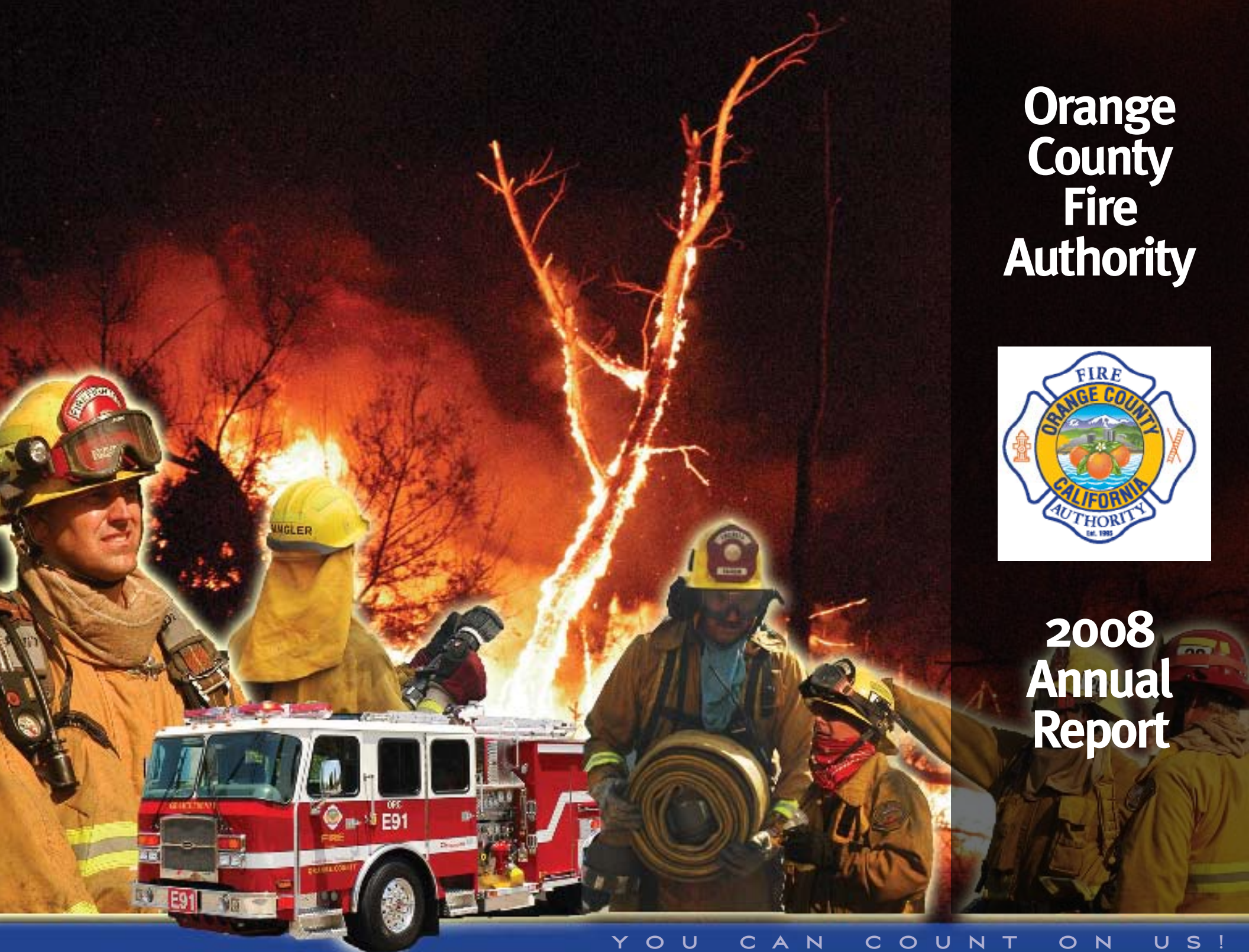


Orange County Fire Authority



2008 Annual Report



YOU CAN COUNT ON US!





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Our Values

Teamwork

Teamwork is the basis of our success. We work as a team because we value each other, the communities we serve, and our commitment to the OCFA mission.

Integrity

Whenever we make a decision, provide a service, or interact with others, we act with strong character and integrity, treating all people equally.

Trust

The foundation of our success is the trust we earn from the communities we serve and the trust we have in each other.

Excellence

We strive to improve the quality of life of the people we serve by recognizing excellent service is the cornerstone of everything we do.

Ethics

We take pride in maintaining the highest professional standards in all our actions.

Personal Responsibility

We contribute positively toward the OCFA mission and take ownership of our various roles and responsibilities.

Care and Respect

We treat the communities we serve and each other with care and respect.

Honesty and Fairness

We treat everyone with an impartial and honest manner that is free from self-interest and prejudice.

Reliability

Our commitment to the public we serve is unwavering and consistent. This commitment is fully expressed in our motto: "You Can Count on Us!"

Diversity

We value the ideas and creativity contributed through the diversity in our community and our members.





We are your Fire Department

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is a joint powers authority that serves as an all-risk emergency response agency for 1.3 million Orange County residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of Orange County.

Many people ask why their city does not have their own fire department and why contracting with the OCFA is a better idea. OCFA's regional approach has many advantages for the 22 cities it protects. By pooling their resources, these cities can purchase additional fire engines and specialized equipment that most could not afford on their own. The OCFA does not allocate equipment based on city boundaries. Instead, all member cities have access to resources, including helicopters for brush fires and the use of sophisticated rescue equipment to save the lives of accident victims. More engines mean shorter response times, thereby reducing the threat to both property and lives.

Formed in 1995, the OCFA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of two members from the Orange County Board of Supervisors and one Council Member from each of OCFA's 22 member cities. These Board Members meet regularly in open session to set policy, approve budgets, establish services levels

and provide fiscal oversight.

The Orange County Fire Authority takes great pride in the service we provide to you and the community, and we are committed to searching for ways to continually improve service to our customers in their time of need. Every customer that receives emergency assistance from the OCFA is asked to complete a customer satisfaction survey to help us determine the degree of customer satisfaction with services rendered by our Operations personnel during emergencies. The Orange County Fire Authority is very proud to report that it has maintained a 97% approval rating over the past eight years, illustrating the superior interpersonal and professional skills of our firefighters and dispatchers.

One of the largest fire departments in the State, the OCFA is now comprised of six divisions and eight battalions. The OCFA operates out

of 62 fire stations with 831 career firefighters and 286 reserve firefighters. Our service area includes 550 square miles including 120,000 acres of wildland. In 2008, the OCFA responded to 86,539 calls and had 220,575 unit responses.

Regional Fire Operations and Training Center

The Orange County Fire Authority is very proud of its headquarters facility in the City of Irvine, which is called the Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC). This facility was fully occupied in May, 2004 and replaced a series of small and antiquated offices in the City of Orange. Our 20-acre complex is located at the corner of Jamboree Road and Tustin Ranch Road in the City of Irvine, and supports OCFA's 62 community fire stations from a single, centralized location with modern state-of-the-art buildings, including a 9-1-1 emergency communications center, a public services and support center, a vehicle maintenance center, a material management center, and training grounds with a fire simulation tower.

“The Orange County Fire Authority is very proud to report that it has maintained a 97% approval rating over the past eight years...”



photo courtesy of Richard Koehler





Message from the Fire Chief

This
2008
Orange
County
Fire
Authority
(OCFA)
Annual

Report provides a comprehensive review of the many challenges successfully confronted by our organization during the year. In addition to providing a variety of important statistical and financial information, this 2008 report tells the story about the many projects and initiatives in which the members of OCFA are involved, and how they intentionally contribute to the quality of life in our Orange County.

Consistent with its “pay as you go” philosophy, the OCFA Board of Directors adopted a balanced General Fund Budget and a fully funded Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). With a General Fund and CIP budget totaling \$304,009,340, OCFA was able to open one new fire station (FS20) located in the City of Irvine, conduct two firefighter academies, purchase two Bell 412EP firefighting helicopters, along with an array of new fire engines, truck companies and other essential emergency response equipment and facilities.

In May, the After Action Report from the 2007 Santiago Fire was presented and approved

by the Board of Directors. This report brought forward a series of recommendations having to do with mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery. These recommendations will be implemented over the next several years.

2008 was a demanding year for emergency response, both locally and elsewhere. The 2,069 fires during the year claimed 2 lives, injured 104 and destroyed over 163,746,661 million dollars in property (a 140% increase, primarily due to the Freeway Complex Fire). Emergency Medical Service responses increased by 3% to 59,998 incidents, and represents approximately 69 percent of the total emergency call volume for the year. Total incidents during the year increased slightly to 86,539, as did the number of unit responses at 220,575.

When a series of dry lightning storms marched through Northern California during early summer, sparking several thousand wildland fires, OCFA firefighters found themselves on the frontlines far from home for weeks. Then “Hurricane Season” arrived along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts calling for the deployment of our 80 member Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, which spent close to 30 days in Louisiana and Texas. Santa Ana winds in October and November brought a series of very large and destructive wildland urban interface fires from Santa Barbara to the Mexican Border and, like last year, Orange County would not be spared

from what has become an annual occurrence throughout Southern California.

On November 15, with winds gusting to 60 miles per hour and humidity hovering around 8%, the largest fire in Orange County since 1948 struck, with losses only overshadowed by the 1993 Laguna Beach Fire. The Freeway Complex Fire, impacting four counties and six cities, burned over 30,000 acres in just 26 hours, and destroyed or damaged 360 structures in the first 12 hours. While close to 40,000 residents were within the ordered evacuation area, nobody was killed or seriously injured by this fast moving urban conflagration. While the losses were significant, so were the “saves!” Within the City of Yorba Linda there were over 500 structures (residential and commercial) considered by incident commanders to be “at risk” – 196 were destroyed or damaged.

Undeniably, 2008 was a year filled with challenge and success for the determined members of OCFA and those we serve with pride and passion.

Chip Prather
Fire Chief





Board of Directors

Donald W. McCay
City of Buena Park
Chair
Board of Directors

The Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors is comprised of 24 members; two members from the Orange County Board of Supervisors representing the County unincorporated areas, and one City Council member from each of the cities we serve. The Board of Directors meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Board of Directors established an Executive Committee, which meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month,

and conducts all business of the Fire Authority, with the exception of policy issues, including labor relations, budget issues, and other matters specifically retained by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors also established a Budget and Finance Committee to address finance and budget policy issues, which also meets monthly, on the second Wednesday of the month. For a complete meeting schedule, meeting agendas and staff reports, and meeting minutes, please visit our website at www.ocfa.org.



Doug Davert
City of Tustin
Vice Chair
Board of Directors



Board of Directors



City of Aliso Viejo

Population: 45,037
Area: 6.9 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #57
Joined OCFA in 2001*
Donald A. Garcia
Board Member



City of Buena Park

Population: 81,349
Area: 10.5 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #61,
#62, #63
Joined OCFA in 1994*
Donald W. McCay
Board Chair



City of Cypress

Population: 49,284
Area: 6.65 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #17
Joined OCFA in 1980*
Todd Seymore
Board Member



City of Dana Point

Population: 36,669
Area: 6.7 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #29,
#30
Joined OCFA in 1989*
Steven Weinberg
Board Member



City of Irvine

Population: 202,079
Area: 64.8 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #4, #6,
#20, #26, #27, #28, #36,
#38, #47, #51, #55
Joined OCFA in 1980*
Larry Agran
Board Member



City of La Palma

Population: 16,162
Area: 1.9 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #13
Joined OCFA in 1980*
Christine Barnes
Board Member



City of Laguna Hills

Population: 33,910
Area: 6.4 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #22
Joined OCFA in 1991*
R. Craig Scott
Board Member



City of Laguna Niguel

Population: 67,014
Area: 14.2 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #5,
#39, #49
Joined OCFA in 1989*
Mike Whipple
Board Member



City of Laguna Woods

Population: 18,307
Area: 4.0 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #22
Joined OCFA in 1999*
Dr. Brenda Ross
Board Member



City of Lake Forest

Population: 78,020
Area: 16.6 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #19,
#42, #54
Joined OCFA in 1991*
Mark Tettemer
Board Member



City of Los Alamitos

Population: 11,850
Area: 4.3 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #2
Joined OCFA in 1980*
Catherine Driscoll
Board Member



City of Mission Viejo

Population: 98,268
Area: 17.0 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #9,
#24, #31
Joined OCFA in 1988*
Trish Kelley
Board Member



City of Placentia

Population: 51,236
Area: 7.2 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #34,
#35
Joined OCFA in 1980*
Greg Sowards
Board Member



City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Population: 50,004
Area: 13.0 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Station #45
Joined OCFA in 2000*
Neil Blais
Board Member



City of San Clemente
 Population: 65,338
 Area: 18.45 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Stations #50,
 #59, #60
 Joined OCFA in 1994*
Steve Knoblock
 Board Member



City of San Juan Capistrano
 Population: 36,452
 Area: 13.6 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Station #7
 Joined OCFA in 1980*
Sam Allevato
 Board Member



City of Seal Beach
 Population: 24,157
 Area: 18.2 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Stations #44,
 #48
 Joined OCFA in 1982*
Michael Levitt
 Board Member



City of Stanton
 Population: 38,305
 Area: 3.15 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Station #46
 Joined OCFA in 1987*
David John Shawver
 Board Member



City of Tustin
 Population: 71,767
 Area: 11.07 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Stations #21,
 #37, #43
 Joined OCFA in 1980*
Doug Davert
 Board Vice Chair



City of Villa Park
 Population: 6,251
 Area: 2.1 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Station #23
 Joined OCFA in 1980*
Brad Reese
 Board Member



City of Westminster
 Population: 92,408
 Area: 10.3 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Stations #64,
 #65, #66
 Joined OCFA in 1995*
Kermit D. Marsh
 Board Member



City of Yorba Linda
 Population: 67,904
 Area: 21.0 Square Miles
 OCFA Fire Stations #10,
 #32, #53
 Joined OCFA in 1980*
Jan Horton
 Board Member

Unincorporated OCFA Areas



County of Orange
 Joined OCFA in 1930*
Bill Campbell
 Board Member
 Board Of Supervisors,
 3rd District



County of Orange
 Joined OCFA in 1930*
Patricia C. Bates
 Board Member
 Board Of Supervisors,
 5th District

Helicopter (Fullerton Airport) – OCFA Fire Station #41
Crews & Equipment – OCFA Fire Station #18
Coto De Caza – OCFA Fire Station #40
Skyline (Santa Ana) – OCFA Fire Station #8
Emerald Bay – OCFA Fire Station #11
John Wayne Airport – OCFA Fire Station #33
Ladera Ranch – OCFA Fire Station #58
Midway City – OCFA Fire Station #25
Modjeska Canyon – OCFA Fire Station #16
Silverado Canyon – OCFA Fire Stations #14, #15
Sunset Beach – OCFA Fire Station #3
Trabuco Canyon – OCFA Fire Station #18

* Note: The joined date for each agency reflects the year in which they first became an independent agency protected by the State or County emergency response system. Prior to 1980, fire protection services in the unincorporated portions of Orange County, and in certain cities within the County, were provided by the California Department of Forestry. In 1980, the County formed the Orange County Fire Department and assumed responsibility for providing fire and emergency response. In 1995, the OCFA was formed as a successor agency to the Orange County Fire Department.

Serving the Community

Keeping the community informed about the services and programs offered by the Orange County Fire Authority is the responsibility of Corporate Communications. Comprised of the Public

Information Office, Community Relations and Education Services and Multi-Media Services, Corporate Communications provides educational services to schools, businesses and members of

the public, along with providing graphic support to the entire organization and affiliate agencies.

2008 Highlights

Corporate Communications responded to several significant challenges in 2008, with innovative and creative solutions all designed to make the communities the Orange County Fire Authority serves a safer place to live. When the

devastating Freeway Complex Fire swept through Yorba Linda on November 15, destroying 187 residential structures, Corporate Communications responded with an extensive community outreach campaign designed to assist residences who lost their homes and to help them prepare for potential future fires. This included several community meetings, a highly effective media campaign and the publication of the booklet and video "Ready! Set! Go!" designed to assist residents in preparing their homes for wildland fires and in making critical decisions when a wild fire does strike.

"Team Fire Force" program for 4th graders implemented in Orange County schools

Since the 1950's, fire departments serving Orange County have offered fire prevention instruction to fifth grade students through the Junior Ranger Program, and more recently, through the Junior Firefighter Program. In recent years, it has been determined that the number of younger-aged children using

fire inappropriately has increased.

The OCFA decided to meet this challenge by reaching out to younger groups of children and to address this and other health and safety risk factors, which will incorporate state education content standards. After working with the Orange County Department of Education Services, staff redesigned the program to target fourth grade students and replace the Junior Firefighter Program. The new curriculum meets the California Department of Education Content Standards. The name of the new program is "Team Fire Force."

"Team Fire Force" was launched in schools throughout Orange County for the 2008-2009 school year. In the 2009-2010 school year, the Orange County Fire Authority will continue to administer, evaluate and improve the "Team Fire Force" curriculum and program, while phasing out the Junior Firefighter Program.





Popular LAFS program teaches fire safety

Now in its seventh year, the popular Life and Fire Safety (LAFS) Program uses humor, music, magic, puppets and clowns to teach kindergarten through third grade students in OCFA's jurisdiction fire safety skills. Firefighters, education specialists, fire prevention personnel, and other staff members all participate in this program, which is usually presented during March. A total of 33 programs were presented in 2008 and more than 30,000 children throughout Orange County have been educated and entertained since the LAFS Program was initiated.

OCFA hosts its 5th Annual Open House

More than 4,500 members of the community were treated to fire demonstrations, an array of exciting

exhibits, and various fire apparatus at the Annual Open House on October 11, 2008, at its Regional Fire Operations and Training Center. This event

is held each year in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week. Kids were able to squirt water at fire props, try on firefighter gear, and practice exit drills throughout the day.

Drowning is preventable

California leads the nation in drownings. These needless tragedies are the leading cause of accidental injury and death in children under the age of five and the second leading cause of death in children under the age of 14. In Southern California, drowning prevention and water safety should be practiced on a year-round basis with special emphasis during the summer months.

The OCFA, along with many other Orange County Fire Agencies support the ABC's of Pool Safety. They include:

A—Adult Supervision—Assign a “Water Watcher”: Assign an adult “Water Watcher” who can swim to specifically watch the water.

B—Barriers: Install and maintain proper fencing around the pool to isolate your swimming area from the home and play area.

C—Classes—“CPR”: Learn CPR, first aid and rescue techniques and attain swim skills through on-going qualified instruction.

Drownings happen not only in pools and oceans, but also in areas such as bathtubs, mop buckets, toilets, and even in standing water as shallow as 2 inches. They also happen year round! Please be diligent not to have unattended children around the water. The ABC's of Pool Safety are something that cannot be taken lightly. Many drownings occur even though there are large gatherings of people nearby, so you cannot leave the responsibility solely up to a lifeguard.

We need to bridge the gap through adult drowning prevention awareness and children learning the water safety rules so that we can prevent further tragedies of drowning. Looking away for just a few seconds, could be worth a lifetime of regret.



For additional information about community events and programs, please contact the Community Relations and Education Services Section at (714) 573-6200, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.





Contributing to the Community

The Fire Prevention Department's mission is to continue to "contribute to community safety and prosperity through the systematic mitigation of risk." This mission is accomplished through the identification and analysis of community risk; development, implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations; education and distribution of information to the community; and a dedication to excellence. The goals are to 1) Reduce injuries, loss of life, and loss of property; 2) Provide effective, efficient, and quality service; 3) Create and maintain collaborative working relationships with customers; and 4) Create a Fire Prevention team that models a dedication to excellence. The Fire Prevention Department is comprised of

four sections: Investigation Services identifies our risks through accurate incident investigation and evaluation and initiation of intervention strategies. Staff in this section investigates or reviews all fires to accurately identify the cause and contributing factors.

Planning & Development Services assists stakeholders in building safe communities. Some of its activities include working with the development community and partner agency planning and building staff to ensure new tracts and projects meet state and local fire and life safety requirements.

Safety & Environmental Services assists stakeholders in maintaining and enhancing safe communities. Activities include conducting fire inspections in existing buildings, issuing fire code and special activity permits, and inves-

tigating complaints from the general public regarding potential fire hazard conditions. This Section also administers hazardous materials disclosure and business plans.

Pre-Fire Management Services understands our communities' risks and identifies appropriate intervention strategies (prevention or mitigation).

All four Sections work interdependently to achieve Fire Prevention Department goals. Efforts are focused on improving our capacity to analyze community risks and provide targeted prevention services to high-risk community members, as well as our ability to develop sustainable intervention programs that are effective at reducing known risks.

2008 Highlights

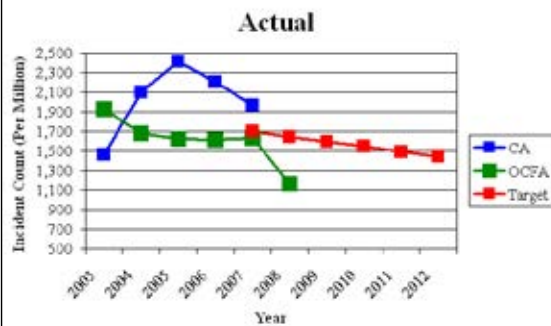
In 2008, the Department completed the second year of the Strategic Action Plan that is transforming fire prevention programs from traditional, regulatory and mandate-driven programs to dynamic programs that target specific community risks and reduce loss of life, injuries and property damage. Led by a highly motivated and productive Fire Prevention Team, significant progress was made on 14 initiatives that were tackled by cross-sectional teams producing several interim deliverables, which positively impact service delivery.



Highlights of this year's achievements are described as follows:

Fire Prevention "Dashboard"

A Fire Prevention "dashboard" was designed and implemented and is now posted



on our Intranet. Key performance indicators monitor our annual (and 5-year rolling average)

progress toward our strategic goals of reducing fires, as well as fire deaths, injuries and property loss. Other indicators monitor financial (revenue and budget), environmental, and productivity goals at both the Department and Section levels.

Improving Risk Data Quality

An organization-wide effort was undertaken to improve collection, use and reporting of data relevant to identifying risks and determining OCFA's effectiveness in improving community safety. Incident reports for fire emergencies now include details on not only what caused the fire, but how and why the fire spread and, if applicable, how and why people were injured or killed. This was done through minor revisions to the automated system and comprehensive formal and informal training of all OCFA Fire Captains. Additional work to improve the quality of data in other areas is underway.

Creation of new Pre-Fire Management Section

The new Pre-Fire Management Section was created within the Fire Prevention Department. Establishing this new Section brought all OCFA efforts related to wildland fire prevention under the Wildland Fire Prevention Unit of the new Section, resulting in improved communication, coordination and the ability to improve and measure results of efforts. During the first year, a multi-agency task force was created to complete inspections of 14,000 parcels on the



wildland-urban interface. Within 3 months, the task force achieved 100% compliance with all brush clearance requirements. Ultimately, this unit will reduce the risk of wildland fire to the communities and environment, eliminate life loss, and reduce the loss of property from wildland fires.

Increased effectiveness through Partnerships

Organization and community partnerships are critical to the success of new fire prevention efforts. New partnerships were developed between the Fire Investigations Services Section (ISS) and all ten local law enforcement agencies in an effort to effectively investigate crimes of arson and develop educational and deterrent programs to lessen the reoccurrence of juvenile related arson fires. ISS staff also began working with private insurance investigators, officials from partner agency building departments, and technical experts to increase understanding of fire cause and to identify factors that contribute to fire cause and spread.

• Fire F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

Approximately 70% of the criminal fire problem in OCFA jurisdiction is directly



attributable to juvenile fire play or firesetting. The OCFA partners with the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation in delivering a comprehensive, regional juvenile firesetter intervention program called Fire F.R.I.E.N.D.S. (Firesetter Regional Intervention Education Network and Delivery System). This year, OCFA referred 65 juveniles to this intervention program that is designed to bring awareness to juveniles and their parents/guardians regarding the dangers and legal implications of fire setting, while keeping them out of the criminal justice system.

• *Seizure of Illegal Fireworks*

On Thursday, June 26, 2008 (eight days before the Fourth of July), an arrest for the sale of illegal fireworks took place in the City of Yorba

Linda. Because of the cooperative working relations between local law enforcement and OCFA, over 800 pounds of illegal fireworks were seized and taken off the streets.

Preventing loss of life and property

OCFA's number one goal is to protect lives. While the Fire Prevention Department continues to evaluate the problem and works on development of new educational and enforcement programs, focus on two tried and true engineered solutions remains at the forefront: smoke alarms and sprinkler systems.

Smoke Alarms: On Friday, January 25, 2008, a fatal fire occurred in the City of San Juan

Capistrano. This fire took the life of a resident who never had the chance to escape because her smoke alarm failed to operate. While it is a fact that no working smoke alarm was present in almost 70% of residential fires, this tragic January fire alerted the OCFA and several communities to another important lesson. Smoke alarms, even those hard-wired into the home electrical system, become inoperable over time (within 10 years). Following this fire, actions were taken to alert the residents in the neighborhood to this problem, alert the media, and change educational materials to reflect the need to replace



smoke alarms every 10 years as well as testing and replacing the batteries every 6 months.

Fire Sprinklers: Fire sprinklers continue to prove themselves as the most effective tool in protecting life and property from the impacts of fire. In 2008, 68% of the structure fires occurred in residential properties (498 homes). Twenty-six of those homes were protected by residential sprinklers and, in addition to no deaths or injuries, property loss was over 90% less than that reported in homes without these life-safety systems. Fire sprinkler systems also protected 14 commercial properties from the devastating impacts of fire.

Fire Prevention will continue to work with our communities and policy makers to ensure homes are protected with smoke alarms and fire sprinklers.

For additional information about Planning & Development Services, Safety & Environmental Services, Investigation Services, or Risk Analysis & Mitigation Evaluation, please contact the OCFA at (714) 573-6000, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.







Ready for Action

regional emergency response to all fires, medical aids, rescues, hazardous materials incidents, wildland fires, and aircraft fire and rescue services to John Wayne Airport. This department is also responsible for specialized emergency response capability and equipment for Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) and Swift Water Rescue, administration of the Reserve Firefighter Program and Fire Explorer Program, Emergency Planning & Coordination, Emergency Command Center (dispatch center), Emergency Medical Services, Special Operations (helicopters, crews/equipment), Training and Safety, and the Volunteer Chaplain Program.

2008 Highlights

Service Delivery Enhancements

- Heavy Rescue 6 was put into service and is currently stationed at Fire Station 6 in Irvine. It is the OCFA's first Heavy Rescue Unit and is equipped with specialty tools, shoring material, lighting, and a large air compressor, all of which

a truck is unable to carry, due to space and weight factors. This unit can be used anytime and anywhere extra fire truck equipment is needed, during a call that another truck or two could not handle.

- The Web based Automated Vehicle Locator and Web map viewer was implemented in 2008. This provides all field personnel with the ability to view county-wide maps and unit locations for mapping and pre-planning purposes. Operational plans were developed for Flood/Debris Flow incidents in areas affected by wild fires, as well as staffing and maintaining additional "surge" apparatus when needed for large incidents using this program.

- Fire Stations 20 (temporary) and 55 were completed and began serving the communities of Irvine before the year's end.

- 4 new Tiller Trucks were outfitted with all the necessary rescue and fire equipment and put into service. These new trucks are longer



The Orange County Fire Authority is one of the largest fire departments in the State of California and is divided up by 6 divisions and 8 battalions that encompass 62 fire stations. There are 831 career firefighters and 286 reserve firefighters that are strategically dispersed throughout the contracted 550 square miles and 120,000 acres of wildland. Our service population of Orange County continues to grow every year and from 2007 to 2008 the county saw an increase from 1,364,851 to 1,383,617, a little over 1%. Housing units we protect increased as well from 481,958 in 2007 to 486,152, or 4,194 additional units. The OCFA Operations Department provides



and therefore have more storage capacity, which allows firefighters to access equipment with less difficulty.

Improved Response Capabilities to Wildland Incidents

In response to the 2007 Santiago Fire, the OCFA moved forward towards improving and replacing its aging apparatus fleet by ordering

11 new Type III Brush Engines, one D6 bulldozer, and outfitting seven existing patrol units with Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS).

As a result of the recommendations from the Santiago Fire After Action Report and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission Report, the OCFA was able to order two new

Bell 412EP Helicopters, one of which arrived in December 2008. These aircraft will serve as an



enhanced platform for reconnaissance, rescue, medical transport, and fire fighting. With advanced avionics, a digital mapping system and night vision goggle capability, the OCFA has entered a new era of "providing protection from above."

Advanced Training Exercises

In the on-going effort to remain on the cutting edge of providing superior emergency services, OCFA personnel participated in numerous advanced training exercises. These opportunities, among others, included:

- Tonner Canyon Wildland Scrimmage - A 3 day, multi-agency wild fire drill designed to share command and control, communication and strategy and tactic concepts among agencies likely to respond to incidents in north Orange County/south Los Angeles County areas.
- Pendleton Fire School - A 3 day, multi-agency exercise utilizing live fire to practice incident management and fire suppression skills.
- Golden Guardian (in conjunction with

"The Great Southern California Shake Out")

- An exercise designed to rehearse the region's earthquake response plan.
- CA TF5 Urban Search and Rescue Readiness Review - An evaluated mobilization drill testing the capabilities of OCFA's FEMA sponsored response task force.
- Orange County/John Wayne Airport Mass Casualty Drill - A night exercise designed to practice and evaluate the ability to respond to a mass casualty incident.
- Triangle Agencies Summit - A conference of neighboring county and city agencies held to discuss common issues pertinent to mutual and automatic aid response incidents.
- Chief Officer Workshops - Implemented throughout the year, these sessions are designed to improve the command and control skills of the incident commander, present an opportunity for personnel to review standard operating procedures, reinforce philosophies of leadership and share experiences of lessons learned in the field.



- Opportunity Knocks 8 – An annual employee symposium that focuses on Customer Service, Community Relations and innovative ways our OCFA can engage in our communities.

Fire Captain, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Recruit, Reserve Firefighter and Explorer Academies

The OCFA is committed to ensuring that the residents it serves are protected by the most professional and highly-trained firefighters possible. Apart from recurring education and training conducted to hone and maintain the skills of OCFA's entire workforce, the Operations Training and Safety section conducted numerous basic training academies for new employees and newly promoted personnel.

- A Fire Captain Academy was held graduating 27 qualified promotional candidates. This two week academy covers material paramount to the safe and proficient practices of the company officer. Students gain knowledge of incident strategy and tactics as well as supervisor skills including conflict resolution, standard

operating procedures, report writing and applicable laws and regulations among other topics.

- Three Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) Academies were conducted in 2008 with a total of 32 graduates. Maintaining the apparatus and equipment, engineering the safe and efficient flow of water at a fire incident, and practicing driver skills are the primary focuses of this unique training program.

- Two Firefighter Recruit Academies were held at OCFA's training grounds each consisting of 16 weeks and more than 640 hours of classroom and manipulative training in Fire Suppression, Rescue, Emergency Medicine, Hazardous Materials, Public Education, and Weapons of Mass Destruction. A total of 44 recruits graduated and will continue a year of further training as probationary firefighters.

- The OCFA Reserve Firefighter Program welcomed 71 new community volunteers as



they were provided entry level training at two Reserve Firefighter Academies conducted in 2008. Reserve firefighters provide a valuable service to their communities by assisting career firefighters at a variety of emergencies including Structure Fires, Medical Emergencies, Traffic Collisions, Floods, Rescues, and a variety of other types of emergencies. This academy provides training and education to allow Reserve personnel to operate safely and proficiently at the scene of an emergency incident.

- The annual OCFA Fire Explorer Academy was once again held during the last week of June in 2008. This program reaches out and mentors youths between the ages of 14 and 21 who are interested in the fire service. They learn



the different skills a firefighter must possess while also developing personal relationships, character, and leadership abilities needed in this



line of work as well as life. In order to participate in this worthy program, the candidates must be a registered member of the Learning For Life (LFL) Exploring subsidiary, be free of any physical defects that would cause them injury or jeopardize other participants in the program,

have no serious arrests or convictions, maintain fire safe grooming standards, and must maintain an overall grade point average of at least a 2.0 (C) while in high school.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

Freeway Complex Fire

On the morning of November 15, 2008, the Orange County Fire Authority faced what would become one of the most devastating fires in its history: the Freeway Complex Fire. A complex fire is a compilation of two or more separate fires which in this case included the Freeway Fire and the Landfill Fire. The initial origin of the Freeway Fire was reported in Corona on the north side of the 91 freeway east of Green River Drive. This fire would merge with another fire sparked off by insufficiently maintained arcing power lines at a landfill in the City of Brea. The Freeway Complex Fire would consume all in its path

across six cities (Yorba Linda, Anaheim Hills, Brea, Corona, Chino Hills, and Diamond Bar) and four counties (Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties) in a matter of four days.

At the height of the fire, around 26,000 people were under mandatory evacuation orders, including 12,600 people in Anaheim and 8,000-10,000 people in Yorba Linda. Three evacuation shelters for victims of the fire were set up at Valencia High School (Placentia), Katella High School (Anaheim), and the Brea Community

Center (Brea). All three shelters were opened on Saturday, November 15 and shut down on Monday, November 17, 2008.

The Freeway Complex Fire was declared 100% contained





Flood Debris Flow Incidents

As an “all risk” response agency, the OCFA must plan, prepare and train for any type of emergency incident.

With the Santiago and Freeway Complex Fires destroying the hillside vegetation, rain eventually caused mass erosion and subsequent flood-debris flow incidents in numerous communities.

On Thursday, May 22, heavy rains hit the areas of Modjeska Canyon, Williams Canyon, and Santiago Canyon dropping three quarters of an inch of rain in less than twenty minutes. This in turn caused a wall of mud and debris to crash through one residence trapping the occupants on the second floor and flooding numerous homes, streets, and the infamous “Cook’s Corner,” a local eatery. A total of 9 fire apparatus (engines, trucks, and patrols)



at 7:00 a.m. on November 19, 2008. A total of 187 residences, two commercial buildings, and 11 out-buildings were destroyed over the 30,305 acres that were charred. Many structures were damaged including 127 residences, two commercial buildings, and 32 out-buildings. It has been estimated that the property loss was over \$100 million, while suppression costs exceeded \$16.1 million. Fortunately, only minor injuries were sustained among fire suppression personnel, and no deaths resulted from this fire.

The men and women of the Orange County Fire Authority extend its THANKS TO YOU for your PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING, and SUPPORT, during this time of crisis. As the fire quickly turned into a major incident, countless residents and businesses throughout Orange County expressed their support, and the OCFA once again expresses our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed so generously during the Freeway Complex Fire.

along with 3 Battalion Chiefs, 2 Division Chiefs, and Helicopter 41 responded to the call. Initial arriving units rescued the occupants and established an incident command structure to

organize search and rescue duties for more possible victims. Working with the County of Orange and numerous law enforcement agencies, firefighters helped to evacuate residents in peril, as well as watch for a potential escalation of the event. Fortunately, there were no fatalities due to this event.

In November, one week after the Freeway Complex Fire incident, OCFA staged an incident management team, a swift water rescue team and multiple response units including Helicopter 41 for the City of Yorba Linda in response to heavy rainfall and flooding. Residents were evacuated and diversion methods were



implemented and monitored for the duration of the storm. Aerial reconnaissance from OCFA helicopters identified three areas of land slippage and potential downhill danger, as well as expediently confirming areas that were safe to return residents to their homes.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Fill the Boot and Summer Camp benefiting MDA

For many years the Muscular Dystrophy Association has been teaming up with fire



departments all over the US to “Fill the Boot.” Career and Reserve Firefighters, and Fire Explorers alike, shed a turnout boot and accept donations from the general public once a year. 2008 proved to be no different as OCFA personnel donned structure helmets and walked up and down major streets in Orange County for the benefit of helping out this worthy cause over April 17, 18, and 19. Due to the extensive volunteering by our men and women for this cause, the OCFA Board of Directors has proclaimed the month of April as “Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month.”

OCFA personnel also volunteered their time as camp counselors at the Orange County Muscular Dystrophy Summer Camp held July 26 through August 1 at the campus of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Apart from a visit with a fire engine and a chance to operate a fire hose, the children attending camp made fast friends with firefighters and staff employees who spent the week participating in all camp activities.

United Way Campaign

The United Way partners with individuals



and organizations to develop plans that proactively deal with critical health and human care issues, which ultimately build self-sufficient lives for these people in need. On May 21, the OCFA kicked off its Annual United Way Fund Raising Campaign with a charity barbeque at the Regional Fire Operations and Training Center. OCFA members donated raffle items, staffed information booths, and even participated in a pie throwing contest (Members of Executive Management volunteered to act as targets!) to raise money and awareness for the United Way organization.

Open Airways for schools in association with the American Lung Association

In conjunction with the American Lung Association and St. Jude Hospital, the OCFA continues to participate in Asthma Education to at risk children at elementary schools throughout

the county. Over fifty new instructors within the OCFA were trained in 2008 to educate children to better manage their asthma as well as helping parents cope with this potentially serious respiratory condition. Through a six week program, taught by on duty firefighters and staff members, children learned to monitor their respiratory efforts and avoid triggers that may cause an asthma attack.

Apart from these worthy ventures, in 2008 the OCFA family was involved in numerous charitable events including: Adopt a Needy Family, Alzheimer's Walk, Support Our Troops Campaigns, Blood Mobile, March of Dimes,

Donlan/Wall Softball Tournament, Working Wardrobes, Race for the Cure, Spark of Love Toy Drive, OCFA Health Fair, Read Across America, Trevor A. Win'E Memorial Crossfit Challenge, and other similar activities.

“Drug Store” Program Participation

On October 16, the OCFA participated in the California State Department of Justice “Drug Store” Program that sets up dramatizations of the negative consequences of abusing drugs for middle school students. Along with law enforcement officials, judicial

officers, hospital personnel, and even legendary athlete Shaquille “Shaq” O’Neal, OCFA firefighters helped provide a realistic view of the consequences of one student’s decision to experiment with illegal drugs including arrest, trial, probation, overdose, and death.



“Every 15 Minutes” Mock DUI Crashes

The OCFA was one of several agencies that participated in a nationwide anti-drunk driving program “Every 15 Minutes” at numerous high schools within Orange County. The program stresses to teenagers the after effects of drunk driving at any age because “Every 15 minutes someone in the U.S. is killed or injured by a drunk driver.” These programs took place at Capistrano Valley High School, Dana Hills High School, Tesoro High School, Laguna Hills High School, El Toro High School, and J. Serra Catholic High School.

For additional information about how the OCFA responds to fire and medical emergencies, please contact the OCFA at (714) 573-6000, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Population Served | 1,333,863 | 1,351,398 | 1,364,851 | 1,383,617 |
| Dwelling Units | 472,859 | 477,003 | 481,958 | 486,152 |
| Assessed Values | 169,012,146,390 | 188,921,885,619 | 206,643,954,214 | 213,904,735,187 |
| Fires | 2,186 | 2,225 | 2,257 | 1,703 ¹ |
| EMS | 55,272 | 56,616 | 58,252 | 59,998 |
| Ruptures | 179 | 189 | 202 | 171 |
| Hazmat | 1,511 | 1,520 | 1,497 | 1,289 |
| Service Call | 5,388 | 5,644 | 5,383 | 5,706 |
| Good Intent | 12,685 | 12,617 | 12,314 | 12,328 |
| False Alarms | 4,575 | 4,731 | 4,920 | 4,812 |
| Miscellaneous | 869 | 260 | 827 | 166 |
| Total All Incidents | 82,665 | 83,802 | 85,652 | 86,539 |
| Total Mutual Aid Received | 4,949 | 5,348 | 5,035 | 5,484 |
| Total Mutual Aid Provided | 3,801 | 4,084 | 3,582 | 3,031 |
| Total Property Loss | \$42,421,868 | \$56,431,357 | \$68,141,850 | \$38,046,296 ² |
| Civilian Fire Injuries | 16 | 50 | 80 | 84 |
| Firefighter Fire Injuries | – | – | – | 19 ³ |
| Total Fire Deaths | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

¹ Methodology revised to ensure only fires in OCFA jurisdiction are included. Fires handled by OCFA units outside OCFA jurisdiction, are included in Unit Response Totals.

² Figure does not include \$124,356,955 in damage from the 2008 Freeway Complex Fire.

³ Figure reflects first year reported.

E M E R G E N C Y R E S P O N S E D A T A

| Total Unit Responses by Jurisdiction January 1 -December 31, 2008 | | Total Incidents by Major Category January 1 -December 31, 2008 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jurisdiction | Unit Responses | Jurisdiction | Fires | EMS | Other | Total |
| Aliso Viejo | 5,527 | Aliso Viejo | 59 | 1,393 | 611 | 2,063 |
| Buena Park | 12,967 | Buena Park | 133 | 4,204 | 1,378 | 5,715 |
| Cypress | 6,953 | Cypress | 36 | 1,827 | 705 | 2,568 |
| Dana Point | 6,973 | Dana Point | 55 | 1,801 | 865 | 2,721 |
| Irvine | 28,125 | Irvine | 305 | 6,943 | 4,260 | 11,508 |
| La Palma | 2,161 | La Palma | 19 | 590 | 170 | 779 |
| Laguna Hills | 6,307 | Laguna Hills | 50 | 1,801 | 624 | 2,475 |
| Laguna Niguel | 8,667 | Laguna Niguel | 54 | 2,267 | 765 | 3,086 |
| Laguna Woods | 11,194 | Laguna Woods | 24 | 3,386 | 968 | 4,378 |
| Lake Forest | 11,203 | Lake Forest | 93 | 3,108 | 1,158 | 4,359 |
| Los Alamitos | 3,108 | Los Alamitos | 36 | 778 | 247 | 1,061 |
| Mission Viejo | 15,174 | Mission Viejo | 110 | 4,722 | 1,527 | 6,359 |
| Placentia | 6,890 | Placentia | 51 | 1,923 | 799 | 2,773 |
| Rancho Santa Margarita | 5,586 | Rancho Santa Margarita | 45 | 1,475 | 509 | 2,029 |
| San Clemente | 8,549 | San Clemente | 75 | 2,478 | 1,181 | 3,734 |
| San Juan Capistrano | 6,892 | San Juan Capistrano | 47 | 1,804 | 708 | 2,559 |
| Seal Beach | 10,463 | Seal Beach | 48 | 2,756 | 649 | 3,453 |
| Stanton | 5,001 | Stanton | 52 | 1,671 | 645 | 2,368 |
| Tustin | 11,383 | Tustin | 97 | 2,805 | 942 | 3,844 |
| Villa Park | 761 | Villa Park | 3 | 195 | 110 | 308 |
| Westminster | 13,550 | Westminster | 108 | 4,494 | 1,274 | 5,876 |
| Yorba Linda | 9,305 | Yorba Linda | 72 | 2,081 | 1,051 | 3,204 |
| Unincorporated | 19,638 | Unincorporated | 131 | 4,299 | 1,840 | 6,270 |
| In County Mutual Aid | 3,374 | Subtotal (OCFA Jurisdiction) | 1,703 | 58,801 | 22,986 | 83,490 |
| Out of County Aid | 733 | In County Mutual Aid | 161 | 1,067 | 1,455 | 2,683 |
| Total | 220,575 | Out of County Aid | 24 | 134 | 224 | 382 |
| | | Grand Total | 1,888 | 60,002 | 24,685 | 86,575 |

TOTAL RESPONSES BY UNIT

| Air Utilities | | Engines | | Engines | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | # of Responses | | # of Responses | | # of Responses |
| A2 | 21 | E28 | 1,756 | E223 | 54 |
| A30 | 21 | E57 | 1,733 | E231 | 49 |
| Battalion Chiefs | | E13 | 1,694 | E14 | 45 |
| | # of Responses | E25 | 1,641 | E315 | 44 |
| B4 | 470 | E39 | 1,615 | E205 | 33 |
| B6 | 362 | E4 | 1,579 | E330 | 35 |
| B8 | 343 | E30 | 1,571 | E221 | 30 |
| B3 | 328 | E35 | 1,543 | E250 | 29 |
| B1 | 314 | E10 | 1,534 | E208 | 25 |
| B5 | 293 | E63 | 1,490 | E247 | 25 |
| B7 | 252 | E51 | 1,488 | E307 | 25 |
| B2 | 245 | E50 | 1,482 | E318 | 25 |
| Staff BC | 181 | E17 | 1,407 | E342 | 24 |
| Engines | | E2 | 1,365 | E240 | 23 |
| | # of Responses | E45 | 1,346 | E357 | 18 |
| E22 | 3,668* | E38 | 1,296 | E330 | 17 |
| E222 | 3,591* | E58 | 1,291 | E339 | 17 |
| E61 | 3,468* | E5 | 1,282 | E210 | 13 |
| E19 | 3,087 | E32 | 1,246 | E332 | 11 |
| E29 | 3,010 | E23 | 1,185 | E355 | 10 |
| E48 | 2,920 | E54 | 1,048 | E253 | 9 |
| E21 | 2,662 | E44 | 1,023 | E326 | 8 |
| E64 | 2,612 | E55 | 831 | E353 | 8 |
| E34 | 2,553 | E47 | 809 | E49 | 7 |
| E46 | 2,503 | E8 | 566 | E340 | 1 |
| E66 | 2,452 | E53 | 529 | Hand Crews | |
| E62 | 2,361 | E42 | 494 | | # of Responses |
| E36 | 2,310 | E40 | 433 | G1 | 68 |
| E7 | 2,285 | E27 | 375 | G18 | 52 |
| E24 | 2,284 | E18 | 327 | G2 | 4 |
| E6 | 2,201 | E3 | 179 | Investigators | |
| E31 | 2,139 | E20 | 116 | | # of Responses |
| E65 | 2,088 | E15 | 111 | I2 | 80 |
| E60 | 2,050 | E11 | 103 | I9 | 72 |
| E26 | 2,011 | E16 | 85 | I3 | 68 |
| E9 | 1,940 | | | I5 | 66 |
| E37 | 1,932 | | | | |

TOTAL RESPONSES BY UNIT

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Investigators | # of Responses | Service Support | # of Responses | Patrols/Squads | # of Responses |
| I4 | 43 | S91 | 93 | S13 | 291 |
| I10 | 18 | S991 | 10 | P10 | 264 |
| I1 | 14 | | | S2 | 263 |
| I7 | 1 | Haz Mat | # of Responses | P32 | 217 |
| | | H4 | 87 | S3 | 180 |
| Bulldozers | # of Responses | H204 | 44 | P18 | 137 |
| K1 | 51 | | | P40 | 117 |
| K2 | 46 | Ambulances | # of Responses | P11 | 114 |
| K3 | 2 | ET64 | 2,820 | P16 | 96 |
| | | ET50 | 2,592 | S44 | 89 |
| Water Tenders | # of Responses | ET66 | 2,230 | P23 | 69 |
| W7 | 51 | | | P14 | 55 |
| W40 | 39 | Paramedic Vans | # of Responses | | |
| W16 | 34 | M21 | 3,336 | Trucks | # of Responses |
| W10 | 33 | M48 | 3,082 | T22 | 1,570 |
| W18 | 6 | M17 | 2,874 | T59 | 1,381 |
| | | M26 | 2,336 | T4 | 1,134 |
| John Wayne Airport | # of Responses | M31 | 2,134 | T49 | 1,080 |
| Crash Unit 1 | 430 | M4 | 2,101 | T61 | 1,022 |
| Crash Unit 3 | 416 | M7 | 2,089 | T9 | 966 |
| Crash Unit 4 | 124 | M57 | 1,986 | T46 | 886 |
| Crash Unit 5 | 102 | M5 | 1,779 | T64 | 840 |
| Crash Unit 2 | 36 | M45 | 1,668 | T6 | 814 |
| Foam 36 | 9 | M38 | 1,311 | T34 | 811 |
| | | M27 | 284 | T45 | 769 |
| Helicopters | # of Responses | M20 | 116 | T17 | 740 |
| HC41 | 97 | Mtemp | 141** | T43 | 720 |
| HC241 | 57 | | | Ttemp | 13 |
| | | Patrols/Squads | # of Responses | | |
| Helicopter Support | # of Responses | S19 | 849 | | |
| HT41 | 14 | S24 | 599 | E - Engine | |
| HS41 | 6 | P21 | 530 | PAU - Paramedic Assessment Unit | |
| HT241 | 2 | P7 | 468 | PM - Paramedic Engine | |
| | | P26 | 441 | | |
| | | S25 | 408 | | |
| | | P30 | 326 | | |



Providing the Best Support

and increases in service demands (Strategic Services).

2008 Highlights

• Major Fire Station

Construction Projects – The

OCFA completed con-

struction of Fire Station 55 (Orchard Hills), and established Temporary Fire Station 20 (Irvine).

Additionally, the OCFA took delivery of a donated photovoltaic panel system that will supplement power to one of the training buildings on the training grounds. Property Management is also finalizing architectural and engineering plans for Station 17 (Cypress) and Hangar 41 (Fullerton Airport).

• Implementation

of Service Enhancements

— In 2008, the OCFA placed new units in service that will enhance our ability to respond to

emergency incidents. Although, development as a whole has declined throughout the year, some development did occur in the Irvine area and as a result, the following units were placed



into service: Engine 20 and Medic 20, located adjacent to the Great Park in Irvine.



The Support Services Department provides support to all departments of the Authority, including coordinating all facilities maintenance, repairs, design and construction (Property Management); automotive and fleet maintenance, repairs, and acquisition (Fleet Services); government liaison and legislative advocacy (Legislative Services); and coordination of strategic planning functions including long range analysis of impacts on resources associated with future land use, development,



In addition to these units, E27 (Portola Springs) was converted from a basic life support engine to a paramedic engine.

• *Automated Fleet Management*

Implementation – As part of the Fleet Services Management Study implementation, OCFA's Information Technology and Fleet Services sections have begun the implementation and installation of the Automated Fleet Management System. This system will automate otherwise



labor intensive processes and provide greater, more efficient tracking mechanisms for costs as well as repair records for all Fire Authority apparatus and vehicles.

• *County-Wide Traffic Signal Pre-Emption Plan* – The implementation phase of the Traffic Signal Pre-Emption Plan is continuing throughout a number

of our partner cities. Discussions have been completed and an agreement reached as to the coding of the pre-emption devices to consolidate usage between the OCFA and law enforcement.

• *Legislation to Enhance Financial Stability of OCFA Programs* – The OCFA secured introduction of legislation to formally authorize Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Program (US&R) and stabilize funding, including, again, securing an annual appropriation of \$32.5 million for the US&R system. Although this bill was unsuccessful due to the overwhelming budget issues in Washington D.C., it will again be introduced this



year to attempt to secure funding in the amount of \$54 million for the US&R system, which is comprised of 28 Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces.

New Heavy Rescue Vehicle joins OCFA Fleet

The Orange County Fire Authority purchased a new Heavy Rescue Vehicle that is housed at Fire Station 6 near Irvine City

Hall. Designated as Rescue 6, the new vehicle enhances OCFA's ability to respond to a multitude of rescue situations, including natural and man made events. Rescue 6 is staffed by cross-trained firefighter/US&R Truck trained personnel on an as-needed basis when there are incidents involving the need for heavy rescues; trench rescue, confined space rescue, complex high angle incidents and various extraordinary

rescue situations of any kind. This unit also responds to any special requests where its highly technical complement of emergency equipment is needed.

New units placed into service

The Orange County Fire Authority placed a variety of new fire units into service throughout our service areas. Four new truck companies

were placed in service, replacing existing units in the Cities of Irvine, Laguna Hills and Buena Park. Each of these units is a 100' Aerial/Quint, providing a ladder to reach upwards of 100' as well as incorporating a pump and water carrying ability to fight fires. Each of these units is staffed by 4 personnel and is capable of responding to almost any kind of emergency incident, including structure fires, high-rise fires and rescues,





auto-
mobile accidents and EMS calls. The Fire Authority also added 7 new Compressed Air Foam System units (CAFS), mounted to existing Patrols, staffed by Reserves. These units expand our ability to effectively respond to and mitigate wildland fires in the Urban/Interface. The units carry fire resistive foam that will be applied to dwellings in advance of an on-coming fire front, thereby providing an additional level of protection to these dwellings. Additionally, our wildland fleet was enhanced with the delivery of 11 new Type III Engines, two water dropping firefighting helicopters and a Caterpillar D6 Firefighting Bulldozer. The Type III Engines are

wild-
land
engines that will re-
place an aging fleet and will provide response to our brush and interface fire areas.

The “Dozer” also replaces an older model and is equipped with an enclosed cab, more line cutting capability and a wider blade for enhanced service. The helicopters are replacing our current Vietnam era helicopters and feature safer operation, night firefighting capabilities and enhanced dependability. We plan on keeping our older helicopters in service to provide continuous back-up and responses throughout our service areas and our neighboring counties.

New OCFA fire engines undergo periodic preventative maintenance and are designed to last at least 15 years on the frontline and another



five years as a relief engine.

OCFA Opens 2 New Fire Stations

Two new fire stations were opened in Irvine, one replacing a temporary station and another in the form of a temporary station, providing service until a permanent location is completed.

Permanent Fire Station 55 was completed, replacing a temporary facility in the Orchard



Hills area of Irvine, continuing service to that area with a Paramedic Assessment Unit. This is an Engine Company staffed by a Captain,

Engineer, and Paramedic Firefighter.

A new, temporary facility was established near the intersection of Sand Canyon Road and Trabuco Road (Great Park Trabuco). This station provides service to the area with a Basic Life Support Engine Company, staffed by 3 personnel and a Medic unit staffed with a two person firefighter/paramedic crew. Temporary Fire Station 20 provides service to the Great Park and the City of Irvine and will be replaced by a permanent station in several years as development in the area increases.

For additional information about our Support Services Department, please contact the OCFA at (714) 573-6000, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.







Working as a Team

investments, issuance of long and short-term debt, budget development, fiscal monitoring, and administrative support (Treasury & Financial Planning).

2008 Highlights

- *Sustaining a strong financial future:* Calendar year 2008 brought many changes to OCFA's financial outlook, with the rapidly

declining world and state economies weighing heavily on OCFA. As the year began, OCFA's financial outlook was cautiously optimistic and, although future revenue expectations were lowered, OCFA was still projecting ongoing fiscal health. As a result, plans were made in response to the 2007 Santiago Fire to begin enhancing staffing on wildland engines and to expand handcrew staffing. The staffing enhancements were planned to be phased-in slowly over time

to allow OCFA to monitor ongoing affordability.

As the calendar year moved into the Fall season, investment market losses reached historic levels for 2008 and it became apparent that the impacts to OCFA's finances would be much more severe and prolonged than previously

The Business Services Department provides financial functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, cost accounting, general ledger, payroll, and timekeeping to the OCFA (Finance); information systems development, repairs, and installations (Information Technology); purchasing, receiving, shipping, warehousing, and mail operations (Purchasing & Materials Management); and treasury and financial planning services including banking,



anticipated. Consequently, rather than planning for the phase-in of staffing expansions, OCFA moved into a mode of aggressive cost containment and measured budget reductions with a primary goal to sustain emergency response services at the current levels. These cost containment efforts will continue for the foreseeable future, and until the economic recovery

is visible within OCFA's financial outlook.

- *Members approve a renewed JPA Agreement:* The OCFA's Joint Powers Authority Agreement expires June 30, 2010. Following approval by the OCFA Board of Directors in late 2007, each of the OCFA's 23 member agencies reviewed the proposed renewal agreement for action by their respective City Councils and/or Board of Supervisors. By the end of 2008, 22 member agencies had completed their review and unanimously approved the renewal agreement, with one remaining agency yet to take action in 2009/10.

- *Modernize our Information Technology (IT) systems:* The OCFA has been working on

a multi-year project to replace many of our IT systems, which have not been replaced since the 1980's and don't function in an integrated manner using modern technology. The ultimate goal is to establish fully integrated and coordinated systems which provide meaningful information that contribute to our decision-making processes and enhance our delivery of emergency services. Major milestones in 2008 included:



~ Completed implementation of a County-wide Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system which will ultimately be used throughout the County to dispatch the closest fire resources to an incident, rather than dispatching resources from the closest fire station. Furthermore, the AVL system will enhance our ability to track and account for the exact location of emergency resources during a major incident.

~ Conducted a Needs Assessment with our Fleet Services Section to identify the requirements for a new and automated fleet management system. Following the Needs Assessment, an Request For Proposal process was completed and a new system was procured to automate

the use, mileage, and maintenance records for OCFA's emergency and support vehicles.

~ Replaced the existing OCFA Intranet with Microsoft SharePoint to improve

functionality and to enable greater capabilities, such as team sites for project management, agency calendaring, etc.

OCFA receives over \$14 Million in Grants and Reimbursement Revenue

| T Y P E | A G E N C Y | G R A N T A M O U N T | T O T A L R E V E N U E |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Grant | Urban Area Security Initiative | \$118,000 | \$1,258,929 |
| | FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) | \$1,030,929 | |
| | State Homeland Security | \$110,000 | |
| State Reimbursement | Emergency Response (Includes \$6.0M for Santiago Fire) | | \$12,065,137 |
| Federal Reimbursement | Emergency Response | | \$1,455,844 |
| | | | 2008 Calendar Year Total \$14,779,910 |

For additional information about our budget, including financial and investment services, purchasing and doing business with the OCFA, or Information Technology Development, please contact the OCFA at (714) 573-6000, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.

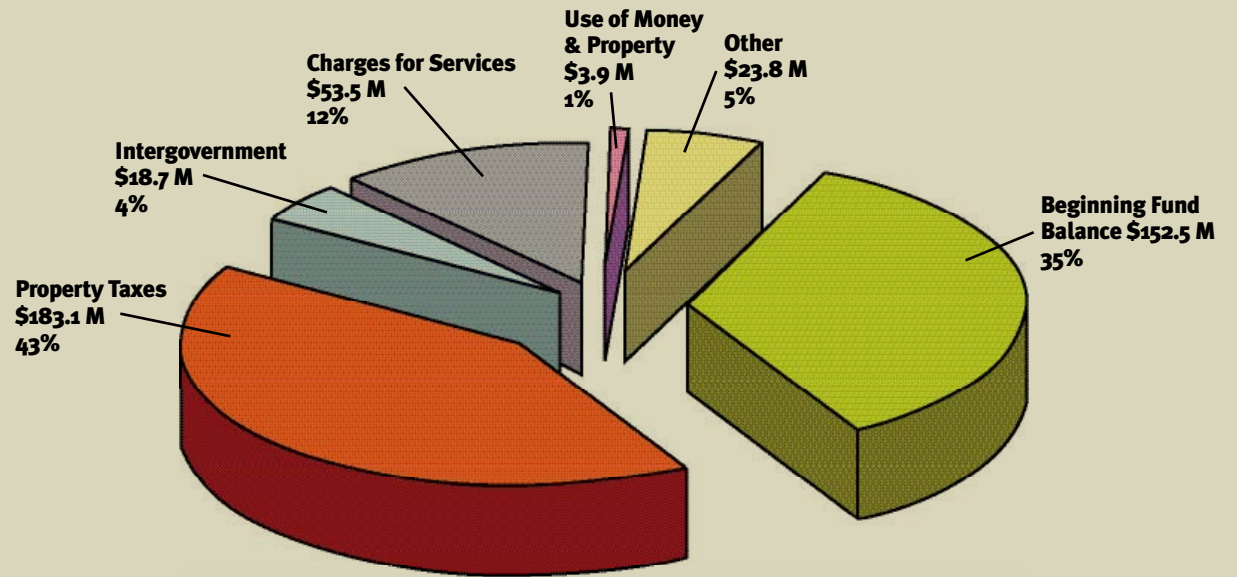


S T A T I S T I C A L D A T A C O M P A R I S O N

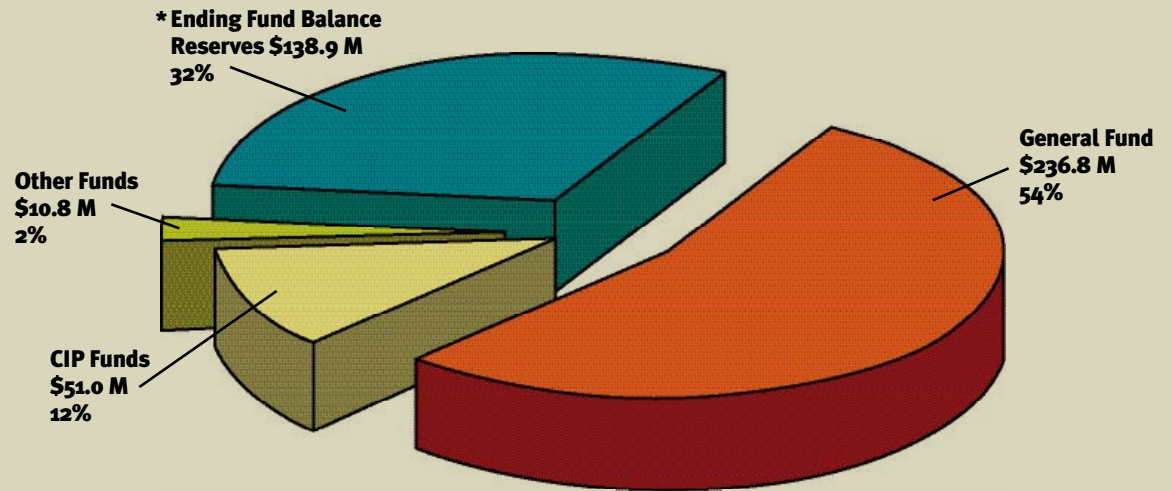
| | FY 2004/2005 | FY 2005/2006 | FY2006/2007 | FY 2007/2008 | FY 2008/2009 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits | 159,716,155 | 176,921,490 | 194,429,276 | 202,087,061 | 212,479,219 |
| Services & Supplies | 19,906,300 | 21,721,166 | 22,037,147 | 23,284,393 | 23,222,586 |
| Capital Outlay | 296,833 | 49,928 | 66,894 | 180,916 | 355,000 |
| Debt Service | 659,513 | 664,621 | 1,092,920 | 795,556 | 753,667 |
| Total | 180,578,801 | 199,357,205 | 217,626,237 | 226,347,926 | 236,810,472 |
| General Fund | | | | | |
| Facilities Maint. & Imps. | 1,382,578 | 1,745,398 | 1,483,613 | 1,325,700 | 1,208,946 |
| Capital Projects | 10,838,772 | 4,546,271 | 2,435,347 | 1,129,849 | 8,116,661 |
| Comm. & Info. Systems | 1,600,531 | 3,116,751 | 7,332,020 | 6,046,125 | 4,729,292 |
| RFOTC | 1,061,559 | | | | |
| Vehicle Replacement | 5,133,326 | 7,371,079 | 10,440,891 | 11,136,021 | 36,952,997 |
| Structural Fire Fund | 430,924 | 383,742 | 1,781,706 | 1,608,245 | 1,607,159 |
| Self-Insurance | 7,866,143 | 9,303,478 | 6,892,022 | 6,681,881 | 5,515,905 |
| Debt Service | 3,663,700 | 3,662,900 | 3,664,500 | 3,662,263 | 3,664,663 |
| Total Budget* | 212,556,334 | 229,486,824 | 251,656,336 | 257,938,010 | 298,606,095 |
| Staffing Level | | | | | |
| Firefighters | 774 | 778 | 792 | 808 | 841 |
| Fire Management | 40 | 40 | 41 | 41 | 41 |
| Professional Staff | 276 | 273 | 278 | 278 | 278 |
| Total | 1,090 | 1,091 | 1,111 | 1,127 | 1,160 |
| Reserve Firefighters | 357 | 390 | 390 | 390 | 390 |
| * Budgeted amounts reflect all adjustments approved by the Board of Directors as of the publication date. | | | | | |

All Funds

Where the Money Originates



Where the Money Goes



* Reserves = Operating Contingency Reserve, Debt Service Reserve, Worker's Compensation/ Self-Insurance Reserve, and Capital Reserves



AMONE JOHNSON



Managing Change and Striving to Improve

The Human Resources Division provides programs and services that are designed to support the OCFA and its employees in the achievement of its mission and objectives, including the administration of the employee relations program, classification and compensation, recruitment and selection, salary administration, labor negotiations and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) administration (Employee Relations); risk management and health and wellness (Risk Management); performance management and organizational training/development (Organizational Training & Development), and benefits administration (Employee Benefits and Services).

2008 Highlights

- *WEFIT Program Participation Level Maintained at 94%:* This voluntary program was implemented in 2004 with Board of

Directors approval. It has focused on elevating the physical fitness level of employees in relation to the physical demands of their suppression duties and includes the following major components: Medical Exam & Fitness Evaluation; Fitness & Health Programs; Immunizations & Disease Screening; Medical/Fitness/Injury Rehabilitation; Data Gathering and Program Evaluation. To date, program participation remains at approximately 94% and the firefighter injury rate has decreased since the inception of the WEFIT Program. The aggregate medical and fitness data continues to show a significant trend of higher fitness levels.

- *Established Continuous Firefighter Trainee Recruitment:* Previously, the recruitment for Firefighter Trainee occurred every two years. In an effort to expand the Authority's diversity effort and attract the best qualified candidates for the position, an alternative recruiting method was implemented. The modification involved transitioning to more frequent recruitments. As a result, instead of a Firefighter Trainee recruitment occurring every two years, a recruitment based on continuous recruitment cycles was implemented. The

continuous recruitment model initiates a recruitment approximately every six months. This effort assists the Authority in its diversity recruitment efforts by providing application opportunities to the general public on a frequent regular basis. In addition, the cycle process allows the Authority to continually replenish the Firefighter Trainee eligibility list more frequently with qualified candidates. These efforts have presented the Authority with a greater selection pool of diverse qualified candidates.

- *Development of Multi-Year Training Plan:* A comprehensive training needs assessment has been completed to establish a strategy and plan for the growth of OCFA employees. The plan defines the core skills needed by OCFA employees and identifies how these skills can best be acquired. The plan focuses on competency based training and defines these competencies as a combination of knowledge, attitudes and skills that are learned and applied as an integrated whole. As a result of this assessment, the Authority is better prepared to initiate training programs that will better prepare its workforce relative to changing



technology and work environment. This in turn will enable the organization to better serve the community.

• *Text Mail*

Recruitment Notification:

Several years ago the Human Resources implemented an electronic application process. The introduction of this system enhanced the Authority's ability to maintain electronic contact with individuals who expressed an interest in a specific employment opportunity. In 2007-2008, the HR Division, through its focus on diversity, realized that there was segment of the general public who were interested and qualified to apply for OCFA positions, but had limited or no access to a personal computer to receive employment opportunity notifications. Recruitment staff conducted research into expanding the notification effort and concluded that since cell phones tend to be a significant part of individual's lives, it presented to be an effective communication tool for employment

opportunity notifications. Utilizing the technology that was currently in use at the Authority, a system was created to automatically send text mail notification of employment opportunities to individuals subscribing to this service. This service has been promoted on the OCFA website and noted on recruitment flyers. Currently, the subscription process, including both e-mail and text messaging, averages over 2,000 sign-ups on an on-going basis.

• *Goodwill Employee Partnership:* Goodwill Industries International, Inc. is a non-profit provider of education, training, and career services for people with disadvantages, such as welfare dependency, homelessness, and lack of education or work experience, as well as those with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. As part of our community

involvement, the OCFA has partnered with Goodwill Industries of Orange County, since 1990, in providing employment for four employees. The OCFA Goodwill Team for 2008 consisted of Tom Christianson, Tim Johnson,

Kevin Yunker, and Jeanine Latshaw. Tom, with 18 years on the job, has been with the OCFA the longest; Kevin, 16 years; Tim, 3 years; and Jeanine 15 years, between them have executed a variety of tasks under the supervision of their Goodwill job coach Tracy Haysom. Duties have included mail room responsibilities, deliveries, warehouse operations, recycling programs, and custodial work that keep headquarters spotless. The OCFA has received several awards and recognitions for its long-time commitment to employing people with disabilities. This year, the Goodwill Team and OCFA family were deeply saddened with the loss of Jeanine Latshaw who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, and is greatly missed.

For additional information about employment opportunities, our Reserve Firefighter Program, or Fire Explorer Program, please contact the Human Resources department at (714) 573-6800, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.

Maintaining Excellence in Service



Directors meet-ings, and ensures the legislative process is open and public by publishing and posting notices, Board meeting agendas and minutes as required by law;

The Clerk of the Authority facilitates the Board of Director's policymaking process by officially recording actions taken at Board of

provides and manages access to public records; processes subpoenas and false alarm billings; and administers the Customer Satisfaction

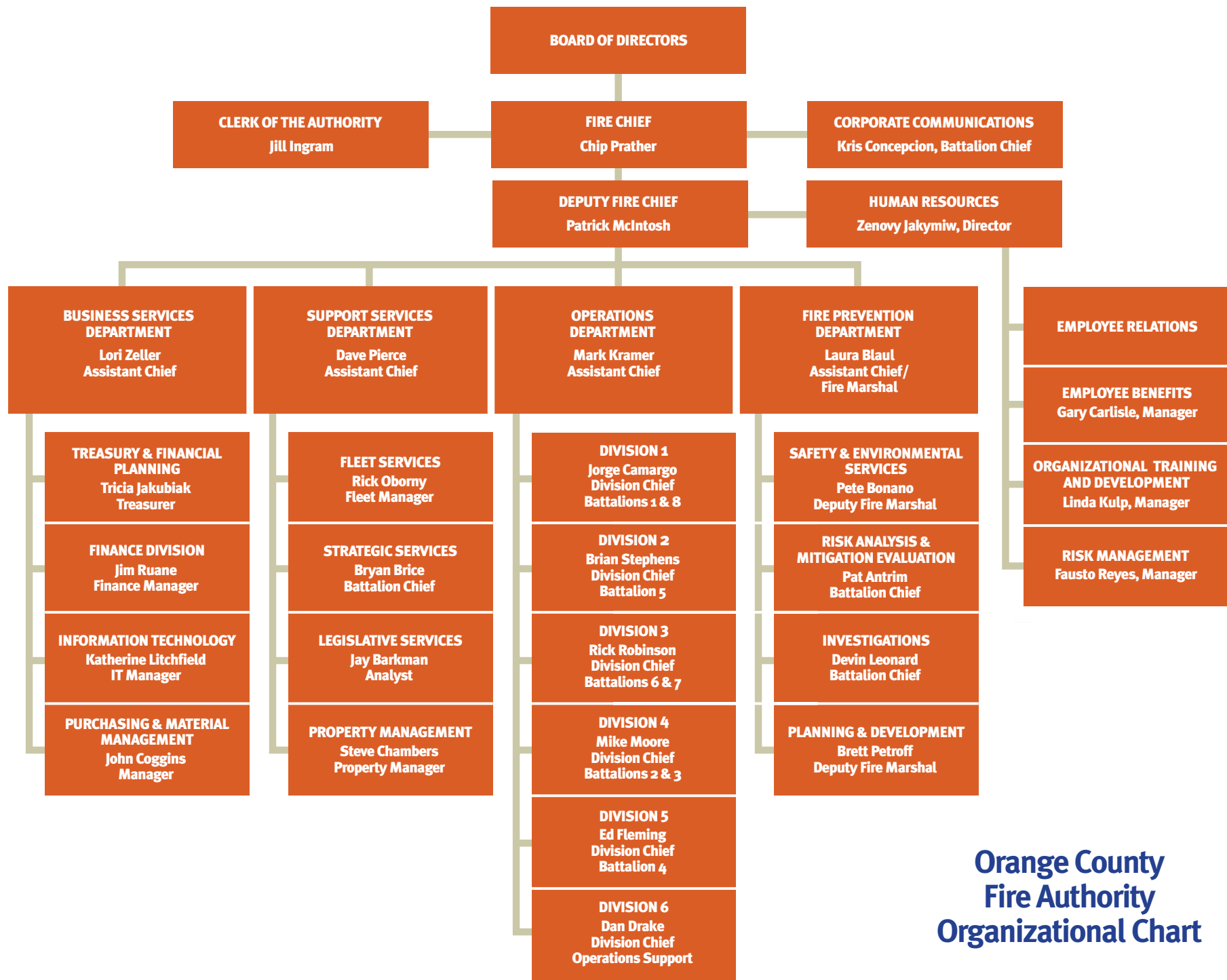


Survey Program.

For additional information about our Board of Directors, Board meeting agendas and minutes, public records, or our Customer Satisfaction Survey, please contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.

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**Orange County
Fire Authority
Organizational Chart**



How to reach us

OCFA On Your Smart Phone, Cell Phone or PDA!!

If you have a web-enabled cell phone, smart phone, or PDA, you can access some of the OCFA's web content remotely. Just point your hand-held device's browser

to www.ocfa.mobi to access the

mobile website anywhere you get cell phone reception. From the mobile site you can get driving directions to the OCFA headquarters, important OCFA telephone numbers, locations of your nearest fire stations, safety tips, major incident reports, weekly preparedness updates, and more. In addition, you can sign up to receive text message notifications of major incidents (fires, floods, mudslides, earthquakes, etc.) occurring in the Orange County Fire Authority jurisdiction.

Clerk of the Authority

(714) 573-6040
(for records and incident reports)

For general information call (714) 573-6000

Always call 911 for any emergency that threatens life or property

Orange County Fire Authority

Regional Fire Operations & Training Center
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Hours:

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Website

www.ocfa.org

Community Relations and Education Services

(714) 573-6200
(to schedule an educational program, ride-a-long or for general safety information)

Human Resources

(714) 573-6825
(for OCFA job opportunities)

Planning and Development Services

(714) 573-6100
(for plan review and inspection of new development and construction projects)

Safety & Environmental Services

(714) 573-6180
(for fire safety inspections of existing structures)





We are proud that this is an environmentally friendly Annual Report printed on recycled paper. ♻️