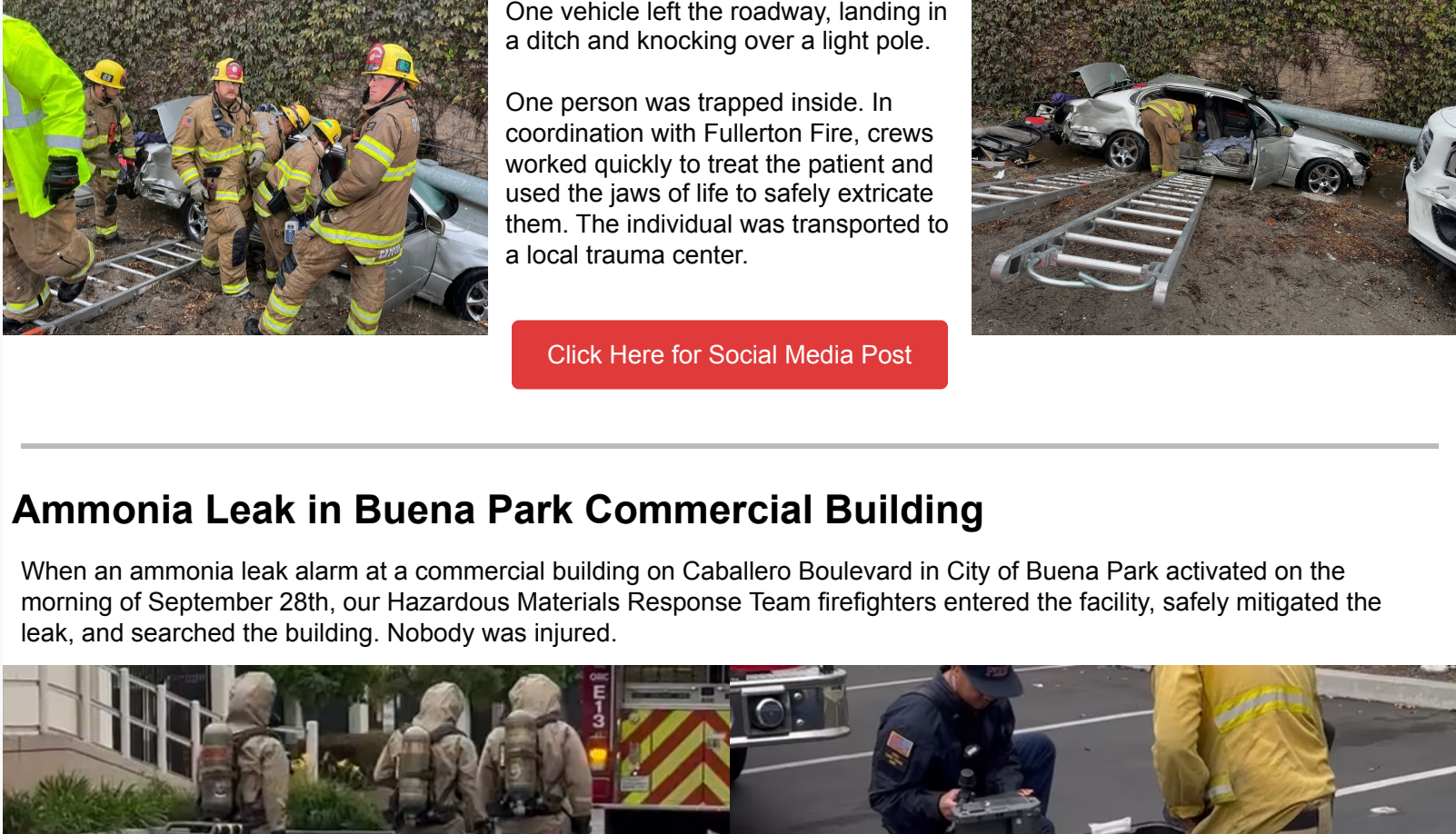


OCFA Website Update "Our People" Makes Headlines

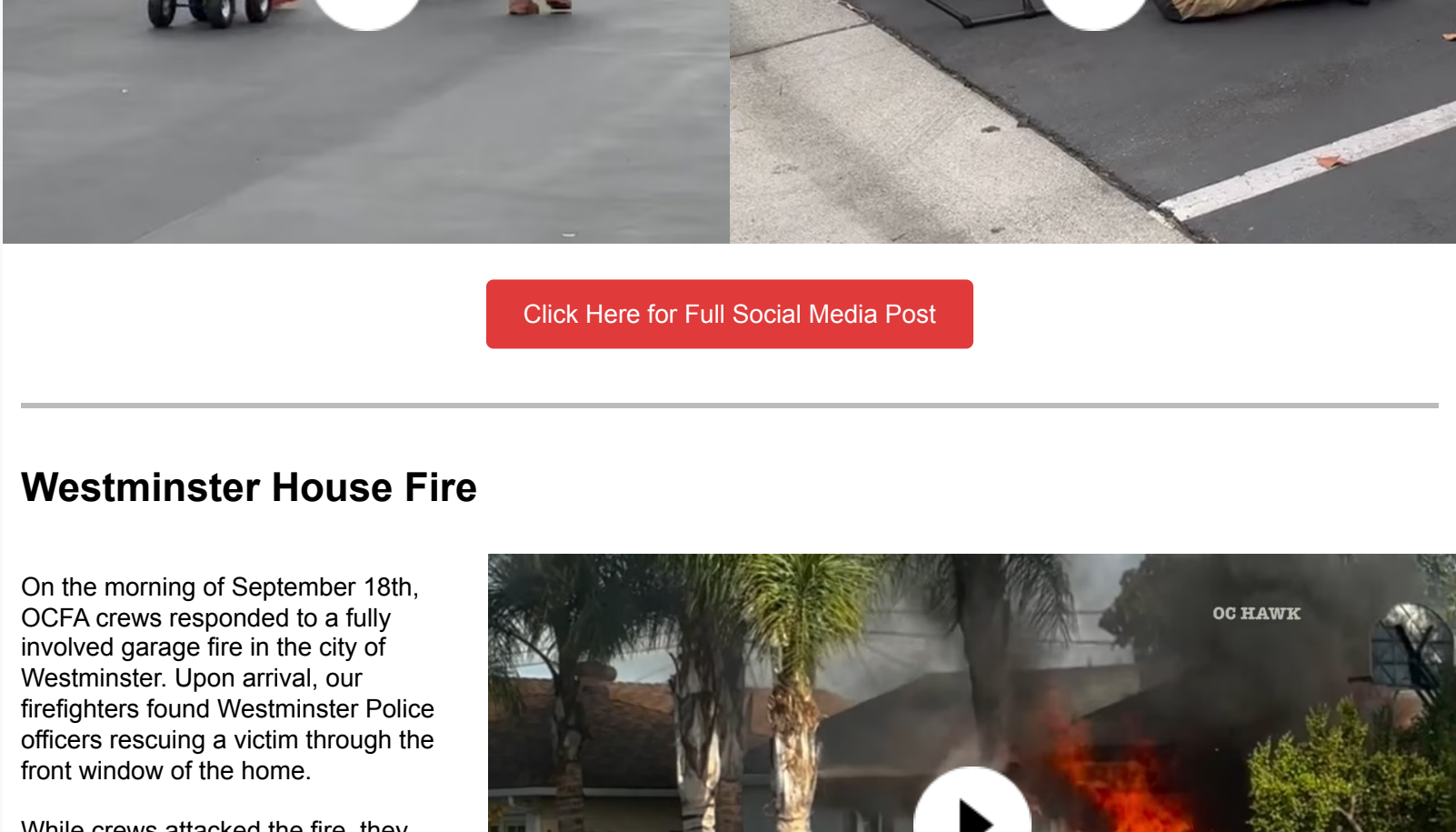
One new feature on our new website that we're especially proud of is the "Our People" section, which highlights our greatest asset—all of you. This section showcases the wide range of jobs that make up the OCFA team and the incredible people who serve in those roles. We're constantly adding more profiles to this page, so if you'd like to be featured, please reach out to Captain/DIO Greg Barre, who designed and manages the section. Click below to see what it's all about!



Upcoming Events

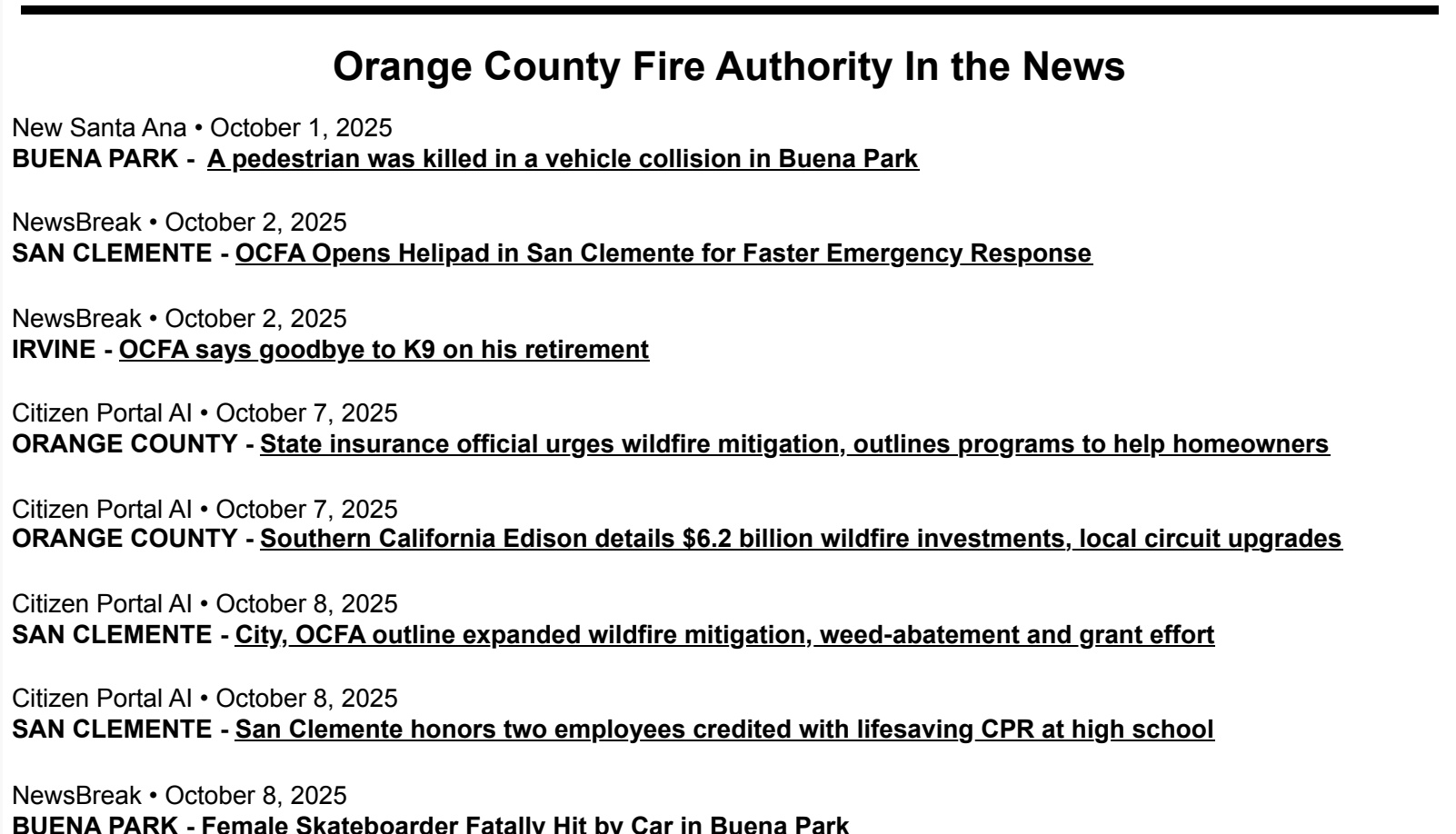


91 Freeway Traffic Collision



Ammonia Leak in Buena Park Commercial Building

When an ammonia leak alarm at a commercial building on Caballero Boulevard in the City of Buena Park activated on the morning of September 28th, our Hazardous Materials Response Team firefighters entered the facility, safely mitigated the leak, and searched the building. Nobody was injured.



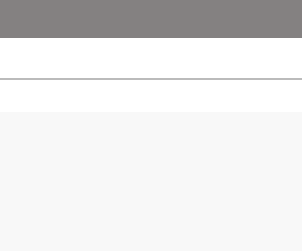
Westminster House Fire



Orange County Fire Authority In the News

- New Santa Ana • October 1, 2025
BUENA PARK - A pedestrian was killed in a vehicle collision in Buena Park
- NewsBreak • October 2, 2025
SAN CLEMENTE - OCFA Opens Helipad in San Clemente for Faster Emergency Response
- NewsBreak • October 2, 2025
IRVINE - OCFA says goodbye to K2 on his retirement
- Citizen Portal AI • October 7, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - State Insurance official urges wildfire mitigation, outlines programs to help homeowners
- Citizen Portal AI • October 7, 2025
IRVINE - Total Crash Shuts Traffic on the 5-Freeway in Irvine
- Citizen Portal AI • October 8, 2025
SAN CLEMENTE - Southern California Edison details \$6.2 billion wildfire investments, local circuit upgrades
- Citizen Portal AI • October 8, 2025
BUENA PARK - Female Skateboarder Fatally Hit by Car in Buena Park
- Citizen Portal AI • October 8, 2025
SAN CLEMENTE - San Clemente honors two employees credited with lifesaving CPR at high school
- NewsBreak • October 8, 2025
BUENA PARK - Female Skateboarder Fatally Hit by Car in Buena Park
- KTLA-TV • October 9, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Food truck driver killed in rollover crash in Orange County
- Yahoo! Finance • October 8, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Silicon Valley High School Team Expands XPRIZE Wildfire Bid with Industry Partners
- MSN.com • October 9, 2025
TUSTIN - Major redevelopment planned for site of California blimp hangar fire
- CBS News • October 11, 2025
MISSION VIEJO - 1 hospitalized after house in Mission Viejo catches fire
- Yahoo! News • October 14, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Body found in Santa Ana River amid rain, flooding
- NewsBreak • October 15, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - An O.C. victim was rescued after a two vehicle collision on the 51 Freeway this morning
- Citizen Portal AI • October 16, 2025
LAGUNA WOODS - OCFA urges preparedness as Great California ShakeOut approaches, Laguna Woods council discusses coordination with gated community and CERT
- MyNewsLA.com • October 18, 2025
BUENA PARK - Firefighters Knock Down Fire in Buena Park
- Yahoo! News • October 20, 2025
BUENA PARK - Shooting Leaves 3 minors hospitalized in Orange County
- MSN.com • October 21, 2025
DANA POINT - Crews respond to house fire threatening homes along Pacific Coast Highway
- The Robot Report • October 24, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Senate bill on \$60M to develop fire suppression drones
- MyNewsLA.com • October 27, 2025
IRVINE - Total Crash Shuts Traffic on the 5-Freeway in Irvine
- UCI News • October 30, 2025
IRVINE - UCI Irvine Climate Collaboration announces inaugural team project grants

PROMOTIONS



- Robert Cortez, Deputy Chief of Admin & Support
- Jared Hamish, Heavy Equipment Technician II
- Colin Ingraham, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Andrew Matsumoto, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Dawn Lien, Senior Accountant