



REPORT ON CONDITIONS

The official newsletter of
the Riverside County
Fire Department

Report On Conditions

Summer Edition
August 2004

MAST Drill For San Jacinto Mountain Community Wildfire Evacuation

By Anthony Coletta, Emergency Services Coordinator

On Thursday, June 24, representatives from fire departments, community groups, and other agencies met in Idyllwld to participate in an exercise designed to plan for a potential devastating fire in the San Jacinto mountains. *Operation EVAC* was intended to exercise the evacuation function of a wildfire driven incident involving the mountain top communities of Riverside County. The exercise enabled Command Staff to work through a complex evacuation scenario in a tabletop discussion format. Additionally, the exercise afforded those cooperating and assisting agencies that are likely to support an evacuation the opportunity to discuss their roles and responsibilities for this scenario.

Tree mortality in the San Bernardino forests of Riverside County, approximately 73,387 acres, has reached a fire risk of historical proportions. In March of 2002 the Riverside County Board of Supervisors declared a local state of emergency due to this risk and an ever-growing tree die off due to bark beetle infestation and a continued and persistent drought. Shortly thereafter, key stakeholders formed an interagency incident management group to deal with this emergency. This group, the Riverside MAST (Mountain Area Safety Task Force) is concerned with mitigating the effects of this emergency, preparing for cascading events such as wildfire, pre-planning response strategies to secondary events such as evacuations and other emergencies and recovering from the effects of tree mortality and related emergencies. To this end, the operational agencies comprising the Riverside MAST recognize their roles in evacuating residents and visitors from the Mountain Top Communities in response to emergencies such as wildfire.

The Scenario

On Thursday June 24, 2004, at approximately 1400 hours, a vegetation fire is reported in the area of the mouth of the North Fork of the San Jacinto River. The area of origin is approximately 5 miles east of the City of Hemet along the north side of State Highway 74.

Winds are up slope and canyon oriented with the prevailing slopes by afternoon. Skies are clear. Air temperature is 95 degrees F, Relative Humidity is 20%, 20' winds are 6 MPH, Fine Fuel Moisture is 5%, and Live Fuel Moisture is 70%. Fuels in the lower drainage are light brush and grass (NFFL Fuel Model 2 and 6) as a result of the Bee Fire in 1996. The mid drainage is heavy mixed brush (NFFL Fuel Model 4, SCAL Model 17). The upper drainage is heavy timber (NFFL 10 and 12). The topography is dominated by the San Jacinto River, which runs parallel to Highway 74 and the North Fork Drainage, which runs toward the community of Pine Cove. Slopes are steep and cut with deep drainages such as Strawberry Creek and the Logan Creek. The aspect of most of the



MAST Drill Participants

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Chief's Message

I have spent my first three weeks in the county making the adjustment to the "Riverside" pace. Things are bigger, faster, and more exciting than any unit I have ever worked in. I started my Riverside assignment on July 12, which is 37 years to the date of my first day as a seasonal firefighter in Tulare County, not to mention it is also my birthday. I spent my first three weekends visiting more than 20 stations in the unit. While the visits allowed station personnel to put a face on the new chief, they were really intended for me to assess the readiness and "health" of firefighting forces. Well, it did not take all 20 stations to conclude that the state and local government funded forces have a high level of morale and professionalism.



But a word of warning, I have one hot button that you all are advised to avoid. I demand we all treat each other with respect. As a station captain, I did not enjoy those occasions when the BC treated the Unit Chief as if he could do no wrong, and upon his departure the BC then treated the station crew in a far less endearing manor. Regardless where you fall on the organizational chart, even if your holding the chart upside down, we all desire respect. Failures in this area is one of the few things I take at a "personal" level.

I look forward to meeting more of you. We have a big task at hand. Not only do we need to keep handling the day-to-day emergencies, but we must develop a strategic view of the future for the Board of Supervisors and City Councils as the emergency services demands continue to increase in a rapidly growing county. We have a big job, let's get to it.

Craig Anthony
Fire Chief

The station visits identified a number of minor and major issues that are important to address. Deputy Chief Harris is getting used to our Monday morning meetings as I pull slips of paper from my pockets asking why we do the things we do. Interestingly, I was once in the same position when Region Chief Ernest returned from his weekend station tours and I was the one to make the "fixes." Richard Ernest played an important role in my career and had his roots in Riverside County. I visited his memorial at Beaumont Fire Station and I well remember his lesson that the troops always come first. His dedication to doing the right thing and setting a high expectation for all was a product of his experiences as he made the journey from seasonal firefighter to Director. Richard Ernest was a firefighter Director and it has been a long wait for a firefighter to achieve that level again. Our new Director, Chief Geldert, worked his way from the back of the engine to the front, on the truck company, to County fire chief, CDF Division Chief, city Fire Chief, and now CDF Director. I've known Chief Geldert for almost 15 years and you will have to take my word for it, we could not have a better Chief.

I interviewed unsuccessfully for the Riverside Unit Chief position in 1992 and had to settle for San Benito/Monterey Unit several months later. When Chief Geldert asked me to become the Riverside Chief, there was no hesitation. My only warning to the Chief was this is my last position in CDF. I've been an Assistant Region Chief and several Deputy Directors in Sacramento and I have no interest in returning. This is my chance to be a part of the "major league" of CDF operations and I plan to hold onto it for 5 to 10 years. So get use to me, we have a long and exciting future together.

While this has not been a typical "Chief's column," it is important to share my excitement for the Riverside Unit Chief job.

About the Chief

Chief Anthony started his career with CDF as a seasonal firefighter in 1967. Chief Anthony returns to CDF after a 4 ½ year retirement, during which he managed 217,000 acres of forestlands for the largest private employer in Humboldt County. Chief Anthony has extensive experience working for local government boards and city councils, serving as the deputy fire chief for the Merced and Madera counties' fire departments and deputy director of the Merced County Office of Emergency Services. While serving as CDF Unit Chief in Monterey and San Benito counties, Anthony was appointed to the Fire Chief position for the Pebble Beach Community Service District, the San Benito County Fire Department, and both Fire Chief and General Manger for two other fire districts.

In addition to his field experience, Anthony has served within CDF as an Assistant Region Chief, Deputy Director of Resource Management, and Deputy Director of Management Services.

Chief Anthony's educational background includes a BS in Forestry from Humboldt State University, and achieving doctoral candidacy status in Public Administration at the University of Southern California. Anthony is also California Registered Professional Forester.



Public Affairs Bureau

Welcome to Public Information Officer Patrick Chandler

The Riverside County Fire Department Public Information Officer position, which was held for many years by Joanne Evans, was filled in May with the appointment of Patrick Chandler. Having been born and raised in Riverside, Patrick is excited to



PIO Patrick Chandler

return home and begin a new chapter of his career. Patrick graduated from UC Santa Cruz (the Banana Slugs) with BA degrees in History and Politics. Patrick previously held positions in politics, education, and labor. More notably, Patrick spent almost three

years working in the Governor's Office and the California State Assembly in the State Capitol Building in Sacramento.

This being his first experience working with emergency services, Patrick has found his job to be challenging and intriguing. Although he knows he has a lot to learn, with the assistance and mentorship of firefighters, dispatchers, and administration, Patrick is excited and ready for the challenge.

Website

The department website (www.rvcfire.org) continues to be a source of information to many people both in the Riverside County and throughout the country. During the fires in May and July, the website traffic surged to several thousand visitors per day. While the real-time incident information is updated by PIO and ECC staff, all other department employees have the ability to post information about their fire station, function, staff, etc. In less than a year, our website has swelled to over 250 pages. However, there is much more that could be added. Any employee can be empowered to edit and add to their area's webpages. All it takes is a desire to add to the website, about an hour of training (done at your location), and

Events Calendar

- August 9 Decker Fire Remembrance at the Wildland Firefighter Memorial at Highway 74 and S. Main Divide. Event starts at 10:00 AM
- August 19 RRU Retirees Lunch at Perris Sizzler at 11:30 AM
- October 11 Battalion Reports for the Fall Edition of the Report on Conditions due.

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

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Chief Tisdale Transfers

On July 12, 2004, Chief Tom Tisdale transferred from the Riverside Unit to the Operations Chief at South Area Operations in Riverside. Chief Tisdale is responsible for the Region's telecommunications program and oversees the Region's mobile equipment, air operations, safety and training programs. In his new position, Chief Tisdale makes decisions about the allocation of resources on emergency operations within the Region and in concert with the other region and sets standards for Region and Unit drawdown limitations. In addition, Chief Tisdale represents the department on the FIRESCOPE Operations Team-South.



The following is Chief Tisdale's message to CDF/Riverside County Fire Department:

I want to take this opportunity to address all of the Staff of the Riverside Unit and the Riverside County Fire Department, although I had already sent some of this information to the field via an E-Mail, I would like to reiterate the message in this Report on Conditions.

I was proud to have served as your Fire Chief for a little over 3 1/2 years, and I am proud to have been associated with the Riverside Unit for over 33 years in one form or another. But I am even more proud of the Riverside County Fire Department - Riverside Unit for what all of our people have achieved over the past three years to make this the best Fire Department in this State and possibly in the nation! I have personally witnessed the growth of this Unit and County Fire Department from 1971 through 2004, and I have seen all of the great times, all of the not so great times, and all of the bad times. We have worked as a team to build the County's and CDF's Fire Protection in Riverside County to what it is today. All of our hard work has resulted in the fourth largest **full service** Fire Department in the State of California.

Our Department's record speaks itself with the best fire attack capability, the best EMS response, the best Haz Mat response capability, the best mutual aid program, the most complete communications interoperability in the state, and the best Fire Managers, Fire Officers, Firefighters, Paramedics, Dispatchers, and support staff found in any Fire Department in the US!

I have a lot of pride in the achievements we have made over the past three or so years:

- ◆ Staffing of Lake Riverside and El Cariso Fire Stations with permanent paramedics and firefighters.
- ◆ Staffing of temporary Fire Stations at Horsethief Canyon and Eastvale with permanent firefighters.

- ◆ Increased county-wide engine staffing with Firefighter IIs.
- ◆ Twenty-nine new multi-functional fire engines with at least five more per year to be purchased each year, and two 100' ladder (tiller) trucks.
- ◆ New and replacement truck companies for City and County stations with additional staffing for the County trucks.
- ◆ Two Type 1 Hazardous Materials Response Teams providing full coverage for the west and east ends of the County.
- ◆ Additional paramedics for engines, squads, and ambulances.
- ◆ Building of several new fire stations and the rebuilding of existing fire stations.
- ◆ Overhead Staffing System (OSS)
- ◆ Advanced communications and information technology capabilities.
- ◆ Two new Mobile Command Units.
- ◆ Public Safety Training Center.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to impact two areas that will affect the lives of those who live and work in Riverside County. Having been appointed by Board of Supervisors to the team that evaluated the AMR Contract with the County, I also was appointed as a negotiator for the new ALS ambulance contract between AMR and the County of Riverside. The new contract resulted in quicker and more efficient response time criteria for the AMR contract and established additional ALS Ambulances for the county-wide contract. In addition, a mutual aid program between all fire departments and ambulance providers in the County has allowed for a complete dropping of jurisdictional boundaries during emergencies. This allows the County and all of the Cities to provide the highest level of professional emergency services to all citizens and visitors to this County.

Second, the formation of the Riverside MAST in the Mountain Areas of Idyllwild, Pine Cove, and Garner Valley has helped prepare for a major wildfire that threatens these communities.

We must all be proud of these, and all of our other advancements. You are all the best and I want to personally thank each and everyone of you for the daily job you do and for your positive attitude that makes the Riverside County Fire Department number one!

Tom Tisdale



Golf Tournament Donation

The sixth annual Burn Foundation Golf Tournament was another success! Not only did the 144 participants have a great time on the links, the tournament raised \$19,000 to benefit the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Burn Ward. Once again



Arrowhead Burn Center Staff Accept the Golf Tournament Proceeds

the tournament was held at Menifee Lakes Country Club, and the title sponsors were Riverside County Firefighters Golf Association, Casino Morongo, and CDF Firefighters-Riverside Chapter. This year's donation brings the six-year total raised for the Burn Center to \$58,250.

Turner and Edwards Honored

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors presented Division Chief Kevin Turner and Forester Kathleen Edwards



with a proclamation honoring their dedication and hard work battling the bark beetle infestation and tree mortality problem in the San Jacinto Mountains. During the Board meeting on May 25, the Supervisors joined Chiefs Tisdale and Hawkins

to publicly thank Turner and Edwards for their devotion to a serious problem. The efforts of Turner and Edwards have resulted in an infusion of Federal grant funds and the removal of tens of thousands of dead trees. Although there are still years of work to do, progress is being made in large part due to the dedication of Riverside's resource managers.

Who are they?

The following photographs were found in the Public Affairs archives. Can you tell who they are? The answers are on page 17.



2004 Fire Season Assessment in Riverside County

Analysis Contributed By Fire Captain Tim Chavez

The 2004 fire season began rather ominously in April. Historically, fire seasons have certainly opened earlier in Southern California due to activity, but never have major fires burned so



Melton Fire

early requiring team deployments. Here are some of the reasons why.

Rainfall Deficit

Rainfall in most of the western county is down from 50% to 75%. The county is between 5-10" below normal in the January-March time period. This is critical,

because it is when the grass begins to grow and the brush comes out of dormancy and begins its life cycle.

Drought

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows Riverside County in Moderate Drought. This considers the current year rain and soil moisture. The Western Riverside County drought is a long-term event, even with the relatively normal rains in the winter of 02-03. The Standardized Precipitation Index for 72 months indicates that we are still very dry and well below normal in the long term.

Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition is the fuels situation in relation to fuel density, live to dead ratio, disease and insect attacks, "greenness" and fire return interval. In Riverside County, many areas have had large fires in the last 20 years, but many areas, particularly higher elevation pine forests, have been without fire for the entire length of recorded history. And other areas, such

as the Beauty Mountain, Red Mountain, and Yucaipa Ridge have not had fires in 80+ years. In all those areas, consequently, there are varying degrees of die-back due to the combination of insects and disease and drought.



The Benefit of Integrated Fire Protection: During the Fire Siege in July, E-34 Covered Perris City, BDU 3574 Covered Perris FFS, and B-4411 Covered the Perris Battalion

Continued on page 23



Battalion 1

Through many budget meetings with Perris city officials, Chief Williams has secured funding for two Type-I engine companies, and the new North Perris Fire Station. One of the new engines will replace the current Engine 1, which will replace the 1991 E-One engine serving as Engine 1A.

Perris Fire Station # 1

Welcome to FC Jeff Veik, FFII Roger Buck, FFII Matt Reinhold, FFII Kevin Reed, and FFII Tim Maxwell. FAE Brad Casady recently responded to a commercial structure fire at a Creamatorium. The arriving units found a fire that was anything but ordinary and FAE Casady used tact and care to rectify the situation.

While making an interior attack on a structure fire, a member of VFC #1, who was on his first fire, became entangled in ducting wire. The firefighter relied on his training and utilized his side cutters to free himself. The lesson: Be heads up and train often.

Congratulations to FAE Rich Owens and his wife, on their upcoming addition to their family.

Nuview Fire Station # 3

Welcome to Firefighters Dave Allen and Leslie Compton.

Woodcrest Fire Station # 8

As of June 22, 2004, we are proud to announce the occupancy of our new facility. As we adjust to the expansiveness of the new fire station we want to give a big "thank you" to all parties involved in seeing this project come true. Also, a big thanks to the Woodcrest Volunteer Fire Company for all the assistance in moving in to the new station. With everyone's help, we were able to make the move in one day. The Woodcrest Volunteer Fire Company had its annual membership purge with the hiring and the returning to seasonal work of many of its members. Good luck to them in this step of their Fire Service Careers. The station would like to welcome FFIs Andrew Kibby and Patrick Murphy. They came at the right moment, never having to live in the old shoebox station. We are also waiting in anticipation of the new Smeal Fire Engine, which is due to arrive soon. The Woodcrest Community has been very supportive of the station move with many tours having been given to the general public.

Goodhope Fire Station # 9

Welcome to FAE Dave Rodriguez and Firefighter Antaya. The VFC has lost a number of their responding members to the FFI ranks.

Homeland Fire Station # 54

Welcome to FAE Scott Gutierrez and FFII Mike Keyser. FC Laura Germany continues to assist administration with FC-40 packages.

Tricks of the Trade From Battalion One: Numerous Firefighters carry the wood door chocks. Do you carry a sufficient number? Small wooden chocks for sprinkler chocks? Rubber commercial door chocks vs wooden door chocks? 16 penny nails as door chocks? Commercially manufactured chocks? (hinge hangers) Are you well versed in utilizing these available means?

Battalion 2

El Cariso Fire Station # 51

On June 18, 2004, Medic Engine 51 responded to a TC with injuries with CNF E-29 at the Wildomar Off-Highway Vehicle Park. On arrival units found two vehicles on a very steep hill 300-400 feet above the valley floor on a closed trail. One vehicle was about 200' below the other vehicle in the brush off to the side of a closed trail. Personnel from CNF climbed up to the vehicles prior to the arrival of ME-51 to find that the lower vehicle had rolled several times down the hill but the driver was able to get clear of the vehicle before it went down. In the second vehicle, the driver was still in the drivers seat with her foot on the break keeping the vehicle from sliding over the side, the emergency brake was ineffective because only one of the rear tires remained on the ground and the other had poor contact. Also, the driver's boyfriend held the bumper to prevent it from cartwheeling down the hill. The boyfriend had been holding on to the vehicle for more than an hour before the arrival of help. ME-51 personnel climbed up to the vehicle with rope rescue gear and were able to secure the vehicle with a "Z-Rig," raise it into a safe position, and then allow the driver to exit the vehicle. The vehicle was then lowered to a stable position and was later removed by the owner. Neither occupant was injured and they were assisted down to the Wildomar OHV Campground by ME-51 and CNF personnel.

Station 51 graduated six members of VFC 51 from a Trainee Academy in June. This marks the first time in more than a year that Station 51 has a group of volunteers that are able to respond. The academy was lead by FAE-P Schoendienst with assistance from the rest of the paid staff at Station 51. There are currently three more members of Company 51 and five members from Company 74 who will be completing their training soon.

Lakeland Village Fire Station # 11

Medic Engine 11 and Engine 11A have received and put into service a full complement of over the side equipment, including a new stokes for each engine. The paid crew and volunteer company have been training extensively to efficiently utilize the new grant funded equipment.

A vegetation fire broke near Ortega Highway in 11's PRA on July 8. With the help of CDF aircraft, CNF, and a water tender from March AFB, Riverside County crews were able to hold the fire at twenty acres. Station personnel would like to welcome new Relief Engineer Katherine Garver who is coming from T73.



Elsinore Fire Station # 10

Station 10 is back in full swing with the opening of fire season. Both schedule B engines are fully staffed with 4 personnel. The engines have been participating in many VMP burns, and LE38's and training occur on a daily basis. Welcome to FFIs D. Carifi, J. Keene, C. Wetzel, E. Casey, L. Salas, R. Phelps, M. Bryant, C. Phelps, and the Whittaker brothers. Medic Engine 10 is happy to announce the promotion of Shawn Murphy and Shane Morse to FFII and welcome to FFII P. J. Merryman.

Wildomar Fire Station # 61

The personnel at Station 61 are in the process of running a mini 67 hour academy for eight new volunteers. The academy will run for several weeks, only on the weekends, to prepare the rookies for the fire season. The crew would also like to welcome back FFII Daniel Williams and congratulate him on his promotion.

McVicker Park Fire Station # 85

Welcome to new relief FAE R. Ginese. The crew at 85 took the new Smeal to the Cerritos Fire and was very happy with the engine's performance. Station 85 received a six wheel gator ATV. The ATV's identifier will be "Event One" and will be utilized and maintained by Riverside County Comm 33 volunteers and Kevin Jeffries. Event One has already been used for the Temecula Balloon and wine festival.



Event 1, Purchased With Grant Funds

Battalion 3

Congratulations to Captain Cary Cadieux who was named Beaumont Elks' Lodge "Fire Fighter of the Year." This award reflects Cary's outstanding dedication to his role as Battalion 3 Training Coordinator as well as preceptor for the Volunteer Fire Fighters who are fortunate to train at **Banning Fire Station # 89**.

The Volunteer Firefighter program is reaching new heights. Congratulations to Bobby Reynolds and Josh Moreno for completing the Volunteer Engineer Academy. We are proud to announce the completed training certification of two more of our Volunteer Firefighters, enabling them to ride out on Engine 89.

We want to welcome Rob Roberts to our firehouse. Rob promoted to LT FFII in June. Rob will help fill in for FFIs Bethurum and Westbrook, who moved into their LT FAE positions in Riverside and San Bernardino respectively for fire season.

County EMS funds helped purchase a new rotary saw and a reciprocating saw for Rescue 89. This money has also helped purchase medical and low angle rescue equipment for Engine 89. The City of Banning has had several fully involved structure fires in the past couple months. One residential structure fire required gaining quick access to the garage. The quickest solution was to cut a square hole in the metal sectional door. This was done effectively and safely with the new rotary saw.

In addition to running calls, thorough, challenging, and repetitive training has kept all of us here at Station 89 busy. Safety is our priority, and we are ready for the summer and ready for the fire season.

Battalion 4

Home Gardens Fire Station # 13

Progress on the new station construction has been slowed due to electrical setbacks, but construction crews are working hard to finish our new home. With no changes to the station's staff, we continue to serve Home Gardens with pride from our doublewide. Fire activity has been steady but somewhat uneventful due to hard work by initial arriving crews. Progressive training continues post graduation of company 13's recent volunteer academy. Congratulations to all the new volunteers.

Corona Fire Station # 14

Corona Forest Fire Station has been busy since the last report. We are glad to welcome Nathan Thorson, Ryan Moore, Vernon Cowins, and Don Clark. FC Chad Moxley and FC Phil Rawlings have also joined the crew at Station 14.

The crew has been hard at work this season with all the early fires and the overwhelming amount of cover assignments. Station 14 has also been busy with the Corona FFS Beautification/Restoration Project, which includes planting trees, developing a vegetation hydration system. In closing, the crew at Corona FFS looks forward to helping all of those individuals who have initial attack areas with all of your cover assignment, janitorial, and fire suppression needs!

El Cerrito Fire Station # 15

Life at Station 15 remains the same with no word of new station or equipment. Industry continues to grow in the surrounding area but call volume remains constant. Congratulations to FFII Nathan Petralia, Volunteers Michael Gracey and Joseph Kennedy for their successful ranking on the permanent FFII and FAE Paramedic lists.

Eastvale Fire Station # 27

Recent difficulties in finding land for the new station has not dimmed the spirits of company 27, although the task has become more difficult than it first appeared. FF IIs Munson and Perea are on LT assignments in Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. Welcome new LT FF IIs Alex Sperlich and Richard Lund to the station. They have both settled in to their new assignment and are doing a great job. The construction of two new super markets has begun in the area, along with a number of small businesses.



nesses. New construction in the area is booming and our area is growing fast, so far our call volume has doubled in the last year. Captain Kevin Krauss and his wife had a baby boy in June. Congratulations! There is a possibility that AMR will be posting an ambulance at Station 27 soon.

Sycamore Fire Station # 64

FFIs Mike Zimmerman and Matt Stanford both promoted to LT FAEs at Station 29. FFI Larry Zay was promoted to LT FFII and assigned at Station 64, as well as Anna Gresham from MMU. Station 64 submitted a grant proposal for and OTS grant and was approved for a new set of extrication tools and airbags. The equipment should be in service by fall. The new permanent station should start construction any day and tentative completion is set for January 2005. The new station will be located just off of Indian Truck Trail. E-64 also was the initial attack engine on the Cerrito Fire and was assigned for 5 days.

Battalion 5

Winchester Fire Station # 34

Summer has arrived at "The Farm". Firefighters Bensusen, Tate, Arroyo, and Jones have all left for limited-term FAE positions. To fill in for the summer are Firefighters Shively, Horton, and Galipeault, who all come from north of San Bernardino. The new Firefighters are excited to be here and they are training hard.

Our area continues to grow and transition from a "rural community" to a "rural town." We look forward to the growth and eventual transition to "city" status. Currently, developers have broken ground on 3,500 new homes behind the station, as well as starting the construction of multiple duplexes at the end of our street. Winchester's fields are being rapidly replaced with concrete...and we are not complaining!

With the growth comes call volume. We continue to increase our runs, and are now averaging over 100 calls per month (up from 70 last year). We have been assisting other companies from Battalion 5 on fires in the valley, as well as keeping our extrication skills honed with multiple cut and rescues on Winchester Road.

Valle Vista Fire Station # 72

The Valle Vista fire station is becoming a busy house in the battalion and the aggressive staff welcomes it. Lots of staffing changes: FFII John May is now a LT FAE in AEU. FFII Julia Martony will be leaving CDF and moving to Hawaii for nursing school. FAE Carmen Pond has resigned from CDF and moved to Colorado, working for the USFS. We'll miss the girls, good luck! FAE Tony Carniglia replaced Carmen's vacancy and fits in well.

Sage Fire Station # 28

It seems that Sage is getting its share of fires this year and the new firefighters are getting some real live fire training! Several large and impressive fires have kept the area jumping, including the Eagle, Pleasure, Melton, Martin, and Citrus fires.

Joining Captain Gonzales this season are: LT FC M. Allen, FAE S. Lane, FAE C Yabarra, and FAE M Camper. They are complemented with a staff of new firefighters: B. Potter, M. Pray, B. McLaughlin, J. DeLaRosa, J. Jones, P. Balestracci, B.



Rollover TC in Sage

Martinez, F. Ebner, D. Alcorn, J. Delaunty, and K. Goebel. Of course we still have HFEO Schaffer at Sage. We would like to congratulate Erin Marsh to her LT FFII position at Station 75 and welcome back FF Alcorn from his

ankle injury. Our FFIs are showing potential and have been training hard in preparation for the busy season.

Little Lake Fire Station # 26

Little Lake Station is busy as ever with several impressive fires in the last several months. Both structural and wildland responses have kept personnel on their toes. Captain Johnson came back from knee surgery and rolled right into a very busy May. FFII S. Lane is back as an LT FAE at Sage and FFII Rich Cordova has an LT FAE assignment in MVU. We welcome aboard LT FFII Joe Herrick to fill the vacancy. Captain Johnson pursued a water tender and Chief Harris made it happen. Special thanks: the volunteer staff have hit every fire thus far and have clocked over a hundred and fifty hours. Our volunteer company is finally coming back up to speed and looking promising. The station staff is very happy with the new Smeal and glad to keep our Spartan. One of our locals is putting together a "Strong Man Competition" for police and firefighters to go against several local gyms. E-mail the station if you're interested, we will have more info as it comes together. We are slowly completing station projects including room additions, O2 station, flooring, and kitchen work.

Battalion 6

Mecca Fire Station # 40

Personnel changes at Station 40: FFII-PM Richard Folia transferred to S-32 in La Quinta, FFII Tommy Lemus took an LT FAE position in San Diego, and FFII Robert Rubalcava and FFII Mike Esparza were sent to the FAE academy by MMU. We are pleased to welcome LT FFII Alex Garcia and LT FAE Eric Cisney to our station.

Thermal Fire Station # 39

Thermal Fire Station recently sent FFII Travis Lemm back to San Bernardino as a LT FAE and picked up LT FFII Travis Rye. AMR is considering an additional Systems Status operation from the Thermal area to cover the lower half of Battalion 6, which is greatly needed.



Oasis Fire Station # 42

FAE Robert Gibbens retired after 31 years of CDF service. Bobby's retirement party was held at Lake Cahuilla in La Quinta and attended by co-workers, friends, and family. All had a good time roasting Bobby in the sun, eating Carne Asada, beans and rice prepared by Bobby's replacement FAE Dave Bradley. Congratulations to FFI Travis Rye on his recent marriage to his wife Tammy and promotion to LT FFII at Thermal Station 39. FFI Gilbert Gonzalez separated after his ninth month and he is taking his mandatory vacation. Thanks to both for your hard work.

North Shore Fire Station # 41

Station 41 will be receiving a new fire engine in June. Thanks to a community development block grant, we received a set of Amkus extrication tools. Congratulations to FF Frank Ramsey and wife Sandra on the birth of their son, Jacob Aaron Ramsey, on May 15, 2004 .

Coachella Fire Station # 79

The Coachella fire Station received a new Smeal fire engine in March 2004. Congratulations to Shawn Mata for his promotion to FAE at Station 35 and to Dan Cesena who promoted to FAE in MMU. We are pleased to welcome LT FFII John Dye. Good-bye to FAE Smith, who transferred to RAAB, and welcome FAE Linzalone to Station 79. Our volunteer company has 12 active members. Five volunteers attended FAE academy and two recently attended the 67-hour academy. Explorer Post 679 has 16 active members. Congratulations to two graduates who will lateral to VFC 79 soon.

Battalion 7

STATIONS: After three years of planning and work, Fire Station 93 is now operational. On May 8, 2004, this facility opened to serve North La Quinta and areas of Bermuda Dunes. June



North La Quinta Fire Station # 93

was the first full month of operation, and we saw 150 responses. Like new homeowners, we are dealing with small touch-up issues, but overall it is a beautiful new addition to our Department. Adjacent to Station 93 is a small community park which includes a jogging path and a large retention basin for use as a part of our PT program.

PERSONNEL: This quarter we have seen the start of our traditional "fire season" and the associated staffing changes.

Filling vacancies at **La Quinta Station # 32** are LT FFII's Mike Hendrix and Mark Skrainer. One vacancy is behind Scott Gutierrez, who is working as an LT FAE in Battalion 1

At **Thousand Palms Fire Station # 35**, FAE Clay Williams returned to RAAB. Filling in behind Clay is LT FAE Shawn Mata from Station 79. FFs Patterson and Toon again accepted LT FAE positions in BDU. Filling vacancies at Station 35 are LT FFII's Mark Driscoll, Philip Hernandez, and Chris Zimmerman.

At **North La Quinta Fire Station # 93** Jennifer Ricci accepted an LT Captain Position in BDU. Working in Jennifer's absence is LT FAE Patrick Walker. FF Eric Cisney is now an LT FAE working in Battalion 6. FF Sean Sunahara transferred to us from HazMat 2. Filling one of our Battalion Relief positions is LT FFII Jed Gaines.

Leaving Battalion 7 and CDF is firefighter Brandon Milsted, who has been hired by San Diego City Fire Department. Ken Coulston just completed the 2A Module at Lone. He was sponsored by BDU.

Equipment: Inspector Stephenson received a new 2004 Ford Ranger Extended Cab vehicle funded by the City of La Quinta.

Battalion 9

The start of fire season has Battalion 9 personnel gearing up and anticipating another busy season. Training and gear inspections are completed and several personnel have accepted LT assignments. The first arrival of replacements are adapting to their new surroundings.

On June 28, at 0400 hours, a dispatch for a structure fire was received by Battalion 9's personnel. The fire was reported in a 12,000 square foot abandoned warehouse on a former March Air Force base site used by civil engineers. The building was constructed in 1942 and consisted of heavy lumber with raised flooring and two story office structures on each end.



Structure Fire in Moreno Valley

The building was fully involved upon arrival and the contents were unknown. The fire had vented through the roof, and defensive positions were taken to protect surrounding buildings by arriving units. Both Ladder 2 and Truck 91 were used in aerial operations to extinguish the fire. Fire prevention officers discovered evidence that resulted in two juvenile suspects being apprehended. It appeared that the fire started in a trash barrel, escaped and burned approximately four hours undetected until it engulfed the entire building. Arriving personnel could see flames upwards of 30 to 40 foot in length



while responding to the incident. Hats off to FC Charlie DeHart and FC Greg Everhart for their thorough investigation which resulted in a quick resolution.

Sunnymead Fire Station # 2

Farewell to FFII David "Cory" Trujillo who has been assigned to Truck 91. Welcome to FFII Chris Ranger. Congratulations to Jaime Bravo on his completion of the academy at Lone.

Towngate Fire Station # 6

Explorer post 946 held it's 2nd annual "Tribute to Old Riverside Raceway" car show fundraiser. The event was held at the Moreno Valley mall and had a huge turnout in spite of several separate car show events held that weekend. A total of \$1,200 was raised by the event for fire explorer scholarships.

Congratulations to FFII Doug Kishi, (Anza), Ken Myers (Tulare) and John Wiseman (Batt 13) on their LT FAE assignments. Welcome to LT FFII Robert Ramirez (Hesperia) Josh Randle (Shasta) and Brandon Lanning (San Luis Obispo) on their new assignments.

Sunnymead Ranch Fire Station # 48

Fire Captain Burt is counting the months until retirement.

Moreno Beach Fire Station # 58

Welcome to Geraldo Salis (San Diego) and James Beckman (Batt 2). Congratulations to FFII Larry Kidd on his promotion to FAE Battalion 6.

Kennedy Park Fire Station # 65

Welcome to FFII Kevin Brown (ECC). Congratulations to FFII Don Norton on his return from Lone.

College Park Fire Station # 91

Welcome back FFII Ballenger to LT FAE (Batt 9). Congratulations to Richard Gholini on his assignment in MVU.

Battalion 10

Battalion Personnel News: In July 2004, the following re-assignments and appoints took place in the battalion:

- FC Blakemore to Station 36 from 37
- FC Stephens to Station 56 from 36
- FC Stewart to Station 37 from 56
- FAE Reilly to LT FC Yucaipa Battalion – BDU
- FFII Alex Law to LT FAE Yucaipa Battalion – BDU
- LT FAE Enrique Ornelas from Station 59

Cabazon Fire Station # 24: Welcome FFIs Steven Strebe and William Delfine. The Community Center is now open in town and the old community center has now become part of the fire station. The additional space is very welcome!

BDF Engine 50 and crew returned to Station 24 in June.

The station staff held a FARM (Firefighters As Role Models) fire muster on June 8th. The muster team Lead by FC Martin Gill and Cabazon Elementary School teacher Mrs. VanPool

won the overall trophy. Every child from the school received a prize and a total of 12 bicycles were given away. Engine 3160, and Morongo Fire Engine 278 assisted company 24.



FAE Dave Parker Awards a Bicycle

North Palm Springs Station # 36:

Engine 36 was busy again traveling west to the "Cerrito" fire at the first part of May. Soon after, we were also breaking vegetation fires in the desert. On May 7th, B10, E36, E37, as well as others, responded into Whitewater Canyon for a 75-acre fire. On May 12th, E36, E24, and others responded again into Whitewater Canyon for what would become the Cottonwood Fire which ended up burning over 1,800 acres.

Desert Hot Springs Station # 37

At the June 22nd Desert Hot Springs City Council meeting, Council voted 5-0 on passing a new budget that includes the first increase for fire department staffing since 1990. The new budget will upgrade E-37 from two personnel utilizing FFIs to three personnel utilizing FFIs starting around the first of 2005.

At the July 6th City Council meeting, special recognition awards were given to paid and volunteer staff. With input from the Public Safety Commission, awards were presented to FC Blakemore, Volunteer Lt. Scott Matas, Volunteer FAE Ryan Barrier (son of FC Gil Barrier), and Volunteer FF Tony Curtis. These awards were presented to show the city's appreciation



Awards for Battalion 10 Personnel

for years of dedication and service to the community. Staff presented similar certificates from the offices of Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia, Assemblyman Jim Benoit, and Senator Jim Battin. At the same meeting, FAE Carl Kinnel was presented his JAC FAE award by Deputy Chief Harris.

Suzanne Baldenegro, daughter of Fire Captain Frank Stewart, has been awarded a CDF Richard J Earnest Scholarship for 2004 in the amount of \$1000 dollars. Suzanne will be attending UC Irvine in the fall and is pursuing a career as a surgical oncologist.



Sky Valley Fire Station # 56

Welcome FFI Robert Nelson from Station 80. In mid-March of this year, the station acquired a new set of Amkus extrication equipment purchased with a grant from OTS. On June 6th, Engine 56 had an opportunity to put the new equipment to use on a "cut-and-rescue" TC on Dillon Road. Engine 56 was assisted by Engine 36 and 37 as well as BC Hyatt and 2 AMR units. A total of three patients were transported including a 9-year-old boy, who required extrication.

Battalion 12

We have had a lot of personnel movement, both into, and out of, Battalion 12. So that we do not offend anybody by forgetting to mention them by name, we are just going to welcome all the new people to this Battalion, and wish all those that have moved on much success in their new assignments. To those that have taken LT assignments, we will see you again at the end of fire season.

On Wednesday June 30, 2004, the Cove Communities Public Safety Commission held their annual awards dinner. Ten of our employees were recognized at this function for their actions on two separate calls. One of these calls was a medical aid that resulted in a true full arrest save as the patient left the hospital with no deficits. The second call was a multi-family dwelling structure fire. This was a two-story multiple-unit apartment building, in a complex with several similar buildings. The initial actions of the first arriving unit, TS-71, limited the fire damage to the two units that were involved on their arrival, and some damage to the attic space, with no extension into the adjacent apartments. The end result was a \$2,300,000 save with only a \$210,000 loss. Pretty impressive results when there was fire blowing out all of the windows of the involved apartments when the first engine arrived!



Cement Truck Roll-Over TC in Palm Desert

We would like to welcome Station 93 into the system. Even though Station 93 is in Battalion 7, their PRA extends into the eastern edges of Cove Communities. This has

taken some of the call load from TS-55, although the Medics are still responding with E-93.

The city of Palm Desert "Sister City Committee" has been very active over the last few months and we have played an integral part in contributing to the growing relationship between all of the parties. Personnel at Palm Desert Station hosted a dinner in cooperation with the city of Palm Desert "Sister Cities

Committee" in mid June. They were host to approximately twenty guests from the sister cities of Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Mexico and Gisborne, New Zealand, serving tri-tip with all the trimmings, including a spectacular berry desert that was especially enjoyed by the guests. They were all very impressed with the equipment and resources available to the department and took away enjoyable memories of their visit and tour. Several Battalion personnel are looking forward to a visit to Mexico at the end of August to participate in the donation of a large amount of hospital, fire, and EMS equipment.

Battalion 13

The 33rd Firefighter Summer Olympics were recently held in San Jose. CDF/Riverside County Fire had a few of its

Firefighters representing the department in roller hockey. FAE Art Gonzalez (Station 60), FFII-PM Rob Garcia (Station 67), FFII Chris Kanton (HazMat 2) and FAE George Rojas (Station 68) joined their brothers from LA County FD on a



Gold Medal winners! Robbie Garcia, George Rojas, Art Gonzalez, and Chris Kanton with LA Co. Firefighters

combination team. They brought home Gold in the competition beating San Francisco FD in the Gold medal game by a score of 3-1. The team's grueling schedule: San Ramon Valley FD (win), Fresno FD (tie), Long Beach FD (loss), Santa Barbara County FD (win), Hayward FD (win), San Francisco (win). Next years Firefighter Summer Olympics will be held in Chula Vista. We hope to put together an all CDF/Riverside County team!

Battalion 15

The Temecula Battalion has started the summer off with a bang. On the fire front we had the Eagle Fire in our back yard in early May. The fire burned along the old Pechanga Fire, consuming 8,000 acres. June brought gloom in the form of cool weather. However, July seems to be warming up as the heat has come back with a vengeance.

In the city we received some new apparatus. Chief Deyo is driving a new GMC pickup with a shell and command module. Ladder 73 is now in service in the City of Temecula.

Captain Dakin has replaced Captain Walker on the B side at **Temecula Fire Station # 12**. Captain Riggs remains in charge of the schedule A crew. Captain Walker is now doing VMP work out of **French Valley Fire Station # 83**. Chief Mc Bride and Captain Adams should both be well rested after their trip to Holland to visit our sister city, Voorburg.



The City once again has taken a progressive approach to EMS for its citizens. As of July 5, 2004, both E-12 and E-92 are Medic Engines. The Firefighter Medics from Stations 73 and 84 have moved to the Engines and the Firefighters from Station 12 and 92 have gone onto the Medic Squads, or to other Engines in the Battalion.

Congratulations to Grandpa Hoover on the addition of a grandson!

Battalion 16

Personnel

We have several employees that have been promoted and will be missed: Andreas Johansson to LT FAE at Station 51, Ricardo Ginese to LT FAE in Battalion 2, Peter Grzeskowiak to LT FAE in BDU Yucaipa, and Stephen McConniel to LT FAE in TCU.

Prevention

Fire prevention takes on a heightened significance with the approach of the month of July and fireworks season. Indio, being one of three cities in the desert that allows the sale of safe and sane fireworks, jumps into a high gear of operation in preparation for the possibility of increased fire activity and fireworks related injuries. FC Braley, the Fire Prevention Staff, and the station crews from Battalion 16 were out in force inspecting the fireworks stands to ensure safety and compliance to state, county and city ordinances. The crew from Station 86 was on stand-by for the fireworks show sponsored by the City of Indio. One additional engine and medic unit were staffed and committed to the event at the Indio Fair Grounds where over 5,000 residents and visitors attended. Thanks to the hard and diligent work by all Battalion 16 personnel, this Fourth of July went off without any major accidents or fires and was enjoyed by all the residents and visitors.

Grant

The City of Indio was successful in an application for an Office of Traffic Safety Grant in the amount of \$14,000. This funding was granted for the purpose of purchasing a thermal imaging camera that will be placed on ME87. This grant could not have been possible without the much appreciated assistance from the local CHP office and its Captain Sandra Houston. This is one more example of two agencies cooperating in an endeavor that benefits the local community.

Battalion 16 Fishing Trip

The first annual Battalion 16 Deep Sea Fishing Trip took place on July 10, 2004. Crews chartered a 65' boat out of San Diego for a three-quarter day trip to the Coronado Islands. To put it mildly, it was a great success. Every person on the boat averaged at least ten fish. FFII-P Jeff Stout from Station 88, and his



father, caught close to 30 fish ranging from Sand Bass, Calico Bass, and Barracuda. Not to be out done, FAE Travis Paye from Station 79, took home the jackpot with the largest fish that was a Barracuda. If you get a chance, ask FAE Paye about the Yellowtail that he fought for about 20 minutes that got away. Everyone had a good time and most were asking when we were going back. Who knows, it might become the bi-annual Battalion 16 Fishing Trip.



Incidents

May 2, 2004 was another smoldering hot day in Indio with temperatures soaring over 100 degrees. At about 1300 hrs, ME-87 responded to a medical aid involving some hikers down in the area of Dillon Road and Fargo Canyon. FAE Robert Luna, FFII Rodrigo Vega, and FFII-P Rick Harvey had to hike in two miles with medical gear to the approximate location of the victims. CHP H-60 guided the crews to the patients during the one-hour trek. Once on scene, FFII-P Harvey initiated ALS care on one of the patients who was suffering from hyperthermia. Both patients, who were in their late 50's, had started a hike in the cooler morning hours but became disoriented and lost as the day became longer and hotter. Mercy Air transported one of the patients to Desert Regional Medical Center. The other patient refused transportation via the helicopter and decided that he would walk out with the rescue crews. Within 20 minutes the second patient fainted and began to show signs of hyperthermia. ALS care was initiated while at the same time FFII Vega, FFII-P Harvey, and an RSD deputy took turns in carrying the patient for the next 30 minutes until they were able to reach a shaded area. CHP H-60 was then able to find a suitable landing area and transported the second patient to the Desert Regional Medical Center while the remaining rescue crews began the 30 minute hike back out to their units. The crew from ME87 then had to assist and monitor the AMR paramedic and EMT that also began to show signs of hyperthermia. The incident lasted over four hours in the hot desert afternoon.



Seven BMWs Destroyed

On May 16, 2004, at 0226 hrs, ME-87 responded with TS-86 and E-88 to a reported big rig TC with fire on WB I-10 at the Cactus City Rest Stop. On arrival, two big rigs were involved in the TC and were on fire, yet they were not the only vehicles



on fire. Seven of the eight brand new BMW vehicles that were being hauled to a dealership were severely damaged and on fire. This incident, to say the least, was very difficult to endure for the firefighters who responded from Battalions 16 and 6 as they had to watch seven of these brand new beautiful cars being consumed by fire.

Communications and Technology Division

Emergency Command Center

We would like to welcome Tara Whitaker to the ranks of fully qualified PSCOs as she completed her training in mid-July. More trainee releases are anticipated in August. Additionally, a new group is being recruited now with interviews and offers of employment scheduled for August. Thanks to all the ECC staff for their dedication and determination in training our new hires in addition to all normal duties.



BC Witten Congradulated by Chief Tisdale

The new Vesta is installed and operational in the Perris ECC. Vesta is the "intelligent" telephone interface that manages and quantifies all of the telephone traffic, 9-1-1, 7 and 10 digit emergency, business, and administrative. The new Vesta brings us out of an analog environment and into a digital one. This will allow significant enhanced features and will compliment our new CAD. New CAD training will begin later this month, and the system will be fully operational in early 2005.

Tree mortality in the San Bernardino Forests of Riverside County has reached a fire risk of historic proportions. As part of the effort to deal with this emergency COMM 4 (old COMM 34) is pre-positioned in Garner Valley at Station 53. A plan is in place to staff and operate this vital communications link within the first hour of a fire threatening the mountain top communities.

Kudos to Travis Witten on his promotion to LT Relief Battalion Chief in the Perris ECC and to Kathleen Henderson on her promotion to LT Senior PSCO.



Chief Bob Toups and Sr. PSCO Kat Henderson

Our loss is battalion 9's gain: Kevin Brown and Mike Hudson have both accepted LT FFII positions in Battalion 9. Congratulations to Jen and Dean Veik on the birth of

their baby girl Brianna who was born on May 28th 2004.

GIS

The GIS Team has just completed the monumental task of designing and building the new CDF/Altaris CAD database that will simulate our current process that is done 99% mentally. The street centerline development project has reached the addressing phase. The first set of draft station response maps, and corresponding map books are expected to be ready for field evaluation later this summer. Please keep submitting those new street cards and development maps to the ECC, attention Shelly Knight.

Information Technology

The IT staff would like to remind you that they are here to help you with you computer and network problems. The IT staff consists of: Dave Gonzalez, Mickey Delpit, Bryan Othman, Andrew McGee, and Arnold Mendez.



Information Technology Staff

Training Bureau

Your Training Bureau continues to grow and evolve. Three fire engines, two Spartan and one Kovatch, were added to the training Equipment fleet for classes and academies. Training also received new extrication equipment for classes.

In June, the Training Bureau sent new training CDs, guides, cards, and materials to your fire stations. Chief Tinker is always looking for new material to enhance your station level training.

Fire Captain Dave Ferguson taught or coordinated the following classes from June 2003 to June 2004:

- Four Confined Space Operations Classes
- Five Confined Space Awareness Classes
- Three Trench Rescue Classes
- Six River and Flood Operations Classes
- Six River and Flood Technician Classes
- Six Water Rescue for the First Responder and Swiftwater Awareness Classes
- Four Fire Control 3 Classes
- Five Auto Extrication Classes
- Four Low Angle Classes.



Fire Captain Mike Kelleher taught or coordinated the following classes from September 2003 to May 2004:

- Eight S-190 Introduction to Fire Behavior Classes
- Eight Wildland Firefighter Survival Classes
- Four I-200 Classes
- Four I-300 Classes
- Six Haz Mat Fro Classes

Fire Captain Teresa Edmondson placed hundreds of JAC Apprentices into CDF and RCC Classes from September 2003 to June 2004. Many JAC Apprentices have completed their formal classes and are finalizing their station level training.

As a reminder to all JAC Apprentices, please call or email Teresa if you want to take your first or third year written tests. Teresa needs *three weeks* notice to order detailed summaries for all Apprentices taking their third year tests.

Teresa posted new information in Outlook that can be found in the JAC Folder of Public Folders/Southern Region/RRU/Training/JAC. This information dispels the myths and misconceptions of JAC in a numbered format.

Fire Captain Bill Weiser taught or coordinated the following classes from January to June 2004:

- Five Volunteer Firefighter Trainee Academies
- Four Basic Wildland Firefighter "67 Hour" Academies
- One Volunteer Firefighter Basic Operator Academy
- Three Incident Management II Classes
- Two S-215 - Firing Methods and Equipment Classes
- Three Initial Attack, Live Fire Exercises
- 10 EEO Classes

Captain Weiser added more simulator time to the Incident Management II Class. Students gained ICS experience while managing fires with the new training simulator computer program. Bill has plans to double simulator drill time in next year's classes.

The Firing Methods and Equipment Classes included live fire training for the first time in several years at Clark Training Center. Weiser, FC Tim Chavez, and other instructors taught these classes.



Firing Methods Class at CTC

FC Weiser and FC Ron Smith coordinated the Live Fire Exercises at Clark Training Center, which gave CDF fire engine crews as well as CDF/CDC inmate

hand crews experience managing and fighting vegetation fires in a training environment.

Fire Captain Alex Gregg taught or coordinated the following academies from September 2003 to May 2004:

- Two Riverside Community College Basic Firefighter (11 week) Academies

A total of 61 students graduated from these two academies. The next academy starts on Sept 27, 2004. Applications are available for pick-up from July 6 to August 6, 2004, in Alex's office, Room 124 at Clark Training Center.

In addition to the RCC Basic Firefighter Academy this past training cycle, Captain Gregg has also been involved with teaching Fire Control III, Confined Space, Trench, and Low Angle Rescue classes.

Alex Gregg, Mike Kelleher, and Phil Kelleher, Fire Technology Director for Riverside Community College, had the privilege of attending the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Conference held at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland. The conference is a consortium of two and four year colleges from across the nation that work with local emergency services to promote degree programs to those who work in the field of emergency services. While there, Alex also completed a Leadership and Ethics Train the Trainer course offered through Phi Theta Kappa.

Fire Captain Ron Smith is currently assigned to the Training Bureau. Smith has assisted with teaching and coordinating academies and classes. His years of truck and hand crew experience have proven valuable when teaching students.

Battalion instructors will teach new Fire Shelter Training this summer. New S-212 Chain Saw Safety Training will also be taught by a training cadre this summer. Fire Captain Sam Sanchez of Oak Glen Conservation Camp will coordinate this training.

Health and Safety

Let's Get Physical

By Stacey Luciano, MPH, RD, CHES
Nutrition Consultant

It's easy to think of reasons not to exercise. For many it's lack of time. And for others it's lack of motivation or inconvenience. Well whatever the excuse, it's time to re-evaluate your thoughts into reasons why **you should** exercise.

Most of us know there are benefits from exercising, but do you really know what they are? Here are a few facts to help stimulate your motivation.

1) Weight Maintenance

According to Thomas Wadden, an obesity expert at the University of Pennsylvania,





weight maintenance gets easier when people exercise (Nutrition Action Healthletter, July/August 1999). Physical activity has been shown to be the single most important factor in successful weight maintenance. Physical activity that burns at least 1,500 calories per week, or as much as 2,000 calories per week, is optimal for maintaining weight lost (American College Sports Medicine). Even if a person does not lose weight, there are benefits from exercise. It lowers the risk of diabetes by allowing your cells and insulin to work efficiently and it reduces risk of heart disease by lowering triglycerides and raising the good cholesterol (HDL) (adapted from Nutrition Action Healthletter, January/February 2000).

2) Lower Risk for Health Problems

Exercise of at least 30 minutes on most days of the week can reduce risk for heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, and some cancers (The American Dietetic Association's Complete Food and Nutrition guide, 1998). In addition, a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine indicated that women who are active are 30% less likely to have gallstone surgery than those who are inactive. Studies have also shown exercise reduces colon cancer risk. It is thought that exercise contributes to an increase in intestinal motility, speeding the movement of carcinogens through the colon. (Nutrition Action Healthletter, January/February, 2000).

In addition to reducing the risk for developing health problems, regular exercise has also been shown to improve the health of those who have already developed health conditions.

3) Quality of Life

Additional health benefits of exercise include improved quality of life for individuals with arthritis; increased bone density and reduced risk for osteoporosis (especially with strength training exercise); stronger muscles; improved coordination and flexibility (resulting in fewer falls and fractures); overall reduced risk for injury; improved stress management; a better mental attitude; decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety; improved sleep; improved immune function; and increased longevity.

If the above benefits are not enough to motivate you into physical activity, then you can accept the risks for early death, heart disease, diabetes, etc., that go along with a sedentary lifestyle (Steven Blair, Director of research and epidemiology and clinical applications at the Cooper Institute of Aerobics Research in Dallas, Nutrition Action Healthletter, January/February, 1999).

With technology offering more computerized equipment and automatic accommodations, opportunities to burn calories has diminished. Because of this, we have to work harder to get activity back into our lifestyles. Even if you are not willing to incorporate a regular exercise program into your lifestyle, at least incorporate simple activities that will help burn calories and keep you physical. Try the following: vacuum and clean

the house instead of hiring someone else to do it; cook for 30 minutes instead of waiting for a pizza delivery; mow the lawn and work in the yard instead of hiring a lawn service; wash and wax the car instead of driving to the car wash; walk the dog instead of letting the dog out the back door; take the stairs instead of the elevator; park further away instead of taking the nearest spot; walk the mall instead of internet shopping; unload your shopping cart instead of standing by while someone else unloads it; and walk into a gas station to pay instead of paying at the pump. These are just a few ideas. Perhaps you can think of more to try. By implementing all the methods above for increased activity, a person could burn an estimated 1,137 calories (depending on time devoted to each activity). Using the easier or reduced activity methods would only use about 68 calories. (adapted from Institute for Natural Resources seminar, The Psycho-Biology and Pharmacology of Weight Loss). As technology makes more of life's daily routines automatic, it will require more effort on your part to stay active.



If you have not been currently exercising and are ready to begin a regimen, first obtain clearance from your doctor. Especially if you are over 40, overweight, or have other medical conditions. The following are tips on how to get started (partially adapted from the American Dietetic Association's Complete Food and Nutrition Guide).

Find a variety of activities you enjoy.

Start slowly. Begin with 5-10 minutes. Increase your activity by 5-minute intervals as your endurance improves.

Build up over a month or two to more intense activity. Work up to 30-40 minutes of cardiovascular exercise. Studies have recently shown that if you cannot devote the 30 minutes all at one time, you can still obtain benefits from splitting up the time so that you include a total of 30-40 minutes in one day.

It is best to include both cardiovascular and strength training into your exercise regimen.

Find a friend, relative, or neighbor to join you.

If you don't want to join a gym, there are other exercise options. Try the adult school programs for exercise classes; check into community recreation department programs; form or join a sport team within your religious group; use public tennis or basketball courts; roller blade; ride a bike; go hiking; use home exercise equipment; take a dance class; rent exercise videos from the library; tune into exercise programs on TV and workout along with the leader; get a good pair of shoes and participate in a mall walking program; or walk outside.

For every excuse you find for not exercising, there is at least one good reason to exercise. Find an activity you would enjoy and start now! You can't afford not to exercise; *it's a matter of a healthy quality of life, or early death.*



Hazardous Materials Team

FOAM! Class A or Class B?

By Linda Bettys

Around 2200 hours on June 14, 2004, a truck driver hauling a double trailer load of UN 1203 (gasoline) was driving east-bound on I-10 near Cabazon. After the driver temporarily lost control of his vehicle, the rear trailer overturned blocking the number 4 lane of I-10.

Fire units from Morongo, Banning and Beaumont responded as well as Haz Mat 1 and Haz Mat 2 units. A small breach in the tank was discovered on the bottom side of the overturned tanker, which was leaking a small yet steady stream of gasoline onto the freeway. The breach was inaccessible to patch.



Foam Used on a TC / Haz Mat

We chose to utilize CalTrans and build a dam with sand to contain the leaking fuel until a vacuum truck and tanker arrived at scene to offload the product from the involved tanker. Delays in arrival of private contractor cleanup equipment led to more product leaking than we had expected, however we did build the dam big enough to contain the whole load of 4800 gallons if necessary. As a safety precaution, we continuously monitored the air for LEL (lower explosive level) and attempted to spray a layer of foam over the top of the contained fuel. We ran into some problems with the foam capabilities at the scene and ordered additional equipment to assist with foam application. Unfortunately, the wrong class of foam arrived, which led to even more delays. What type of foam would work best for this incident? Class A, Class B, Class C, etc? What type of foam do you have on your equipment? What does our service center supply?

I think from time to time we all get rusty on some topics, so let's use our incident as a training tool to brush up on foam. In general, foam forms a blanket which excludes oxygen and helps to cool fuels. In the event of our gasoline tanker incident, the blanket would also helped to stop the release of flammable vapors from the pooled fuel in the containment area.

Class A Foam: Is used to extinguish ordinary combustible materials by reducing the surface tension of water in the foam solution. By reducing the surface tension, it allows for better water penetration to a particular fuel. Our department commonly uses this type of foam for wildland fires. This foam is not designed to be used on flammable/combustible liquids. Our Service Center carries Phoschek brand Class A Foam.

Class B Foam: Is used primarily to extinguish fires involving flammable or combustible liquids (hydrocarbons). It can also

be useful in polar solvent fuels such as methyl alcohol, acetone, etc. As stated earlier, these foams will help reduce the release of flammable vapors as well as exclude oxygen by creating a blanket (polymeric membrane) over the fuel. To provide even better protection, add or have available dry chemical extinguishing agents to maximize prevention and/or extinguishment efforts. Our Service Center carries Ansulite AFFF (aqueous film forming foam) 3% Class B foam.

Use of these foams, all require training to 'perfect' the application process in the event of an incident similar to our gasoline tanker rollover. Not every foam nozzle works the same. Not every engine/foam eductor works the same. They all seem to have a personality of their own and can be a wee bit temperamental at times. May I suggest, pull them out of their compartment, blow off the cobwebs, and determine exactly how your equipment will work its optimal best. Also, take inventory and know exactly what type of foam you have available on your equipment and at your station. It can only make the next incident run even smoother.

Prevention

Having retired in December of last year, Wayne Murray's retirement lunch was held on June 8, 2004, in Perris. Wayne was presented with his badge and received a warm send off. Wayne began state service August 23,



1976, and was appointed as a peace officer in April 1985. Wayne worked in San Diego as a FFI, in the desert as an FAE, in the Indio ECC as FC, in Planning and Engineering, as an Investigator, as the Unit's Pre Fire engineer, and finally ending his career as a Fire Captain B at Norco Camp. Perhaps Wayne was best known as "Shadow Man" from an Inland Empire Magazine article.

Ryan Air Attack Base

The Airbase and Helicopter are now fully staffed and trained. As fire activity increased in the beginning of the season, a lot of our training was "on the job." Nothing like the real thing! With the number of returnees and new folks being equal, it worked out well, and above all, safe.

We have two new Engineers this season, welcome to Frank Abril and Kerry Smith who both bring a background in aviation. Smith and Abril have just returned from Lone were they successfully completed the 40-hour Short Haul Rescue class and are now certified as Crew Chief and Rescue Supervisors.

In the previous newsletter issue there was an excellent article



on the background and overview of Short Haul Rescue. We would like to expand on that a little and share some things that might trigger the dispatch of the Helicopter to your Incident. First, consider the need of the Helicopter. This should be done early on and when the location of the victim is known, but the ability to access the victim maybe difficult to impossible. If you think you need a Helicopter, request it. Some examples:

- Over-the-Side Traffic Collisions
- Off-road Motorcycle Collisions
- Injured Hiker or Rock Climber
- Aircraft, Hang-Glider or Parachutist
- Remote areas where ground resources have extended ETA's

Once we receive the dispatch or the request to standby, we configure the aircraft for rescue and perform our checks prior to lifting. This takes about 8 minutes. Add in flight time (about 2 miles a minute) and that is our "ESTIMATED TIME ENROUTE" to your incident.

We will typically leave the base rigged for Short Haul but we have found the majority of our Rescues have been performed with a simple hover-step or landing near by. It is best to make the request for the Helicopter and let the Rescue Team decide Tactics.

In other news, as many of you have heard, the Large Air Tankers (LAT) normally contracted by the USFS have been grounded. As a result, less fixed wing Air Tankers will be over your fire. In an effort to fill the void, the USFS has brought additional Type One Helicopters on contract. Something to think about with the Type One Helicopter is there ability to carry 2000 gallons and they can drop this all at once or 500 gallons a door. With this type of weight, you need to be clear of the drop zone. In addition to the Helicopters, BLM has placed a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) in service based out of San Bernardino Tanker Base. The SEAT is capable of 450 to 500 gallons of retardant depending on temperature and altitude.

Remember, we are just another resource for your incident, be it Fire or Medical Aid...we are here to help!

County Office of Emergency Services

County OES was very busy with the untimely fires that occurred early on in May. Every member of our staff was dedicated to the large incidents to assist with the development of the Damage Inspection reports for the subsequent command teams.

County OES was asked by the Board of Supervisors to work in coordination with County IT and County Sheriff's to develop an Early Warning Notification system. This system is a tool that can be utilized to make notification to the public regarding incidents occurring within the county and more specifically can be utilized to advise people to evacuate an affected area. The committee has applied for a grant to procure such a system

and is patiently awaiting the results.

County OES and several city and special district partners have all contributed to help assemble our Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan and a final plan should be in place by mid August.

RACES Overview

The acronym RACES stands for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. RACES is a group of licensed radio operators who have chosen to make their skills available to assist the County during times of emergency. The members come from all walks of life such as the military, business executives, retired police officers, and most any other profession you can think of. They attend regular meetings and training on a voluntary basis with only one desire, to provide emergency communications. They are a dedicated group of volunteers who can be called upon day or night.



RACES Help Staff the EOC

RACES Operators fill various functions in emergency communications. To enhance communications during emergencies there is at least one Operator assigned to each City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and several Operators assigned to both the Riverside County Primary EOC and Alternate EOC. RACES can be deployed during fires in areas where traditional radio communications fail. Operators can set up relay stations and get the messages where they need to go. Additionally, RACES has been used to perform fire patrols in high fire risk areas. Operators are willing to do just about anything to support our organizations mission.

The RACES Operators come with their own radio equipment and vehicles. If communications are needed they will fill that need. So Chiefs, on your next incident when you need communications or an extra set of mobile eyes, request RACES support. RACES Operators can be requested through the ECC or your friendly ESD Duty Officer.

May Day Exercise

May Day 2004 was the first full-scale, Bio-terrorism exercise conducted in Riverside County. County, City, State, Federal and volunteer agencies participated in the exercise. The exercise was a multi-phase exercise that included both public and private organizations throughout Riverside County and it took

Who Are They Answers:
 1. Chief Dennis Dawson
 2. Captain Tim Chavez
 3. Captain Bill Weiser



place May 25 through May 27, 2004. Organizations were asked to evaluate plans, procedures, and polices. Activation of the

Riverside County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), along with several city EOC's and Departmental Operations Centers was accomplished. Three field events were injected to provide realism for emergency first responders.



The exercise initially started with a "Covert Release" of a bio-terrorist product. Later this product was identified as "pneumonic plague". The County EOC was activated to a level three (III). In addition to the decision-making process occurring within the EOC, three additional sub-exercises were injected into the scenario. Each of these exercises was designed to exercise the interagency cooperation and coordination necessary during a bio-terrorist event.

The exercise provided an outstanding learning opportunity and provided County Departments, first responders, the medical community and other community partners to pursue new policies, procedures and develop or strengthen relationships in an exercise mode.

Coves Fire Marshal

The Cove Fire Marshal's Office services the cities of Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells. Our job is challenging in this extremely fast building commercial industry. Our housing industry is flourishing and we also inspect the housing developments because sprinklers/alarm systems are being installed. This all keeps us quite busy, along with the annual inspections performed by each inspector. All types of occupancies are inspected: assembly, ordinary business, educational facilities, hazards low to high and special, institutions, mercantile, and residential. We are sent to NFPA classes to become familiar with new codes and systems. We are looking forward to the newly adopted NFPA 5000 guidelines, and we will share our information and concerns with the field.

Office Staff: Fire Marshal David Avila, Fire Safety Specialist Bruce Pelletier, Fire System Inspectors Mark Miller, Carlos Rodriguez, and Michelle Aleman, and Secretary L.V. Delzer.

The Cove Fire Marshal's Office is presently involved with the State Fire Marshal's office for the approval process on a new technological alarm system notification devise, all using satellites. Our specialist in this field is Mark Miller who has questioned several aspects of this new technology to assure that the occupant being serviced will not be compromised by using satellite monitoring system. It is very interesting to inspect such systems and we are grateful that our staff is allowed to question and be part of the testing of these new technologies.

During the winter we experience an influx of people and with that brings a season of many special events. We had 81 special events so far this year including: a tennis event, fashion shows, fire works, and golf tournaments which brought 300,000+ people into the area. Our team of inspectors along with local contractors created safe environments where all could safely enjoy the events with peace of mind. We kept busy at each of the large hotels, inspecting everything from banquets to computer shows.

Something to think about: COMBUSTIBLE DECORATIVE MATERIALS are combustible materials used for decorative effects such as curtains, draperies, streamers, surface coverings applied over building interior finishes for decorative, acoustical or other effect, cloth, cotton batting, paper; plastics, vegetation, hay, split bamboo, straw, vines, leaves, trees, moss, and similar materials used for decoration effect. Combustible decorative materials do not include floor coverings, ordinary window shades, interior finish materials used as surface coverings, and materials 1/28 inch (0.9 mm) or less in thickness applied directly to a noncombustible backing.

Our annual inspections look at these as potential fire hazards to occupants. If during your normal operations notice these items, ask the manager or owner if they have been fire tested or treated. They may have a fire marshal stamp of approval somewhere on them also. If they have been treated they will have a certification from a licensed contractor stating the items have been treated. It is very important to have nothing on the inside or outside of public areas that has not been treated.

For the fire station personnel working in our area, feel free to contact us if you have any questions relating to fire protection systems. There is a lot of construction going on out there, we encourage you to visit the construction site and see from the ground up what the systems look like.

Again, if you're in the area stop by and visit the Cove Fire Marshal's Office. Our new office is located at 73710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 106 in Palm Desert.

Volunteer Firefighters

2004 Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival

The Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival has been held in the Temecula Valley for the last 21 years. This year's event



was again held at the Lake Skinner County Park and Campground. This is a non-profit event with proceeds going to local charities after expenses.

Several Volunteer Fire Companies from throughout Western Riverside County covered the event. Riverside County Fire/CDF provided a Division Chief and Battalion Chief as Agency



Representatives for the weekend, 3 Fire Prevention Inspectors, and 1 PSCO Dispatcher.

Several issues were identified after last year's event and the following changes were made.

There were 3 functional groups added to the IA:

- ◆ A Coyote Group for possible balloon launch outside of the park area
- ◆ A Prevention Group to provide for all Pre-Fire Inspections
- ◆ A Medic Group to provide better ALS with AMR supervisor as DIV/GPS

In addition, The City of Temecula GIS Department provided better maps than have been available in the past. Also, the communication plan was expanded to provide additional Tactical frequencies for use on each Division or Group

All of the suppression coverage was provided by the following VFCs:

- ◆ Sun City Volunteer Fire Company 7
- ◆ Lakeland Village Volunteer Fire Company 11
- ◆ West Riverside Volunteer Fire Company 18
- ◆ Winchester Volunteer Fire Company 34
- ◆ Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Company 52
- ◆ Wildomar Volunteer Fire Company 61
- ◆ Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Company 75
- ◆ Temecula Valley Volunteer Fire Company 84

In addition, the following VFC's provided personnel to assist in coverage.

- ◆ El Cerrito Volunteer Fire Company 15
- ◆ Pedley Volunteer Fire Company 16

The Communications unit was provided by Riverside County Volunteer Fire Company COM-33 and Advanced Life support was provided by American Medical Response



Throughout the event, the covering personnel handled 22 Medical Aid Calls, 5 transports, 4 Public Service Assist Calls, 1 Fire Menace Stand-by Call, and 6 Relays to RSD. In all, there were 33 total incidents for the event.

As in years past the event was a success for the community. When the event began to request coverage in 1990, one engine and squad from Temecula could handle with 10 personal. This has expanded to over 40 personnel staffing engines, squads, BLS carts, and a communication unit. This event is no longer limited to Temecula alone. It is in fact a county-wide event that is covered by multiple Volunteer Fire Companies from throughout Riverside County. As the event continues to grow, we have been able to maintain a professional level of fire suppression and medical coverage using the integrated fire protection system that has served Riverside County for many years.

Grant Funds

The Office of Traffic Safety has given preliminary approval/intent to fund the items listed below for 2004/2005. OTS is again asking that we (RCOFD) act as a Regional facilitator with regards to the pass-thru of funds.

Funding for RCOFD & Contract Cities:

RCOFD: Four sets of 250 ton replacement air bag systems. \$10,900 each, 100% funding \$43,600

RCOFD: Fourteen sets of 50 ton replacement air bag systems. \$3,900 each, 100% funding \$54,600

Temecula: Airbags, Rams/cutter/spreader & power unit. \$25,200

Sycamore: Airbags, saw, Rams/cutter/spreader & power unit. \$28,316

Coachella: Airbags, extrication set. \$30,112

Banning: Airbags, power unit, spreader & ram \$23,119

Indio: One Thermal camera. \$14,000

Pass-Thru to our VFC's:

Woodcrest: One power unit with combo tool and ram. \$10,892

Poppet Flats: One spreader/cutter unit. \$11,500

Lakeland: 25% towards Breathing/Incident Support. \$64,750

Proposed Pass-Thru to Non-contract agencies:

Idyllwild: \$4000 for Medical supplies

Twentynine Palms: \$25,000 for extrication equipment

Blythe FD: \$25,000 for extrication equipment

Riverside FD: \$36,000 for extrication equipment

Combined total of all above: \$397,089



Fire Explorers



Explorers Fighting Fire

The Riverside County Fire Department Explorers, Temecula Post 204, had an exciting week in the month of April. Five of the members attended a State Fire Explorer Academy in Healdsburg, California. This is hosted by the California Fire Exploring Association and held annually in

different cities around California. The youth participate in structural, wildland, and LPG burns, rescue drills, auto extrication, and other miscellaneous fire related training.

Explorer learn leadership skills, discipline, and how to work as a team. This also gives them some insight on the Firefighter 1 academies, and how they are conducted, while teaching them basic firefighting applications. When the youth's graduate they receive SFM certificates and college units. The Explorers enjoyed the training and being part of a multi-agency fire-exploring event. "When I was an explorer I participated in the same academy and it became the foundation for my fire training". "I am very proud of these explorers and our goal is to send members from each post every year," said Ty Davis, Post 204 Advisor.



Lessons Include Fire Behavior

Wildland Firefighter Memorial

On August 8th, 1949 six firefighters were killed fighting the "Decker Fire" in the hills above Lake Elsinore. To mark the 45th Anniversary of the tragedy, CDF Firefighters Riverside Chapter, CDF/Riverside County Fire Department, and The United States Forest Service – Cleveland National Forest would like to invite members of the public and the media to join firefighters from all over California to remember this day. The event will be held at the site of the California Wildland Firefighters Memorial in the Penny Pines Picnic Area at Highway 74 and South Main Divide, on Monday August 9th, 2004 at 10:00 AM. During the event the CDF Firefighters – Riverside Chapter Benevolent Fund will be presenting a check to the California Wildland Firefighters Memorial Committee to help in completion of the monument that is being constructed on that site.

In April of 1998 the section of the Ortega Highway between Lake Elsinore and San Juan Capistrano was renamed the Cali-

fornia Wildland Firefighters Memorial Highway. The Monument will stand for many years and, once completed, will memorialize the firefighting personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice during the devastating wildfires that plague California every year. Donations to the fund that is building the monument can be sent to: **California Wildland Firefighters Memorial Committee** c/o Dave Ferguson, 210 W. San Jacinto Avenue, Perris CA, 92570

Robert J Martines Memorial

Nearly 120 friends, co-workers, and family members of the late FAE Robert J. Martines of the Riverside Unit gathered on July 2 to dedicate a memorial honoring the FAE who was killed in a hit and run traffic collision on August 29, 2000. The dedication of the memorial also marked what would have been Martines' 37th birthday. The memorial, designed by his brother David Martines, sits in a park on land, provided by developer David Hutson and the City of Beaumont, near where Martines was tragically killed.

A short ceremony featuring the CDF Honor Guard was followed by community barbecue. Funds for the memorial monument were donated by members of the Riverside Unit Battalion 3, the Tehama-Glenn Firefighters, and others throughout CDF. The Martines family is grateful to those who donated their time and money for this project. Retired Sierra South Area Chief Robert R. Martines spoke lovingly of his son's devotion to CDF and how proud he is that both of his sons followed in his footsteps and selected the fire service as their career. Riverside Division Chief Dale Hutchinson spoke about how much he could depend on FAE Martines to complete tasks assigned to him and how easy Martines could accept challenges and smile and shrug off any difficulty. David Martines spoke tenderly of his older brother and called him his "hero."



Robert J Martines Memorial

The memorial features a picture of FAE Martines on a bronze plaque atop a red fire hydrant with a resin-cast fire hose rolled next to it. David Martines and firefighters from Battalion 3 volunteered time to work on the monument, which sits atop a mound surrounded by ornamental slate. It is hoped that citizens of the City of Beaumont will come to the park and see the monument and reflect on the work and dedication of firefighters everywhere and better appreciate their professionalism and sacrifices.



Continued from page 1

slopes is south and west. Overall slope from the bottom of the North Fork to the ridge is 25-30%.

With wind pushing, the fire will run upslope 2000-3000' in the first hour with flame lengths of 8-11 feet. Spotting and rolling material will be a major enhancement to fire spread, and the ignition probability is 70%. The fire will be in Chimney Flats in two hours. The fire will be in Alvin Meadow and the Red Hill Truck Trail fuel break by 1600. If the fire is allowed to flank and spread cross slope to Logan Creek, a major fire run toward Pine Cove is possible. Strategies will place major emphasis on stopping the fire at the break in fuels caused by the 1996 Bee Fire. For this day and season, upwards of 7,000 people on the mountain are immediately at risk. The hypothetical "North Fire" is a major threat to the Mountain Communities.

Incident Command Staff

Incident command staff and functions for this exercise was limited to the evacuation function as well as limited by space at the host facility, Idyllwild Fire Protection District. As such, Command staff positions were filled as well as portions of the Operations Section related only to the evacuation function. The incident, a USFS fire, was managed using Unified Command and consisted of incident commanders from: United States Forest Service, Riverside County Fire Department, Idyllwild Fire Protection District, and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. Early in pre-fire planning activities, officials recognized that any fire on the mountain would significantly impact all jurisdictions and as such, the unified command group was developed.

For the drill, Unified Command was supported by an Information Team consisting of PIO's from; USFS, Riverside County Fire and Riverside County Sheriff. There was a heavy request for emergency public information driven by the fire and subsequent evacuations. The Operations Section consisted of; an Operations Section Chief filled by USFS, a Deputy Operations Chief filled by Riverside County Fire, a Law Enforcement Branch Director and an Evacuation Group Supervisor both filled by RSD.

Agency Representatives were on hand and called upon to support the evacuation included: California Highway Patrol, CALTRANS, Riverside County Roads Department, Riverside County Fire—Office of Emergency Services, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Riverside County Animal Services, Riverside Emergency Animal Rescue System, Riverside County Fire—RACES, American Red Cross, Riverside County Emergency Medical Services, American Medical Response, Riverside Transit Authority, and Sunline Transit Agency.

Incident Problems

The Incident Commanders were presented with a number of operational problems which required immediate resolution. The major problem was the evacuation of a large numbers

of residents, visitors, and campers. Additional problems included the evacuations of medically fragile persons, numerous camps with large numbers of children, horses, livestock, and pets. Additionally, motorists were trapped on roadways and required rescue, evacuating residents had vehicles break down on evacuation routes, and there were even traffic collisions hampering evacuation efforts. There were civilian burn injuries, traffic issues, spot fires and emergencies within the emergency. In all, just about everything that could face the Command Staff occurred on this incident.

Lessons Learned

One of the planned by-products of the exercise was the generation of "after action" items which are those issues that need to be addressed in

order to further enhance the capabilities on the mountain as the result of the learning experiences from the exercise. After action items were categorized into five subject areas, including: Policy, Procedural, Training,



The MAST Drill Experience Will Help Commanders During an Actual Wildfire

Planning, and Logistical. From the exercise there were 14 after action items requiring follow up project work to be done by members of the MAST. Considering the fact that the exercise provided approximately 150 problems, 14 after action items is fairly minimal and is a testimate to all the planning and preparation efforts that have occurred over the past few years.

Key to the success of any major operation, including a large-scale evacuation on the mountain, is having the personal contacts of those people and agencies, that have a role in the operation. This occurred during the exercise when the command and operations staff sat face to face with agency representatives in the same room and worked through the many problems together. As command and general staff responded to the many exercise inputs, or problems, twelve agency representatives were on hand to offer up resources, including personnel, equipment, and supplies in order to work through the problem. Command and general staff have a more detailed understanding of each agency and what resources they may have to bring to the table during this type of scenario. Agencies not typically on scene during these type of incidents were on hand at the exercise and they got first hand knowledge of what operational leaders, such as fire and law, often encounter at large scale wildland fires. All parties to the MAST Tabletop Evacuation exercise have a better understanding of what each other's needs, resources, and capabilities are in order to better protect the mountain top communities when wildland fire strikes.



Continued from page 4

Live Fuel Moisture

Live fuel moistures for May 2004 are well below what would be normally expected for this point in the growing cycle. Recent readings in Chamise were: Rainbow 100%, Cranston 80% (old growth) and San Jacinto 86% and Anza 84%. The 10 Year average at San Jacinto for this time of year is 117%.

Energy Release Component

The Energy Release Component of the National Fire Danger Rating System is a measure of the energy available for a fire before the influence of wind and slope. It is the effect of moisture content that is critical to the ERC. Several stations in Southern California are all at or above historical maximums.



Cerrito Fire Hoselay

Summary

The analyses shows that this year is similar to 1990 and 2002, with vegetation stress at a peak, and dead fuels a large fraction of all fuel beds, from coastal sage scrub to mixed conifer forests. The only missing elements for another astounding fire season are ignitions and hot weather. In Riverside we know we will have both.

Recent Fire Activity In Riverside County

Pleasure Fire

The Pleasure Fire was reported at 1:14 PM on April 25, 2004 and it destroyed 2,464 acres of vegetation, 9 outbuildings and other structures. This fire was started when an RV traveling on the Highway 371 and Foolish Pleasure Road (hence the name of the fire), near Lake Riverside, caught fire and caused the surrounding vegetation to ignite. The cost to suppress this fire was \$1.8 million. This fire was declared controlled on April 28, 2004 at 8:00 AM.

Gafford Fire

This fire was reported at 3:26 PM on May 2, 2004 and it burned 450 acres of vegetation near Lake Elsinore. Only 1 piece of property was destroyed. The fire was controlled on May 4, 2004 at 6:00 PM.



The Eagle Fire

Eagle Fire

The start of this fire was reported at 3:14 PM on May 2, 2004 and it burned 8,831 acres of vegetation south east of Temecula. The Eagle Fire destroyed 14 residences and 27 outbuildings and other property.

The total cost of suppression was estimated at \$5,444,725. The fire was controlled May 8, 2004 at 8:00 AM. The cause of this fire is under investigation.



The Lakeview Fire

Cerrito Fire

This wildland fire started on May 3, 2004 at 1:31 PM, and burned 16,460 acres of vegetation near Lake Elsinore over an 8-day period. 14 residences and 10 outbuilding and other pieces of property were destroyed. The total cost of suppression is estimated at \$4 million. This fire was controlled on May 7, 2004 at 6:00 AM. An individual dragging a metal plate behind a vehicle causing sparks caused the Cerrito Fire. CDF Fire Prevention Officers arrested Richard Drew Brown on May 3, 2004 for "recklessly causing a fire" under Section 452 (b) (c) PC.

School Fire

This wildland fire started on May 3, 2004 at 3:33 PM and burned 377 acres of vegetation near Sage Road and Highway 79. No property was destroyed or damaged. The fire was controlled on May 5, 2004 at 6:00 PM. The cause was spontaneous combustion of a compost pile.



Community Appreciation

Cottonwood Fire

This fire started May 12, 2004 at 9:19 PM and burned 1,845 acres of vegetation near Whitewater Canyon. No property was damaged or destroyed. The fire was controlled on May 17, 2004 at 3:00 PM. The cause of the fire was due

to hikers who were cooking dinner while hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. The cooking fire escaped their control and spread into the grass. The hikers were issued a citation and could be held responsible for the \$3.2 million suppression costs for this fire .

Verbenia Fire

This wildland fire started on July 11, 2004 at 3:02 PM and burned 3,833 acres of vegetation. No property was damaged or destroyed. This fire was controlled on July 16, 2004 at 6:00 PM and the cause is still under investigation.



Verbenia Fire Map

Lakeview Fire

This fire started on July 13, 2004 at 2:14 PM and burned 350 acres of vegetation near Wildomar. The fire was caused by a discarded cigarette. The fire was controlled on July 14, 2004 at 5:00 PM.



Melton Fire

The Melton Fire was reported on July 17, 2004 at 2:47 PM and burned 3,667 acres over a 4-day period in Sage. It was controlled on July 21, 2004 at 9:00 PM. 4 residences and 30 other out-building, cars, and other property were destroyed. The suppression cost for this fire was \$1.9 million.



Red Mt. Lookout During the Melton Fire

This fire started as a result of target practice and the responsible party was cited under Health and Safety Code 13001, carelessly causing a fire, and released at scene.

and 94 miles from Indio. There was a small bridge for each mile, which was a hump in the road. Rarely, there would be a gully-washing rainstorm, and small rivers of water would rush under the many bridges. Lakes would form for a few days. Tarantula spiders would be seen crossing the highway. The only radiator water was a Desert Center, and only if you bought ten gallons of gas. Anybody who toughed it out for a year on the desert deserved his job.

There were days and weeks, when absolutely nothing occurred. Get up from a sleepless night, dress, eat, warm-up and check out the truck, and read three paper back Westerns. We once went three months with out a fire. Very seldom had a nighttime fire. Fire reports were, at that time, easy to make out.



The Citrus Fire

Citrus Fire

This wildland fire started July 22, 2004 at 2:47 PM and burned 765 acres of vegetation southeast of Hemet. No property was damaged or destroyed. The fire was controlled on July 24 2004 at 6:00 PM. and the cause is still under investigation.

Retirees

Editors Note: Retired CDF/Riverside County Fire employees can provide a wealth of knowledge and history about our Department. As we plan for the future of fire protection in Riverside County, it is important that we remember how things began and progressed over the years. This column of the news letter will provide an opportunity for retired employees to share their stories from the past, and keep everyone up to date on their current activities. If you would like to share your memories, please send a note to CDF/RVC Fire Public Affairs via email or US mail.

Gilbert E. Belcher, Retired State Forest Ranger, shares his memories of working in Blythe during the 1940's.

Driver Job At Blythe

When I first went to Blythe as a Relief Driver, I would spend three days at the Blythe station. Henry Able had spent much time alone, and had a lot of CTO. Before the air base opened, he would be on duty a month or more, and a relief driver would come down from somewhere, and he would get a chunk of time off.

Ranger Holland had been the Ranger In Charge of the San Bernardino Unit, and Henry Able was the driver at Hesperia. After Holland became the Ranger of Riverside County, he asked Able to go to Blythe. Blythe was, as I remember, was one hundred and eighty miles from the headquarters at Perris,

Letter From Retiree Rom Smith

I worked in the Riverside Ranger unit from 1957 to 1968 when I moved to Lake County in Region I as a crew supervisor.

In 1987 I moved to Modoc County as a Division Chief and was involved in building the Devils Garden Conservation Camp where I retired in 1990.

My Riverside Ranger Unit assignments are as follows:

- Seasonal Firefighter, Elsinore and Temecula, 1957- 1960
- Fire Truck Driver (FAE), vacation relief, Oasis Station, 1960 –1963
- Foreman (Fire Captain), Perris ECC, San Jacinto Station, 1963 – 1968

Just a note: I am 2nd generation CDF as my father was Ed (Snuffy) Smith, HFEO and Foreman at Perris Headquarters from 1944 to 1970.

Currently we are full time RV'ers and do the snow-bird act following the weather north to south and back. We've been doing this for 11 years and love it. I have been spending summers working on a farm in the Tule Lake, CA area.

Ron Smith
Alturas, CA



Feedback On Service



Email To Captain Walker

Pat, please pass this on to the CDF staff involved in last Tuesday's (6/22) prescribed fire at the Lake Mathews Reserve. On behalf of the Lake Mathews Reserve Management Committee, I would like to thank all of you for a safe and successful burn last week. The burn was conducted at the highest level of safety for your staff, our neighbors (a little smoke notwithstanding!), and the Reserve. Hopefully we will have many more successful burns in the future, accompanied by the confidence and goodwill of the local community as they come to appreciate the important benefits of prescribed burning in the Lake Mathews area. The RMC truly does appreciate your efforts and the experience you and your crews bring to this important cooperative effort in natural lands management.

Wendy Picht
Lake Mathews Reserve Management
Committee Representative
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Email To Chief Patterson

I hope I got the right station as my wife and I would like to send a big THANK YOU to the crews from the CDF that were from the Temecula station that set up at and protected our home and animals (llamas) during the Tulip fire in Wildomar on Wed. 14 July, 2004. After talking with several of the guys I also found out they were on the Lakeview fire on Tue. 13 July, 2004, also which was just to the north of us by 100 yards or less. The Tulip fire came closer, right up to our fence line.

Thanks ever so much for responding and protecting our home and animals. The llamas say Thanks too!
Russ & Susan Lewis
Wildomar, CA

PS: Give us a call if any one wants to come see the llamas, bring the kids!!

Chief Tisdale,

I can't tell you how much we appreciate the hard work and easy access we got from Fire Captain Julie Hutchinson. As a news producer I show up on a scene that I am not familiar with and need to become an expert in minutes to hours. Julie was a great help in getting me and my reporter the information we need to tell the world about the fire burning in Corona California. We interviewed Julie two times and used her sound-bites to explain the complex fire-fighting efforts in very simple terms. In other words, exactly what we needed. I understand she doesn't talk to the media everyday, but you could have fooled us. It was a pleasure working with Captain Hutchinson and I look forward to speaking with her again... unfortunately there will probably be something on fire during that future conversation. Sincerely,

Mike Tuggle, Producer
ABC NewsOne

July 15, 2004
Dear Firemen,

Thank you for saving my life from the fire. I couldn't have done it without you guys. You see, this guy came and told us about the fire then I called you and then you came and saved my life. I live on Valley Vista Circle. I'll always be thankful for all of you for saving me and my house from the fire.

Love,
Jenna Pietersma, 12 years old



Dear Captain Mc Adam,

Thank you very much for coming out to help with the stranded duckling in the storm drain. I know rescuing animals is not something you normally do unless it is related to a fire. Your kindness and generosity on this day made a difference to the rescued duckling and me.

I was not able to rest until I knew the fate of the mama duck and her other ducklings. My fiancée and I went looking for them in the gully where he had looked earlier that day. We did find them all safe and happily swimming around. I was glad that the woman and her daughter did not displace them from their natural habitat. I also checked on the duckling you released to the pond. I saw two babies with a mama (one looked like the rescued one, a bit younger than the other) both were happily swimming around the pond.

I did some research online and discovered that shortly after the babies are hatched they can feed on their own, unlike other birds.

I shared the story of the duckling rescue with my kindergarten students. I told them about the big, big engine and all the firefighters who came to help the little duckling. They were so impressed that they wanted to thank you by drawing pictures of your engine and the duckling.

The duckling on the cover of our book is about 4 days old, which is approximate age of the other ducklings.

I hope you enjoy the picture book. Thank you again for helping!

Sincerely,

Cindy Fullwiler
Orrenmaa Elementary School
Riverside, CA

June 28, 2004

Dear Chief Harris:

On behalf of the staff of The Nature Conservancy of California, I would like to thank you and your staff for supporting our May 19th event, celebrating 20 years of conservation success on the Santa Rosa Plateau. The partnership that we formed in 1987, when the first cooperative agreement was signed, was a proactive approach in Riverside County to use fire as a management tool, not only to help us achieve our resource objectives on the Reserve, but also, to serve as a method of reducing fuels prior to the fire season. In 2000 and 2002, the prescribed fire conducted under our agreement, and in cooperation with over 20 local landowners, enabled us to reduce brush fuels to the extent that our fire was considered to be the control line for the Roblar Fire last year.

I would also like to thank your agency for supporting our event by sending a fire truck and medic squad to provide our guests with the highest level of protection on this day. Our celebration of conservation success starts at the partnerships we have formed over the years and continues as we move forward towards the future.

Sincerely,

Carole A. Bell, Natural Resource Manager

June 14, 2004

Engineer Robert Luna
Firefighter Paramedic Ricky Harvey
Firefighter Paramedic Rodrigo Vega

It is not easy to find the words to express our gratitude to the crew who came to our rescue, Sunday, May 2, 2004, following a harrowing experience while we were hiking on a hot morning in a desolate, remote, rocky area of Indio Hills. But you gentlemen immediately administered life-saving procedures to Maxine, and exhibited skilled and dedicated care to us both. Your patience and kindness were very reassuring.

To Ricky: Maxine recalls commenting: "I hope this doesn't hit the news." Your response: "Don't worry, no reporter is crazy enough to come out here on a day like this. We already lost a paramedic." We're still chuckling about that after friends called us early the next morning after reading the Desert Sun. We wish to express our eternal gratitude to all of you for your devotion to duty, your skill and competency, your demonstrated kindness and caring attention.

Sincerely,

Eddie & Maxine Choy
Rancho Mirage, CA



Staff Services Day

On June 2, 2004, Staff Services Day took place at the park next to Winchester Fire Station #34. This annual event included a muster, a BBQ lunch provided by Norco Camp, and a prize drawing. Most of all, Staff Services Day was a time to let the hardworking support staff know how much they are appreciated!

Muster Event Winners

Hose Rolling

- 1st Place – Indio Auto Shop
- 2nd Place – Erasmo's Ruffnecks
- 3rd Place – Service Center



Water Soccer

- 1st Place – Perris Auto Shop
- 2nd Place – Erasmo's Ruffnecks
- 3rd Place – Indio Gang



Bucket Brigade

- 1st Place – Indio Gang
- 2nd Place- Perris Auto Shop
- 3rd Place – Indio Auto Shop



Water Ball

- 1st Place – Indio Gang
- 2nd Place – Indio Auto Shop
- 3rd Place – Temecula Fire Prevention

Tug O War

- 1st Place – Perris Auto Shop
- 2nd Place – Service Center
- 3rd Place – Erasmo's Ruffnecks





Rapid Intervention Crew Standard Operating Guideline

By Captain Justin Mc Gough and Engineer Dave Hudson

The department recently implemented a revised RIC Guideline in October of 2003, which vastly improved on the older RIC policy.

The most notable change was the requirement of **four** firefighters to make up the RIC team. With the increase in staffing, the amount of new construction and the increased emergency call load, the demand for a properly staffed and equipped RIC team has never been greater.

The second change was the replacement of the RIC teams tactical frequency, with a primary and secondary tactical frequency. With the activation of the RIC team, all tactical traffic on the fire ground rolls over to the secondary tactical channel, thus allowing the RIC team to communicate unimpeded with the lost or trapped firefighter(s). Company officers need to ensure that your firefighters know the secondary tactical frequency assigned to the incident, in the event of RIC activation. It is imperative that normal fire ground operations continue, even after RIC activation. The fire problem is a dynamic one, that may continue to grow, making a rescue attempt even more difficult and time intensive.

The third change is the inclusion of the acronym **PPPN**.

P – Personnel

Are all your firefighters accounted for? Have adequate air supply? General well being.

P – Progress

Are you making good headway? Are your actions positive or a hindrance to the fire problem?

P – Position

Are you interior or exterior? 2nd floor or 3rd floor? If interior, what is your position within the interior?

N – Needs

Additional equipment or staffing needs? Change in tactics or operations? Additional hose lines? If requesting additional hose lines, is the proper GPM being delivered? Multiple 1-¾ hose lines vs. 1 big line (2 ½).

The fourth change is the addition of mandated equipment that the RIC team **shall** bring to their staging area. This ensures that the basic minimum equipment is at the RIC teams disposal. The inclusion of a list of supplemental equipment has been included as well. This allows the RIC supervisor to survey the assigned equipment for additional equipment required, as dictated by the fire building construction. Those personnel not assigned to the RIC team, must not use the RIC teams tools. Bring your tools with you to the firefight; do not show up

empty handed.

The RIC team assignment is a dynamic combat position! You are the insurance policy for your brother and sister firefighters that are engaged in a firefight. Those that receive the RIC Supervisor assignment



RIC Team Equipment

should immediately delegate assignments. Assignments should include the following:

- Firefighter # 1 – perform a 360-degree “hot lap” or RIC size up of the fire building. Ensure that you take forcible entry tools and a radio with you. You may need to open/force chain link gates, fences, etc, but ensure that the RIC team has 360 – degree access to the fire building. Be prepared to brief the RIC Supervisor of the fire location / intensity, forcible entry problems, window bars, or other hazards to firefighters and RIC ladder placement.
- Firefighter # 2 – establish a RIC tool staging area, at an appropriate step off point for the RIC team. Ensure that the basic tool strip is met, and begin the survey of additional specialized equipment needs.
- Firefighter # 3 – assist Firefighter # 2 with the RIC tool staging area.

RIC Supervisor – locate the incident commander and obtain a brief incident synopsis. Is the incident currently in an interior attack mode? Is the incident in transition (offensive to defensive mode)? Look at the incident accountability board. Where are personnel located? What are the personnel numbers? Brief the incident commander of the RIC teams location.

When all personnel have completed their assigned tasks, the RIC supervisor shall brief his assigned RIC personnel. Ensure that the following assignments/locations are communicated:

1. Tool assignments, which firefighter takes what equipment upon activation. Ensure that the victim(s) air supply is #1 priority. It is far easier to switch over a firefighter to a second SCBA, than to try a bottle change on a trapped firefighter. Keep in mind that the trapped firefighters SCBA mask may be damaged.
2. Brief synopsis of the fire problem. Who, what, when, where and fire attack mode / conditions.

The official newsletter of the
Riverside County Fire Department



Riverside County Fire Department

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

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3. RIC ladder location and means of ingress and egress. Remember that the quickest way to the trapped firefighters, may not be the entry point of those that where trapped. Utilize alternate entrances and exits. Ensure that the RIC ladder is thrown in a “rescue” mode, fly in, 70-degree angle, beams just below the windowsill.

Ensure that the RIC size up is an ongoing process, as the fire problem will lessening or increase over time. After 10 – 15 minutes have gone by, have Firefighter # 2 perform a “hot lap” of the fire building. Utilize Firefighter # 1 and # 3 to evaluate tool needs and RIC team staging. The RIC supervisor should obtain another briefing from the incident commander. At all times that RIC team should be listening to the primary tactical frequency. What are the crews inside reporting? Are they asking for additional hose lines or equipment? Are they experiencing structural failure? What companies are where on the fire ground? This will cut down on the RIC teams reflex time upon activation, and place you where you need to be on the fire ground in the shortest amount of time possible.

Remember that you are the number one priority, and then your partner(s). Utilize safe heads up firefighting, as well as self-rescue techniques. Consider the RIC team as the **best-used** insurance policy. But if you become entrapped or lost, do not hesitate to call a “**Firefighter Lost**” or “**Firefighter Down**” on your radio, and get the RIC team involved. If you self rescue before the RIC team makes contact with you, ensure that you communicate this to the RIC supervisor on the

tactical frequency. Many firefighters are killed each year, searching for nonexistent-trapped firefighters. To date, there have already been 31 line of duty deaths in the U.S.

In summary, ensure that you are familiar with the new RIC Guidelines. Several training periodicals are available for you on the Internet, as well as the 16-hour Rapid Intervention Crew tactics course (CSFM), for continued hands on training. Several department personnel have received the CSFM train the trainer class, for RIC and are available for assistance. These members include FFII Brent Norwine - L-33, FAE John Cortez - L-33, FC Tony Mecham – L-33, FAE Dave Hudson - E-1, FC Justin Mc Gough - E-1, and BC Kim Bolan - Safety Battalion. These trained and experienced firefighters should be able to provide you with a RIC PowerPoint presentation, which includes techniques and drills.



RIC Firefighter Rescue Drill