



# NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority  
Captain Greg McKeown/PIO

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July 2, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: Orange County Fire Authority to Put Wildland Handcrew Into Service**

**Contact:** Captain Greg McKeown, PIO (714) 573-6201 or [gregmckeown@ocfa.org](mailto:gregmckeown@ocfa.org)

**Irvine, CA** – The Orange County Fire Authority's (OCFA) Wildland Handcrew to started it's fire academy today, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. OCFA Crew 1 will be operationally ready to respond starting Friday, July 16th.

"Having a Wildland Firefighting Crew here in Orange County enhances the OCFA's wildland firefighting capabilities", says Fire Captain/Superintendent John Lamb. "OCFA Crew 1 will increase our ability to keep wildfires small." OCFA Crew 1 will provide firefighting resources seven days a week and Crew 1 will consist of 22 OCFA firefighters dedicated to preventing and battling wildfires.

Crew 1 will be housed at OCFA Camp 18, located in Trabuco Canyon. Many firefighters come to the crew with wildland experience. Some of the members consist of the previous OCFA handcrew and some other have US Forest Service and CALFIRE experience. OCFA Crew 1 will not only be used to fight wildfires, but also to improve fire breaks in Orange County wildland areas and for fuels mitigation. OCFA Crew 1 is scheduled to be in service from July 16<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If you are interested in interview or photo opportunities, I've identified Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> as the best day for these. Please contact Captain McKeown with any questions or scheduling needs at 714-402-3739.

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*The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*

For important safety information, call (714) 573-6200 or go to [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org).