



REPORT ON CONDITIONS

The official newsletter of
the Riverside County
Fire Department

Report On Conditions

Summer Edition
August 2003

Firefighters As Role Models

Engineer Dave Parker has always been involved with the communities where he has been stationed. After promoting to Cabazon Fire Station 24, Parker decided to start up a program he read about in a fire service magazine. *Firefighters As Role Models* (FARM) orients kids to the fire service, motivates them to achieve in school, teaches teamwork, and builds bonds between firefighters and the community.

The FARM program in Cabazon was started three years ago. The program is supported by firefighters from CDF, Riverside County Fire Department, USFS, BLM and Morongo Tribal Fire Department. The firefighters adopted two 4th grade classes at the Cabazon Elementary School. Firefighters go into the classroom once a month for an hour to help the teacher with curriculum such as reading, math, and social studies. They teach fire service related subjects like use of gear and first aid. In addition, the FARM students also go on two field trips that include a cooking program at Station 24 and a trip see the LA City Fire Boats in San Pedro.



Cabazon Student with Caliber

Station 24's fire dog *Caliber*, is of great inspiration and is a motivator to the kids. The school's Student of the Week gets to be in charge of the dog handling while firefighters are at the school.

The end of the school year in Cabazon brings a school-wide field day. Firefighters cook and serve hot dogs and hamburgers which have been donated from the Moose Lodge. The main event is the Mini Fire Muster. Events include water-ball and a bucket brigade. The muster winners receive trophies, and drawings are conducted that provide prizes for *every child* in school. The prizes are donations from the community and include backpacks, CDs, DVDs, hats, watches, and stuffed animals. The large prizes, two bicycles and helmets for *every class* in the school, are purchased with a \$1500 donation from the Morongo Casino.



Everyone Gets Wet at Waterball

Many of the firefighters become mentors to the students, and kids and mothers alike have great things to say about the partnership. "I think it's great, and really has helped my kids. In fact, my son is sure he wants to be a firefighter now," says mother Lisa Juarez. Teacher Tava Shore said, "I see the joy on these kids faces today, and I've seen it all year long. So, it must be successful just based on that alone, but kids talk to me about how much they learn." The FARM program is much more than fun and games for kids, it's educational too. Before FARM, there were some problems with kids starting fires in the area, but firefighters have seen those incidents drop to nearly zero. Clearly, the FARM program in Cabazon is a success for the Riverside Fire Department, Cabazon Elementary, and the community. If you ask these kids now what they want to be when they grow up, many will say "firefighters."



Bucket Brigade Provides Fun and Mud!

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Chief's Message

I would like to start this message with a heartfelt thank you to all of the employees of the Riverside Unit/Riverside County Fire Department for all of your hard work and dedication during our latest siege of fire and emergency activity. As always, I am proud to be associated with all of you!



I have had the opportunity to respond to most of the recent major fires, and am extremely impressed with the performance of our overall firefighting team. We are fighting fire aggressively and safely. Your efforts have resulted in less property loss and less injuries to department personnel.

I have also visited several injured firefighters at local area hospitals during their short stays to discuss safety and the importance of hydration with them.

With the recent activity giving all of us a sample of what is to come this fire season, there are several thoughts I would like to express.

The first and foremost topic is **safety**. This includes safety at the station level as well as on an emergency incident. I want to emphasize the importance of wearing and utilizing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), eye and respiratory protection, an appropriate physical fitness program, awareness and utilization of the 10 Standard Firefighter Orders and the 18 Situations that Shout Watch Out, LCES, and proper and adequate hydration prior to, during, and after incidents. There have already been several incidents of heat exhaustion on fires and most, if not all, could have been prevented or lessened with proper hydration of the individuals.

Fire response can become routine and firefighters can become complacent and tend to forego complete PPE utilization. This practice could easily lead to tragic injuries considering the intense fire behavior that has already occurred this season. With the dead, light fuels intertwined in heavier dead or dying fuels, we are seeing much more rapid and violent fire behavior than we have in the recent past. Please, make yourself and crewmates accountable to make sure all of your PPE is being worn and used properly at all times.

You will see the use of mutual aid resources a lot more this year than in the past, both into and out of Riverside County.

With the fire behavior and budget constraints facing all fire departments, we are all growing more dependent on each other for help during the initial attack and early stages of fires and other emergency incidents. I know that we can and will work well together with all of our brothers and sisters throughout the fire service to provide a coordinated and aggressive, yet safe, fire attack.

Chief Officers, Station Managers, and Company Officers must ensure that all personal protective equipment and operational equipment are in proper working order and are being utilized for their intended use. We cannot afford to have any injuries because of improper use or wearing of this equipment, as it causes pain and suffering for the individual and anguish and concern to their fellow workers. Watch out for the safety of yourself and all of your fellow workers as a team. If you see a problem, advise the person or your supervisor so that it can be corrected. This includes the proper use of backup persons and chock blocks.

On another note, I would like to discuss fire assignments for our personnel. It is very important that requests for personnel and equipment are filled quickly and efficiently. If the ECC or another representative of the department calls you for a fire assignment, you are required to report for duty as ordered. The only reason an employee would be excused from the assignment would be if they were on **approved vacation**. The Unit Duty Chief must approve any other reason for an employee not reporting for the fire assignment they are given. Moreover, when you are contacted to fill a fire assignment, it is not appropriate to begin negotiating. You must accept the call-to-duty and immediately report to work.

The final item I would like to discuss is the continuing need for each and every one of us to project a professional image at all times. Please make sure that all of your contacts in the field are as positive as possible, that you always act and look like the professionals that you are, and that you exhibit a high level of consideration for public and personal safety. Make sure you are in compliance with the department's uniform and grooming policy and vehicle operation policies at all times.

We are the fourth largest Fire Department in the State of California, and we didn't grow this large by accident. Our size and diversity was achieved through the hard work, dedication, and professional actions of all of our personnel, both paid and volunteer. Equally important has been the support and dedication from our contract cities and the County Board of Supervisors. Thank you all for your commitment to excellence!

Tom Tisdale

Fire Chief
Riverside County Fire Department



Public Affairs Bureau

The Riverside County Fire Department Public Affairs Bureau strives to make sure the media and public know what a fantastic job the men and women of CDF/Riverside County Fire Department do in protecting the public everyday. To this end, we are working towards adding depth in two main staffing areas, the PIO office and the field PIO cadre.

Normally, the PIO office is staffed by Joanne Evans or Becky Luther. However, when significant incidents occur in the county, the demand for information is heightened. It is critical that extra staffing is available and activated in a timely manner. Clerical personnel from around the county are receiving training so they can effectively work in the PIO office.

Currently, there is a field PIO on call seven days per week. This function is filled by personnel from Planning and Engineering, Office of Emergency Services, and Training. However, there is a need to increase the depth of trained PIOs for coverage and incident assignment. There is an S-403 Information Officer class planned for the winter, and those selected will be sent to the class. If you are interested in becoming a PIO, please contact Captain Rick Vogt in the Public Affairs Office.

New website

The Riverside County Fire Department's website is currently being rebuilt. Riverside County IT has been awarded the contract to develop a new layout and construct a user interface that will allow various members in the field to easily update and create web pages. This will ensure that the content is always fresh by providing users the ability to add pictures, text, documents, and forms. Within the system, supervisor and administrator approval for content modification will take place via email. The overall theme of the website is customer centric. Citizens who want general or specific information will be able to navigate the website in an intuitive fashion. The expected date for website deployment is October 1, 2003. As that date approaches, all department functions will be asked to contribute content. Training on the website's use will be provided to those authorized to edit content. In addition, reflective lettering with the website's address has been ordered for all equipment and staff vehicles in the fleet. The website will be an excellent way for our customers, partners, and stakeholders to access information about CDF/Riverside County Fire Department.

WWW.RVCFIRE.ORG

Events Calendar

- September 20 Chino Hills Fire Muster
- September 21 Route 66 Fire Muster
- September 27 LA City Fire Muster
- October 10 Battalion Reports for the Winter Edition of the Report on Conditions due.

Remember, events can only be listed here if we know about them! Be sure to send in your upcoming events.

August 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Staff Services Day

Staff Services day was held at Station 34 on June 24 to demonstrate the Riverside County Fire Department's appreciation for all the hard work the support staff does daily for the field. The program included team building exercises like bucket brigade, water soccer, and hose rolling. A BBQ lunch was served by Norco camp.

Thanks to: Bautista and Norco Camps for the muster event plaques. All our vendors and particularly BC Jim McBride and his staff for coordinating most of the appreciation prizes and supplies. Dan Harris who coordinated the muster events. A very special thank you to the Winchester Station 34 staff for the facility and medical aid response for Arnold Mendez's injury. Thanks to RRU Administration for the great day!

Muster Events:

Water Ball: 1st-*Leather and Lace* (Staff Services), 2nd-*Shop 2* (Indio Shop), 3rd-*ECC*

Hose Roll: 1st-*Shop 2* (Indio Shop), 2nd-*Zero Containment* (Training), 3rd-*Leather and Lace* (Staff Services)

Water Soccer: 1st-*Leather and Lace* (Staff Services), 2nd-*Zero Containment* (Training), 3rd-*Shop 2* (Perris Shop)

Bucket Brigade: 1st-*Shop 2* (Indio Shop), 2nd-*You want it when?* (Service Center), 3rd-*Zero Containment* (Training)

Tug O' War: 1st- (Indio Shop), 2nd-*Shop 1* (Perris Shop), 3rd-*Zero Containment* (Training)







Brad Harris Promotes to Deputy Chief



Deputy Chief Brad Harris

In June 2003, Brad Harris was appointed Deputy Chief of Operations for CDF/Riverside County Fire Department. Chief Harris brings to this position a varied background.

Chief Harris began his career in the fire service working as a seasonal firefighter in the Shasta-Trinity Unit while attending college from 1977 to

1980. During the winters of those years, Harris also worked as a student firefighter for the Anderson Fire Protection District. Harris worked as civilian firefighter at the Moffitt Field Naval Air Station and then for the Orville City Fire Department from 1980 to 1986. Harris returned to CDF in 1986 when he accepted an appointment to Fire Apparatus Engineer in the Covas Battalion. After working in Battalion 12 and at the San Jacinto Forest Fire Station, Harris promoted to Fire Captain at the West Riverside Fire Station in 1990. Chief Harris transferred to Kennedy Park Fire Station in late 1990 when the Moreno Valley truck company went in service. During this time, Harris was a member of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team 6. Harris transferred to the Fire Prevention Bureau in 1995 and completed the POST academy in Lone. Two years later, Harris was appointed Prevention Bureau Chief. Harris promoted to Assistant Chief, Emergency Services Division, in 2000. During that time Harris was responsible for the Riverside County Office of Emergency Services including disaster preparedness. In 2001 Harris was transferred to the newly created West Desert Division, which includes the Cove Communities. Chief Harris continues to serve on a Major Incident Command Team as the Liaison Officer.

Chief Harris knows that his assignment as Operations Deputy Chief will include many challenges. CDF/Riverside County Fire Department is the 4th largest fire department in California and employs nearly 1000 firefighters. The County remains one of the fastest growing areas in the country and the public expects increased service from its fire department. As the department grows, recruiting, hiring, and training will continue to be a challenge. The size and diversity of Riverside County, and its contract cities, means that CDF/RCOFD personnel must be well trained and experienced in all aspects of firefighting. As the Operations Chief, Brad Harris is committed to making sure the men and women under his command have the skills, equipment, and resources to properly service the citizens of Riverside County.

Administrative Battalion Chief Jeff Stowells

The newly created position of Administrative Battalion Chief was filled by Jeff Stowells in May 2003. Chief Stowells began his career in the fire service as a Paid Call Firefighter (PCF) in Grand Terrace. In 1989 Stowells received an appointment to Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO) in Santa Clara and then transferred to Nevada-Yuba Placer Unit (NYP) in 1991. Stowells moved to a Fire Captain position through T & D in 1995. Four years later in 1999 Stowells transferred to the San Diego Unit as a station Captain in the Deer Springs FPD contract. In 2001 Stowells transferred to Yuciapa in the San Bernardino Unit to work closer to home.



Battalion Chief Jeff Stowells

Chief Stowells is looking forward to learning the administrative aspect of CDF while in this assignment. Reporting to Staff Services Division Chief Brenda Seabert, Stowells' responsibilities include Firefighter I hiring coordination, Hired Equipment Coordination, and Battalion relief coverage. Chief Stowells indicates that the biggest challenge of his position will be the hiring needs for the department to meet the growing needs of the County, particularly paramedics.

Cassandra Burleson Receives Award

Riverside County Fire Department Personnel Assistant Cassandra Burleson was honored by KNX 1070 NEWSRADIO as the station's citizen of the week. KNX interviewed Cassandra on the air and presented her with a plaque. The award also included a certificate for a two-night stay at the Balboa Bay Club and Resort in Newport Beach.



On Tuesday April 15 a fire started in the kitchen of an apartment in the Hunt Club Apartment Complex at in Perris. When the fire started, a five-year-old male was sleeping on the couch in the living room. Cassandra, who was visiting a family member in another apartment in the complex, heard about the fire and went to the apartment to make sure everyone was all right. Before the first fire engine arrived, Cassandra looked through a window and saw a child inside the apartment. After opening the window, Cassandra coaxed the frightened child to the window and pulled him to safety. The child was treated on scene and transported to a local hospital for smoke inhalation. According to Fire Captain Justin McGough, "The child owes his life to Mrs. Burleson, her actions were heroic." Despite the heat and smoke that were produced by the fire, Cassandra reached into the window and pulled the child to safety.



Fireworks News Conference

The Riverside County Fire Ordinance 787 makes the sale, possession, or use of all types of fireworks illegal--including the SFM "Safe and Sane" fireworks. All types of fireworks are banned due to the risk of injury and the extreme fire danger throughout the County. Incorporated cities can allow the sale and use of SFM Safe and Sane fireworks during the 4th of July. In the Coachella Valley, Cathedral City, Blythe, Indio, and Coachella allow such fireworks. However, fireworks purchased in these cities may not be transported or used outside the city limits.



On June 26, 2003, CDF/Riverside County Fire Department held a news conference in Banning to discuss the issue of fireworks and demonstrate the dangers they pose. Television, radio and print media from Los Angeles to Palm Springs were able to view the various types of fireworks that are banned in the County. The media was also able to witness two demonstrations of explosive fireworks and how they can cause serious injury. In addition, the fire danger was demonstrated by tossing two "Safe and Sane" smoke bombs into dry grass. The fire that quickly started clearly showed how serious the fire danger is within Riverside County.

Several department Chiefs, Fire Prevention Officers, H-301, firefighters from Station 20, and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's Hazardous Device Team attended the media conference.

Fire Prevention Bureau

Anita Wallace Receives VIP Award

Anita Wallace has volunteered with Riverside County Fire Department/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection since 1987. She began her volunteer service as a Fire Auxiliary member in San Jacinto. Since that time, Anita has expanded her volunteer services with the department including: Volunteer in Prevention, Firefighter, San Jacinto Volunteer Fire Company Vice-President and Acting President. Her latest project "Have lunch with a firefighter" was implemented at a local elementary school. Anita has asked local restaurants to donate lunches for firefighters to bring and eat with children who are underprivileged.

Anita has actively assisted with fire prevention school programs, station education tours, community education displays, and county fair displays since 1998. At these events she teaches individuals the priority of fire safety by having working smoke detectors, exit drills in the home, family meeting places, fire extinguishers, and stop drop and roll.

Volunteers like Anita assist with our department mission to prevent the loss of life, injury, or loss of property through the messages of fire prevention. Anita has donated a minimum of 3,000 hours to the department in the past 15 years.



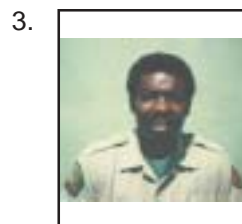
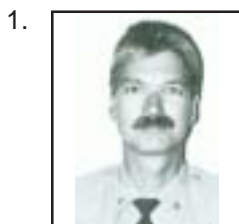
Riverside Unit POST Graduates Kevin Gaines, Steve Gallegos and Tim Williams with Unit Chief Tom Tisdale and class adjunct Joel Semple



This series of pictures is a demonstration of an M-80. The explosion completely destroys a large watermelon.

Who are they?

The following photographs were found in the Public Affairs archives. Can you tell who they are? The answers are on page 12.





Emergency Command Center

The 2003 Fire Season has brought many challenges to the Perris ECC. PSCO's have been working countless hours to maintain the level of service to the field that our mission continually strives for. Eleven PSCO's and four Senior PSCO's are handling the work of 32 dispatchers at the present time. Additionally, from June 19th through July 3rd the Perris ECC was closed for structural repairs. Dispatch operations were successfully handled from three alternate sites within the County; Perris Headquarters from Com 31, Com 33 and a Conex-type office for 9-1-1, call taking and Initial Attack Dispatching (and after two days west county support), Riverside Alternate ECC for west county initial attack and support July 19th and 20th), and Indio Alternate ECC for all east initial attack and support radio operations. Thank you to the field for the kind words of support and "kudos" for another job well-done by Team ECC!

Is there light at the end of the tunnel? July 10, five new PSCO's began their training academy. The new dispatchers are: Terra Peters, Tana Rucker, Steven Cordova, Michele Mainwaring and Gary Morehead. The objective is to get this candidate pool through their first two training modules, "Fire Department Organization" and "Call Taking," and assign them to their trainer/mentor so that we are ready to hire the next group. Please lend the candidates and their trainers your continued support as they work to meet their training requirements.

Our sincere appreciation for helping the ECC in meeting our minimum staffing requirements to Silvio Lanzas, Jeremy Snyder, Jackie Williams, Ben Forqueran, Chris Currell, Geoff Pemberton, Gary Macapugay, John Copeland, Brent Wright, Joel Vela, Boni DeLaCruz, and Rich Egerman.

Ann Berg will be returning to work on July 18 after maternity leave. FC Bill MacAdam and FFII Valerie (Orozco) MacAdam were married on June 7, 2003.

Can you multi-task? Do you work well under pressure? Can you make split decisions under critical timeframes? Do you know someone who possesses these skills? If so, the Perris ECC is actively recruiting dispatchers! All interested parties should contact the ECC at (909) 940-6948 for a sit-along. Also visit the County website at www.co.riverside.ca.us for job specific requirements for "Public Safety Communications Officer I".

The ECC Repair Incident

On June 19, 2003 the Perris Emergency Command Center was displaced in order to facilitate repairs to the building's air conditioning system. The weather was apparently going to cooperate and keep the fire activity down as *June gloom* descended upon the region. Preparations began with moving the 911 call-taking ability to a 8' by 40' conex just outside the ECC building. The plan was to keep 911 call taking in Perris and open up the Indio and Riverside Alternate ECCs for initial attack dispatching and support radio. With three sites open, all of the ECC staff would be required to work seven days per week until the



Chief Burton works through a challenge

repair work was complete. Additionally, field personal with ECC experience augmented the staff.

The Command Center Staff was well aware that even though there was a plan we had remain fluid and flexible. Right off the bat the CAD system would not support all three sites being inter-connected.

We did not have the ability to send the calls via computer, so the call takers provided the calls via landline or inter-com and they were re-entered into a separate CAD system for dispatch.

One day into the operation the Riverside Alternate ECC began to experience radio problems. The IA consoles started toning out multiple stations that were not selected on the dispatch. With 1 of 4 radio consoles out of service and minor problems with the others, we began to question our ability to run a large-scale incident from Riverside. Executive staff decided to move the Riverside operation back to Perris into Com 31 and Com 33.

Meanwhile, the ECC repairs took longer than anticipated. Chief Tisdale mandated that the A/C system be fully operational and prove itself stable before we commit to the move back in again.



Inside the Box

In Indio things were quiet. Not from a lack of calls, in fact Indio ECC handled approximately one-third of the 911 dispatches. However, Nextel phones would not work in the basement so the "Beep Beep" sound of Direct Connect was nowhere to be heard.

In Perris, appreciation of the command center configuration began to emerge from the fire camp set-up we were living in. Runners had to be hired to take FC 9 cards and plastic back and forth between the "conex" and the "radio shack" 24 hours per day. Communication between IA and Support was limited. This made it nearly impossible to coordinate equipment diverting to new incidents. It is truly a tribute to the talent and level headedness of the command center staff to pull off an almost impossible situation with an incredibly low number of errors.

In an effort to boost moral, Chief Burton graciously moved a deep freezer outside and stocked it full of all kinds of ice cream. Chief Toups donated his easy-up shelter complete with Christmas lights.

Fifteen days later, just in time for the Fourth of July, the ECC



Camp ECC

was once again open with normal operations. On the holiday, the ECC processed a record 387 calls in one day. In addition, the Stage Fire took off charring 1,600 acres and activating expanded dispatch.

The ECC now has a new 15-ton AC unit that is the primary cooling system for the

top floor of the building. The original system has been beefed up and will serve as back up to the new unit. Grateful for the cool environment and a few days off, it is business as usual for the personnel in the Perris Emergency Command Center.



The ECC would like to thank everyone in the field for their patience and help during the ECC Repair Incident.

Firefighter Barry Rezac Receives Veterans of Foreign Wars State Award

By Rebekah Luther

Barry Rezac, a former Firefighter from Rubidoux Station 38, won the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) top honors in the State of California and was named the VFW Emergency Medical Services provider of the year. VFW posts throughout the State of California nominate local firefighters and EMTs for this honor. VFW Post 10267 in Jurupa nominated Barry.

After his selection at the local post level, Barry was selected to represent VFW 23rd District, Post 10267, and CDF/ Riverside County Fire Department in the Statewide competition.



Barry Rezac Receives Certificate

On January 25, 2003 in Sacramento the VFW held the Annual Mid-Year Department Conference and Dinner where Barry received the "Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal Award." On February 22, 2003, Barry was given a 23rd District award from the VFW for being the top winner in the

State of California. He again received an "Emergency Medical Technician Gold Medal Award".

Barry has been selected by the State of California VFW to compete for the National Award. Barry and 52 other recipients throughout the United States and other Foreign VFW Posts will all vie for the National Award. Riverside County Fire Chief Tom Tisdale and VFW 23rd District Jr. Vice Elect Jack Smith, presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Barry Rezac on June 2, 2003, in Chief Tisdale's office.

Barry Rezac – A Brief History:

In 1997, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, the Jurupa Chamber of Commerce, the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, the California State Member of Congress and the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognized Barry. Barry has received the following commendations:

The American Legion Law and Order Award, the Rubidoux Community Service District "Bravery and Valor in serving our Community" award, the Jurupa Rotary Club award "Heroic Action," and 1999 Emergency Service Provider award from Jurupa VFW Post 10267.



FF Rezac and Frank Contreras

First Incident: Firefighter Rezac made himself a human shield as 100 lbs dogs bit him and saved a family's children from being attacked by two Rottweilers dogs. **Second Incident:** On October 3, 2000 Firefighters Rezac, Serrano, and Fire Captain McGough were stopped on the road while returning from training. They were flagged down by the frantic parents of a two year old little girl who was unconscious and in full cardiac arrest that was induced by an overdose of her parents prescription medication. CPR was immediately started on the child and the firefighters had her breathing within moments. The child survived only due to the immediate and excellent emergency care the crew provided.

As the 23rd District Commander Frank Contreras said, "Mr. Barry Rezac, Firefighter II, is a shining example of our firefighting force. His actions demonstrate his loyalty and dedication to the defense, safety and the security of our citizens."

RCC Fire Academy Class Graduates

The Riverside Community College Fire Academy graduated its 5th class on May 16. Of the 28 cadets who finished the academy, 18 are also volunteers with Riverside County Fire Department.



Chief Tisdale Inspects a Cadet

The graduates received 15 certificates from State Fire Training and a 67-hour Basic Firefighter certificate from CDF. Upon completion of the SFT experience requirement, the graduates are eligible to receive a SFT Firefighter I certificate.



CDF FIRE CREWS

By CDF Assistant Chief John R. Hawkins

BACKGROUND

Fire crews are the infantry of any fire department. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) relies heavily on fire crews as one of the three kinds of ground attack resources used at wildland fires. The other two kinds of ground resources are *engines* and *dozers*. Fire crews work where other mechanized equipment such as engines and dozers do not easily operate and also work directly with engines and dozers supporting their actions. Crews build fire line in support of containment efforts at wildland fires. Fire crews also assist with search and rescue, technical rescues including urban search and rescue, and at other non-wildland emergencies. When not fighting fire, CDF fire crews do work projects in support of CDF's Fire Plan to reduce fuel accumulations throughout the state and also perform conservation and general work projects for other agencies.

The labor of firefighters of CDF fire crews comes from its partner agencies including the California Department of Corrections (CDC), the California Youth Authority (CYA) and the California Conservation Corps (CCC). CDF is very proud of its long standing partnerships with CDC, CYA and CCC. CDF Camps where fire crews are assigned are administered by a CDF Assistant Chief with partner agencies assigning a camp program supervisor to work with the CDF Assistant Chief.

FIRE CREW PROGRAM HISTORY

CDF first implemented fire crews in 1949 using adult male inmates when a tent camp operation was established at the Minewawa Camp in southern San Diego County. Within a few years, approximately 12 such CDF-CDC camps existed throughout California. Incident commanders, or "fire bosses" as they were then called, soon realized how valuable fire crews could be to the total wildland fire suppression chore.

During the early fifties, CDF and CYA began to develop fire crew operations for juvenile male offenders or wards (17 to 23 years of age). CDF-CYA established their first joint camp at Pine Grove in central Amador County. Similar juvenile camps were established at Ben Lomond in Santa Cruz County, Mt. Bullion in Mariposa County and Washington Ridge in Nevada County. All of these camps exist today and an additional CDF-CYA camp is located at Oak Glen north of Yucaipa. CDF and CYA are partners at six camps.

In the early seventies, Governor Ronald Reagan instituted the California Ecology Corps. The Corps were an alternative for young men who were conscientious objectors. The CDF-Ecology Corps program lasted from 1973 through 1977. Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. eliminated the Ecology Corps replacing it with the CCC, California's new version of the earlier federal

Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC Corpsmember Firefighters are free, non-incarcerated members. At its peak in the seventies, there were eight CDF-CCC Fire Centers.

CDF reached a peak of 245 fire crews during the late eighties. Budget cuts reduced the number of crews to today's total of 197 crews assigned to 41 camps. During serious fire sieges, 170 to 175 fire crews are committed to major fires leaving only about 20 crews available for new incidents.



Tool Out During a Drill

The late eighties saw the assignment of women inmates and wards to fire crews. Currently, the Puerta La Cruz and Rainbow Camps (both CDF-CDC) in San Diego County and the Ventura Camp (CYA) have women crew firefighters. Women fire crew firefighters have proven their effectiveness in working equally well with male crews.

Only the most non-violent inmates and wards are assigned as crew firefighters by CDC and CYA. There has never been a recorded in-

stance of an incarcerated firefighter attacking a CDF supervisor.

CREW TRAINING & EQUIPMENT

CDF fire crew firefighters must take and pass a rigorous physical fitness and fire training program before assignment to a fire crew. The CDF fire crew training course lasts for 64-hours and is strongly task or performance oriented. Components of the training class include orientation to wildland fire, fire behavior, working with hand and power tools, fire line construction, working as teammates on a fire crew and working with engine and dozer companies.

CDF fire crews travel to fires and projects in crew transport trucks. The trucks have a box type build-up or rear crew compartment. The rear crew compartment seats 17 firefighters for a total carrying capacity of one captain and 18 crew firefighters. Soon, all CDF crew transports will be equipped with red lights and sirens to better facilitate fire crew response particularly in urban areas.

Fire crews are identified by their camp name and crew number. An example for Bautista Camp is Bautista Crew 2. The crew transport has the abbreviated crew name on the truck. For Bautista Crew 2, the abbreviated vehicle marking is BAT-2.



Fire crews carry the same hand tools for fire fighting as does any other fire crew. Primary fire tools include the chain saw and specific hand tools including the axe, Pulaski Fire Tool



(named after the famous USFS Ranger Ed Pulaski who held dozens of firefighters in a cave saving their lives at a fire in the early 1900's), the McLeod Tool and the shovel. Tools are separated into cutting, grubbing and scraping categories.

OPERATIONAL CREW USE

Fire crew tool assignment is based on the type and height of vegetation. If the fuel is heavy, more cutting and grubbing tools are assigned. If the fuel is lighter, then less or no chain saws are assigned.

Each crew is commanded by a CDF Fire Crew Captain and is separated into functional



Handcrew Receiving Orders

work groups using the, "Rule of Fours." The rule provides that each crew should have at least four cutters, four grubbers and four scrapers. If the crew has more than twelve assigned firefighters, the crew captain may assign additional grubbers, scrapers or "hot shovels" (hot spotting or dirt throwing shovel firefighters). A chain saw team includes the sawyer and the puller who pulls cut vegetation out of the way of the sawyer and casts it aside often to the unburned side of the fire line. The saw teams are followed by the grubbers who loosen the fuel for the scrapers. Some fire crews assign a "drag broom" which is a firefighter with a large, stiff, straw broom who actually sweeps the line to mineral soil clean of vegetation and duff. The entire line-up of firefighters is called the "hook line" after the original fire crews who used brush hook tools before the invention of the chain saw. Consequently, the lead sawyer is still called the "Lead Hook."

Fire crews work both direct (on the fire edge) and indirect (away from the fire's edge) fire assignments. Indirect assignments are the most dangerous since it is more difficult to get into the burn or the black when working indirect.

A fire line is generally 1.5 times as wide as the fuel is high. If the crew is working in 4' foot high brush, the fire line will probably be about 6' wide. In that six foot width will be the canopy cut which is the entire width of the line through the brush. The scrape or part cleaned to mineral soil will not always be as wide as the canopy cut.

Fire crews are very adept at hot line fire fighting. In that mode, the fire crew will anchor from some favorable point from which the fire cannot fish hook behind them and begin rapidly cutting a narrow fire line (scratch line) to attempt to pinch off the head of the fire before it develops a strong head of steam.

In addition to taking the regular CDF basic firefighting courses, ICS courses, fire behavior, intermediate and advanced incident management and firing courses, CDF captains also take a two week course in working with fire crews. The course covers both administrative and operational aspects of CDF fire

crews including working with CDC, CYA and CCC firefighters.

CONCLUSION

CDF fire crews are a very valuable resource. All CDF fire crews are ICS Type 1 qualified. You should rely heavily on the tactical advice of the CDF crew captain. They are ready, willing and very able for any assignment. Trust them and use them. You will be pleased with their accomplishments.

Golfers Tee It Up

By Tracy Hobday

On April 29, 2003 the Fifth Annual Burn Foundation Golf Tournament was held at Menifee Lakes Country Club in Menifee. There was a full field of 160 players, which amounted to 11,060 shots, 2,240 clubs, 200 lost balls, and 3,500 raffle tickets all on a beautiful sunny day.



Golfers enjoy the day

The day started off with check-in and a putting contest followed by an interesting round of golf. All participants had a wonderful time. The ultimate winner was the Burn Foundation. The tournament raised **\$18,000.00** for sponsorships to the children's

burn camp. On June 18, 2003 Chief Tom Tisdale presented a donation to representatives of the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Burn Unit on behalf of the Riverside County Firefighter's Golf Association. Any funds left over, after providing for burn camp sponsorships, are used for non-budgetary items needed to provide comfort for patients during their stay at the burn ward.



Chief Tisdale presents the check

We would like to thank our first year title sponsor *Casino Morongo*, the *Riverside County Firefighter's Golf Association*, all the *Tee Sponsors*, and the *Riverside County Fire Department* administration for their continued support. We would especially like to thank all the participants and volunteers. Without your support and generous donations, many children with burn injuries would not have opportunity to attend burn camp. We look forward to seeing you at next year's tournament!



Golf Tournament in Menifee



Battalion 1

Battalion Chief Tim Williams has returned from the POST Academy in Lone and has assisted in numerous law enforcement activities with the Riverside County Sheriff's Office.

Station 1. The Perris fire station installed a state-of-the-art turn-out washer/extractor and commercial dryer for nomex and turn-out clothing laundering. The station firefighters were quite busy in the kitchen lately. Over 800 meals were served from our kitchen, due largely in support of the ECC repair project and fire activity. Perris station projects include an upgrade of Fort Cowie for an employee break and Bar-B-Que area, replacement of rain gutters and a parking lot upgrade.

Station personnel responded to two commercial structure fires, ten single-family dwelling structure fires, twenty-two wildland - fires, and three cut-and-rescue traffic collisions during the month of June.

Personnel movement: FAE Mort Allen (1A) to (LT) FC – Station Relief – Congratulations. Welcome back to FFI Mike Keyser and FFI Steve Adams, both returning to Fire Station # 1. Welcome to peak fire season and augmentation hires FFI Bud Martinez, FFI Dan Sherman, FFI Shawn Arnold, FFI Scott Purcell, FFI Travis Acrey, FFI Tom Aiello, FFI Shaun LaBarre, FFI Tim Anderson, FFI Josh Jones, and (LT) FC Todd Williams, (LT) FC Charles Martin and (LT) FAE Chip Pollock.

Station 3. FC Jim Alton and FAE Roger Escalle are working on an LE-38 program. On July 3rd, FC Alton and Engine Co. 3 were able to stop a wildland fire in the Juniper Flats area at two acres and no structures lost. This was done during the height of the "Railroad" incident with high temperatures, low RH, minimal resources and no initial aircraft assigned. Great job Engine Company 3!

Fire Station 9. FC Arnie White and FAE Tony Bertrand continue with their aggressive LE-38 program. The VFC at Fire Station 9 continues to grow and provide squad and water tender coverage on a regular basis.

Station 59. FC Al Gomez and FAE Mark Williams have been working on the area's LE-38 program. A lack of paved roads and addresses, make this a difficult process. FAE Williams continues maintaining the 1989 Ford / KME fire engine.

Welcome to FFII Nathan Petralia and congratulations on his successful completion of paramedic school.

Who Are They Answers:
1. Division Chief Dave Matis
2. Deputy Chief Mike Brown
3. Fire Captain Dave Parks

Battalion 2

The dedication of Station 51 was held on June 21, 2003. Station personnel, Supervisor Bob Buster, Chiefs Tisdale, Matis, and Gallegos, along with many residents of El Cariso were in attendance to officially dedicate the station and medic engine that have been serving area along Ortega Highway since April.



Battalion Two has seen significant fire activity in July. The Railroad fire on July 3 started in an under-construction church and spread to the vegetation on both sides of the road. The fire eventually burned 850 acres and destroyed one out-building.

Battalion 3

Congratulations to Chief Hutchinson on his promotion to Assistant Chief in charge of the Oak Glen Division. Our condolences go out to the Bonney Family for the sudden death of HFEO Bill Bonney. Bill was a great asset to the HFEO program, as well as to Station 20 and he will be missed. We would like to thank everyone that has offered support to his family and to the station. Mike Howard and Chief Cook did a great job supporting the family through this ordeal.

Station 20. Congratulations to FC Libby Groom and FAE Anna Anderson in their new assignment on E-90 at Station 20. Congratulations to FAE Dave Grewal in his new assignment at Station 20 on the State engine. Welcome to new hires FFIs Brian Crabhill, Orlando Villamil, George Casey, Eric Almquest, Shin Kang, Robert Hladik and returning FFIs Brandon Calloway, Ryan Lubben, Bill Delfine, and Soloman Ricks. Although the Firefighter experience level at Station 20 is lower than normal, station personnel are training together and are progressing very well.

Station 21. New barracks, located on the backside of the station, are in progress. Once completed, there will be full living quarters in addition to the kitchen and bedrooms. The Calimesa Explorer Post took 3rd place at the Riverside County explorer muster in Temecula.

Station 22. Cherry Valley won 1st place for the second year in a row during the annual *Chili Cook Off* during the Police and Fire Appreciation Day.



Station 66. Congratulations to Mike Orton on his promotion from FFII to FAE, now assigned to Battalion 12. The City of Beaumont has bought a new ISG K90 thermal imaging camera for E-66. A station remodeling project continues with a major bathroom overhaul and replacement the old windows in the station.

Station 89. Congratulations to Scott Bethurum on his promotion from FFII to LT FAE as Battalion 3 fixed relief. Congratulations to Branden Smith on his permanent appointment to FAE at Station 89 relief. Congratulations to FFII Nick Cullen on his new assignment at Station 89.

Battalion 4

Station 15. FAE Charlie Martin has promoted to LT Captain in the 1-18-14 relief position. LT FAE Roland Rodriguez is filling in behind Charlie. FFII Mike Zimmerman has accepted an LT FAE position in Shasta. Welcome to FFII Jesse Ryan San Luis to the station.

The VFC is going strong with community events and donation drives. Volunteer Crewleader/Watertender Operator Bill Green is in the final checkoffs to become a Volunteer FAE. Volunteer Trainees Greg White, Justin Terrell, and Mike Yarbrough have successfully completed the requirements to remove their green "T"s and will soon become certified Volunteer Firefighters.

Station 4. Welcome to the new firefighter Chris Escelera. Engine 4 has made its way to Perris Shop for its annual inspection. FC Shultz is keeping the firefighters busy with many construction projects. Many RAGLM meetings have been held to discuss new county road proposals in the area.

Station 8: FC Reggie Erie has been training with the USAR team and FAE Tim Bingham has been managing the station in his absence. The Woodcrest volunteers had four members receive FFI positions with CDF in San Diego.

Station 13. Congratulations and good luck to Mark Scoville and Eddy Moore. Both promoted to FAE this summer, Scoville to Temecula and Moore to Campo in San Diego. Welcome to FFII Brian Albano from Riverside and FFII Fernando Ruiz from San Bernadino. FC Sowards is still away from the station but doing well, we hope to see him back soon. FAE Williams has been doing occasional shifts in ECC to assist as a dispatcher. Ground has not broken yet on the new station, but we expect it to happen soon. Thanks to Fisher and Howard for clearing the site around Station 13.

Station 14. Welcome to new firefighters Eric Collin, Nate Kunasek, and Michael Johnson. There is a new addition to Firefighter Alex Sperlich's family! They had a baby boy named Issac on July 3, 2003. The recently planted garden has taken

off and the veggies appear to be on steroids- they just keep on coming. This station is a vegetarian's delight.

Station 64. FFII Andy Turner and Matt Standord started April 1st and they both promoted to LT FAEs in late May. Andy went to Tulare and Matt works at Ryan Air Attack. Congratulations to both on their new assignments. Welcome to LT FFII Andy Cullen and Chad Murphy. We are happy to announce that FFII Jim Brown was sent to Lone to attend the FAE academy and he will be working in the Battalion 4 relief position. Jim has done an outstanding job and will be missed. Station 64 personnel have been working hard getting all special area maps and street cards updated as the area is growing rapidly. The station averages two calls a day and the area residents have welcomed the firefighters into their community.

Station 82. Personnel have been busy conducting LE38 inspections and updating street cards. FAE Williams continues to attend training and the station is continuing its construction projects.

Battalion 5

Station 25. Fire Captain Tim Chevez is back at Station 25 after his winter assignment. FFII Dan Dominguez has accepted a LT FAE position as Battalion 5 relief. A crew from Bautista Camp has completed painting the outside of the station barracks and garage. The new colors are light tan with a cedar trim. The station looks really sharp and blends in with the neighbor's homes. All 1st and 2nd LE-38 inspections have been completed. On May 29th at 0400 hours Engine 25 responded to a commercial airport hanger fire at Hemet/Ryan Airport. That same evening, Company 25 responded to a 500-ton commercial hay barn fire.



Station 26. FC Dan Johnson and all Station 26 personnel are working on the completion of the new operator's office and Captain's bedroom. FFII Scott Lane promoted LT FAE at Sage Fire Station. FFII Octavio Cordova replaced FFII Scott Lane. FFII Rob Clark has done an excellent job of processing all the LE38 data and correspondence.

Station 34. We have all new Firefighter IIs assigned to Station 34: FFII Martony from SLU, FFII Grant from STU and FFII Rowe from RRU. Welcome to all of you! Fire Captain Ken Twardowski retired as of May 31st.

Station 72. FAE Jeff Charbonneau has accepted a LT Fire Captain assignment in Monte Vista Headquarters for the summer. FAE Carmen Pond will replace Jeff while he is in MVU. Welcome to FFI Zeke Ramos. Special thanks to FC Randy Clemens and his crew from Bautista Camp for the great job painting the inside of the garage and cleaning up the station grounds.



Battalion 6

Summer has brought temperatures well over 105 degrees and we have seen fire activity rise. It is dedication and conditioning that allows firefighters to work through these adverse conditions. Keep up the hard work. Fall is just around the corner.

Congratulations to the following: FC Fox who on May 1st became the permanent Captain at Oasis Station 42. FC Fox is a welcome addition who brings vast amounts of experience. FC Fox is the Battalion Safety and Training coordinator and he has gone above and beyond the call of his duties in developing training curriculum.

F AE Heredia has finished his apprenticeship and F AE Smith and F AE Kalisek are on the way to finishing their first year JAC exam.

FFII Nick Yuhas (station 39) and FFII Tommy Lemus (station 40) are two new welcome additions to the battalion. FFII Hector Esparza and FFII Paul Selegue started the 2A academy at lone on July 7th. FFII Hector Esparza will be missed from station 79 as he is assigned to BDU as LT FAE.

All stations have completed their safety inspections. The Health and Safety Bureau was excited to see all requirements were meet throughout the battalion. Training performance exams were finished by all Battalion 6 engine companies and employees. Three roof props are under construction by FAE Linzlonge at station 40, 42 and 79.

These roof props will allow vertical ventilation training and ventilation methods in a controlled environment. Battalion 6 Explorers will hit the road and put their training to the test with six Explorer Musters scheduled this summer. Volunteer membership and training is on the rise in



the Battalion.

FFI Andres Gonzalez became the proud father of a baby girl on June 12th.

E42, HM2 and ESD personnel attended an Emergency Preparedness function at the Oasis School on May 16 organized by Chief Otero from the Emergency Services Division. CDF/County Fire personnel met with local school children from



Room # 23 showing the kids some of our fire and safety equipment and speaking to them about fire and earthquake safety. The presentation was delivered in both english and spanish. Since it was a cool day (mid 90s) the children were excited to

try on our turnout gear and be an "acting firefighter for the day." Thanks to Chief Otero for organizing this function as it was enjoyed by all.

Battalion 7

Construction continues on La Quinta North Station 93. Rough plumbing and conduit work as well as underground sewer, water, and fire sprinkler systems have been installed. This was followed by the pouring of footings and slabs. Masons are laying block for the apparatus bay. Footings and sections of the perimeter site walls are also being erected. Once the block apparatus bay walls are complete, the scaffolding will be removed and rough framing will begin for the living quarters and office area.



As with other battalions, we are seeing the usual personnel movements related to fire season. Adam Shay has returned to a LT FC position in BDU. FFII John Toon and Robert Patterson have been sent to the 2A academy by BDU. FFII Paula Bruins has accepted a position as a firefighter at Boston International Airport. Darryl Anderson has been promoted to a permanent FAE position, while Heather Dinkel and Will Bryant are now LT FAEs; all within Battalion 7. Filling in behind these and other movements are new FFII's Tony Leite, Kenny Coulston, Chopper Otero, Matt Franklin, Jason Holman, and Noe Lerma. Congratulations to all and welcome to the newcomers!

Through a cooperative agreement between the City of La Quinta and VFC #32, E32 is now equipped with a Cairns Viper Thermal Imaging Camera.

Battalion 8

Boat 46 has been delivered to **Station 46**. Battalion 8 staff is receiving the necessary training to put the boat into service. *Blythe Energy I* has been completed and is awaiting approval from the appropriate agencies. On June 30, Stations 43 and 45 participated in an orientation walk-through with other agencies who will be responsible for protecting and responding into the power plant. The plant sits on approximately 80 acres, 5 miles west of Blythe and cost over \$250 million to build.

Station 49 finally has some shade. A shade cover was constructed over the apron at Station 49 so that Engine 49 may finally get some relief from the sun. Because E49 is too large for the apparatus bay, the engine has been parked outside since the engine arrived at the station.

Station 43 to the rescue! Engine 43 from Blythe crossed the Colorado River on July 12 to assist the Ehrenberg Fire Department with a fire in the Ehrenberg Elementary School. At least one school building was completely destroyed. Blythe City Fire also responded, as the Ehrenberg fire engine was committed on another call.



Chief Bill Zimmerman and his wife Kami welcomed a new son, William Carl Zimmerman, Jr. on June 13. "Billy" weighed in at 7 lbs, 5 oz.

Battalion 9

The Moreno Valley Battalion was sad to see Division Chief Ken Pimlott transfer out of RRU to Growlersburg Camp in the Amador-Eldorado Unit. We all wish him and his family good luck at their new location. Chief Pimlott told us before he left that he's sure to see everyone soon due to the busy fire season ahead.



Division Chief Ken Pimlott

Station 91. FF Scott Bryson promoted to FAE at Station 27. FF Mike Ballinger promoted to LT FAE Vacation Relief behind George Gradias. FFII Rich Ghiloni transferred to Station 91 from Station 6. The "commercial structure fire" at Station 91 was actually a broken fan belt in the A/C. The 75' Truck for Station 91 is scheduled to arrive in late September from Smeal.

Station 6. FFII Wiseman promoted to LT FAE in Battalion 9. Congratulations to John, maybe he will move back to California from Arizona! FFI Doug Kishi from San Diego promoted to LT FF. FFII Bell has resigned from CDF/RCOFD to take a position with Riverside City Fire Department. Funny thing is he will probably be working right here at Station 6, but for the Riverside City! Captain Juarez has been gone for his "tour of duty" as an adjunct instructor at the CDF Academy lone. Fire Explorer Post 946 has almost completed their Explorer engine. The Explorer engine along with Ladder 2 won a trophy in the 4th of July parade. Fire Explorer Post 946 has also been preparing for the Fire Muster Season. They won 2nd place at the Temecula Mall Muster for Make-and-Break and are looking forward to the Lake Elsinore Storm Muster in July.

Station 65. Welcome back to FC Vince O'Neil! Vince has returned to Battalion 9 from San Diego.

Station 48. The station remodeling is proceeding nicely and hopefully will be finished soon.

Station 58. Explorer post 958 will be up and running in full force at the end of September. We are in the process of recruiting kids from the nearby high school. We already have great support from the Department, Station 6 Explorers, and the Volunteer Fire Company. The post advisors will be FAE Arizaga and Volunteer Gonzalez, with plenty of parental support. The new post plans to give Temecula's explorers a challenge in upcoming musters. Welcome to FFII Don Bua, FFII Jason Malneritch, FFII Chris Musulman, and FFII Larry Kidd. Congratulations to Milford Ferguson and Rich Brunning who promoted to LT FAE in the San Bernardino Unit. The double-wide is now freshly painted thanks to Captain Therrien and his crew.

Battalion 10

Station 24. Volunteers Louie Castillo and Scott MacDonald were picked up by MVU as seasonal FFIs. We wish them luck and hope to see them back when the season ends. BDF E-50 has been fully staffed. Morongo Reservation has broken ground on the new Hotel/Casino.

Station 36. FAE Scott Moore has moved on to the new Station 27. Scott spent over four years in Battalion 10 and will be missed. We wish Scott good luck in Battalion 14. Welcome to FFII Ceasar Solis.

Station 37. VFC 37 received a FEMA FireAct Grant in the amount of \$22,500. The volunteer company is providing 10% of that in matching funds for the purchase of new extrication equipment for the community of Desert Hot Springs.

Station 37 has received a second Phillips FR2 AED. The fire equipment in Desert Hot Springs now has a total of four AEDs, one on each vehicle. Ryan Barrier has been promoted to the rank of Volunteer FAE with VFC 37. There are now four volunteer FAEs, allowing a greater depth of engine coverage. Barrier's IC experience was tested on June 30th when E37A was providing engine coverage for the city and a vegetation fire broke out. In the end, the fire consumed 5 acres of brush in the middle of the city and was handled by a response of 2 BCs, 1 WT, 6 engine companies. VFC FAE Barrier competed his assignment with the highest level of professionalism and composure by handling a rapidly escalating incident in a time when the valley was becoming depleted of resources.

Station 56. Congratulations to FFIs Ceasar Solis and Pete Bactor, who have accepted FFII positions in RRU. We welcome FFIs Steve Label and Landon Rupright.

Battalion 10 had two new arrivals. FFII Eric Potter is the proud father of Cole Daniel Potter, born on May 30. Volunteer Jerry Crofford has a new son, Ethan Bryce Crofford, delivered on June 2.

Battalion 11

The trees are still dropping dead like (very large) flies up here! June's gloom was of no help to the vegetation on the mountain, especially since none of the moisture had ever reached Battalion 11's elevation. While there were reports of light showers in some areas down the hill, Garner Valley was sunny and often reached temperatures in the high 80's to low 90's. It also seems that every shift another small stand of trees turns brown somewhere within view. The logging trucks are still hauling logs to the saw mill in the Sierras, but they will not catch up to the die-off before the end of the fire season, let alone the end of the year.

In preparation for the possibility of a major fire incident in the Mountain Battalion this fire season, **Anza Station 29** is taking on an additional six FAEs and twelve FFIs to staff two augmen-



tation fire engines. This is in addition to E3162 which has four personnel assigned. With the three state engines and the federal engine housed in Anza, the station will be stuffed with people – arms and legs will be squeezing out of every window and door. And, if Battalion 11 does break a fire this summer, we will almost have an instant strike team responding from Anza.

Pine Cove Station 23 is still supporting Bautista and Oak Glen Camps on the Red Hill Vegetation Management Project, taking weather and measuring fuel moistures to make sure conditions are within prescribed limits before (or if) any burning takes place. The US Forest Service and CDF are currently clearing brush and trees all along Idyllwild and Pine Cove and building several fuel breaks which will eventually link up creating a buffer along the west sides of both communities. No burning has taken place since before fire season began, so most of the slash is being mulched.

The Bureau of Land Management has staffed their engine housed at **Pinyon Station 30**. Engine 3630 has 6 personnel assigned and is currently covered Wednesday through Sunday from 0900 to 1800, with a 2 hour maximum callback for personnel. Once BLM receives further funding, extra personnel will be used to fill out the rest of the week. Welcome to FAE Mark Spehar has recently transferred to Station 30.

Three months ago the two bald eagles that had made their home at Lake Riverside were thought to have left the mountain, perhaps to migrate somewhere up north. However, they are now frequently spotted along the south shore of Lake Hemet. Maybe that's their new summer vacation home. Hopefully they will stick around for the summer.

The community members of the Pinyon area have made a great effort to reduce the flammable vegetation around their homes. This effort was spearheaded by Ray Barmore of the Pinyon area Fire Safe Counsel, in conjunction with California Department Of Forestry (CDF), Riverside County Fire, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the United States Forest Service (USFS). The community gathered over five tons of dead brush from around their homes placing it at the Elks Retreat, a central gathering point. There, CDF hand crews, along with BLM and USFS, operated two CDF chippers for four days, chipping the material into piles for the community to re-distribute for ground cover around their homes. Thanks to the efforts and fire safe thinking of all involved, this defensible space project has been a huge success for the Pinyon Pines communities by reducing over 5 tons worth of hazardous flammable vegetation around homes.

Battalion 12

Station 67. Congratulations to FAE Jon Dorsey for completing the FAE academy in Lone.

Station 71. FAE Rodger Copp transferred to Battalion 2 and we wish him well. FAE Bill Lawe has taken over as the operator at Station 71. FFII's Scott Odam and Charlie Kitchens have

accepted LT FAE positions in BDU for the summer. Congratulations to FAE Kevin Martin for completing the FAE academy in lone.

Station 55. FFII Scott Mason entered the Cove Communities Explorers Post 655 in the 2nd Annual Riverside County Explorer Muster that took place in Temecula on June 28th. Scott is continuing to recruit explorers. On July 4th, while off duty, FFII Carpenter stopped to assist fellow FFII/PM Rick Harvey at a T/C on I 10 at Whitewater. Both FFs were on scene rendering care to the patient of the single vehicle TC until help arrived. We also hear from a reliable source that FFII Snow is engaged. Congratulations!!!

Station 50. FC Bill Hunley is the new station Captain at Station 50, replacing Captain Herrera, who transferred to the ECC. Welcome to LT FFII's Mark Greenway and Pete Boctor. Projects for the station remodel are still ongoing. On September 1st the remodel project will go out to bid and the target date to begin the remodel is November 1st.

Station 69. FAE Ted Hart has accepted a promotion to FC at Norco Camp. Good Luck Ted and be safe. FAE DeWitte has transferred to Station 69. The station remodel project is still in the works with the City of Rancho Mirage.

Battalion 13

It seems like perpetual motion with the personnel movement and promotions within our Battalion as in the rest of the Unit. New faces are reporting to duty at our stations and they are coming from all points of the State. This is uplifting considering the State's fiscal situation.

This Battalion is still encountering rapid construction growth along the I-215 corridor primarily consisting of residential property. It seems like the houses are bought before being built in several areas. One large multi-residential project is under way adjacent to the Menifee Campus of Mount San Jacinto College at Newport Road and the I-215. It consists of a gated apartment community with 330 proposed residential units and is named "The Enclave."



People line up for dinner



Extrication demonstration

A deserving thank you went out to Fire Station 60's crew of FAE Sue Jorgensen, FF I Tommy Disario, and Volunteer Firefighter Mike Whitaker from the Riverside County Library System for a great public education program.



On June 4, 2003 (Flag day) the Homeland Volunteer Company put on a fundraiser spaghetti dinner at the Homeland Fire Station. Dinner consisted of spaghetti, garlic bread, and a beverage. As quoted in the newspaper *News Express*, "the plates were full and the sauce delicious." Around 300 people turned out for this event. An equipment display of E54, S54, and T76 were also available for public viewing. An extrication demonstration was performed using the equipment that was acquired from the generous donations of the community and through grants. Two cars were quickly and safely dismantled by the Homeland Fire Company. Personnel assigned to Station 54 are FC Laura Germany, FAE Ed Hernandez, Firefighters George Rojas, Art Gonzalez, Juan Arroyo, and Kirk Huettner. Currently there are 24 volunteers in the Homeland fire company.



Smokey greets a guest

Promotions: LT FC Dan Harris to Truck 76, LT FAE Art Gonzalez to Station 76, LT FC Sue Jorgensen to BDU, LT FC Ed Hernandez to MVU, LT FAEs Dave Lord and Toby Hughes to MVU. **New Arrivals:** LT FAE John Crater to E54, LT FAE G. Antognazzi to E76, FAE Don Ayers to E76, FFIs Kevin Anderson, Doug Freeman, Clint Marsalik, Travis Brady, Steve Bucher, Chad Burns, and FFIs Rob Roberts, Shawn Stewart, Howard Douglas, and Jacob Flores. **Transfer:** FAE Roger Raines to Station 22.

Best wishes for a fast recovery to: Station 7's FAE Kelly Becker, Station 76's FC Alan Mason FC Mike Wilson.

Battalion 14

Station 17. The new weight room and storage building are almost complete. FC Kershner has transferred to T3142 as the HFEO. Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication to the station. We will miss you! Station 17 welcomes new FFIs Jason Allen, Kyle Wallace, Jay May, and Mike Boren. Congratulations to new FAEs Kirk Barnett, Jeff Roberts, Chester Vallejo, Roland Rodriguez, and Clint Blackmon. Congratulations to Jeff Veik, LT FC at station 17, and Chris Palmer LT FC at Station 27. Congratulations to Valerie and Bill MacAdam on their wedding.

Station 19. Station 19 welcomes FFIs Ray Guillen, A.J. Rodriguez, John May, Micah Davenport, Dave Rollins, and Greg Moore. We would like to welcome Ray Guillen and A.J. Rodriguez to the CDF Family.



Chief Tisdale and Volunteer Captain Henry Visconti

Chief Tom Tisdale Congratulated Henry Visconti on his

promotion to the rank of Volunteer Captain. Visconti has been with the Highgrove Volunteer Fire Company at Station 19 for 30 years. He is to be commended for his qualifications, dedication, and support of the paid staff. Henry has served in every administrative position with the volunteer company, including the chairperson for the annual Pancake Breakfast. Henry has always participated in Santa and Smokey week at Christmas time.

Station 38. Terry Szabo and Ty Deaton have accepted LT FAE positions in San Diego. There are eight new Volunteers Firefighters in Company 38.

Battalion 15

The last couple of months have been pretty busy in Temecula. In addition to normal operations, Battalion 15 hosted four major events. On May 22nd, at Temecula Valley High School, Battalion personnel took part in an "Every 15 Minutes" program to help educate graduating students on the dangers of drinking and driving. From June 17 to 19, the Santa Rosa Plateau Reserve was the site of a 500 acre VMP burn to help in the management of non-native grasses. A Fire Control 3 class was held on June 21st. This class provided training for 31 paid and volunteer firefighters. On June 28th, the Riverside County Fire Explorer Muster took place at the Promenade Mall. The Temecula Fire Explorers dominated in almost every event, lead by FAE Nachtmann.



Every 15 Minutes Demonstration

Welcome and Congratulations to:

Station 12: FAE Frank Martinez, FAE David Bell, LT FFII Bret Seanoa, FFIs Alex Villa, Thomas Kirk, Marc Grasso, Don Clark, Scott Callahan, Scott Burnham, Chris Ranger, Patrick Murphy, Phil Hernandez, Jason Luna, and Keith Vitale.

Station 73: FAE Darren Hoopengartner, and FFII Aaron Garcia.

Station 83: FFII Coby Dyche.

Station 84: FAE Chris Wilson and FFII Gabrel Gomez.

Station 92: FFII Mike Mohler.



FAE John Downey lands Mercy Air

Good Luck and Farewell to:

FAE Aaron Martinez promoting to LT FC at Station 25. FFII Howard Maxcy promoting to LT FAE in MVU. FAE John Downey who retired after a long and distinguished career.



Explorer Muster in Temecula Battalion 16

The Second Annual Riverside County Fire Explorers Muster was held on Saturday, June 28th at the Promenade in Temecula. The Muster was well attended by several hundred family members, friends and the general public. The Riverside County Fire Explorer Muster is a kickoff to gear up for competitions to be held throughout Southern California over the next several months.

Thirteen teams, with ten Explorers from each team, from Temecula, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Coachella, Calimesa, Beaumont, and Indian Wells participated in the competition. The muster competition consisted of Bucket Brigade, Make and Break Dry, Fire Fighters Agility, Make and Break Wet, Hose Cart and Waterball.

The muster results are as follows:

Bucket Brigade

- 1st - Temecula City Too Hot To Handle
- 2nd - Temecula City Untouchable
- 3rd - Temecula City Relentless

Make and Break Dry

- 1st - Temecula City Too Hot To Handle
- 2nd - Moreno Valley Hose Monsters
- 3rd - Temecula City Untouchable

Fire Fighters Agility

- 1st - Temecula City Relentless
- 2nd - Temecula City Too Hot To Handle
- 3rd - Temecula City Untouchable

Make and Break Wet

- 1st - Temecula City Untouchable
- 2nd - CDF/RCOFD Zero Containment (Menifee)
- 3rd - Calimesa Spartans

Hose Cart

- 1st - Temecula City Relentless
- 2nd - Temecula City Too Hot To Handle
- 3rd - Temecula City Untouchable

Waterball

- 1st - Temecula City Relentless
- 2nd - Temecula City Untouchable
- 3rd - Temecula City Too Hot To Handle

Overall Trophies

- 1st - Temecula City Untouchable
- 2nd - Temecula City Too Hot To Handle
- 3rd - Temecula City Relentless

Email dated June 10th, 2003

Chief Howard Windsor,

I just wanted to take a moment to let you know what an excellent job your fire/paramedic team did on Friday while responding to an accident involving my husband. My husband and I were at the AM/PM on the corner of Rancho California Road and Ynez Road putting air in the tire of our vehicle when my husband was struck by a car. I called 911 and the paramedics were there immediately. I can't tell you what a relief their immediate response was and how proud I am to work with such a wonderful group of people. My husband did sustain some injuries to his foot that required stitches and will have to walk crutches for some time but we are thankful that the damage is not permanent. Thanks again to your crew on a job well done!!

Ashley Jones
Management Assistant
City Manager's Office

BC Tom Foley has been transferred to RSS to work as the Health & Safety BC. Tom Hyatt joins B16 as the Battalion Chief. FC Travis Alexander has taken an LT assignment at RAAB aboard H301. FAE Chuck Ybarra has transferred to a schedule B position at Sage Fire Station 28. FFIs Ricardo Ginese and Dave Logan have both taken LT FAE assignments. Indio Firefighter II Josh Bischof has promoted to LT FAE at North Indio Station 87. Newly appointed LT FFII Matt Misenhimer has been assigned to TS 86.

Operationally there have been many changes as well. The City of Indio has approved a third firefighter to be assigned to E87, with future plans for equal staffing on all of the engines in the Battalion. Also as of July 1st the former E15A is outfitted as the new ME87. Plans are underway for two additional fire stations for the city, as multiple commercial and residential developments continue to sprout up. There are also plans to eventually replace the North Indio Fire Station 87.

With Indio being the *City of Festivals*, Battalion personnel were busy with the numerous public events. Battalion 16 personnel participated in the Family Festival held at the Indio Polo grounds on March 22. Several pieces of equipment were on display and a Volunteer/Explorer recruitment booth was staffed. FAE Rick Rice coordinated water activities for the children attending the event. During the weekend of April 26 and 27 the Coachella Music Fest was held at the Indio Polo grounds. Personnel from Battalions 16, 6, and 8, along with HM2 staffed 3 medic units and 4 response carts during the event. Chiefs Foley and Hyatt split the Incident Commander duties, FC Mike Smith was the Operations Chief, and FAE/PM Warren Mueller was the Medical Unit Leader for the event. It was estimated that 62,000 people attended the 2-day event. There were 15 calls for service during the event. Overall the event went smoothly and those who participated got to see and hear a wide range of music styles. Indio held it's first ever Salsa Festival on May 17 and 18 in Old Town Indio. Battalion 16 personnel provided EMS, displayed equipment, and staffed a volunteer recruitment booth during the event.



FFPM Peter Grzeskowiak



TC in Indio

The volume and severity of emergency calls in Battalion 16 continue to keep firefighters busy. On Memorial Day weekend, personnel responded to a T/C cut and



rescue on Highway 111 with four patients. Two of those patients were critical, one moderate, and one minor. The Fourth of July required maximum effort from all on duty Battalion 16 personnel with TS86 running 28 calls in a 24 hour period. ME87 ran another 15 calls, and Station 88 ran 13 calls.



FFII Ames in a dramatic rescue

Despite the busy nature of the battalion, there are "on the lighter side moments." A recent call involved the rescue of a four legged creature whose only response to the rescue efforts was "meow." Firefighter II Travis Ames played a huge role in the safe rescue of the animal.

Battalion 25 - Hazardous Materials Response Team

The new Hazmat unit is currently being outfitted with communication gear and equipment and should be in service soon. Team members are still in the process of obtaining the required class A license. The Storm Water Pollution Program contact is FAE Robert Becker at HM2, (760) 772-9090. Stations with questions regarding air monitors may contact FAE Thom Gittelson at HM1, (909) 926-3591. On April 15th, HM1 participated in a WMD drill sponsored by Corona City Fire. Among the participants were: FBI, Corona PD, RSO Hazardous Device Team, and CST. Several Hazmat team members are being upgraded to Hazmat Specialist.

Congratulations to the following:

Chief Gaines on his successful completion of the POST Academy.

Dean Veik to LT FC, Station 28

Todd Williams to LT FC, Station 1

Scott Slumpff to LT FAE, HM1

Robert Becker to LT FAE, HM2

Greg Birchfield to LT FAE, HM1

Ramona Eggendorfer to LT FAE

Welcome back FC Linda Bettys, HM2

Ryan Air Attack Base

The air base and helitack base opened with a full complement of 14 firefighters. All firefighters completed Basic Helitack Operations and Safety, Basic Air Attack Base Operations and Safety, and short haul training during the first two weeks. In mid June, we lost several great FFIs at RAAB to the Firefighter II draft in Riverside. Hemet-Ryan congratulates FFIs Matt Misenhimer, Gabriel Gomez, Mark Greenway, and Travis Brady.

Shortly after the FFII promotions, our four CCC crewmembers moved up the firefighter ranks. The base staff would like to congratulate Eric Laiblin hired at Sage, John Reynolds and Scott Pittman hired in MVU, and Andre Terry who was hired by CNF

at the Lake Henshaw Station. All of these fine employees promoting from RAAB were given the traditional retardant bath. Some were surprised, but others just gave up without a fight and peacefully took their bath.

The promotions created more vacancies at RAAB and brought a new batch of FFIs. Hemet Ryan would like to welcome aboard our new FFIs: Noel Zalvidea, Ryan Moore, and Ajmer (A.J.) Randhawa. We would also like to welcome back FFIs Andrew Puetz, Mike Hendricks, and Justin Courtney. Another new addition to RAAB was the movement of the state dispatcher clerk out of the Perris ECC to RAAB. The clerk fills the function of aircraft dispatcher, which allows the tower firefighter to be placed on the helicopter. Glenn Jenkins has many years experience as a dispatcher and has a full grasp of MIRPS. Welcome to RAAB Glenn.

RAAB was recently selected to by the Aviation Management Unit to be a test facility for an experimental gel type retardant. The gel will be delivered by fixed wing aircraft loaded out of RAAB and delivered to local incidents. The details of the post delivery evaluation are not yet finalized but field input and observations about the gel's performance are welcomed. Some of you in the field may have observed this product last summer at the Pines Incident. Most of the gel during that incident was applied as pretreatment for structure protection and delivered by helicopters with great success. CDF is very excited about the prospect of this product and its performance, which could lead to a change in retardant use and application. RAAB is on the cutting edge of research and development.



H-301 at Staff Services Day

The new tanker base at March Field is still in the works. It is anticipated the move will be completed by the 2005 fire season.

Conservation Camps

Bautista Camp

On July 7, Bautista Crew # 7 was reestablished as part of CDF's augmentation of fire fighting resources for the 2003 fire season. The creation of this crew meant LT FC promotions for Brian Michael and Ruben Villegas. Welcome to both new Crew Captains.

All Bautista crews are heavily committed to various vegetation management and insect control projects in the Idyllwild, Pine Cove, and Baldy Mountain areas. To date, Bautista has provided in excess of 63,000 crewmember hours to these projects since January 1, 2003. On June 30, 2003, CDF Director Andrea Tuttle and USFS Region 5 Chief J. Blackwell personally toured the areas of work conducted by the Bautista Crews. They

See Camps continued on back page

The official newsletter of the
Riverside County Fire Department



Riverside County Fire Department
Public Affairs Bureau
210 West San Jacinto Ave.
Perris CA 92570
909 940-6985

Captain Rick Vogt
Public Affairs Bureau Manager

Joanne Evans
Public Information Officer

Rebekah Luther
Fire Prevention Specialist

Jane Scribner
Secretary

Riverside County Fire Department is on the web!
<http://www.rvcfire.org>

POSTAGE

ADDRESS LABEL

Camps continued

were very impressed with the hard work done by the crews and the contribution they have made to community protection in the fire prone areas.

FC Jim McCarter recently formalized his intentions to retire on September 3, 2003 by submitting his paperwork with PERS. Congratulations Jim and please accept a thank you in advance for your 33+ years of service to CDF!



Chief Tisdale with Director Tuttle and Deputy Director Wright

Oak Glen Camp

Welcome to Assistant Chief Dale Hutchinson. FC Jerry Averett has transferred to Oak Glen from Pine Grove in AEU. Jerry replaced FC Bill Hunley who transferred to Station 50. Jack Bogle and his wife, Holly, adopted a baby girl. Congratulations!

Oak Glen Camp is scheduled to receive a couple of Crew Captains for the summer augmentation. These two FCs will cover the 8th fire crew that has been mandated by the Governor and the Director for the summer. We have been busy with the beetle infestation problem in the Big Bear area as well as our own camp. OG crews have been doing work in the Pine Cove area along with Bautista Camp, and we have again begun work on the Redhill Fuel Break.

New Tillers

Riverside County Fire Department will soon be operating new tillers in Moreno Valley and Palm Desert. Tillers will allow for better accessibility and maneuverability to areas where current trucks have difficulty. The compartment space will allow the apparatus to carry all equipment required for special rescue including: confined space rescue, trench rescue, technical rescue, and swift water rescue.

The aerial takes approximately one minute and forty-two seconds to set-up and fully extend to maximum elevation. This set-up time is almost four minutes faster than the current platform trucks.



Ladder 2 and Ladder 33



Rodeo Course



FC Dan Talbot, FC Ray Martinez, FFII Mark Defina, LAFD Dean Zipperman, LAFD Gregg Avery, FAE Greg Ewing, and FC Dan Huff