

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE



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OCFA Board Approves Emergency Response Standards

Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Board of Directors Chair Keri Wilson is pleased to announce that the Board approved recommendations to assure system service delivery levels to the more than 1.3 million residents it serves. The action was taken at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting tonight.

The OCFA provides fire, rescue, paramedic and special hazards emergency response in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of Orange County. OCFA's response area totals 553 square miles.

The recommendations were part of an 18-month Deployment Study of OCFA operational resources conducted by a third party consultant, Emergency Services Consulting Inc. The study included a series of comprehensive interviews with stakeholders, both internal and external to:

- Assess community risk
- Define emergency response performance standards
- Plan future fire station locations

The action authorizes the OCFA to incrementally add firefighter positions and to upgrade existing response vehicles to meet the specified performance standards. As a result of the study, effective in the Spring of 2007, a paramedic van will be placed into service at Fire Station 45 in Rancho Santa Margarita and at Fire Station 57 in Aliso Viejo and additional paramedic enhancements will be made at one of OCFA's three fire stations in Mission Viejo. This will add much needed paramedic service to the Saddleback Valley.

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