

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE



From the Office of Fire Chief Chip Prather

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCFA Awards Certificate of Heroism-Chief s Awards

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) awarded five Certificate of Heroism-Chief s Awards at its Board of Directors Meeting on March 23. The Certificate of Heroism-Chief s Award is the highest honor award by the OCFA to individuals who are not members of the OCFA.

Orange County Sheriff Deputies Pete Youngson, Tim Cullen and Kenneth Pan received their awards for rescuing an elderly man from a mobile home fire in Stanton on November 30, 2005. They attempted to enter the burning mobile home, but flames and smoke made it impossible for them to enter. They then went around to the back of the structure, smashed out a window and called for the trapped victim to walk to the sound of their voices. Despite suffering from smoke inhalation, the man was able to make his way to the window and the three Sheriff Deputies pulled him to safety.

Huntington Beach Police Officer Dave Stover was honored for rescuing three individuals from the freeway after they were involved in a traffic accident on December 15, 2005. Officer Stover was off duty when he came upon a BMW that had just been involved in an accident with a big rig truck. The two drivers were standing in the middle of the fast lane when he escorted them to the shoulder. Seconds later a third vehicle collided with the BMW and both vehicles burst into flames. Officer Stover then helped the driver of the third vehicle out of his burning car and led him to safety.

Willis Durfey received his Certificate of Heroism-Chief s Award for rescuing a victim from a burning vehicle on September 28, 2005. He stopped when he noticed two people trying to escape their burning vehicle. Despite the extremely dangerous conditions, he rushed to the car and assisted one of the injured victims to safety. Durfey then returned to

the vehicle to try and rescue the second victim, but had to eventually withdraw after suffering first degree burns to his forehead.

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.
