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# **News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 19th, 2017

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The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is responding to the City News Service article that several media outlets have picked up in response to a complaint by a Reserve Orange County Sheriff's Deputy Slikker. The complaint alleges that the OCFA did not respond to a report by the Anaheim Police Department of a fire near Sierra Peak from the original Canyon Fire.

## **Facts- Sunday, October 8, 2017**

As detailed below, the OCFA Emergency Command Center (ECC) received a report from the Anaheim Police Department. OCFA then made calls via landline to Corona Fire Department and United States Forest Service (USFS) dispatch centers for further investigation of the report. After several inter-agency discussions, the USFS advised that no further OCFA assistance was needed to respond to Sierra Peak in the Cleveland National Forest.

- (4:40 pm) Anaheim Police helicopter reported a hot spot near Sierra Peak in the Cleveland National Forest via radio.
- (4:41 pm) OCFA ECC received the information and called Corona Fire Department dispatch via landline to determine if they had any reports.
- (4:43 pm) OCFA ECC called USFS dispatch (Monte Vista) via landline to determine if they had any reports. USFS dispatch stated they were aware and monitoring the hot spot near Sierra Peak.
- (4:43 pm) OCFA helicopter pilots were called to monitor the radio traffic by OCFA ECC.
- (4:46 pm) OCFA ECC called the USFS a second time to ask if we could provide assistance with a helicopter. The USFS reported that the hot spot at the top of Sierra Peak was a smoldering island well within the burn area and USFS was monitoring.
- (4:47 pm) OCFA ECC reports back to Anaheim Police helicopter that the fire is well into the burn and that the USFS plan was to let it burn itself out. No assistance needed from the OCFA.

## **Conclusion**

Fire investigators from Anaheim, CAL FIRE, and OCFA have excluded the area described by the Anaheim Angel helicopter and adjacent to Sierra Peak as the origin of the Canyon 2 Fire

In a review of today's online news articles, additional criticisms of the OCFA have been identified by the same individual (Mr. Slikker). One included the lack of use of Duke 1 (OCSA helicopter) on the Canyon 2 Fire and another included a situation where the OCFA refused the use of an OCSA helicopter with water dropping capabilities. Although we have not received direct complaints on either of these two matters, the OCFA is examining both of these allegations and will provide findings to the Fire Chief.

Any questions should be directed to Battalion Chief Marc Stone at (714) 573-6028.

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*The OCFA is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.8 million residents in 23 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*

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