

Dear OCFA Family:

As our communities embrace the spirit of giving and gratitude that is synonymous with the holiday season, it is essential to note that our firefighters and professional staff personify those tenets year-round – on every call, in every response, at every community event, and in every way possible.

Yes, our emergency services are second to none, but our personnel often take it a step further with acts of kindness and care that transcend what they are paid and trained to do — from cooking and distributing more than 60 turkeys to Santa Ana senior residents this past week to collecting and distributing more than \$80,000 for displaced Maui firefighters this past summer. The examples are endless, but in light of our aspiration to once again collect more than 30,000 toys for underserved

children this holiday season, perhaps none are more poignant or heartwarming than an anecdote from last year's Spark of Love Toy Drive. It began at Station 56 during the final run of toy pickups in late December of 2022. Two of our Community Educators arrived to load up the collected toys at the station and were pleasantly surprised to find a brand-new bike mixed in with the usual teddy bears and soccer balls – a generous donation that would undoubtedly make a child's dream come true

However, the day after the pickup, the Educators discovered that the bike was not intended to be a Spark of Love donation. Instead, it was a gift for the godson of Firefighter Tommy Olvera, and he was hiding the bike at the station to ensure a Christmas morning surprise. The educators felt terrible, but despite their best efforts to find the bike, it was now a needle in a warehouse haystack among the record-high 30,000 toys collected. Corporate Communications emailed Firefighter Olvera an apology along with an offer to purchase his godson a new bike for Christmas. "It's ok," he wrote back. "I was able to get another bike for my godson so [one of the Spark of Love kids]

I know that every day, the same heart of OCFA service beats across our region with the spirit of giving and gratitude

synonymous with the holidays – not one season out of the year, but every season of every year. I also know that, like Firefighter Olvera, the personnel who manifest this truth do not hope for or seek out recognition or gratitude. Instead, they see these acts as an inherent component of our mission; benevolence and care that is just as requisite to our duties as fighting fires and rendering medical aid. With that in mind and on this Thanksgiving Eve, it is my honor to extend the gratitude that all of you — our incredible team of firefighters and professional staff — so justly earn but so purposely avoid. You inspire me and the nearly two

can share in the joy of learning how to ride a bike for the first time on Christmas morning."

million people we serve, not just by executing the objectives in our SOPs, but by illuminating the selflessness in our DNA. Thank you, and have a happy, safe, and joyous Thanksgiving.

Sincerely, **Brian Fennessy** 

**MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE** 

**Quarterly Size-Up** 

Fire Chief

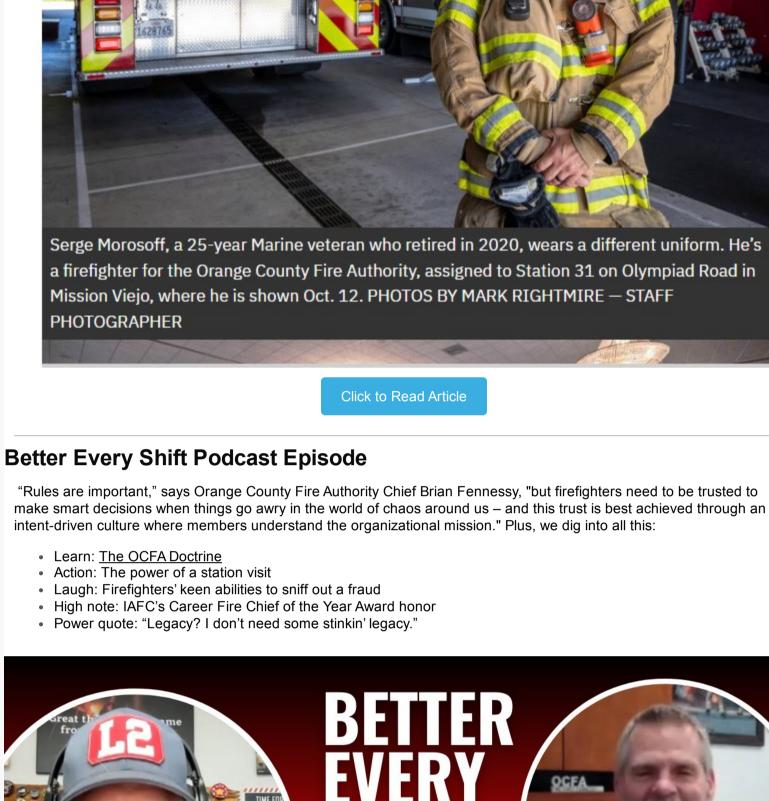
on Christmas morning.

# 2023

# August, September & October

- 45,975 Incident Proponses -•618 Fire Responses •33,383 EMS Responses •11,974 All-Hazard Responses VETERANS DAY Marines run toward danger After serving their country, personnel take on another duty

to serve as part of Orange County Fire Authority



# **FIRE CHIEF BRIAN FENNESSY**

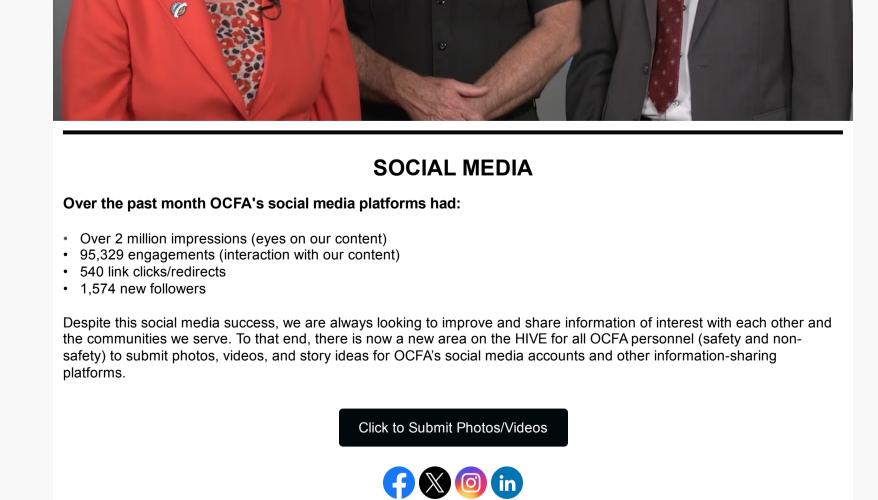
**HOSTED BY AARON ZAMZOW** CAREER CHIEF OF THE YEAR **Spark of Love** Volunteer to Pick-Up Toys Click for Memo and Toy Plan

Donate new and unwrapped toys at one of our events in Orange County Friday, November 17 Saturday, December 2 10 am - 2 pm 10 am - 2 pm **SAN CLEMENTE BUENA PARK** Walmart Walmart 951 Avenida Pico 8450 La Palma Avenue San Clemente 92673 Buena Park 90620 **WESTMINSTER FOOTHILL RANCH** Walmart Walmart 13331 Beach Boulevard 26502 Towne Center Drive Foothill Ranch 92610 Westminster 92683 Please check ocfa.org/toydrive for updates and details on this years event **107.9**FM **Finance Awards** OCFA's Budget team (left) was recently recognized with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 15th consecutive year. On the same night, OCFA's Procurement team (right) was honored with the National Procurement Institutes Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award for the 13th consecutive year. Congratulations to both teams!

**Holiday Safety Tips PSA** 

**Top Social Media Posts** 

Santiago Handcrew. Paying it forward — a cornerstone of the fire service.

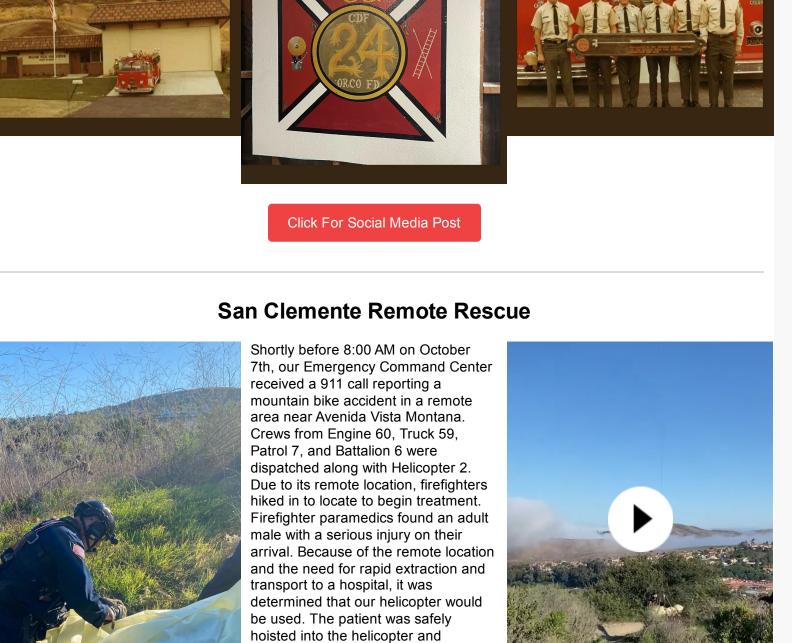


Development of life skills, citizenship, character, and leadership define the OCFA Fire Cadet program. Our Fire Cadets successfully completed Wildland Fire Chainsaw Operator class this weekend with the OCFA El Toro Handcrew and

# Station 24 in the City of Mission Viejo is now being transformed into a two-story 14,455-square-foot station capable of housing three four-person crews and multiple fire vehicles. During the estimated 14-18 months of construction, interim Fire Station 24 is located behind the former Stein Mart building located in the Civic Core area. We are proud to serve our community, and we look forward to welcoming you to the new Fire Station 24 in 2025!

Click for Social Media Post

Built more than 50 years ago as a one-story 5,600-square-foot fire station big enough for one crew of four firefighters, Fire



# **Lake Forest Vegetation Fire** Our emergency command center received calls for a vegetation fire in Lake Forest at 3:20 PM on October 29th. Engine 54 arrived first on scene, and quickly established Regency command. Multiple companies aggressively attacked the fire and were able to contain the blaze to less than 2 acres in just under 60 minutes. No injuries have been reported and the cause is currently under investigation. Due to high winds and dangerous fire weather OCFA has up staffed from 8:00 pm Saturday to 8:00 pm Monday. These resources include an additional 24 hour helicopter and hand crew, an additional dozer and dispatcher, a Metronet Type 3 strike team and water tender, and all of our reserve stations are hard staffed. Click For Social Media Post

**Girls Empowerment Camp Leadership Spotlight** 

Apparatus Engineer at OCFA, served as a GEC instructor and shared her personal OCFA journey along with her aspiration to inspire girls and young women to not only pursue a career in the fire service, but also serve in leadership roles. Thank

OCFA recently hosted its 4th Annual Girls Empowerment Camp (GEC), a hands-on two-day experience designed to empower girls and young women to consider, pursue, and achieve a career in the fire service. Anna Simmons, Fire

you FAE Simmons – we are proud of your leadership and grateful for your service! #OCFAWomenInFire

transported to the hospital with continued care by our firefighter

Click For Social Media Post

paramedics.

# **Anna Simmons** Fire Apparatus Engineer Click for Social Media Post **OCFA Firehawks** These are the six highly trained pilots who will be operating our new <u>#OCFAFIREHAWKS</u> when the two aircraft's

Their 137 years of combined experience aside, these aviators continue to do what all firefighters do – train, educate, and

To that end, as the new aircraft are transformed into state-of-the-art firefighting and multi-hazard rescue machines, these

"The machine is only as good as the person operating it," said Chief Fire Pilot Cody Hamann. "The best aircraft require the most skilled crews, and that demands dedication and hard work from everyone. We're confident our team has made that

Click For Social Media Post

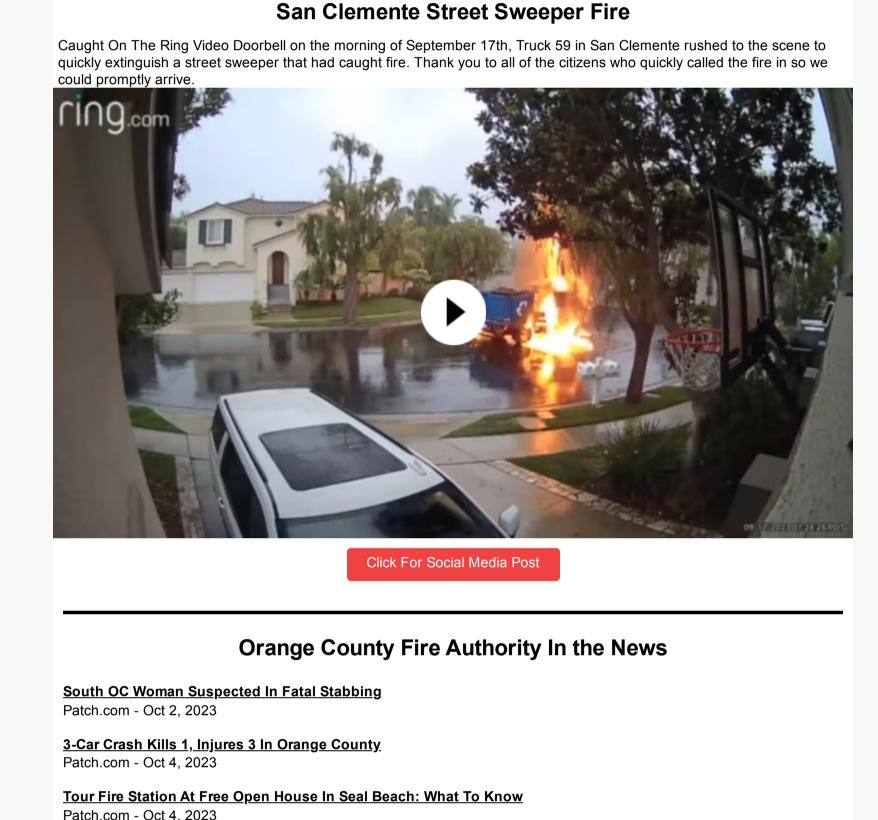
proud OCFA pilots are enhancing the skills necessary to master them with a rigorous nine-week training program;

Blackhawk-to-FIREHAWK transformation is complete.

education that will only continue when the aircraft are delivered.

focus on improving and refining their skills.

sacrifice."



<u>Suspicious Package Prompts Evacuation at OC Federal Courthouse</u>

Suspicious package reported at Orange County federal courthouse

OC federal courthouse evacuated over suspicious package

How do Orange County Firefighters train for fire season?

<u>Crime and Public Safety | 26-year-old Santa Ana man dies after shooting,...</u>

<u>Harmful, Dangerous Chemical Leak Occurs Near Popular California Theme Park</u>

Crime and Public Safety | 11 sent to hospitals after haz-mat alert in...

Ammonia Leak in Southern California Sends 13 People to Hospital

Crime and Public Safety | Minor damage so far reported from...

**PROMOTIONS** 

Resident Input Sought As City Develops Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Restaurants Food and Drink | Fire temporarily closes Vine in San Clemente

11 people hospitalized after chemical leak in Orange County

News | Southern California special district... The Orange County Register - Oct 6, 2023

'I don't want rules-followers': Brian Fennessy champions intent-driven firefighters

KIIS-FM - Oct 5, 2023

CBS News - Oct 5, 2023

FireRescue1 - Oct 5, 2023

Yahoo! News - Oct 5, 2023

Los Angeles Times - Oct 6, 2023

**How OC firefighters train for wildfires** 

The Washington Post - Oct 13, 2023

Inside the Magic - Oct 13, 2023

Yahoo! News - Oct 13, 2023

PEOPLE - Oct 14, 2023

The Orange County Register - Oct 13, 2023

The Orange County Register - Oct 13, 2023

The Orange County Register - Oct 16, 2023

Laguna Beach Independent - Oct 27, 2023

The Orange County Register - Oct 29, 2023

YEARS OF SERVICE

MSN.com - Oct 30, 2023

Local News | Irvine police will launch a new 'first...

Yahoo! News - Oct 8, 2023

KTTV-TV - Oct 8, 2023

## The Orange County Register - Oct 9, 2023 <u>High School Sports | Mission Viejo football hosting inaugural First...</u> The Orange County Register - Oct 10, 2023 Buena Park hazmat sends 11 to area hospitals Spectrum News 1\_LA-WEST - Oct 13, 2023 11 sent to hospital after ammonia leak at Southern California building

<u>Video footage of Cook's Corner shooting released by O.C. Sheriff's Department shows chaos and violence</u>

<u>Caltrans renames section of I-5 for veteran firefighter</u> SignOn San Diego - Oct 20, 2023 <u>Crime and Public Safety | Illegal fireworks show in Santa Ana seen across...</u> The Orange County Register - Oct 22, 2023 Police: Illegal fireworks set off in Orange County caused fires, damaged vehicles Yahoo! News - Oct 22, 2023 The 1993 Fire: 'Our world looked so different'

**Promotions** 

**Milestones** 

• Trinidad Carrillo, Information Technology Analyst

• Jenna Hirao, Fire Prevention Specialist · Joseph Soto, Fire Prevention Specialist

# Steven King, Fire Captain

