

UNIFIED



RESPONSE

Area "C" Quarterly Bulletin Fall 2003

Serving the cities of:

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

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INTRODUCING . . .

Having celebrated the second anniversary of 9/11 a week ago, we are all reminded of the importance of working together in a unified front as we strive to provide exemplary fire safety and rescue services to the citizens of our communities. It is therefore my pleasure to present to you the first quarterly issue of "Unified Response," a newsletter representing the 11 cities of Area "C". Our mission is to enhance awareness and communication and to maximize service delivery among all of our fine communities.



These are challenging and exciting times...simply put, a lot is happening and it's important that now, more than ever, we work together. This bulletin is a work in progress and we encourage submittals, input and feedback. At a minimum we'll give you stats; at the max, "Unified Response" will deliver timely news, training and information about our collective efforts...it's up to you. Our first edition does not have all departments submitting news, but we hope to have everyone onboard by our second edition in December. It's been my experience that you just have to have a deadline with something like this.

This year we have seen a few Strike Team responses, with more likely in the near future. It is critical that we treat all Strike Team responses as active emergencies right from quarters...this is serious business. Our lives are at stake and people count on us to be safe and effective.

You all know we are going through a data and voice upgrade of the radio system. Ultimately we will all enjoy improved capability, function and clarity. We have assigned a full-time project manager from Glendale to assist in the implementation. John Fitzgerald is a very capable GFD member who will be working over the next several months to assist with all phases of the new radio sys-



Continued from p.1

tem. Beginning next week, John will be making the rounds to determine how everyone is doing and where assistance is needed.

Work continues on an Area-wide response policy and I am very pleased by the cooperation and effort thus far. This will be a great step forward!

This week also marked the adoption of a few policy level matters through the Foothill Fire Chiefs Association and Area "C" that I wanted to bring to your attention. We are working through CICCIS Certification and all department members are encouraged to

prepare and submit their qualifications through their respective departments to our CICCIS Committee. The Committee is doing a great job of working through the certs and quals of our Area "C" personnel in order to maximize opportunities prior to the August 1, 2004 deadline.

As you know, Area "C" has maintained a policy directive concerning Strike Team Standards for several years. Verdugo currently tracks ST activity and will soon be verifying appropriate certifications for positions such as Strike Team Leader. Currently all personnel assigned to lead an Area "C" Strike

Team on a wildland incident must be a Battalion Chief or above and qualified under our Area "C" policy or CICCIS/USFS regulations. Additionally, we also approved Strike Team/Wildland Fire Deployment Standards for all positions with an effective date of September 1, 2005. The Training Officers will be working through an implementation plan to help get us there and keep us there in the future.

Enjoy the newsletter, and please take good care of yourselves and those around you.

*Christopher Gray
Area "C" Coordinator*

Fire Department Strike Team I Wildland Fire Deployment Standards Effective 9-1-05

- 1. Purpose:** To insure suppression personnel become safe, knowledgeable and competent interface firefighters. The overall success of the fire mutual-aid system requires provision of proper equipment and training for incident assignment.
- 2. Responsibility:** Fire department staff shall insure that properly trained personnel are deployed to wildland/urban interface fires.
- 3. Procedure:** Identify the most qualified wildland fire suppression personnel for assignment. Adopt Wildland Agencies' training calendars for wildland training classes. Provide annual wildland training in hose lays, engine operations, equipment, fire shelters, fire weather, environment hazards and wildland fire safety.
- 4. Training:**

Firefighter

1. 1-200 (Basic ICS)
2. S-190 (Introduction to Fire Behavior)

Engineer

1. 1-200 (Basic ICS)
2. S-190 (Introduction to Fire Behavior)

Captain

1. S-215 (Fire Operations / Urban Interface)
2. 1-300 (Intermediate ICS)
3. S-290 (Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations)
4. S-330 or S-334 (Strike Team / Task Force Leader Engines)

Chief Officer

1. 1-300 (Intermediate ICS)
2. S-215 (Fire Operations / Urban Interface)
3. S-330 or S-334 (Strike Team Leader Engines)
4. S-336 (Fire Suppression Tactics)
5. S-390 (Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations)
6. S-301 (Leadership and Organizational Development)

UNIFIED RESPONSE

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ALHAMBRA

Population: 88,900

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$4,038,323,178

Highlights from Alhambra:

- FF/PM Jasen Brown received the Medal of Valor from the CSFA and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. FF Brown was off-duty and encountered a T/C in

which two young children, ages 6 mo. and two years, were trapped with their mother. Jasen managed to extricate both children and facilitated CPR efforts. Jasen then went back to the vehicle, which was involved in fire, and extricated the mother, who was severely burned. Jasen administered life-saving measures to a total of five patients, three in one vehicle and two in another. Both children died in the incident, but Jasen has been credited for saving the mother's life.

- The Alhambra Fire Department's four-story training facility should be completed by the end

of October. The training tower will also have a "burn" room.

- The Alhambra Fire Department also placed into service a new E-74 which is located at a "Key Station." The new engine is a Pierce with a CAVS System.

- We are also gearing up to implement a Heavy Rescue Truck from a Medium Rescue.



ARCADIA

Population: 55,500

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

Assessed Value:
\$6,001,303,613

CAF Task Force

Arcadia has joined a number of fire agencies in the development and implementation of a Compressed Air Foam (CAF) Task Force, used for structure protection during wildland fire incidents. This concept was used during last year's Copper Fire in northern L.A. County and it proved to be very successful.

The Task Force is made up of agencies from Alhambra, Arcadia, Bonita, Brea, La Verne, Los Angeles County, Montecito, National Park Service, Rancho Cucamonga, and Rancho Santa Fe. Monrovia has expressed an inter-

est after they receive their CAF Water Tender. This task force has been organized through South Operations in Riverside. OES, CDF and the USFS have assisted with organizing the ordering of this resource through South Ops and the local forest agencies.

The makeup of the task force includes Type I and III Engines, as well as CAF and non-CAF Water Tenders, a Task Force Leader and a Trainee. The standard configura-

tion will include four Engines, two Water Tenders, a Task Force Leader and a Trainee. It is anticipated that the Task Force Leader and Trainee, along with the Engines and Water Tenders that make up the task force, will be predetermined to avoid delays upon receipt of an assignment.

The goal is to have this resource available during this fire season.

Career Development and Succession Planning

During the last year, our fire department has been moving toward a mentoring program designed to assist personnel in all ranks. Future retirements and promotions will impact personnel of all ranks, and the goal is to prepare our personnel for the future.

Fire Suppression Public Information Officer

The Department currently has one PIO, working in an administration function. Our goal is to establish a Fire Suppression PIO program to complement our department PIO by utilizing fire sup-



Before compressed air foam



After compressed air foam

pression personnel from each of the three shifts. Training at CSTI will be utilized to help prepare the members for this endeavor.

Breeders Cup

Breeders Cup will come to Santa Anita Race Track on October 25, 2003. We are preparing for this event with city departments and with federal, state, and local agencies. An Incident Action Plan is being developed and will be shared with all agencies in the area.

Promotional Examinations

To address upcoming retirements, we will be conducting a Captain's examination in September 2003, and a Battalion Chief's examination in October 2003.

New Firefighters Started in August 2003

The Arcadia Fire Department welcomed four new Firefighter recruits last month: Hormaz Jangi, Beth Decoteau, Armand Dabuet,

and John Cole.

Retirements

Battalion Chief Wayne Crabb and Deputy Chief Richard Brown will be retiring on December 28, 2003. Chief Crabb has 27 years in the fire service and Chief Brown has 30 years in the fire service.

CAF Task Force Update

On September 5, E105 was assigned to the Bridge Incident in the San Bernardino National Forest, above the community of Highland. They were part of a Compressed Air Foam (CAFS) Task Force that was assigned to structure protection in the Smiley Park area (see photos to the right). They had the opportunity to pre-treat a number of structures threatened by the fire with Class A foam. No structures were lost during the two-day assignment. This was the first deployment of the Task Force since its inception in June of this year.



BURBANK

Population: 104,500

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$9,522,729,920

After more than 29 years of distinguished service to the Burbank Fire Department, B.C. Mario Gagon retired on Aug. 1, 2003. Mario and his family relocated almost immediately to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and are reported to be loving it.

Robert W. Trowbridge was promoted to Battalion Chief on July 1, 2003 and is currently serving in

the capacity of Training and Safety Officer.

The Fire Training Center located on Ontario Street in Burbank reopened in 2003 after extensive renovations to the interior, including installation of a computer floor and state-of-the-art presentation and training electronics. The facility is used for BFD training needs and also functions as Burbank's EOC.

BFD applied for and received grant funding for "Operation Respond," a secure software program that provides current information on all rail cars and their contents, following the removal of I.D. placards from rail cars as a result of 9-11. The information has been loaded onto a desk top com-

puter and a laptop in our Haz Mat vehicle.

A new Seagrave Aerial Truck Company was placed into service in May 2003 and outfitting of the department's new Tahoe SUV's was completed.

Rich Baenen was released from duty in the U.S. Coast Guard and returned to his position as the City's Disaster Preparedness Coordinator September 2, 2003.

Burbank continued its observance of Patriot Day with a brief ceremony on the steps of Police/Fire Headquarters. It was well attended by City staff and members of the public.



GLENDALE

Population: 202,700

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$13,610,078,405



Scott Roby / News-Press

“Controlled Goat Grazing”

With the objective of reducing the risk of wildfire damage to certain high-risk areas of the City of Glendale, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded funds to the City for a variety of hazard abatement measures.

One of these measures involves biological fuel modification using domestic livestock (in this



Scott Roby / News-Press

case, goats). A total of 23.7 acres on 11 sites have been identified as possible grazing sites to evaluate the viability of this biological control method for future vegetation management purposes.

Many of the sites are difficult to access and have poison oak and/or very steep slopes, making it difficult for hand crews to abate the hazards. With proper control, goat grazing has been shown to be an excellent solution to scaling back the threat of wildfires in such areas.

The EZ Bar Ranch in Laguna Beach supplied 360 goats which arrived at the first site on Gardner at Hollister during the week of Sept. 8.

GFD’s New GIS Section

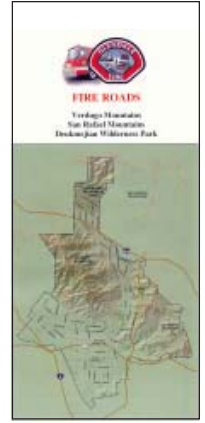
Last fall the Glendale Fire Department hired a Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist, Kimmy Luc, to complete a variety of high priority mapping projects and to supply mapping support as needed in day to day operations.

In addition to numerous special request maps, Kimmy has recently completed three important projects. The first is a two-sided map with driving directions to all eight of the hospitals where GFD transports patients. The map was published in 50-sheet tear-off tablets for ease of use and will be kept in RAs and Engines to assist families of transported patients in finding the correct hospital.



Last week GFD’s new Fire Roads map was printed and is currently being distributed. The primary

purpose of this map is for directing strike teams in the event of a major fire in or around Glendale, but it has the added advantage of including all the fire roads and trails for people who like to hike/bike in Glendale’s less populated areas.



The third major map product currently in distribution is GFD’s Wildland Interface Response Manual, which will replace our existing Brush Fire Response Plan.



The manual includes both color aerial and black & white response maps of the brush interface areas of the city. Along with the maps are informational pages for each High Hazard Zone. These pages include staging, command post and helispot locations, topography and types of brush found in the area, special consideration items, and access and egress problems, as well as other useful information. This manual was developed to contain a large volume of pertinent information related to wildland interface fire-fighting and will be kept in the fire station libraries.



GLENDALE (cont.)



OES Water Tender

OES Water Tender No. 11 has been assigned to the Glendale Fire Department and is currently being outfitted at Fire Station 22.



GFD/GWP Water Tender

A new red Pierce Water Tender has been delivered and is now being prepared for deployment, as shown in the photo above.

This is the first piece of apparatus other than ambulances and the Battalion Chief response unit to be painted red since the apparatus color change was approved last year.

The next issue of **UNIFIED RESPONSE** will be published in mid-December. Submissions of articles and photos are welcome through December 8.

MONROVIA

Population: 38,450

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,322,575,124



New Training Tower @ FS102

The Monrovia Fire Department has completed construction of a new training tower at Station 102. The \$20,000 in donated funds and the efforts of department members have made this possible.



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Bicycle Shop Fire on Myrtle

Monrovia firefighters responded to a fire in a downtown bike shop located at 218 S. Myrtle Avenue on August 22. The cause of the fire appeared to be an electric sign hanging in the store's front window. Monrovia and Arcadia fire personnel quickly contained the fire to the front of the store with smoke damage throughout the business.



Bus Versus Vehicle Accident

Monrovia Fire Department was dispatched to a Metro Transit bus that had collided with a vehicle traveling westbound at the intersection of Chestnut and Primrose on August 22 around 8 a.m. The transit bus was forced onto a grassy knoll with the vehicle supporting the front right side tire off of the sidewalk, the three remaining bus tires supporting the bus. There were several passengers aboard the bus at the time of the incident, but fortunately their injuries were minor. The windshield of the bus was displaced by the collision and the driver had to be

extricated. The drivers of both vehicles were transported to a local hospital.



Vehicle Fire on Magnolia

A vehicle fire on the 1400 block of Magnolia was reported on August 22 just before 3 a.m. The suspect(s) had defaced multiple SUVs and set fire to one.

This was apparently part of the E.L.F. movement, with all of the cars having these letters sprayed on them. They only targeted the SUVs on the street and wrote "gas guzzler" on them as well.

Later the same morning they claimed responsibility for a fire at a car dealership in West Covina as well.



Multi-Victim Incident

On June 28 at approximately 1730 hours, Monrovia firefighters responded to a traffic accident with people trapped at the intersection of W. Central and S. Myrtle. Two vehicles were involved in the collision, with one vehicle having a driver and four passengers. Responding personnel immediately requested five A.M.R. ambu-

lances, as there were a total of six patients and five of them required transportation to a trauma center.

We are reminded to keep the following lessons in mind for incidents of this nature:

1. Always assign a safety officer.
2. Make sure to have a protection line in place and manned.
3. Always wear proper P.P.E.
4. Call for additional resources if you think you may need them.
5. Request a tactical channel for the incident.

New Water Tender



Outfitting of a new 2,000-gallon water tender was completed on July 24. This new apparatus went into service in early August and is now available to all area cities.

Fire Station 103



Construction has begun on Station 103. This hillside station is a combination of the remodel of an existing building and construction of an apparatus room floor. The work is being done by department members.

MONTEREY PARK

Population: 63,400

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$3,331,251,623

- On September 13 we began a mini-academy for five new Firefighters and Firefighter Paramedics. We still have two Paramedic Firefighter vacancies to fill and are working jointly with our Human Resources folks in continuous recruitment for this position.
- We applied for monies through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purpose of upgrading our communications system and specifically to purchase new UHF radios for all units, including

portables. We are awaiting a response to a staff report wherein we jointly applied for permission to utilize asset forfeiture funds to install new Palomar Mobile Data Computers in our police and fire units. I am assured by Don Wright that these are "Verdugo Compatible," with certain stipulations.

- This past month, we stripped the gears out of our small staff in what can only be described as a Herculean effort to be included in the USAI Grant process. I am happy to report that we were successful, in large measure thanks to Captain Rick Burroughs' tenacious and organized efforts to pull all disciplines of our City in a unified direction. This process included a needs assessment analysis that we performed under Draconian time constraints, but the results will be the basis for future Homeland Security grants,



which we hope will be fruitful.

- Training and finding the time to complete all mandates continues to be a high priority. We continue to work closely with Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino and South Pasadena in joint training and Continuing Education and look forward to the area "C" training to assure that all of our personnel meet the CICC Engine Company requirements.
- We continue to staff three Engine Companies, a Truck Company, two transport ambulances, and a Battalion Chief daily.

PASADENA

Population: 142,200

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$11,404,942,572

New IAFC President

Pasadena Fire Chief Ernest Mitchell was sworn in as the new 2003-2004 President of the International Fire Chiefs Association (IAFC) in a ceremony that took place on Monday, August 25th in Dallas, Texas.

Chief Mitchell's words: "I ran for this IAFC position with the idea that I can make a difference for the future of the fire service – there is much on the horizon and I believe

I am in a position to help. The fire service has been very good to me and my family – I'm going to take some time and give as much as I can."

Chief Mitchell Retiring

Chief Ernie Mitchell regretfully announced that he will be retiring from the Pasadena Fire Department in early 2004. He calls it a career change because he does not plan to retire in the traditional sense. He will remain active in the fire service through the IAFC and other opportunities that have come his way.

Recruitment efforts for a new Fire Chief have begun and it is hoped that the new Chief will be on staff before the new year begins so Chief Mitchell can assist him/her through the early days of

the transition.

New Pierce Engines

Pasadena has taken delivery of two new 2003 Pierce Fire Engines. Both apparatus are outfitted with 1,500 gallon pumps with foam capabilities. The two apparatus were built in Appleton, Wisconsin and shipped to Pierce in Ontario, Ca. They expect to have both engines in operation within 60 days.



SAN GABRIEL

Population: 41,550

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,106,699,323

New Thermal Imagers

The San Gabriel Fire Department recently took delivery of two Bullard Model MX Thermal Imagers. These Thermal Imagers are state-of-the-art; the micro-bolometer technology gives a well defined picture, and each imager is equipped with a temperature gauge, low battery warning light, and a four-channel transmitter that allows a firefighter to transmit what is being seen to a receiver screen in the Battalion Chief's command vehicle.

Thermal imagers, developed in the 1960's by the U.S. military, operate on the principle that all objects have a certain temperature and emit waves of energy called infrared radiation. A thermal imager "sees" these waves and translates them into a viewable image on a screen. On the thermal imager screen, a hot object is white and coolest objects are black. Other objects are shades of gray, depending on their temperature. For instance, by scanning a dark or smoke-filled room, one can see differences in the heat signature of objects and people, and "see" the room almost as if it were normally illuminated.

Until the 1980s, infrared imagers were unavailable to the Fire

Service. When first made available for firefighting, the imagers were extremely expensive; the first models were priced at about \$25,000. Most Fire Departments were unable to use that large an amount of their budget when their needs for existing technology and training were straining their resources. Over time, thermal imager technology has advanced and improved, with a coinciding reduction in cost, and fire departments across the country are now placing thermal imagers into their life-saving equipment inventory.

The Fire Service sees the thermal imager as having as great an influence on firefighter effectiveness, as has the Self Contained



Breathing Apparatus. Thermal imagers can be used in the process of size-up when arriving at a fire, during ventilation of smoke and gases from a burning building and subsequent overhaul, and in the process of making sure a fire is completely extinguished. Search and rescue is seen as the primary role of the thermal imager; not only can a victim be found in a smoky building but also in cold environments by the imager "seeing" the contrast between body heat and surrounding cold.

With a thermal imager, fire-

fighters no longer need to crawl through and around rooms looking blindly for victims; by scanning with the thermal imager, differences in the heat signature of furniture, walls, appliances, and people are very apparent and firefighters can quickly locate and extricate victims.

For those instances where the origin or extent of a fire is not known, a quick scan of the area with the thermal imager will show the "hot spots" and guide firefighters in extinguishment and overhaul.

By pointing the thermal imager at liquid-filled containers, firefighters can determine the possible extent of hazardous material situations by reading the difference in temperature between the liquid or solid level of a container and the empty portion, thereby determining if there is a problem and what mitigating measures need to be implemented. Whether or not a spill has occurred can be determined by examining the difference in the temperature of contaminants in water and on the ground, and following the contaminants back to the source.

The technology of the thermal imager was unheard of in the Fire Service when this writer began his career. Hours of training in search and rescue techniques were needed to make each firefighter understand the importance of covering every square inch of a building when looking for fire or its victims. San Gabriel now has the most up-to-date technology in its equipment arsenal to augment that early training, shortening considerably the time it takes to complete the search for fire and its potential victims.

SAN MARINO

Population: 13,450

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$2,648,695,295



A Brief Update

The Huntington Library continues its development. The 90,000 square foot Munger Research Center is moving along. The steel framework is almost completed. There is a new Chinese Garden in progress, and a new wing will be added to the Scott Gallery soon.

People continue to scrap old houses and build new ones (fully sprinklered, of course), so there is a lot of construction around the city.

Firefighter of the Year

Engineer Mark Dondanville is this year's recipient of the Firefighter of the Year award. Mark is married with three kids and one due in March. Mark grew up in Glendora and started in the emergency medical profession with Crippen Ambulance as an EMT and a Paramedic. He worked for a short time with the Chino Valley Fire Department as a reservist. Mark started with the San Marino Fire Department in December 1996 as a Paramedic Firefighter. Mark was promoted to Engineer in October 2002 and was recently certified as an Acting Captain. In his spare time Mark teaches First Responder classes.



SIERRA MADRE

Population: 10,950

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$950,953,856



The Sierra Madre Fire Department is the only all-volunteer fire department in Los Angeles County. It is composed of 44 members manning three Engine Companies, one Truck Company, one Type 3 Brush Engine, a Water Tender, an OES Engine, and two Rescue Ambulances.

SMFD operates out of two sta-

tions that protect primarily residential, light industrial, and wildland / urban interface areas. The department participates in the California state-wide Mutual Aid Program and provides resources for a State of California Office of Emergency Services (OES) Engine.

(Paraphrased from Sierra Madre Fire Department's web site)

SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,250

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:
\$1,968,915,610

Gold Line Light-Rail System Starts Operations in Los Angeles, South Pasadena and Pasadena

On July 26, 2003, the MTA started running the new 13.7 mile Gold Line Light-Rail system from Los Angeles' Union Station to east Pasadena. From a fire and life safety standpoint, the light-rail system presents different hazards compared to a conventional rail system. The primary differences are the cargo and the mode of power generation.

The Gold Line is a passenger-only rail system and is exclusively powered by electricity. Each two-car train weighs approximately 99,000 lbs. without passengers and can travel up to 55 mph. Each train can hold up to 300 passen-



Gold Line light-rail train entering the South Pasadena Mission Station

gers during peak times and during special events (i.e. Rose Parade).

The electrical power is supplied by a single 750-volt DC live wire suspended above each of the two parallel tracks and is connected to the train by a retractable pantograph. The electrical power supply is divided into sections and can be secured at various locations or by notifying the MTA 24-hour dispatcher by telephone.

Members of the Los Angeles, Pasadena, and South Pasadena Fire Departments have participated in numerous training programs in anticipation of the Gold Line opening. USAR-trained firefighters have had the opportunity to actually lift train cars during various training scenarios, and command officers have practiced establishing unified command training with MTA and LA Co. Sheriff officials.

From a traffic safety standpoint, the Gold Line enjoys an added safety feature in that all roadway intersections are protected with four crossing gates. The four crossing gates, also referred to as "quad gates," prevent vehicles from circling around the closed gates and racing trains through the intersections. Each intersection is equipped with an electric sensor to keep an escape gate open in case a vehicle gets stuck within the gates as a train approaches. The Gold Line

right-of-way is also equipped with various other fire protection features, including wet horizontal standpipes in remote areas, sprinkler systems in tunnels and enclosures, and elevators capable of accommodating EMS gurneys at some of the larger stations.

Tours of the Gold Line as it runs through South Pasadena can be arranged through South Pasadena Battalion Chief Mike Clark at (626) 403-7306.



Training Profile: South Pasadena's Tuesday Drill Program

Tuesday, Sept. 16 was mutual aid drill day in South Pasadena. The structured drill program was initiated approximately 18 months ago to hone firefighting and rescue skills with neighboring agencies. Each Tuesday, fire units from Alhambra, Los Angeles, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, and/or San Marino gather together to conduct multi-company training exercises with personnel from South Pasadena. Command officers participate in the various exercises, which typically include multiple-line hose evolutions, relay pump operations, ladder operations, technical rescue drills, and wildland firefighting exercises.

VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

At no other time during the history of Verdugo have so many projects been in the works simultaneously. Previously, only one major project would be on the drawing board at one time. Presently, work is progressing on a new mobile data system, new voice radio system, new telephone 9-1-1 system, modification to the records management system and either a replacement or upgrade to the computer assisted dispatch system.



Conversion to the new mobile data system is in its final stages, with cutover anticipated in the first week of November. This project has involved software changes to our computer assisted dispatch system, as well as significant train-the-trainer classes. On the hardware side, a new three-site backbone system has been installed, with vehicle installations being done throughout all nine cities.

The new voice radio system has been installed at our existing Mt. Thom and San Augustine sites, as well as new sites at Mirador (San Rafael Hills), Mt. Lee (Hollywood Hills) and Mt. Lukens (off Angeles Crest). This will be a simulcast system, which means transmissions will be broadcast from all sites at the same time, rather than only one site being selected by the dispatcher.

As per State guidelines, it is time for us to replace our 9-1-1 telephone system. This comes at an opportune time since wireless cellular calls are now being received at some of our PSAPS and being

VERDUGO INCIDENTS: SUMMER 2003 VS. SUMMER 2002

SUMMER 2003:

	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	VFCC	VFCC%
FIRE	188	318	444	127	772	79	46	24	65	2,154	16.8%
MEDICAL	744	1,588	2,921	590	2,766	407	159	155	260	9,656	75.1%
SERVICE	78	130	204	77	166	36	12	14	50	776	6.0%
OTHER	0	0	17	7	60	1	4	3	2	94	0.7%
OUTSIDE VERDUGO*	10	16	41	14	21	27	36	2	7	174	1.4%
TOTAL	<u>1,020</u>	<u>2,052</u>	<u>3,627</u>	<u>815</u>	<u>3,785</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>12,854</u>	

SUMMER 2002:

	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	VFCC	VFCC%
FIRE	192	326	441	114	720	91	58	26	80	2,146	17.4%
MEDICAL	681	1,570	2,684	568	2,562	389	123	124	256	9,015	72.9%
SERVICE	56	138	244	59	181	27	28	26	58	824	6.7%
OTHER	2	5	45	43	91	1	0	1	1	190	1.5%
OUTSIDE VERDUGO*	13	13	46	14	23	21	35	13	14	192	1.6%
TOTAL	<u>944</u>	<u>2,052</u>	<u>3,460</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>3,577</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>12,367</u>	

2003 vs. 2002 COMPARISON:

	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	VFCC
FIRE	-2.1%	-2.5%	+0.7%	+11.4%	+7.2%	-13.2%	-20.7%	-7.7%	-18.8%	+0.4%
MEDICAL	+9.3%	+1.1%	+8.8%	+3.9%	+8.0%	+4.6%	+29.3%	+25.0%	+1.6%	+7.1%
TOTAL INCIDENTS	+8.1%	no chg	+4.8%	+2.1%	+5.8%	+4.0%	+5.3%	+4.2%	-6.1%	+3.9%

*Responses outside the Verdugo System are to such locations as Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County, Alhambra and Monterey Park.

transferred to Verdugo. New systems take advantage of mapping, which will graphically display the location of callers to the dispatcher. Previously, the dispatcher had to rely solely on the location verbally provided by callers using wireless devices.

Final work is now in progress to convert PRC records management data to a stand-alone machine whose data can be accessed by agencies utilizing several third-party programs like FireHouse. This enhancement will allow individual fire agencies in the Verdugo System to select a software application which best serves their needs, yet still retrieve data and information initially captured by CAD.

The dual-processor VAX computer system, which presently provides dispatch, along with records and management information, is no longer supported by the manufacturer and is in need of replacement. Although no longer supported by Compaq, all hardware is still supported and serviced by our hardware maintenance vendor, who assures us our system is in sound working order and that there is no lack of parts available. Preliminary work is being done to determine the most appropriate and prudent course of action to take on this major project. Emphasis will be placed on both operational and fiscal considerations.

Verdugo Fire System Units Total Responses in Summer 2003

	Unit ID	Total Responses
Burbank:	E11	576
	E12	354
	E13	420
	E14	321
	E15	473
	E16	167
	E18	15
	HM12	13
	RA11	588
	RA13	535
	RA15	619
	T11	155
	T12	112
	Glendale:	AU21
E21		762
E22		557
E23		49
E24		242
E25		708
E26		628
E27		525
E28		185
E29		219
HM27		7
RA21		1067
RA25		926
RA26		885
RA29		395
T21	246	
T26	245	
T29	78	

	Unit ID	Total Responses
Pasadena:	E31	894
	E32	405
	E33	820
	E34	557
	E36	793
	E37	352
	E38	176
	E39	141
	RA31	752
	RA32	597
	RA33	908
	RA36	770
	T31	250
	T32	117
Sierra Madre:	E41	43
	RA41	198
San Gabriel:	E51	300
	E52	281
South Pasadena:	RA51	382
	AU81	134
	E81	379
San Marino:	RA81	285
	E91	280
	RA91	319
Monrovia:	E101	497
	E102	380
	SQ101	433
	LF101	145

	Unit ID	Total Responses
Arcadia:	E105	412
	E106	517
	E107	206
	RA105	375
	RA106	439
	T105	102



OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: SUMMER 2003

The following tables show the number of Out of Jurisdiction responses for each fire department during June, July and August of 2003, compared to the same months in 2002. 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 this time period. "XA" refers to either locations outside the normal Area C/Los Angeles response region or to units such as private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles and helicopters.



Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	2002	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	
AR	X		1	56	7		2	3			12		1		82
BU		X	68		4			1	2		9	4			88
GL		45	X	1	7	1		2			18	28			102
MO	53		3	X				2			13		1		72
PA	14		8	1	X	3	17	2	34		22		1		102
SG	1					X	10	1		15	10		3		40
SM	2				20	49	X	1	48	8	26		1		155
SI	1	1			1			X			5		1		9
SP	1	1			107	1	24	1	X	9	1	1	3		149
AL	4					25	4	1	8	X	5		1		48
CO	20		15	14	3	13	6	2			X				73
LA		1	7	1	1				13				X		23
MP	3				1	1					5		X		10
XA	20	41	26	549	2			3	1					X	642
Subtotals	119	89	128	622	153	93	63	19	106	32	126	33	12	0	1595

Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	2003	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	
AR	X			37	12			1			10				60
BU		X	76	1	3						10	6			96
GL	1	57	X	1	25				1		21	20			126
MO	72			X							14				86
PA	11	1	10	2	X		4		28		16	5			77
SG	1				1	X	3			18	9				32
SM	1			2	45	59	X		38	5	31				181
SI	1		1					X			2				4
SP		1			87	3	19		X	4	1	2			117
AL						29	2		7	X	2				40
CO	13		20	11	7	8	1	1			X				61
LA			2						4				X		6
MP						1					1		X		2
XA	24	17	2	612	2									X	657
Subtotals	124	76	111	666	182	100	29	2	78	27	117	33	0	0	1545