

# UNIFIED



# RESPONSE

## Area "C" Quarterly Bulletin Winter 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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Fire and tragedy of historic proportions followed our first edition of *Unified Response*. Nature Driven Fires wreaked havoc in Southern California, causing cause death, injury and destruction from October 21st through November 4th. At its height, Area "C" fielded nearly five strike teams, four water tenders and a dozen Chief Officers to help those communities under siege. The term "design for disaster" that we have come to know here in Southern California resonated loudly as over 20 fatalities occurred, including Novato Firefighter Steve Rucker, along with hundreds of others who were badly injured. This historic fire scorched over a thousand square miles of land and nearly 5,000 homes and broke most every record known, challenging the entire State of California to mobilize 1,160 strike teams. Good thing Californians are resilient, because these fires brought bad news for everyone.

The rebuilding process is well underway and the countless "lessons learned" are starting to unfold. We are hopeful a fire like this will not reoccur soon, but the potential remains. Work is underway to enhance areas of operations, safety, communications, equipment and training, as well as stepping up aggressive fire prevention and building disaster-resistant communities. Verdugo did a terrific job of managing resources, and my thanks to all of you for the outstanding cooperation, even under difficult and trying circumstances. The steady hand all of you maintained while others were under fire helped balance the scale to deliver uninterrupted service to all of our communities.

Over the next several months we will be evaluating this response to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of emergency services. The timing of this will coincide with our work on an Area "C" response plan that is intended to link all 11 cities through one automatic aid agreement. Task Force members are working through various means to implement this ground-breaking response system. Our approach will be conservative and built upon by experience. We have started to direct Task Force minutes to all Area "C"



**Continued from p.1**

Chief Officers and your input is encouraged. The voice and data upgrades are progressing extremely well with a more robust backbone and improved functionality.

We appreciate the great response to our first edition of *Unified Response*. The feedback was very positive and submittals for our second edition here grew considerably. There really is some great news among the Area "C" departments, both individually and collectively, and we have a great opportunity here to share it with all of you.

We are quickly moving forward with CICCIS Certification over the next two years and the Training Officers are setting forth an aggressive schedule for 2004. It is my hope that we can work to complete the training ahead of schedule, ensuring the highest degree of personnel safety, knowledge and competency.

We are all likely to experience challenges with the potential VLF shortfall combined with increasing PERS costs. Working together in a unified response, we may have opportunities to address service delivery issues. Please stay close in touch and let us know where we can help each other.

On behalf of our family, please accept heartfelt thanks for your contributions over the past year. We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season and look forward to the new beginnings and challenges of 2004.

Enjoy the news and take good care of yourselves and those around you.



**FIRE STORM 2003**

In October, Southern California was ravaged by wildfires that burned from Ventura County to the Mexico border. In one week, over 750,000 acres were burned, 4,813 structures were destroyed, 203 were injured, and 22 people lost their lives. One of those lost to the fires was Steve Rucker, 38, a Fire Engineer from the Novato Fire Department, who was overcome by flames in the Cedar Fire in San Diego. Over 12,000 fire personnel from all over the western states helped battle the largest concurrent outbreak of fire in California history.



With California's resources stretched thin, Area "C" responded with five brush strike teams assigned to the Simi, Grand Prix, and Old Fires. One OES Strike Team was sent to the Cedar Fire and a four Water Tender Strike Team was assigned to the Grand Prix Fire. With over 100 firefighters, 22 Type-1 Engines, 4 Water Tenders and 6 Chief Officers, Area "C" was at maximum capacity, with all reserve equipment in use. A testament to the strength and resources of a unified Area "C" response,

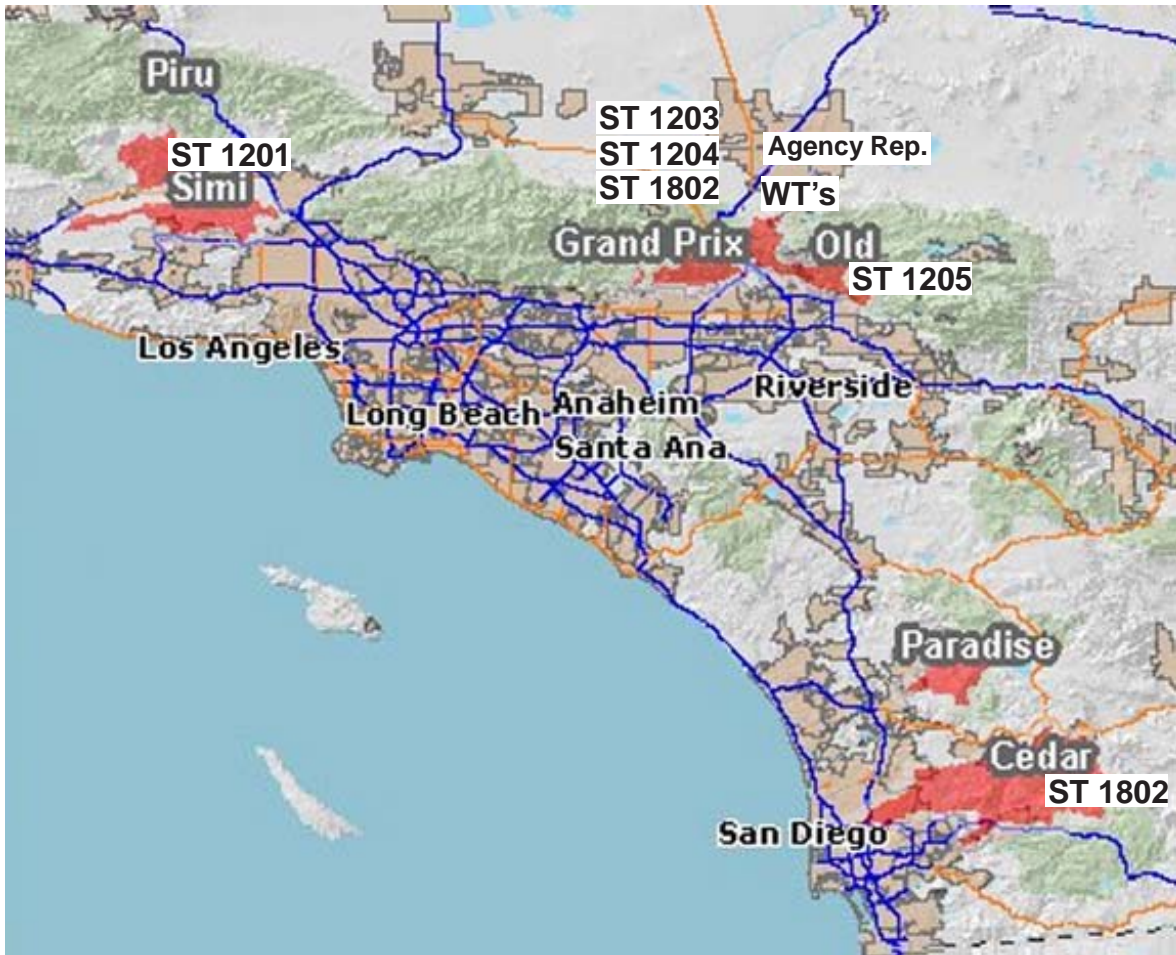
all 40 fire stations in the area remained fully staffed and functioning. Those on the front lines in the Simi, Old, and Cedar Fires provided structure protection and fire suppression, while those covering the home front responded to more than 1,074 incidents within our communities.



Area "C" played an important role in the response to these devastating fires and continued protection of the Area "C" citizens. Thankfully, everyone assigned to Area "C" and OES strike teams returned home safely.



## FIRE STORM 2003: STRIKE TEAM DEPLOYMENT



### STRIKE TEAMS DISPATCHED FROM THE VERDUGO SYSTEM Fall 2003

Fire	Start Date	Control Date	Acres Burned	Fatalities	Injuries	Struct. Lost	Fire Personnel	Cost
<b>Cedar</b>	Oct. 25	Nov. 16	280,278	13 Civilian, 1 FF	104	2,820	1,478	\$27 million
<b>Grand Prix</b>	Oct. 21	Nov. 14	59,448	Grouped w/Old Fire	35	198	Grouped w/Old Fire	\$11.57 mil.
<b>Old</b>	Oct. 25	Nov. 14	91,281	6 Civilian	12	1003	5,023	\$42 million
<b>Simi/Val Verde</b>	Oct. 25	Nov. 5	108,204	None	21	315	1,476	\$10 million
<b>Piru</b>	Oct. 23	Nov. 13	63,991	None	0	1	1,038	\$7 million
<b>Mountain</b>	Oct. 26	Oct. 30	10,331	None	7	61	339	\$1.8 million
<b>Paradise</b>	Oct. 26	Nov. 6	56,700	2 Civilian	24	415	788	\$11.3 million

Type	Fire/Location	Agencies	Dispatch Date	Dispatch Time	Release Date	Release Time
1203	Grand Prix/Lytle Creek	BU, CO, GL, PA	Oct. 24	0:22	Oct. 31	22:45
1204	Grand Prix/Lytle Creek	AL, AR, CO, MO, SG, SM	Oct. 24	0:36	Oct. 31	11:49
1802	Grand Prix/Lytle Creek	GL, LHH, MB, MC, MO, SI	Oct. 24	16:16	Oct. 27	13:31
1201	Simi Incident	BU, CO, GL, MP, PA, SP	Oct. 25	20:03	Oct. 31	19:50
WT's	Grand Prix	BU, GL, MO, SI	Oct. 26	7:21	Oct. 31	12:04
Agency Rep.	Grand Prix/Lytle Creek	GL	Oct. 26	17:51	Oct. 31	20:36
1205	Old Fire/San Bernardino	AL, AR, CO, LB, MO, MP	Oct. 26	11:45	Nov. 1	14:12
1802	Cedar Incident	GL, LHH, MB, MC, MO, SI	Oct. 27	13:33	Nov. 2	15:27

## ALHAMBRA

Population: 88,900

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

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

### Alhambra Fire Department's Aerial Tiller Truck

Aerial apparatus are deployed in some of the most demanding firefighting situations. To meet these demands, the Alhambra Fire

Department's Pierce Quantum Aerial Tiller is always ready to proudly serve the community of Alhambra and support neighboring communities. This fully equipped

ladder truck is a 100-foot medium duty ladder and is complemented with 164 feet of fire-rated ground ladders. With its 100 foot ladder, it has superior reach for rescue and fire-



## ARCADIA

Population: 55,500

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

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

### Firefighter of the Year Award

Firefighter Craig Stogner received the Firefighter of the Year award for 2003. He was nominated for this award for his dedication to the Fire Service, his loyalty to the Arcadia Fire Department, and in particular, his efforts to foster goodwill and "brother-



hood" among his fellow firefighters, thus earning the nickname, "The Ambassador."

Firefighter Stogner demonstrated great compassion for the fallen firefighters of FDNY and citizens of New York following the terrorist acts of 9/11/01. Through his fundraising efforts he was able to deliver a substantial donation to the families of the fallen and offer his support and sympathy firsthand as he visited many fire stations throughout the City of New York and surrounding areas.

Firefighter Stogner's most recent project was the design and development of a Centennial Badge. Centennial badges were presented to the City Council on the celebration of the City of Arcadia's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August of this year. The badges will be worn by Fire Department personnel throughout the coming year.

Craig's home and family are a true reflection of his love for the fire service. His home is a museum of artifacts and memorabilia. His children (all five of them!) are often found adorned in tee shirts of a fire service theme. His wife, Beth, also wears the uniform

fighting operations. With over 400 cu. ft. of storage space, this truck carries a variety of firefighting, vehicle extrication, rope rescue, salvage and heavy lifting equipment.

of the Arcadia Fire Department as the Fire Administrative Specialist and Public Information Officer. It's been said that a future edition of Webster's Dictionary will sport a picture of Craig next to the definition of "fire buff."

Firefighter Stogner brings a great deal of wisdom and experience to the Arcadia Fire Department, which he willingly shares with old and new alike. His dedication to excellence is second to none.

### Promotions

In early October, Captain Ken Marston was promoted to Battalion Chief and Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Franta was promoted to Captain. In December, Captain Kurt Norwood will be an Acting Battalion Chief to fill the vacancy left by Battalion Chief Trabbie while he is on a 40-hour assignment. Chief Trabbie will be promoted to Deputy Chief in late December.

### New Firefighters: Oct. 2003

The Arcadia Fire Department welcomes three new Firefighter recruits. They are Jeff Bird, Richard

(Cont. from p.4)

Hopple and Brett Cowdell. Their recruit training was completed in late November and they are currently assigned to their respective shifts. Two additional Firefighter recruits will be starting in Jan. 2004.

### New USAR Vehicle

Emergency Vehicles Incorporated, EVI, is currently building an Urban Search & Rescue vehicle for the Arcadia Fire Department. This vehicle will allow the Department to go from its current Medium USAR capability to a Heavy USAR capability. Delivery should take place in February 2004.

### October Wildfires

Like all agencies in Area C, Arcadia participated in two local Strike Teams. Battalion 105, DC Shawver, served as the Strike Team Leader for ST 1205A, along with E106, which was assigned to the "Old Fire." E105 was assigned to ST 1204A on the "Grand Prix" incident.



### Grant Funding

The Arcadia Fire Department recently received \$298,600 in earmarked grants for training related to Weapons of Mass Destruction and terrorism. It is anticipated that the class, offered on a regional basis, will begin in January and will be made available to all surrounding agencies. Fire Chiefs from local agencies recently met to determine the best use of the funds.



## BURBANK

Population: 104,500

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

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

### Brush Fires

On October 21 at 3:45 p.m. a brush fire erupted in the foothills of Burbank in Wildwood Canyon, east of the De Bell Golf Course, and it came to be known as the Country Club Fire. Despite high temperatures and difficult terrain, the 80-acre brush fire was 80% contained by late evening, and fully contained on October 22. Cleanup continued for a couple of days. The availability of crucial resources through our Verdugo System, Area C, and Region I were key factors that enabled us to attack the brush fire aggressively, hold it to 80 acres, and avoid structure losses in the surrounding vicinity. Glendale, Pasadena, the U.S. Forestry Service,

Los Angeles City and County and others responded with crews, apparatus and water-dropping helicopters. No structures were burned. One minor neck burn occurred to one of BFD's firefighters. The fire appeared to be of suspicious origin.

When the Santa Ana's kicked up the next week, the local brush fire turned out to be only a precursor to the massive and widespread brush fires that hit Southern California. Burbank apparatus, crews, and water tender were dispatched to the Simi Valley and the Grand Prix fires. Additional Burbank resources were also sent to the "Old Fire" in San Bernardino County.



Gene Blevins/LA Daily News

### Police Officer Shot

The City of Burbank experienced the shooting death of Burbank Police Officer Matthew Pavelka on Saturday, November 15. In addition, Officer Greg Campbell suffered a gunshot injury and Officer Randy Lloyd was injured in a traffic accident responding to the same scene. Officer Pavelka's funeral took place on November 21. A candlelight vigil held on November 25 at Police/Fire Headquarters was attended by approximately 2,000 people. On Thanksgiving Day the suspect was apprehended in Mexico and turned over to U.S. law enforcement officials and ultimately to the Burbank Police Department. Burbank Fire Department paramedics were at the scene of the shooting incident and the department worked closely with the Burbank Police Department throughout the ordeal.

This loss has once again reminded us of the caring, strength, and support we receive from other police officers and firefighters throughout the state and nation. In our hour of need, we were gratified

by the outpouring of sympathy and assistance from all of our neighboring agencies. Our City and Police and Fire Departments would like to offer heartfelt thanks for the thoughts and assistance provided by all of the agencies in Area C.

A memorial fund has been set up by the Burbank Police Officers Association in memory of Officer Pavelka and a trust fund for Officer Campbell. Donations may be made to help the families by contacting the Burbank City Employees Federal Credit Union at 818-846-1710.

### **Third-Alarm Structure Fire**

At 5:39 p.m. on October 29, a 3rd-alarm fire erupted in Burbank at Automotive Rebuilt at 202 W. Palm, causing approximately \$2.5 million in damage to the exterior and interior of the structure, including roof collapse. Flames spread over a 12,000 square foot area. Glendale Fire Department assisted on the fire and Burbank's Fire Marshal said the cause of the fire appears to have been smoking material, possibly a cigarette or something similar.

### **Disaster Preparedness**

In September the members of the Burbank Community Disaster Volunteers Steering Committee consisting of seven volunteers received a Silver Award from the Southern California Emergency Services Association for managing more than 300 local residents involved in the emergency program. In addition, Christine Renna was recognized for training local high school students in disaster preparedness. They were also recognized for their outstanding efforts to assist with public safety and disaster relief by the Burbank City Council at the October 7 Council Meeting.



*Lil'  
Squirt*

### **BFD Mascot**

At the Council Meeting on Sept. 30, BFD unveiled its new Public Education mascot – Lil' Squirt. Ideas went around for quite a few years before the character became a reality.

### **Grant Funding**

The Burbank Fire and Police Departments have received four grants for 2002 and 2003 from the State Homeland Domestic Preparedness Equipment and Infrastructure grants in the approximate amount of \$517,000, which were formally accepted at the City Council Meeting on Nov. 18.

In addition, State Farm Insurance Company has generously provided a donation of \$25,000 to support the public safety activities of the Community Disaster Volunteers under the leadership of the Disaster Preparedness Office headed up by Rich Baenen and assisted by Deborah Shane as the Volunteer Coordinator.

### **WT & Radio Upgrades**

Burbank's Water Tender 16 was refurbished with a replacement stainless steel 2500 gallon tank, a new 850 gpm Berkely pump, new console controls, valves, plumbing, lighting and storage compartments. It was back in service on October 11 in time for use on local and regional fires that occurred later in the month.

Engineering and installation of the new DXT system has been completed to meet the Nov. 19

date for the system to go on line.

We are upgrading our VHF radio capability by adding Bendix King (BK) GPH radios to all front line apparatus. The BKs will be replacing our Motorola MT 2000s that we currently carry. The radios have both an analog and a digital transmitting component.

We feel that the new radios will allow us to have better access to frequencies in an auto-aid and a mutual-aid environment. The new radios allow better interoperability with Federal, State and County agencies on mutual aid incidents. The radios have 15 zones with 16 channels in each zone for a total of 240 channels. The radios can carry all other agencies' frequencies and have one zone that can be cloned in the field or hand-programmed by the user. This will allow firefighters to put all incident VHF frequencies in one zone per the incident communication plan. Also, the repeater tones can be changed quickly depending on the area we are assigned.

Also, the radios have battery clamshells that hold "AA" batteries in the event the "NiCad" batteries fail. The batteries can be changed out very easily by the user. We anticipate the radios will increase the safety to our members by offering them better radio communication flexibility, especially in the early stages of an incident where a "Communication Unit" has not been established. Our MT 2000s will be given to our disaster preparedness division.

Assistant Chief Norm Stockton has been assigned as the department's representative to the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) and he participated in the group's meeting in Washington D.C during this quarter.

## Training

In September, Burbank's USAR Division completed a three-day, department-wide, mandatory training program for all personnel on confined space and trench rescues as required by OSHA.

Bob Trowbridge, BC and Training Officer, reports the following Training Highlights:

- Coordinated and distributed the department's training schedule for October, November and December.
- Met with the Training Officers from Glendale and Pasadena to discuss Tri-City training, goals and objectives.
- Attended the terrorism awareness training exercise hosted by

L.A. County Fire Department at the Gene Autry Museum, the annual meeting with Pacific Pipeline in Long Beach, the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) operational meeting in Arcadia which provides incident qualification and peer review for Area C, the Southern Section Wildland Symposium in Corona, and Foothill Training Officers Meeting.

- Fire Prevention and FRO training are scheduled for January 2004.
- Applications for Firefighter Recruits will be announced in December with a due date in January 2004. Recent recruitments and training conducted with Glen-

dale Fire Department have been very successful.

- Clarence Martin, former Beverly Hills Fire Chief, hosted the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association Company Officers Training at Burbank's Fire Training Center for the week of October 27. The class went ahead in spite of local and regional wildfires and attendance levels remained good.

- Burbank Fire Department personnel took part in a new Diversity and Sexual Harassment training program provided on-line for employees to complete at their own pace. At this time nearly 95% of the department has completed this training.

## GLENDALE

Population: 202,700

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

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

## Apparatus

We have received delivery of our first new engine since the decision was made to return to the red apparatus color. The Pierce Quantum incorporates new safety technology but is otherwise identical to our existing apparatus. It is being outfitted and should be placed into service in the very near future.



OES Water Tender No. 11 has been assigned to the Glendale Fire Department and is located at Station 21.



A new red Pierce Water Tender was purchased jointly by the Glendale Fire Department and Glendale Water & Power. It is currently assigned to Station 29.

## Training

- CICCS: A list of classes the department will be offering in the

first part of 2004 is available through the Training Center (818-548-4050). All Company Officers need to attend these classes to meet the State requirements.

- Training was completed in November on the Respiratory Protection Policy, SCBA policy and program, RIC Procedures, and Ladder Pipe Operations. USAR refresher training was also conducted.

- Haz Mat FRO refresher is scheduled for Jan. 27-29.
- Bulletins will be posted in December for the positions of Firefighter and Fire Cadet.

## Emergency Medical Services

During the past two years, the Glendale Fire Department has been researching various methods of collecting and managing EMS data. We had several goals in mind while researching this system:

- 1) Ability to capture patient information and patient care information,
- 2) The ability to retrieve data in

*(Continued on next page)*

(Cont. from p.7)

- real time,
- 3) Eventually be able to go to a paperless storage system, using CD with images of the form,
  - 4) Accomplish these goals with the least amount of change to the current system,
  - 5) To use this system for QI,
  - 6) Ability to create reports, and more importantly, user-defined reports, and
  - 7) To be able to cut down processing time for billing.

The software that was chosen was FireMed Pro, an EMS data management system, through a company called Recognition Systems Incorporated (RSI). FireMed Pro is a fully integrated software solution specifically designed for the Emergency Medical Services environment. It has allowed us to meet all our goals and more.

The LACoFD, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach Fire Departments are also using this system. We needed to develop our own EMS form, which was patterned after the LACoFD version. The only addition we made was for billing information.

The system was implemented on September 15 and since that date we have scanned and verified over 2,000 forms. We are also transferring data electroni-

cally to LADHS, and to Wittman Enterprises for billing purposes.

When the paramedics return to the station after an incident, the Patient Care Records are digitally scanned. The front and back sides of the EMS form are stored as an image in the program. Each paramedic then verifies the data side of the information to ensure that the scanned information was transferred correctly. Once the form is scanned, we have the ability to instantaneously view data or images associated with any incident, eliminating the need for time-consuming searches through piles of Patient Care Records. Incident data and document images are then available for user query, analysis and reporting using FireMed Pro's retrieval and reporting capabilities.

Automating the capture of PCR data will significantly reduce the time and human resource associated with data entry – accurate data are available quickly for analysis, billing or reporting purposes. The ability to instantaneously view data or images associated with any incident eliminates the need for time-consuming searches through piles of PCRs. The ability to query data based upon any combination of variables or parameters, run management reports or export data to external systems (i.e., billing, DHS) is crucial to management of the system. So far we are extremely pleased with it.

### Paramedic Subscription Program

Early next year we will be implementing a paramedic membership program called GLENDALE MEDIC. We anticipate the program will generate new revenue for the Paramedic Fund based upon participation observed

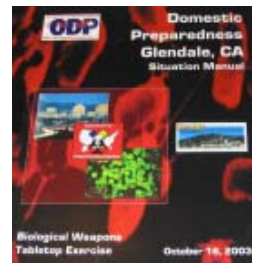
in other local programs and considering the demographics of Glendale.

### Operation Trident

A tabletop exercise was held September 30 in conjunction with LA County OES. The scenario was that there were numerous terrorist devices found in city buildings throughout LA County. Some of the key points discussed during the exercise were evacuation procedures, security plans, and alternate EOC locations.

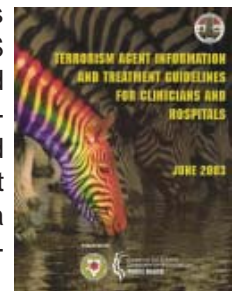
### Biological Weapons Tabletop Exercise

This exercise, part of the Nunn-Lugar-Dominici Grant, was held October 16 in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness. The scenario for this tabletop exercise was a covert biological incident. About 110 individuals participated, representing 14 agencies as observers and 18 agencies as players. An After Action Report is being compiled and will be presented in the future.



### Zebra Book

The LA County Terrorism Agent Information Guideline Book (AKA-Zebra Book) contains biological, chemical and radiological information and guidelines that are specific to Los Angeles County DHS procedures and protocols. Contact Capt. Wood MMRS Project Officer for a copy (818) 548-4084.



The next issue of  
**UNIFIED RESPONSE**  
will be published in  
mid-March 2004.  
Submissions of articles and  
photos are welcome  
through March 8.

## MONROVIA

Population: 38,450

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

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

Monrovia Fire Department is currently giving promotional exams for Engineer, Captain and Battalion Chief. The testing will be completed in February 2004 and will establish a list for future promotions.

Monrovia firefighters completed the series of CICCIS re-

quired classes for Strike Team Leader and Engine Boss this month at Station 102.

We are looking into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for a joint station in our hillside area and working towards a fuel modification program with the U.S. Forest Service and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. We have a large urban interface with brush that has not burned in over 70-plus years.

On December 5, at the City's annual Employee Recognition Dinner, Engineer George Jaimes received the City's Safety Employee of the Year award. Congratulations, George!

Engineer Steve Mikity and Secretary Jodie Dennis are hard at work putting the finishing touches on this year's department Christmas Party. The expected number of family members to attend has risen to 170 this year. Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Esparza will be Santa.

Santa Tours begin December 15-19. Department members will drive Santa throughout the city in the Engine. This is always a very special event for the kids.

On December 22 the department will assist in the annual Unity Center Toy Give-Away. Firefighters have been matching up toy requests from the kids with donated toys.



On Thursday, Nov. 20, B.C. Derek Young attended the graduation ceremony of FF Todd Lambert from paramedic school.



On Thanksgiving Day, Monrovia firefighters rescued an injured hiker from the waterfalls at Canyon Park.



The Monrovia Fire Department gets in the holiday spirit with these decorations at Station 101.

## MONTEREY PARK

Population: 63,400

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

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

Monterey Park Fire Department applied under the 2003 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for funds sufficient to purchase new UHF Radios and for Mobile Data Computers. A few

weeks ago, we received word that our grant, while not awarded, had been "favorably reviewed." That notice required a response from the City as to whether we would accept the grant if offered. In the current budgetary downturn, this issue became one of grave concern due to the fact that the grant requires a shared expenditure of \$93,103 from our City. In addition, the City Council was advised that the new communication purchase was definitely made with an eye toward joining a regional communication center, and specifically,

we were targeting the Verdugo System.

Thereafter, there were a flurry of visits by City Council members to Verdugo Fire Communications Center, followed by a great deal of questions and two City Council meetings, attended in each case by Chief Chris Gray, whose support in this endeavor has been substantial and unwavering. The City Council has now authorized a positive response to the FEMA letter and authorized staff to open negotiations regarding association with Verdugo.

I am pleased to announce that this morning, December 12, we have received word from FEMA that our grant has been approved. We are hopeful that over the course of the next few months agreement may be reached on contract terms.

Thank you, Chief Gray, Don Wright, Rich Kaufman and all of the Verdugo staff for your patience during this process, for your invaluable technical input and for your gracious hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Murphy, Fire Chief

*Dear Fire Chief Gray,*

*The Simi Valley / Val Verde fire incident is now behind us and a truly unfortunate part of Simi Valley's history. When looking back over the events of those several days and the amount of destruction that could have taken place in the City of Simi Valley, we realize how truly fortunate we are to have escaped with no loss of homes or lives, due in large part to the heroic efforts of so many firefighters and other public safety personnel.*

*This event was an incredible demonstration of the heroic spirit of firefighters and their support staff, who came from all regions of California to help preserve our City. There is no possible avenue available that would adequately demonstrate the collective feelings of appreciation and admiration the citizens of Simi Valley would like to express.*

*However, in an effort to acknowledge the efforts of so many, a committee comprised of representatives of the City of Simi Valley and various other local agencies developed and placed the enclosed Tribute that was published in the Ventura County Star on Thanksgiving Day. We believe that the Thanksgiving holiday was an appropriate backdrop for our expression of gratitude for the tireless efforts made by firefighters and others during the fire.*

*Sincerely,  
Bill Davis, Mayor  
City of Simi Valley*

## PASADENA

Population: 142,200

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

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

Congratulations to Engineer Greg Kealey, who has assumed the duties of Investigator 3 (Steve Lawhorn), who has been re-assigned to Shift Platoon "C" serving as Shift Investigator. Additionally, Firefighters Tony Bagan and Tony Fung have been promoted to Engineer. Pasadena is currently conducting promotional ex-

ams for the position of Captain II and we are in the process of hiring fire recruits.

Two new Pierce Engines will be in service by the end of this year and shift personnel have been going through training.

New MDT's are being installed by 10-8 Retrofit in La Verne with an anticipated completion date of January 31. The frontline apparatus have already had the MDT's installed to prepare for upcoming New Year's and parade festivities.

A multi-casualty drill took place at the Rose Bowl December 10, 11 and 12 in conjunction with other Area C cities.

Pasadena is gearing up for the Rose Parade and Bowl Game, which always bring a major influx of visitors to the area.

Fire Chief Ernest Mitchell has announced his retirement and a new Chief is expected to be named by early 2004.

**Pasadena Fire Department Provides Mutual Aid During Simi Valley Fires Oct. 26**  
(Photos by William G. Hartenstein)



Structure protection was provided for these houses



These two photos were taken on a street off of Yosemite Avenue.



## SAN GABRIEL

Population: 41,550

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

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

The San Gabriel City Fire Department, the latest arrival to the Verdugo system, has been in existence since November 22, 1932, when it was formally chartered by the City Council. Prior to this action it was a volunteer fire department.

At present the department has 36 full-time employees. The three suppression shifts (33 members) work a rotating 56-hour schedule, and the Fire Chief, Executive Secretary and Fire Inspector each work a 40-hour week.

Station 51, at the intersection of Wells and Del Mar, is the Headquarters station, housing Engine 51 (2002 Pierce Quantum Extension engine), RA 51, Engine and RA 751, administrative offices, USAR vehicles, and the Prevention office. Station 52, 115 N. Del Mar, houses Engine 52 (1995 E-One Paramedic Assessment engine) and the second reserve RA.

Headquarters is also the home of the City's Emergency Operations Center, which is used as the department's classroom for the year-round EMS training. The EOC is also used by

Cal State Long Beach as an off-site classroom for its Occupational Studies program, and by the City of San Gabriel as a classroom for training of other City departments.

The Department has an Auxiliary program for those interested in a Fire Service career. Applicants who meet the desired qualifications can be sponsored by the San Gabriel Fire Department to one of the local Fire Academies, and if interested and motivated, to Paramedic training at the Paramedic Training Institute. The department can claim success with four Auxiliaries having passed the PTI training; three more are enrolled at present. The Auxiliary Program allows potential firefighters the opportunity to spend one shift (24 hours) per week at the Headquarters station, where they're assigned to either the Engine or the RA and function generally as a firefighter. As the Auxiliaries do not replace paid firefighters, they are supervised at all times and limited in their scope of practice.

The department recently completed another promotional exam, this one for the position of Cap-



tain. The opening was created by the retirement of Captain John Randazzo; brand new Captain Bryan Frieders started his first duty assignment as crew supervisor on December 2.

Station 51 houses the department's USAR (medium level) rig, a 1985 GMC truck that was donated to San Gabriel by the Edison company when it became surplus to that company's needs. San Gabriel is now drawing up specifications for a new (grant funded) heavy level USAR vehicle. In anticipation of the increase in equipment and expertise needed to advance from medium to heavy level USAR, the San Gabriel, Monterey Park, and Alhambra Fire Departments have combined their USAR training; all crews will be attending at least one training class every month in 2004.



### UNIFIED RESPONSE 2004 Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
Spring	March 8
Summer	June 7
Fall	Sept. 6
Winter	Dec. 6

Mark your calendar!

## SAN MARINO

Population: 13,450

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

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

### Operation Fire Safe

San Marino has implemented a new fire prevention program to help residents identify and eliminate fire hazards in their homes. "Operation Fire Safe" is the brainchild of Acting Captain/Paramedic Dwayne Carlton. Residents are encouraged through the distribution of fliers and a "Home Survey Checklist" to find hazards in their home. If they so desire, a fire-

fighter will come out and review the list with them and answer any questions they may have. Chief Penido introduced the program to the City Council and the Rotary Club and the response has been very favorable. Anyone wishing additional information should contact Capt. Mark Phillips at [mphillips@smfd.us](mailto:mphillips@smfd.us).



### Zeke's Gone

Anyone who's been involved with EMS in the San Gabriel Valley for any length of time knows Ezequiel "Zeke" Silva. Zeke started his EMS career as a medic in the Air Force and sometime after his honorable discharge began working for Professional Ambulance. He began his career with the San Marino Fire Department as one of the "original para-

medics" in 1984. Zeke was the mentor to many paramedics that followed and we all benefited from his compassion and experience.

Once Zeke decided to retire, he wasted no time. He is now living in Flagstaff with his wife Donna, and both are working at Flagstaff Medical Center. Take care, Zeke, and best wishes from all of us.

## SIERRA MADRE

Population: 10,950

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$950,953,856

### Updates

The Sierra Madre Fire Department continues to be the last all-volunteer Fire Department in Los Angeles County. We provide support to our community through our 49-member department. Our equipment roster consists of three triple combination, Type I engines, OES engine 281 (light rescue), one 100' aerial ladder, one 3,000 gallon Water Tender, two Rescue Ambulances, one Utility pickup truck, two command cars and one Fire Prevention vehicle. Earlier

this year, we received grants for procuring two Bullard Thermal Imagers to add to our primary responding engines, new portable radios, and additional firefighter personal protection equipment. We are migrating our department to the Cairns 1010 helmet because of the protection the helmet provides.

Sierra Madre provided Mutual Aid support for the recent Grand Prix, Old and Cedar Fires with our OES engine, Water Tender, Strike Team Leader and trainee. OES Engine 281 was deployed to the Grand Prix Fire and the Cedar Fire, saving four homes just minutes after receiving their first assignment.

The department is working closely with Citygate Associations (former California State Fire Marshal, Ronnie Coleman) to conduct a study. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the current level of

service we provide to our city as compared to similar communities. We will analyze the current costs for the department as it currently exists, in addition to estimating the resources and staffing levels required to achieve other alternate levels of service (ALS) and all associated costs. Our focus will be to evaluate the reliability of the current funding sources and quantify



the funding gap between the required budget and the amount of available funds.

## Training

Sierra Madre continues to emphasize hands-on training for all firefighters.

Certification for Haz-Mat FRO was completed this fall for eight members of the department, bringing our certification level to 100%.

RS-1 Training was conducted earlier this year for eleven

firefighters.

Mutual aid drills take place on a semi-annual basis with the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue team.

## Resources

Sierra Madre promoted the largest recruit class in the history of the department in September of this year. Congratulations to Matt Bono, Robyn Bono, Jason Broede, Eric Bredeson, Bret Chambers, Jon Cripe, and Rod Spears for successfully complet-

ing their probationary requirements with their hard work and rigorous efforts.

We welcome new Firefighters Mark Chavez, John Hoffman, Artamisa Pena and Jeff Putnam to our department.

We sadly held a retirement dinner for Battalion Chief William Schlote. Chief Schlote was a leader, mentor and great friend of our department. He continues to own and operate Village Auto Repair in downtown Sierra Madre.

## SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,250

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

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

## What's an AU81?

South Pasadena's AU81 is a unique apparatus fulfilling a unique organizational need. AU81, the only constantly-staffed air/utility in Area C, is a 1998 Freightliner FL70 truck chassis with a mounted Pierce 16' aluminum heavy rescue box.

AU81 is equipped with a 25KW PTO-driven generator that powers, in addition to portable lights, a Bauer 4-cylinder, 4 stage electric breathing apparatus air compressor. The high efficiency air compressor combined with the mounted cascade system is capable of filling approxi-

mately 45-69 SCBA cylinders per hour. AU81 carries the department's extrication equipment and serves as a tow vehicle for the agency's USAR trailer. AU81 is also equipped with a 200-gallon poly tank, 150 gpm waterous pump, and modest complement of hand lines. AU81 is constantly staffed with a minimum of one Fire Engineer per shift and a second firefighter as daily staffing permits.

AU81 responds to all structure fires, including first alarm structure fires in Pasadena, and serves as an "all risk" emergency response apparatus for all subse-

quent requests for service in South Pasadena. In the first nine months of 2003, AU81 was the primary responder for approximately 150 emergency and non-emergency incidents within the city-limits at times when E81 was tied up on another incident. AU81 is available as a single resource request for any local agencies in need of significant air fill capabilities. While AU81 is not an engine company, truck company, or rescue ambulance, it does fill a critical need within South Pasadena and is a great source of pride for the members of the Department.



## Shared CISM Services

The fire departments in Alhambra, Arcadia, Monrovia, Monterey Park, San Gabriel and South Pasadena are working toward having a shared Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) resource pool to draw upon for post-incident defusings. It is anticipated that the CISM re-

sources will be utilized following line-of-duty deaths, firefighter suicides, multiple fatality events, and unusual pediatric fatalities. The goals of the program coordinators include:

- Developing a cadre of trained on-duty peer counselors to facilitate and manage timely defusings for first responders involved in a critical incidents.
- Training of peer counselors to assist incident commanders/agency representatives in identifying the need for and setting up formal debriefings, including outlining the agency's financial responsibilities.
- Developing a list of qualified mental health professionals to conduct formal debriefings.
- Developing a proposal to define the minimum critical incident where a defusing and/or debriefing would be required (or strongly recommended).
- Providing outreach training for command officers to articulate the capabilities and limitations of the shared CISM resources.
- Developing, in conjunction with the communications centers, a simple call-out list of on-duty resources to facilitate CISM resource response.

South Pasadena Fire Department Captain Rick Mayhew, an International Critical Incident Stress Foundation trained peer counselor, is taking the lead in organizing the shared resource pool and hosting the meetings to finalize the team composition.

## Critical Incident Stress Management Definitions

**Defusing:** A small group discussion designed to meet the psychological welfare of emergency personnel following response to

a traumatic incident. Defusings are typically provided within eight hours of the event, aimed at the core group of responders, and normally last between 20 minutes and one hour. Defusings may be conducted by trained peer counselors, chaplains, or mental health professionals and are not provided at the scene of the incident.

**Debriefing:** A planned and facilitated group discussion, held away from the incident location, that emphasizes education, support, and ventilation of emotions or other reactions to a critical event. The discussions are confidential and involve only the incident responders, mental health professional(s), and peer counselor(s). Responders are placed out of service for the duration of the debriefing, which typically lasts 1½ to 3 hours. Formal debriefings are usually provided between 24 and 72 hours after the conclusion of the incident.

## Personnel Changes

The South Pasadena Fire Department is both pleased and saddened to announce the following personnel changes:

- After 29 years of dedicated service, Fire Engineer Jim Castagna retired from the department on October 19. Jim was affectionately known as "Mr. Fix-it" around the department and was capable of repairing absolutely anything. Jim provided a stable source of maturity and guidance for the younger firefighters and was noted for his sense of humor and dedication to the community. Jim will split his retirement time between his home in Sierra Madre and his cabin in Big Bear. Congratulations, Jim!
- On December 30, Secretary Barbara Altizer will be retiring from

the fire department. Barbara has faithfully served the community for 18 years and personally knows the majority of the Paramedic Subscription Program customers. Barbara's leaving will create an enormous void in the organization's continuity and delivery of administrative customer services. While Barbara will be leaving the South Pasadena Fire Department, she will stay involved in the fire service due to the fact her daughter, Colleen, works for the San Marino Fire Department and son, Brian, serves as a Captain for the Hemet Fire Department. We'll miss you, Barbara!

- Firefighter/Paramedics Todd Cremins and Rudy Mejia are new appointments to the fire department. Todd comes to South Pasadena from the La Verne Fire Department, where he served as an Apprentice Firefighter and Fire Explorer for approximately seven years. Todd's dad, Tim Cremins, is a Captain with LA Co. Fire Department. Rudy comes to South Pasadena by way of the Manhattan Beach Fire Department, where he spent approximately four years as a Paid-Call Firefighter and Fire Inspector. Both Todd and Rudy bring a fresh new outlook to the department and, from the first day of hire, have contributed to the organization meeting its mission of providing outstanding customer service.

- In the area of fire prevention, the department recently hired Sean Daugherty to serve as Fire Prevention Specialist. Sean has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Studies and experience in fire protection equipment sales and service. Sean is currently working on his Master's Degree in Emergency Services Administration at CSULB. Welcome, Todd, Rudy and Sean.

## VERDUGO FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Verdugo continues at an unprecedented pace in system enhancements, modifications and replacements. The cutover to the new data system was completed on Nov. 19. This enabled the use of full functioning Mobile Computer Terminals in apparatus and replacement of fire station alerting systems.

The final phase of installation is occurring at the Monrovia Four Points Sheraton hotel. This will provide receivers on RED1 through RED5, transmitters on those same channels which can be activated on an as-needed basis, and continued operation of RED8.

Motorola is currently testing and optimizing the replacement Verdugo conventional UHF simulcast radio system. RED channels 1 through 5 will broadcast simultaneously from Mt. Thom, San Augustine, Mirador, Mt. Lee, Mt. Lukens, and the Glendale Civic Center.

Work is continuing with Integraph to provide a radio console inter-

face to the Motorola Gold Elite system. This will enable Verdugo to take full advantage of the technology offered with the new system, while retaining the user-friendly screen layout and displays of the Orbacom radio console system.

Department interviews for the position of Fire Communications Operator are progressing well and should be completed within a few days. After that, final selection for three vacancies will be made, and background investigations and physical exams will begin.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are awaiting approval from the State for 911 system replacement. Funding approval is a formality, since revenues have already been collected and deposited in a special fund from taxes collected on all phone bills. As part of this project, the 10-year-old recorder/logger will also be replaced with a system that offers greater flexibility, capability and storage.

Installation is scheduled for

January 6 to allow CAD data to transfer to a stand-alone server accessible by all Verdugo agencies for their NFIRS programs such as FireHouse and SunPro.

Once the dust settles from the above projects, it will be time to begin looking at a Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) upgrade or replacement. This project will include mapping and Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) capabilities.

In the meantime our CAD vendor, Northrop Grumman PSI (formerly PRC), has submitted a proposal for a CAD enhancement that will allow "unit capability dispatching." Their quote has been accepted and the service agreement is being processed. This enhancement was undertaken at the request of Pasadena Fire to implement their ALS/BLS resource dispatch, but it will also benefit the other Verdugo System users by permitting many other assignment enhancements. This work will probably occur in early 2004.

### VERDUGO INCIDENTS: FALL 2003 VS. FALL 2002

FALL 2003:	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	VFCC	VFCC%
<b>FIRE</b>	184	341	486	110	749	74	52	28	60	2185	17.2%
<b>MEDICAL</b>	726	1719	2871	566	2728	328	134	130	249	9556	75.4%
<b>SERVICE</b>	55	115	210	50	152	27	18	17	48	702	5.5%
<b>OTHER</b>	3	2	4	1	12	2	3	1	4	34	0.3%
<b>OOV*</b>	8	26	49	14	22	24	36	3	16	198	1.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>976</u>	<u>2203</u>	<u>3620</u>	<u>741</u>	<u>3663</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>12,675</u>	
FALL 2002:	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	VFCC	VFCC%
<b>FIRE</b>	204	337	473	145	835	68	46	32	78	2343	18.4%
<b>MEDICAL</b>	670	1615	2783	585	2637	386	138	114	257	9261	72.9%
<b>SERVICE</b>	74	135	241	61	196	18	26	32	35	829	6.5%
<b>OTHER</b>	1	4	7	1	19	0	0	0	4	36	0.3%
<b>OOV*</b>	11	17	58	24	29	32	40	6	26	243	1.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>960</u>	<u>2108</u>	<u>3562</u>	<u>816</u>	<u>3716</u>	<u>504</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>12,712</u>	
2003 vs. 2002 COMPARISON:											
	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	VFCC	
<b>FIRE</b>	-9.8	1.2	2.7	-24.1	-10.3	8.8	13.0	-12.5	-23.1	-6.7	
<b>MEDICAL</b>	8.4	6.4	3.2	-3.2	3.5	-15.0	-2.9	14.0	-3.1	3.2	
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	1.7	4.5	1.6	-9.2	-1.4	-9.7	-2.8	-2.7	-5.8	-0.3	

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

## Verdugo Fire System Units: Total Responses September, October, November 2003

	Unit ID	Total Responses
<b>Arcadia</b>	E105	378
	E106	498
	E107	203
	RA105	372
	RA106	427
	T105	92
<b>Burbank</b>	E11	633
	E12	381
	E13	431
	E14	320
	E15	506
	E16	212
	E18	21
	HM12	12
	RA11	667
	RA13	585
	RA15	688
	T11	202
	T12	150
	USAR14	2
	WT16	2
	<b>Glendale</b>	AU21
E21		720
E22		576
E23		66

	Unit ID	Total Responses
<b>Glendale (cont.)</b>	E24	241
	E25	751
	E26	587
	E27	516
	E28	212
	E29	262
	HM27	8
	RA21	987
	RA25	911
	RA26	869
	RA29	480
	T21	268
	T26	250
	T29	72
	USAR26	2
	WT21	1
	WT29	2
<b>Monrovia</b>	E101	465
	E102	364
	SQ101	410
	LF101	129
<b>Pasadena</b>	E31	852
	E32	455
	E33	791
	E34	552

	Unit ID	Total Responses
<b>Pasadena (cont.)</b>	E36	795
	E37	301
	E38	155
	E39	129
	RA31	697
	RA32	617
	RA33	869
	RA36	779
	T31	244
	T32	140
<b>San Gabriel</b>	USAR32	2
	E51	273
	E52	222
<b>San Marino</b>	RA51	333
	E91	262
	RA91	297
<b>Sierra Madre</b>	E41	54
	RA41	180
	WT41	1
<b>South Pas.</b>	AU81	134
	E81	382
	RA81	276

\*Reserve rigs are included in the total for their assigned station. For example, the E41 total includes E241 responses.

### NFIRS Reporting Update

Verdugo is in the final stages of configuring their CAD system to export incident data to a free-standing server that can be accessed by any fire department in the Verdugo System that wishes to import incident data to NFIRS programs such as FireHouse or SunPro. Testing of the new capability will occur in early January.

FireHouse has written an interface that will import data fields from CAD such as incident date, address, dispatch time, etc. into the appropriate fields in the FireHouse system. This will save users time and improve accuracy and consistency.

### UNIFIED RESPONSE

**Editor:** Christopher Gray, Area C Coordinator

**Editorial Staff:** Mike Matlock and Lenia Scanlon

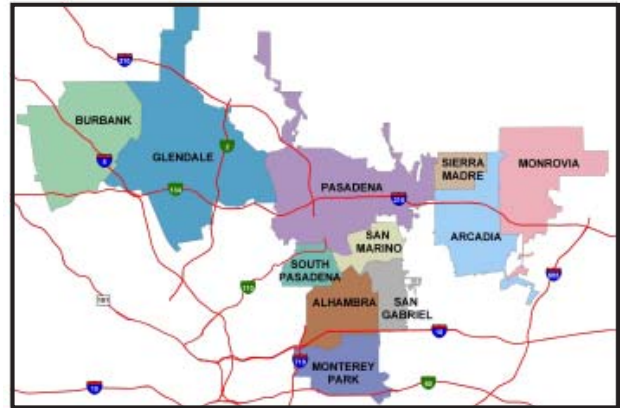
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**Proofreading:** [Redacted]

## OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: FALL 2003

The following tables show the number of out-of-jurisdiction responses for each fire department during September, October and November 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 locations outside the normal Area C/Los Angeles response region. "XB" includes units such as private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles and helicopters.



### Fall 2003

Responding Agency:	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	XA	
AR	X	1	0	55	7	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	<b>72</b>
BU	0	X	82	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	10	15	0	0	<b>110</b>
GL	0	81	X	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	20	27	0	2	<b>156</b>
MO	65	1	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	2	<b>80</b>
PA	7	16	11	0	X	0	7	0	24	0	20	2	0	0	<b>87</b>
SG	0	1	0	0	0	X	8	0	2	14	9	0	1	0	<b>35</b>
SM	1	0	0	1	46	52	X	0	29	6	30	0	0	0	<b>165</b>
SI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	1	0	0	2	<b>3</b>
SP	1	1	1	0	95	3	17	0	X	9	2	5	0	0	<b>134</b>
AL	0	1	0	0	0	22	3	0	5	X	3	1	0	0	<b>35</b>
CO	11	1	13	12	6	10	4	0	0	0	X	0	0	2	<b>59</b>
LA	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	X	0	1	<b>10</b>
MP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	X	0	<b>3</b>
XB	11	23	4	553	5	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	X	<b>600</b>
Subtotals	<b>96</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1549</b>

### Fall 2002

Responding Agency:	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	AR	BU	GL	MO	PA	SG	SM	SI	SP	AL	CO	LA	MP	XA	
AR	X	0	1	67	10	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	<b>89</b>
BU	3	X	84	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	12	5	0	0	<b>108</b>
GL	1	54	X	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	27	31	0	0	<b>124</b>
MO	58	1	1	X	1	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	<b>85</b>
PA	21	5	36	3	X	0	6	0	26	0	28	1	0	0	<b>126</b>
SG	0	0	1	2	0	X	8	0	0	18	12	1	1	0	<b>43</b>
SM	2	0	0	2	45	46	X	0	38	11	29	0	0	0	<b>173</b>
SI	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	X	0	0	6	0	0	0	<b>14</b>
SP	2	2	1	1	104	2	26	0	X	18	1	7	0	0	<b>164</b>
AL	2	1	3	1	0	19	4	0	7	X	4	1	1	0	<b>43</b>
CO	23	0	17	15	13	8	2	1	0	0	X	0	0	0	<b>79</b>
LA	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	X	0	0	<b>14</b>
MP	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	4	0	X	0	<b>10</b>
XB	14	48	22	577	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	X	<b>666</b>
Subtotals	<b>131</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1738</b>

## RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS

“Treat every emergency as though it’s YOUR emergency.” We’ve all heard it repeatedly and these response time statistics bear out the fact that we are all doing a pretty good job of following this directive.

**Note:** Dispatch to arrival times may vary due to many factors such as the city’s geographical layout, the time of day or night, traffic density, road conditions and emergency unit availability. They can also be adversely affected by human error – the failure to press ONSCENE on the MDT when arriving at an incident.



AVERAGE DISPATCH TO ARRIVAL TIME	
Agency	Minutes
ARCADIA	4.36
BURBANK	4.27
GLENDALE	4.23
MONROVIA	4.29
PASADENA	4.03
SAN GABRIEL	4.33
SAN MARINO	3.39
SIERRA MADRE	4.12
SOUTH PASADENA	4.05

DISPATCH TO ARRIVAL RESPONSE TIME	
Agency	% Under 5 Min.
ARCADIA	66.3
BURBANK	72.1
GLENDALE	74.6
MONROVIA	72.2
PASADENA	77.2
SAN GABRIEL	72.1
SAN MARINO	86.5
SIERRA MADRE	69.2
SOUTH PASADENA	75.9

### California Fire Photographers Association

It’s early morning and you’re on scene of an emergency. You can’t help but notice a camera flash going off and wonder who is up shooting pictures at this hour.

The person behind that camera might just be one a member of the California Fire Photographers Association (CFPA). CFPA members attend fires, physical rescues, Fire Service Day events and many other fire department activities. Their pictures highlight the pages of local and national publications.

The CFPA was formed over 12 years ago by a small group of photographers. Today the CFPA in a non-profit organization consisting of over 25 members, many of whom live or work in the cities that make up Area “C.” They are proud to have some of the nation’s finest fire

photographers in their ranks.

During the recent firestorms, several of their members trekked from Simi Valley to Lake Arrowhead in the same day chasing the firefighting action, shooting pictures and recording history.

Depending on their individual affiliations, CFPA members supply pictures to news agencies, magazine editors, arson investigators and even advertisers. Some of their pictures are used

*(Photo by Ross A. Benson, 2003)*



for educational and training purposes, as evidence in court and even grace fire station walls.

CFPA members come from all walks of life. Their membership is comprised of business owners, members of the media, teachers and homemakers. A couple of our members are full-time firefighters, one member is a private investigator, and two are full-time police officers.

To contact a member of the CFPA or see some of their work, visit their web page at: [www.cfpafirephoto.org](http://www.cfpafirephoto.org). The next time you see a C.F.P.A. member’s flash going off, remember: that picture might just be on the next cover of *Firehouse* magazine or the front page of your local newspaper – or even right here in the *Unified Response* newsletter.