

Dear OCFA Family:

After my recent surgery, I was pleased to learn that my most crucial post-op prescription was a literal marching order from my doctor: Walk. An avid hiker since my days as a Hotshot, I didn't have to be told twice. Granted, I haven't laced my wildland boots back

up (yet), but I am filling my pedometer prescription with more steps per day than I get in a week at headquarters. In doing so, my healing has accelerated, just as the doctor predicted, but there have also been the added benefits that often come with fresh air and exercise: a clear mind, renewed purpose, and a profound appreciation for what matters most in life.

Having just returned from such a walk, that appreciation is top of mind, and as I reply to the hundreds of get-well-soon emails I received from OCFA personnel, much of it centers around all of you and the various ways your character and kindness set this agency apart.

First, I am humbled that so many of you contacted me directly. At other agencies, people often think about going direct to the fire chief but decide against it because they may be "too busy," or worse, fear of chain-of-command issues. With me, there is NEVER a chain-of-command issue outside of an emergency incident. Like everyone else, I bear the responsibilities of my badge and rank, and I am no busier or more important than any other firefighter or professional staff member.

Second, the support you have shown me transcends rank, as countless OCFA firefighters and professional staff have been met with the same benevolence when facing health challenges.

Third, and perhaps what most sets OCFA apart, is that the support we provide each other in times of need extends far beyond words; a truth I had not fully grasped until now. I have always been on the other side of the hospital bed or getwell-soon wishes, and to be the one receiving comfort and care has truly changed me and further enhanced my appreciation for this agency and what we collectively stand for.

My gratitude for all this aside, the impetus for informing you of my diagnosis was not to seek out support but rather to magnify the benefits that likely saved my life; resources the OCFA and Local 3631 have been sharing this month via our annual Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month Newsletter. As Deputy Chief McGovern and President Hamm publicly shared with our Board of Directors last week, cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters, and it is our highest priority to not only enhance on-scene preventative measures, but also increase participation in tests that foster early detection.

Those very resources are why I am already out walking, working from home, and today, just nine days after successful surgery, I am representing the OCFA with a virtual presentation to the U.S. Fire Administrator on a Wildfire Evacuation Roundtable.

This Chief's Bulletin is replete with these cancer awareness and prevention resources, including an update on our work to address PFAS concerns in turnouts. I encourage all personnel to review, share, and utilize these tips, not just during Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, but every month and always as if your life depended on it.

Trust me when I tell you that one day, it could. Thank you, and I look forward to returning to in-person work and seeing all of you again soon!

Sincerely,

Brian Fennessy Fire Chief

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

The OCFA Pass-Along Podcast



Ep. 72 - 2024 Operations Priorities

Assistant Chiefs of Operations Tim Perkins and Shane

Sherwood discuss their operations priorities for 2024 before

welcoming Battalion Chiefs Neal McCann and Mike

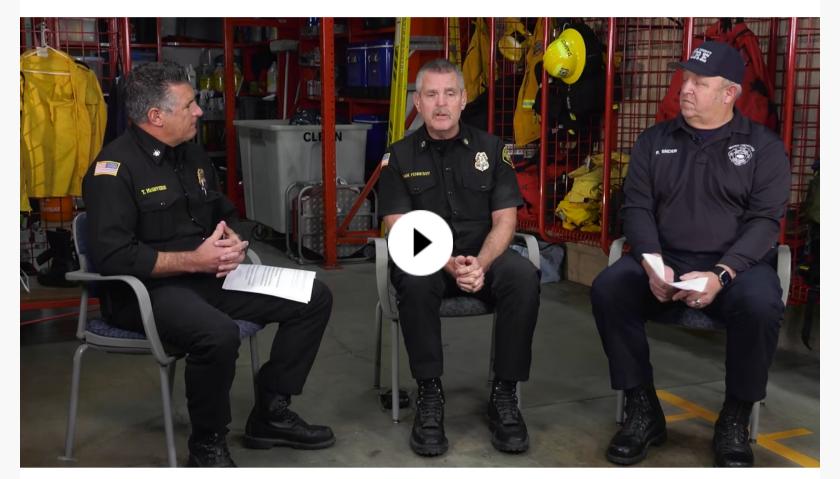
Summers for a conversation about the new Command and

Control Handbook.

Ep. 71 - Best & Bravest Nominations

Assistant Chief Sherwood and members of the Ceremonies, Awards, and Protocol (CAP) Committee -- BC Mike Sheehan, Training Program Analyst Jocelyn Casillas, and Fire Captain/AFTO Derek Acosta -- discuss the Best & Bravest Awards and encourage nominations.

PFAS Update - A Conversation with Chief Fennessy and Russ Snider

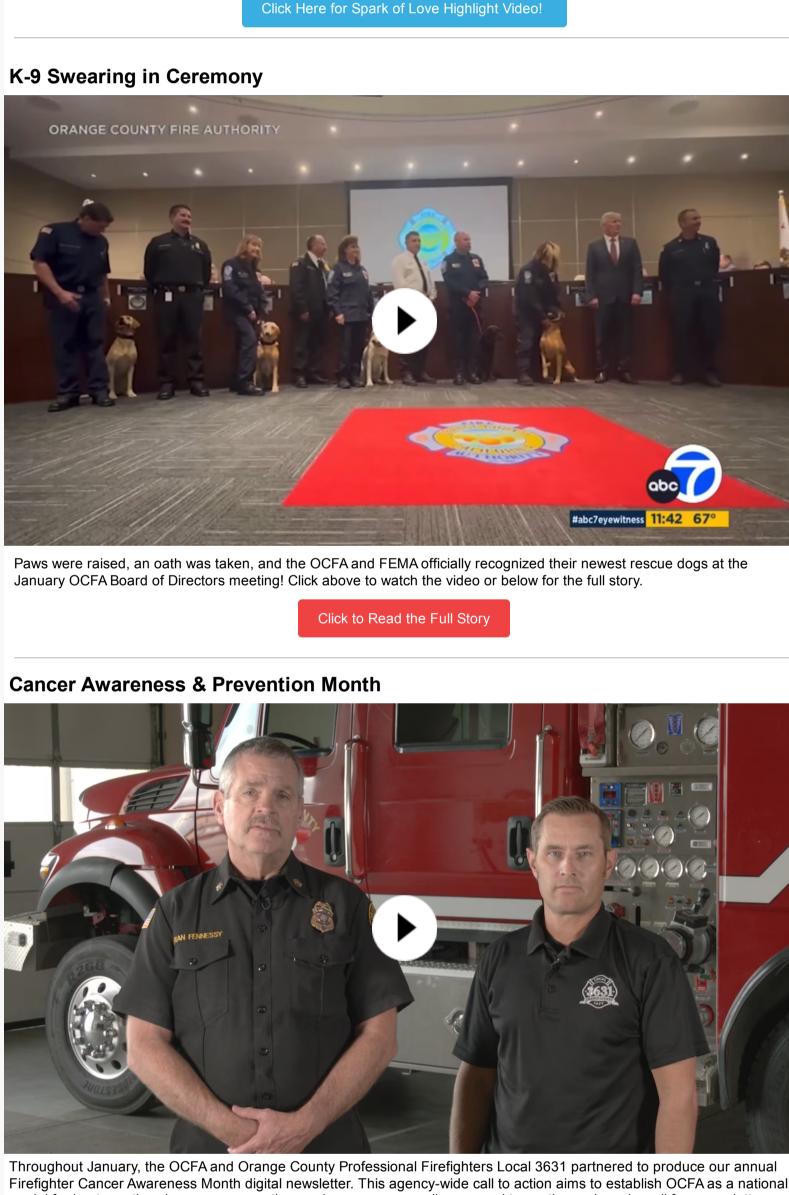


Deputy Chief McGovern sits down with Fire Chief Fennessy and Service Center Supervisor Russ Snider to discuss the proactive steps OCFA is taking to protect firefighters from cancer and other health risks that have been linked to PFAS.

2023 Spark of Love Holiday Toy Drive Wrap Up



Education Supervisor Kristen Lewis, the OCFA partnered with ABC-7, KWAVE, the OCFA Foundation, and agency partners to collect and distribute nearly 40,000 toys for underserved children in our service region this holiday season. Big thanks to all the firefighters and professional staff who contributed time and resources to this year's toy drive!



model for best practices in cancer prevention, and we encourage all personnel to continuously review all four newsletters. Week 1 Newsletter Week 2 Newsletter Week 3 Newsletter Week 4 Newsletter

Bill McMurray Excellence in 911 Award



for being one of "the best of the best in 911 operations." Dawn is instrumental in training and mentoring new dispatchers, and has been a steadfast volunteer for over 30 years in the Friends Against Drinking and Driving. Congratulations, Dawn!



SOCIAL MEDIA

• Over 3.2 million impressions (eyes on our content)

Over the past month OCFA's social media platforms had:

• 165,850 engagements (interaction with our content) • 922 link clicks/redirects • 2,334 new followers

platforms.

Despite this social media success, we are always looking to improve and share information of interest with each other and the communities we serve. To that end, there is now a new area on the HIVE for all OCFA personnel (safety and nonsafety) to submit photos, videos, and story ideas for OCFA's social media accounts and other information-sharing

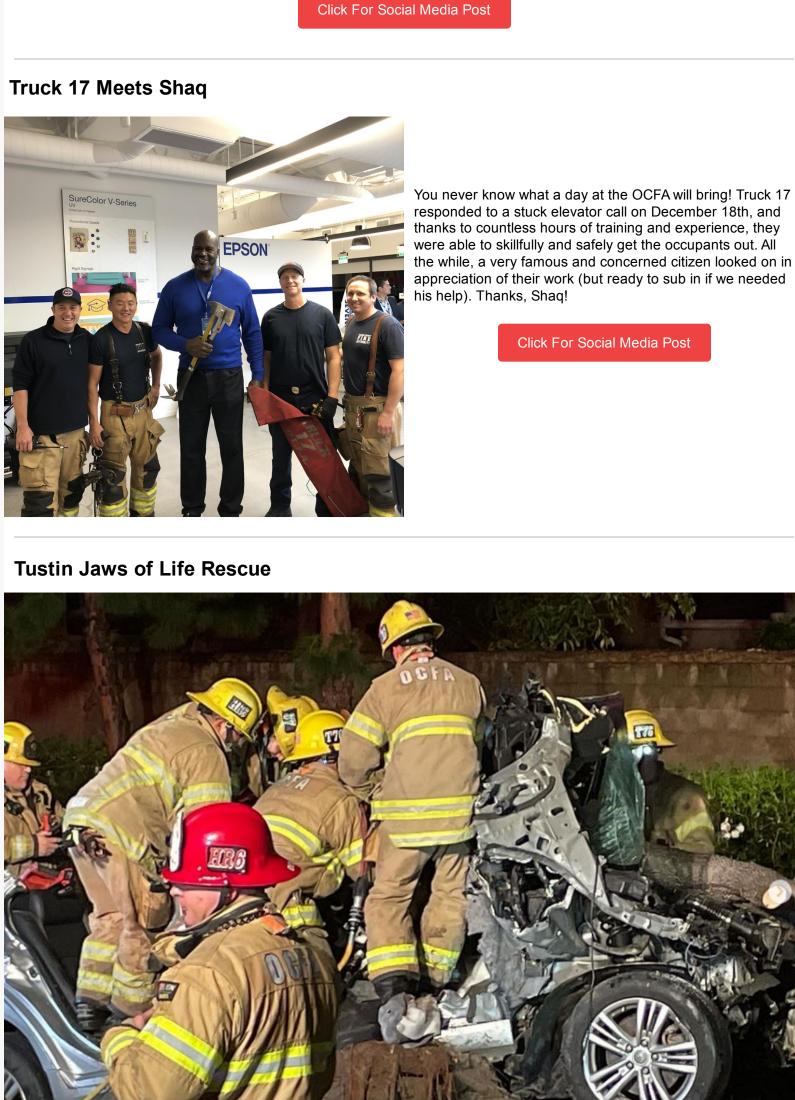


Top Social Media Posts

Refuse Fire in Olinda Alpha Landfill

Firefighters were on scene with air and ground resources to fight a refuse fire at the Olinda Alpha Landfill in unincorporated Brea on December 9th. Firefighters held the fire to the compost piles in the landfill as additional crews continued patrolling

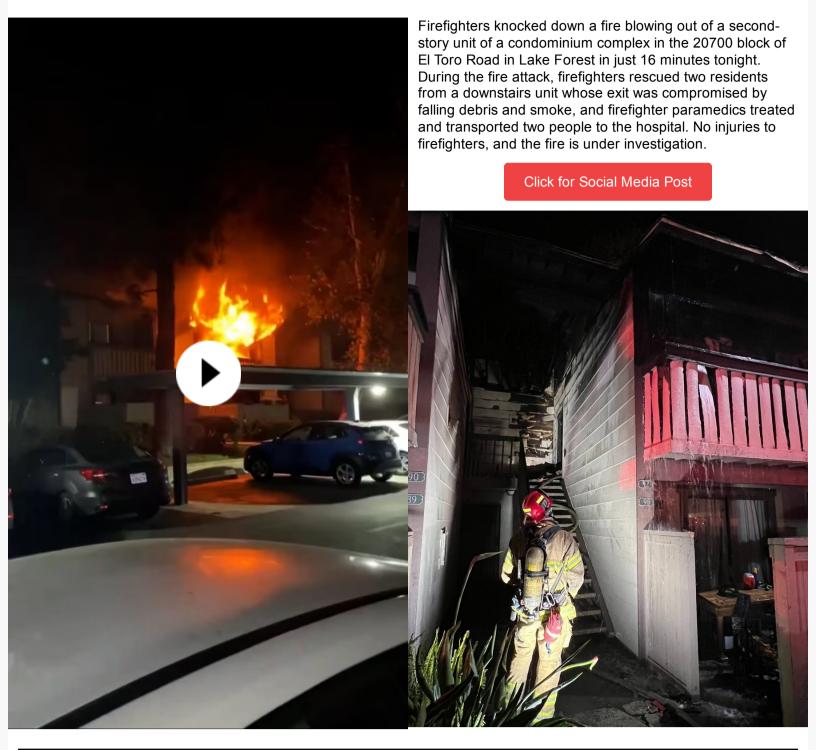




Last night in Tustin, crews faced a challenging situation, using the jaws of life to extricate a patient trapped in their car after a collision with a tree. Despite the extreme vehicle damage, our skilled team executed a swift rescue, ensuring the victim's prompt extraction, rapid treatment, and transportation to the trauma center for crucial medical attention.

Click Here for Social Media Post

Two Residents Saved in Lake Forest Fire



Equity, Inclusion, Outreach, and Recruitment





Follow this newsletter for updates on the OCFA's progress in the work

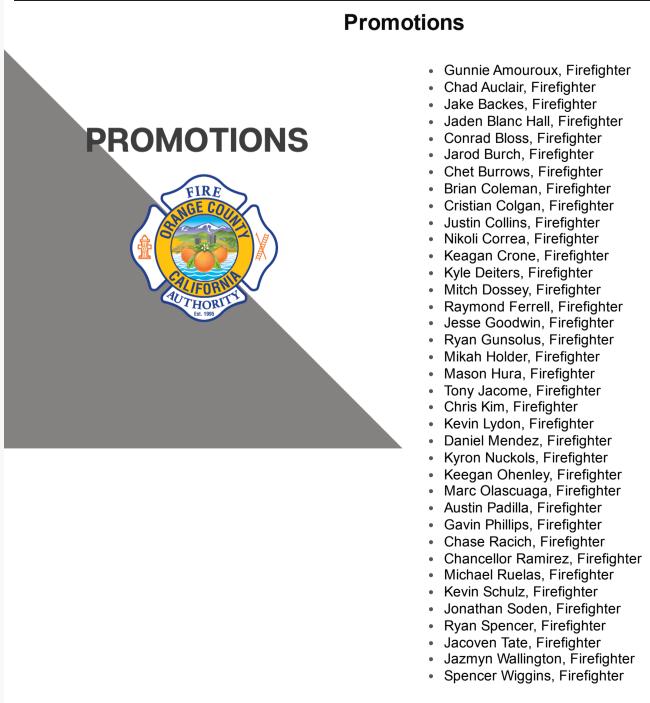


Orange County Fire Authority In the News

Massive carport fire destroys 13 cars in Tustin KTTV-TV - Dec 3, 2023 Condo Fire Hospitalizes 2 In Lake Forest: OCFA Patch.com - Dec 4, 2023 World's largest firefighting helicopters now available in Southern California FOX Weather - Dec 5, 2023 Hoag, Grail offer cancer screening to Orange County firefighters Patch.com - Dec 6, 2023 Massive WWII-Era Hangar Doors To Come Down After Tustin Fire LAist - Dec 7, 2023 Local News | OC Board of Supervisors send \$20,000 to help... The Orange County Register - Dec 7, 2023 Local News | Crews start removal of metal doors left after... The Orange County Register - Dec 8, 2023 **Brush Fire Contained Near 91 Freeway** Patch.com - Dec 8, 2023 Basement fire spreads into Santa Ana home, displacing 11 people CBS News - Dec 12, 2023 **2 Injured In Destructive House Fire, 9 Residents Displaced** Patch.com - Dec 12, 2023 House fire leaves 11 displaced, including 2 children, in Santa Ana Yahoo! News - Dec 12, 2023 Dangers of charging devices with lithium-ion batteries; how you can avoid a fire WAFB-TV - Dec 15, 2023 Local News | New 'HeloPod' near Ortega Highway will help... The Orange County Register - Dec 16, 2023 **<u>'Tis the Season To Donate Toys</u>** Yahoo! Finance - Dec 18, 2023 This new tool will help firefighting helicopters in LA and Orange counties fill their tanks faster KABC-TV - Dec 18, 2023 Garage Fire Kills Dog In South OC: OCFA Patch.com - Dec 18, 2023 NBA Legend Surprises Group Trapped On Elevator In Orange County Patch.com - Dec 19, 2023 Flood Watch For Laguna Beach As Stormy Weather Returns To SoCal Patch.com - Dec 19, 2023 Worker killed in Orange County trench accident Yahoo! News - Dec 20, 2023 Elderly Couple Rescued From Intense House Fire In South OC Patch.com - Dec 20, 2023 Man carried out of Laguna Hills home during garage fire The Orange County Register - Dec 20, 2023 Man dies after trench collapses in unincorporated Tustin The Orange County Register - Dec 20, 2023 Worker dies in Orange County trench collapse CBS News - Dec 20, 2023 With a rescue team scaling back in Orange County, who will save horses from the next wildfire? Yahoo! News - Dec 21, 2023 Garden Grove man killed in early morning hit-and-run Yahoo! News - Dec 23, 2023

Parents arrested after 2 babies left in locked car in Tustin parking lot, police say The Orange County Register - Dec 27, 2023

Fire Chews Through Apartment, Displaces Residents: OCFA Patch.com - Dec 28, 2023



Retirements

