



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

For many, if not most Orange Countians, summer is a time for beach days and bonfires, family trips and friend-filled gatherings, coastal hikes and catching rays.

And while I am confident and hopeful that all of you found time to indulge in these seasonal traditions, I also know the fire service comes with added summertime responsibilities — from out-of-county strike team deployments (and the force hiring it triggers here at home) to an uptick in drowning incidents (and the community education events necessary to prevent them).

Even with these and the infinite other added OCFA summer obligations, all of you — our dedicated firefighters and professional staff — continue to respond to our more than 500 calls a day in a way that upholds and enhances the core tenets of our Statement: "Courage, compassion, and competency."

Case in point, a few weeks ago, the B-shift crew of Engine 84 responded to a medical aid for a small child at a Garden Grove preschool. As a father and a firefighter, I have felt the anguish and anxiety that comes with these calls, and I have been on enough of them to know that all of us, whether we are parents or not, inevitably think the same thing: *What if this were my child?*

As much anguish as that hypothetical question may provoke, it is precisely what the parents in our communities want from us — to treat their children as if they are our children, and that is exactly what E84 did. Rather than accept my account of that truth, I am proud to share the words of the young patient's mother.

"My son had a seizure, and by all accounts from the school staff, the firefighters responded incredibly fast and had fantastic bedside manner. The school director said that one firefighter, in particular, appeared to be a father himself and knew exactly how to treat my son... I was not present and couldn't be by my son's side, [and] it provides me and my husband great comfort to know he was treated with immediate care and tenderness."

When pressed, I know that this crew (Captain Rich Sandford, FAE Tom McDaniel, FF/PM Trevor Lima, FF Franco Petruzzella) will do what all our crews do when faced with one of the many hundreds of glowing letters we receive regarding their level of courage, compassion, and care: Deflect all praise and say they were "just doing their jobs."

That may be true, but I believe we "just do our jobs" as well as any agency in the nation, and I know that our bedside manner transcends pediatrics — we treat adult patients as if they are our parents; we attack structure fires as if our home was burning; we cut firefighters as if our neighborhood was in the path of destruction; and on and on.

So, as we enter a new season, one that could be even busier with Santa Ana wind-driven fires, I pause here to express my gratitude for your summertime services and share my hope that you found at least some time to rest and rejuvenate with friends and family these past three months.

You certainly earned it, and as this Bulletin indicates, your achievements continue to fuel our ascension toward becoming a national model of fire service excellence — every day (and season) of the year.

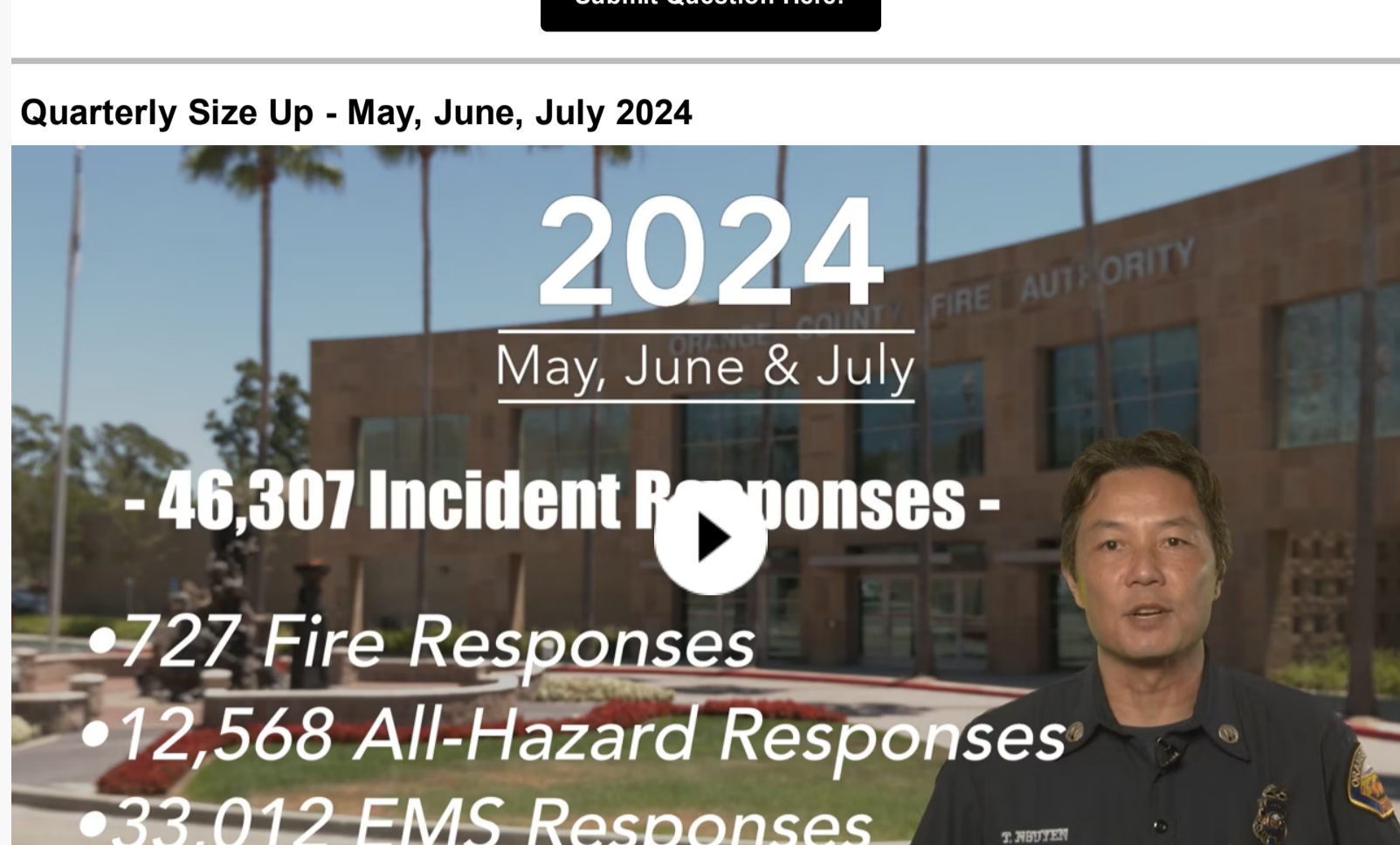
Sincerely,

Brian Fennessy
Fire Chief

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Ask the Chief - August 2024

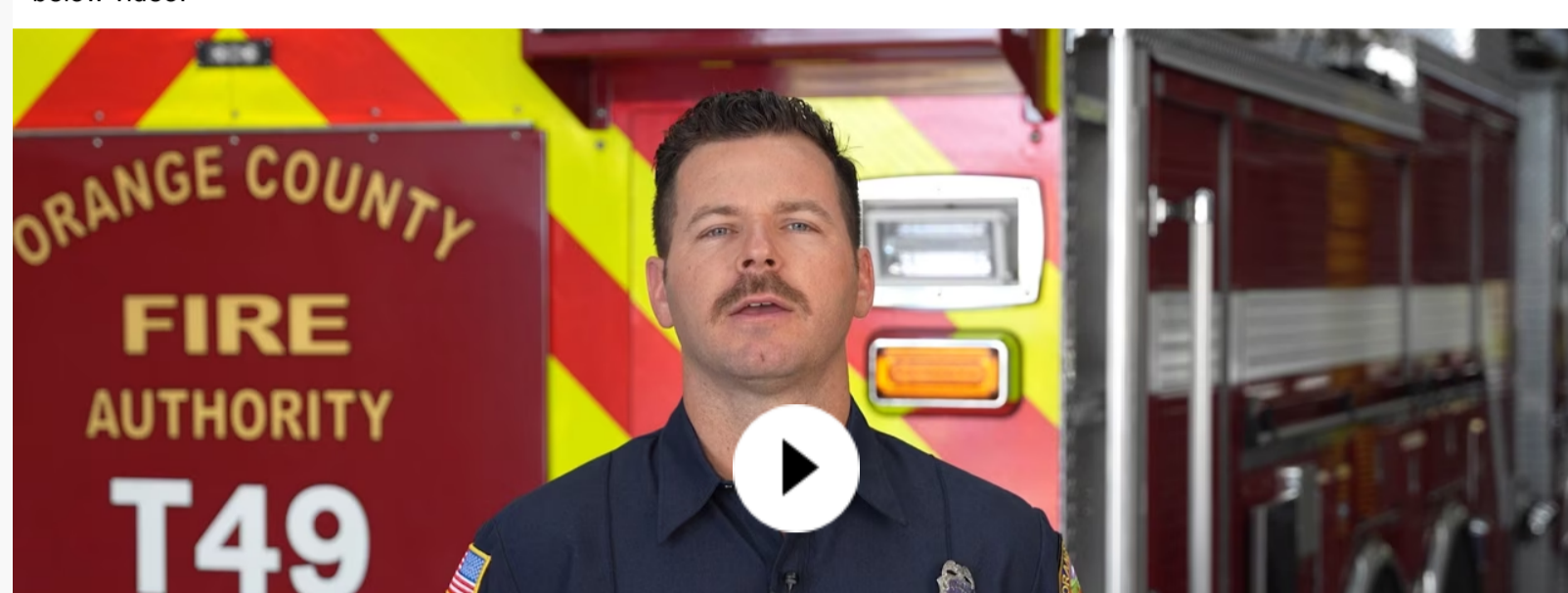
In this month's Ask the Chief, Chief Fennessy visits and congratulates our Investigations team for their tremendous work in the investigation and arrest of an arsonist who is suspected of setting multiple vegetation fires in San Juan Capistrano. Next, this month's host, Captain PIO Sean Doran, discusses several items with the Fire Chief — from security at RFOTC and the City of Irvine's potential review of OCFA services to our new apparatus timeline.



Want to "Ask the Chief" a question? Click below to get your question into the next Ask the Chief!

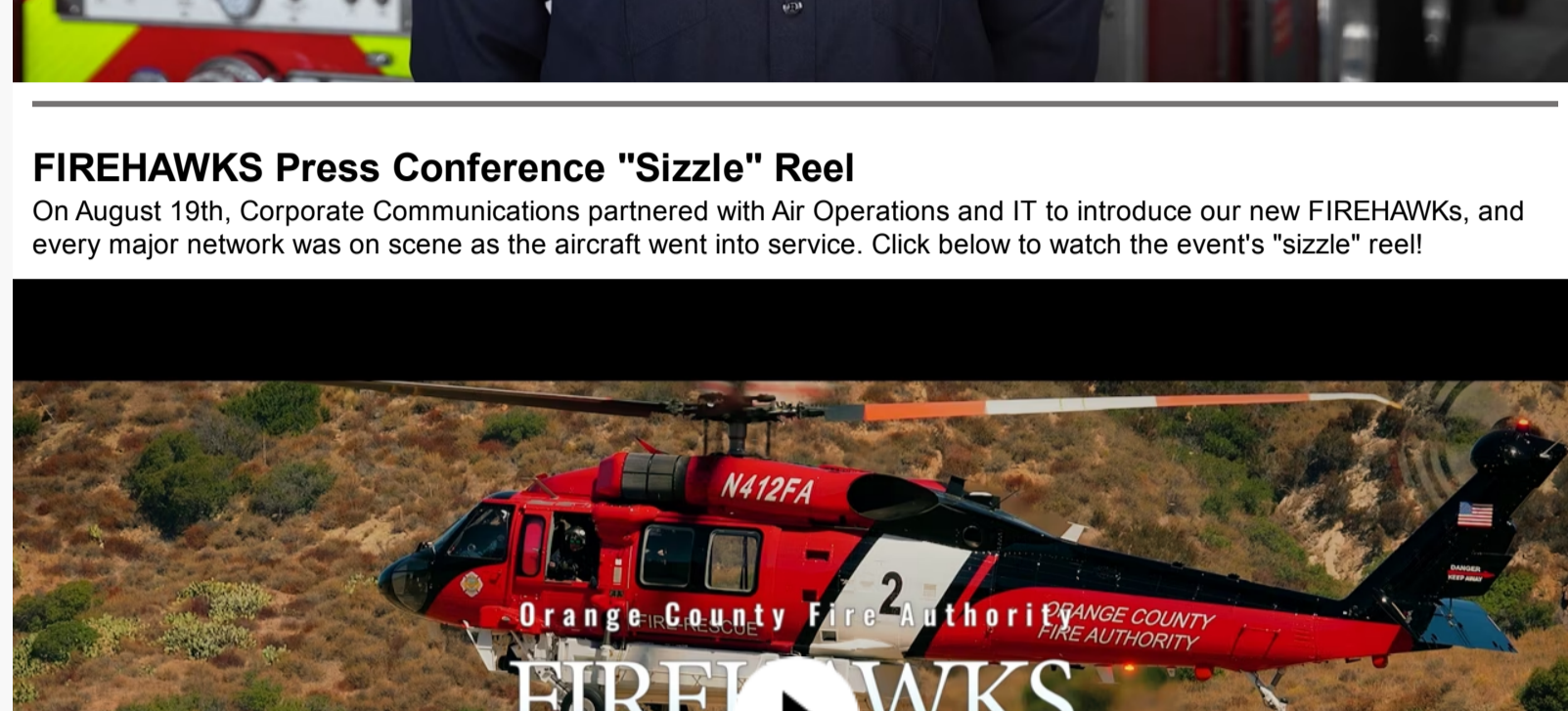
[Submit Question Here!](#)

Quarterly Size Up - May, June, July 2024



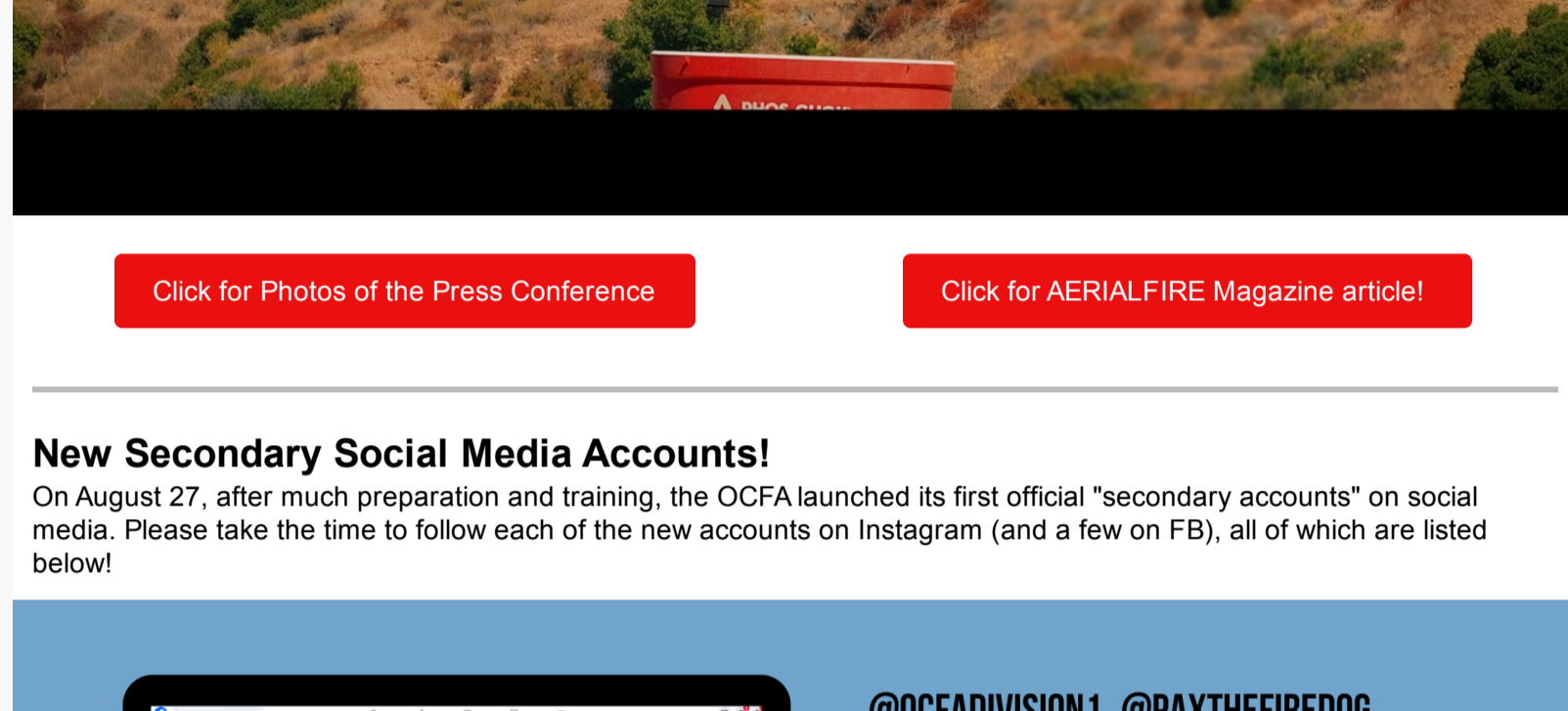
Uniform Panel Discussion Video

In August, Chiefs McGovern and Perkins sat down with Presidents Hamm and Maulle for what they collectively hope is the first of many "panel discussions" aimed at improving services, safety standards, and professionalism. One of the topics centered around what it means to have pride in wearing the OCFA uniform, a conversation that was punctuated with the below video.



FIREHAWKS Press Conference "Sizzle" Reel

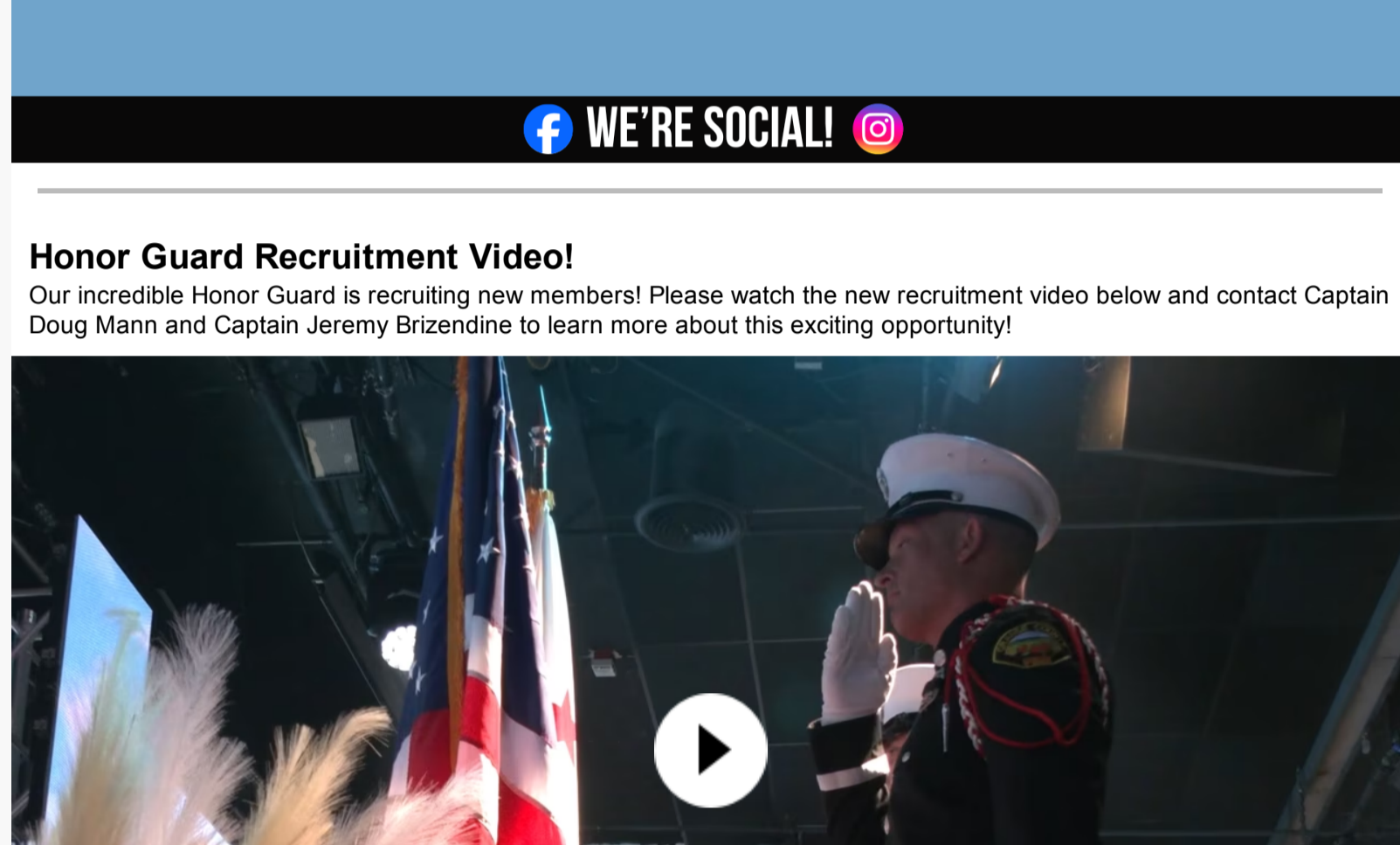
On August 19th, Corporate Communications partnered with Air Operations and IT to introduce our new FIREHAWKS, and every major network was on scene as the aircraft went into service. Click below to watch the event's "sizzle" reel!



[Click for Photos of the Press Conference](#) [Click for AERIAL FIRE Magazine article!](#)

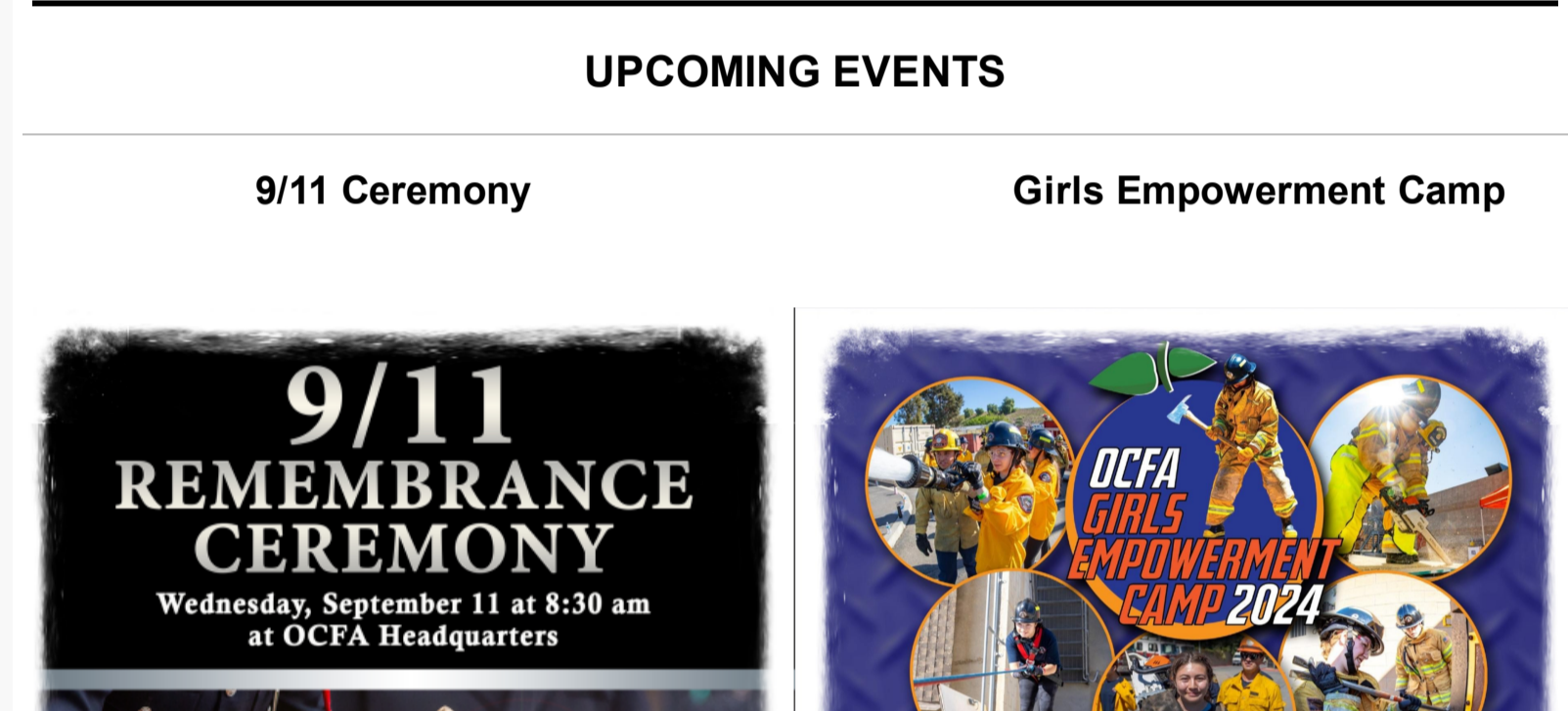
New Secondary Social Media Accounts!

On August 27, after much preparation and training, the OCFA launched its first official "secondary accounts" on social media. Please take the time to follow each of the new accounts on Instagram (and a few on FB), all of which are listed below!



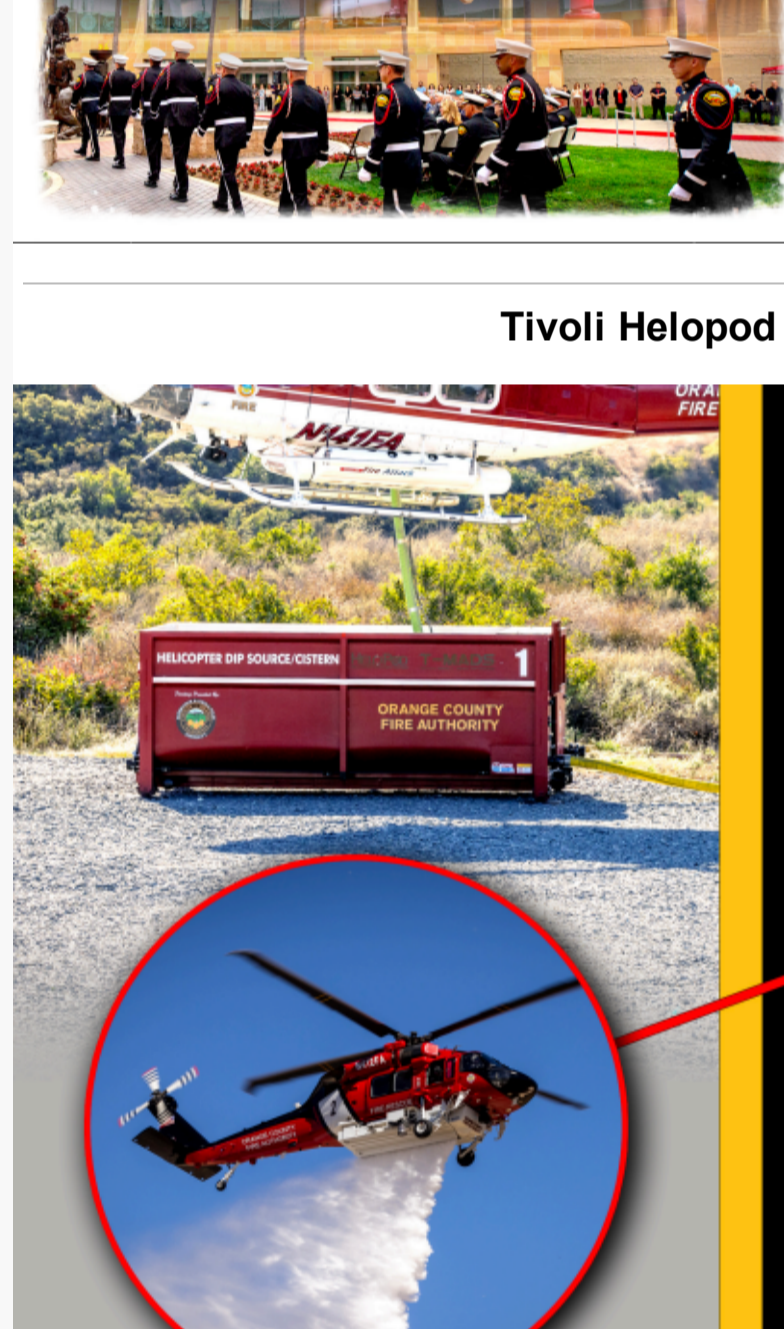
Honor Guard Recruitment Video!

Our incredible Honor Guard is recruiting new members! Please watch the new recruitment video below and contact Captain Doug Mann and Captain Jeremy Brizendine to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

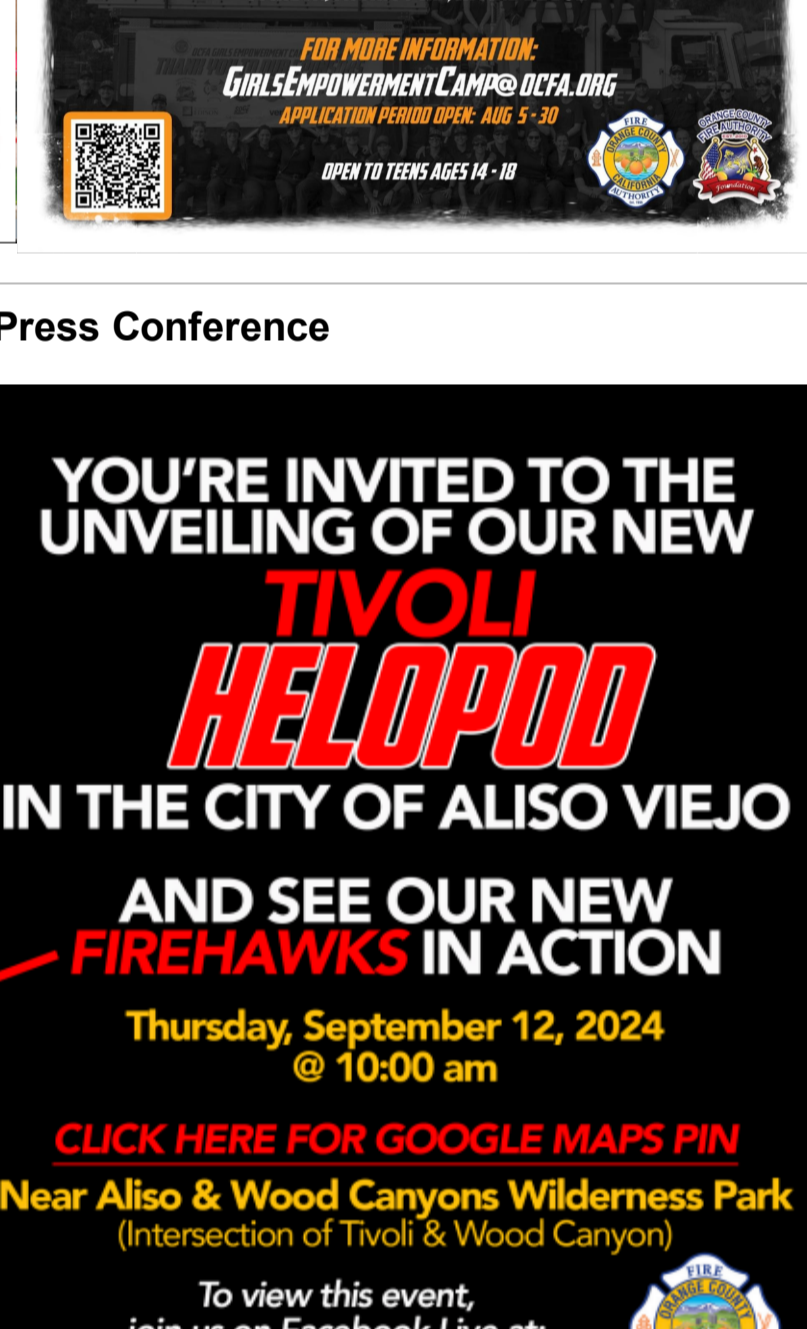


UPCOMING EVENTS

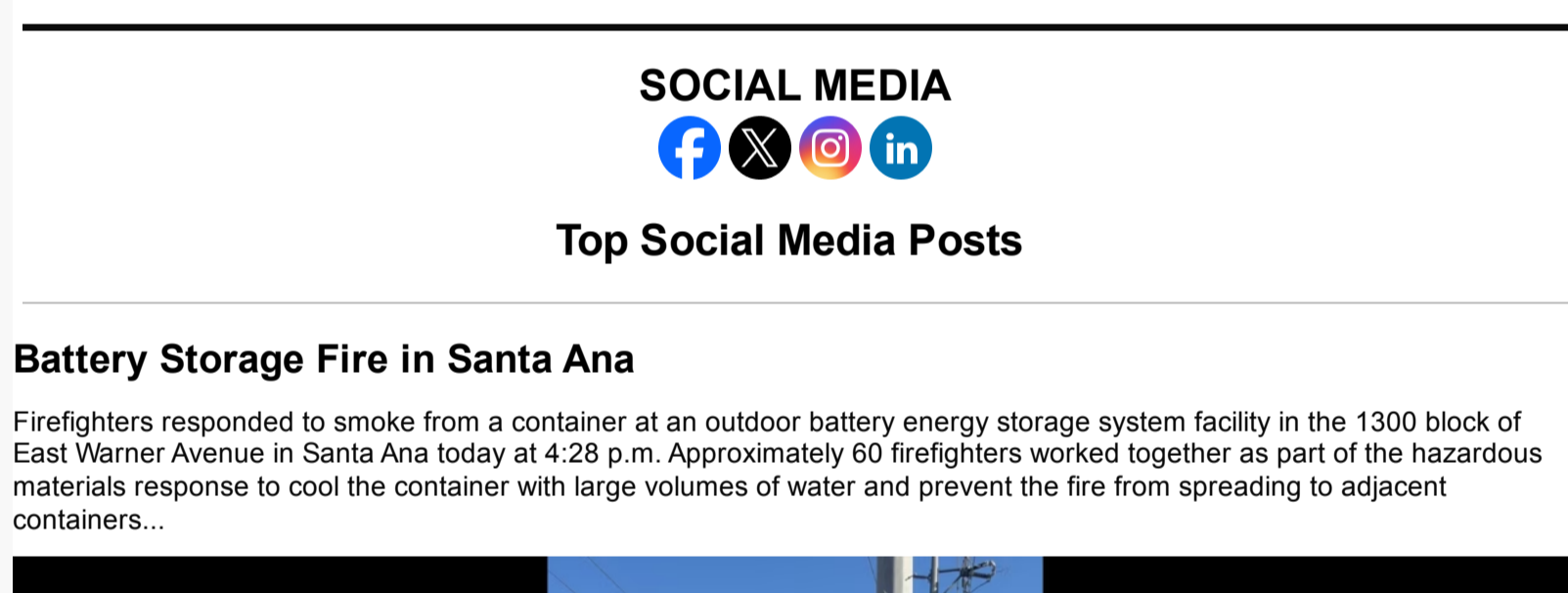
9/11 Ceremony



Girls Empowerment Camp



Tivoli Helopod Press Conference

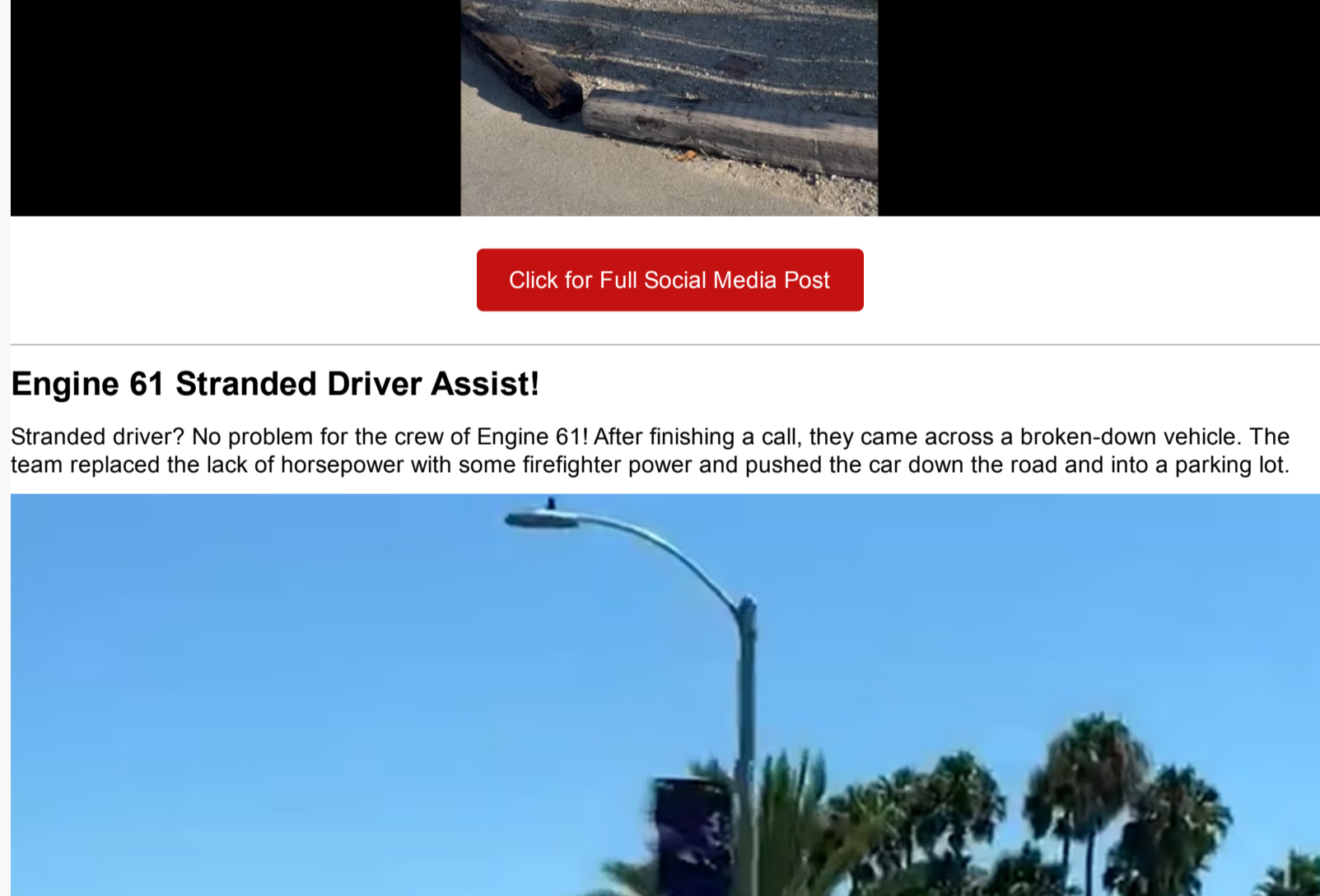


SOCIAL MEDIA

Top Social Media Posts

Battery Storage Fire in Santa Ana

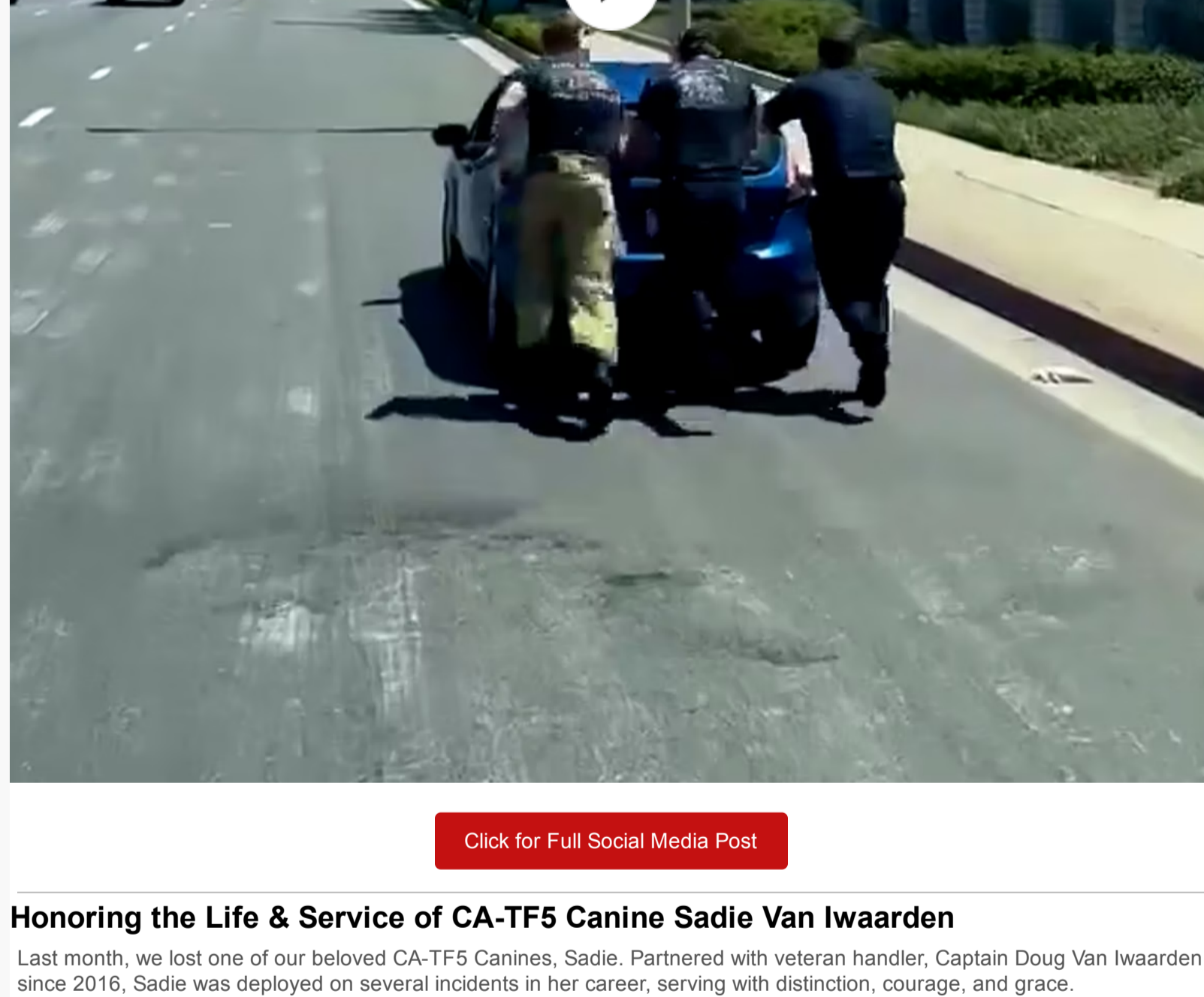
Firefighters responded to smoke from a container at an outdoor battery energy storage system facility in the 1300 block of East Warner Avenue in Santa Ana today at 4:28 p.m. Approximately 60 firefighters worked together as part of the hazardous materials response to cool the container with large volumes of water and prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent containers.



[Click for Full Social Media Post](#)

Engine 61 Stranded Driver Assist!

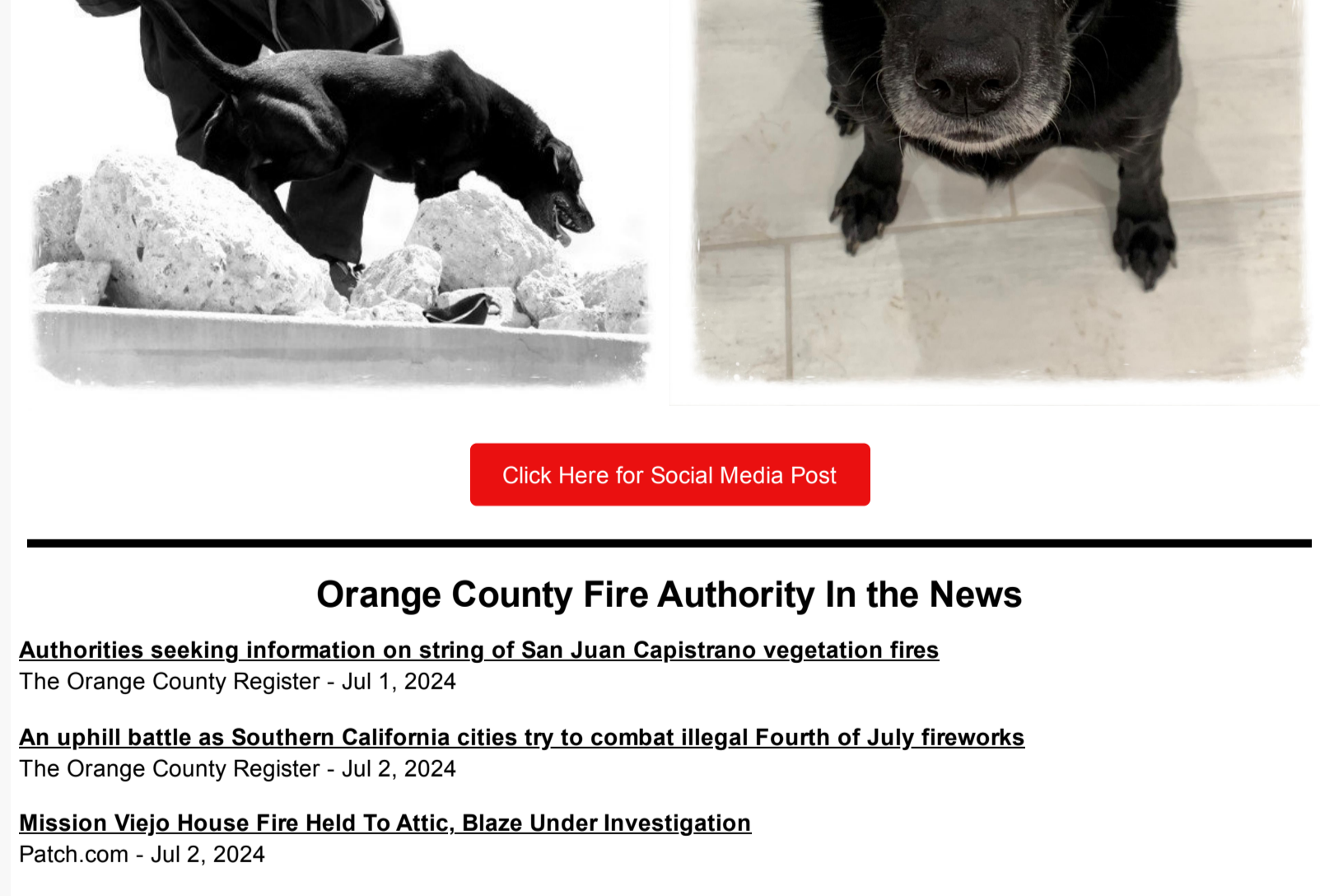
Stranded driver? No problem for the crew of Engine 61! After finishing a call, they came across a broken-down vehicle. The team replaced the lack of horsepower with some firefighter power and pushed the car down the road and into a parking lot.



[Click for Full Social Media Post](#)

Honoring the Life & Service of CA-TF5 Canine Sadie Van Iwaarden

Last month, we lost one of our beloved CA-TF5 Canines, Sadie. Partnered with veteran handler, Captain Doug Van Iwaarden since 2016, Sadie was deployed on several incidents in her career, serving with distinction, courage, and grace.



[Click Here for Social Media Post](#)

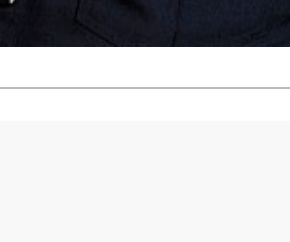
Orange County Fire Authority In the News

- Authorities seeking information on staffing of San Juan Capistrano vegetation fires**
The Orange County Register - Jul 1, 2024
- An uphill battle as Southern California cities try to combat illegal Fourth of July fireworks**
The Orange County Register - Jul 2, 2024
- Mission Viejo House Fire Held To Attic, Blaze Under Investigation**
Patch.com - Jul 2, 2024
- House Fire Exits Access OC Independence Day: Firefighters Save Dog**
Patch.com - Jul 8, 2024
- Brush Fire Erupts Near South OC Beach Friday: OCFA**
Patch.com - Jul 5, 2024
- Fireworks spark small vegetation fire in Dana Point Harbor**
CBS News - Jul 5, 2024
- 3 kids, 2 adults on bicycles struck by hit-and-run driver in Orange County**
Yahoo! News - Jul 7, 2024
- Hit-and-run driver flees scene after crashing into 2 adults, 3 children in Garden Grove**
CBS News - Jul 7, 2024
- Public Urged To Attend Fire Safety Meeting In RSM**
Patch.com - Jul 8, 2024
- DUI suspect in custody after plowing into family of 6 in Orange County**
Yahoo! News - Jul 8, 2024
- Man, 41, accused of decapitating elderly parents, their dog in Orange County**
Yahoo! News - Jul 10, 2024
- Deputies identify victims and suspect in gruesome San Juan Capistrano killings**
CBS News - Jul 10, 2024
- Check out our OC photographers' favorite images from June 2024**
The Orange County Register - Jul 11, 2024
- Calif. Couple and Their Dog Are Found Decapitated in 'Horrific' Scene, Son Arrested After Chase**
PEOPLE - Jul 12, 2024
- 'BIP' Star's Heartfelt Reunion With Firefighter Who Delivered Son**
TV Shows A2Z - Jul 14, 2024
- 19-year-old arrested for deadly Santa Ana shooting in 2022**
CBS News - Jul 15, 2024
- Fire at energy storage facility, prompts temporary evacuations in industrial area of Santa Ana**
The Orange County Register - Jul 17, 2024
- 28-year-old suspected of setting several brush fires in San Juan Capistrano arrested**
The Orange County Register - Jul 17, 2024
- Investigators arrest 28-year-old for allegedly starting several fires in San Juan Capistrano**
CBS News - Jul 17, 2024
- Man Who Set Brush Fires In South OC Arrested, OC Sheriff Says**
Patch.com - Jul 18, 2024
- Man Ran Down By Car in Orange County: Police**
Patch.com - Jul 18, 2024
- Southland Recovering From Massive Tech Outage**
Patch.com - Jul 21, 2024
- 1 Simple Act Saved Lake Forest Home From Being Destroyed In Fire**
Patch.com - Jul 25, 2024
- Fire Damages Lake Forest Home**
Patch.com - Jul 25, 2024
- First responders prep RVs for Motorhome Madness at the O.C. fairsgrounds**
Los Angeles Times - Jul 27, 2024
- 4-alarm fire with heavy smoke breaks out inside Orange County mall**
Yahoo! News - Jul 28, 2024
- Man Remains Hospitalized After Being Rescued From Ocean in Seal Beach**
Patch.com - Jul 29, 2024
- Fire at Buena Park amusement center may have started in ball pit, prompts partial mall closure**
The Orange County Register - Jul 29, 2024
- Here's what several Orange County cities plan for National Night Out**
The Orange County Register - Jul 29, 2024
- 4 Alarm Fire Ignites In OC Shopping Center, Prompts Evacuations**
Patch.com - Jul 29, 2024
- Search Suspended for Boy, 15, Who Vanished While Swimming with Friends Off Calif. Beach, 'Our Hearts Ache'**
PEOPLE - Jul 30, 2024
- Orange County Fire Authority uses special equipment for a cat rescue**
CBS News - Jul 30, 2024
- Orange County firefighters rescue kitten whose head got stuck in a tire**
CBS News - Jul 30, 2024
- Search suspended for 15-year-old swimmer who went missing off Huntington Beach**
Yahoo! News - Jul 30, 2024
- Soap couldn't free trapped kitten from tire rim. So rescuers use spoon — and a saw**
Miami Herald - Jul 31, 2024

Promotions

- Dave McVey, Information Technology Manager
- Dawn Spoto, Management Analyst
- Jonathan Summers, Fire Communications Supervisor

PROMOTIONS



Retirements

- Ryan Humphrey, Fire Apparatus Engineer

