



# REPORT ON CONDITIONS

The official newsletter of  
the Riverside County  
Fire Department

Report On Conditions

Winter Edition  
February 2004

## Fire Siege 2003

During the fire siege, CDF/Riverside County Fire Department sent the following resources to the fires in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties: 78 Fire Engines, 16 Hand Crews, and 192 Overhead Personnel. In all, CDF/Riverside County Fire Department sent 635 fire personnel (including inmate firefighters) to support the battle in neighboring Counties. It is important to note that during this time, the normal emergency call volume within Riverside County and its contract cities remained at its normal average of 280 calls per day (3,126 calls during the fire siege). These calls included medical aids, traffic accidents, structure fires, etc.



*E3173 Battles Flames*



*Smoke Filled The Sky For Weeks During The Fire Siege*

Although extremely strong and dry Santa Ana winds existed in Riverside County during the fire siege, the number of fires and their sizes were kept relatively low. This is due to the hard and diligent work of the firefighters who remained in Riverside County to protect its citizens. There were three significant fires within Riverside County during the fire siege: the Pass Fire in Reche Canyon, the Mountain Fire near Temecula, and the Wellman Fire near Anza. CDF/Riverside County Fire Department, with assistance from other agencies, was able to contain these fires in relatively short periods of time with minimal injuries to civilians and firefighters.

During the fire siege, CDF/Riverside County Fire Department called back all fire personnel to active duty and staffed 53 reserve and brush engines. In addition, every squad, breathing support, and water tender in the CDF/Riverside County Fire Department fleet was covered with either paid or volunteer staff. CDF/Riverside County Fire Department activated its Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) in Riverside and Indio to coordinate disaster relief efforts in affected areas. The Public Information Center was staffed 24/7 with personnel who posted current information on the department's website and answered the public's phone calls requesting information about existing or potential emergencies within the County. The RACES team, under the direction of the Emergency Services Division, assisted CDF/Riverside County Fire Department by performing Red Flag Patrols throughout the County so that fires could be reported and responded to early.



*The Old Fire*

In all, the County of Riverside came through the 2003 fire siege relatively unscathed. This is the direct result of the diligence and dedication of CDF/Riverside County Fire Department with the support from cooperating agencies.



*A Strike Team Heads Out*

In all, 739,597 total acres burned in Southern California as a result of the Fire Siege. At the height of the fires 15,631 personnel were assigned to fires in California. 3,631 residential structures, 36 commercial properties, 1,169 outbuildings were destroyed. There were 22 fatalities, including 1 firefighter, and 246 injuries. A chronological list of the Fire Siege can be found on Page 24.

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## Chief's Message

If I could sum up the state of the Riverside County Fire Department in one word, that word would be **growth**. Due to an ever expanding population in the County and our Contract Cities, there are many new fire stations under construction or in the planning stages. Services continue to be improved in both quantity and quality. New apparatus are being placed in service throughout the County and plans are being made to upgrade essential equipment.



Riverside County Fire Department currently staffs eighty-five paid and seven volunteer fire stations. We have identified the need for at least thirteen additional paid staffed fire stations in the next four years. Of course, unanticipated development could increase that number. What does this mean for our department? The additional fire stations will require nearly 100 additional suppression personnel from Firefighters to Battalion Chiefs. The addition work load will impact our support services, which will require more staff. While additional human resources will certainly be added, we must all strive to remain highly efficient in our duties. While the State continues to experience an unprecedented budget crisis that affects the County and Cities, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors has remained in support of our Firefighter upgrade plan. The Board understands that staffing each County fire engine with three personnel is in the best interest of both public and Firefighter safety. They also understand that all County fire stations need Firefighter IIs rather than FFIs.

As County stations are upgraded to Firefighter II staffing, I am confident that many of them will also be upgraded to Firefighter II Paramedics so that our fire engines can provide valuable ALS medical care to patients prior to the arrival of a private ambulance. This will mean an additional burden to the hiring process, EMS/Training, and the Service Center, but the service benefits to the public far outweigh the costs. A good example can be seen in Battalion 8 in the community of Ripley. Shortly after E44 became ME44, the crew was dispatched to a medical aid not far from the station. ME44's crew found a patient that had stopped breathing and was in cardiac arrest. The Firefighter II Paramedic began ALS care, including intubation and medications, while the other two crew members began CPR. Prior to being transported to the hospital, the patient regain a pulse and spontaneous respirations. I have been told that if the patient had his medical emergency one week earlier,

prior to staffing E44 with a paramedic, his chances for survival would have been slim to none. Clearly, the Firefighter Paramedics are making an impact in the lives of the people we protect.

As the respiratory protection standards evolve and equipment manufacturers discontinue products, the executive staff is aware that a decision has to be made about the department's breathing apparatus. It would be extremely beneficial from a safety and a purchasing perspective to adopt a new standard breathing apparatus in Riverside County. The specification for a new breathing apparatus will include high pressure bottles, mask mounted regulators, and integrated PASS alarms. This is no small project as well over 1,000 breathing apparatus will need to be upgraded at a very significant cost. Due to the integrated nature of our department, all of the breathing apparatus will need to be upgraded at the same time, as well as a provision for training and FIT testing. The biggest challenge will be identifying the funds for this project in uncertain fiscal times. Riverside County Fire Department has been awarded a \$750,000 FEMA grant towards new breathing apparatus, and the executive staff is exploring many ways to come up with the rest of the funds for this needed upgrade.

Speaking of FEMA grants, I understand that 98% of our Department's paid suppression personnel are now EMTs. I want to thank all of the paid and volunteer firefighters who participated in the FEMA EMT upgrade program. There are still a few more classes available before the grant end in June, so if you still need to upgrade, sign up.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the CDF and County employees in the Riverside Unit and County Fire Department for another job well done during the 2003 fire siege. You all pulled together and again have shown why we are the best Fire Department family in the State, if not the Nation! All of our firefighters, paid and volunteer, melded into a firefighting machine that has been praised Statewide. I cannot fully express the pride that I have for all of you when the people involved in the fire siege thank me for our fantastic firefighters. From suppression personnel to support staff, everyone demonstrated their dedication to this Department and the people we serve. We are the best because of all of you, please keep up the great work.

*Tom Tisdale*

Fire Chief  
Riverside County Fire Department



## Public Affairs Bureau

The Public Affairs and PIO staff were kept very busy during the 2003 fire siege. In addition to providing field PIOs to the incidents within Riverside County, the information office was staffed 24 hours per day with help from personnel throughout the Department. The fires in Riverside were statused in real time on the website so that the media and the public could obtain current information. The information line (909 940-6985) was answered by a live person when the lines weren't overloaded. Through the siege, the public was able to find out if they were in danger and what actions they should take. More often than not, the people who called wanted reassurance as much as they wanted information. The RVC Fire Information office staff provided a vital service that impacted hundreds of callers.

In January, Captain Rick Vogt and Battalion Chief Kim Bolan attended the 54th annual Golden Mike Awards at the invitation of the Southern California Radio and Television News Association (RTNA). Approximately 350 members of the media watched as over 100 awards were presented to TV and radio reporters. As part of the program, RTNA recognized the fire service for their efforts during the 2003 fire siege. In particular, the RTNA President stated



*Captain Vogt and Chief Bolan At The Golden Mike Awards*

that out of all government, the fire service provides the best service to working reporters and media outlets during an emergency. The media present at this event clearly understood the difficult work that firefighters do, and they appreciate our efforts to keep them safe while allowing them to report the news.

The Department's website content continues to expand as more field personnel are trained to edit pages. This is a great method to promote your station's services and personnel. The website certainly is being noticed! A recent website traffic report for [www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org) indicated that in the January 2004 there were an average of 440 sessions *per day*. A session is a series of hits to the website over a specific period of time by one visitor. The report also indicated that on average, visitors to our website spent seven minutes looking at content. If you want to receive training and access to the website administration, contact Jane Scribner at the Public Affairs Office to set up a date and time at your location.

After more than three decades of service, CDF/Riverside County Fire PIO Joanne Evans has announced that she is retiring in early July. Joanne's last shift was in January as she will be using leave credits through the end of June. Joanne's dedication to the department and particularly to the Spark of Love toy drive will certainly be missed. Joanne, congratulations on a well deserved retirement!

## Events Calendar

- February 19 ..... Retiree Luncheon, 11:30 at Perris Sizzler
- February 20 ..... BDU Chief Tom O'Keefe Retirement Party
- March 13 ..... Station 18 Pancake Breakfast
- April 9 ..... Battalion Reports for the Winter Edition of the Report on Conditions due.

February 2004						
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	27	27	28
29						

March 2004						
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			

April 2004						
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

**Remember, events can only be listed here if we know about them! Send your event information to the Public Affairs Office.**



## Emergency Services (OES)

The County/Operational EOC was opened on October 26, 2003 to support the needs of Riverside County as well as the Mutual Aid requests from the other counties involved in fighting fires. Some of the Mutual Aid requests were for Mental Health Teams, EOC Support, and GIS Support.

Once Riverside County received the Presidential Declaration on October 21, State OES and FEMA requested that the County open a Local Assistance Center (LAC) to support the Federal, State, and local agencies that would be providing disaster assistance information to victims of the 3 fires in Riverside County, the affected local tribes, and victims of the Old Fire in San Bernardino County. The LAC was set up at the Perris Fairgrounds and was open for two days. Approximately 100 people came to this center to obtain information on how to receive assistance from the various organizations.



OES Coordinator Rick Cook at the Local Assistance Center

Agencies present included: FEMA, Small Business Administration, State OES, State DMV, California Department of Social Services, Edison, State Department of Consumer Affairs, State Department of Contractor Licensing, State Franchise Tax Board, County Mental Health/Public Health, County Building and Safety, County Office on Aging, County Department of Social Services, County Animal Control, County Auditor, County Waste Management, County Victim's Compensation, Senator Boxer's Office, and Senator Feinstein's Office.

OES is currently acting as the lead agency in the cost recovery effort. This effort will recover 75% of the costs incurred by the County during the firefighting and mutual aid responses. OES is also working with the County Flood Control District to coordinate flood planning and mitigation efforts for those areas impacted by the fires.

Bonnie Reed, Emergency Services Program Supervisor, received the Southern California Emergency Services Association's Certificate of Recognition at a presentation during the October 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Supervisor's session. Her diligent commitment to Emergency Management has not gone unnoticed. Thank you Bonnie.

Bonnie wanted to express her deepest appreciation for all the support she received after her accident. For those of you who hadn't heard, she had an incident with a Christmas tree and broke both her wrists. She is on the road to recovery and is healing well.

Emergency Services Coordinator, Rick Cook, was presented with the "Non-Sworn Employee of the Year" Award at this year's Seventh Annual Coachella Valley Peace Officer & Public Safety Appreciation Day Awards luncheon. This is the second year in a row that a coordinator from our office has received an award at the luncheon. Last year, Anthony Coletta was honored at the luncheon. Good job guys!

OES would like to welcome John Hardcastle to our office as the newest member of our team. John comes to us from the City of La Quinta and will be ES-7. John is replacing Wayde York who accepted a position with a local law firm. Welcome John and congratulations to Wayde, we will miss you.



OES Coordinator John Hardcastle

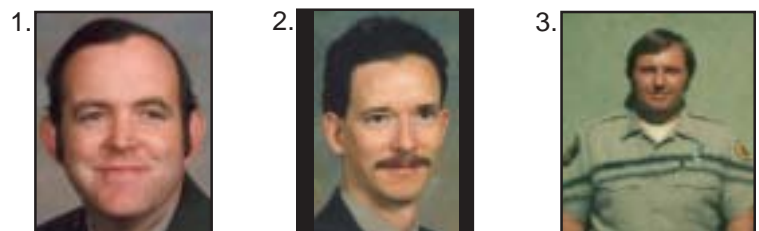
The OES staff has been busy working on several ongoing projects. The County's Emergency Operations Plan is in draft form and will be completed soon. We are in the initial phases of composing our Hazard Mitigation Plan that is due November 30, 2004. We have taken a multi-jurisdictional approach to writing this plan and are working with a large number of departments/jurisdictions to complete it. OES is awaiting the arrival of laptop computers that will be utilized in our EOC. The computers will be a part of the overall EOC upgrades that are occurring in Riverside and Indio. These computers will allow users access to our new emergency management software, *WebEOC*, providing EOC staff real-time information about incidents occurring within our County.

OES also participated in the State-Wide Hospital Drill that occurred on November 13 and Riverside City's Bio Terrorism Drill on November 19.

We want to congratulate Phillip and Stephanie Bardos on the arrival of their third child, Matthew Joseph Bardos. Matthew was born on October 16 and weighed 8lbs, 4ozs and was 19 inches long. He is adorable!

## Who are they?

The following photographs were found in the Public Affairs archives. Can you tell who they are? The answers are on page 19. Do you have an old photograph of someone in the department? Send it to the Public Affairs office. Your contribution will be kept anonymous!





## Firefighters In The Community At Christmas

On Sunday December 14th, about 70 CDF Riverside County Firefighters, spouses, and volunteers participated in the annual *Shop With a Firefighter Program* at the Perris Wal-Mart. One week later, on Saturday December 20, 2003, firefighters gathered at the La Quinta Wal Mart to shop with children in the Coachella Valley. At both events,



*La Quinta Wal Mart*



*Firefighters at the Perris Wal Mart*

the CDF Firefighters Riverside Chapter, the Pechanga Casino Resort, and Wal-Mart.

The Shop With a Firefighter Program gives firefighters an opportunity to give back to the community. If you were to ask any of the Firefighters that participated you would find an overwhelming feeling of appreciation from each and every one of the children! This is something our Firefighters will be talking about for a long time. Both the Department and the Union are planning to expand this worthwhile program to several more Wal Marts throughout Riverside County. Thank you to all that participated!



*Captain Bart Chambers Shops With a Family*

On Saturday December 20, Indio firefighters helped Linda and Mel Abajain (AKA Santa and Mrs. Claus) bring Christmas to about 100 children at the Summer Field Apartments in Indio. Old Indio Engine Company 1, loaded with toys, gave Santa and Mrs. Claus a ride.



*Christmas Delivery*

Thirteen firefighters accompanied them from Station 86 to Summer Field on the Engine, Medic Ambulance and Battalion 16A. The firefighters helped Santa pass out toys and cookies.

*Continued on page 24*

## Deputy Chief John Hawkins

John Hawkins has promoted to Deputy Chief, Special Operations, effective February 1. This position became open when Deputy Chief Stan Lake transferred to the Deputy Chief position in the Moreno Valley contract. Chief Hawkins comes to Riverside after many years of service to CDF and Butte County.

Chief Hawkins has worked for CDF Fire since 1964 when he started as a seasonal firefighter and subsequently worked up through the ranks. His previous assignment as an Assistant Chief included supervising the Magalia Camp (formerly Butte Fire Center with the California Conservation Corps) with two Type 1 fire crews, one field battalion with five fire stations, the Training and Safety Bureau, and the county fire department technical rescue program. Additionally, Chief Hawkins served as the fire department liaison to the Pre-Hospital Advanced Life Support-Fire Subcommittee to the Butte County Fire Chiefs Association, the liaison to the Butte Fire Safe Council, and the liaison to the Butte Interagency Rescue Group (BIRG).



*Deputy Chief John Hawkins*

Chief Hawkins graduated from Humboldt State College in 1969 with a BS Degree in Forest Management and in 1976 from Butte Community College with an AA Degree in Fire Science. He is a certified California Chief Fire Officer and a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. Chief Hawkins has over 37 years of command, firefighting, and rescue experience. He served two terms (Teams 3 & 5) as a Type 1 Incident Commander for CDF Fire and has performed as a Type 1 Operations Section Chief on both national and state incident command teams. Recently, he served as the incident commander on the Cedar Fire that burned 273,000 acres in San Diego County.

Chief Hawkins often teaches classes during his off duty hours. He is certified to instruct ICS, command, rescue and medical classes. His expertise is with the positions of Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, Safety Officer and technical rescue courses. He has also taught many classes in Firefighter Survival.



John Hawkins is a dirty shirt firefighter who loves firefighters, enjoys positively mentoring others with what he has learned, values effective and direct leadership in fire officers, and values effective training and operational competence in firefighters. Chief Hawkins has a passion for safety whether it be at a structure fire, rescue or wildland fire.



# Battalion 1

Battalion Chief Tim Williams was selected to attend the Advanced Officer class at the CDF Academy in January.

## Perris Station 1

The station compound is currently undergoing a large unscheduled infrastructure project. New water and gas lines are being installed as well as a concrete parking surface. As the 2003 fire season transitions to non-peak staffing the following Firefighters have been reassigned from Station 1: Sean Arnold (1B) to Fire Station # 3, Josh Jones (1B) to Fire Station # 9, Mike Anderson (1B) to Fire Station # 29. FFI Mike Keyser and FFI Bud Martinez reached the end of their seasons. Welcome back to FAE Mort Allen (1A) and FFII Ken Meinke (1A) from their LT assignments. FAE Dave Hudson (1A) to vacation relief and LT FFII Tim Berget (1A) to Fire Station # 72. Thank you for your hard work and efforts this fire season. The station logbook showed that Perris firefighters responded to 4,275 calls in 2003. FC Bart Chambers recently completed the required training for assignment to a tillered ladder company. FAE Chip Pollock (1B) transferred to fixed relief within Battalion 1.

Engine Company 1 started off the New Year with a reported aircraft down within the City of Perris. The aircraft was found to actually be down in Fire Station 65's area. The response included March Air Force Base FD units, Chief 2, Crash 5 and Rescue 7, as well as Engine 3176 and HazMat 1.



*Firefighters Assist With an Airplane Crash in Perris*

The Perris Fire Station Christmas party was held December 16th and was attended by over 50 members and guests. The voting for Firefighter of the Year was held after the meal, and for the 2nd year in a row, FAE Brad Casady received this honor. Some of FAE Casady's accomplishments in 2003 include: barracks remodel, completion of his JAC status, Fire Captain examination process, and the spec and purchase of a replacement light duty rescue squad. As you can tell, Brad has a "can do" attitude. Congratulations!



*Roof Operations In Perris*

## Nuview Fire Station 3

Welcome to FFI Sean Arnold.

## Goodmeadow Fire Station 9

Welcome to FFI Josh Jones and FFI Clauson. FFI Matt Reinhold and FFI Karl Kolodzik finished their seasons. Congratulations to Marshall Hayes on his promotion to Volunteer Fire Apparatus Engineer. Work continues on the new storage shed behind the apparatus bays. Mr. Dave Howard and Oak Glen crews have assisted with this project.

## Homeland Fire Station 54

Homeland Fire Station will soon be part of Battalion 1 once the realignment is effective. Welcome to Battalion 1! The station lineup: FC Laura Germany, FAE Eddy Hernandez – from MVU, FFII Kirk Huettner, FFII Dave Lord – from MVU, FFII Nicole Mitchem – from Battalion 13 relief, FFII Dave Butler – from Fire Station 11, FFII Eddie Rodriguez – from Fire Station 68.

## Mead Valley Fire Station 59

LT FFII Nathan Petrelia to Fire Station 15, as FFII Nick Crane returns from MVU. FAE Mark Williams and crew continue to make station improvements, as well as obtaining valuable equipment for Engine 59. This station soon will transition into the new Battalion 17.

# Battalion 2

Paramedic Engines went on line at **Lakeland Village Fire Station 11** and **Wildomar Fire Station 61** at 0001 hours on January 1, 2004. As a result, all of the engines in Battalion 2 are now ALS engines. Battalion 2 welcomed FFII PM Pozza at Station 11 and FFII PM Nye is temporarily assigned to Station 11 from Station 51. FFII Paramedics Adair and Fisher are assigned to Station 61. FFII's Butler, Romo, Alvarez, Hopkins, Davis, Bennet, Clingingsmith, and Shutlesworth were reassigned to other fire stations throughout the County from Blythe to Temecula. McVicker Park Fire Station 85 received a new Smeal fire engine for Christmas, and we say we love it! During the Fire Siege, B3112, E11, E61, E3173, and E3175 were assigned to multiple fires for several weeks. Medic Engines 10, 85 and 51 maintained coverage in the Elsinore Valley. We are so very happy and proud to announce that we have a new member of our family in Battalion 2. FAE Jody Gray delivered Dylan, on Friday, January 16th, at 1204. Jody and her husband Darin are doing fine, but getting used to the night life.



*Station 10 Firefighters Work To Rescue An Accident Victim*



### Elsinore Fire Station 10

Bob Haydon got married! He and his wife Nancy are now enjoying married life. Aldo Aleman and his wife had a baby girl. E3175 and E3173 went to the Pass Fire, and then was assigned to the Old Fire and the Grand Prix Fire.

### Wildomar Fire Station 61

The station staff has started to repaint the station and they have removed the ivy that was growing on the front of the station.

### McVicker Park Fire Station 85

ME85 responded to an attic fire in a 57,00 square foot house. The crew made a \$750,000 save with only a \$5,000 loss. Great save folks!



A Traffic Accident In Lake Elsinore

ME10, ME85, and E3173 responded to a traffic collision cut and rescue on Riverside Drive in 10's area on January 17th at 0735. The vehicle ran off the road into a palm tree at about 40-45 mph. The car rolled up onto its side as it struck the tree. The passenger side B post was crushed down to the door frame, within an inch of causing a sure fatality. The extrication was completed by ME85 in just over 20 minutes from on scene time. Two patients, one moderate/major and one minor, were treated and transported to IVMC by two ground ambulances. The addition of fire medics to our engines made a big difference on this call as they were able to access the patient and administer an IV and assume care of the trapped patient. This allowed AMR to transport the minor patient while the extrication was completed.

## Battalion 3

**Beaumont Fire Station 66** had another successful *Christmas for Kids*. The station personnel provided presents to 280 children in the City of Beaumont. Station 66 said good-bye to LT FFII Tomas Macias, who transferred to Battalion 12 relief, and welcomed FFII Todd Hopkins from Wildomar Fire Station 61. The bathroom remodel project has begun, and we are waiting for our new engine. The Volunteer Fire Company and Beaumont City have awarded KME the bid for a new squad, which should be here in July 2004. The Fire Explorer Post continues to complete their level I training and hope to have a few riding on the engine soon

## Battalion 4

### Woodcrest Fire Station 8

During the Fire Siege, Engine 8 responded to the Pass Fire and the Paradise Fire in San Diego. During this time several VFC members earned their squad driver status by default. Woodcrest VFC intermittently covered the station between cover

engines. The Woodcrest VFC continues to grow with the addition of 10 new recruits on board as of January 2004. The new fire station ground breaking went well, and, as of this date, the station is beyond the framing stage. We anticipate moving in by July 2004. Station 8 has been fortunate to receive two new firefighters with the additions of FF Morse from Station 48 and FF Nino from Station 29.

### Lake Hills Fire Station 82

Engine Company 82 was utilized as a cover engine during the Fire Siege of 2003, covering Rubidoux Station 38 the majority of the time. Station 82 is going to become part of the new Battalion 17 and will handle the duties of BSC. We have several new VFC members and continue to show progress within the company. Good-bye to FF Rawlings and welcome to FF Neely. We would like to take this opportunity to thank BC Mata for his time and welcome BC Bywater in his new assignment.



Lake Hills Firefighters Bring Christmas Cheer

### Sycamore Canyon Fire Station 64

LT FFII Chad Murphy and Andy (Murdock) Cullen both promoted to permanent FFII at Station 64. Congratulations! E64 responded to the fire siege as part of Strike Team 6003A, and their first assignment was the Grand Prix fire for three days. Both Chad and Andy got to see some action on this fire but were pulled off the engine to attend the Fire Academy. ST6003A was reassigned and sent to the Cedar Fire in San Diego. What an experience it was. FFII Mike Zimmerman returned from SHU where he was an LT FAE. LT FFII Fernando Ruiz was also promoted to permanent FFII, and he was assigned to Ripley Fire Station 44. Congratulations and good luck!

## Battalion 5

### San Jacinto Fire Station 25

FFII Kruse is back on full duty after being off for several months with a knee injury. Station 25 was the 2nd busiest station in the County during 2003 with 3,700 calls. While responding to a call, the crew on E25 found came across a young mother who was unable to provide many items for her infant daughter. The crew put some money together and purchased some baby basics. They called Heaven to Seven in Hemet to see if the store carried strollers. After owner found out what the crew was doing, the store donated a car seat, stroller, four bags of clothing, formula, bottles, and toys. When these items were presented to the mother, she broke into tears and said that there were not words to express her thanks for the care and service she and her child had received from the Fire Department.

### Little Lake Fire Station 26

The station is keeping busy running fire calls with Hemet City Fire Department. Scott Lane is back from his LT FAE assign-



ment at Sage Fire Station 28.

**Sage Fire Station 28**

Sage had the most fire acreage this season in Riverside County, including three vegetation fires for a total of 12,150 acres. Fire Captain Perry Hall is coming back to Sage for his winter assignment.

**Winchester Fire Station 34**

The new Smeal engine has been delivered and placed in service at Station 34. Fire Captain Rocky McMorris has been transferred from Bautista Camp to Station 34 and is the new Station Manager.

**Valle Vista Fire Station 72**

Station 72 is now staffed with Firefighter IIs. A big welcome to FFII Rowe, FFII Martony, FFII Garcia, FFII Mays, and FFII Shirokawa. Last week the crew rescued a cat that had been trapped in a wall space for three or four days. This cat was very happy to see people again.

## Battalion 6

**Coachella Fire Station 79**

Station 79 personnel had an active month with a successful Christmas Toy drive, which went to benefit many needy families during the holiday season. The annual *Coachella City Christmas Parade* took place with Engine 79 and Squad 79 as parade participants followed by Smokey Bear and Sparky on U-6. After the parade, Station 79's Explorer Post along with Smokey Bear and Sparky distributed many of the Christmas gifts at Bagdouma Park.

**Thermal Fire Station 39**

Congratulations to FFII Nick Yuhas on completing the CDF Fire Academy at Clark Training Center.

**Mecca Fire Station 40**

The personnel from Station 40 had a busy month within the community. ME40 became part of a parade featuring two historical fire engines and a John Deere tractor completely decked out with holiday lighting. Hundreds of candies were given away to the surprised residents of Mecca during this parade. Several holiday presentations and Christmas gift distributions took place at a nearby mobile home parks and the local elementary schools. Station 40's staff also assisted retired Battalion Chief John Rios with a Christmas picnic and gift giveaways provided to numerous needy families at the Mecca Sunset Ranch.

**North Shore Fire Station 41**

The staff at Station 41 welcomed FFI Christine Phelps who arrived here from her assignment at Station 10. FFI Brian Hutchins completed his season at Station 41.

**Oasis Fire Station 42**

Engine 42 and Squad 42 personnel with assistance from the Oasis School, and the Otero and Rios families were active in the community during the Christmas holidays providing needy children with Christmas gifts and clothing.

## Battalion 7

Like our brothers and sisters throughout Riverside County, this quarter found many of us fighting fires of historic proportions.



*A Large Structure Fire In Coachella*

Staff from Battalion 7 were assigned to many of the major fires, as well as staffing equipment and support positions within the County. Hats off to all for your dedication and hard work.

**Thousand Palms Fire Station 35**

As fire season winds down, we have seen the return of several of our team who were serving in LT assignments. Clay Williams returns to Station 35 from RAAB. He enjoyed his assignment at the Airbase, and found it to be a great learning experience. Heather Dinkel did a fine job as an LT FAE in Clay's absence, and she has now returned to her FFII position. Robert Patterson and John Toon also returned to Station 35 after having served as LT FAEs in San Bernardino. Last but not least, FFII Ken Coulston graduated from the Firefighter academy, and returned home to Station 35.

**Facilities**

Construction continues on **North La Quinta Fire Station 93**. Primary plumbing and electrical work has been completed and the office section of the building has been dry-walled. The exterior has been lathed, and exterior plaster/stucco will be applied shortly. Roof tile has been loaded onto the roof, and will be laid once the plasterers are finished. On site, a large generator has been delivered and installed, which will provide power to 100% of the building if electricity is cut off.



*La Quinta Fire Station 93*

**Equipment**

We have begun to receive the necessary equipment for the La Quinta Paramedic program. Thanks to fast action by our purchasing staff, new Zoll monitor/defibrillators were received over the holidays. It is planned to have personnel and equipment in place to begin this program within the next couple months.

## Battalion 8

The big news in the Blythe Battalion is the acquisition of two brand new Medic Engines. On Wednesday January 7, 2004 Supervisor Roy Wilson, along with Chiefs Harris, Dawson and Zimmerman, dedicated the new engines, and essentially the Medic Program, at a ceremony held at Station 43 in Blythe.



The new Medic Engines were put in service in late December at Blythe Fire Station 43 and Blythe Air Base Fire Station 45. Ripley Fire Station 44 also has a "new" Medic Engine, a Type 2, reassigned from Cottonwood Fire Station 52.

Riverside County Fire Department is proud to announce the newest additions to our operational services in the east end of the County. Paramedic Engines 43, 44, 45, went in service on December 31, 2003 fully staffed and equipped with Advanced Life Support (ALS) equip-



*Blythe's Medic Engine Dedication*

ment. The Firefighter Paramedics wasted no time proving just how valuable their resources will be to the communities within Riverside County. On January 7, 2004, around 10:30 pm, just one week after the units went in-service, the crew from Medic Engine 44 (FAE Mario Cabrera, FFII PM Greg Adams and FFII Fernando Ruiz) were dispatched to a possible cardiac arrest approximately 100 yards from the station. The elderly patient was witnessed by family members taking his last breath prior to them calling 911. Upon ME44's arrival they found the patient apenic and pulseless. CPR was started immediately by FAE Cabrera and FF Ruiz, allowing FFII PM Adams to secure an advanced airway and begin Advanced Cardiac Life Support Measures. The Patient was initially found in Asystole (flat line). After ALS measures and continuous CPR, the patient had a return of spontaneous circulation and was maintaining a blood pressure of 60/48 by the time he arrived at the hospital. A job well done by ME44! Within one week, the difference in one man's life in Blythe had proven the value of the medic engine program.

### **Eagle Mountain Fire Station 80**

The Eagle Mountain Correctional Facility is now officially closed after the contract was not renewed for 2004. Fire Station 80 will remain open until around March while Kaiser explores other possible uses of the former mine site and prison facility.

On December 31, 2003, MTC (Management Training Corp) closed its doors at the Eagle Mountain Prison. Most of the residents have moved or are in the process of moving out of Eagle Mountain. Eagle Mountain School will remain open with approximately 30 students until June 2004. Eagle Mountain School also serves MWD Eagle Mountain Pumping Station and Desert Center. High School Students are bussed to Blythe. Kaiser Ventures along with Dr. Norm Guithe from Eagle Mount School District and a couple other folks will be in Sacramento lobbying for some type of Drug rehab facility at the old Eagle Mountain Prison. There is a possibility that Station 80 will close at the end of March if no contractual agreement is made between Kaiser/MTC and Riverside County Fire. We say goodbye to Firefighters Carlos Santos and John DiMartino as their assign-

ments here at Eagle Mountain have ended. We welcome Firefighters Lee Kennedy and Jason Luna from Station 12B to Eagle Mountain. A special thanks to Chief Zimmerman's family who made gift baskets for Christmas.

## **Battalion 9**

Welcome to Deputy Chief Stan Lake. Congratulations to Battalion Chief Andrew Bennet in his new assignment as the Beaumont Battalion Chief. Welcome to Battalion Chief Abdul Ahmad who will be assuming Moreno Valley's Fire Marshal position.

Battalion 9 held its Christmas party on December 19, 2003 at the New Towngate Recreation Center. The event was attended by paid and volunteer firefighters as well as members of the Fire Explorers post. The event was organized by the parents of the Moreno Valley Fire Explorers post and was greatly appreciated. The annual Fire Station Christmas decoration contest was held and judged by Battalion 9's management and their families. Congratulations to *Moreno Beach Fire Station 58* Captain Therrien and staff for winning 1st place in the contest.

The battalion Volunteer Academy is reaching the halfway point with 26 students, and only five losses so far. Stations should expect them to start arriving for training in January. The new volunteers have completed First Responder, HazMat FRO, and are currently undergoing fire familiarization at CTC. A big thanks to the staff at CTC for their assistance. The Volunteer Academy staff thanks station managers and personnel for their assistance in guidance during the training process. Thanks to Volunteer Firefighters Danny and Jeremy Gonzales (Father and Son) for their efforts with the new recruits.

The Explorer program has had many activities including a car show and several musters. The explorer program continues to grow within Battalion 9 with the start of a post at Station 58, and the increase in membership at Station 6. The explorer recruitment process for 2004 will include increasing from 27 to 40 candidates. Best of luck to them.

Personnel movement in the battalion includes: FAE Gorge Gardias returning from a LT FC assignment in San Bernardino, FFII Ballinger returning from his LT FAE position within Battalion 9, FFII Jack Caldwell returning from his LT FAE assignment in Anza, FFII Milford Ferguson returning from his assignment as a LT FAE in San Bernardino. Welcome back to FFII Karie Davis returning from maternity leave after having a baby girl (Aleesha Mikalyn). Also, congratulations to FFII Leroy Miller on the birth of his baby girl (Taylor Nicole) and FFII Doug Kishi on the birth of his baby boy (Matthew Joseph James). Also, welcome back to numerous Battalion 9 volunteers who have returned after working as seasonal firefighters for our department. They'll have many stories to tell about the 2003 fire season.

### **Sunnymead Fire Station 2**

Ladder 2 is now in service. Training of personnel in both driving and tillering is ongoing. Truck 2 is now Truck 2R and temporarily assigned to station 91. Congratulations to all those who



worked hard to make the changeover and training happen. Last but not least, congratulations and good luck to Jerry Hendershot on his promotion to Battalion 16B he will be missed.

#### **Towngate Fire Station 6**

Moses Sarinana returns from Santa Clara Unit. Squad 6 is undergoing a repaint job and the station is undergoing carpet replacement. Ken Myers is still in San Bernardino on a LT FAE assignment.

#### **Sunnymead Ranch Fire Station 48**

A new engine for the station is now being outfitted and delivery is expected soon. The station has undergone remodeling including fresh paint and carpeting. FFII Shane Frederick graduated from the Fire Academy as the # 2 student overall. Congratulations! Best wishes to Greg Wieden who is off duty on sick leave and welcome back to Jack Caldwell

#### **Moreno Beach Fire Station 58**

FAE Arizaga has assumed responsibility for the new explorer post and has begun recruitment of candidates. Welcome back to Milford Ferguson.

#### **Kennedy Park Fire Station 65**

Welcome back George Gradias to vacation relief. Best wishes to Captain Vince O'Neal who is out with family sick leave. Welcome LT FFII Ruben Garcia. Congratulations on 2nd place in the Battalion Christmas decoration contest.

#### **College Park Fire Station 91**

Truck 91 is scheduled to be in service by February 2004. The truck is now in Indio receiving fabrication to the compartments. Our condolences to FFII J.J. Atchley who lost a close family member.

## **Battalion 10**

#### **Cabazon Fire Station 24**

Welcome to new FFIs Mike Johnson and Phillip Hernandez. The Jim Venable Community Center now open next to the fire station. The station fire prevention mascot (aka FAE Dave Parkers dog) Caliber passed away and will be missed during all of the school programs.

#### **North Palm Springs Fire Station 36**

FFII Alex Law returned from his LT FAE assignment in San Bernardino. LT FFII Tammy Martin transferred to Battalion 4.

## **Battalion 11**

#### **Lake Riverside Fire Station 77**

The firefighters are still keeping a watchful eye on their local celebrity. The bald eagle is often seen fishing Lake Riverside or hanging out at its second home at Lake Hemet. This eagle photograph is courtesy of FAE Gad Amith.

#### **Anza Fire Station 29**

All has fallen quiet at the Anza front! With the down-staffing of CDF augmentation fire engines E3153 and E3183, plus the

down-staffing of the USFS fire engine in December, the remaining crew at Station 29 feels a little bit lonely now. Engine 3162 is staffed daily with three personnel. Fire Captain Bill Bryant stated that 2003 is his last fire season and that it was a great experience for all at the Anza Forest Fire Station. With



Lake Riverside Resident Mascot

an average of 17 personnel from the two fire agencies on duty each day at the station, Bill expected a few problems to arise. However, everyone worked well together and there were no significant issues. In fact, the two crews cross-trained together, when possible, and learned from each other too. For example, USFS FEO Garth Crow recently taught a chainsaw class in which both USFS and CDF personnel received either Faller A or B certificates. Everyone benefited from jointly staffing the Anza Forest Fire Station.

#### **Pinyon Fire Station 30**

It has become a little quieter in Pinyon because the Bureau of Land Management down-staffed their Engine 3630 in November. However, BLM and USFS still visit at station 30 from time to time. The federal agencies are working with CDF, Riverside County Fire, and the Pinyon Pines citizens to develop a Fire Safety Plan for the community. The plan will include items such as building fuel breaks and conducting VMP burns in and around the area. The specifications for a new squad for the Pinyon VFC are in the final phases of being drawn up, and an order should be placed soon.

In January, the crews from Station 30 and Station 53, plus a USFS engine and an AMR ambulance responded to a mountain biker down in a remote area of Palm Canyon – almost within the Palm Springs city limits. The three engines and ambulance drove as far as possible down Palm Canyon Drive, but had to stop short of reaching the patient when the dirt road turned into a donkey path. Helicopter 301 was then requested for a search and rescue operation. When the patient was located (with a possible dislocated or broken shoulder), he was flown directly to Desert Regional Medical Center saving valuable time.

#### **Pine Cove Fire Station 53**

Pine Cove Station 23 welcomed six new Firefighter IIs to the mountain in September thanks to the staffing upgrade program. Replacing the Firefighter Is were: FFII Kevin Anderson, FFII Stephen Bucher, FFII Douglas Freeman, FFII Randy Georgeson, FFII Gabriel Gomez, and FFII Amber Grant. Fire Captain Jon Hedman has returned to the helm at Pine Cove after being away for a few months. His reconstructive surgery on his shoulder was successful and he has regained full mobility in his arm.



**Garner Valley Fire Station 53**

Garner Valley Station 53 has a newly installed leach field for its septic system! Station 53 has two new Firefighter Is: Patrick Murphy and Gilbert Gonzales. Welcome to the mountain!

Battalion 11's leader, BC Rod Bywater, has left the mountain to become the new Battalion 17 Chief. Everyone here in Battalion 11 wishes him luck at his new job – he will be missed.

**Battalion 12**

On December 2, 2003, at 0527, Engine 67 from Mesa View Fire Station 67 along with three more engines, a truck, a medic unit, and a BC, were dispatched to a commercial structure fire on Highway 111. Upon arrival, Engine 67 found smoke and flames coming from the second floor level above the Manhattan Bagel Company. The business was occupied at the time by the owner and his wife, who were making bagels for the morning customers. The owner was upstairs, he noticed the smell of smoke and ran down to the store to see if it was on fire. His wife had turned off the fire under the vat that cooks the bagels, and upon



*Crews Prepare To Work On The Roof in Palm Desert*



*Palm Desert Fire Roof Ops*

returning upstairs he noticed a glow coming from a wall outlet near his desk. By the time he was able to call 911 the upstairs office had become engulfed in flame. As it turned out, investigators determined that the fire had started inside the wall where the vent pipe for the bagel cooker went through to

the roof of the structure. Damage was estimated at \$50,000 with a \$2 million save.

On December 22, 2003 at approximately 1500, Engine 67R from Indian Wells Fire Station 55 was dispatched to a single family dwelling structure fire located on New York Avenue in Palm Desert. Upon arrival, smoke was coming from the residence and two burn victims were standing in front of the home. Medic 55 initi-



*Palm Desert Florist Fire*

ated advanced life support and E67R began interior attack on the fire. Fire crews ventilated, extinguished, salvaged, and overhauled the structure. Thermal imaging cameras were utilized to insure the complete extinguishment of the fire. The two burn victims had been stripping a tile floor with lacquer thinner and using an electric circulation buffer machine for about 5 hours. The accumulation of flammable gases, in a non-ventilated structure, found an ignition source in the buffer and ignited the gases. The flashover caused extensive damage to the interior of the building, and the patients were transported to the hospital.

**Battalion 13**

Happy New Year from Battalion 13. Battalion Chief Ned Nickerson has moved his office from **Quail Valley Fire Station 5** to **Menifee Lakes Fire Station 76**. Homeland Fire Station 54 is scheduled move to Battalion 1 in the near future. In January, Menifee Lakes Station 76 personnel along with other Battalion 13 personnel attended two separate five-day Tiller Truck training courses in Palm Desert. Also, several Battalion 13 personnel are scheduled to attend Rescue Systems I. The Battalion has recently encountered several single family structure fires with the garages fully involved. Shortly after arrival, our personnel witnessed early roof collapse attributed to lightweight truss construction (gang nails & gusset plates). When attacking these fires, remember to watch out for these hazards and be safe!

**Menifee Fire Station 68**

In January Engine 68 became Medic Engine 68. We welcome the FFII PMs Diane Schoendienst and Eric Lane to the battalion. Also, in the near future, Medic Engine 68 will be replaced with a new Smeal Engine. Station 68 hosted a department wide Volunteer Academy in January.

**Menifee Lakes Fire Station 76**

Welcome to FC Ron Smith and welcome back to FFII Toby Hughes from his LT FAE assignment in San Diego.

**Canyon Lake Fire Station 60**

Welcome back to Captain Brent Carter from a brief injury.

**Sun City Fire Station 7**

Best wishes to FFII Eli Bakkela during his recovery from an injury.

**Battalion 14**

**Glen Avon Fire Station 17**

Fire Captain Steve Kershner was presented with a plaque for his continued dedication, motivation, inspiration, and friendship during his tenure at Station 17. Steve is a true role model who is admired and missed by many. The Station proudly displays a dedication plaque for Captain Kershner.

FFII Roland Rodriguez has returned from his LT FAE assignment. FFII Mike Boren is still out on light duty due to a knee injury while practicing ventilation drills in lone. Mike will be having surgery in late January. Mike and Nora Boren are the proud



parents of their new daughter, Molly Jean, who was born on November 17, 2003.

#### **Pedley Fire Station 16**

A new Volunteer Academy began on January 6 and has 16 recruits in attendance. The academy will take place three days a week and will run for 2 1/2 months.

## Battalion 15

#### **Bear Creek Fire Station 75**

As paramedics continue to spread throughout the county, paramedic service was added to Bear Creek Fire Station 75. Medic Engine 75 was officially placed in Service on January 1, 2004. FFII Angelo Middione has transferred to Station 75, and two more FFII PMs will be added in the near future.

#### **Rancho California Fire Station 73**

Ladder 73 was delivered from KME Pennsylvania to KME California where it will get a few minor finishing touches before delivery is actually made to the department. The radios and shelving should be done in the next month and placed in service shortly thereafter. The crew at Station 73 has been cycling through their training on the new ladder truck and is anxiously awaiting its arrival.



*Ladder 73 Drives in The Last Snow It Will Probably See*

#### **French Valley Fire Station 83**

Congratulations and farewell to FAE Larry Nachtmann who accepted a FAE position with Pechanga Fire Department. Larry will be missed by the Department and the Fire Explorers Post he led while assigned in French Valley. The Temecula Explorers' superiority at musters is due, in part, to the dedication Larry had to the explorers and the sacrifice he made in leading them. Welcome to FAE Shawn Newman who transferred from Battalion 14 in December 2003.

#### **Park View Fire Station 84**

We are in the process of implementing a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program for the city. Seven AEDs have been purchased and will be placed in city buildings throughout Temecula. Station personnel are in the process of training city employees in CPR and AED. We hope that businesses who attract at-risk clientele will follow and implement their own PAD programs for their business. So far, the feedback has been very positive from the business community as well. Several businesses are currently in the process of starting their own PAD program, including Guidant and the Promenade Mall. To help support this movement, public CPR/First Aid training classes will be held at Station 84. Welcome to Wayne Hamblin, LT FFII, assigned to Station 84.

#### **Wolf Creek Fire Station 92**

Slowly but surely things are moving ahead with building a permanent Wolf Creek Fire Station.

#### **Structure Fire**

On December 31, 2003, at 1757, units were dispatched to a reported structure fire on Vallejo Avenue. Upon arrival they found a 3,500 square foot structure well involved in fire. The fire was well established in the living space and the attic as more than 50% of the structure was involved in fire. An aggressive interior attack was mounted to control the fire in the attic. The attic itself was a large space (approximately 12 feet) with heavy timber structural members. 2 1/2" lines were deployed and directed into the attic space from below by interior attack crews. The interior attack lasted for more than 15 minutes until the roof began to show imminent signs of collapse and all interior attack crews were withdrawn and switched to a defensive mode of attack.

## Battalion 16

As the department's paramedic ranks continue to grow, so do the new faces that are assigned to M86 and M88 for orientation. Battalion 16 continues to provide the opportunity for new hire paramedics to immerse themselves into a variety of EMS emergency responses ranging from chronic illnesses to trauma, such as shootings and TCs. Though many of the new hire paramedics have many years of experience, this unique situation provides them with the fire department perspective which is totally new and different from what they might have previously experienced.

The 2003 Tamale Festival, held annually in downtown Indio, proved to be a huge success once more. This event drew thousands of tourists and tamale eating enthusiasts into the city for one weekend in December. There were hundreds of booths from many organizations who were vying for the Tamale of the Year honors. Furthermore, carnival rides and many other attractions were on hand to entertain the crowds of hungry tourists and locals. Of course, the great influx of people into the city for those couple of days required a greater presence and readiness on behalf of our Fire Department. An IAP for the Tamale Incident was established along with increased staffing of fire personnel to deal with any emergency that might arise. One extra engine and medic unit were staffed and committed to the festival which handled a wide variety of medical emergencies.

**Indio Fire Station 86**, in conjunction with the Indio Police Department, held a *Child Safety Car Seat* event. Information was provided and car seats were handed out to the general public. The event was a great success in not only providing these life saving seats to those families or individuals who were in need, but also in the manner in which both departments were able to come together and work seamlessly for this worthwhile cause.

The future for the City of Indio has growth written all over it. According to the latest calculations based on the projected new construction or development plans being reviewed, over *ten*



thousand homes will be built in the next three to five years. This will primarily take place on the north side of the city, in the area between Madison Street and Dillon Road. This does not take into account all of the possible new commercial construction projects that will provide logistical support to all of the new residents. Current construction projects include tracks of homes from 1,200 to 3,500 square feet with prices ranging from \$150,000 to over \$1 million. Plans for the temporary fire station in the north-west side of Indio, in the Sun City development, are on track. If all goes as planned, this station should be up and running by Fall 2004. Additionally, the fifth City fire station might be built sooner rather than later, due to the fact that a developer has presented the city with plans to built 400 homes in the area of Avenue 44 and Dillon Road.

FFII Ricardo Ginese has returned from a LT FAE assignment in San Bernardino and is assigned to TS86. We also welcome FFII Nick Yuhas to **Indio Fire Station 88** on the Wednesday through Friday shift.



Traffic Accident On Highway 111

A red vehicle was making a u-turn at Highway 111 and Shields when it was struck by a full-size Ford 150 headed east at approximately 70 mph. Upon arrival, one critical patient was found with his seat belt on between the driver seat and the door. A total of five patients were found in the Ford

150, two critical and three minors. One patient was transported by M88 and two patients were transported by M86 to Desert Regional Medical Center. Three patients were taken by AMR ambulance to JFK Hospital. All patients survived the incident.

## Ryan Air Base

During the 2003 fire season, Ryan Air Attack Base became the air base of years-gone-by with the increased level of activity.

The staff from the base and the helicopter were deployed from Ventura to San Diego on varying missions, and, like all others throughout the State, came home with stories to tell. During the conflagration, Hemet-Ryan had the good fortune of having a few familiar faces come back and cover the base to take care of the aircraft and pilots. Thank you for a job well done!



Helitack 301 Crew Takes A Lunch Break While On The Paradise Fire

During the fire siege, the base staffed C301 with a Captain and crew and then brought in a CWN helicopter from Evergreen putting together crew C633. Both aircraft eventually joined up



FC Innes and FFI DeWitt On H301

on the Paradise and Cedar fires in San Diego. Crew 301 was able to document some of their suppression efforts on video during their bump-and-run tactics during the first three days of the Cedar incident. The crew used U3197 as the vehicle of choice giving them unlimited

mobility. This allowed the crew to require very little support from the helicopter and demonstrates the resourcefulness of CDF helitack crews.

The air base had the opportunity to be part of an evaluation of a new type of retardant product for use in fixed wing operations. The *Fire Out Ice* folks from Forest, Virginia arrived the day of the Canyon Fire and 61,300 gallons of Fire Out Ice gel

were delivered over a two-day period. The gel was credited for saving threatened structures during the incident. With the end of the Canyon incident, the



Fixed Wing Tankers Assigned To The Fire Siege

Fire Out Ice crew camped out at the base waiting for another incident, which did not materialize until after their departure to Ukiah AAB. While the company was here, their product was dropped on smaller fires in the Sage and Anza areas, but we did not have a big fire for the ultimate application and evaluation. All three Fire Out Ice personnel, Steve Bell, Jim Gargan, and Boyd Orndorff, were accepted as family and participated in the base activities. It was fun to watch and listen to backwoods county-boy Boyd and city-slicker Jim banter each other like a couple of brothers. Both men had been living together for weeks on end during the long summer, and the experience made them acutely aware of each other's oddities, which made for excellent entertainment.

For all of you special operations folks, Jim Gargan is a published author and you should be aware of his work, or have copies of his books in your station library. He has authored *First Due: Trench Rescue, Vehicle Rescue, and Basic Trauma*



*Life Support Access.* These books are excellent reference training material and are available on-line through Barnes and Noble.

Captains Hall and Alexander completed their ATGS training requirements during the summer. Captain Hall completed some of his ATGS requirements during his two-week assignment in Montana. Other base personnel accomplishments: FFI Matt DeWitt has been accepted into the RCC Fire Academy, Brian Wagner successfully completed the Hazardous Material Technician course, and Ajmer Randhawa and his wife added a new baby boy to their family. Congratulations to all!

Now that the smoke has settled for 2003, here are the Ryan Air Base activity totals:

**Fixed Wing**

Product	Gallons Delivered	Costs	Cost Per Gallon
Retardant	662,020	\$529,436.00	\$.80
Fire Out Ice	140,330	\$72,357.00	\$.52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>802,350</b>	<b>\$601,793.00</b>	

Total Flights: **1,517**  
Total Flight Hours: **946**

**Rotor Wing**

Mission	Flight Hours	Victim Extractions
Medical Aid	4.3	7
Suppression/Training	295.5	

Total Flight Hours: **299.8**

## Communications and Technology Division

### Computer Systems

Riverside County Fire Department systems programmer Mike Elkins is working on several projects that will streamline many administrative functions. The benefit of these projects is that our personnel will be able to increase efficiency and devote more time to other tasks.

*42.9 Program:* An electronic version of the 42.9 is currently being tested by Hazmat, Station 2, and Station 86. The end product will be a 42.9 Requisition system that will be paperless and allow for tracking from start to finish. Release is expected soon.

*AED application:* This project is an online data collection system to capture patient information and upload ECG data.

*Inventory Module:* This project is the creation of an inventory control system in *PeopleSoft* for the Service Center. Once completed, the inventory and standard requisition process for all stations and functions will be automated. (This means the end of using DOS based programs!)

*Training Management System:* An online training management

application is being developed to track employee training records and issue reminders to management when training updates are due.

### New Radios

Foresight and an aggressive stance in purchasing by executive staff lead to a lease-purchase of 350 new Kenwood mobile radios for the fleet. This wholesale replacement of older Midland radios ensures that both County and State resources within Riverside are on the same common communications



platform. It also allows intraoperatively over a region-wide scale with other fire service responders, especially in during wildland incidents. The Kenwood mobile radio is the same make and model that CDF is installing into its statewide fleet. This program goes hand in hand with the past lease-purchase of 500 Kenwood handi talkies, which allows for one basic frequency plan unit wide and one training standard. The radio purchase brought this department to the leading edge of portable and mobile communications. The new Kenwood mobile installation program should be complete by May of this year.



### Emergency Command Center

CDF/Riverside County Fire Department's incident total for the year 2003 was 102,203. This represents a 6.18% increase over 2002. PSCO Kevin Brown guessed correctly this year.

### 2003 Fire Siege

The "California Wildfires" in late October and early November affected nearly every member of our department. During this historic event RVC/RRU provided assistance to every



*ECC Personnel*

emergency incident in Southern California. The ECC was tasked with filling the requests, providing accountability for all assigned resources, including local cooperators, and providing daily statistical reports. At the height of the siege, Riverside County coordinated and deployed: 19 RRU engines, 59 RVC engines, 19 Local government engines, 5 OES engines, 192 Overhead, 16 Fire crews, and 3 Bulldozers. The efforts of the dedicated ECC staff and field personnel who were assigned to the ECC during this extremely busy time were greatly appreciated!



**EARS**

Riverside is leading the State in efficiently meeting its responsibility in Emergency Activity Reporting (EARS). This is in part due to the diligent efforts of Fire Captain Doug Cade and PSCOs Chris Goebel and Dennis Day. We truly appreciate all the efforts of the responsible field personnel for getting their fire reports completed on time.



Expanded ECC Staff

**GIS**

Dave Donley, Stephanie Uribe, and Shelly Knight are working feverously on the Riverside County Public Safety GIS Street files necessary for the new CDF-CAD project.

**Recruitment**

The Perris ECC is once again recruiting dispatchers. All interested people should contact FC Matthew Conoscente or Senior PSCO Jody Hagemann for detailed information on the application process. To review the official PSCO I job description, visit the Riverside County Fire Website [www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org) and click the link for the Riverside County Website. Check your Battalion Mail for PSCO general Interest Brochures to distribute at your Fire Stations, Community Events and public contacts.

**PSCO Training**

We wish to extend our appreciation for your continued support as our new PSCOs move forward in their training. Those new voices that you hear on the radio and phone are working very hard in learning polices and procedures, terminology and the dynamics of working in the ECC. When you landline the ECC for information, be sure to introduce yourself.

**Farewell**

The voice that wakes you up the morning and speaks so fast you wonder if it's a dream is leaving the ECC. Ann (Berg) Fish has just been accepted into the nursing program at Mt. San Jacinto College. We will miss you Ann!

**Health and Safety**

The Bio Terrorism Training has begun in Riverside County. Fire Captain Bart Chambers will be performing the primary instruction to crews at their respective stations. The training consist of administering the Mark-I Kits (auto-injectors with the medications Atropine and Pralidoxime (2-Pam Chloride), either



Mark-I Kit

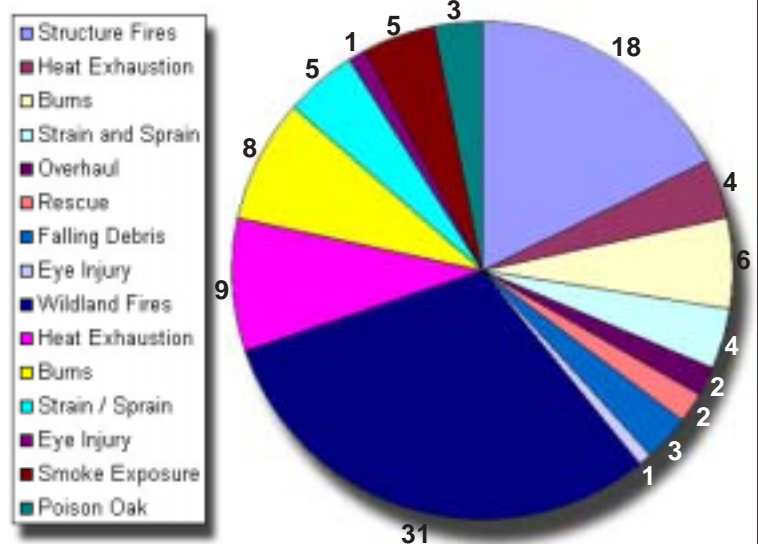
through self administration or administration to emergency response teams in the event of exposure or suspected exposure to nerve agents. Once all operational employees have been appropriately trained, the Mark-I Kits will be distributed out to the field and assigned to each seat on the apparatus.

The safety record of any agency is directly dependent upon the actions of its employees. In 2003, our vehicle mishap rate was 3.99%. The mishap percentage is determined by the preventable accidents per one million miles of vehicle operations. The average accident rate of all Riverside County agencies is 5.2 percent. As an emergency response agency, with drivers operating sedans, SUVs, trucks, engines, and aerial apparatus, our preventable vehicle accident rate is 1.2 % lower than the County of Riverside average for all departments. While our preventable accident rate is commendable, we still experienced 17 preventable backing accidents. It is our goal this year to reduce the number of backing accidents and lower our preventable accident rate even more.

Last year Riverside County Fire Department personnel responded to 102,203 incidents of which 14,816 were fires. A total of 49 injuries were reported during fire ground operations. This gave our department an accident rate of .0033 per incident. This is an excellent record for any public agency or corporation and it is even more impressive when we consider the hazards we are exposed to.

Riverside County Fire Department's injury record for fire responses is extremely low and it is certainly something we can be very proud of. Our record is this low only because of the diligence by each and every one of our employees. Wear all PPE, watch for hazards and flag them as appropriate, stay hydrated, lift correctly, and remember, whatever your position is on the fire ground, keep a watchful eye on all members of the response team to prevent injuries.

Riverside County Fire Department 2003 Injuries By Type





## Fire Explorers

Approximately fifty Riverside County Fire Explorers from Beaumont Post 566, Calimesa Post 521, Coachella Post 679, Indian Wells Post 655, Menifee Lakes Post 76, Moreno Valley Post 946, and Temecula City Post 204 attended the Inland Empire Fire Explorer Association (IEFEA) 12th annual Fire Academy on the Fort Irwin military base from November 19 to 23, 2003. During the academy, cadets learned the importance of the chain of command, accountability, respect, and discipline. The cadets were tasked with the responsibility of filling positions ranging from firefighter to fire chief in order to simulate a full-scale fire department. They attended classes on fire behavior, breathing apparatus, ventilation, rescue, forcible entry, fire control, and investigation. Ladder training, hose evolutions, structure fire rescue techniques, and Fire Control 3 scenarios kept the cadets on their toes for up to 15 hours a day. This left little time to eat, sleep, and shower (especially since the 241 cadets shared six military barracks, less than twenty shower stalls, and one mess hall). The final evening ended with a complete burn-down of the 8000 sq ft building that the cadets had been training in throughout the week. The Explorers had a great time and learned a lot of valuable skills to enhance their performance as future firefighters. The advisors from Riverside County were very proud to sponsor such a professional group of young adults as they represented Riverside County Fire Department with excellence!

## Planning and Engineering

Hello from Planning and Engineering (P&E)! The amount of homes and commercial buildings that we see popping up throughout the County is a good indicator of how busy all of you are. The P&E staff find it exciting keeping pace with the rapid growth that all of us are experiencing. For the year 2003, we completed 2,000 field inspections and over 1,100 plan checks in Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Rubidoux, San Jacinto, and the unincorporated County area.

### The Planning and Engineering staff

Riverside Office: Battalion Chief / Fire Marshall Frank Kawasaki, Fire Captain Specialist Steve Diaz, Fire Safety Specialist Wayne Carr, Fire Safety Specialist Cecilia Dominguez, Fire Safety Specialist Dan Wagner, Office Technician Erica Marquez, and Accounting Assistant Theresa Orchinian.

Indio Office: Fire Captain Specialist Scott DeForge, Fire Safety Specialist Walter Brandes, Fire Safety Specialist Dale Evanson, Fire Systems Inspector Teresa DeSoucy, and Office Assistant II Jacqueline Linares.

Murrieta Office: Fire Captain Specialist Jorge Rodriguez, Fire Safety Specialist Douglas Clarke, Fire Safety Specialist Todd Letterman, and Office Assistant III Carolyn Conard.

The P&E mission deals with Fire Protection Planning. So what is Fire Protection Planning? It is a system that has a direct influence on life safety in both new and existing structures. With

the adoption of code and ordinances, we can effectively promote life safety of the occupant and more importantly, **YOU the firefighter**. This concentration on life safety also safeguards the possessions of both the homeowner and business owner.

Although difficult to measure, the application of code does have a direct impact on saving lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fatality fires that were investigated by NFPA suggested that loss of human life was partially due to a violation of a code. So, we continue to strive with the planning and engineering of new construction to impact and increase the chance of saving lives and extinguishing fires. It is our goal to consistently apply the Uniform Fire Code and Riverside County Fire Protection Ordinance 787. We also look forward to the newly adopted NFPA 5000 guidelines. Once we gain further information on NFPA 5000, we will certainly share our information and concerns with the field.

For those of you working in the above-mentioned areas, feel free to contact us if you have any questions relating to fire protection systems within your response area. The construction phase is good time to learn about the systems.

## Fire Prevention

As quickly as the New Year has arrived, so have changes to the Prevention Bureau. Battalion Chief James Engel transferred to the Butte Unit as the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief. Battalion Chief Joel Semple has transferred from Battalion 14 and he brings knowledge and experience from his previous tenure in prevention. Kimberli Lanier was on maternity leave from September through December bonding with her new daughter, Mackenzie Sue Lanier. In Kimberli's absence, Stephanie Swanstrom stepped in to coordinate the Southern California Fair and provided fire prevention materials to the field while conducting her normal duties. Thank you Stephanie! Chief Semple has re-iterated the importance of the RCO 54.1 form by sending out a countywide email with specifications. This form is available in Outlook's public folders under "Riverside County Forms." The form is user friendly and can be emailed to Kimberli Lanier at the end of the month, or when a program is scheduled. The RCO 54.1 does take the place of CDF 15, which no longer meets state requirements for year-end statistics. Without this information we are jeopardizing education funds. Unfortunately, like the rest of the state, the prevention education budget has been frozen. Although we do have supplies for education, unfortunately there are no extras this year. The education section is preparing for the National Date Festival scheduled from February 13-22 and a fair in Blythe from March 31- April 4.

## Coves Fire Marshal

The Coves Fire Marshal's office had a retirement and a transfer this month. Cheryl Cervantes retired after 15 years of service in the hazard reduction and inspector position, and she is already missed. Neal Stephenson has transferred to La Quinta City as their first Fire Systems Inspector. Neal is leaving the



Coves Fire Marshal's office after 12 years of service and he is taking his vast experience in new construction. We will miss Neal's knowledge and expertise that was shared freely in the Coves.

Battalion Chief David Avila has been wearing two hats for many months as acting Battalion 12B and also the Coves Fire Marshal. Chief Avila has been a very busy person meeting with city council members, handling the Battalion 12 issues, and caring for the Fire Marshal's office business. Our office completed approximately 90% of annual inspections this year, as we were down one inspector for most of 2003. We look forward to our new hires in the up coming month.

## Conservation Camps

**Norco Camp** is going through some changes this year with the retirements of Captain John Harrell, Captain Wayne Murray, and Tim Kochen in pre-retirement mode. The current line up at Norco is as follows: John Romero-Admin Captain, Shane Porter-Operations/Relief, Ted Hart-Crew 1, Tony Hernandez-Crew 2, Kevin Krauss-Crew 3, and Norman Howell-Relief. Kevin will be leaving us when season closes to become the Captain at Eastvale Fire Station 27.

The crews all posted a busy season. Crew 1 responded to 51 calls for a total of 1,278 hours. Crew 2 had 45 fire calls for 1,227 hours, and Crew 3 went to 39 calls for 1,023 hours. The kitchen crew logged only four fire camp assignments, but they had 411 hours on those assignments keeping us all happy in the chow line.

Projects continue to keep the crews busy, including the shore line clearing project at Lake Mathews, the chipping program at Bear Creek Fire Station 75, the Riverside County Parks at the Hidden Valley Wildlife Reserve trail maintenance project, and various fire station maintenance projects. The annual Lake Mathews shoreline maintenance project was completed with Norco Camp 30 days ahead of schedule this year.

Plans are progressing for the major capitol project at **Bautista Camp**. The camp will be getting a replacement kitchen, BOQ, and five replacement crew barracks. The architects have submitted preliminary plans, and they are progressing through the system. After the bidding process, we hope to break ground in July 2005 with completion slated for 2007.

Bautista Crew 2 joins Bautista Crew 4 as a designated insect control crew lead by Captain Reilly. Crew 2 started as a straight falling crew, but are progressing with their training toward being technical falling certified.

The Red Hill fuel break in Pine Cove is progressing with over 300 committed crew days since June 2003. Anyone who wants to see a sample of the project can visit the Riverside County Parks Nature Center located on Highway 243 between Idlywild and Pine Cove.

During the fire siege, Bautista crews were committed to fires in San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and Ventura Counties. FC Randolph went to Ventura as a Crew Technical Specialist, but he assisted with other vacant overhead camp positions while there. FC Pencin went to the Channel Island National Guard Station in Port Hueneme as a MAFFS tanker base manager.

## Hazardous Materials

During the 2003 fire season, several HazMat team members were able to participate in various assignments. FC Bettys received an overhead assignment, FAE Ayers and FFII Sunahara responded to San Diego on E34A, LT FFII Troy Velin was in San Bernardino on E15, and LT FAE Walker went to San Diego on E2. The rest of the team had the opportunity to hold down the fort, and we even got local television coverage asking about the fires of 2003.



*HazMat Team 2 At Fire Station 81*

During the holiday season, HazMat 2 personnel enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the Spark of Love Toy Drive, with our neighbors in Sun City Palm Desert, who proved to be very generous. Further holiday giving came from the Thousand Trails Camp Ground on Varner Road where the residents donated a large sum of money towards the Toy Drive. The HazMat team also participated in a toy drive that retired Battalion Chief John Rios organized. Families throughout the Coachella Valley enjoyed the benefits from the efforts.

Station 81 / HazMat 2 welcomes back FAE Todd Williams from his LT Captain assignment and FFII Patrick Walker from his LT assignment in Anza. We are pleased to have LT Firefighter II Kyle Ferris continuing with us through the off-season. LT FAE Robert Becker and LT Firefighter II Troy Velin were reassigned to Hazmat 1.

## Wildland Firefighter Memorial Pins Available

California Wildland Firefighter Memorial pins are available to purchase for \$1 each. All proceeds will benefit the memorial that will be built in the Ortega Mountains near Highway 74 and Killen Truck Trail. Please send donations to: CWFF Memorial Fund, attention Joanne Evans, 470 North A Street, Perris CA 92570.



For more information contact FC Dave Ferguson at 760 863-7075 or Judy Behrens at 909 736-1811 x 3226 or Joanne Evans at 909 657-8704



## New Facilities

There is an amazing amount of new facilities construction throughout the County. Retired Deputy Chief Bud Engel has been hired to coordinate the many projects that are taking place and in the planning process. Here is an update:

### New Ripley Fire Station 44

The property next door to the existing fire station has been purchased and Chief Tisdale has approved a new station design template designated "rural fire station," which will be utilized to build future stations in areas where funds are difficult to obtain. The Ripley Fire Station is 4,700 square feet with three bedrooms, an exercise room, and two-bay garage. The Department is working with the Desert Empowerment Zone to lease/purchase the new building. Construction will begin by summer 2004 and should be completed by January 2005.

### New Mead Valley Fire Station 59

The new station will be built on the existing site. Drawings are almost complete and construction will start in August 2004. The new station will be completed by January 2005.

### New Home Gardens Fire Station 13

Plans are completed and County will ask for bids the last week of January 2004. Completion is scheduled for late 2004.

### New Cabazon Fire Station 24

Plans are in the final stages for obtaining property just east of current station. The new station will be done by summer 2005.

### New Woodcrest Fire Station 8

The new station is 25% complete and is scheduled to open by July 1, 2004.



### New Lake Riverside Fire Station 77

A new station site has been leased near the main gate and soils testing has been ordered.

### Canyon Hills Fire Fire Station 94

This is a new station being funded by the City of Lake Elsinore. Property has been purchased and drawings are being developed. This station is projected to be completed by 2005.

### New Rubidoux Fire Station 38

Property has been purchased at Mission Blvd and Avalon. The drawings are almost complete and the station should be put out to bid by the end of 2004.

### New Sycamore Canyon Fire Station 64

The new site has been graded and utilities have been installed. The Department is going to purchase a manufactured home as a temporary station while funding is secured for the new station.

### New La Quinta North Fire Station 93

The station should be complete by May 2004.

## Other News

The new office trailers at Perris Headquarters have been completed. Communications and IT are located in the trailer behind the ECC.



New Woodcrest Station Steel Frame

The upper trailer is being used by the Personnel Office while their office space is being remodeled.

Thanks to Supervisor Jim Venable, Poppet Flats Fire Station 63 is getting a new roof and ceiling. The supervisor provided \$16,000 for the upgrade.

The City of Perris is working on obtaining a new fire station site on the north end of the city.

The City of Moreno Valley is discussing the relocation of Moreno Beach Fire Station 58. If the funding remains available, a permanent station could be completed by 2005.

The Department is currently working to secure land to build new facilities for the following stations: Thousand Palms Fire Station 35, Pedley Fire Station 16, Eastvale Fire Station 27, Blythe Fire Station 43, and El Cariso Fire Station 51.

## Mike Veit Receives Support

Rebekah Luther

Mike Veit is a quiet, gentle, loving man, and he is a member of the CDF/Riverside County Fire Department family. As most of you know, Mike has been battling cancer for some time now. Although physically weakened, Mike's spirit is strong with the support of his family at home and at work. Recently, the actions of Mike's CDF

family demonstrated how much he means to us and how well we come together to support a brother. Several weeks ago Mike Elkins and I decided to fulfill Mike's wish to visit the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii. By word of mouth we asked people to contribute to a fund that would pay for airfare and lodging for Mike, his wife, and their two children. The response was simply overwhelming.



Mike Arrives At Perris  
Courtesy of Engine 1



Despite the fact that many people were involved, the plan was kept a tight secret. Only Mike's wife knew about the plan and she had to remain quiet despite his continued suggestions that she start planning a trip soon. On January 15, 2004, about twenty people gathered in Perris. E1 went to Mike's house and told him to get in the engine to go for a ride. Mike's family loaded up in their van and met him at Station 1. During an emotional presentation, Mike and his family were told about their adventure that would begin in a few weeks. On January 29, Mike and his family will be taken in a limo to LAX to board a flight in first class seats, to Honolulu Hawaii. Upon arrival, they will pick up a mini van and head to the Turtle Bay Resort, where they have beach view accommodations for five nights. Mike's wish to see the Arizona Memorial will be fulfilled on January 30, when he and his family will meet with LTJG Zamora to view a movie and tour of the memorial. Afterwards, the military will take them on a windshield tour of Ford Island, a tour of the USS Missouri, and then to lunch. Many thanks to the Navy and the National Park Service for arranging the personal tours that are normally reserved for military personnel and Pearl Harbor survivors.

In addition, to the airfare and lodging, Mike was given a few other things that were made possible by the donations. The kids were given underwater cameras and the whole family were given floral shirts to wear on the airplane. The family was also given the remaining funds to spend on food and activities while on the trip-over \$4,200! In addition, personnel from Mike's home Battalion in Moreno Valley collected funds to buy a digital video camera and give him an additional \$1,200 to spend on the trip. CDF Firefighters Riverside Chapter also presented \$1,000 to Mike's family from the benevolent fund. In all, the generosity of our Department provided nearly \$10,000.

As you can imagine, the presentation at Perris was emotional. Mike Elkins began by saying, "We gather today to honor and pay tribute to one of our own. I have known Mike Veit for nearly a year now and without a doubt he has shown all of us what a measure



The Veit Family

of a man he is. An inspiration to his colleagues, friends, and family, he is a living testimony of bravery, strength, and determination. It is because of these qualities and the love, we his friends, have for him, that we offer him a few of his fond wishes." He continued by saying, "We put out the call to everyone in the Fire Department and the response was overwhelming. I would

like to thank all who participated in this project. Being associated with the men and women of the Riverside County Fire Department gives me a great sense of pride and its all due to their generosity and goodwill."

Although Mike's cancer has progressed, he has a good spirit and the determination to keep going. Mike wants people to know that he will try what ever treatment that his doctor thinks will work. Mike appreciates your continued thoughts and prayers for him and his family. Mike also wants everyone to know that without your help it would not be possible for his family to have this special time together in Hawaii.

Born in Loma Linda, CA, Mike Veit grew up in Perris and joined the Army in 1983, serving in the 82nd Airborne C2-325 Regiment. After the Army, Mike worked in Perris and learned that Quail Valley Fire Station 5 was hiring volunteers. Mike than was hired as a FFI in 1992 at El Cerrito Fire Station 15 and he worked the next seasons at Woodcrest Fire Station 8 and Nueview Fire Station 3. In 1995, Mike was was hired as a FFII in Moreno Valley working at Stations 65 and 48. Mike became a LT FAE in 2000 and worked in Battalions 3 and 10. In 2002, after the McNally fire, Mike found out that he had cancer, began treatment, and spent the past year on light duty working in the ECC.

Although we do not like to dwell on such things, it is important to make sure your family is taken care of. Make sure you have an insurance policy and that it is large enough cover your family's future expenses. Be sure that the policies have updated information for beneficiaries. Make sure you have a will and that it is current.

There is a very helpful planning document available at the DPA website: [www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/retire/PlanningAhead.shtm](http://www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/retire/PlanningAhead.shtm)

## Fire Academy at CTC

On November 21, 2003, the CDF Firefighter Academy (Basic Fire Control 1A/B) graduated in Landis Auditorium at Riverside Community College. The four-week academy, held at the Clark Training Center, covered the basic skills of firefighting and prepared the students to work at various fire stations throughout the County.



Chief Tisdale Inspects The Firefighter II Academy

There were twenty-seven graduates, twelve of whom are Paramedic-Firefighters. The graduating Firefighters have filled positions that were created by the County Board of Supervisors' decision to increase fire station staffing levels countywide, including the addition of fire based paramedic services to several areas.

Who Are They Answers: 1. Battalion Chief Jim Cook  
2. Battalion Chief Tom Hyatt 3. Battalion Chief Bill Whitlock



# Feedback On Service

Emailed to Chief Harris November 2003

Dear Sir,

Could you please pass this on to the people involved in this? Thank you.

On November 10, 2003 my oldest brother was in an accident on Highway 60 near Granite Hill Drive near Glen Avon. He was driving a Ford Explorer. His name was Stephn R. Gibson. He didn't survive the injuries from the accident, but he did survive for three days thanks to the fire and rescue people. That is why I am writing to you. I would like to thank these people for thier devotion to thier jobs. At times it may seem like no one cares about you. Please don't get discouraged. I care and I know that I am not the only one.

My brother lived long enough for family to come from as far away as Oaklahoma City to be with him when he died so he wouldn't die alone. Take heart, I know you can't win 'em all, like my brother, but you made it easier for him knowing his family was there with him. Any time you lend aid or comfort to a person that might not make it I know you will do your best for them. Thank you and go with God.

Roger Gibson  
113 Eldorado  
Fort Morgan CO 80701

Letter to Battalion 15 November 2003

Dear Battalion Chief:

I would like to express my thanks to the members of Station 73 in Temecula. Back in June I was not feeling too well while working, actually I felt bad enough that I decided to head over to the fire station to see what was wrong with me. The crew on duty looked me over and suggested that I let them take me to the hospital and I actually agreed. This would not be extraordinary except that I never admit to feeling bad and I do not like doctors or hospitals. Thanks to the crew on duty that day I am doing well today after receiving as pacemaker and have two carotid artery surgeries.

Special thanks to:

Phil Rawlings, John Stabile, Dean Fehler and Jason Milligan

I would probably not be here today if it weren't for them.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Murakami

Letter to Battalion 3 November 2003

Thank you!

Those two words do not seem sufficient enough to express my gratitude for everything you did to save my life on November 8. I was bucked off my mule and thrown down the hillside in Bogart Park. The CDF helicopter lifted me out of the canyon to waiting Mercy Air. The doctors did not give me much hope. I ended up with a punctured lung, which collapsed, a broken shoulder, ribs, tail bone, concussion, and internal injuries.

Do to your professional and prompt response along with Beaumont City and Cherry Valley CDF, I am alive and on the road to recovery.

God Bless,

Sandra Curtis



# Riverside County Fire Department 6th Annual Burn Foundation Golf Tournament



**April 15th, 2004 at the Menifee Lakes Country Club**

Sponsored by Casino Morongo and the Riverside County Firefighters' Golf Association

All proceeds benefit the Arrowhead Burn Center in San Bernardino. The funds are used to pay for sponsorships to childrens' burn camp and to provide comfort for patients during their stay a the burn ward. Last year, this tournament raised **\$18,000!**

Entry fee: \$75.00 per player, includes greens fee, cart, goodie bag, and western BBQ buffet.

The tournament will be a Scramble Format. Prizes include: New Car For Hole-In-One, Longest Drive, Closest To The Pin, Buy-A-Drive Hole, and raffle prizes!

**Schedule:**

7:00 AM Check-in

7:00 AM to 8:30 AM Driving range, putting contest and raffle ticket sales

9:00 AM Shotgun start

Course requirements – collared shirt, soft spikes (no denim and no coolers)

Entry deadline - **April 1st, 2004**

Guest buffet luncheon - \$10.00

Send this entry form and a check or money order to:

*Riverside County Firefighters Golf Association*

42943 Corte Abanilla Temecula CA 92592 Phone: (909) 302-2211



If interested in becoming a member of the RCFGA, please contact Tracy Hobday at (909) 302-2211.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

PLAYER 1 \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER 2 \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER 3 \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER 4 \_\_\_\_\_



## Structure Fire Command

By John R. Hawkins

As you contemplate your readiness to command a structure fire, consider the following scenario: You are the first in company officer at a single engine fire station in a new housing development. It is 0300 hours on a hot summer night. You regularly train your firefighters and know that they can competently perform the County Standard Operating Procedures. You have preplanned your first due area and are very familiar with building construction. There is a very good hydrant system throughout your area. So, you are peacefully resting when the fire station alarm awakens you. The ECC dispatches a standard first alarm response to a reported structure fire with numerous reports at Green Haven cross of Many Oaks Drive.

With the alarm, you yell, "Let's go." Your firefighters are dressed and seated. You know the route to take and the engine pulls out of the station and heads down Main Street about 14 blocks to Many Oaks Drive where you turn left. You proceed about eight blocks and turn on Green Haven, a cul de sac about 600' long. You know that hydrants are located at the corner, mid block and at the end of the cul-de-sac so that no supply stretch is longer than 300'. You look down Green Haven and see many residents standing mid block.



You approach the reported address and confirm that it is, in fact, the same address to which you were dispatched. There is a steamer hydrant right in front of the house. The garage

is detached, the garage door is closed with two BMW's sitting between the garage door and the curb and three tricycles between the rear bumpers and the curb. There is no fire evident in the garage. You nose the hydrant as you have a front pre-connect suction supply line. You survey the two story single family, wood frame residence. You note heavy smoke coming from the attic vents and the open, upstairs windows emitting heavy, dark smoke. The only fire that you see is in the living room which is on your left. The house appears to have a center core stairway leading to the upstairs. Worst of all, you do not see anyone leaving the house. Even worse is that one of the residents yells at you, "Where have you been? What took you so long? They are inside and trapped." You ask how many people live in the house and the local states, "Five including a father, mother and three kids." Even with the open windows on this hot summer night, you do not hear the chirp of activated smoke detectors.

It is now command show time. To effectively use this scenario, we will rely on the 1950's work of Lloyd Layman. You all know that he started the *Basic Divisions of Fire Fighting* which include: Size-up, Rescue, Exposure Protection, Confinement,

Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage. He envisioned the divisions being considered as a mental check list when attacking a fire and that Ventilation and Salvage could be used at any time after the Size-up. Size-up subcomponents include Facts, Probabilities, Own Situation (today's world = resources), Decision (today's world=strategy = incident objectives or "what to do") and Plan of Operation (Today's world = tactics or "how to do it"). The first three subcomponents are inputs to your brain. The last two are outputs or decisions which constitute your strategy and tactics.

So, what are the facts?

- Fire at same address as dispatched
- Fire present downstairs
- Hot summer night with open upstairs windows
- Heavy smoke coming from upstairs & attic
- No resident of house is present to question
- Detached garage with no apparent fire
- Two cars and three tricycles present between garage door and curb
- Panicked residents in the street

What are the probabilities?

- Family sleeping upstairs
- Family overcome by smoke and near death
- If not rescued very soon, family will die
- Fire could easily run up stairs
- No fire in garage

What is "Your Own Situation" or Resources?

- Three engines, one truck and BC responding
- Three person engine companies and four person truck company
- Considerable greater alarm resources are available
- Hydrant in front of house

Now, you must form a decision or strategy or incident objective. To form the strategy or determine the prioritized incident objectives, we will use the remainder of Layman's Basic Divisions of Fire Fighting. They are:

- Rescue
- Exposure protection
- Confinement
- Extinguishment
- Overhaul
- Ventilation
- Salvage

So, which of the Divisions are important at this live saving fire? Well, I think that there are only three critically important ones that you can do. They are, in order of priority, (1) Confinement, (2) Rescue and (3) Ventilation. Here is why I feel this order is critically impor-





tant. First, the limiting factor at this structure is the stairway. Lose the stairway and lose your most easy access to the upstairs including ingress and victim egress for the probable trapped family. You must hold the stairway. The other two Divisions are self evident in importance, Rescue and Ventilation. After Confinement, perform Rescue and Ventilation. Time is not on your side. You must remove the victims, post haste. They may already be unconscious. This is a rescue situation and allows you to work outside of the Two-In and Two-Out rule. Do it. Make the rescue. This is a real rescue situation. Make sure that you communicate your decision to the troops on the fire ground and incoming crews. They will be expecting the use of SOPs, so if you deviate from them, everyone must know about it.

Therefore, you provide the ECC with a report on conditions and advise that the incident objectives are, aside from responder safety, (1) confine the fire to the first floor, (2) rescue the victims and (3) vent as you can to make the atmosphere more tenable for both you and the victims. These three tasks are what you are going to or must do.

A simple acronym for structure fire report on conditions is: COSA which equates to:

- C = construction
- O = occupancy
- S = situation facing you
- A = your intended action

Use COSA as a mental checklist for your report on conditions.

Next, you implement the final step of Layman's Size-up, Plan of Operations or tactics or how you will do the attack. To me this one is simple. The firefighters are going in the front door, up the stairs, do a primary search and remove as many victims as possible. The company officer will put the engine in auto pilot and staff the hose line at the front door holding the fire in the living room. In fact, the company officer will probably knock down the fire. Second and third due companies can hook up the front suction supply, provide the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), assist with rescue, EMS, ladder the building, etc. As early as possible, someone on the fire ground must be designated to maintain personnel accountability utilizing helmet tags. If you are, well drilled, aggressive, and lucky you will at least get the victims out of the building before the entire first alarm assignment arrives. With that effort, the victims at least have a chance.

We have taken many minutes to do a mental thought process that your brain will do in microseconds. But the process is what is important. Think first about what you wish to accomplish followed by how you want to do it. It is easy for us to just jump to how to do it and say, "Pull a line, etc." If you use the structured Layman System, you will find that you more easily do the job of commanding an emergency. The system works well on any type of incident, be it EMS, rescue, hazmat, etc. Good luck and be safe.

## Spark Of Love Toy Drive

Joanne Evans, Chairperson

The 2003 Spark of Love toy drive was a great success! In mid-November Laura Germany organized her annual Softball Tournament to raise money to purchase presents for underprivi-



*Perris Firefighters Help Santa With Toys*

leged children in Moreno Valley. Joanne Evans, Becky Luther and Gayle Schulte, from Riverside City Fire Department, kicked off with the Metrolink Santa Claus Toy Drive Train on November 23, 2003 at the Riverside Metrolink Train Station. Monetary donations were received and utilized for toys, food and clothing. Sandy Hughes was instrumental in obtaining one of these donations plus picking up toys. KFRG delivered a whole truck load of toys on behalf of Perris Fire Station 1 to God's Helping Hand Church in Perris. When these toys arrived, the families were lined up down street. Special thanks to Carolyn Tisdale who worked in the Wildomar area.

All of the stations and Battalions did a wonderful job this year in reaching out to families in need. Temecula, Perris, Moreno Valley, Elsinore, Beaumont, and Sun City Battalions reached out to approximately 17,000 children. Pedley, Rubidoux, Corona, Riverside City, Hemet City, San Jacinto and Mountain Battalions reached another 6,000+ children. The Desert Battalions, all totaled, reached yet another 4,000 children. These are rough numbers based on reports from the Battalion coordinators. In all, the lives of an estimated 30,000 children were touched by your efforts.

Although I am retiring July 5, 2004, I plan on continuing to work with the Spark of Love Toy Drive in the future. This program can use lots of volunteers, especially retirees. So, all you retirees, consider helping out next year! KABC Channel 7 is our main sponsor and they start in the planning process around August with meetings and photo shoots in October. Riverside County Fire Department missed being on the poster this year because we were all on fires.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who worked the with the Firefighter Spark of Love 2003 program. I especially want to thank my husband, our dedicated "Santa Clause," who spent the month of December sorting, labeling, and packaging bags of toys for distribution. He also played Santa for over 2,000 children on behalf of CDF/Riverside County Fire Department.

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

NASA Satellite Photo of the Southern California Fires

Continued from page 4

On Sunday December 21, firefighters gave Santa (AKA Victor Simmons) a ride to the Caracus Christian Center in the John Nobles Community of Indio. Santa was delivered on Old Engine Company 1 with the assistance of the Fire Apparatus and Battalion 16B from Station 86.



Firefighters Hand Out Gifts  
In Indio



**Riverside  
County Fire  
Department  
Firefighters  
Contribute To  
Their  
Communities!**



**2003 Fire Siege Chronology**

Tuesday, October 21, 2003  
Roblar 2 Fire starts near Camp Pendleton.  
Grand Prix Fire starts near Rancho Cucamonga.  
Thursday, October 23, 2003  
Piru Fire starts near the community of Ojai.  
Friday, October 24, 2003  
Pass Fire is 100% contained, 2,387 acres.  
Saturday, October 25, 2003  
Old Fire starts near the City of San Bernardino  
Cedar Fire starts near the community of Santee.  
Simi Fire starts near the City of Moor Park.  
Sunday, October 26, 2003  
Paradise Fire starts near the community of Valley Center.  
Otay/Mine Fire starts near the city of Otay.  
Mountain Fire starts near the community of Sage  
Wellman Fire starts.  
Monday, October 27, 2003  
Wellman Fire contained at 100 acres.  
Wednesday, October 29, 2003  
Novato Fire Protection District Engineer Steven Rucker dies and three members of his crew injured when they were over-run by the Cedar Fire.  
Mountain Fire contained at 10,331 acres.  
Tuesday, November 4, 2003  
Cedar Fire contained at 273,246 acres.  
Wednesday, November 5, 2003  
Simi Fire contained at 108,204 acres.  
Old Fire contained at 91,281 acres.