



## From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

If you attended any of the 2024 OCFA holiday parties, enjoyed the retiring Division Chief Dohman by Chiefs Capobianco, Perkins, and Neville, or watched Chief Maule's holiday parody of a Beastie Boys classic, one thing becomes abundantly clear: In addition to upholding the OCFA as a national model of all-hazard excellence, we enjoy each other's company, we are vested in uplifting the spirits of our communities, and, when the time is right and the work is done, we know how to have fun.

Yes, during incidents, we are buttoned-up and on point, putting our shoulders to (and often risking our lives for) the mission and values upon which this agency was founded. Even then, and often with the weight of an entire community on our shoulders, we find moments to share smiles, uplift spirits, and build camaraderie among each other and the communities we serve.

I could cite any of the nearly 200,000 incidents we responded to this year as evidence of this claim, but for me, none are more poignant than one of my experiences on the year's most significant incident: The Airport Fire.

On the first full day of the firefight, I visited with a few OCFA strike teams, and despite the unbearable heat and the responsibility thrust upon them (protect the community of Robinson Ranch), it was clear they were in good spirits and honored to be there to do the work.

A few days later, I came upon those same strike teams, and other than dust-encrusted brush jackets courtesy of 48 hours in the dirt, nothing had changed. The firefighters worked with the same enthusiasm, pausing only to share sunburnt smiles and kind words as they constructed containment lines in 95-degree heat, extinguished hot spots in rugged terrain, and protected Robinson Ranch as if it were their own neighborhood.

This is not an anomalous story; it's a microcosm of who we are and one of countless reasons why the OCFA's ascension as a national model stems not from the excellence, volume, and breadth of what we do, but rather the passion, selflessness, and good spirits with which we do it.

As if all that weren't enough, our year-round sense of selflessness and joy only elevates during the holidays — from volunteering for the Spark of Love Toy Drive and preparing meals for older adults to hanging holiday lights in our communities and, yes, screaming out-of-key to an OCFA Beastie Boys Parody in a fake mustache.

With all that in mind, I pause here, as I do at the end of each year, to express my gratitude — particularly to those working on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and any other celebratory occasion throughout the holiday season.

Thank you for upholding our mission to live and work In Service of Others, no matter the day, time, or circumstance. Thank you for the sacrifices you and your families make — especially during big incidents and around the holidays — to keep our communities safe and protected.

And, of course, thank you for finding ways to destress and regroup by spreading joy, giving back, and, yes, when the time is right (and the karaoke machine is cranking), having some good old-fashioned fun.

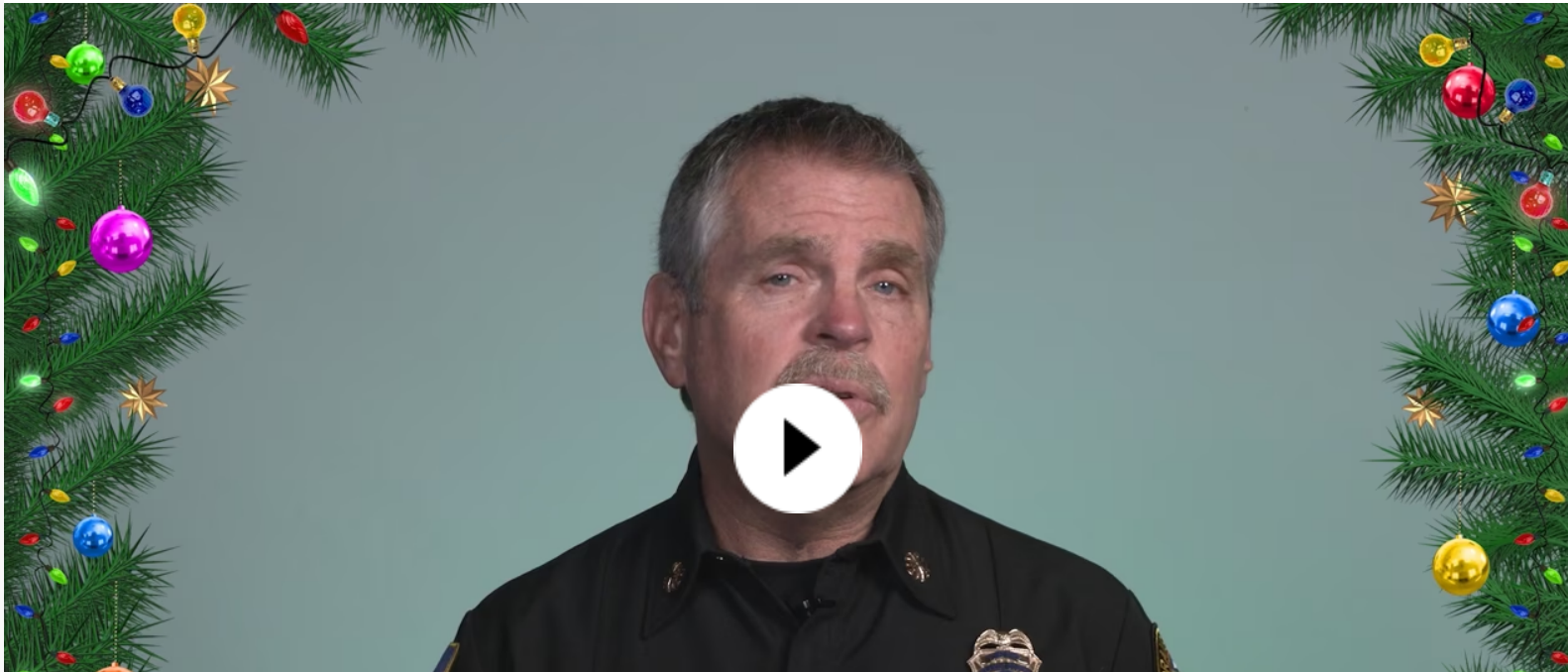
Merry Christmas, and I look forward to our continued success in the new year!

Sincerely,  
Brian Fennessy  
Fire Chief

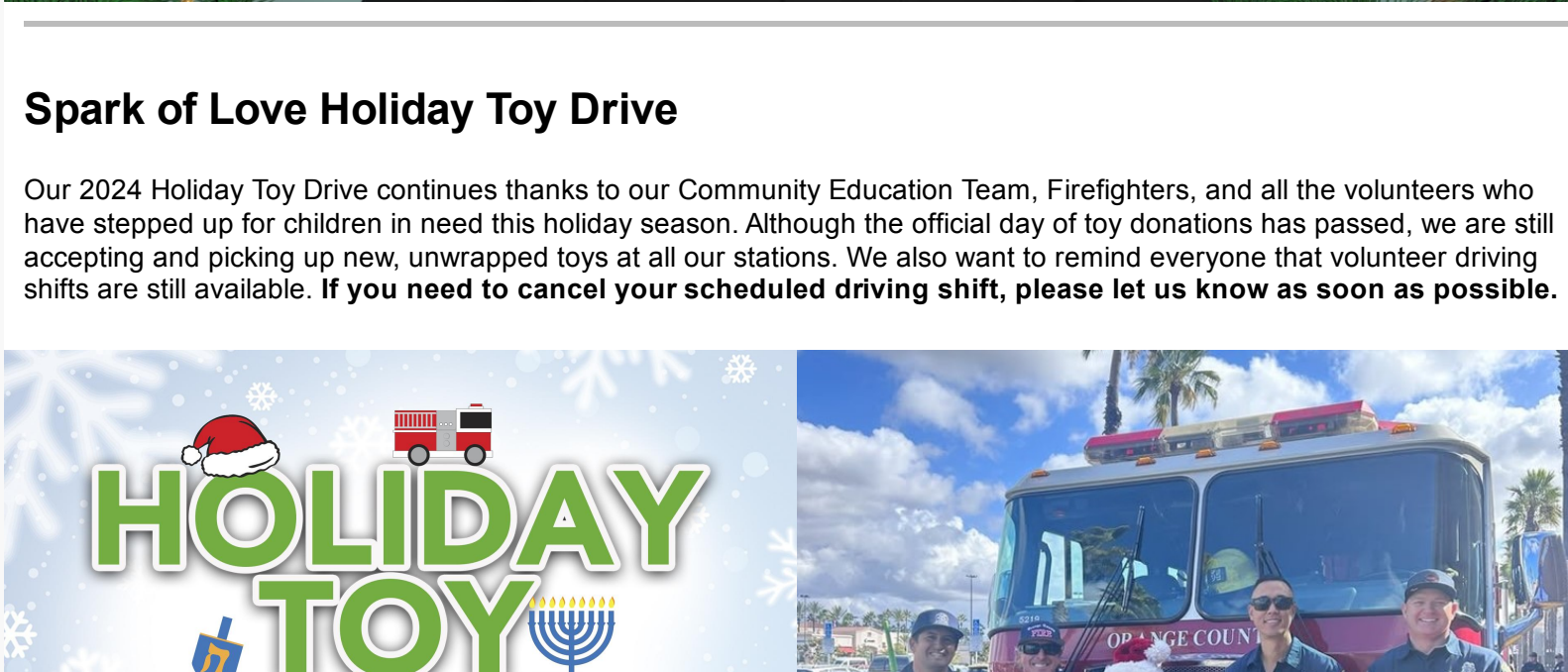
## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### 2024 OCFA Holiday Video

Division Chief Maule and a band of mustachioed OCFA Beastie Boys answer the call to "Go even bigger this year."



### Holiday Message from Chief Fennessy



### Spark of Love Holiday Toy Drive

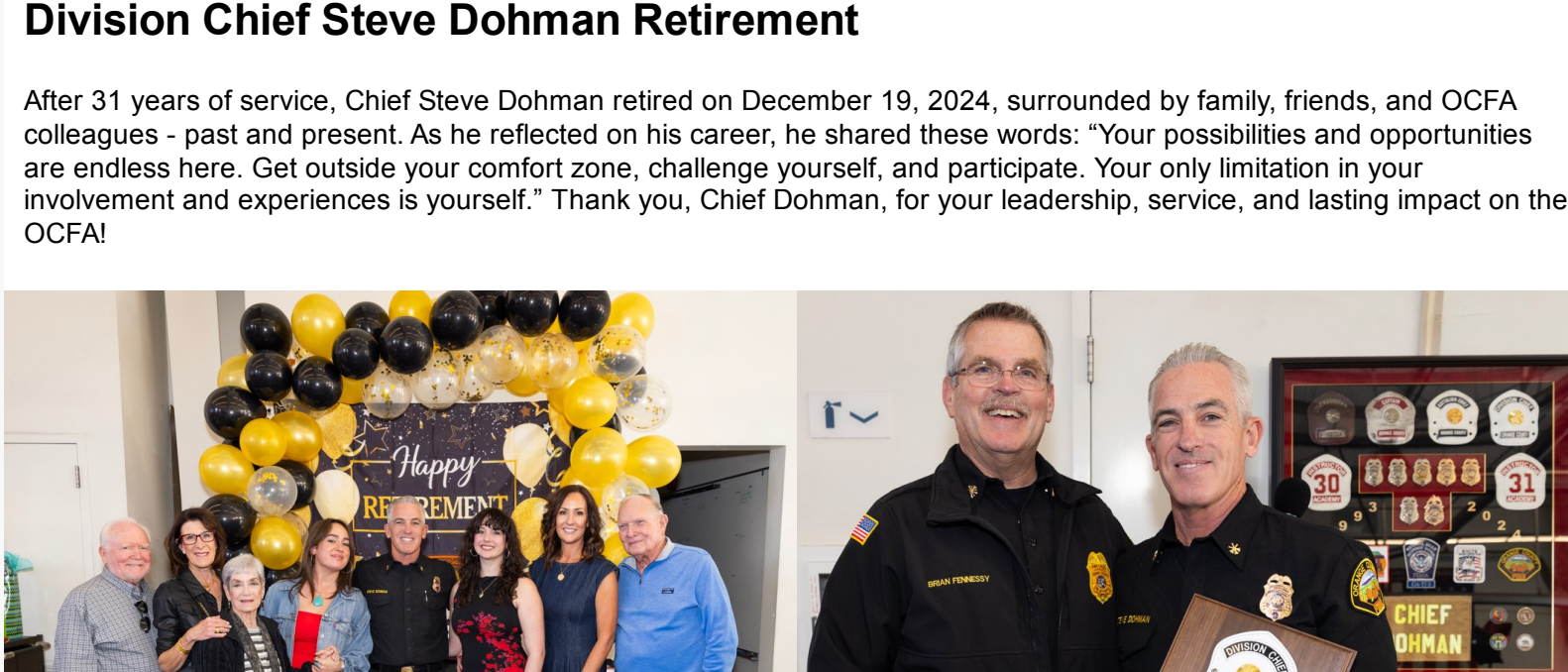
Our 2024 Holiday Toy Drive continues thanks to our Community Education Team, Firefighters, and all the volunteers who have stepped up for children in need this holiday season. Although the official day of toy donations has passed, we are still accepting and picking up new, unwrapped toys at all our stations. We also want to remind everyone that volunteer driving shifts are still available. If you need to cancel your scheduled driving shift, please let us know as soon as possible.

Holiday Toy Drive promotional banner with OCFA logo, website link (ocfa.org/toydrive), and buttons for 'Full Memo and Toy Plan', 'Volunteer to Pick-Up Toys', and 'OCFA Spark of Love Website'.

## MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

### Academy 60 Graduation

Congratulations to the 18 newest firefighters of the Orange County Fire Authority! We wish all graduates of #Academy60 a safe and successful career! Click thumbnail below for the recap video of their Graduation!



### Division Chief Steve Dohman Retirement

After 31 years of service, Chief Steve Dohman retired on December 19, 2024, surrounded by family, friends, and OCFA colleagues - past and present. As he reflected on his career, he shared these words: "Your possibilities and opportunities are endless here. Get outside your comfort zone, challenge yourself, and participate. Your only limitation in your involvement and experiences is yourself." Thank you, Chief Dohman, for your leadership, service, and lasting impact on the OCFA!



[Click Here for Steve Dohman Retirement Post!](#)

### Assistant Chiefs Perkins, Hunter, & Capobianco Ops Summary/Updates

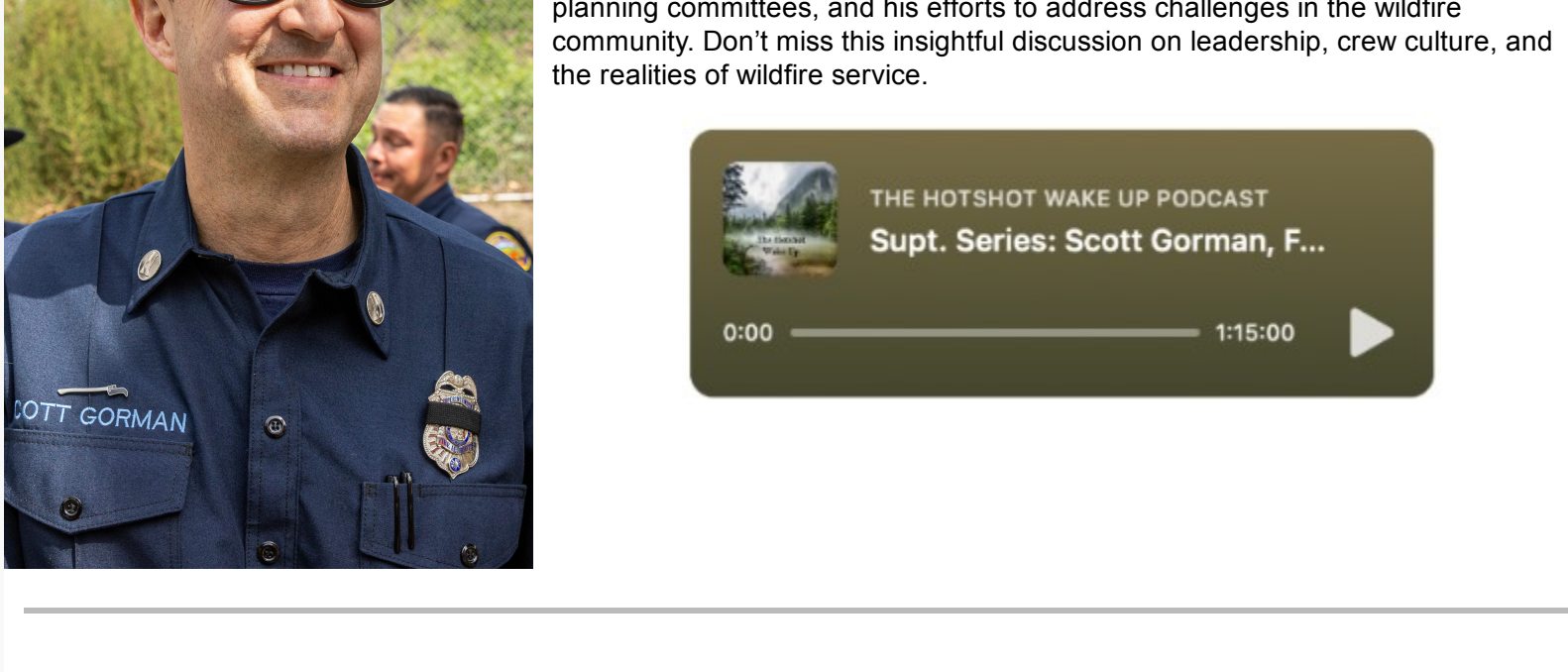
Assistant Chiefs of Operations Tim Perkins & Barry Hunter sit down with Assistant Chief of EMS/Ops Training and Promotions Rob Capobianco to review 2024 and set expectations for 2025, including operational priorities and updates on the Equipment Committee, Wildland & Air Ops, Engine & Truck Replacements, and Ambulances.



[Click Here to Listen to the Episode!](#)

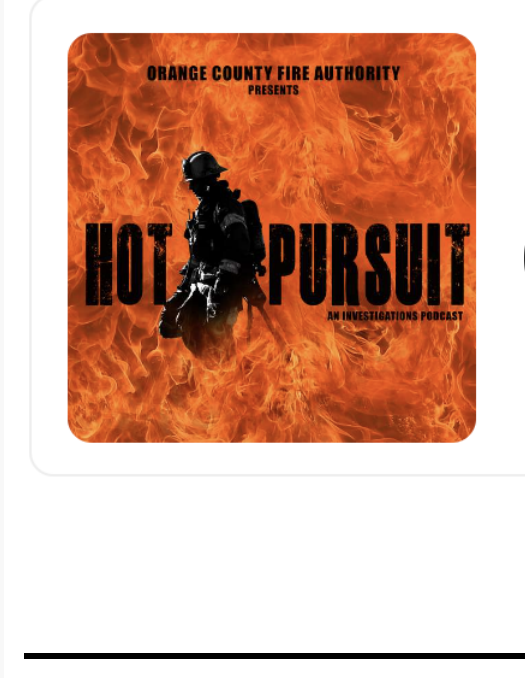
### Division Chief Scott Wiedensohler Retirement

After nearly 27 years in the fire service, Division Chief Scott Wiedensohler announced his plans to retire, and had his final workday week November 27, 2024. Chief Wiedensohler began with OCFD as a Fire Explorer in 1999 and held various leadership positions within the OCFA, including FAE Academy Cadre instructor, EMS Battalion Chief, Battalion Chief of Operations Training & Promotions, and, as of October 1, 2022, Division Chief of Division 4.



[Click Here for Scott Wiedensohler's Retirement Post!](#)

### The Hot Shot Wake Up Podcast Featuring Scott Gorman



Scott Gorman, former superintendent of the Dalton Hotshots and now leader of Santiago Crew 1 here in Orange County was recently a guest on the "The Hot Shot Wake Up" podcast. Scott shares his remarkable career journey, starting in 1995 with mentorship from an El Cerrito Hotshot, rising through the ranks of federal fire agencies, and ultimately making the transition to OCFA.

Hot Pursuit Season 1 Trailer audio player with 'Hot Pursuit | A Fire Investigations True Crime Podcast' title and a play button.

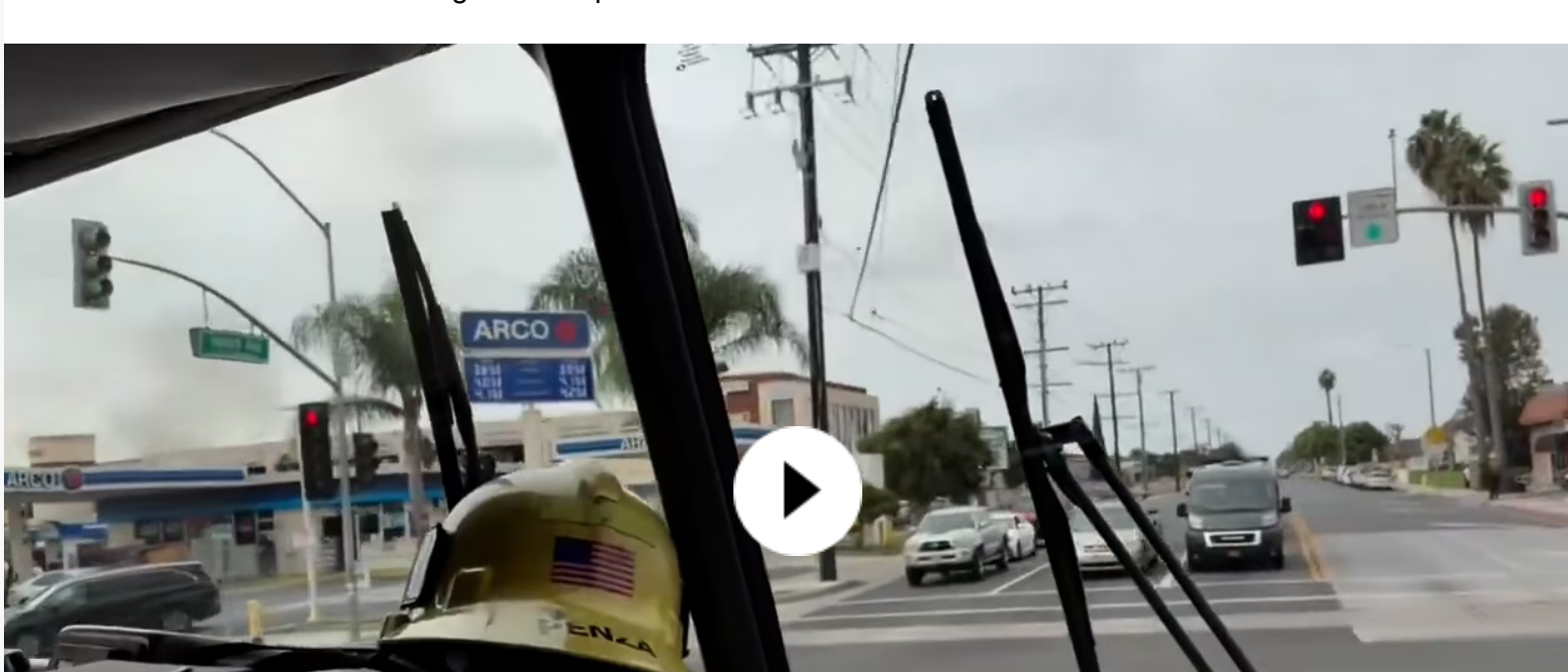
[Click to Follow Hot Pursuit](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA TOP POSTS OF THE MONTH



### Buena Park Traffic Collision

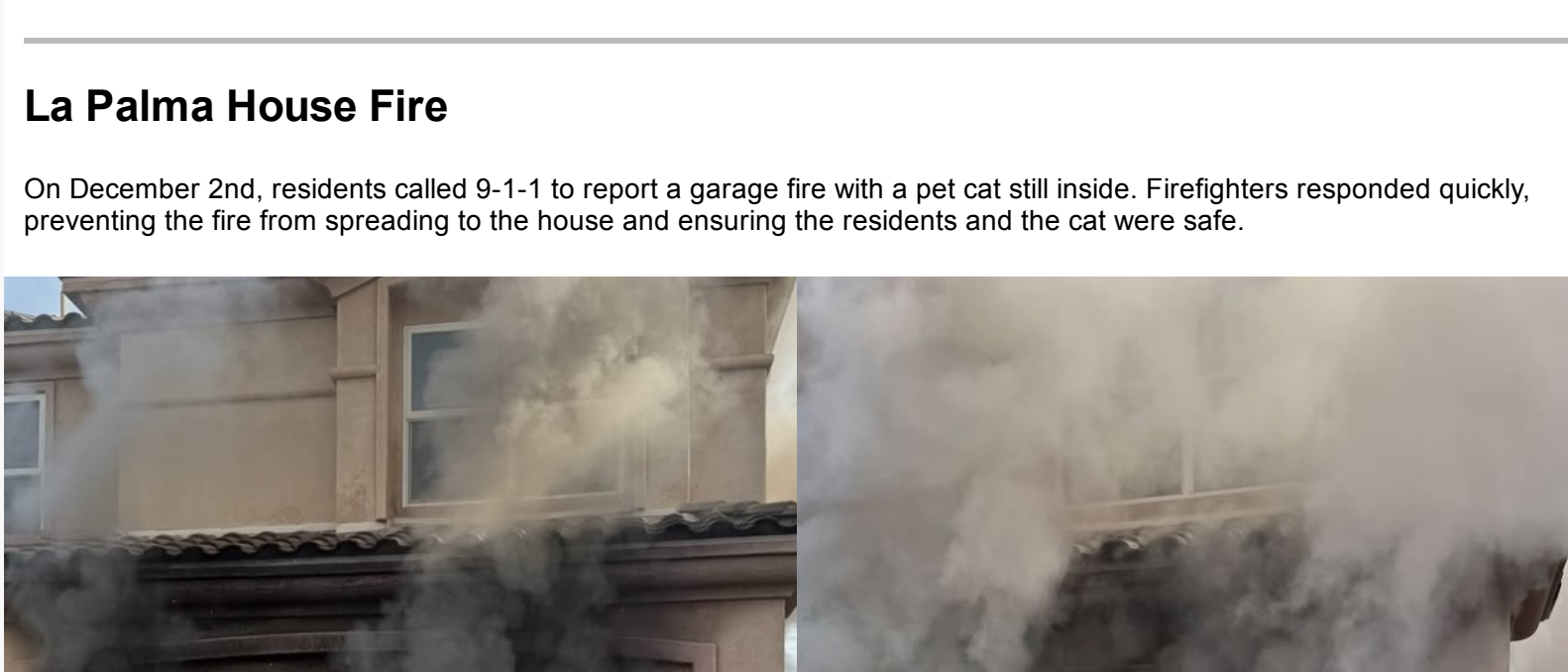
OCFA firefighters responded to a traffic collision on the 5 Freeway in Buena Park. Using the Jaws of Life, our crews safely extricated the driver of the pickup truck, who was the sole patient.



[Click Here for Full Social Media Post](#)

### Ride Along with Engine 83

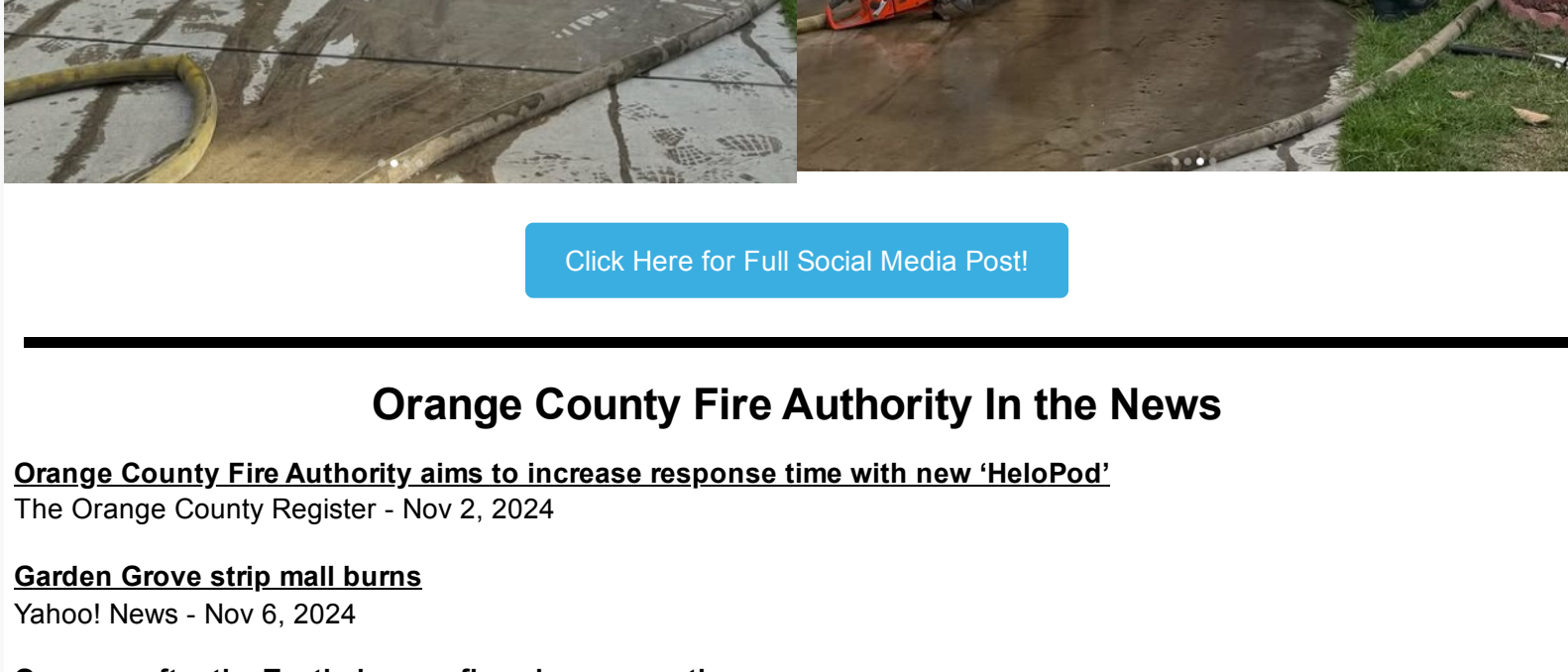
Join us for a front-row seat as Engine 83 responds as the second-due to a residential structure fire in Westminster.



[Click Here for Full Social Media Post](#)

### La Palma Fire Fire

On December 2nd, residents called 9-1-1 to report a garage fire with a pet cat still inside. Firefighters responded quickly, preventing the fire from spreading to the house and ensuring the residents and the cat were safe.



[Click Here for Full Social Media Post!](#)

## Orange County Fire Authority In the News

- Orange County Fire Authority aims to increase response time with new 'HeloPod'. The Orange County Register - Nov 2, 2024
- Garden Grove strip mall burns. Yahoo! News - Nov 6, 2024
- One year after the Tustin hangar fire, cleanup continues. LAist - Nov 7, 2024
- Garage Fire Erupts In Mission Viejo Home: OCFA Patch.com - Nov 11, 2024
- A year after the Tustin hangar fire, no cause determined and tough choices ahead. Los Angeles Daily News - Nov 13, 2024
- 1 Killed in OC High School Bleacher Collapse. Patch.com - Nov 14, 2024
- Construction worker killed at Orange County high school after bleacher collapses. KTTV FOX 11 LA - Nov 14, 2024
- Construction accident at Villa Park High School leaves 1 dead. The Orange County Register - Nov 14, 2024
- Construction accident takes place at Orange County high school: No students injured. Yahoo! News - Nov 14, 2024
- 'I thought I was gonna die in that ambulance': Firefighter injured in O.C. crash returns home. Yahoo! News - Nov 16, 2024
- Firefighter hospitalized after truck crash near Airport. Fire returns home. CBS News - Nov 15, 2024
- Orange County firefighter returns home from hospital weeks after rollover crash that left 8 injured. The Orange County Register - Nov 16, 2024
- One worker killed, another injured in construction accident at Orange County high school. MSN.com - Nov 15, 2024
- Wildfire retardant is laden with toxic metals, USC study finds. MSN.com - Nov 16, 2024
- O.C. firefighter who feared he was paralyzed in freeway crash walks out of rehab. MSN.com - Nov 16, 2024
- Riders stuck in the air on Knott's Berry Farm ride. CBS News - Nov 18, 2024
- 22 riders stuck on Knott's Berry Farm thrill ride for 2 hours. The Orange County Register - Nov 18, 2024
- Riders stuck midair for hours after Knott's Berry Farm ride experienced technical difficulties. MSN.com - Nov 19, 2024
- Man allegedly stabbed while defending his daughter from homeless woman in Westminster, police say. CBS News - Nov 20, 2024
- Mountain Lion Stuck in Tree In OC Neighborhood. Patch.com - Nov 19, 2024
- Car crashes into restaurant in Orange. KTTV FOX 11 LA - Nov 19, 2024
- Dog chases mountain lion up a tree in Tustin. Yahoo! News - Nov 19, 2024
- New funding aims to slash cancer rate among firefighters. Yahoo! News - Nov 21, 2024
- Dad stabbed while shielding 3-year-old daughter from stranger's attack, CA police say. MSN.com - Nov 20, 2024
- P&P Imports Brings Holiday Joy to Thousands of Orange County Children With Toy Donations. Associated Press - Nov 21, 2024
- State officials investigating ride malfunction at Knott's Berry Farm. Yahoo! News - Nov 21, 2024
- California Family Dog Chases Mountain Lion Up Tree, Prompting Rescue. MSN.com - Nov 22, 2024
- Man shot dead in Santa Ana, homicide investigation underway. Yahoo! News - Nov 24, 2024
- Pair arrested after car crashes through OCFA gate in Irvine. The Orange County Register - Nov 24, 2024
- Car Rams OCFA Headquarters Gate: 2 Arrested For DUI. Patch.com - Nov 25, 2024
- Driver hospitalized after crashing into Irvine traffic pole, nearly splitting car in half. Yahoo! News - Nov 30, 2024
- Calif. Man Survives Car Crash Despite Traffic Pole Nearly Splitting His Vehicle in Half. MSN.com - Nov 30, 2024

## Promotions

- Lexie Anker, Sr Fire Prevention Specialist
- Jocelyn Devereux, Public Relations Specialist
- Laurel Kessler, Management Assistant

