

UNIFIED



RESPONSE

Verdugo System Quarterly Bulletin Winter 2010

Serving the cities of:

Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank,
Glendale, Monrovia, Montebello,
Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San
Marino, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena



“Does the incident ever end?” is a question we sometimes ask ourselves. Over the past several months, the area has been challenged with a threat that is new to many of us but not uncommon in recent burn areas. We have been focused on the possibility of a mud and debris flow since the Station Fire burned off over 160,000 acres of brush and vegetation.

This threat became a reality on Feb. 6 when mud and debris flowed out of the canyons into the homes and streets of La Cañada. We witnessed the force of the fast-moving debris that pushed its way through homes and relocated vehicles more than half a mile away.



This should not be a wake-up call, but that is the purpose it may serve to those who did not believe the threat was real. We all have to stay focused on the safety of each community we serve. Sometimes that means delivering a message the community may not want to hear, but needs to hear and believe.

Over the past month, there have been hundreds of homes evacuated along the foothills in many communities, some of the homes more than once due to the threat that we now know was very real. During the remainder of this rainy season and for the next several years, evacuations may occur repeatedly. We must be prepared to make decisions that may make some uncomfortable but may save their lives!

Verdugo has increased the level of service it provides to each of our communities by adding a tiered dispatching option for EMS services. This program has been developed over the past several months by reviewing how other centers provide tiered dispatching services and modifying our current type codes. We have taken a conservative approach to this new program by modifying only nine type codes that represent approximately 20% of the EMS calls that are dispatched. The dispatching protocols will be evaluated periodically to identify adjustments that may be made to the type codes.

We would also like to welcome Verdugo’s new Medical Director, Dr. Ed Noll. Dr. Noll guided Verdugo through this significant transition and will focus on improving Verdugo’s already outstanding Emergency Medical Dispatch program.

Training will continue to be a priority for each of our organizations as we may see our staffs shrink in today’s economic environment. Some changes take place because they are needed for an organization to grow, others in order for an organization to survive. Whatever the case may be for your particular organization, it will be important to continue to seek opportunities to come together and support each other through multi-agency drills and academies, shared expertise, and the moral support that upholds friends and colleagues when times are at their toughest.

“I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better.”

– Georg C. Lichtenberg

Harold D. Scoggins
Fire Chief
Area C Coordinator

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<http://www.Unified-Response.org>

ALHAMBRA

Population: 89,171

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$6,378,914,847

New Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal

On October 29, former Battalion Chief Ray Mosack was promoted to the position of Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, replacing Division Chief John Kabala, who retired earlier that month.

Chief Mosack began his career with Alhambra in 1987 when he was hired as a firefighter. He obtained his paramedic certification in 1988 and was promoted to the rank of Fire Engineer in February 1992. Only two months later, he replaced present Fire Chief Bruce Stedman as a new Fire Captain.

Chief Mosack has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fire Protection Administration from Cal State University at Los Angeles and a Masters Degree in Emergency Services Management from Cal State - Long Beach. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Chief Mosack has served many times as a strike team leader and spent almost a month in New Orleans to assist in recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Chief Mosack currently resides in the City of Lakewood with his wife and two children. Congratulations, Chief Mosack, on your new position.

Structure Fire on Westboro

On Sunday, December 7 at 1110 hours, units from the Alhambra and Monterey Park Fire Departments under the direction of Battalion Chief John Cermak responded to a structure fire at 705 S. Westboro. Firefighters arrived on scene to discover an unoccupied single family residence



with smoke and flames coming from the west side of the structure. Firefighters made an aggressive offensive attack on the fire that spread from the exterior into the rear bedroom and attic. Truck 71 laddered the roof to cut a ventilation hole to relieve the toxic smoke and heat that had built up in the residence, allowing firefighters on the inside to extinguish the fire.

Moderate heat and smoke damage was noted exterior to the area of origin, attic, and rear bedroom with mild to moderate heat and smoke damage from the exterior fire throughout the remainder of the occupancy. Firefighters conducted salvage operations simultaneously with the fire attack to save as much personal property as they could. Monetary loss from the fire is estimated at \$75,000 (\$70,000 structure & \$5,000 contents). The occupants reportedly just purchased the house and were preparing it to move in. The cause of this blaze remains under investigation by the Alhambra Fire Department.

Training Facility Modifications

Exciting improvements to the Alhambra Fire Training Facility are nearing completion. By the end of January 2010, the many improvements will allow fire personnel to hone and practice skills involving Rescue



Systems I and II, trenches, confined space operations, high and low angle rope rescue, and to simulate real-life scenarios at the site.

Doors and windows have been outfitted with racking devices to make every evolution different. Windows are barred and doors can be pried over and over via the installation of spring retention devices. Hangers have been welded into the I-beams to allow for simulated flat commercial lightweight roofs to be constructed and utilized for shoring and ventilation.



Along with these improvements, new inward/outward, resettable hydraulic props will allow companies to create real life collapse scenarios.

A new simulated strip mall type structure can be configured to meet many new training modalities that were not possible previously without acquiring a structure that was being demolished. Possible future improvements being considered at the facility include the addition of a classroom building for lecture and instruction.



Extrication Training @ Volvo

On December 14, in partnership with Volvo of North America and Champion Rescue Tools, the Alhambra Fire Department conducted a vehicle extrication training session at the Alhambra Training Facility. The training session included live streamed video by KTLA Channel 5 News with Gail Anderson and broadcasted throughout the day. Two 2010 Volvo

sedans were donated by Volvo of North America to show how the composite metals being used in new automobiles are presenting challenges to

firefighters when tasked with vehicle extrication on newer model automobiles. The Alhambra Fire Department was very fortunate to have received

this invaluable training as we don't get the opportunity to train with brand new automobiles very often.

ARCADIA

Population: 56,547

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

Assessed Value:
\$9,405,086,754

Open House at Station 107

On December 10, the department hosted an extremely successful Holiday Open House for all city employees. For two hours, city employees were able to tour Station 107, socialize with other employees, and snack on a variety of side dishes and desserts by an open-pit fire. Later that night, the following members were honored at the city's Annual Service Awards dinner: Engineer John Beveridge, Engineer Don Smith, and Captain Todd Morehead for 20 years of service; Captain Bob Gattas was honored for 25 years of service; and Firefighter/Paramedic Bill Britt was honored for 30 years of service.

Incidents

Truck 105 responded to a person in distress call at Arcadia High School. An observer for the varsity football team was stuck approximately 30 feet up on an observation platform adjacent to the football field. After the conclusion of the game, the observer



discovered he was scared of heights and was too scared to come down by himself. The crew of Truck 105, using a 40' extension ladder and a full body harness with safety line attached, escorted the observer down the ladder.



Units responded to a two-inch broken natural gas main on West Duarte Road. The incident occurred when a vehicle drove over an underground gas meter vault. A coordinated evacuation of the local area and nearby medical buildings was accomplished while the leak was controlled and repaired by the Southern California Gas Company.



Units responded to a vehicle into a structure incident on West Naomi. A mid-size vehicle was driven into a two-story condominium. As luck would have it, the vehicle hit squarely in between two units, damaging both units. The structure sustained moderate damage. US&R 106 was called to the scene to stabilize the structure, allowing the occupants to re-enter.

Training

The Arcadia Fire Department will be conducting an S-231 (Engine Boss)

class on February 25-26, an S-290 (Intermediate Fire Behavior) class on March 23-26, and an S-334 (Strike Team Leader) on April 22-23. Any interested personnel should contact Battalion Chief Kurt Norwood at knorwood@ci.arcadia.ca.us.

This past quarter, the Arcadia Fire Department hosted one of the most popular horse racing events in the Breeders Cup. Due to the number and international attendance of the event, the department, working with local law enforcement, DEA, FBI and Homeland Security, conducted numerous Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction drills. Fire personnel participated in mass decontamination and emergency decontamination exercises in preparation for the event.



In addition, this past quarter, department members made their annual confined space entries. These entries were conducted at the United States Forest Service site where confined space props are utilized for technical rescue training.



Apparatus/Equipment

New Sperian Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus with 45-minute tanks have been delivered, inventoried, and prepared for in-service training beginning in mid-February. Training will include a classroom lecture from a Sperian representative and in-house orientation and manipulative training, concluding with all members completing a confidence course meeting department standards and objectives in full deployment type drills to assist our personnel with air management in the new 45-minute cylinders. All of this training will conclude at the end of March with an in-service date shortly thereafter.

New Key fire hose has been ordered as all companies prepare for our annual hose and apparatus testing, as well as our upcoming annual fire department inspection. On March 23, members of the Apparatus Committee will be conducting the final inspection on our new 100-foot tractor-drawn aerial truck at Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Personnel

The Arcadia Fire Department promoted Engineer Jack Twitchell to Captain on January 3. He is currently



assigned to Engine 105A. Captain Twitchell began his career with the department on April 1, 1991, and promoted to the rank of Engineer in March 1997. Throughout his career, Captain Twitchell has assisted the department in a number of ways, including serving as the Arcadia Firefighters Association President for a number of years and assisting with the specification and design on a number of pumpers.



The Fire Prevention Bureau's Administrative Intern, Lili Huang, was reclassified to Fire Prevention Aide.

This is a new position in the Fire Department and it is responsible for performing annual inspections, complaint investigations, and language translation. Ms. Huang has been with the city five years and speaks fluent Chinese.

Arcadia Fire Fighters Association

On December 16, members of the Arcadia Firefighters Association, along with Santa Claus, paid their annual visit to pediatric cancer patients at the City of Hope. Santa arrived in style on a 1926 La France fire engine to distribute toys and smiles to the children. The Arcadia Firefighters Association is one of the only groups that the City of Hope allows to visit with these children. They expressed their gratitude in the following email excerpt:

"Thanks for your help with coordinating the Arcadia Fire Department's annual holiday visit with our pediatric cancer patients. Matt Hinig, Gary Robinson, Joel Rodas and Jake Sutton were awesome, and as usual, the AFD really demonstrated the spirit of giving! You all are always so good to us. On behalf of City of Hope and our pediatric patients, THANK YOU, and we'll see you in March for St. Baldrick's! Happy holidays!!"

BURBANK

Population: 108,082

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$15,441,793,226

Administration

The main focus of administration throughout this year has been to develop strategies to maintain operational effectiveness during the current budget crisis being experienced statewide

and nationally. This effort has been a collaboration between management, labor, and City administration to maintain the high level of emergency services provided to the community. The new year has begun and we anticipate more reductions and are preparing new strategies. The department is also concluding a six-month comprehensive audit with Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. (ESCi) and beginning the process of a five-year strategic plan.

During the month of October, the department provided a demonstration of Patrol 11 to representatives from

Fireman's Fund Insurance at their NBC/Universal offices. This was well received and gave us a chance to thank Fireman's Fund personally for their gracious donations.

Also during the month of Octo-





ber, the department had the pleasure of recognizing Firefighter Ryan Weber as Firefighter of the Year at a City Council meeting. Captain Dave Schmitt received a Medal of Distinction, Captain Ken MacNew was given a Medal of Distinction, and Firefighter John Washington received a Medal of Valor.



The year concluded with the retirement of Captain Robert Sheffield (below) after 34 years of dedicated service, over 25 years as a paramedic.



With every ending there is a new beginning and such was the case with Bob's retirement. Dave Burke was promoted to Fire Captain at the end of December.

Fire Prevention Division

In October, the Fire Marshal's office, along with our Community Disaster Volunteers, EMS Division, Station 11 personnel, and the Children's Burn Foundation set up a restored 1966 Crown Fire Engine company as



part of an information display located on our Paseo Del Fuego, adjoining the downtown AMC walkway. Hundreds of movie-goers, shoppers, and residents out for an evening meal were greeted and offered information on fire and burn safety, disaster training, and our EMS membership programs. Our department's elephant mascot, Lil' Squirt, was there, to the delight of the children and adults.



Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Spark of Love Toy Drive for the city of Burbank came to a close with the passing of the holiday season. The community of Burbank really stepped up to help out our neighbors who are less fortunate. The efforts of all the firefighters have again produced another successful season. A special thanks to Engineer John Freeborn for all the volunteer hours he put in.

Apparatus and Equipment Division

We have received our final shipment of new grant-funded SCBA's. All of our fit testing has been completed and training on the new units will begin in January. We expect to put them into service the first part of February.

Members from the Apparatus Committee will be traveling to

Seagrave in Wisconsin Jan. 11-13 to complete the in-process inspection on our new tractor-drawn aerial ladder. If all goes well, we expect to take delivery sometime in early March.

Our specifications are nearly complete for the purchase of three new rescue ambulances, and we will be going out to bid very soon. We have decided to depart from our current medium duty chassis configuration, and will be calling for the new rigs to be built on a light duty chassis.

Notable Incidents

On December 29, at 8:55 a.m., a full assignment responded to a reported house fire on Stephen Rd. While enroute to the location, Verdugo Dispatch advised of possible persons inside. The first arriving Engine Company reported heavy black smoke coming from the windows on all sides and the sound of multiple explosions coming from inside the structure.

Due to the heavy fire involvement to the front of the structure, companies made an aggressive interior attack from the rear. A neighbor reported that the occupant had an extensive gun collection and to their knowledge several thousand rounds of ammunition inside. With the owner's arrival confirming he was the lone resident and the continued exploding of ammunition inside, a defensive mode of operation was adopted. The fire was fought from the exterior using compressed air foam until the fire was sufficiently knocked down, the explosions subsided and an interior attack could resume.

A total of 26 firefighters from seven companies performed fire suppression, rooftop ventilation, salvage and overhaul. The fire was knocked down within 35 minutes of the first company's arrival. During suppression efforts, Engine 11 was struck by a discharged round, causing damage to the driver's side of the cab. Fortunately, no one was struck by exploding

rounds throughout the incident.

Burbank Police assisted with traffic control. Prevention 1, Investigator 1 and Chief 1 also reported to the scene. During overhaul and coordinated salvage with the occupant, more than 50 firearms were recovered from the interior and the occupant reported he had in excess of 7,000 rounds of ammunition in the house. Investigator 1 determined the cause to be a malfunctioning furnace.

There were no reported injuries to safety personnel on scene. The house was turned over to the occupant with an estimated loss of \$300,000 to the structure and \$60,000 to the contents.

House Fire on Broadway

At approximately 4 a.m. November 12, a full alarm assignment reported to a house fire on Broadway. Upon arrival, the first Engine Company reported heavy, dark smoke from attic vents with no visible fire. Every indication was that this was a well involved attic fire in need of rooftop ventilation. Additionally, neighbors reported that the house was actually two separate dwelling units, and that elderly people lived in the rear. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the house was vacant, and there were no occupants.

After several minutes attempting to extinguish the fire from the inside, the Incident Commander determined that the structure was too compromised, and a defensive (exterior) at-



Burbank Fire Department gratefully acknowledges Ross Benson for the use of his photographs.



tack was initiated. Knock down was achieved shortly thereafter. This fire actually ended up having starts in both the subfloor area as well as the attic, thereby making an interior attack too risky in balance with the potential rewards.

We had assistance from BPD, BWP, GFD, and our disaster volunteers, each of which helped to make the incident run smoothly. Loss was determined to be \$450,000 on the structure, and \$0 on contents. All units had cleared the scene by approximately 7 a.m. and there were no injuries reported to firefighters or civilians.

Disaster Services Division

In the last quarter of 2009, the Emergency Services Division was engaged in training and planning activities leading up to the end of the year earthquake exercise, City of Burbank Rock N' Roll 2009. This was a city-wide functional earthquake exercise with a fully staffed EOC activation. WebEOC training, ICS forms training, and EOC roles and responsibility familiarization activities were emphasized during this period.

On November 24, the City Council approved by consent the 2009 Multi-Hazard Functional Plan. This update encompassed plan compliance

of the State Emergency Management System (SEMS)/National Emergency Management System (NIMS), along with a jurisdictional multi-hazard response in the form of annexes in the current plan. The City of Burbank continues to forge forward in updating the current Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The update to this plan is due in 2010 to comply with the 5-year renewal cycle. The plan is expected to be completed in early Spring 2010.

Multi-Company Rescue Drills

On Sunday, November 22, we conducted two high and low angle multi-company rescue drills at Warner Brothers Studios. Warner Fire Engine 18 made arrangements for the use of stage 16 and was involved in both drills. Four of the five crews opted to set up a high angle lowering system and the other built a low angle system. All the systems were effective, and we were able to critique each of them and learn from their creativity, safety and effectiveness.

The picture below is one of the high angle systems, where the team was able to utilize the building construction to their advantage, lowering the patient to the stage floor some 80 feet below. Thanks to Captain Allen and Firefighter Stephens for running and evaluating both drills.



UNIFIED RESPONSE Upcoming Deadlines

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Deadline</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Spring 2010 | Apr. 12 |
| Summer 2010 | July 8 |
| Fall 2010 | Oct. 11 |
| Winter 2011 | Jan. 12 |

GLENDALE

Population: 207,303

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$21,778,967,359



Personnel

The 2009 Awards Luncheon, co-sponsored by Glendale Fire and the Glendale Sunrise Rotary Club and emceed by Ellen Leyva from KABC-7, was held Oct. 7 at the Glendale Hilton. This year we heard outstanding stories of heroism by members of the department and the community that touched many hearts. The event concluded with the presentation of our 2009 Distinguished Service Awards. Congratulations to Captain Ron Gulli, Engineer Dan Encinas, and Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Murphy.

A month later at the Annual Retirement Dinner on Nov. 7, we witnessed 238 years of experience saying goodbye, with nine of our personnel deciding to call it quits: Deputy Chief Steve Howard (30 years), Fire Marshal Dave Woods (21 years), Fire Captain Brad McMartin (30 years), Fire Captain Jack Morrison (29 years), Fire Captain John Presten (30 years), Fire Captain Ron Stanick (27 years), Fire Engineer Jeff Giampaolo (30.6 years), Firefighter Eric Andrade (13 years), and Firefighter Joe Lopez (28 years). As we all know, there's no way we can replace the experience they take with them, but we will retain what we have learned from each of them to continue to make the GFD an outstanding organization.

The GFD Annual Inspection was

held Dec. 8-10 and it gave the Command Staff an opportunity to see the work that takes place on a daily basis to maintain our facilities, apparatus and equipment. Each station exhibited a sense of pride and ownership for the work they had put into preparing the stations for inspection.

Regional Training Center

The Regional Training Center (RTC) is evolving into an excellent training facility. It is certified for Confined Space and Rescue Systems I, with Rescue Systems II certification to follow soon. Trench Rescue can also be taught there because there is no certification for venues for that type of instruction.



The HazMat portion of the facility is moving forward with the procurement of props and equipment. Upon completion and certification of this portion of the RTC, we will be able to teach HazMat Technician/Specialist A B C D F G and HazMat First Responder Operational there.

Future plans include a classroom, water tank, and rappelling tower. This facility lends itself to some great drill opportunities, not just for HazMat and USAR, but for company drills.

Structure Fire

On November 30 at 4:48 a.m., 11 companies of Glendale and Burbank firefighters, one Rescue Ambulance, an Air Utility, and the Arson Investigation Unit, all directed by Glendale Fire Department Battalion Chief Gregory Fish, responded to a structure fire reported in the 500 block of West



Colorado Street in Glendale.

Glendale Truck 21 was the first to arrive onscene and reported fire showing through the roof of a single story commercial structure. Truck 21 initiated rooftop ventilation and Engine 21's crew quickly initiated an aggressive interior fire attack through a rear entrance on the first floor. Next arriving units were given the assignments of search, utilities, water supply and backup line for interior firefighters.

Additional firefighting resources arrived and were directed by the Incident Commander to coordinate rapid intervention and secondary search. As firefighters advanced hose lines through the commercial building, they encountered a well involved fire on the first floor and were challenged by low visibility and extreme temperature. A second alarm assignment was requested at 4:55 a.m. to assist with the early morning fire.

At approximately 5:20 a.m., fire companies were redeployed from an offensive fire attack to a defensive attack. Truck companies from Glendale and Burbank initiated a defensive attack with their elevated ladder pipe devices. With a coordinated effort, firefighters contained the fire spread to the structure of origin.

Working together, 44 members of the Glendale and Burbank Fire Departments contained and extinguished the challenging fire at 6:14 a.m. With no extension to the adjacent structures, extensive overhaul was performed by firefighters to confirm extinguishment of the structure and contents.

Three firefighters were injured during the incident. They were treated

onscene and released. An arson investigator was summoned to investigate the cause and origin of the fire. The Incident Commander provided a damage assessment indicating \$750,000 damage to the structure.



Public Education

A total of 24 staff and management personnel from Forest Lawn became CERT-certified during the months of October and November. Feedback was very positive following the course; additional employees will be trained in the Spring. Additional CERT classes are scheduled for January and March 2010.

We were very grateful for the assistance provided by two of our CERT volunteers when the Emergency Operations Center was activated in early October due to mudslides.

About 14 CERT volunteers also assisted all day at the POD (Point of Dispensing) event at the Civic Auditorium on Nov. 3, where the H1N1 vaccine was distributed to over 2,000 people. They assisted with traffic control, parking, entrance, security, and many other functions.

H1N1 Flu Clinic

The Glendale Civic Auditorium was a very busy place on November 3 when people lined up to receive inoculations for the H1N1 flu beginning around 3 a.m. County officials administered the shots, and nasal sprays were given to children and younger adults, where appropriate. A total of 2,206 people received the H1N1 vaccine before doses ran out, and 103 received seasonal flu vaccine.

This was one of several dozen



vaccine clinics held by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for uninsured people and high risk groups. Unfortunately, scarcity of the vaccine led to many people being turned away from these clinics, but more vaccine was expected in the following weeks.

Christmas Families Program

Nine fire stations of Glendale firefighters, along with Verdugo Dispatch, Fire Prevention, Emergency Medical Services, Training, Public Education, and Fire Administration sponsored 17 financially challenged families including 45 children during the annual Christmas Families Program. Fire Chief Harold Scoggins started this Christmas tradition nine years ago, and FF/PM Chris Mays currently oversees it.



Glendale Firemen's Club donated a total of \$1,800 so that each of the 12 families sponsored by a fire company would receive a \$100 gift card to Target and the remaining \$600 provided a fully prepared Christmas meal. In addition, toys were selected by the firefighters for these families through the many community contributions headed by the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Verdugo Fire Communications and five other sections of the depart-

ment stepped up to request families as well. Civilian and sworn members of these sections donated their own funds and/or shopped for items needed by the families they sponsored, including toys, clothing, household goods, and gift cards for grocery and department stores.

After the gifts and gift cards had been wrapped and labeled for their respective families, the firefighters and civilian personnel personally delivered the dinners and gifts to the families' homes before Christmas.

Emergency Medical Services

In January, we made a significant change to our EMS response delivery system. We added two Basic Life Support ambulances and reduced one of our Advanced Life Support ambulances. Getting to this point has been a true partnership between labor and management. Thanks to all who have contributed many hours to building the new BLS program up to this point. Welcome to our newly hired EMT Coordinator, Greg Anderson, who comes to us from American Medical Response (AMR).

A two-week training academy was provided for the 12 hourly Ambulance Operators who will work 12-hour shifts on the A, B & C Platoon calendar, either 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. or noon to midnight. A graduation ceremony was held Jan. 26 and the first crews started work the following day. During the first 24 hours, the BLS ambulances handled 12 incidents out of a total of 36 medical runs and performed 7 transports.



MONROVIA

Population: 39,531

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:

\$3,793,213,193

Centennial Celebration Preparation

Next year the Monrovia Fire Department turns 100, so in celebration of this very special event, plans are underway to bring in the centennial with style. The Fire Department and the City are cognizant of the budget issues facing the State and the nation, but we also believe that a unique event like a fire department centennial is worth some effort. Thanks to the Monrovia Days Committee, we have a partner for the celebration as we marry the centennial with the Monrovia Days Parade.

This year's parade will feature the Monrovia Fire Department centennial celebration in addition to the activities that the community has come to enjoy. A work group has been set up within the department, spear-headed by Battalion Chief Ron Pelham and supported by many members of the department. Several meetings have been held and more discussion will take place as we begin to shape the events, looking back on 100 years of dedicated service to the community.

We have held two fundraiser events that have been very successful and more are planned in the coming months. We are certainly interested in support from neighboring agencies and welcome any ideas that you might have, but more importantly, we want to get the word out that we are turning 100! Please spread the word and help us celebrate with style – and as always, give us a call with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on how best to recognize 100 years of dedicated service.

Finally, if your department is interested in participating in the parade and/or festivities that will follow, please give B.C. Pelham a call at (626) 256-8104!

Firefighter Recruitment

The fire department is in the final phase of recruitment for vacant positions in the Firefighter rank, having completed 14 Chief interviews and placed six candidates into the background process. Over 280 candidates applied for the position with the list vetted down through a stringent application screening, inviting only those most qualified to be interviewed. A two-day process with an expert panel of outside Fire Captains held formal interviews to determine those most qualified to continue in the process. From the applications and formal interviews, a list of 14 candidates participated in formal Chief Interviews in January. The four Battalion Chiefs held those interviews and made recommendation/ranking based on best fit for the department. Only the top candidates on that list were invited to a formal background and medical screening process with the hopes of having a "ready for hire" list by the end of January. These candidates will become Monrovia's newest Firefighters and will fill current vacancies as we look to maintain full staffing and a balanced budget.

Santa Visits

The week before Christmas, Santa Claus came by the Fire Station early and helped the Fire Department and city staff with a tour of the community. Each night during the week of December 14-18, old St. Nick rode on top of our fire engine while a sled full of residents followed close behind, visiting each and every house in the city. The Santa Tour spreads good will and cheer to our residents and is yet another reminder, during the holiday season, of the importance of giving

thanks to those we serve. It was a time for the men and women of the Monrovia Fire Department to wish a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season to our residents.

2010 and beyond

The members of the Monrovia Fire Department wish everyone a Happy New Year! And as we begin to look ahead at 2010, the Fire Department will continue to monitor the organizational effectiveness and efficiencies through this economic hardship. The emphasis will certainly turn to optimizing performance from the men and women of this great organization, assuring that the work schedule is conducive to meeting the current demands placed on the department, as well as the performance of our employees.

As the City continues to struggle with the economic downturn, the fire department is forced to examine all aspects of organizational efficiency in maintaining public safety as job number one. In doing so, this year will be a time of introspection, examination, evaluation and recommendations on how best to continue to provide exceptional fire and life safety services. That being said, the focus for the department in 2010 will be the people and the best ways of engaging the organization while maintaining – and yes, even improving – service delivery!

Training

The Monrovia Fire Training Division has been busy during the past few quarters, and that trend will continue into 2010. Probationary training is an ongoing focus and high priority for our department. We will be hiring additional Firefighters and Firefighter/Paramedics shortly, so we'll be right back into the probationary training and testing cycle once again.

Our main focus for the next quarter will be SCBA Training. Much like most of the surrounding departments,



the MFD has chosen to make the transition to the Sperian Warrior SCBA.

The SCBA introductory training will commence the second week of January 2010 and systematically introduce all necessary training required to prepare our personnel for a complete transition in the very near future. This training will include a combination of classroom presentations, practical application training, and fire ground simulation training utilizing firefighter survival props and a modi-

fied Denver Prop. Many of these props and simulated events will be conducted in our training tower located at FS102. These props will be in place by the beginning of February 2010 and will be made available to any outside agencies that may be interested. Please contact (626) 256-8103 for additional information and scheduling of our SCBA props.



Hosting Two Wild-land Courses

The City of Monrovia is proud to host Wildland I-400 (Advanced ICS) March 22-23 and Wildland S-231 (Engine Boss) March 24-25 with additional information provided in the Training section of the Unified Response web site at: <http://www.unified-response.org/training.asp>. Please register early as the classes are sure to fill up fast!

MONTEREY PARK

Population: 64,874

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$5,134,242,215

Community Outreach

In November, the Monterey Park Fire Department, in conjunction with the L.A. County Public Health Department, coordinated a two-day Flu POD for the H1N1 virus. Each day saw approximately 2,000 citizens show up to receive immunization. The City of Monterey Park activated its Emergency Operation Center in preparation for and during this event. Our Flu POD was covered by several local news outlets, both print and television. The coordination between all city departments and with our neighboring agencies allowed for a very smooth event.

Personnel

The month of November also kept Monterey Park busy with a Captain and Engineer exam. Eight members participated in the two exams. I want to thank our Area C neighbors for helping with the exam process. For each exam, various agencies stepped up to assist by providing raters. We had excellent test results and our raters were very complimentary of the performance of Monterey Park's personnel.

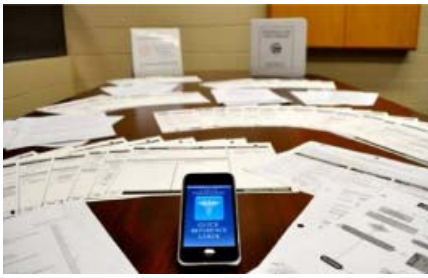
Our three probationary Firefighters are finishing up their first year of service this January. They have been progressing well and are eager to get more incidents under their belts and become qualified for a Strike Team deployment.

Firefighter Nick Lima, with the help of his father and crew, have constructed a new ventilation prop behind Fire Station 63. This is a replacement for the prop that was built by our members approximately five years ago. The funding for this project was

provided by our FTE contract with East Los Angeles College.

The new prop was built in preparation for the upcoming Ventilation Training Class scheduled for this month. The framework is constructed of steel and includes a conventional roof section and a lightweight roof section. The prop is 24 feet by 32 feet and can easily be re-sheeted in minutes. The new prop is one of the sites that will be used for the "hands-on" portion of the Area C Ventilation Training Class.

In summer 2009, Firefighter/Paramedic Ricky Olivarez developed an application called "LA County Paramedic" for the popular iPhone/iTouch. Ricky created the App after seeing there was a need for a compact and portable way to study or reference L.A. County DHS policies, medications, and procedures used by paramedics. Already familiar with the iPhone and its applications, Ricky taught himself how to create the software and submit the application for



approval through Apple. The final product includes L.A.County DHS medical guidelines, protocols, policies, and medications used in the County. He also has included helpful information such as National Registry medications, common home meds, and medication classifications. An Orange County version has also been developed and updates the App when new changes occur. To date, this App has been downloaded over 7,000 times. Future plans have Ricky developing Apps specifically used for the Fire Service. The App is available through iTunes or Apple’s App store. Ricky hopes that every paramedic will have this information available to them quickly and easily.

Operations

The New Year saw the placement of our new Sperian breathing apparatus into service. Under the coor-

dination of Captain Dave Kauffman, our agency took delivery, fit tested, and distributed the new units and masks to all of our apparatus and personnel. The in-service also included classroom training, as well as practical training days utilizing “Buddy breathing” and RIC operations. The new units have been well received and we are appreciative of the grant funding that allowed for the procurement of these units.

Emergency Medical Services

Effective in January, Engine 61 will be designated a Paramedic Assessment unit. This is the second Monterey Park Engine Company to have this designation. Engine 63 has been a designated Paramedic Engine since 1993. Since July, our paramedics have been administering CPAP under the expanded scope of practice. There has been significant improvement in patient outcome utilizing these devices. We will be looking to have these units carried by our engine companies in the near future.

Incidents

For the past couple of months, Monterey Park has experienced a

number of early morning vegetation fires. The calls usually come in after 4 a.m. and taper off before 6 a.m. The individual primarily targets cypress trees or ground vegetation. There has been no significant property damage at this point. At this time, investigators from our agency are working with Police Department personnel to apprehend those responsible for these incidents. If anyone has any similar responses, please contact Monterey Park Fire Department at (626) 307-1309.



Traffic Collision in Monterey Park.



Recent fire in Montebello.

MONTEBELLO

Population: 65,667
 Area: 8.3 sq.mi.
 Assessed Value:
 \$4,404,623,893

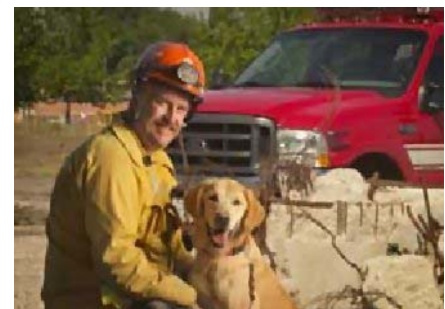
Search and Rescue Aid to Haiti Quake Victims

Due to the January 12 catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, Montebello Fire Department’s very own Canine Search Team – Captain Marc Valentine and his Search & Rescue (SAR) dog “Val,” an energetic male Golden

Retriever – were requested to serve on FEMA’s Task Force #5 to complete a series of Search and Rescue Missions for a 2-3 week assignment. Our Canine Search Team is certified as FEMA US&R Type I Canine Search Specialists. The Captain and Val deployed to March Joint Air Reserve Base in Riverside on Wednesday, January 13 to await transport to Haiti. The outcome of this mission will be reported in the next newsletter.

Honorable mention goes to former Montebello Fire Department Employee Firefighter/Paramedic Russell Tao (now serving the Chino Hills Fire Department) and his 8-year-

old Golden Retriever “Andy,” who are also serving on FEMA Task Force #5.



Retirement

Heartfelt thanks and abundant good wishes were expressed to Engineer Joe Giron as he brought his 33-year career to a close. Joe served in

many capacities as he moved through his career. He happily began his retirement in December of 2009.

Significant Incident Reports

Traffic Collision with Extrication

On October 29, Verdugo Fire Communications dispatched Montebello Engine 57, Truck 55, Battalion 55, and Care Ambulance to a reported traffic collision at Gerhart and Via Campo.

Upon arrival of Engine 57, the Captain reported a single vehicle traffic collision with major damage to the vehicle, with the single occupant trapped, requiring extrication. Engine 57 Captain Valentine established command as "Gerhart I/C" and requested the assistance of Truck 56 for the extrication.

Montebello fire personnel utilized a combination of hydraulic rescue tools to remove the roof and driver door of the vehicle to access the patient. Fire crews completed extrication of the patient from the vehicle and provided paramedic care on scene and during transport of the patient to a local trauma center. Extrication of the patient was completed within 16 minutes of crews arriving on scene.

The vehicle appeared to be traveling at a high rate of speed at the time of impact, subsequently striking the concrete bridge abutment to the Pomona Freeway overpass. Montebello PD was on scene investigating with LA County Sheriffs and Monterey Park PD.

Apartment Fire (Contributed by Battalion Chief Lynsky)

On November 29, all Montebello fire companies were dispatched to a

reported apartment fire at 517 S. Montebello Blvd. Upon leaving station 55, I noticed a significant column of smoke coming from the direction of the reported address. A second alarm assignment was immediately requested through Verdugo dispatch.

Battalion 55 and Station 55 and 56 units all arrived on scene at 1723 hours. Battalion 55 established Montebello IC with Truck 55 reporting heavy fire coming from the first floor of the involved unit, with extension to the second floor. Engine 55 established a water supply and was assigned fire attack with the designator of Division One.

Engine 56 arrived, established a water source, and was assigned Division Two. Division Two reported fire on the second floor with possible extension into the common attic space. Truck 55 was assigned Roof Division for ventilation of the second floor and to check and hold the attic extension. Truck 56 arrived and was assigned utilities and Rapid Intervention Team (RIC) duties. Engine 57 arrived last and was requested to pull a second line to the first floor to back up the initial attack team.

After the initial assignments, the second alarm units from Downey Fire, Santa Fe Springs, Compton and Monterey Park arrived on scene to provide assistance. Fire station coverage was provided by Downey engine 63.

The fire was knocked down at approximately 1730 hours with a primary and secondary search being reported as "all clear." Self evacuation

of the remaining five units was done prior to fire department arrival, with no injuries sustained to civilian or fire personnel. All apartments were checked by department personnel to verify that they had been evacuated.

Extensive fire damage was sustained to the involved apartment unit with no extension to the adjoining apartments. Aggressive roof ventilation prevented any fire extension into the attic. Montebello Police were on scene to control traffic and did a terrific job keeping their units away from the front of the fire building.

Fire Investigator Chrisp arrived to perform the investigation. Investigator Chrisp also assisted in determining if any of the displaced civilians would be in need of Red Cross assistance – none was requested by any of the occupants. As per Investigator Chrisp, the occupant, a lady and small child, reported smelling smoke from the first floor while they were on the second floor. She reported that she went downstairs and opened a bedroom door and found it to be involved in fire. She immediately left the building.

Assisting Units included:

- Downey Truck 611 – relieved Truck 56 of RIC duties
- Compton Air Light Unit – refilled air bottles
- Downey Engine 63 – assist Division 2 with fire extension
- Monterey Park 62 – staged until released
- Santa Fe Springs Engine 82 – staged until released
- Downey Battalion 611 – assisted at the command post

SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,832

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$3,115,464,703

The South Pasadena Fire Department survived the latest winter storms without any major problems. Traffic accidents and wires down made up the majority of the many calls requiring a response.

The department is currently fully

staffed, with all rookies well on their way to a successful probationary period.

Upcoming training includes FRO, EMT, and Harassment Prevention Training.

PASADENA

Population: 150,185

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$20,100,796,317

CPR Machines Deployed

The department received a \$25,000 grant from the Firemen's Insurance Fund and the DeWitt Stern Group enabling the purchase of two LUCAS units. This new type of CPR machine delivers consistent chest pumps to patients during CPR, freeing up rescuers to focus on other aspects of medical care. The air pressure powered devices, which weigh about 18 pounds, can be used while a patient is being moved. They draw power from the same oxygen tanks firefighters use for breathing. The machines have received approval from the American Heart Association, which has deemed them effective. Pasadena firefighters are among the first in Los Angeles County to get the devices. The machines were purchased thanks to a \$25,000 grant the department officially received.

Spark of Love Toy Drive

For their Quinceañera (15th birthday), Christina McCarthy and Chelsea Burke-Gomez of Pasadena asked friends not to give them birthday gifts. Instead, they asked for unwrapped toys that would be donated to the Spark of Love toy drive. Over 3,000 toys were donated via local non-profit organiza-



Pasadena Fire Engineer Mike Batterson helps Christina McCarthy unload donated gifts.



Pasadena Fire Captain Danny Serna with Christina McCarthy (center) and Chelsea Burke-Gomez (right).

tions. They delivered two carloads of donated merchandise to Pasadena firefighters, who then provided them to local non-profit agencies for distribution to needy Pasadena families.

Hotel Electrical Fire

New Year's Day, with every hotel in Pasadena and surrounding area at full capacity, 11 companies of Pasadena, South Pasadena and Alhambra Firefighters responded to a second-alarm structure fire at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel.

A three-phase electrical panel located in an electrical room on the 10th floor had arced, causing an electrical explosion and flash fire. The explosion cut electrical power to floors 5-14 and caused smoke to travel to floors 8-12. The fire alarm system activated and the hotel occupants evacuated the building as fire crews arrived and began handling the emergency.

Once on scene, Pasadena Fire crews initiated the High-Rise Incident Command system, with Battalion Chief Brett Gibson becoming Los Robles Branch. Engines 31 and 34 became Division 10. Truck 31 handled Lobby Control, Engine 33 Water Supply, and RA31 handled Medical Group.

Making their way upstairs via the south stairwell, Division 10 reported heavy smoke conditions on the 10th floor. Los Robles Branch called for a second alarm response. Division 10 deployed hose lines from the 9th floor and made their way down the hallway to find the fire out on arrival. The fire was contained to the 10th floor

electrical room. Engine 38, working with Truck 32 as Ventilation Group, removed smoke from the upper floors of the building using fire department blowers.

Once the emergency was under control and the smoke was removed, the occupants of floors 1-4 were allowed back into their rooms.

A damage assessment indicated \$30,000 damage to the structure and \$3,000 to the contents.

Safe Surrender

In October, a female who appeared to be in her late 20's walked into Fire Station 36 with a male newborn wrapped in a blanket and handed the baby to Captain Madrigal as a "Safe Surrender." While the crew gave care to the newborn and the Captain went to the front office to retrieve the paperwork, the mother fled out the back of the station and into a waiting car and left the scene. The baby was immediately treated at the station and transported to Huntington Hospital by RA33.

Later that afternoon, E36 and RA34 were dispatched to a medical aid call and when they arrived and made contact with the patient they immediately recognized her as the mother who dropped off the newborn at Station 36 earlier. The patient admitted to being the mother of the newborn. She was transported and given the paperwork to complete.

Structure Fire

Pasadena Fire units E37, E32, T32, T31, RA32 and Battalion 3 were dispatched along with Arcadia E106 and LA County E66 to a reported



house fire on Wynn Road. E66 arrived on scene first to find a large, one-story house well involved with fire.



Initial attempts to attack the fire through the front door proved unsuccessful. Hose lines were laid to the rear of the house to protect the homes on either side of the house and to keep the brush from igniting. The fire burned with such intensity that the rear portion of the roof collapsed into the structure by the time hose lines were in place. Several additional companies were requested to assist with the extinguishing efforts and to provide relief for the crews on scene.

Two firefighters suffered injuries while fighting the fire and were transported to local hospitals. Both were treated and later released. Damage to the structure was set at \$1 million and \$150,000 to the contents. A total of four occupants were displaced.

Training News

The Training Division contracted with VFIS to instruct a Train the Trainer Defensive Driving Program. In 2010, the 15 instructors will present the program to all individuals who drive a vehicle owned by the City of Pasadena. This agency has instructed fire departments across the United States and is responsible for many of the rodeo courses that are used by NFPA in their documentation. The course was well received by all who attended.

The Pasadena Fire Department Training Division presented its first-ever Engineer Academy on November 30 - December 4. Prerequisites for the course were to have a Class A or B license and Driver Operator 1A and 1B, which is the standard to participate in the Pasadena Fire Department Relief Driver Certification Program. After the applications were reviewed, there were 16 Firefighters who met the qualifications. They were then issued homework assignments in preparation for the class.

The following topics were covered in the course.

Day 1 – EVDT/EVOC Training. This training involved the material from the Defensive Driving Program that was covered with all personnel.

Day 2 – The morning session was instructed by the Waterous Company who brought their Mobile Demonstration Unit to Station 33. The afternoon session was led by Bob Lake, the city mechanic who has responsibility for fire department maintenance. He took all the individuals through a pre-trip inspection.

Day 3 – The morning presentation was on Aerial Physics. The instructor, Jim Burrell, Ph.D., is an engineer who specializes in Aerial Apparatus and speaks to fire departments all across the nation. The afternoon session was on Aerial Operations instructed by Engineer Ken Woolsey, who took the students through all phases of operation based on his many years of working on Truck Companies.

Day 4 –
Skill Station #1 – Aerial Rodeo
Skill Station #2 - Drafting Operations
Skill Station #3 – Standpipe Operations
Skill Station #4 – Pre-Trip Inspections

Day 5 –
Skill Station #1 – Engine Rodeo
Skill Station #2 – Aerial Operations
Skill Station #3 – Pumping Operations
Skill Station #4 – Relay Pumping

SAN GABRIEL

Population: 42,829

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$3,558,698,316

The past three months have brought about several changes to the San Gabriel Fire Department. The Battalion Chiefs have shuffled their responsibilities, yielding the following changes: Chief Beckman will now be in charge of Verdugo, EMS, CICC

and vehicle maintenance. Chief Frieders is now responsible for Training, Safety, and Disaster Preparedness (yes, I got the short end of the stick). Chief Terry is assigned personnel, station maintenance, and grant management.

The San Gabriel Fire Department conducted a Fire Engineer promotional exam in November. Although there are no positions currently available, we do anticipate openings in the near future. Three excellent candidates were successful in the process and will likely obtain a position in 2010.

The San Gabriel Firefighters As-

sociation opened a Christmas tree lot in San Gabriel this year. They battled inclement weather, frigid nights, and everything else associated with the great outdoors to sell over 400 trees. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the trees were donated to local charities and volunteer organizations.

As most of you know, we have been offering all of the State Fire Marshal Chief Officer courses over the past year. I am once again grateful to everyone who participated in the courses and allowed them to continue. We had attendees from all over the state, including some of the tribal de-

partments in San Diego County. The curriculum was exhausting, but the opportunity to meet and collaborate with some of the finest folks in the fire ser-

vice seemed to be the greatest benefit. Our intention is to begin offering the Level I Fire Officer Courses sometime in 2010. If you are inter-

ested, please send an email to Bryan Frieders at: bfrieders@sgfd.org.



SAN MARINO

Population: 13,393

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$3,982,326,248

The San Marino Fire Department was once again very active in the community over the holidays. We participated in the Christmas Around the Drive event in which the fire department offered hot dogs, chips, and a soda for \$1.00 and had Santa Claus at the front of the fire station for all

the children to enjoy. Then on Christmas, we also performed our annual Christmas Day ceremony where Santa Claus rides in the fire engine and provides candy canes to the children in town. Despite the weak economy, we found that the Spark of Love toy drive flourished as usual and we were able to provide gifts to numerous boys and girls.



Now that the holidays have passed, we are back to business as usual. Our next endeavor is to train all appropriate City staff in ICS 300 and 400 over the months of January

and February. We are also looking forward to participating in the Area C ventilation training to take place in January. Thank you to Pasadena Fire for hosting this monumental event.

We also find ourselves in the final planning stages for the upcoming internal Fire Captain examination to be held in February. It looks like we will have several candidates going through the process and we offer "good luck" to each of them.

Lastly, we were proud to participate in the U-2 event, Rose Bowl game, and the BCS game this year. Once again, Pasadena Fire did an outstanding job preparing and planning for these events.

SIERRA MADRE

Population: 11,083

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$1,548,466,036



The past few months have been productive for the Sierra Madre Fire Department. We have taken delivery of a new command vehicle and are awaiting delivery of a new rescue ambulance within the next few weeks.

On order with expected delivery dates later this year are a new Type 1

engine from KME and a new 2800 gallon water tender. In addition, we "inherited" a Ford four-wheel drive CAFS-equipped patrol from the Aerojet Corporation, which had declared it surplus. The patrol has been refurbished by department members and we anticipate it being put into service in the near future. We are grateful to have the support of our City Council in addressing the needs of the community in providing us with the apparatus to fulfill our mission.

On Christmas Day of 2009, Sierra Madre units responded to a vehicle fire on Santa Anita Drive leading to Chantry Flats. On leaving the station, units reported a significant header. On arrival, fire was found to have spread from the fully-involved van into the brush.

With the assistance of Arcadia Engine 107 and Monrovia Water Tender 101, the vehicle fire and the extension into the brush were contained

within minutes. USFS engine personnel assisted with cold-trailing the incident. The size of the incident was considerably less than a quarter of an acre, but had weather and vegetation conditions not been favorable, the outcome could have been more problematic.

Along with neighboring departments, we have completed the retraining and transition to the new Warrior self-contained breathing apparatuses. The new SCBA's went into service January 1.

As we head into another rainy season, we are continuing our awareness and preparation program in concert with our Public Works Department in the areas subject to mud and debris flow from the 2008 Santa Anita Fire. The rainfall last November resulted in a little mud flowing into some areas of the city, but without any damage to homes and only very minor disruption of traffic.

VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



Verdugo Celebrates 30 Years

In 1978, Fire Chiefs Curtis Reynolds from Burbank, Allan Stone from Glendale, and James Shern from Pasadena agreed to collaborate on sharing a fire dispatch service that would be housed in Glendale and overseen jointly by an Executive Committee comprised of the three Chiefs. A year later this vision became a reality.

On Oct. 28, 2009, Verdugo celebrated its 30 year anniversary. An Open House was held at Verdugo and 100-150 visitors came by to express their best wishes, enjoy the presentation and food, and view the various displays of Verdugo's history and achievements. Special thanks to Jessie Westin, Lynda Sims and Imelda Domingo for planning this event.



Verdugo Hosts ROSS Training

Basic ROSS (Resource Ordering and Status System) training was held the week of Nov. 16-20 in the Community Room at Fire Station 21, for 20 fire department and communications personnel from the Region I area. An Administrator's course for ROSS was also held December 8-10 at the same location. ROSS is the standard for ordering of resources,



whether it be personnel, equipment or supplies, for any type of event that exceeds Area C capabilities. With this training and provision of subsequent Expanded Dispatch operations, procedures and equipment, Verdugo will soon be a true ordering point for any major event within our operational area in Region I. Staff from as far away as Montecito Fire, and locally Los Angeles City Fire and Verdugo personnel, attended these very beneficial training sessions.

The training cadre from OES/CALFIRE (CALEMA) gave special recognition and thanks to Sr. IT Applications Specialist Jason Pfau and PC Specialist Rafik Aghajani for their ongoing support during these sessions and their ability to supply additional laptops and PC's when actual students outnumbered the scheduled equipment and resources.

Verdugo Map Updates

Verdugo's GIS consultant spent recent months updating the map data for all 12 Verdugo cities, including all available street, hydrant and parcel data as well as other features and at-

tributes. The resulting new map looks and functions dramatically different from the test version that some units have been trying out for the past couple of years. Some of the improvements include:

- The background color of each city is different so it's more obvious where the city boundaries are.
- Unit location updates on AVL have been increased so units on the map appear to move more smoothly and current unit locations are more accurate.
- Street address format has been changed so the address number ap-



pears in more of the parcels as one zooms in further on the map.

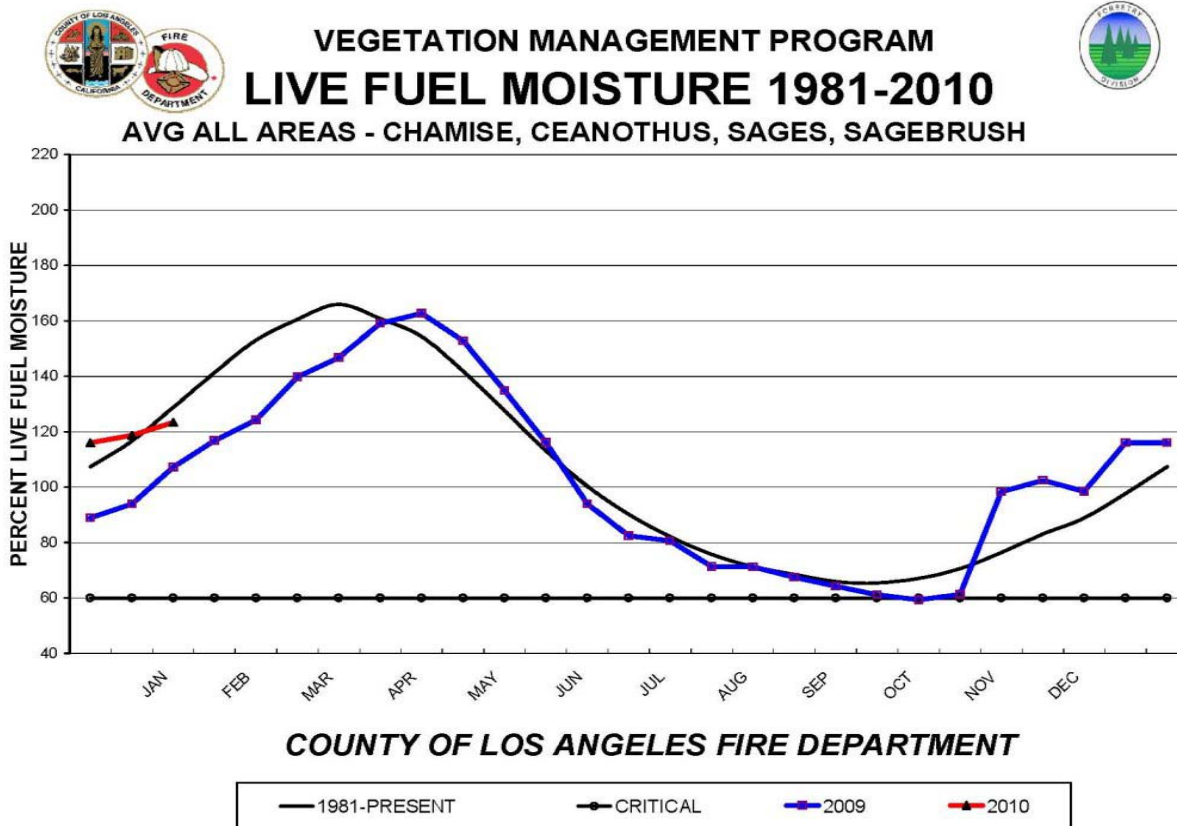
- Key fire stations now have a little key on the station icon to assist dispatchers with move-ups.
- A new panning capability has been added where one can touch the map and it will center on the spot touched. For example, to move right, touch the right edge of the map and the display will move so the spot touched will be in the center (make sure you're not in Follow Me mode though.)
- Streets in areas Verdugo considers brush target hazard zones are a different color to assist dispatchers when reports of vegetation fire are received in those areas.
- And...no more "Unnamed Street" designations in dispatch information within the 12 Verdugo cities!

Incidents By Category: 2009 vs. 2008

| 2009 | ALH | ARC | BRK | GLN | MPK | MRV | MTB | PAS | SGB | SMD | SNM | SPS | Verdugo Total | Percent |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| Fire | 552 | 710 | 1,284 | 1,530 | 447 | 477 | 595 | 2,833 | 261 | 125 | 168 | 296 | 9,734 | 14.6% |
| Medical | 3,931 | 3,228 | 7,238 | 12,995 | 2,953 | 2,569 | 3,230 | 11,861 | 1,698 | 588 | 582 | 1,171 | 52,766 | 78.9% |
| Service | 255 | 223 | 425 | 635 | 145 | 186 | 173 | 617 | 86 | 91 | 45 | 137 | 3,051 | 4.6% |
| Other | 4 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 67 | 0.1% |
| OOV* | 7 | 31 | 141 | 472 | 106 | 43 | 90 | 161 | 36 | 10 | 149 | 8 | 1,274 | 1.9% |
| Total | 4,749 | 4,195 | 9,089 | 15,643 | 3,656 | 3,275 | 4,088 | 15,511 | 2,082 | 814 | 944 | 1,613 | 66,892 | |

| 2008 | ALH | ARC | BRK | GLN | MPK | MRV | MTB | PAS | SGB | SMD | SNM | SPS | Verdugo Total | Percent |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| Fire | 611 | 781 | 1,373 | 1,654 | 411 | 492 | Joined Verdugo System 2-26-09 | 2,870 | 258 | 117 | 174 | 232 | 9,471 | 14.9% |
| Medical | 3,854 | 3,309 | 7,191 | 12,956 | 2,901 | 2,466 | | 12,142 | 1,706 | 626 | 600 | 1,143 | 49,622 | 77.8% |
| Service | 310 | 235 | 476 | 703 | 184 | 225 | | 708 | 100 | 87 | 74 | 105 | 3,236 | 5.1% |
| Other | 3 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 1 | 1 | | 33 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 63 | 0.1% |
| OOV* | 13 | 46 | 149 | 537 | 157 | 60 | | 193 | 53 | 14 | 130 | 13 | 1,384 | 2.2% |
| Total | 4,791 | 4,373 | 9,194 | 15,863 | 3,654 | 3,244 | | 15,946 | 2,117 | 845 | 979 | 1,494 | 63,776 | |

*OOV = Responses outside the 12 Verdugo cities to such locations as Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Downey, Compton, etc.



<http://fire.lacounty.gov/Forestry/PDF/LFMAllArea.pdf>

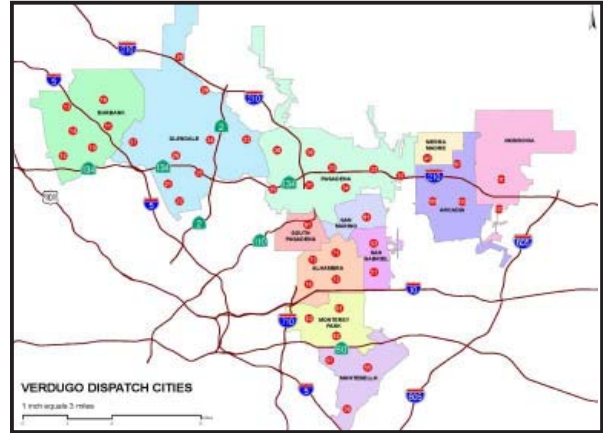
Units Dispatched by Verdugo: 2009, 2008 and 2007 Totals

| Agency | Unit | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | Agency | Unit | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | |
|------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| ALH | E71 | 1,602 | 1,763 | 1,755 | MPK | E61 | 1,741 | 1,717 | 1,740 | |
| | E72 | 1,475 | 1,415 | 1,418 | | E62 | 1,404 | 1,233 | 1,278 | |
| | E73 | 965 | 965 | 995 | | E63 | 1,096 | 1,083 | 1,077 | |
| | E74 | 1,276 | 1,170 | 1,177 | | RA61 | 1,741 | 1,796 | 1,772 | |
| | RA71 | 2,309 | 2,406 | 2,387 | | RA62 | 1,493 | 1,405 | 1,397 | |
| | RA74 | 1,938 | 1,809 | 1,750 | | T61 | 513 | 546 | 553 | |
| | T71 | 651 | 719 | 707 | | MRV | E101 | 2,109 | 2,086 | 2,038 |
| | USR71 | 6 | 4 | - | E102 | | 1,576 | 1,628 | 1,622 | |
| ARC | E105 | 1,677 | 1,683 | 1,718 | SQ101 | | 1,748 | 1,671 | 1,668 | |
| | E106 | 2,068 | 2,135 | 1,961 | T101 | | 479 | 485 | 444 | |
| | E107 | 854 | 917 | 913 | WT101 | 5 | 7 | 15 | | |
| | RA105 | 1,642 | 1,685 | 1,677 | MTB* | AU55 | 4 | *Montebello joined the Verdugo System Feb. 26, 2009 | | |
| | RA106 | 1,765 | 1,827 | 1,788 | | BR55 | 12 | | | |
| | T105 | 550 | 626 | 685 | | BR56 | 15 | | | |
| | AU106 | 4 | 6 | 5 | | E55 | 1,938 | | | |
| | USR106 | 5 | 5 | 7 | | E56 | 1,036 | | | |
| BRK | E11 | 2,662 | 2,571 | 2,708 | | E57 | 1,603 | | | |
| | E12 | 1,387 | 1,489 | 1,638 | | T55 | 761 | | | |
| | E13 | 1,572 | 1,732 | 1,722 | T56 | 315 | | | | |
| | E14 | 1,341 | 1,329 | 1,383 | USR55 | 11 | | | | |
| | E15 | 1,887 | 1,900 | 1,993 | PAS | E31 | 3,521 | 3,734 | 3,619 | |
| | E16 | 797 | 822 | 901 | | E32 | 1,857 | 1,876 | 1,879 | |
| | E18 | 56 | 105 | 146 | | E33 | 3,116 | 3,321 | 3,268 | |
| | HM12 | 35 | 38 | 40 | | E34 | 2,098 | 2,148 | 2,216 | |
| | RA11 | 2,728 | 2,553 | 2,753 | | E36 | 3,158 | 3,118 | 3,109 | |
| | RA13 | 2,280 | 2,425 | 2,373 | | E37 | 1,419 | 1,429 | 1,492 | |
| | RA15 | 2,809 | 2,752 | 2,750 | | E38 | 705 | 712 | 702 | |
| | T11 | 689 | 749 | 803 | | E39 | 597 | 682 | 703 | |
| | T12 | 482 | 561 | 568 | | RA31 | 2,781 | 2,891 | 2,923 | |
| | WT16 | 4 | 5 | 3 | | RA32 | 2,206 | 2,252 | 2,395 | |
| | GLN | AU28 | 21 | 12 | | 23 | RA33 | 2,999 | 3,097 | 3,248 |
| | | E21 | 3,221 | 3,345 | | 3,256 | RA34 | 2,111 | 2,186 | 1,501 |
| E22 | | 2,368 | 2,424 | 2,412 | | RA36 | 2,975 | 2,943 | 2,981 | |
| E23 | | 307 | 283 | 278 | | T31 | 1,351 | 1,480 | 1,306 | |
| E24 | | 961 | 938 | 975 | | T32 | 798 | 865 | 826 | |
| E25 | | 3,020 | 3,084 | 3,208 | USR32 | 25 | 17 | 28 | | |
| E26 | | 2,712 | 2,769 | 2,638 | SGB | E51 | 1,180 | 1,256 | 1,315 | |
| E27 | | 2,190 | 2,266 | 2,195 | | E52 | 1,151 | 1,122 | 1,103 | |
| E28 | | 770 | 750 | 655 | | RA51 | 1,610 | 1,599 | 1,589 | |
| E29 | | 963 | 974 | 964 | | USR51 | 4 | 0 | 4 | |
| HM24 | | 38 | 40 | 35 | SMD | E41 | 311 | 245 | 270 | |
| RA21 | | 3,454 | 3,479 | 3,604 | | RA41 | 776 | 829 | 806 | |
| RA22 | | 2,414 | 2,502 | 1,997 | | WT41 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| RA25 | | 3,426 | 3,381 | 3,478 | SNM | E91 | 897 | 991 | 989 | |
| RA26 | | 3,580 | 3,582 | 3,536 | | RA91 | 1,085 | 1,021 | 1,013 | |
| RA29 | | 1,553 | 1,508 | 1,547 | SPS | AU81 | 247 | 216 | 242 | |
| T21 | | 1,082 | 1,155 | 961 | | E81 | 1,694 | 1,548 | 1,557 | |
| T26 | | 974 | 961 | 961 | | RA81 | 1,210 | 1,225 | 1,103 | |
| T29 | | 297 | 282 | 295 | | | | | | |
| USR29 | | 22 | 18 | 19 | | | | | | |
| WT21 | | 7 | 6 | 5 | | | | | | |
| WT27 | | 3 | 6 | 7 | | | | | | |

- Total *unit responses* for an agency will be much higher than the number of *incidents* they responded on because two or more units respond on most types of incidents.
- Total *completed responses* for each unit will be somewhat lower if the unit was occasionally cancelled enroute to an incident.

Out of Jurisdiction Responses: 2009 vs. 2008

The following tables show the number of out of jurisdiction responses for each fire department in 2009 compared to 2008. This includes only those incidents that were dispatched by Verdugo Fire Communications Center. The leftmost column shows which agency responded; columns to the right show where that agency responded and how many times they responded to that jurisdiction during the year. “XAA” and “XBB” refer to agencies or jurisdictions outside the normal Verdugo System/Los Angeles response region. These designations can also include responses by private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles, and helicopters. Note that Verdugo began collecting more detailed statistics in 2009.



| Responding Agencies | City Where Incident Occurred | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Subtotals | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|--------|-----|
| | 2009 | ALH | ARC | BRK | GLN | MPK | MRV | MTB | PAS | SGB | SMD | SNM | SPS | USF | XAA | XBB | OOJ | DNY | SFS | | LAC | LFD |
| ALH | X | | | 1 | 192 | 3 | 3 | 36 | 205 | | 37 | 91 | 2 | | | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | 575 | |
| ARC | 1 | X | | 2 | 1 | 201 | | 81 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 28 | | 339 | |
| BRK | 1 | 5 | X | 231 | 5 | 3 | | 13 | | | | 4 | 12 | | | 1 | | | 16 | 112 | 403 | |
| GLN | 1 | 4 | 284 | X | 7 | 2 | 2 | 76 | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 11 | 2 | | 2 | | | 82 | 375 | 854 | |
| MPK | 276 | | | 1 | X | | 224 | 3 | 82 | | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 89 | | 687 | |
| MRV | 1 | 301 | | | 1 | X | | 4 | | 9 | | | 2 | | | 3 | | | 37 | 1 | 359 | |
| MTB | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 127 | | X | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 8 | 29 | 1 | 51 | | 229 | |
| PAS | 22 | 75 | 5 | 58 | 12 | 11 | | X | 19 | 6 | 44 | 83 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | 106 | 43 | 496 | |
| SGB | 143 | 3 | | 1 | 31 | 2 | 3 | 5 | X | | 35 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | 32 | | 261 | |
| SMD | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | X | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 7 | 1 | 12 | |
| SNM | 36 | 9 | | | 2 | 4 | | 134 | 138 | 1 | X | 116 | 1 | | | | | | 148 | | 589 | |
| SPS | 22 | 3 | | 1 | 7 | 1 | | 180 | 3 | | 49 | X | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 6 | 274 | |
| USF | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| XAA | 3 | 143 | 61 | 9 | 17 | 2,585 | 3,322 | 16 | 2 | 8 | 1 | | 1 | X | | 1 | 6 | | 17 | | 6,192 | |
| XBB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | X | | | | | 1 | |
| OOJ | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | X | | | 1 | 2 | |
| DNY | | | | | | | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | X | | 1 | 21 | |
| SFS | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | 3 | |
| LAC | | 48 | | 65 | 55 | 38 | 31 | 43 | 29 | 7 | 31 | | | 7 | | | | | X | | 354 | |
| LFD | 1 | | 25 | 44 | 1 | | | 17 | | | | 10 | | 2 | | | | | | 1 | X | 101 |
| VER | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| CMP | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Subtotals | 508 | 593 | 376 | 415 | 458 | 2,850 | 3,611 | 612 | 485 | 47 | 202 | 317 | 42 | 18 | 2 | 26 | 36 | 1 | 619 | 539 | 11,757 | |

| Responding Agencies | City Where Incident Occurred | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Subtotals |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| | 2008 | ALH | ARC | BRK | GLN | MRV | MPK | PAS | SGB | SNM | SMD | SPS | LAC | LFD | |
| ALH | X | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 197 | 41 | 208 | 32 | | 82 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 579 |
| ARC | 5 | X | 3 | 1 | 224 | 1 | 71 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 1 | 43 | 1 | 2 | 377 |
| BRK | 2 | 2 | X | 276 | 2 | 2 | 19 | | | 8 | | 26 | 90 | 33 | 460 |
| GLN | 3 | 2 | 345 | X | 5 | 2 | 59 | | 1 | 5 | 3 | 112 | 404 | 21 | 962 |
| MRV | 1 | 350 | | | X | | 2 | | | 10 | | 53 | | 7 | 423 |
| MPK | 279 | 2 | | | | X | 4 | 82 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 84 | 1 | 72 | 530 |
| PAS | 20 | 100 | 8 | 46 | 10 | 22 | X | 20 | 40 | 11 | 72 | 122 | 48 | 23 | 542 |
| SGB | 179 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 35 | 5 | X | 24 | 3 | 2 | 35 | 1 | 7 | 300 |
| SNM | 29 | 10 | | 1 | 9 | 3 | 145 | 155 | X | 2 | 104 | 129 | | 1 | 588 |
| SMD | | | | | | | 4 | | | X | | 14 | | 1 | 19 |
| SPS | 30 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 175 | 3 | 68 | | X | 1 | 10 | 3 | 307 |
| LAC | | 63 | | 63 | 36 | 67 | 36 | 24 | 18 | 4 | | X | 2 | 6 | 319 |
| LFD | 2 | | 24 | 49 | | | 12 | | | 1 | 9 | 2 | X | 2 | 101 |
| XAA | 3 | 154 | 118 | 11 | 2,473 | 64 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 10 | | X | 2,857 |
| Subtotals | 553 | 690 | 500 | 454 | 2,769 | 399 | 588 | 501 | 190 | 63 | 278 | 636 | 563 | 180 | 8,364 |

RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS: Fall 2009

| Agency | Av. Dispatch to Enroute (min:sec) | Av. Enroute to Onscene (min:sec) | Av. Dispatch to Onscene (min:sec) | Percent 5 Min. or Less | Total Incidents |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| ALH | 01:00 | 03:27 | 04:27 | 67.5% | 1,270 |
| ARC | 01:03 | 03:24 | 04:27 | 68.2% | 1,103 |
| BRK | 00:59 | 03:02 | 04:00 | 80.1% | 2,373 |
| GLN | 01:02 | 03:10 | 04:12 | 75.9% | 4,221 |
| MPK | 01:11 | 03:39 | 04:50 | 58.3% | 977 |
| MRV | 01:01 | 03:24 | 04:26 | 66.7% | 834 |
| MTB | 01:07 | 04:00 | 05:06 | 50.1% | 1,280 |
| PAS | 00:58 | 03:06 | 04:04 | 76.6% | 4,039 |
| SGB | 00:57 | 03:33 | 04:30 | 65.9% | 512 |
| SMD | 01:23 | 02:59 | 04:23 | 65.0% | 214 |
| SNM | 00:52 | 03:03 | 03:55 | 82.4% | 251 |
| SPS | 01:03 | 03:05 | 04:08 | 74.1% | 444 |

Dispatch to Enroute: From dispatch to leaving the station (all personnel suited up and belted in). Also known as turnout time, the NFPA recommends 60 seconds for this phase of the response.

Enroute & Onscene Times: These come solely from field personnel pressing buttons on the mobile computer terminal; announcing a unit's status over the radio does not record the time of the status change where it would be picked up for statistical analysis.

Percent 5 Min. or Less: The goal is for the entire response, from dispatch to arriving onscene, to be 5 minutes or less as often as possible. Travel time may vary due to many factors such as the city's geographical layout, the time of day or night, traffic density, and road conditions. Area served by each fire station is also a factor – average in Area C is 3.15 square miles per station, but the range is from 1.9 to 6.9 sq.mi.

Verdugo Fire Academy at Glendale Community College



Verdugo Fire Academy Class XII Graduates

On January 9 at the Glendale Community College Auditorium, Verdugo Fire Academy Class XII graduated 33 recruits from the 800-hour academy that develops academic, hands-on firefighting as well as personal development skills. Over 300 family and friends filled the auditorium for the ceremony.

Congratulations to Glendale Firefighter Gilberto Pedroza and Retired Glendale Engineer Mike McGee for receiving Instructor of the Year awards.

The academy very much appreciates the support of the Glendale, Pasadena, Burbank, other Area C, and Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments.

While Class XII was graduating, the 52 recruits in Verdugo Fire Academy Class XIII began their 800-hour intense academy training. The academies are going non-stop, year round, and I cannot be more proud of Captain Tony Bagan and the staff and instructors from the Area C Fire Departments that keep things rolling and in order. As we continue to graduate academy classes, the participation of the Area C, Verdugo, Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments are greatly appreciated!

Two Engines Donated

We were very fortunate and appreciative regarding the acquisition of two Engines from Glendale Fire Department. The above picture of the Engine donation event shows the ribbon cutting with Chiefs Scoggins and DiGiovanna, and below, the Engines housed at the Verdugo Fire Academy GCC.

Sam DiGiovanna, Fire Chief

Verdugo Fire Academy



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