

Orange County Fire Authority



2007 Annual Report

YOU CAN COUNT ON US!





Table of Contents

Our Values	4
We Are Your Fire Department	5
Fire Chief's Message	7
Board of Directors	9
Corporate Communications 2007 Highlights	12
Fire Prevention Department 2007 Highlights	15
Operations Department 2007 Highlights Major Incidents Statistical Summary Emergency Response Data Total Responses By Unit	19
Support Services Department 2007 Highlights	31
Business Services Department 2007 Highlights Statistical Data Comparison 2007/2008 Funding Sources	37
Human Resources 2007 Highlights Hydration Study	43
Clerk of the Authority Tell Us What You Think	45
OCFA Directory Organization Chart How To Reach Us	46
	47



Our Values

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.

Honesty and Fairness

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

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.

Ethics

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

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!"

Integrity

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

Personal Responsibility

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

Diversity

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

Trust

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

Care and Respect

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





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.

OCFA's regional approach has many advantages for the 22 cities it protects. By pooling resources, the OCFA can purchase additional fire engines and specialized equipment that some cities 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 service 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 seven 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 61 fire stations with 808 career firefighters

and 390 reserve firefighters. Our service area includes 551 square miles and 120,000 acres of wildland. In 2007, the OCFA responded to 85,652 calls and had 216,013 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 61 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 a 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 seven years...”





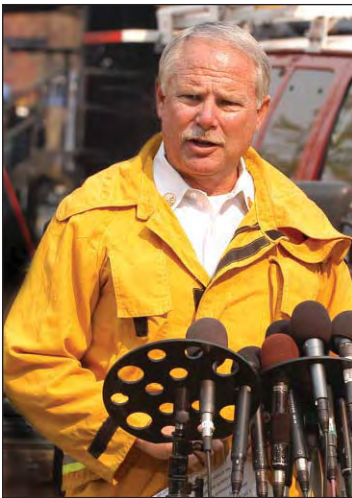
STAFFS

BATTALION CHIEF

CRANFORD

B3





A Message from the Fire Chief

As you read the information on the pages of this Orange County Fire Authority

(OCFA) 2007 Annual Report there is but one conclusion; 2007 was another year of forward progress in our determined quest to keep our community safe. In addition to providing information on key performance measures and other statistical indicators, this 2007 Annual Report tells the story about the many projects and initiatives in which the members of the OCFA are involved and how they contribute to the quality of life in Orange County.

The OCFA Board of Directors, once again, adopted a balanced General Fund budget and a fully funded Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The approved 260 million dollar General Fund included staffing for new Fire Station 27 located in the City of Irvine, placed into service 3 new paramedic vans (27, 45, and 57) and one new paramedic engine (9), the completion of two firefighter training academies, and enables the members of OCFA to sustain its 97 percent customer satisfaction rating. The 27 million dollar CIP purchased an array of new fire engines, truck companies, computer systems and paid

for the construction of Fire Stations 27 (Irvine), 29 (Dana Point), 38 (Irvine) and 39 (Laguna Niguel).

2007 saw a continuation of drought conditions throughout Southern California, an atypical winter freeze and an overall concern amongst fire professionals that dangerous fire conditions were ahead. OCFA started the year with an inordinate number of multiple alarm structure fires. The 2,257 fires during the year killed two people, injured 80 and destroyed over 68 million dollars in property (a 19% increase). Emergency Medical Service responses increased by 3% to just over 58,000 and continued to represent approximately 68% of the total emergency call volume for the year. The 85,000 total incidents for the year was a slight (2%) increase over 2006. Unit responses however increased demonstrably to 216,013 (38%).

The prediction at the beginning of the year that a challenging brush fire season was ahead got off to an early start for OCFA in March with the 241 Fire. This 2000 acre wind driven fire rushed through neighborhoods in Anaheim and Orange, as well as significant portions of the county unincorporated area. Combating this fire required a considerable mutual aid response but was contained with only a few injuries and minor damage to two homes.

In October, with the arrival of the Santa

Ana winds, came one of the most challenging Southern California brush fire seasons ever and, unlike the 2003 Fire Storms, Orange County was not spared. The Santiago Fire, which burned for almost 2 weeks, required the evacuation of thousands of our neighbors and, for the first 52 hours, a courageous and determined effort by hundreds of firefighters from throughout Orange County. In the end, over 28,000 acres of valuable watershed was burned and 14 homes were destroyed. The Santiago fire provided a worldwide demonstration of the community safety benefit of modern Wildland Urban Interface building and fire prevention measures and how those features, combined with the expert work of a skilled firefighting force, can achieve a better than expected outcome. The fire also provided a stark contrast, with regard to fire safety, between our newer communities and those more established canyon areas.

Indeed 2007 was a year of achievement and success for the members of OCFA and for those we so proudly serve!

Chip Prather
Fire Chief





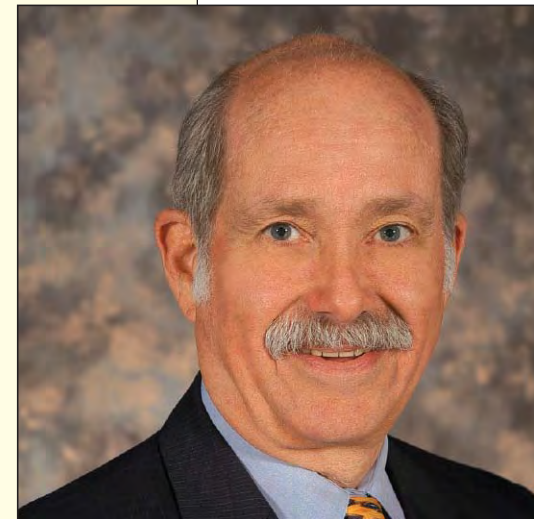


Board of Directors

R. Craig Scott
City of Laguna Hills
Chair
Board of Directors



conducts all business of the 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, staff reports, and meeting minutes, please visit our website at www.ocfa.org.



Don McCay
City of Buena Park
Vice 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 meet bimonthly 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

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 Member



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*
Joel Bishop
Board Member



City of Irvine

Population: 202,079
Area: 64.8 Square Miles
OCFA Fire Stations #4, #6,
#26, #27, #28, #36, #38,
#47, #51, #55
Joined OCFA in 1980*
Christina Shea
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*
Russ Rice
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*
John Larson
 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 Member



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 protection. In 1995, the OCFA was formed as a successor agency to the Orange County Fire Department.

Serving the Community

The Orange County Fire Authority is dedicated to contributing to the quality of life within our community and reinforcing that commitment through community outreach. The OCFA

Corporate Communications Section, including its Public Information Office, Community Relations and Education Services, and Multi-Media Services, provides

educational services to schools, businesses, and members of the public, as well as photo and video graphic support to the entire organization and its affiliated agencies.

2007 Highlights

Corporate Communications moved forward

with several new programs and concepts ready to be implemented in 2008 after a busy and productive 2007. This Section is responsible for a variety of multi-faceted functions, including serving as a liaison to OCFA member agencies, media relations, public education, and multi-media services. As the OCFA continues to grow and expand, Corporate Communications is leading the way with a creative new marketing plan designed to better acquaint the more than 1.3 million residents it serves with the services it provides.

“Team Fire Force” Program for 4th Graders to be Piloted 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, OCFA’s Community Relations and Education Services staff redesigned the program to target fourth grade students and replace the Junior Firefighter program. The new curriculum meets a minimum of seven California Department of Education Content Standards. The name of the program is “Team Fire Force.”

The “Team Fire Force” program will be





piloted in schools throughout Orange County for the 2007-2008 school year. In the 2008-2009 school year, the Orange County Fire Authority will conduct a launch of "Team Fire Force" throughout Orange County while phasing out the Junior Firefighter program.

Drowning Is Preventable

The Orange County Fire Authority, along with many other agencies and organizations, hosted a press conference on May 24, 2007, at the Blue Buoy Swim School in Tustin, in preparation for the summer months to discuss water safety. California leads the nation in drownings, and drowning continues to be the leading cause of death for children under the age of 5, and the second leading cause of death



Follow the Safer 3

prevention is a year-round pursuit, the OCFA intensifies its prevention efforts during the summer months, when drownings increase, starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The OCFA offers a 45-minute class on drowning prevention, featuring a video and instruction from an education specialist. For more information or to schedule a class, contact the Community Relations and Education Services

Section at
(714) 573-
6200.

in children under the age of 14, and yet is 100% preventable. Although drowning

OCFA Hosts its 4th Annual Open House

More than 2,000 members of the community were treated to live fire demonstrations, an array of exhibits, including a job fair, and the debut of OCFA's newest educational tool for youngsters, "Freddie the Fire Truck," at the 4th Annual Open House held on October 13, 2007, at its Regional Fire Operations and Training Center. This event is held each year in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week.



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. Their 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:

The Planning & Development Services Section works with the development community and jurisdiction planning and building staff to ensure new tracts and projects meet State and local fire and life safety requirements.

The Safety and Environmental Services Section (S&ES) conducts fire inspections in existing buildings, issues fire code and special activity permits, and investigates complaints from the general public about potential fire hazard conditions. This

section also administers hazardous materials disclosure and business plans, and helps monitor safe clearance in the interface areas between the wildland and our communities.

The Investigation Services Section is responsible for investigating or reviewing fires and determining appropriate intervention strategies.

The Risk Analysis & Mitigation Evaluation Section (RAME) works to fully understand our communities' risks and identify appropriate mitigation strategies.

2007 Highlights

- *Action Plan:* The Fire Prevention Department developed, adopted and launched the "Fire Prevention Action Plan," a multi-year strategic approach for 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. Fire Prevention completed work on two Action Plan initiatives and has completed the bulk of work on several others. Newly developed prioritization tools have begun to



assist in shifting emphasis toward risk.

- *User Fees:* Fire Prevention staff completed a comprehensive fee study, in conjunction with the Finance Division and outside consultants, which was adopted by the Board of Directors and implemented in November. The new user fees will provide revenue to fully offset the costs of construction plan review and inspection, hazardous materials management, and high risk activities requiring safety permits. Work with the building industry and partner agencies on implementation, including revised policies and procedures, simplified and streamlined the review and permit processes and eliminated duplication in hazardous materials activities and fees.

- *Construction Codes:* Planning & Development facilitated local adoption of the new California Fire & Building Codes with all partner agencies, involving stakeholders in development of local amendments, for an implementation date of January 1, 2008. Emphasis was on areas of greatest risk, including structures built in the wildland interface areas, high rise buildings, and residential occupancies. Staff attended classes and delivered training to over 100 customers in order to assist in smooth transition to the new codes. Over 50 guidelines were also updated to assist customers in designing to new requirements.

- *Risk Data Analysis and Improvement:* The focus of the Investigations Services and the Risk Analysis and Mitigation Evaluation Sections has been on risk identification resulting in identification of the top causes of fires in communities protected by OCFA over the last 6 years. In addition, training in determining and docu-

menting fire cause was delivered to Operations staff, resulting in a 50% decrease in the number of undetermined fires and improved fire reports that include data necessary to identify risks.

- *Wildfire Hazard Maps:* Staff worked with CAL FIRE, partner agency staff, and landowners and developers to validate maps of urban-wildland interface areas in unincorporated Orange County and 22 cities based on vegetation (fuels), topography, weather patterns, and fire history. Based on the maps and new regulations for construction in high fire hazard areas, the first Orange County community subject to the new requirements received development entitlements, which include hazard mitigation



measures. These measures include community-wide vegetation planting palettes and maintenance requirements, as well as construction elements that will “harden” the home from flames and embers. In addition, all 14,000 homes will be protected with residential sprinkler systems.

Public Fireworks Displays and Illegal Fireworks

Each year in the United States, more than 10,000 people suffer eye injuries and burns

from fireworks, and 3,000 fires are caused by fireworks. Most of these incidents are related to the use of illegal fireworks, as well as State-approved fireworks that are lit by amateurs. In an effort to promote public safety, and the fact that we have been experiencing one of the driest fire seasons on record, the OCFA highly encouraged residents throughout Orange County to celebrate the July 4th holiday by attending one of the many spectacular public fireworks displays staged by licensed, trained professionals in lieu of using California State Fire Marshal approved consumer fireworks.

Only five cities in Orange County allow the sale, purchase and use of approved fireworks (Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Stanton). All other fireworks are illegal, and the sale, purchase, use, and possession of any fireworks outside those

cities (including the unincorporated areas) is illegal and can result in confiscation of the fireworks and/or fines. As a public service, the OCFA compiles a list of Public Displays for all of Orange County and makes it available on our website at www.ocfa.org. The list is also available in a recorded message in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese on the “Public Fireworks Display” line at (714) 573-6225. Any observance of illegal firework activity should be reported to local law enforcement or your local fire department.

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.





Graduates of OCFA Dispatch Academy #8 anticipate taking their official oath of office as Dispatchers in order to begin assisting people in distress. Graduation ceremonies were held in June 2007.

Making it happen



One of the largest fire departments in the state, the Orange County Fire Authority is comprised of 6 divisions and 8 battalions. The OCFA operates out of 61 fire stations with 808 career firefighters and 390 reserve firefighters, with a service area including 551 square miles and 120,000 acres of wildland. Our service population has grown from 1,351,398 in 2006 to 1,364,851 in 2007, an increase of about 1%. The number of housing units we protect increased from 477,003 in 2006 to 481,958 in 2007, or 4,925 more units. The OCFA Operations Department provides 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, Emergency Planning & Coordination section, Emergency Command Center (dispatch center) section, Emergency Medical Services section, Special Operations (helicopters, crews/equipment) section, Training and Safety section, and the volunteer Chaplain Program.

2007 Highlights

- *Service Delivery Enhancements* – The OCFA implemented initial service enhancements associated with the OCFA Emergency Services Deployment Study, as part of the recommendations that were adopted by the OCFA Board of Directors in September 2006 to add firefighter positions and upgrade existing

response vehicles to meet the specified performance standards. Three paramedic vans were placed into service; one at Station 45 (Rancho Santa Margarita), one at Station 57 (Aliso Viejo), and one at Station 27 (Irvine). Additionally, Engine 9 (Mission Viejo) was converted to a 4-person Paramedic-Engine, which has added enhanced paramedic service to the Saddleback Valley.

- *Improvements to Fire Safety* – In continuing efforts to improve firefighter safety, the OCFA transitioned all firefighters to a new, safer leather turnout boot that replaced an old style rubber boot. Additionally, all firefighters were transitioned to a new generation wildland fire shelter and received training on proper use.

- *Expanded the Tiered Emergency Medical Dispatch Program* – The OCFA continued to expand the Tiered Emergency Medical Dispatch Program that was implemented on July 1, 2006



OCFA's Honor Guard proudly poses in front of the United States Capitol.



with unanimous support from OCFA's Board of Directors. The goals of this program are to

- 1) maintain our current EMS system quality, including a swift dispatch of an OCFA unit

to the scene while more questioning is occurring with the dispatcher; 2) match the right resource for a specific call-type; and 3) reduce the risk to first-responders and the community from the hazards encountered during emergency vehicle response, by reducing the number of unwarranted Code 3 (lights and siren) emergency responses. Enhancements during 2007 included the addition of several call types to the protocols to now include Falls, Injuries, Illness, and Abdominal Pains, resulting in a 9.2% overall reduction in unnecessary Code 3 responses.

• *Planning and Preparation for Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism Incidents*

– The OCFA participated at the local, State, and Federal levels through legislative efforts, committee representation, training, and drills. Additionally, the OCFA completed a Mobilization Exercise in June 2007 at California State University, Fullerton, and participated in the Golden Guardian Exercise in Anaheim. As part of a statewide emergency preparation exercise, the OCFA participated in the “hands on” portion of the 2007 Golden Guardian Urban Search & Rescue Drill at Heritage Fields on November 15, 2007 on the former MCAS El Toro Base, through a public/private partnership with Lennar-Heritage Fields. This drill highlighted the work of local first responders with state and federal resources, and showcased more than 200 personnel and their preparedness and expertise in different types of disasters including earthquakes, floods, building collapses, terrorist



attacks, hurricanes and tsunamis. This was a graded exercise simulating a terrorist attack and the Southern California Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams, including California Task Force 5 (Orange County), California Task Force 2 (Los Angeles County) and Regional Task Force 3 (Long Beach), conducted mock rescue operations to test the effectiveness of their teams.

• *Improved Response Capabilities to Wildland Incidents* – The OCFA implemented several service delivery enhancements for wildland fires as a result of lessons learned. This included enhanced technology capabilities for on-scene resource management and communications, development of a wildland equipment cache, and improved response of support resources.

9 OCFA Dispatcher Recruits Receive Badges

A 911 call is where the fire service begins, and those calls are answered by our professional and highly trained staff of Fire Communications Dispatchers utilizing state-of-the-art equipment in the OCFA Emergency Command Center (ECC). Answering on average 500 emergency and non-emergency telephone calls per day, and processing and managing on average 250 daily incidents, the ECC is where the action starts. They are “First to Serve” our community.

In 2007, the OCFA Emergency Command Center hired nine new dispatchers through Orange County Fire Authority’s Academies #8 and

#9. The dispatcher recruits were put through an arduous six-week training session, which included a combination of extensive classroom instruction, Emergency Medical Dispatching instruction and certification, CPR certification, “lab” time with the



Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, tours of County fire stations, fire engine ride-a-longs, and tours of partner agency dispatch centers throughout Orange County. All nine candidates were honored in two separate Dispatcher Academy Graduation ceremonies held in the OCFA Board Room. Following graduation, each dispatcher was assigned to a shift and a Training Officer (experienced veteran Fire Communications Dispatcher) for up to one year of on-the-job training.

56 OCFA Career Firefighter Recruits Receive Badges

The OCFA is committed to ensuring that the residents it serves are protected by the most professional and highly-trained firefighters possible. The two Firefighter Recruit Academies held in 2007 at OCFA’s training grounds consisted 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 28 probationary firefighters received their badges at graduation ceremonies for Orange County Fire Authority’s Recruit Academy #32 on July 18, 2007.

- Recruit Academy #33 concluded on December 19, 2007, with the graduation of 28 recruits.



MAJOR INCIDENTS

241 Fire at Windy Ridge

Due to the heroic efforts of approximately 800 firefighters with more than 120 fire engines along with helicopters, air tankers and bulldozers, no homes were lost during the vegetation fire near the Windy Ridge Toll Plaza of the 241 Toll Road, which started on March 11, 2007



at 7:53 a.m. The fire moved quickly toward Canyon Rim Road and Serrano Road in Anaheim

Hills and Orange, driven by strong winds, and burned 2,036 acres. Two out-buildings were destroyed in the fire and two homes in Anaheim Hills received moderate roof damage.

Approximately 1,200 residents were evacuated on March 11th and all were allowed to return to their homes on March 12th. The fire was fueled by heavy winds and dry vegetation associated with a stolen car that was set on fire on the side of the southbound 241 Toll Road. This incident was fought under a Unified Command between the Orange County Fire Authority, Anaheim Fire Department, and the Orange Fire Department, and was 100% contained on March 13th at 12:00 noon. OCFA and CAL FIRE crews completed fire suppression repair efforts to help prevent erosion in areas where firefighters had removed vegetation while fighting the fire, and was supervised by OCFA's Wildland Fire Defense Planner in coordination with The Nature Conservancy. These repairs included the installation of water diversion bars



and the restoration of some environmental habitats and natural aesthetics of the area, wherever possible.

Gypsum Fire

The Gypsum Fire started on May 7, 2007 at 2:10 p.m. near Coal

Canyon Road at the 91 Freeway moving west, parallel to the Santa Ana River, and burned 140 acres. This vegetation fire was accidentally caused by a CalTrans road crew installing metal fencing along the 91 Freeway at Coal Canyon Road, and was driven by easterly winds. The fire was fought under the command of the Orange County Fire Authority, with the assistance and cooperation of several local agencies, including CAL FIRE, Anaheim Fire Department, Brea Fire Department, Santa Ana Fire Department, Orange Fire Department, Fountain Valley Fire Department, Newport Beach Fire Department, Huntington Beach Fire Department, Garden Grove Fire Department, Fullerton Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Cal-Trans, Brea Police Department, and Orange County Harbor Beaches and Parks. On-



scene fighting the fire were 47 fire engines, five helicopters, three air tankers, two bulldozers, and three water tenders. A mobile home park near Gypsum Canyon Road was evacuated, however, no homes were threatened during the fire, and it was 100% contained by 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2007.

Santiago Fire: “Together We Succeed”

In October 2007, Southern California experienced a siege of devastating fires that were driven by high winds, low humidity, and extremely dry vegetation that created exceptionally dangerous burning conditions. One of the 22 major fires during the 2007 fire siege was the Santiago Fire, which started at approximately 5:55 p.m. on October 21, 2007, and originated at Santiago Canyon Road and Silverado Canyon Road within the jurisdiction of the Orange

County Fire Authority.

The Santiago Fire was a confirmed arson fire that burned 28,517 acres and over 1,900 homes and businesses were evacuated in the rural communities of

Silverado Canyon, Modjeska Canyon, Williams Canyon, Hamilton Road, Live Oak Canyon, and Trabuco Canyon. OCFA staff, through our Occupant Liaison Program, assisted with transporting evacuated residents back into their homes to retrieve medication, animals, cherished belongings, and other possessions left behind. Recovering from a fire or other emergency can be a very difficult and time-consuming process, and this program provided highly trained individuals from our Fire Prevention and Operations Departments to render information and assistance to these displaced citizens in their time of need, as well as providing



active participation of our Chaplains through OCFA’s Chaplain Program and the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP). Evacuation shelters were opened at El Modena High School in Orange and El Toro High School in Lake Forest.

The Santiago Fire was fought under a Unified Command between the Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Sheriff’s Department, CAL FIRE, and the United States Forest Service, with assistance and cooperation from more than 250 local, State, Federal, private, and non-profit agencies. Irvine Park served as the Command Center for emergency operations. By the time the Santiago Fire was declared fully under control on November 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., a total of 1,941 firefighters had battled the blaze at its peak, with estimated damages of \$27,500,000. Despite the best and bravest efforts of the



“Together We Succeed”



firefighters, 14 homes, 4 commercial buildings, and 24 out-buildings were destroyed, and 8 homes, 3 commercial buildings, and 3 out-buildings were damaged. The Santiago Fire was the County's worst vegetation fire in 14 years, and the most destructive fire in Orange County since the 1993 Laguna Fire, which burned 14,337 acres and destroyed 441 homes. The Santiago Fire was the largest wildland fire in terms of acreage that the OCFA has faced in the past 30 years, and the most challenging and complex due to the interface area in which it burned, the age

of the fuels, and the sustained extreme wind event that drove the fire.

The men and women of the Orange County Fire Authority THANKYOU 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 Santiago Fire.

Modjeska Canyon Volunteer Firefighters Recognized

At the March 27, 2007 OCFA Board of Directors meeting, the Modjeska Canyon volunteer firefighters were recognized for 60 years of service to the residents of Modjeska Canyon. The Modjeska Canyon Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1947 when it started responding to calls with a Model "A"

Ford Truck. Today the firefighters work for the OCFA and serve the residents of Modjeska Canyon with a Fire Engine, Water Tender and Patrol Unit, responding to approximately 60 calls each year. Not only has the Modjeska Canyon volunteer firefighters responded to emergency incidents throughout the years, they have also served their fellow residents by participating in community events, including the annual Easter Pancake Breakfast, annual Fire Explorer Academy, and the Canyon Preparedness Academy.

OCFA Participates In Mock DUI Crashes

The OCFA was one of several agencies that participated in Mock DUI Crashes at Trabuco Hills



High School in Mission Viejo, Aliso Niguel High School in Aliso Viejo, and San Clemente High School. The Mock DUI Crash Program teaches teenagers the reality and grave consequences for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs by simulating live DUI car crashes involving students drinking, resulting in the death and serious injury of the students involved in the mock crash and the arrest of the drunk drivers. These events were sponsored by Friends Against Drinking and Driving (FADD), and other agencies that

participated included the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Mission Hospital, Medix Ambulance, Dunnivans Towing, S&K Towing, Trauma Intervention Group (TIP), and O'Connor Mortuary.

Your OCFA Occupant Liaison

Recovering from a fire or other emergency can be a difficult and time-consuming process. The Orange County Fire Authority, along with other emergency response agencies, is committed to helping those through such a difficult

time. The OCFA has established an Occupant Liaison Program to assist those who have suffered a loss or have been displaced from their home or residence. Your occupant liaison can assist you in the following areas:

- Obtaining fire reports
- Providing information about firefighting procedures
- Connecting you with other agencies that can provide assistance.

During the San-



tiago Fire, OCFA staff assisted, through our Occupant Liaison Program, with transporting evacuated residents back into their homes to retrieve medication, animals, cherished belongings, and other possessions left behind. This program provided highly trained individuals from our Fire Prevention and Operations Departments to render information and assistance to these displaced citizens in their time of need. For additional information about Occupant Liaisons, please contact the OCFA Operations Department at (714) 573-6027.

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

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Population Served	1,308,813	1,333,386	1,351,398	1,364,851
Dwelling Units	464,973	472,859	477,003	481,958
Assessed Values*	152,619,467,815	169,012,146,390	188,921,885,619	206,643,954,214
Fires	2,230	2,186	2,225	2,257
EMS	53,463	55,272	56,616	58,252
Ruptures	163	179	189	202
Hazmat	1,563	1,511	1,520	1,497
Service Call	5,063	5,388	5,644	5,383
Good Intent	11,058	12,685	12,617	12,314
False Alarms	4,356	4,575	4,731	4,920
Miscellaneous	2,017	869	260	827
Total All Incidents	79,913	82,665	83,802	85,652
Total Mutual Aid Received	4,649	4,949	5,348	5,035
Total Mutual Aid Provided	3,544	3,801	4,084	3,582
Total Property Loss	\$21,583,401	\$42,421,868	\$56,431,357	\$68,141,850
Total Fire Injuries	41	16	50	80
Total Fire Deaths	11	2	3	2
*Assessed values only for Orange County Fire Authority areas served.				

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, 2007

Total Incidents by Major Category

January 1 -December 31, 2007

Jurisdiction	Unit Responses	Jurisdiction	Fires	EMS	Other	Total
Aliso Viejo	5,288	Aliso Viejo	44	1,359	606	2,009
Buena Park	11,885	Buena Park	152	3,906	1,320	5,378
Cypress	6,969	Cypress	68	1,826	677	2,571
Dana Point	7,054	Dana Point	68	1,861	792	2,721
Irvine	27,945	Irvine	360	6,834	4,406	11,600
Laguna Hills	6,141	Laguna Hills	63	1,657	714	2,434
Laguna Niguel	8,463	Laguna Niguel	72	2,104	882	3,058
Laguna Woods	10,641	Laguna Woods	17	3,435	852	4,304
Lake Forest	10,516	Lake Forest	104	2,971	1,093	4,168
La Palma	2,033	La Palma	23	582	169	774
Los Alamitos	3,108	Los Alamitos	33	745	292	1,070
Mission Viejo	14,777	Mission Viejo	140	4,278	1,502	5,920
Placentia	6,898	Placentia	68	1,946	791	2,805
Rancho Santa Margarita	4,637	Rancho Santa Margarita	42	1,368	538	1,948
San Clemente	8,829	San Clemente	102	2,446	1,256	3,804
San Juan Capistrano	7,309	San Juan Capistrano	61	1,844	713	2,618
Seal Beach	10,039	Seal Beach	46	2,786	570	3,402
Stanton	4,964	Stanton	53	1,671	683	2,407
Tustin	11,618	Tustin	120	2,736	1,063	3,919
Villa Park	887	Villa Park	9	227	111	347
Westminster	13,152	Westminster	133	4,341	1,191	5,665
Yorba Linda	8,652	Yorba Linda	81	2,016	947	3,044
Unincorporated	19,331	Unincorporated	175	4,041	1,893	6,109
In County Aid	4,215	In County Mutual Aid	207	1,375	1,602	3,184
Out of County	662	Out of County	18	161	203	382
Total	216,013	Total	2,261	58,518	24,873	85,652

TOTAL RESPONSES BY UNIT

Air Utilities		Engines		Engines	
	# of Responses		# of Responses		# of Responses
A2	22	PAU E28	1,911	E16	80
A30	30	PAU E63	1,903	E223	74
Battalion Chiefs		E57	1,677	E14	58
B4	467	PM E9	1,658	E307	42
B3	403	PAU E35	1,628	E240	41
B6	389	PAU E39	1,593	E357	41
B8	359	E4	1,589	E315	36
B5	311	PAU E13	1,562	E330	35
B1	299	PAU E30	1,559	E342	34
B7	282	PM E51	1,554	E252	32
B2	212	E45	1,509	E318	31
Engines		PAU E50	1,500	E332	31
PM E222	3,652*	PAU E25	1,460	E208	29
PM E22	3,600*	E17	1,458	E231	27
PM E61	3,571*	PAU E2	1,403	E250	27
PM E29	3,040	PAU E10	1,355	E326	27
PM E19	2,984	PM E58	1,340	E205	22
E 48	2,874	E38	1,336	E247	22
PM E24	2,777	E5	1,301	E221	20
E21	2,671	E32	1,216	E210	17
PM E46	2,598	PM E23	1,083	Etemp	744**
PM E34	2,559	PAU E54	1,078	Hand Crews	
PM E64	2,475	PAU E44	934	G1	91
E7	2,430	PAU E47	925	G18	67
PM E36	2,382	PAU E55	887	G2	15
PM E66	2,320	PAU E8	672	Investigators	
PM E60	2,225	PAU E42	496	16	234
PM E62	2,160	PAU E53	482	12	34
PM E65	2,116	PAU E40	422	13	22
E26	2,113	PAU E18	321	110	11
E31	2,081	E3	184	15	5
PM E6	1,989	PAU E15	139	11	5
PAU E37	1,929	E27	106	19	1
		E11	84		

TOTAL RESPONSES BY UNIT

Bulldozers	# of Responses	Ambulances	# of Responses	Patrols/Squads	# of Responses
K2	68	ET64	2,742	P16	90
K1	65	ET50	2,646	P11	89
K3	19	ET66	2,133	S44	82
Water Tenders		Paramedic Vans		P14	62
W7	67	M21	3,397	S21	51
W40	60	M48	3,088	S26	15
W10	53	M17	2,799	S14	5
W16	44	M7	2,379	S11	2
W18	3	M26	2,373	S18	2
John Wayne Airport		M5	2,264	S23	1
Crash Unit 1	454	M4	2,176	Trucks	
Crash Unit 3	403	M31	2,107	T22	1,656
Crash Unit 4	133	M38	1,468	T59	1,373
Crash Unit 5	109	M32	1,444	T4	1,199
Crash Unit 2	52	M57	907	T49	1,093
Helicopters		M45	732	T61	1,066
HC41	116	M27	89	T46	1,040
HC241	81	Mtemp	185**	T64	932
Helicopter Support		Patrols/Squads		T9	922
HT41	19	S19	782	T6	920
HS41	8	S24	661	T34	861
HT241	2	P21	558	T43	842
Service Support		P7	544	T45	786
S91	95	P26	484	T17	763
Haz Mat		S25	369	Ttemp	15**
H4	85	P30	297	E - Engine PAU - Paramedic Assessment Unit PM - Paramedic Engine * Enroutes, not dispatches ** Temporary Units	
H204	64	S2	267		
		S13	256		
		P10	255		
		S3	190		
		P32	170		
		P18	147		
		P40	134		
		P23	102		



Providing the Best Support

2007 Highlights

- *Major Fire Station*

Construction Projects:

Construction was completed of Fire Station 27 (Portola Springs), Fire Station 38 (Irvine), Fire

Station 39 (Laguna Niguel), and Fire Station 29 (Dana Point). Additionally, the OCFA finalized the determination of location and response needs for Temporary Fire Station 20 (Irvine).

- *Implementation of Service Enhancements:*

In July 2007, the OCFA placed new units in service that will enhance our ability to respond to emergency incidents. The OCFA Emergency Resource Deployment Study identified areas where

performance could be enhanced. As a result, the following units were placed into service:

Engine 9 (Mission Viejo) was converted to a Paramedic Engine; Paramedic Engine 45

(Rancho Santa Margarita) was converted to a Basic Life Support Engine; Medic Van 45 (Rancho Santa Margarita) was placed into service with two Firefighter Paramedics; Engine 57 (Aliso Viejo)



was converted to a Basic Life Support Engine; and Medic Van 57 (Aliso Viejo) was placed into service with two Firefighter Paramedics.

- *Fleet Management Study Implementation:*



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, and increases in service demands (Strategic Services).



As part of the Fleet Services Management Study implementation, OCFA's Information Technology and Fleet Services Sections finalized the "stakeholder" needs assessment to determine the implementation process and hardware/software needs as they relate to the Fleet Management Study. Information collection has been completed for finalization of the Request for Proposals to proceed with completion of the implementation of the Fleet Management recommendations.

- *County-Wide Traffic Signal Pre-Emption*

Plan: Consensus gathering was completed and the implementation phase of the Traffic Signal Pre-Emption Plan is continuing. The initial installation phase is continuing throughout a number of our partner cities and ongoing discussions continue as to the coding of the pre-emption devices to consolidate agreements between the OCFA and law enforcement. This will ultimately result in increased safety of emergency response personnel and reduced response times throughout our service delivery system.

- *Legislation to Enhance Financial Stability of OCFA Programs:* The OCFA secured introduction of legislation to formally authorize the Federal



Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue Program (US&R) and stabilize funding, including securing annual appropriation of \$32.5 million for the US&R system. The OCFA supported legislation, which was successfully passed and signed into law, to address fireworks seizure and disposal costs. Additionally, OCFA staff secured legislation to provide flexibility and increased efficiency in the construction process for one of OCFA's fire stations.

Ford Motor Company Donates 10 Vehicles to OCFA

The devastating wildfires in Southern California in October 2007 created an enormous



strain on local firefighting and support resources. Due to this tremendous direct impact, the OCFA was one of many agencies directly impacted by the siege and whose resources were brought to bear in order to fight the Santiago Fire, even as we were assisting other jurisdictions in their time of need. At the onset of the fires, Ford Motor Company contacted Orange County 3rd District Supervisor Bill Campbell's Office to offer the donation of ten new vehicles

to support the massive firefighting and recovery efforts, including six F250 Super Duty 4x4 pick-up trucks and four 4x4 Expedition SUVs. This gracious and selfless donation from Ford Motor Company allowed OCFA staff to immediately begin transporting evacuated residents back into their homes to retrieve medication, animals, other cherished belongings left behind, and provide assistance to displaced citizens in their time of need. Additionally, this donation

will continue to provide a direct and positive impact to the OCFA and the citizens we serve by using the vehicles to provide support services to all 61 OCFA fire stations.

New Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle Joins OCFA Fleet

The Orange County Fire Authority purchased a brand new Hazardous Materials



Response Vehicle that is housed at Fire Station 4 near UC Irvine. The vehicle was purchased with a \$500,000 Federal Office of Domestic Preparedness Grant and replaces OCFA's older Hazardous Materials unit that had been in service since 1987. Designated as Haz-Mat 4, the new vehicle enhances OCFA's ability to deal with industrial hazardous materials releases and acts of nuclear/biological/chemical terrorism. Haz-Mat 4 was built with both current and future





needs in mind, incorporating the latest technologies to support advanced communications and analytical instrumentation needs. Haz-Mat 4 is staffed by cross-trained firefighter/haz-mat specialists on an as-needed basis when there are incidents involving hazardous materials of any kind. This unit also responds to all multiple alarm fires in OCFA's jurisdiction for water runoff and air monitoring purposes.

16 New Fire Engines and Paramedic Van Placed into Service

The Orange County Fire Authority placed 16 new fire engines into service in 2007 in the cities

of Los Alamitos, Laguna Niguel, Irvine, Mission Viejo, Tustin, Villa Park, Dana Point, Yorba Linda, Lake Forest, Rancho Santa Margarita, Aliso Viejo, San Clemente, and Westminster. These new fire engines are 2007 E-One Cyclone engines, and are designed to handle almost any

kind of emergency incident, including structure fires, high-rise fires and rescues, automobile accidents and paramedic calls. Each fire engine cost approximately \$334,514 and has a 500 gallon water tank with a 10 gallon foam tank.

Medic 27 (Irvine) is a new paramedic van that shares the same fire station with Engine 27. Medic 27 is staffed with a 2-person firefighter/paramedic crew. 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.

An OCFA strike team prepares to embark on a military hovercraft to Catalina Island to assist in fighting a vegetation fire in May 2007.



OCFA Opens 4 New Fire Stations

Three new fire stations, which replaced older stations, were dedicated in Dana Point, Laguna Niguel and Irvine, while a brand new station was opened in the Portola Springs area of Irvine in 2007.

A Grand Opening Ceremony was held on February 24, 2007 for Fire Station 29 located at 26111 Victoria Blvd. in Dana Point. Speaking at the event were Dana Point Mayor Diane Harkey and Council Member and OCFA Board Member Joel Bishop.

Located at 24241 Avila Road, the dedication



ceremony celebrating the opening of new Fire Station 39 in Laguna Niguel was held on June 26, 2007. This modern and energy efficient facility replaced a trailer that had been on the same site since 1982. Attending the

dedication ceremony was Laguna Niguel Mayor Gary Capata, Mayor Pro Tem Paul Glaab, Council Member Linda Lindholm, Council Member Robert Ming, and Council Member and OCFA Board Member Mike Whipple.

The new Fire Station 38 in Irvine replaced an older trailer facility that had been in operation

for more than 25 years. Built with funds provided by the Irvine Company, Fire Station 38 is located at 26 Parker. The grand opening ceremony was held on November 13, 2007.

Several dignitaries from the City of Irvine attended the dedication of Fire Station 27 in Portola Springs on October 3, 2007. Speaking at the event were Irvine Mayor Beth Krom and Council Member Christina Shea, OCFA Board Chair R. Craig Scott, and Irvine Police Chief David Maggard.

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

2007 Highlights

- *Renew OCFA's JPA Agreement:*

The OCFA's Joint Powers Authority Agreement expires June 30, 2010. Although we had more than three years before the expiration, we believed it was prudent to begin discussions and identify issues early in the renewal process. Discussions were initiated with City Managers and the County's Executive Office

at the beginning of calendar year 2007. By June 2007, a tentative agreement for renewal had been achieved among all representatives of our working group. In November 2007, the OCFA Board of Directors reviewed the proposed renewal agreement and authorized staff to present the proposal to each of our 23 member agencies for consideration and approval. The November 15, 2007 Board action represented achievement of our 2007 goal to reach conceptual agreement for a JPA Renewal by the end of calendar year 2007.

- *Take actions to continue building a strong financial future:* Several actions were taken in

2007 to continue building our financial health;

- (1) A short-term debt policy was developed and approved by the Board of Directors to formalize our practices for addressing annual cashflow deficits which occur due to the mismatch in timing of revenues compared to expenditures;
- (2) A prepayment of one-half of OCFA's annual pension obligation was made in July to realize a 3.875% discount on retirement costs,

The Business Services Department provides financial functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial systems support, 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, investments, issuance of long and short-term debt, budget development, fiscal monitoring, and administrative support (Treasury & Financial Planning).



which resulted in a reduction to expenditures of \$644,000. Furthermore, staff is working to

expand our use of the discount program to maximize the discount available by paying the full annual contribution in January for the following fiscal year to achieve a 7.75% discount; (3) Staff developed a financial strategy to shorten the amortization period of our unfunded pension liability with the Retirement System. Shorten-

ing the amortization period will require OCFA to pay increased costs in the near-term while our finances are strong, and will result in significantly lower costs in the future, when our finances are less predictable and may be weaker.

• *Modernize our Information Technology systems:* The OCFA has a strong information technology infrastructure, which was established when we constructed the Regional Fire Operations & Training Center; however, many of the IT systems themselves have not been replaced since the 1980's and do not function in an integrated manner using modern technology. Following completion of an IT Master Plan in 2006, staff embarked on an aggressive plan 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. This is a multi-



year goal, and major milestones completed in 2007 included:
~ Completed Countywide Interoperability Projects to provide shared GIS data and standard

GIS mapping features among all fire departments in Orange County. The interoperability projects also provided improved Countywide wireless communication capabilities, and established a Countywide Automatic Vehicle Location program which will ultimately be used throughout the County to dispatch the closest fire resources to an incident, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries between various fire departments.

~ Created our own OCFA Enterprise GIS and began the process of converting run maps, and rolling out the new and improved run maps to all stations.



~ Completed the Microsoft Exchange Upgrade, which enabled the roll-out of remote access to OCFA e-mail and the Intranet and eliminated the need for many laptop computers that employees had previously used for dial-up or VPN access to e-mail.

~ Implemented a Storage Area Network, substantially improving the backup process for all servers in our network, and implemented Network Monitoring, which included hardware and software to provide us with proactive analysis of network traffic and performance.

~ Developed and implemented Interactive Voice Response to enable customers to obtain plan review and inspection status from the Internet, freeing up staff time.

~ Implemented an auto-spam filter which enables employees to filter their own e-mail and eliminated the need for an IT employee to

manually process spam.

~ Implemented a Post-Incident IT & Ops Joint Review Team to identify areas that IT can better support Ops before, during, and after a major incident.

~ Initiated the Public Safety Systems Project and issued a Request for Information to gather a library of information pertaining to various public safety technology systems that are available and features that are offered.

~ Updated the OCFA's Purchasing Practices: A new system was implemented to enable vendors to register on-line for conducting business with OCFA and to allow for electronic issuance of Requests for Proposals, as well as to receive electronic responses. In addition, policies and practices were formalized and documented

to create a new Vendor Guideline booklet and to establish a new Purchasing Manual for internal use. As a result of implementing the electronic bid system, formalizing policies and practices into documented manuals, and other purchasing improvements, our Purchasing Section received an Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute.

OCFA Receives Over \$6 Million in Grants, Donations, and Reimbursement Revenue

✓ \$2.7 million in grants was acquired through the Urban Area Security Initiative (\$1,273,900); Urban Search and Rescue (\$807,800); and State Homeland Security Grant (\$578,300).

✓ State reimbursements for emergency response totaled \$2,330,064.

✓ Federal reimbursements for emergency response totaled \$1,305,215.

* Please note: The amounts listed do not include any reimbursements from the October 2007 Santiago Fire.



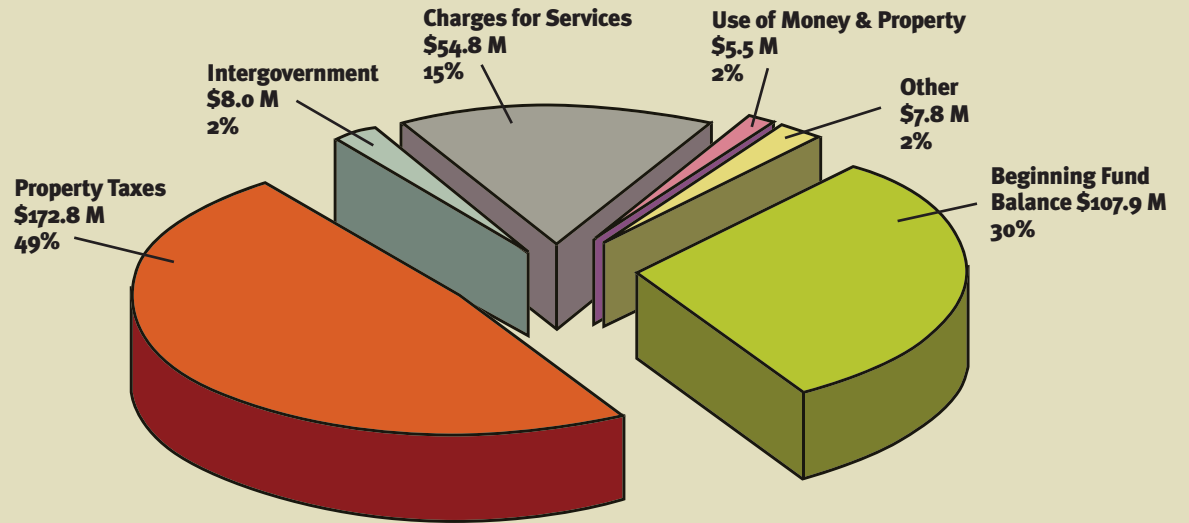
For additional information about our budget, including financial and investment services, purchasing and doing business with the OCFA, or Information Systems Development, please contact the OCFA at (714) 573-6000, or visit OCFA's website at www.ocfa.org.

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

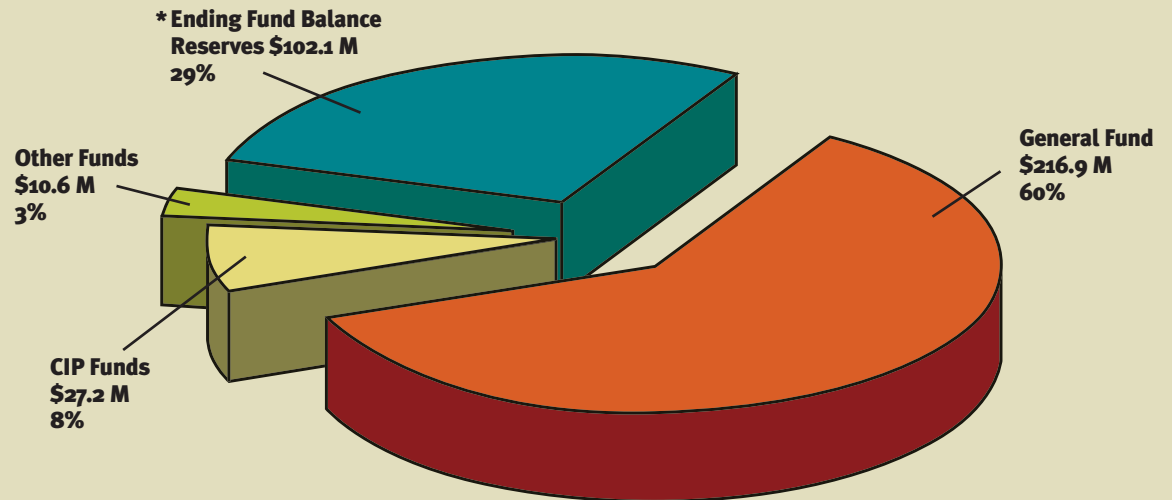
	FY 2003/2004	FY 2004/2005	FY2005/2006	FY 2006/2007	FY 2007/2008
Salaries & Benefits	152,063,507	159,716,155	176,921,490	194,429,276	194,777,474
Services & Supplies	18,542,926	19,906,300	21,721,166	22,037,147	22,273,924
Capital Outlay	586,009	296,833	49,928	66,894	0
Debt Service	525,536	659,513	664,621	1,092,920	1,118,758
Total	171,717,978	180,578,801	199,357,205	217,626,237	218,170,156
General Fund					
Facilities Maint. & Imps.	2,216,029	1,382,578	1,745,398	1,483,613	1,255,700
Capital Projects	923,563	10,838,772	4,546,271	2,435,347	1,478,837
Comm. & Info. Systems	1,392,311	1,600,531	3,116,751	7,382,020	16,726,125
RFOTC	7,652,318	1,061,559			
Vehicle Replacement	7,131,946	5,133,326	7,371,079	10,440,891	12,754,723
Self-Insurance	8,526,353	7,866,143	9,303,478	6,892,022	6,681,881
Debt Service	3,664,175	3,663,700	3,662,900	3,664,500	3,662,263
Total Budget*	203,224,673	212,125,410	229,103,082	249,924,630	260,729,685
Staffing Level					
Firefighters	764	764	778	792	808
Fire Management	40	40	40	41	41
Professional Staff	274	276	267	278	278
Total	1,078	1,080	1,085	1,111	1,127
Reserve Firefighters	355	357	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





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 development/training (Organizational Training & Development), and benefits administration (Employee Benefits and Services).

2007 Highlights

- *Conducted Testing for the "Open Entry Firefighter Recruitment"*: With the implementation of the Recruitment Outreach Program in 2006 to improve diversity of OCFA's workforce,

the OCFA received approximately 4,046 applicants during the recruitment phase.

- *Automated the Current Job Application Process*: All OCFA applications and data collection are currently electronically processed, creating a streamlined administrative procedure. The current increased level of recruitment activity placed a higher demand on staff relative to administrative support, and the electronic process addressed this demand. The system not only mitigates the workload associated with higher recruitment activity, but also creates a comprehensive applicant demographics database to assist staff in future recruitment outreach and activity planning.

- *Developed a Comprehensive Security Plan for the RFOTC Facility*: The Security Plan focuses on maintaining a facility at OCFA headquarters that is readily accessible to the community, with sufficient levels of security to safeguard its assets and resources on a daily basis, and in times of national crisis.

- *Received 2007 "Health at Work" Silver Award for the WEFIT Program*: The OCFA was the proud recipient of the 3rd Annual "Health at Work" Award, and recognized for demonstrating

a commitment to promoting health and wellness for its employees through the voluntary WEFIT Program, which promotes health and wellness for all OCFA employees. The WEFIT Program was implemented in 2004 with Board of Directors approval, and includes the following major components: Medical Exam & Fitness Evaluation; Fitness & Health Programs; Immunizations & Disease Screening; Medical/Fitness/Injury Rehabilitation; and Data Gathering and Program Evaluation. Current program participation is approximately 94% and the firefighter injury rate has decreased since the inception of the WEFIT Program.

OCFA Discusses Recruitment Efforts with Community Leaders

To ensure that the Orange County Fire Authority is receiving applications from the "best of the best," Fire Chief Chip Prather and other OCFA staff met with community leaders on June 21, 2007, to brainstorm and generate ways to enhance recruitment efforts across Orange County. Among those participating in this event were the Reverend Mark Whitlock (Christ Our Redeemer AME Church in Irvine),

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.

Irvine Mayor Beth Krom, Sergio Prince (Assistant to Orange County Supervisor Pat Bates), Donald Craig (NAACP), Dr. Thomas Parham (Assistant Vice-Chancellor, UC Irvine), the Reverend Frank Jackson (100 Black Men), and Gary and Gwen Oden (Oden Commission). Also in attendance were several small businesses to discuss the contracting process so they have an opportunity to do business with the OCFA, and college students were also present to explore opportunities for employment with the OCFA. Many ideas and various means of outreach were discussed at the meeting, including adding a recruitment message to existing OCFA school programs, holding job fairs in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week, and sharing a database of community organizations and events.

OCFA Releases Study on the Effects of Dehydration and the Physical Stresses Placed on Firefighters

In an effort to gain insight into the job demands placed on firefighters, the OCFA embarked on a week-long Hydration and Core

Body Temperature Study at its Regional Fire Operations & Training Facility in August 2007. The volunteer study evaluated 126 Orange County firefighters on the effects dehydration and physical stresses placed on them while performing their rigorous duties. It required firefighters to ingest a core body temperature capsule, provide a urine sample, and wear a heart rate monitoring unit. Core body temperature and heart rate readings were measured and recorded during two 15-minute firefighting drills. At the conclusion of the drills, firefighters were assigned to one of four cooling stations where they remained for a 20-minute rehabilitation period testing various cooling measures. The confirmed results indicated that 91% of firefighters were dehydrated prior to commencing the study, and also confirmed that firefighters are required to work at a high intensity and that they may also be required to maintain those high work levels for extended periods of time. The personal protective gear worn by firefighters weighs up to 60 pounds, and the additional weight alone places an increased demand on the cardiovascular system. Therefore, given the stringent physical demands inherent in the profession,

firefighters must be aware of risk factors that may impact cardiovascular health, as is the case for working in hot environments as well. The high temperature of fire, sometimes combined with high outside temperatures, creates a dangerous environment for firefighters who may be carrying 60 pounds of protective gear and another 40 pounds of fire suppression equipment. The study concluded that firefighters should apply cooling measures as soon as possible after physical activities, especially intense firefighting tasks, to lower their eventual peak core body temperature. One important finding was that even after 20 minutes of rest, few core body temperatures had returned to starting temperatures. The study shows the connection between cardiovascular strain and heat stress, and what can be done to minimize the increase in core body temperature during an incident. It also calls for some action items including educating firefighters on proper hydration and overall fitness, establishing medical screenings for firefighters, and developing rehabilitation protocols. The final report can be viewed in its entirety on our website at www.ocfa.org/_uploads/pdf/hydrationstudy.pdf.

Maintaining excellence in service



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

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

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

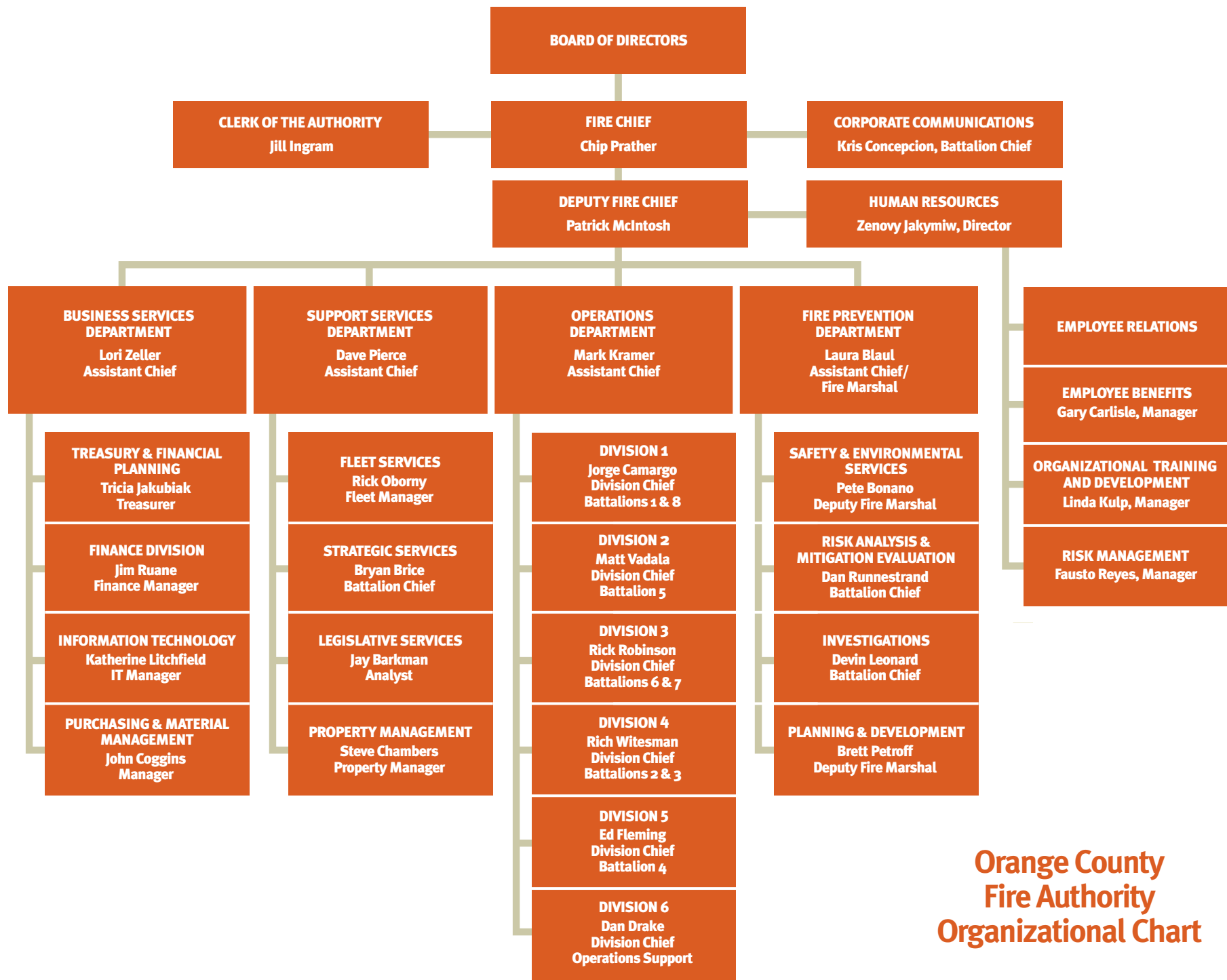


Tell Us What You Think...

Help us with next year's Annual Report. Is there anything that you would like to see added to our Annual Report.....more photos, statistics, fire prevention or community safety information? Please give us your ideas by taking a short survey on our website at www.ocfa.org.

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.





**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.org 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)

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)



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



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