



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

Every month, this Bulletin highlights the OCFA excellence that often occurs during stressful and potentially tragic moments in the lives of the residents we serve. This month's issue is no exception, with OCFA courage and care emanating from several emergency response stories — from two-alarm fires and three-car pileups to helicopter rescues and patient extractions.

And while we are right to celebrate our success on these and other emergency responses, we must also recognize the work we do to prevent such incidents from occurring in the first place. As such, this month's Bulletin endeavors to highlight some of our proactive and preventive initiatives, including a successful "Stay Safe this 4th of July" campaign, an informative Wildland Pre-Fire Management newsletter, and an innovative Water Safety Escape Room.

In addition to the preventative work that connects these programs, there is another context through which their similarities should be considered: Our communities often drive their success. For example, our drowning prevention works only as good as the residents who take it to heart — particularly when it comes to children around water.

As I write this message, I am preparing for a Board of Directors meeting at which we will recognize two individuals who personify that truth: Fourteen-year-old **Jesselle Perez**, and her aunt, **Cecilia Perez**, who partnered to save the life of a two-year-old family member who slipped out of his personal flotation device at a family pool party. **Jesselle noticed the struggling toddler, dove into the pool fully clothed, rescued him from the bottom of the pool, and brought him to the surface.** That is when her aunt, Cecilia, who is CPR-certified, resuscitated the boy.

Engine 70 arrived shortly thereafter, and while the crew was critical in the boy's safe transfer to CHOC. While he made a full recovery, everyone agreed that the true heroes on this incident were **Jesselle and Cecilia**. With that in mind, and in the spirit of highlighting the communities who take the preventative safety measures we espouse to heart (see also the "7-Year-Old Saves Brother" story below), I will conclude this month's Bulletin letter by paraphrasing a portion of our presentation to the Board in **Jesselle and Cecilia's** honor:

"They say it takes a village to raise a child, and in Orange County, where pool and beach days are a way of life, it also takes a village to prevent child drownings. Our firefighters are an integral part of this village — this year alone, they have rescued 26 children in various near drownings in and around Orange County. But as great and highly trained as our firefighters are, we still need the help of our communities. First to ensure all the necessary prevention measures we recommend are in place, and then to know what to do if and when an emergency occurs."

Jesselle and Cecilia's story and the truth it portrays transcends drowning prevention and underscores the integral role our communities play in the work we do. Yes, we lead that work and our firefighters are the heroes who often put their own safety at risk to execute it, but when we say "OCFA Family," we don't just mean the 1,700 firefighters and professional staff who work for the OCFA. We also mean the nearly 2 million residents we serve whose engagement, trust, and appreciation is essential to our success.

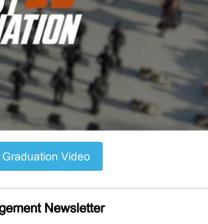
Thank you, all, for being the bridge to that engagement with preventative education, for fostering that trust with character-driven service, and for creating that appreciation by knowing when to pause to salute the many civilian heroes among us.

Sincerely,

Brian Fennessy
Fire Chief

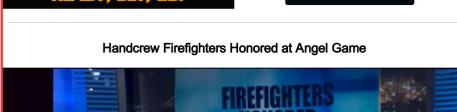
IN THIS ISSUE

- Monthly Spotlight - Excellence in Service
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Updates
- OCFA Social Media
- Retirements



MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Academy 55 Graduation Highlight Video



[Click Here to Watch Full Graduation Video](#)

Wildland Pre-Fire Management Newsletter



The Wildland Pre-Fire Management (WPFM) Section within Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is now sharing a quarterly newsletter including challenges, successes, lessons learned etc. to better understand how they contribute to the mission with our partner agencies and CRR. Read the newsletter below!

[Download the Newsletter](#)

Handcrew Firefighters Honored at Angel Game



With the help and support of Local 3631, OCFA partnered with the Anaheim Angels to honor Handcrew Firefighters Dylan Van Wazerden and The La as an Angel home game in July. Dylan threw out the ceremonial first pitch (right down the middle) while more than 500 OCFA firefighters and professional staff cheered him on from the stands.

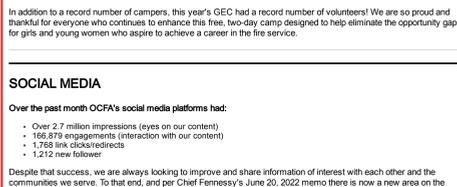
Quick Response Force Press Conference



On July 6th, 2022, OCFA partnered with VCFD, LACoFD, and Southern California Edison to announce the return of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The Press Conference showcased the world's largest fire-suppression helicopters that are now standing by to protect our region during the peak months of wildfire season.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Girls Empowerment Camp



In addition to a record number of campers, this year's GEC had a record number of volunteers! We are so proud and thankful for everyone who continues to enhance this free, two-day camp designed to help eliminate the opportunity gap for girls and young women who aspire to achieve a career in the fire service.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

- Over 2.7 million impressions (eyes on our content)
- 166,879 engagements (interaction with our content)
- 1,168 link clicks/redirects
- 1,212 new follower

Despite that success, we are always looking to improve and share information of interest with each other and the communities we serve. To that end, and per Chief Fennessy's June 20, 2022 memo there is now a new area on the HIVE for all OCFA partners (safely and non-safely) to submit photos, videos, and story ideas for OCFA's social media accounts and other information-sharing platforms.

[Click to Submit Photos/Videos](#)

[Click to Read the Memo](#)



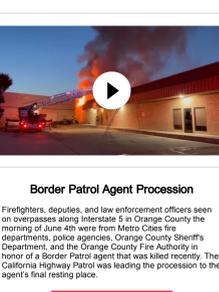
Top Social Media Posts

Helicopter Rescue

Last night, with the assistance of the Orange County Sheriff's Department, your OCFA firefighters located and rescued a family of four and their dog, Beta on a trail off of Ortega Highway. They had been hiking all day and found themselves lost as it got dark. Fortunately they were able to call for help. Our helicopter lowered a firefighter paramedic rescuer to assess the family and a pain was established to extract them. One by one, they were hoisted into the helicopter. Scott Mathis turned, an animal harness was placed on her and rescued. Beta was lifted and slung over to the landing zone where firefighters from E56 awaited. They were a bit tired but were all well.

We have many great trails throughout Orange County to hike. Before you head out, make sure you have it mapped out, phone and battery charged, bring plenty of snacks and hydration, and let someone know where you're going and when to expect you back.

[View Social Media Post](#)



Buena Park Two-Alarm Fire

On June 4th, firefighters were on scene of a two alarm commercial structure fire in the 7600 block of 9th Street in the City of Buena Park. It took firefighters 49 minutes to knock down the fire. There were no injuries, and the cause has not yet been determined.

[View Social Media Post](#)



Border Patrol Agent Procession



Firefighters, deputies, and law enforcement officers seen on overpasses along Interstate 5 in Orange County the morning of June 4th were from Metro Cities fire departments, police agencies, Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the Orange County Fire Authority in honor of a Border Patrol agent that was killed recently. The California Highway Patrol was leading the procession to the agent's final resting place.

[View Social Media Post](#)

Yorba Linda Weed Abatement Goats



Earlier in June we attended a unique and fun event in the city of Yorba Linda! The city introduced their weed abatement goats to members of the community at Bryant Ranch Park. As you can see from the pictures everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meet and greet. Now it's time for those goats to get to work and assist with vegetation management.

[View Social Media Post](#)

CA-73 Victim Extrication

A driver took an unexpected detour off CA-73 at Newport Coast on June 22 when he launched off the road. Crews from Battalion 4, Truck 22, Engine 28, and Newport Beach Fire worked to stabilize the vehicle to ensure safe extraction of the victim. Once out, firefighter paramedics initiated paramedic level care and transported to a hospital with Care Ambulance EMTs. OCSD's helicopter used their FLU team looking overhead to survey the surrounding area for anyone that may have been involved.

[View Social Media Post](#)



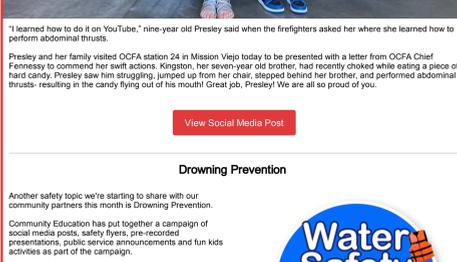
Santa Ana Car Crash



Engine 78 arrived on scene in the area of Newport and Hazard and found a three-car traffic collision earlier in the month of June. The firefighters quickly assessed the situation and determined there were multiple victims and requested additional paramedic units and ambulances. An MCI was dispatched to the scene for stretcher treatments and transport of the eight victims. Firefighter paramedics provided advanced life support while other crew members were tasked with coordinating timely transportation and safety needs. Assistance was provided by Santa Ana Police Department.

[View Social Media Post](#)

7-Year-Old Saves Brother



I learned how to do it on YouTube," nine-year old Presley said when the firefighters asked her where she learned how to perform abdominal thrusts.

Presley and her family visited OCFA Station 24 in Kingston Viejo today to be presented with a letter from OCFA Chief Fennessy to commend her swift actions. Kingston, her seven-year old brother, had recently choked while eating a piece of hard candy. Presley saw him struggling, jumped up from her chair, stepped behind her brother, and performed abdominal thrusts - resulting in the candy flying out of his mouth! Great job, Presley! We are all so proud of you.

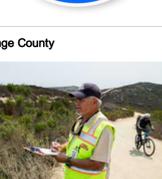
[View Social Media Post](#)

Drowning Prevention

Another safety topic we're starting to share with our community partners this month is Drowning Prevention. Community Education has put together a campaign of social media posts, safety flyers, pre-recorded presentations, public service announcements and fun kids activities as part of the campaign.

New to the campaign this year is a Drowning and Fun Water Safety Expo! This is perfect for kids of all ages to become water safety experts. You can test your knowledge, and try the escape room by clicking the link below.

[Try the Escape Room!](#)



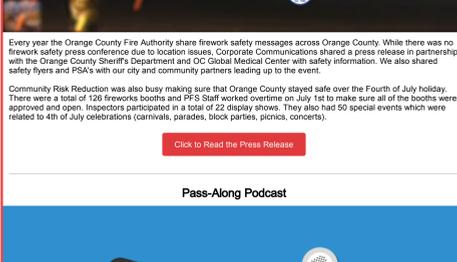
Preventing Wildfires in Orange County

One of the unique defenses the Orange County community has against the spread of wildfire is a program known as Fire Watch, which is comprised entirely of community-minded volunteers. Understanding most local fires are started by human activities and most ignitions occur near roads or other points along the wildland urban interface (WUI), it makes sense to have a watchful eye on locations which are at high risk of fire during extreme weather conditions, especially Santa Ana winds.

[Read the NCC Newsletter](#)



Fourth of July Celebrations

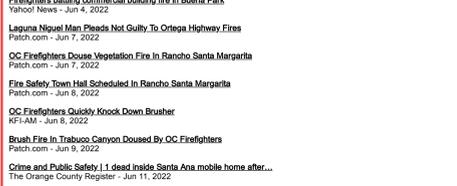


Every year the Orange County Fire Authority share firework safety messages across Orange County. While there was no firework safety press conference due to location issues, Corporate Communications shared a press release in partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and OC Global Medical Center with safety information. We also shared safety flyers and PSA's with our city and community partners leading up to the event!

Community Risk Reduction was also busy making sure that Orange County stayed safe over the Fourth of July holiday. There were a total of 126ers participated in a total of 22 display shows. They also had 50 special events which were approved and open. Inspectors participated in a total of 22 display shows. They also had 50 special events which were related to 4th of July celebrations (carnivals, parades, block parties, picnics, concerts).

[Click to Read the Press Release](#)

Pass-Along Podcast



From the Orange County Fire Authority, we're reintroducing the Pass-Along Podcast! We address firefighter issues from top to bottom. On the newest episode of the Pass-Along Podcast, Deputy Chief Kerry Dossy sits down with Hazardous Materials Program Manager Nick Freeman to talk all things HazMat. After their discussion, Chief Dossy answers some questions from the field. Click the button below to listen to the newest episode.

[Listen Now!](#)

Orange County Fire Authority in the News

- Firefighters battling commercial building fire in Buena Park**
Yahoo! News - Jun 4, 2022
- Laguna Niguel Man Pleads Not Guilty To Ortega Highway Fires**
Patch.com - Jun 7, 2022
- OC Firefighters Douse Vegetation Fire In Rancho Santa Margarita**
Patch.com - Jun 7, 2022
- Fire Safety Town Hall Scheduled In Rancho Santa Margarita**
Patch.com - Jun 6, 2022
- OC Firefighters Quickly Knock Down Bushier**
KFI-AM - Jun 6, 2022
- Brush Fire In Trabuco Canyon Doused By OC Firefighters**
Patch.com - Jun 9, 2022
- Crime and Public Safety 1.1 dead inside Santa Ana mobile home after...**
KTLA 5 Morning News at 9 - Jun 11, 2022
- KTLA 5 Morning News at 9**
KTLA-LA (WB) - Jun 11, 2022
- Police: fatal California mobile home fire deliberately set**
MSM.com - Jun 12, 2022
- Volunteers graduate from preparedness program in Irvine**
Patch.com - Jun 12, 2022
- Six Injured In Buena Park Crash**
KFI-AM - Jun 17, 2022
- Garage Fire Doused By OC Firefighters In Seal Beach**
MSM.com - Jun 19, 2022
- Crime and Public Safety 1 Firefighters respond to Santa Ana structure...**
The Orange County Register - Jun 23, 2022
- Eyewitness News 8PM**
KABC-LA (ABC) - Jun 25, 2022
- Empowerment Camp In Orange County Connects Girls With Firefighters**
RNBC-TV - Jun 26, 2022
- California turns to new, high-tech helicopters to battle wildfires**
MSM.com - Jun 26, 2022
- NBC4 News at 5am**
KNBC-LA (NBC) - Jun 26, 2022
- Today In LA Weekend**
KNBC-LA (NBC) - Jun 26, 2022
- RSM Residents Get Hands-On Fire Training Thursday**
Patch.com - Jun 27, 2022
- OC Fire Authority teaches next generation of firefighters at Girls Empowerment Camp**
KABC-TV - Jun 27, 2022
- Ten girls learn firefighting skills during OCFA empowerment camp**
Yahoo! News - Jun 27, 2022
- OC Fire Authority Educates Future Firefighters At Girls Empowerment Camp**
KHSI-FM - Jun 28, 2022
- July 4 fireworks displays 2022: Where to watch in L.A., Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino counties**
KTLA-TV - Jun 29, 2022

June Retirements

- Robert Davidson, Firefighter
- Daniel Hernandez, Firefighter
- Tracy McClelland, Battalion Chief
- Jeffrey Knight, Firefighter
- Michael Reith, Fire Captain
- Gerry Zeledon, Fire Apparatus Engineer

