



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

Over the past seven years, I have witnessed your excellence on every type of incident imaginable, including a global pandemic in which we led the county's vaccination plan and upheld a perfect record of uninterrupted service.

It struck me then, and countless times since, that all of you — our firefighters and professional staff — understand the unique and significant responsibility of serving as an all-risk fire department in the sixth-largest county in the United States, even, and perhaps especially when faced with adversity.

Indeed, the collaborative teams that manifest our excellence and the speed with which our success often becomes the gold standard is, I would argue, unmatched by any other department in the nation.

While this Bulletin offers many points of pride to back that assertion — from Best & Bravest honorees to Independence Day Fire Prevention excellence — perhaps none encapsulate our standing as a model of best practices in the face of adversity more than our success during the Crowdstrike Outage.

We all know the anxiety that comes with the *Dreaded Blue Screen of Death*, but imagine that ominous glow enveloping an entire Emergency Command Center that fields hundreds of 911 calls a night.

That could be the stuff of nightmares, but our IT Team hit the ground running, first identifying the issue in collaboration with OCIC, and then working through the night to restore our CAD systems. All the while, our dispatchers and firefighters went "old school," flawlessly upholding our service standards and underscoring the value and depth of our training for worst-case scenarios.

Less than four hours later, even as much of the world continued to endure the perils of the outage, our CAD system was restored. More importantly, thanks to firefighters in all 78 stations monitoring their radios and verbalizing their status with our dispatchers, we quickly and proudly reported that the communities we serve experienced zero operational delays.

The following day, amidst a new cycle of unsettling stories — a worldwide airport interruptions, bank closures, and healthcare delays — the OCFA was again illuminated, not in a dreaded blue glow, but as a beacon of best practices, training, teamwork, and grit.

That is who we are, and as always, I am proud to thank and stand with you in our continued emergence as a national model for fire service excellence in both good and challenging times.

Sincerely,
Brian Fennessy
Fire Chief

ASK THE CHIEF

Want to Ask the Chief a question? Click the button below to get your question into the August Ask the Chief

Submit Question Here!

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

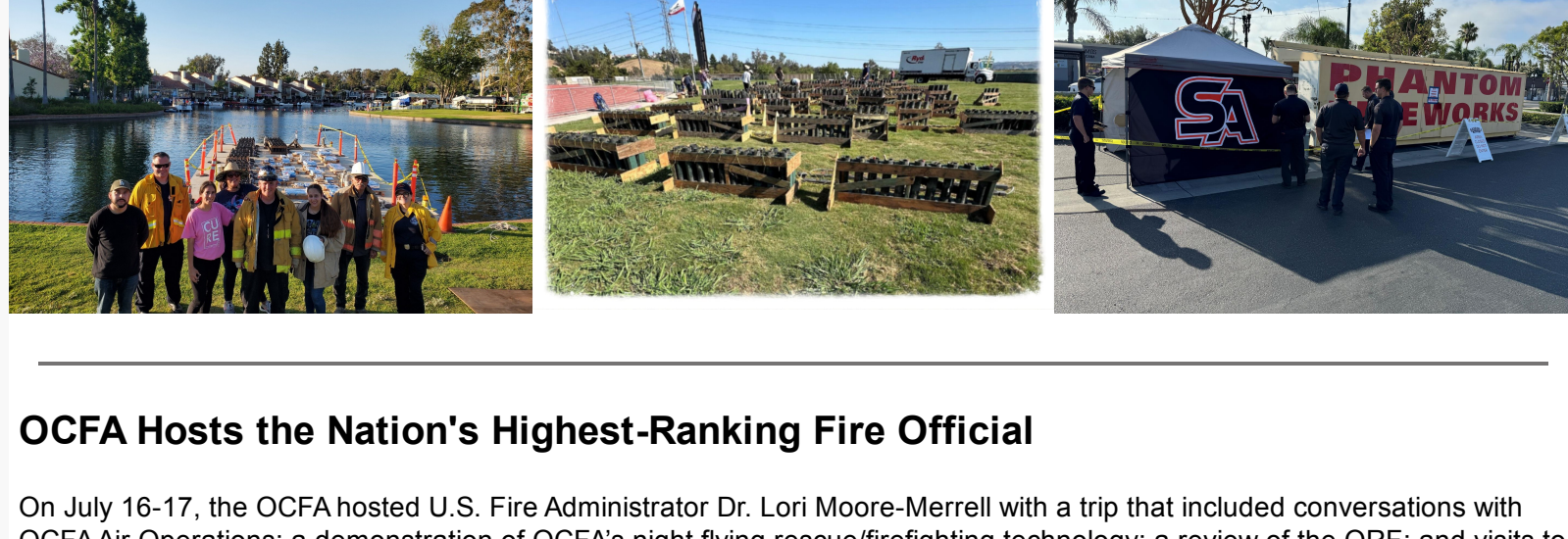
Crowdstrike Outage

On Thursday, July 18th, the world experienced an internet outage that temporarily disabled our CAD system. As indicated above, thanks in large part to our IT team, dispatchers, and firefighters, the OCFA experienced no operational delays. Click below for KCAL's highlight of OCFA's adaptability during the global internet outage.



New Crash 3 Vehicle Debuted at John Wayne Airport

On Monday, July 8, OCFA and its partners at JWA, celebrated the arrival of a new "Crash 3" vehicle. Equipped with the latest technology and safety features, Crash 3 significantly improves our efficiency and effectiveness in managing incidents, particularly those involving aircraft fires and flammable liquids.



Click for Photos of the Event

Independence Day Fire Prevention Excellence!

A HUGE shoutout to our Fire Prevention team for ensuring safe celebrations throughout Orange County on the 4th of July! There were more than 30 personnel working over 20 events with zero injuries or incidents reported!



OCFA Hosts the Nation's Highest-Ranking Fire Official

On July 16-17, the OCFA hosted U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell with a trip that included conversations with OCFA Air Operations, a demonstration of OCFA's night flying rescue firefighting technology, a review of the QRP, and visits to the Vista Fire and Lake Fire — incidents at which OCFA personnel were on the front lines. Her commitment to building a safer, better-funded fire service is evident in all that she does, including the new geospatial tool highlighted in the news story below.



16th Annual Best & Bravest Ceremony

On July 11th, we honored the many members of the OCFA who go above and beyond on a regular basis, and to recognize those who have brought extraordinary honor to our organization through their exceptional actions in their field. **CLICK BELOW** to see the highlight reel of the ceremony's winners!!



Watch Full B&B Ceremony

Photos of the Event

Watch B&B Sizzle Reel

San Juan Capistrano Vegetation Fires

A cross-section of OCFA excellence was integral in protecting life and property from the several arson-caused vegetation fires in San Juan Capistrano recently. First, our dispatchers, firefighters, hand crews, and air operations personnel put out the fires before they could spread to nearby communities; and then our investigators, in collaboration with OCSD, IPD, and ATF, investigated, tracked down, and successfully arrested the suspected arsonist on 10 counts of arson.



Click Here to Read Story of Arrest

Fill the Boot Campaign

In late June, the OCFA and the Orange County Professional Firefighters (Local 3031) partnered for the annual "Fill the Boot" to raise funds to research muscular dystrophy, ALS, and related neuromuscular diseases. Together, our crews raised more than **\$70,000** while having positive interactions with the communities we serve. Thank you to all who facilitated this event!



Wade Munson Honored as National EMT of the Year

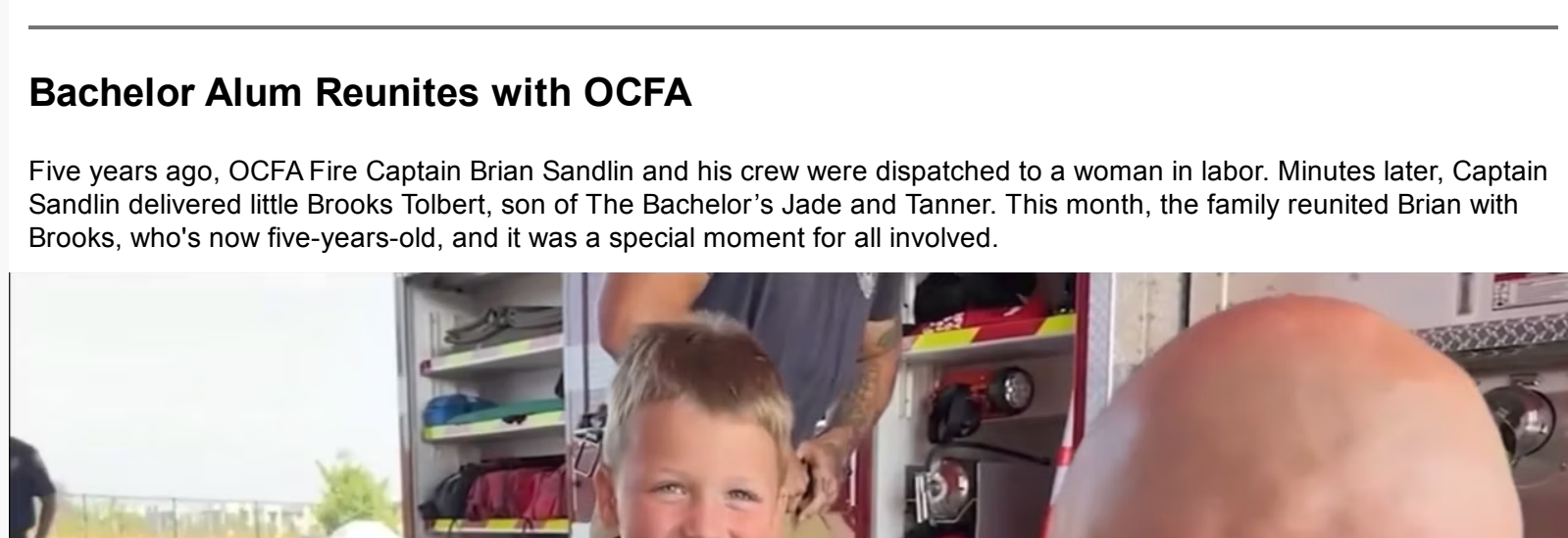
Wade Munson, Firefighter/Paramedic at Station 45, was recently honored with the prestigious "EMT of the Year" award by the VF-W Post 9026 in Mission Viejo. Please join us in congratulating Wade on this outstanding achievement!



Click Here for Social Media Post

Bachelor Alum Reunites with OCFA

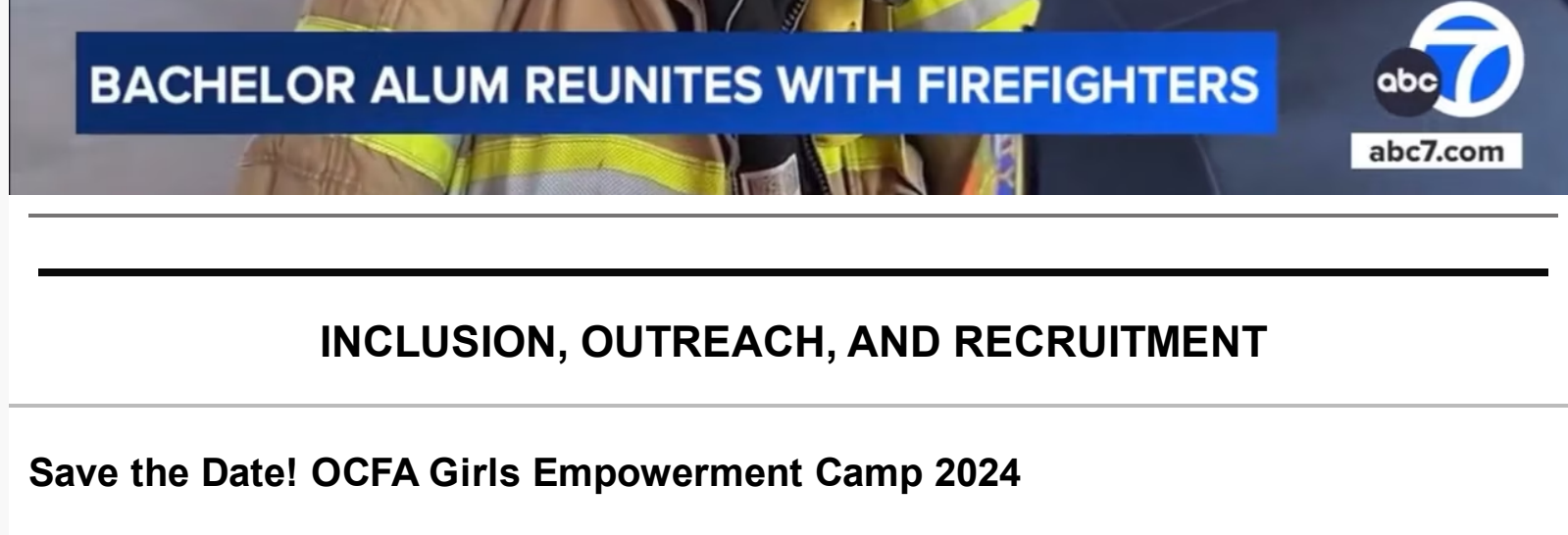
Five years ago, OCFA Fire Captain Brian Sandlin and his crew were dispatched to a woman in labor. Minutes later, Captain Sandlin delivered little Brooks Tolbert, son of The Bachelor's Jade and Tanner. This month, the family reunited Brian with Brooks, who's now five-years-old, and it was a special moment for all involved.



INCLUSION, OUTREACH, AND RECRUITMENT

Save the Date! OCFA Girls Empowerment Camp 2024

Join us for OCFA's 5th annual Girls Empowerment Camp on September 28-29, 0800 to 1700 both days. Application will be open August 6-30. Must be 14-18 to participate. Free to all campers! Questions? girls@ocfaweb.com or call 949.260.0000.



Download Girls Empowerment Camp Flyer!

SOCIAL MEDIA

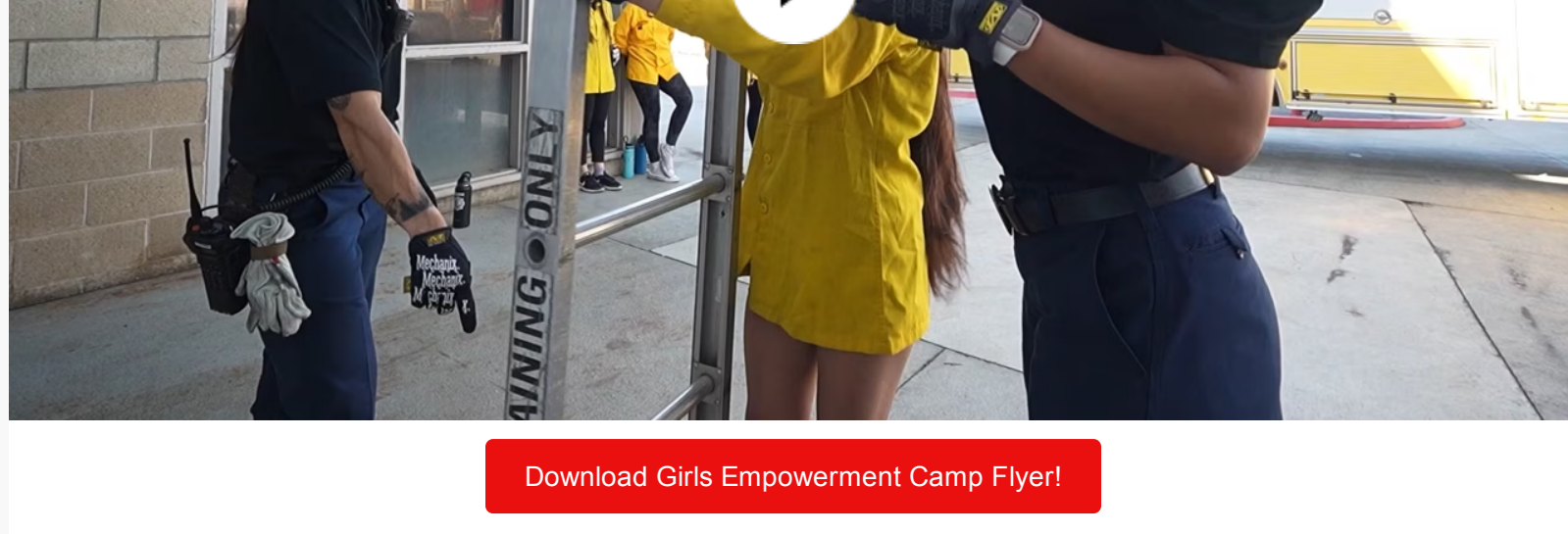


Click to Submit Photos/Videos

Top Social Media Posts

Lake Forest Traffic Collision

Summer Safety Messages



Click for Full Social Media Post

Click for Full Social Media Post

Westminster House Fire

Just before 5:30 am on July 5th, OCFA firefighters quickly extinguished a house fire, ensuring all 10 occupants were safe and evacuated. Firefighters also performed salvage operations to save as much of the residents' belongings as possible.



Click for Social Media Post

FIRIS Assist on Abduction/Amber Alert

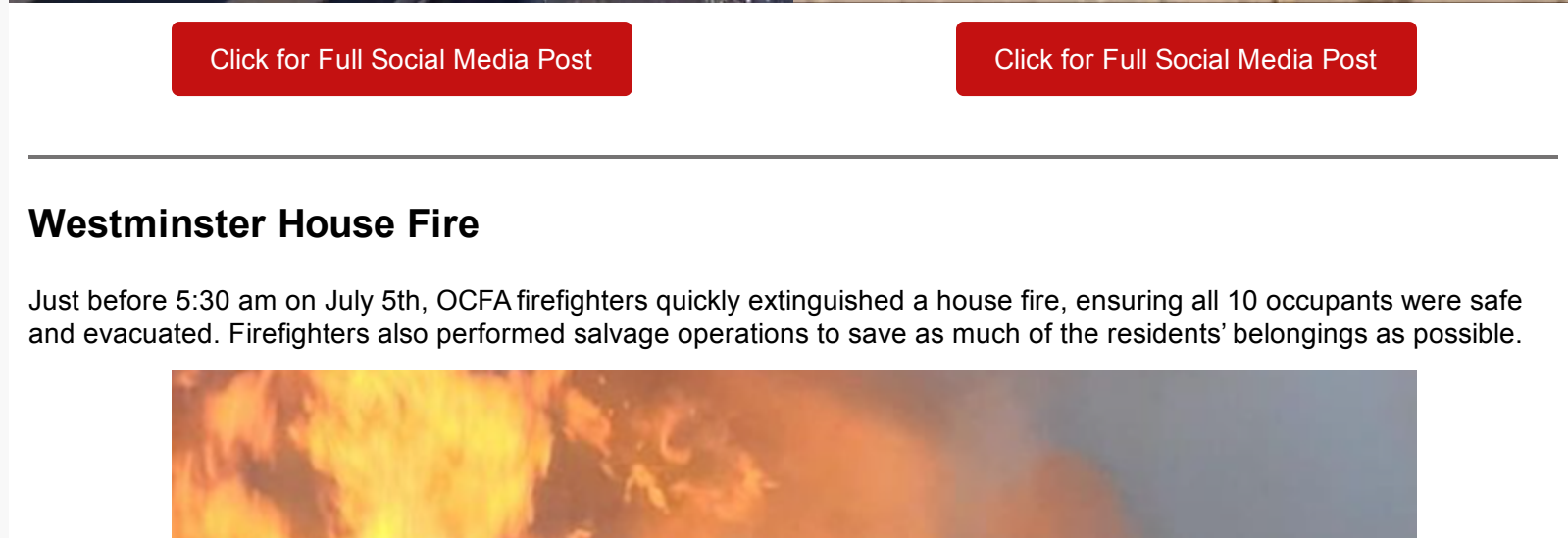
CPR Week - "Stayin' Alive"



Click for Full Social Media Post

Click for Full Social Media Post

New Handcrew Firefighters Graduate!



Click for Social Media Post

Orange County Fire Authority In the News

- CAL FIRE starts large-scale aerial night training in Northern California**
Yahoo! News - Jun 3, 2024
- Rideshare driver shoots man attacking woman outside of apartment in Orange County**
CBS News - Jun 3, 2024
- Earthquake rocks Orange County, California, as homes shake and drivers report hearing rumbles**
MSN.com - Jun 6, 2024
- Orange County Fire Authority posts eye-popping fireworks safety video**
Yahoo! News - Jun 7, 2024
- Car suspended by gushing water from sheared hydrant after crash in Lake Forest**
CBS News - Jun 8, 2024
- Burning car creates traffic snarl on 405 freeway in Orange County**
CBS News - Jun 8, 2024
- Gushing fire hydrant suspends car in the air**
Fox News Channel - Jun 10, 2024
- Wild video shows gushing fire hydrant suspending vehicle in the air after crash**
New York Post - Jun 10, 2024
- Watch: Firefighters Make Unusual Rescue From Ladera Ranch Trooplet**
Patch.com - Jun 21, 2024
- Crow entangled in sewing thread rescued from atop California tree**
Yahoo! News - Jun 12, 2024
- Fire Caused by BBQ Extinguished in South OC Home, OCFA**
Patch.com - Jun 24, 2024
- All that rain, and now all that brush on fire in Southern California. What gives?**
The Orange County Register - Jun 18, 2024
- Revvins Up Success: Team Kids' Flairjacks & Fast Cars Breakfast Boosts Community Spirit and Support**
Associated Press - Jun 19, 2024
- Alaska man dead after being hit by car while riding bike in Westminster**
CBS News - Jun 21, 2024
- 'Coal' fire breaks out near freeway in Orange County**
Yahoo! News - Jun 21, 2024
- SoCal fire departments send teams to help with wildfire response in New Mexico**
CBS News - Jun 21, 2024
- Child dies after incident at Wild Rivers Water Park in Irvine**
CBS News - Jun 22, 2024
- Orange County Fire Authority receives two new firefighting helicopters**
CBS News - Jun 22, 2024
- Brush fire breaks out at regional park in Costa Mesa, with winds carrying heavy smoke for miles**
The Orange County Register - Jun 23, 2024
- So-Cal Brush Fire Injures 2 Teens in OC, OCFA**
Patch.com - Jun 24, 2024
- Origin of Sunday's 8-acre brush fire in Costa Mesa remains under investigation**
Los Angeles Times - Jun 24, 2024
- Wrong-way Tesla driver flies into oncoming traffic in Orange County**
Yahoo! News - Jun 25, 2024
- OC-K-9s Injured Searching For Victims Of New Mexico Wildfires**
Patch.com - Jun 25, 2024
- 3 hospitalized after 6-vehicle crash in Buena Park**
The Orange County Register - Jun 25, 2024
- Violent six-car crash at Buena Park intersection sends three people to the hospital**
CBS News - Jun 25, 2024
- 'Wrong Way' Tesla Causes Multi-Car Crash On This Orange County Street**
Patch.com - Jun 26, 2024
- 2 men plead guilty to setting off illegal fireworks in Garden Grove in 2021, injuring 9 people**
The Orange County Register - Jun 26, 2024
- Orange County investigators searching for person who allegedly started numerous fires**
CBS News - Jun 28, 2024
- Some experts worry a drying climate means U.S. Drought Monitor tool isn't effective out West**
The Orange County Register - Jun 28, 2024
- OC officials: Illegal fireworks are dangerous, be smart with your Fourth of July celebrations**
The Orange County Register - Jun 28, 2024

Promotions



- Sandra Schulz, EMS Nurse Educator Supervisor
- Caleb Allen, Firefighter
- Trevor Ambrose, Firefighter
- Sean Bell, Firefighter
- Walker Bell, Firefighter
- Ryan Bents, Firefighter
- Elliott Broussard, Firefighter
- Sydney Briss Jenkins, Firefighter
- Matthew Carey, Firefighter
- Nicholas Castro, Fire Captain
- Nicholas Champion, Firefighter
- Christopher Chang, Fire Captain
- Michael Charney, Fire Captain
- Steven Choi, Fire Captain
- Quinn Collier, Firefighter
- Calen Coppock, Firefighter
- Brian Costanzo, Fire Captain
- Joel Costello, Firefighter
- Grant Cota, Firefighter
- Finn Erickson, Firefighter
- Jeffrey Galvin, Fire Apparatus Engineer/PM
- Aaron Goodman, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Torrence Grazzetta, Firefighter

- Noah Grinstead, Firefighter
- Charles Harrison, Firefighter
- Andrew Hernandez, Fire Captain
- Patrick Juckack, Heavy Fire Equipment Operator
- Kyle Khask, Firefighter
- Benjamin Lawrence, Firefighter
- Brandon Lugendorf, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Orest Martinis, Fire Captain
- Cade McLean, Firefighter
- Connor McLaughlin, Firefighter
- Rogelio Mora, Fire Captain
- Daniel Nare, Fire Captain
- Michael Nava, Firefighter - Overfill
- Ross Nelson, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Tanner Nava, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Travis Cleary, Firefighter
- Anthony Pappani, Fire Apparatus Engineer

- Samuel Peltman, Firefighter
- Franco Petruzzella, Firefighter
- Andrew Pklop, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Cameron Rohn, Fire Captain
- Jacob Sauls, Firefighter
- Jared Schaefer, Firefighter
- Luke Sheyda, Firefighter
- Samuel Sommers, Firefighter
- Collin Sorenson, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Erik Straub, Firefighter
- Andrew Street, Fire Captain
- Alexander Swanson, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Carter Tompkins, Firefighter - Overfill
- Jaime Torres, Fire Captain
- Shane Toth, Firefighter - Overfill
- Garrett Walback, Firefighter
- Ethan Zabala, Firefighter

- Patricia Garcia, Fire Communications Dispatcher
- Todd Mullenburg, Info Technology Manager
- Kelly Zimmerman, Fire Battalion Chief

RETIREMENTS

