

# UNIFIED



# RESPONSE

## Area "C" Quarterly Bulletin Fall 2005



### *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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### Coordinator's Update

Well, it's another beautiful day in Southern California...with the air crisp and clean following a bit of rain from thundershowers yesterday. Some days I feel we are in the calm before the storm with what may happen next...the potential is certainly here with a variety of threats we face. In just the past two years, we have seen major brush fires, mudslides, floods and a horrific train derailment in Southern California that resulted in death, evacuations and long-term displacement of residents and businesses.

While all communities work to minimize these dangers through planning and preparedness, the fact is that when disaster strikes, there may be a period of hours or even days when citizens might have to fend for themselves before help can reach them. Such is the case we continue to see in our minds and feel in our hearts with the ongoing disaster in the states along the Gulf following Hurricane Katrina. Concern is certainly not subsiding as the same states now face the onslaught of another hurricane, Rita. In the wake of Katrina, however, I'm sure all of you have engaged in some level of conversation and maybe even debate concerning its impact...from its Greek meaning to the far-reaching devastation it wreaked. It's hard to keep the images of suffering, confusion and loss out of your mind. They are both heartbreaking and troubling.

From a historical perspective, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath have already redefined our response to natural disasters...similar in nature to other hurricanes that



have come before, yet so different in consequence and final outcome. When it comes to our profession, I have no doubt this event will certainly dictate the future. In its simplest form, the tragic events surrounding Hurricane Katrina serve as a reminder to all that natural disasters and acts of terrorism can happen at any time. Ultimately we face the question of how our efforts toward preparation and response would stack up in simi-

lar circumstances. So we continue to learn and prepare ...for it's not *if*, it's *when*, and *when* will come soon enough...folks are counting on us. Our thanks to all of



those who are helping in some way, whether through response, community work, "Filling the Boot" to aid organizations like the Red Cross and Salvation Army, or prayers... it all helps.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,

the fourth anniversary of 9/11 came and went, with sobering reminders of another major disaster that befell our country in recent years. Firefighters across the nation gathered at home, fire stations and in NY for several tributes to the memory of citizens and public servants alike. Verdugo toned out a "Special Observance" as a poignant reminder of that dreadful day We'll Never Forget.

The six-month trial of our Unified Response Automatic Aid Plan ended in mid-August with a meeting of the Area C Fire Chiefs. Feedback was very positive and a number of issues were discussed and clarified. A formal agreement is being drafted and will soon be circulated to the 11 fire departments for review and comments. Please accept our thanks and appreciation for your leadership in making this ground-breaking response plan a reality. The communities we serve will certainly benefit from our working together.

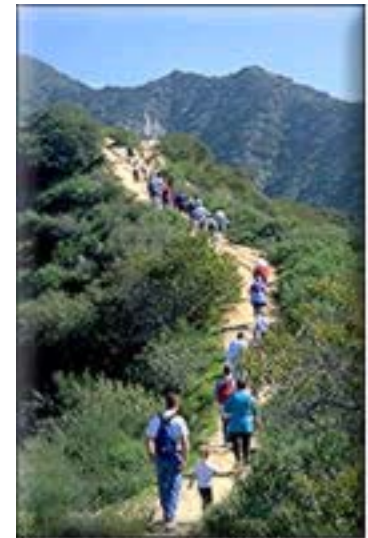
On a personal note, this has been a time for loss with family and friends, one of whom we knew and loved, Engineer Gary Sauls, a 37-year veteran of the San Gabriel Fire Department, who lost a battle with cancer recently while at his longtime home in Glendale. He came to rest with his lovely wife Robin and dear friends at his side. He is at peace, his mission complete. As many of you are aware, Gary's illness surfaced in June of this year and unfortunately took a rapid course. I know Gary and his family appreciate the care all fire personnel displayed many times over the course of his battle with the "Big C" (melanoma). You gotta love our Fire Family. The memorial service was a poignant and fitting tribute to Gary and the legacy he leaves. You know, he was a great person to



Keith Birmingham/  
Pasadena Star-News

know and a firefighter you wanted to work with.

I first met Gary and his wife Robin when I was behind the parts counter at the Honda dealership while in high school. Gary and Robin were both accomplished riders and enthusiasts in the sport of motorcycling...be it in the dez or MX...they really enjoyed this sport that I lived and breathed as well. As a fireman, Gary further inspired my lifelong ambition to join the Fire Department. Heck, I thought, this guy has the best job in the world, a beautiful wife, and he can still ride motorcycles...how cool. Well, this "Eveready Guy" finally hit a lick he couldn't beat, but he helped so many people over the years in countless ways. Be it family, firefighting, swiftwater, diving, or just fun, Gary left his mark...and the world is a better place because of his time here and the passion he displayed in all his endeavors. My only regret is not being able to see him off and helping on the Gulf Coast right now, but somehow I know his helping hand will continue to inspire us, for now and always.



In closing, in addition to rallying your residents and helping them to help themselves...get out and enjoy life and exercise...it's good for you and ultimately for your loved ones and those you help as well. There are many events to help motivate you, including one coming up on November 5 in the Verdugos (see the web site below). This is a great event and we hope to see you there.

<http://www.verdugohillshike.org/>



## UNIFIED RESPONSE AUTOMATIC AID PLAN: – RESULTS OF THE SIX MONTH TRIAL –

The Area C Fire Chiefs met on August 15, immediately following the conclusion of the six-month trial, and the consensus was very positive regarding the new automatic aid plan. Various issues were resolved in the early weeks of the trial related to dispatch recommendations by Verdugo's CAD system and the sharing of special function apparatus like USAR and Hazmat vehicles, but overall the trial progressed very smoothly. Verdugo Task Force representatives from all 11 Area C cities continue to discuss issues related to Unified Response on a monthly basis.

The following tables provide a comparison of out-of-jurisdiction responses by each fire department during the six-month trial versus the same six months of 2004. Note that this includes only incidents in the **FIRE** category such as false alarms, structure fires, brush/vegetation fires, sprinkler system activated, smoke reported in a structure, etc.

### SIX MONTH TRIAL IN 2005

Feb.14-Aug14, 2005	City Where Incident Occurred (Incidents in FIRE Category only)														Subtotals
Responding Agency	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS	ALH	LAC	LFD	XA	Subtotals
ARC	X			39		10	2		1			7			59
BRK	0	X	47			0	0					7	7		61
GLN		37	X			13						21	41		112
MRV	51			X					1			21			73
MPK				1	X		19			2	22	37	5	3	89
PAS	23	3	6	3	8	X	6	12		22		15	3		101
SGB	1				11	1	X	7		1	16	14			51
SNM	0			2	1	19	16	X		19	1	2			60
SMD			0						X			1			1
SPS	0			1	2	24	2	20		X	4	1	6		60
ALH	0			1	53	1	31	15		19	X	1			121
LAC	23		25	18	25	8	15	5				X			119
LFD			2							8			X		10
XA	0	24	1	16	38	2		1				0		X	82
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>999</b>

### THE SAME SIX MONTHS IN 2004

Feb.14-Aug.14, 2004	City Where Incident Occurred (Incidents in FIRE Category only)														Subtotals
Responding Agency	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS	ALH	LAC	LFD	XBB	Subtotals
ARC	X			48	1	9	2					20		1	81
BRK	1	X	26			1	2					9	4		43
GLN		35	X			17						24	41		117
MRV	59			X								28		1	88
MPK				1	X		8					2			11
PAS	7		4			X		9				23	3		46
SGB	1				2		X	5		28	17	17		1	71
SNM	3			2	1	11	27	X		30	1	10		1	86
SMD	1		2						X			2			5
SPS	1					148	9	14		X	4	2	3		181
ALH	4			1			34	6		11	X	3		1	60
LAC	18		19	15		9	16	5				X			82
LFD			1							6			X		7
XAA	1	26		3		1								X	31
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>909</b>

It is interesting to note the redistribution of aid responses between cities from 2004 to 2005 as a result of this trial. Where previously aid was provided based on agreements between cities, it is now provided by the closest Verdugo units regardless of affiliation, which appears to have more evenly distributed the assistance provided. These statistics represent dispatches, not necessarily arrivals onscene (units are often cancelled enroute) and may therefore slightly overestimate the number of mutual/automatic aid responses provided.

Monterey Park joined the Verdugo System on Feb. 1, 2005, so their out-of-jurisdiction statistics for 2004 include only those incidents Verdugo dispatched.

## ALHAMBRA

Population: 90,561

Area: 7.62 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$4,673,119,130

### Alhambra Fire Paramedic Takes Third-Place

On August 31, Alhambra Fire Engineer/Paramedic Scott Burnside, who is presently assigned to the department's Arson/ Explosives Section, competed in the world's largest tactical medical competition and took the third-place award.

The award was given during the International Tactical EMS Association's 5th Annual Conference and "Medic-up" competition in San Diego during the last week of August.

Despite "peaceful resolution" always being the goal of a Special Weapons and Tactics team, the unpredictable actions of a criminal or terrorist can sometimes result in casualties. In preparation for such situations, many law enforcement agencies integrate highly specialized emergency medical technicians and paramedics into their teams. These medical providers can then maintain the wellness of the team's members and provide immediate medical attention to anyone in need, whether law enforcement officers, bystanders or suspects.

Paramedic Burnside competed in four events, including a "dynamic entry" scenario, wherein he extracted casualties from the hazard area. He also participated in a "victim rescue under fire" event and an "extraordinary deployment" setup which included extracting multiple victims, and finally in a competition known as "The Gauntlet," which included seven casualty management stations.

Scott was awarded the third-place honor while competing with numerous paramedics from throughout the nation. Congratulations, Scott!



### Alhambra Battalion Chief Sent to New Orleans

On September 1, Alhambra Fire Battalion Chief Ray Mosack was deployed to the New Orleans area to assist with the relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Chief Mosack was deployed with a United States Forest Service Management Team and was assigned as a Medical Unit Leader.

Chief Mosack flew to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and then drove to the New Orleans area and reported to the Katrina Base Camp on Friday morning, September 2. Chief Mosack's assigned duties included primary management of one of the medical units that have been deployed to the region.

Chief Mosack has been a Battalion Chief for the past four years with the Alhambra Fire Department and is currently assigned to the "B" shift. He is the designated Disaster Preparedness Coordinator for the City of Alhambra.

### Residential Fires Keep Alhambra Firefighters Busy

In the early morning hours of July 26, Alhambra firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 100 block of North Atlantic Blvd. Upon arrival, Alhambra Engine 71 advised that an apartment unit on the second floor was fully involved in fire. An aggressive

interior attack enabled the firefighters to keep the fire from spreading to other units within the complex. Lit candles in close proximity to combustibles caused this fire. The fire loss was estimated at approximately \$125,000.

Later the same morning, Alhambra firefighters received another call to respond to a structure fire in the 200 block of South Bushnell Avenue. Fire personnel observed a column of smoke visible from their stations. Upon arrival, Engine 73 advised of a residential triplex with one unit well involved in fire. Another aggressive interior fire attack was initiated and the fire was held to the unit of origin. The cause of this fire is under investigation. The fire resulted in approximately \$200,000 in property loss.

Several weeks later, on August 17, Alhambra firefighters once again responded to another early morning residential structure fire in the 2300 block of South Hagen Drive. Upon arrival, Engine 74 advised of smoke showing with a well-involved attic fire. A second-alarm assignment was initiated and the fire was contained to the attic area. This fire caused approximately \$125,000 in property damage.

Because of excellent teamwork and coordination with other responding agencies such as Monterey Park, South Pasadena and San Gabriel Fire Departments, these fires were contained to their units of origin and did not spread to nearby structures.

The next issue of  
**UNIFIED RESPONSE**  
will be published in  
mid-December 2005.  
Submissions of articles and  
photos are welcome  
through Dec. 5.

## ARCADIA

Population: 56,320

Area: 12.00 sq. mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$7,021,395,471

### Headquarters Station 105 Project Update

The City of Arcadia and Fire Department staffs continue to work diligently on the plans to rebuild the headquarters fire station at 710 South Santa Anita Avenue. Battalion Chief David Haney, the Equipment and Facilities Chief, is the project coordinator for the Fire Department. The new headquarters will feature a modern two-story design with the administrative offices, including Fire Prevention, on the first level and the suppression living quarters on the second level. Also featured is a large four-door apparatus room designed to house all station 105 equipment.

In preparation for the demolition of the headquarters fire station this November, the Department will be moving headquarters to Station 106. Personnel and equipment that will be relocated to Station 106 include all Administration, Fire Prevention, Battalion 105 and Truck 105. The crews of Engine and Rescue Ambulance 105 will be relocated approximately one block east of headquarters in a five-bedroom house the City is renting from a local church. The new address for temporary Station 105 is 141 Alice Street.

The transition should be smooth and there will be no change in response times to the citizens within station 105's district. The construction of a new headquarters should begin in late November, lasting approximately 14 months. Once completed, the new station will house Adminis-

tration, Fire Prevention, Battalion 105, Truck 105, Engine 105 and Rescue Ambulance 105.

The most important issue pertaining to the station 105 project at this time is relocating personnel and equipment to remote locations. All other Area C cities should take note of the following detailed information outlining the temporary Arcadia Fire Department relocations:

September 16, 2005 will start the relocation process, beginning with the relocation of Administration, Fire Prevention Bureau, Battalion 105 and Truck 105 to Fire Station 106, located at 630 S. Baldwin Ave. The relocation will be completed the morning of September 19, **at which time station 106 will become the Headquarters station for the Arcadia Fire Department.** All Staff positions will retain the same contacts, i.e., phone, fax and e-mail. Battalion 105 and Truck 105 will retain their current unit radio identification call signs.

Administration offices will be located in the current training room north of the apparatus room at Station 106 and Fire Prevention offices will be located in a portable trailer placed in the north parking lot of the Station 106 compound. Access to the Administration and Fire Prevention offices with limited visitor parking will be off of Baldwin Avenue.

Relocation of Engine and Rescue Ambulance 105 to the church rental house at 141 Alice Street will take place on October 3. At that time, old Station 105 will be completely vacant and prepared for demolition.



### Apparatus and Equipment

The Arcadia Fire Department will be taking delivery of two new Pierce Arrow XT fire engines approximately the second week of December. Included in each engine will be a Detroit Series 60 engine, Allison EVS 4000P automatic transmission, Waterous two-stage 1500 gpm fire pump and a compressed air foam system with a 50-gallon class A foam tank.

Components that have been included in the vehicles that are directly involved with firefighter safety include: oversized front and rear brakes, crew cab rollover protection system, Storm King Mountain Technologies fire curtains for the crew cab and a redundant fire pump engagement/transmission interlock circuits to ensure fire pump engagement in the event of chassis electrical system failure.

The new engines will be assigned to stations 105 and 106 upon completion, with engine 105 remaining the primary strike team engine for the Arcadia Fire Department.

### Fire Prevention Bureau - Arcadia Offers a SAFER Program

*SAFER...a Smoke Alarm For Every Residence...that's what will happen in the near future if the Arcadia Fire Department has its way!*

The City of Arcadia has instituted the new SAFER (Smoke Alarms For Every Residence) Program through an award granted by FEMA. All residences of Arcadia are eligible for this program.

The SAFER program is a component of the Arcadia Fire Department's ongoing efforts toward fire prevention and the reduction of loss of life and property from accidental fires in the home. With grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Association, the Arcadia Fire Department is now of-

fering 5,000 free smoke alarms to Arcadia residents and free inspections for the proper operation of existing smoke alarms in the home. Inspections may include replacement of existing smoke alarms and/or the provision of replacement batteries.

Smoke alarms will be supplied on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to households with children under the age of 14 and/or seniors age 65 or above. The devices will be delivered and installed by Arcadia Fire Department personnel in the residence free of charge. To date, approximately 800 smoke detectors have been installed Citywide, with the program continuing through March 2006.

### Personnel

The Arcadia Fire Department is proud to announce that Firefighter Tom Devlin was promoted to Fire Engineer on August 21, with his first assignment being on E-106A. Congratulations to **Engineer Devlin!**

During the past three months, the Arcadia Fire Department has welcomed several new employees to the Department. Two new **Firefighters, Drew Pryor and Jon Lauderdale**, started their recruit training on August 8. Probationary Firefighter Pryor currently is assigned to E-105C as he continues his training process and Probationary Firefighter Lauderdale continues his training on E-105A.

Five new **Reserve Firefighters** were also hired in July and August. Arcadia Fire Department Reserve Firefighters work one 24-hour shift per week and they are stationed at Station 105. The new Reserve Firefighters are: **Isaac Rodriguez, Oscar Cortez, Jeff Patterson, Ryan Webb and Norm Morales**. Welcome again to all of you!

In addition to the above named personnel, the Arcadia Fire Department has hired three **Administrative Interns** to assist in Fire Prevention,

specifically assigned to administer the SAFER (Smoke Detector Program). The three Administrative Interns are **Julio Cadenas, Brian Yau and Denise Moreno**. These individuals are doing an outstanding job and have made the SAFER Program extremely successful. Welcome, and keep up the great work! Only 4000 more smoke detector installations to make a **“SAFERARCADIA”!**



### Training

On July 11, 12, 13, 26, 27 and 28, the City of Arcadia Regional Counter-Terrorism Training Program assisted Alhambra Fire Department with the delivery of the 8-hour Response to Terrorism Training. The course was taught by members of the Arcadia Fire and Police Departments, along with three members from the Alhambra Fire Department. All instructors received their training in Anniston, Alabama at the Center for Domestic Preparedness.

The WMD Response To Terrorism Training Course is an 8-hour training program designed to provide emergency responders instruction on responding to and operating in a WMD environment. The course provided a WMD threat update and



WMD emergency response actions lecture, which covers chemical, ordinance/explosive, biological, and radiological/nuclear (COBRA) incidents.

In addition, the course provided hands-on familiarization training with specialized personal protective clothing, chemical, biological, and radiological detection equipment, decontamination procedures and recognition of improvised explosive devices (IED).

During the six, 8-hour training periods, **163** first responders from City of Alhambra Public Works, City of Alhambra School District and fire personnel from the cities of San Gabriel, Monterey Park and Alhambra received the valuable training.

### Additional Training

On August 16, 17 and 18, members from the Burbank HAZMAT Unit conducted decontamination procedure training for members of the Arcadia and Monrovia Fire Departments. Thanks again to the Burbank Fire Department!

### More Training



On July 22, 23, 24, 25, 29 and August 1, the City of Arcadia Regional Training Program conducted structural collapse training at the USFS Training facility. The 8-hour course was designed to meet the RS II Breaking and Breaching Module requirements utilizing hands-on training and skills assessment.

**Terminal Objective:** The students demonstrated proficiency in the inspection, operation, maintenance and safe use of all power tools. The

**Continued from p.6**

students properly broke, breached and cut to gain access through concrete, steel or other structural components during structural collapse rescue operations.

**Enabling Objectives:**

1. Correctly identify types of concrete and their components;
2. Understand the properties, strengths and weaknesses of concrete and its components;
3. Identify functional parts of cutting and breaking tools;
4. Correctly and safely use breaking and breaching tools;
5. Understand and perform routine maintenance of all tools;
6. Be able to demonstrate proper operation of all power tools;

7. Understand tool assessment criteria; and
8. Understand the operator's influence on tool performance.

Over the six 8-hour classes, **102** first responders received the valuable training. The attendees included members from Arcadia, Monrovia, Pasadena and Glendale Fire Departments.



**BURBANK**

Population: 106,739

Area: 17.15 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$10,954,391,173

Lots of personnel news from Burbank this quarter: some ordinary, some very extraordinary, some losses. Starting with the extraordinary: Burbank Fire Department is very proud to be presenting Medals of Valor and Medals of Distinction to paramedics, crews and support personnel who attended the Pavelka shooting incident in November 2004. Paramedics and personnel worked on two downed Burbank police officers, one of whom did not survive, at a dangerous, unsecured scene, with serious risks to their personal safety. Burbank Police Department will present these individuals with Campaign Ribbons in recognition of their

selfless service and bravery. An awards ceremony is planned for later this month. Recipients of the Medal of Valor are Capt. Pat Latham, Engr. Doug Puckett, and FF/PM's Mike McDonald, Ken Allen, Travont White and Scott Schweitzer. Recipients of the Medal of Distinction are: FF/PM's Tony Soffa and Victor Marquez. Commendation of Service goes to Capt. Frank Walbert, and Letter of Appreciation to Rich Baenen.

According to available records, Burbank Fire Department has awarded one Medal of Valor previously to Engr. Ron Pearlman in January 1991 and a Medal of Distinction to Capt. Frank Walbert in April 2003.

Burbank's Firefighter of the Year for 2005 is Engr. Robert Lanning. Engr. Lanning has 24 years of service, 22 of them spent in the paramedic program. Bob is currently assigned at Paramedic/EMS Station 15 C shift. He is recognized for his outstanding service and dedication to the paramedic program. Bob was recognized at Council in August 2005 and was honored at an Awards dinner by

the Veterans at the American Legion in Burbank. He will receive his department presentation at the awards ceremony in September. In addition, the following annual awards were made: Commendation of Service to Engr. John Hannick, Capt. Daryl Isozaki, and Fire Safety Analyst Jorge Martinez; Letter of Appreciation to FF Kelly Chulick.

In August 2005, Craig Canfield was promoted to the position of Assistant Fire Chief and Capt. Frank Walbert came into the Bureau. Capt Walbert is interested in Arson Investigation and will be Burbank's studio liaison to Disney and NBC. Engr. Ron Pearlman also joined the Bureau staff.

In anticipation of retirements and future staffing needs, the department is holding an Engineers exam in September 2005 and a BC's exam in January 2006.

Five new Firefighters who graduated from our academy in April 2005 received their station assignments and have begun the next phase of their fire service careers. The department

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anticipates the need of another firefighter recruitment in 2006, possibly as soon as January/February.

From the clerical side, after 13 years of dedicated service at BFD as Senior Secretary and Timekeeper, Tami Antonello transferred to a new and more responsible position at BWP. Her duties have been assumed by Robina Sarkisian, who has been promoted to Senior Clerk and Timekeeper. Rachel Luiz, previously our phone and front counter receptionist, is now taking care of the clerical details of the department's Purchasing function.

We are saddened to report the passing of two of our senior and long-time retirees. On Aug. 31, Charles "Pat" Fitzpatrick passed away in Illinois at the age of 82. Pat joined the Burbank Fire Department in February 1954 and retired at the rank of Captain in Oct. 1976 with 22 years of service. Earlier in life, Pat participated in and survived the D-Day landings at Utah Beach in Normandy. He is survived by his daughter, Charlene. We also learned that John Vincent Pressel passed away on May 14. John Pressel joined the department in 1941 and retired with the rank of Captain in December 1963 after 22 years of service.

Also in the loss column, long-time City employee and friend of the Burbank Fire Department Bruce Berishon, formerly Building Maintenance Supervisor, suffered a fatal heart attack on Aug. 8. He had only been retired from the City of Burbank for 38 days and had begun a new life and a second career in San Luis Obispo that was cut brutally short. Bruce had a hand in most of our station upgrades and building projects over many years and always went the extra mile on everything he was involved in.

Burbank City Council recognized Capt. Ron Bell of the Fire Prevention Bureau and presented a Com-

mendation of Service in August for his contribution in bringing the "Every 15 Minutes Program" to the students of Burbank High School in May. The program is designed to educate young people on the dangers of drinking and driving and was very well received by students, parents and school personnel.

In the early morning hours of June 21, Burbank Fire Department personnel joined with Burbank Police Department and other agencies in Operation Silent Night to eradicate and dismantle the Vineland Boys Street Gang. Fire Department personnel and equipment, including Burbank's, were requested to stand by at numerous locations throughout the San Fernando Valley, as tactical units were deployed to provide im-



mediate medical or fire response, should it be necessary. While the operation was a success, the local fallout from this deployment has been fully covered in the press.

On August 2, Burbank Fire Chief Tracy Pansini teamed up with Police Chief Tom Hoefel and other Police and Fire personnel for a series of community visits for Police and Fire "National Night Out." They enjoyed their interaction with the community and got to sample a wide array of warm hospitality and delicious food awaiting them in the neighborhoods, homes, and community centers they visited.

The Burbank Water Reclamation Plant has removed the chlorine gas previously stored and used at the sewage treatment plant located at 714 N. Lake. In its place are two 7,500 gal-

lon tanks of sodium hypochlorite at a 12.5% concentration and two 7,500 gallon tanks of sodium bisulfite. Both are stored outdoors inside secondary containment. While the new material is safer than the chlorine previously used, it is still caustic and dangerous. These changes increase the safety factor at this facility for the community, employees, and firefighters.

Our new HazMat and USAR rigs are on schedule for delivery early in 2006.

Firefighter David Burke, who has a great deal of experience in the Wildland Firefighter arena, presented a Fire Staff Ride for all three shifts during May, focusing on the 1966 Loop Fire at which 12 fire fatalities occurred. The staff ride consisted of a preliminary classroom study of the selected fire and a hike of the fire site to integrate lessons derived in the classroom with a site review. The study of the fire site demonstrated how leaders' decisions and followers' behavior influenced the tactical outcome of the fire, and how technology, tactics and organization interact at a wildland fire setting. The sessions were a great success from a training standpoint and were so well received by the membership that additional days were added on a voluntary basis.

BFD is gearing up for the Fall 2005 ROP Fire Science Class, and in preparation is adding to its existing cadre of instructors. The graduates of our Spring ROP class were recognized at Council on July 26, along with Capt. Jess Talamantes, whose years of dedication and service to the ROP were also recognized. Capt. Greg Rhoads will be taking over the ROP helm for Fall 2005.

Notable Incidents during this quarter include a fire in a detached garage/music studio conversion on Aug. 10 which resulted in damage to the garage and the loss of approxi-

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mately \$40,000 to the contents including musical instruments and equipment. Fire personnel worked hard to save the musical instruments, but most

were already damaged by heat prior to the arrival of emergency crews.

A house fire occurred on Ontario Street on Aug. 20 when a travel

trailer parked in the carport caught fire and spread into the attic and residence. Losses were estimated at approximately \$75,000.

**GLENDALE**

Population: 207,007

Area: 30.59 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$15,830,670,571



*Fire Marshal Bob Doyle, Arson Investigators Miguel Porras and Mike Richardson, and Fire Chief Chris Gray with confiscated fireworks.*

**Personnel**

Congratulations to newly promoted Fire Captains Tom Propst, Jim Lytle, Chris Stavros and Mark Carrillo (pictured on the right with Fire Chief Chris Gray), who were sworn in to their new rank on June 17 amid family and friends. They have been assigned to Engine 22B, Engine 26C, Engine 22A and Truck 21C, respectively.

Congratulations also to 2005 Recruit Class members Gilbert Pedroza, Karlow Krikor, Jeff Cassilli, Jeff Brooks, Zach Zarrilli, Jose Escobedo and Brent Kelley on their graduation June 10. In the photo below, the recruits are flanked on the left by Fire Chief Christopher Gray and Capt. Vince Rifino, and on the right by Capt. Doug Doody, FF Jeremy Frazier and FF/PM Todd Tucker.



**“Emergency Spanish” Coming in January**

This class will cover the “lingo” used on emergency calls with the Spanish translations and it will be held at the Training Center. Glendale Community College will be hosting the class and college units may be earned. There is also a class in the works for “**Emergency Armenian.**” Stay tuned for more information!

**Public Education**

Thanks to the hard work of Captains Bill Lynch, Carlos Guerrero and Tom Marchant and the graphic design talents of Fire Cadet Arno Avakian, we now have a Public Education display board, pictured to the right.

We had a busy summer with fire extinguisher training for city employee groups, Fire Safety Trailer demonstrations for local schools, and preparing for School Fire Safety Inspections.



## MONROVIA

Population: 39,147

Area: 13.73 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$2,693,852,934

Preliminary discussions have begun with E-One with regard to the purchase of a 100' aerial ladder truck to replace the 1989 LTI Pumper/Ladder. This truck has a 100' all-aluminum aerial ladder and the overall weight is one-third the weight of a standard steel ladder. The Monrovia Apparatus Committee, made up of representatives from each shift, have

been working on this project for over a year. Having gone back to the drawing board, the committee submitted its recommendation that this type of truck would be the absolute best piece of apparatus for our needs, maximizing our current fire

suppression abilities and serving our community well for many years to come. Three members of the committee will fly back east this Sunday to inspect the truck and make recommendation regarding specific details of its construction. At this point and time, everything looks good with a proposed delivery of the fire truck this winter.



## MONTEREY PARK

Population: 64,614

Area: 7.70 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$3,797,273,613

### Monterey Park Fire Department Responds to Hurricane Katrina

In response to a nationwide plea for help from FEMA, the Monterey Park Fire Department sent two Firefighter/Paramedics to the Gulf Coast. On Wednesday, August 31, FEMA made a formal request to fire departments across the country, looking for

1,000 two-person firefighter teams to assist in the disaster recovery efforts in the Gulf region. Monterey Park took quick action in responding to the request and within 24 hours the authorization order was given.

Monterey Park Firefighter/Paramedics Drew Respecio and Adam Malouf boarded a Delta flight from LAX to Atlanta, Georgia on September 4. While in Atlanta, the two Monterey Park Firefighters received an orientation, debriefing of the situation, training for their response, and final deployment orders. The Monterey Park Fire Department is proud to play an active role in helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

### New Pumper

The City of Monterey Park recently purchased a 2005 KME Renegade fire pumper, the first of a two-year purchase plan which will see a 2006 KME Renegade placed into service towards the end of this fiscal year. The 2005 KME was put into service August 15 and is housed at



Fire Station 62, located at 2001 South Garfield Avenue. This new pumper is the second purchased to add to our KME fleet, and when the 2006 KME is brought on board, all front-line apparatus will be standardized. In 1999 we obtained a 100' KME Aerial Tiller Truck as well as a KME pumper that replicates the current one. It has been outfitted with state of the art equipment, including a tilt cab, high visibility strobe lights, a six-seat walk through cab, 65-gallon fuel tank and a 430 hp Caterpillar motor, helpful with the diverse topography of our city.

In addition to the new KME pumper, the Fire Department has added a new Utility Truck to the fleet. Utility 6 is a Ford F350 XL Crew-Cab Super Duty, powered by a die-





sel power stroke engine and automatic transmission. It is a flat bed truck with built-in compartments and a lumber rack. It has a built-in hydraulic lift gate, trailer hitch and an assortment of emergency equipment, including an on-board Honda EM 5000 generator. This piece of equipment is designed to work in tandem with the Tiller-drawn Truck during technical rescue calls.

And finally, the Monterey Park Fire Department is proud to announce the hiring of four new Firefighters. After successfully completing 15 days of rigorous orientation training, the new recruits have been given their first assignments and have been proudly serving the citizens of Monterey Park. Already the new

recruits have experienced the excitement of firefighting, having had several vehicle fires, a couple of structure fires, and a few brush fires, not to mention the assortment of medical responses. The department is proud



*Brandon Reyes & Family*



*David Goetz & Family*

to have these highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals as part of the team.



*Chief Murphy, Gregg Dellenback & Family*



*Ruben Enciso & Family*

## PASADENA

Population: 146,166

Area: 23.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$13,538,015,099



### Aircraft Down

On June 17 at 11:11 p.m., Engine 33 arrived at the westbound 134, west of San Rafael, to find a single-engine Bonanza 35 V, a four-passen-

ger aircraft, down. It appeared that a student pilot and a flight instructor occupied the aircraft. The occupants relayed to the Paramedics that they were flying from Sacramento to Fullerton when they experienced engine failure. The aircraft was heading westbound above the 134 freeway when they struck the back of a late-model Jeep SUV, which then flipped over, coming to rest on top of the aircraft. Approximately 25 gallons of aviation fuel leaked onto the freeway. We used foam on the surface of the fuel and did not have any ignition.

The two occupants, a female student and a male instructor, sustained moderate injuries to the head and arms. Both patients were transported to Huntington Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The following agencies assisted on scene: California Highway Patrol,

Pasadena Police Department, Cal Trans, NTSB and Haz Mat Specialist 3.

### House Fire

Major damage occurred to the first and second floors of a single-family residence in the 300 block of N. Raymond the evening of Aug. 10. Engine 36 arrived on scene to find smoke and fire showing from the rear of the house. We made entry into the front of the structure to find the main body of the fire on the second



floor. The fire was extinguished with two hand lines and one exposure line. Four adults and two adult children lived in the home. All were able to escape without injury.

The cause of this fire is under investigation. Units from South Pasadena Fire Department assisted us on scene. Numerous neighbors including Council Member Gordo assisted the occupants with their needs during the incident. The Red Cross was called for three of the adults to assist with housing and other personal needs. Estimated total damage was \$270,000 to the structure and contents.

### Promotions

Fire Engineer Jon Samardzich has been named the department's new Arson Investigator, and Firefighter Armando Guerrero was promoted to Captain, effective September 5.

### Retirements

Captains Dave Leonard and Roy Francis retired June 30 after 36 years and 24½ years, respectively, with the department. Engineer George Stalzer has retired after 20½ years.



*Eight firefighters were presented badges by Fire Chief Downs at a graduation ceremony held in July. The successful lateral recruits included: William Basulto, Janine Cochran, Andrew Cornelius, Todd Cremins, Gary Hobbs, Kirk McKay, Jacques Plummer and Trey Sorenson.*



*Sixteen recruits are undergoing a 16-week academy, scheduled to end in November. All but one are Paramedics. Pictured above is forceable entry training during week five.*



*A fully involved fire in an eight space, detached carport to the rear of a two-story apartment on N. Los Robles totaled two vehicles and two others were damaged by heat exposure.*

## SAN GABRIEL

Population: 42,374

Area: 4.10 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$2,460,825,804

### Engineer Gary Sauls

As this newsletter goes to press, the San Gabriel Fire Department is enduring one of those sad events that, when they occur, show us how fragile our existence can be. Engineer Gary Sauls, a member with 37 years'



service to the City of San Gabriel, died of cancer at his home on Sept. 6. Gary was diagnosed in June of this year, and at that time all of us were optimistic about his chances, but even with radiation and chemotherapy the cancer spread, and it became ap-

parent that Gary could not continue with the Department. Gary took retirement in August. Since that time, Department members have taken an active role in providing assistance and comfort to Gary's wife Robin, helping her with legal and hospice issues, both at home and when Gary was in the hospital. Department members have been at the Sauls's home 24 hours daily to assist where needed. Engineer Dave Blancett has taken on the role of family liaison, and is the conduit for information to and from the family as well as assisting in getting Gary's records, retirement issues, and legal issues taken care of so Robin was not burdened with these

concerns as she tried to enjoy the time she had left with Gary.

For the benefit of those who never had the opportunity to meet him, Gary was instrumental in setting up the Department's Swiftwater Rescue program, and he was very involved with the development of Swiftwater Rescue throughout Area C, from the conceptual stage to the reality. For those of us who rode with him in years past, Gary was a darn good EMT (in the days prior to Paramedic service), calm and steady, blessed with lots of tolerance for rookie mistakes, consistently in good spirits, and a first-rate example of how one should conduct himself around his co-workers. A beautiful service was held Sept. 13 in honor of this husband, co-worker, friend, and just plain decent human being.

### Personnel

San Gabriel has hired two new Firefighter/Paramedics. The first of these is Sean Irwin, formerly an Auxiliary with our Department, who lives in Agua Dulce with his wife and two children. Sean, while involved with our Auxiliary program, took advantage of an opportunity to attend paramedic school, graduated, and took a job with AMR Ambulance Company while testing for the fire department. On July 28 of this year, Sean began his two-week orientation and was then assigned to the "C" shift.

The second new Firefighter/Paramedic is Joseph Linderoth, who was working as a Paramedic with AMR in the Hemet area when he was hired by San Gabriel. Joseph began his orientation on August 22 and started his shift duty with the "A" shift on Sept. 4. Joseph is married with two children



and lives in Murrieta.

In the above picture, both new Firefighters (Linderoth on the left, Irwin right) were encouraged to smile and look happy. We've all experienced the deep depression that comes with getting hired by the Fire Department, being given a badge and helmet, riding on the big rigs and going on the calls, in short getting the best job on the planet, but they did their best to look like they'll enjoy it.

There is a happy peregrine falcon out there today, in part because FF/PM Antonio Negrete didn't have gas. While on his way to work one fine morning, Antonio stopped to gas up his truck at the 76 station at the corner of Rosemead and Duarte Road. While fueling his truck, he heard something hit the station roof overhead; he walked around his truck to see what had happened and noticed a large bird lying on the ground. As he approached, the bird righted itself and began to hop away with its left wing out to the side, apparently injured. The bird, which appeared to be a hawk, hopped into a planter on the edge of the property and hid itself from view. Antonio didn't know the Humane Society's number, so he called Verdugo and they tried to contact Humane, but could only leave a message. Antonio contacted the station manager and informed him that the Humane Society would be coming later and gave the location of the bird. Humane did pick up the bird, contacted a bird rescue organization, and the hawk was put in their care.

About two months later, Antonio was contacted by Linda Chalk, the person who cared for the bird, which had been determined to be a peregrine falcon. The falcon had suffered a "through and through" wound in its left wing and would have simply stayed in the bushes until it died, had it not been rescued. With the care given by Linda and her agency, the falcon was now healed and ready to be set free, so she contacted Antonio and made arrangements to bring the falcon to

Station 51 on July 23 and set it free from the station's back yard. As you can see from the picture, this falcon is a magnificent bird, and because of the intervention of Antonio, Verdugo Dispatch, the Humane Society and Linda Chalk, it is back in its environment and was last seen over Almansor Golf Course, high in a tree, surveying its empire and looking for lunch.

### ISO Survey

The Department is undergoing its ISO survey again and Battalion Chief Richard Beckman, assisted by Captain Jeff Roy, is coordinating our efforts to gather all the information that the ISO requires. Instrumental in our in-



formation gathering is Lenia Scanlon, who is able to find the statistics and run information that the ISO wants and is creating the maps that show stations and apparatus of first alarm units, district and jurisdiction boundaries, and all the other odds and ends that the ISO uses to figure how a fire department rates. Rich Kaufman also did a lot of work to respond to the dispatch portion of the questionnaire. This ISO survey is interesting in that it is the first since Unified Response has come into effect, and it will be interesting to see how the ISO figures it into the results, especially since Unified Response is not yet a signed document. Fingers crossed ...we're looking for an improved rating from our present Class 4.

### Station Modifications

Plans are in the works for an expansion of the garage at Station 51 in

order to house the new USAR vehicle. The new rig is longer than the usual reserve engine that is kept in the garage, so the Department has had to do some planning to accommodate both a reserve engine and the USAR, and this can only be done with an extension of the front of the garage that will add an additional 14 feet of depth (672 sq. ft.) to the existing 1776 sq. ft. area of the garage. The plans were drawn by FF/PM Dave Williams and the entire project is under the direction of Battalion Chief Mike Terry. As soon as the plans are reviewed by the City Attorney and okayed by the City Manager, the project will go out to bid. We are hoping that the project will be started this year and completed in the first couple of months of 2006.

Along with expanding Station 51's garage, the Department is changing the front of Station 52. The North Station was built in 1949 and has two apparatus doors in front. The station was designed when fire engines were smaller and said "Mack" on the front, but now they say "Pierce" and are a lot larger, and getting even bigger with each new model, so that center column separating the two doors is going to be removed and the two existing apparatus doors will be replaced with one large apparatus door. This alteration will be part of the bid for the garage extension at 51's, so the vendor that wins the bid will do the work at

both stations. This improvement should eliminate the extra paperwork, Supervisor's reports, shame and humiliation that come with tailboards meeting structural members, and will allow the Department to reallocate those monies formerly used to fund small quantities of plaster and paint.

### Wellness Program

The Department has started a "Wellness" program under the auspices of Santa Ana College. The impetus to involve the Department came from Captain Bryan Frieders in an effort to get all Department members more involved in improving their own fitness level and creating an individual health baseline for each member. The program is voluntary and includes an individual health history survey, a blood profile (including Hep C and PSA) for each individual and a fitness assessment that includes a treadmill, strength testing, and flexibility testing. Along with all the testing there are lectures on nutrition and physical fitness. The cost to the Department is under \$100 for each member participating. The results are given only to the individual, not the Department, but the Department does receive a report showing the general fitness level of the Department as a whole.

### Disaster Exercise

On November 17 of this year, San

Gabriel will suffer widespread illness and death caused by an aerosolized anthrax terror event. How do we know this? Because that's when this year's countywide disaster exercise unfolds, and, as it has in the past, San Gabriel will actively participate. This event will simulate a WMD situation that doesn't start all at once, as in the usual emergency; it will happen over time, and will grow in intensity as the infective agent goes through its usual incubation period before erupting in the affected population. The City's EOC has been undergoing equipment and technology upgrades over the past several months, and the new equipment will be in place for the exercise. Leading up to the exercise, the City will have planning and training sessions for City employees to gain expertise with the technology upgrades and ready the staff for its use during the drill.

The new engine is here, and soon San Gabriel will not have to depend on Glendale or San Marino for a rig when an engine goes out of service. Our new engine, a Pierce 2005 Quantum (2000 gpm pump, CAFS) will be assigned to Station 52; the 1995 E-One currently in service will then revert to reserve status and be housed at Station 51. The new rig is on the Pierce Manufacturing website under "New Deliveries" if you can't come by and see it. Projected date for in-service is September 12.

## SAN MARINO

Population: 13,673

Area: 3.75 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$3,031,310,504



**San Marino Employee of the Year**  
Engineer/Paramedic Mark Dondanville was chosen Employee of the Year by the members of the de-

partment. He was honored by the San Marino Masonic Lodge at a recognition dinner on September 7, and again at the City Council Meeting

September 14. Mark joined the department in 1996 and has retained the same enthusiasm and positive attitude he had the day he started. He is a true "utility player" who is qualified to act in any position from Firefighter to Captain. He lives in Rancho Cucamonga with his wife and four children. Congratulations, Mark!

### San Marino Hires Two New Firefighter/Paramedics

San Marino hired two FF/PMs in August, the first hiring in two years.

Continued from p.14

Michael White is 24 years old and lives in Torrance. He was a Volunteer Firefighter with Pepperdine University as well as a reserve with Hermosa and Manhattan Beach Fire

Departments. David Tannehill is married with two children and lives in Mission Viejo. He has been a reserve firefighter with Monterey Park and Fountain Valley Fire Depart-

ments. Both men received their paramedic training at PTI. We welcome them to San Marino and the "Unified Response" team.

## SIERRA MADRE

Population: 11,146

Area: 3.0 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$1,113,758,293

### Personnel

Engineer Steve Tuttle has been promoted to the role of Acting Captain, replacing the voice left by Captain Raymond Smith. Captain Tuttle has been a key member of the department and brings outstanding leadership and experience to his crew.

Firefighter Ryan Torncello entered Paramedic school in August. Firefighters Jen Dabney and Mark Chavez graduated from the Glendale



Engineer Steve Tuttle

Arroyo Seco Fire Academy on September 11.

### Training

Sierra Madre is in the process of evaluating their training curriculum and programs. To insure we main-

tain the highest standards demanded by our community, we have awarded our EMS Training program to UCLA. We are also in the process of evaluating multiple agencies to award our Firefighter/Engineer training to. We anticipate moving our training to an outside agency within the next few months.

Weekly drills following the IFSTA manual are conducted at Station 41 every Wednesday night, with manipulative drills every other Friday and each weekend. An in-depth vehicle extrication course is scheduled for the month of September.

### Incidents

We have recently had several small structural fires over the past several months, and suffered minimal property damage with no injuries or loss of life.

## SOUTH PASADENA

Population: 25,789

Area: 3.44 sq.mi.

Assessed Value:  
\$2,300,447,704

The South Pasadena Fire Department recently hired three new firefighter/paramedics. They are Daniel Dunn, Shawn Ward, and Ken Harris. We still have two openings and plan on testing within the next 60

days. We also placed two of our personnel on the FEMA list to respond to the areas ravaged by hurricane Katrina. Those personnel are Rich Jenkins and Cliff Snider.

We continue to run without a Fire Chief until the City Council decides what direction they want to go in regarding consolidated services. In the meantime, the three Battalion Chiefs are serving in the capacity of Acting Fire Chief on the days they are on duty. The City Council is projecting a meeting concerning consolidated services sometime in late September or early October.

We will be hosting the Six-Cities

Critical Incident Stress Management Team meeting for department co-coordinators on October 26 at 0830 hours. The meeting will take place in the fire department's training room and will include topics such as team direction and continuing education.





## New Verdugo Paging Feature

CAD is now ready to send dispatch information to wireless devices upon dispatch of a unit to an incident. Much like activation of a page to wireless devices triggered by a specific incident type or alarm level, CAD can now initiate a page to a wireless device upon dispatch of that unit.

For example, if Battalion 2 (BC2) is dispatched to an incident, the dispatch information can be sent to the wireless device of any individual(s) currently signed-on to that unit, providing they are previously identified in the paging program for this function.

This could supplement, or perhaps even replace, the current 2-tone activated voice pagers. It could also be used by Paramedics in hospitals, etc., to receive emergency dispatch information when away from a rig and with limited phone and/or radio availability. All that is required is a wireless device to be associated with an individual in the paging software, and for that individual to be signed onto a unit being dispatched.

If any of your personnel, when signed onto a unit being dispatched, would like to receive dispatch information on a wireless device, just let



*Congratulations to Jessie Westin, who was promoted to Fire Communications Shift Supervisor on Aug. 16.*

me know. All I need is the CAD ID and name of the individual. If the individual is not already associated with a wireless device in our system, I will also need to know type of device and phone number (either of the device or to the service), and/or PIN, and/or e-mail address as appropriate for the specific device.

## UPDATE: Verdugo CAD Upgrade

**Phase 1: Alpha Migration** – Installation occurred June 15 and the new system is functioning well, with dramatically increased processing speed. This phase included migration of existing CAD functionality to new hardware and the programming of eight new functions:

1. Expand fire station IDs from 2 to 3 characters.
2. Increase length of jurisdiction and dispatch group IDs from 2 to 3 characters and increase the number of jurisdictions.
3. Increase the size of the “Age” field on the incident entry mask from 2 to 4 characters.
4. Add new fields to the incident entry mask and incident history record: a 6-character “Ext” field to the incident entry mask and a 12-character “Loc Phone” field to the incident entry mask. Re-label “Phone” field to display “RP Phone.”
5. Add new incident code to denote cell phone call.
6. Increase the length of the cross street field in the geo-database from 18 to 25 characters.
7. Increase the length of the street field in the geo-database from 18 to 25 characters.
8. Increase street type from 2 to 4 characters in length.

**GUI Enhancements** – Two Graphic User Interface enhancements will be installed and tested this fall:

1. Add desktop “drag & drop” func-

tionality for moving units to new districts.

2. Add functionality to the desktop client to include a function key to clear the command line.

**Additional Enhancements** – Sixteen additional enhancements are also being programmed, tested and installed as they become available:

1. Changes to the CAD ANI/ALI interface to accept “Phase II” information, including cell phone location.
2. Upgrade the CAD EMS triage functionality to version implemented formerly at the San Diego Fire Department. (In Progress)
3. Page unit personnel automatically upon dispatch of the unit. (Completed)
4. Provide fire station alerting notification to the workstation status monitor.
5. Changes to the CAD unit, incident and system history segment timestamp displays in hours-minutes-seconds (“hhmmss”) format.
6. Display premise information upon address verification via incident mask or LV command.
7. Display units with special contact (SC) information in blue on dispatch recommendation command line.
8. Access TRIAGE menu using unit ID, e.g. “TRIA E21”
9. Increase the number of stations in the station order list from 30 to 50.
10. Increase the information field in BLK (fire station order) and FRL files.
11. Supplemental call information sent to assigned units’ mobile computer terminals.
12. Write complete ANI/ALI data to incident history upon call creation.
13. Display unit status changes initiated by mobile computer terminals & MODATs on all status monitors.
14. Change incident’s FRQ assignment via desktop fill-in box.
15. Increase the Target Hazard Numbers to 20. (In Progress)
16. Motorola Push-to-Talk Gold Elite Interface. (In Progress)

**Phase 2: Mapping** – We are making excellent progress on a number of mapping issues, listed below. We hope to install mapping on dispatch workstations and on the mobile computer terminals in the rigs in January. This phase represents nearly \$320,000 of the \$1.2 million allocated for the CAD upgrade and includes mapping of freeways & streets (including alleys and larger private driveways), hydrants, fire stations, “cultural features” (schools, parks, government buildings, stadiums/amphitheatres, police/sheriff stations, hospitals, studios, railroads, airports, etc.), hydrology (lakes, rivers, streams), city boundaries, and property parcels for all 11 Area C cities. This includes over 126 square miles of densely populated terrain.

- **Field Surveys** – Fire companies at 32 of the 40 Area C fire districts field-validated their streets and block addresses, along with hydrant locations if their city had provided those. Changes/corrections were hand-written on large maps and those changes are being entered now.

- **Hydrants** – Four of the cities had not yet mapped their hydrants and fire personnel from those cities drew approximate hydrant locations on their field survey maps. Those hydrants have now been digitized as georeferenced (lat/lon) locations in our map data.

- **Training** – A two-day training session was held Sept. 13-14 at Verdugo for those who will be involved with map data upkeep (dispatch staff, City GIS staff, GIS consultant).

- **Parcel Address Data** – We were very fortunate to acquire the parcel address data for the seven Area C cities that do not have reciprocity agreements with the County, for a total cost of only \$226. Parcel data for the other four cities was free of charge.

- **City Boundaries** – We were amazed to discover how much discrepancy there is between Thomas Bros. map data versus LA County map data versus the various cities’ impressions of where their boundaries lie. A surprising number of street segments are questionable as to which city they belong to and it is beyond the scope and budget of this project to verify and correct all of them. We will be recommending to the Area C GIS Users Group that they collaborate on validation of all of their city boundaries in the near future.

- **Fire Blocks** – One attribute of the street centerline layer is Fire Block, which will determine which types/how many apparatus are dispatched to a particular type of incident at a given address. Significant effort and time have been spent making certain this attribute is accurate and that no street segment has been left unassigned or incorrectly assigned. All that remains is to de-

termine which fire block each segment of freeway in the 11 cities belongs to, such as “eastbound 134 fwy from Pacific to Central” or “northbound 2 fwy from 134 fwy to Mountain,” etc. Freeways are a unique situation and therefore have their own fire blocks.

- **MCT Map Display** – We are the first fire/rescue dispatch center in the country with our particular type of CAD system to receive the CommandPoint map display application and the vendor is hoping Verdugo will be a demo site that will convince future customers to buy this product. However, there is only one version of the application and we see the need for two distinct versions: one for dispatch and a mobile version for the rigs. Although the current version will work fine at Verdugo, it is not optimized for use in a fire engine or ambulance. We are currently receiving input from fire personnel in Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena who are experimenting with the map display and determining which function buttons would be highest priority and which can be deleted, optimal screen layout and content, zoom in/out features, etc. We hope to meet with representatives from Northrop Grumman I.T. (the CAD vendor) in the next few weeks to demonstrate our recommendations.

- **Map Layers:**

Street centerlines including fire block designations

Hydrants

Fire Station Points

Cultural Features Points (government facilities, recreational/community facilities, educational facilities, public safety facilities, hospitals, cultural facilities, rail stations and airports)

Cultural Features Polygons (similar to those listed above)

Hydrology Lines

Hydrology Polygons

Parks Polygons

Area C City Boundaries

Unnamed Alleys and Private Driveways

Thomas Bros. Page Grid

Property Parcel Polygons

Non-Area C City Boundaries

Non-Area C Freeways and Major Roads

**Funding** – We were approved to receive \$180,490 from State 9-1-1 funds for the mapping aspects of this CAD upgrade and we have submitted the paperwork for this reimbursement.

**Data Storage, Retrieval and Analysis** – Thanks to the expertise of Jason Pfau, we now have a system for generating the following monthly reports that used to require special queries in the old MIS module of the CAD system. In addition, he has built a query module where

one can look up a particular incident or range of incidents with similar attributes like address, incident type, category, city, etc. for a given time period – for example, all the incidents that occurred at 700 N. Central between Jan. 2000 and Dec. 2003. This module contains data dating back to January 2000 and new data is added monthly. At this point we are unable to share this module with other agencies because of licensing and server issues, but it is expected that the existing system of requesting ad hoc reports from Verdugo staff members will continue as it always has. One really exciting benefit of this new module is that Incident Histories dating back to Jan. 2000 are now available when previously they were no longer on the system 6-7 months after an incident.

**Reports:** # incidents by category and city; # incidents by type and city; # incidents per hour by day with totals and %s; average dispatch handling time; call receive time by dispatcher; response times – average and % under 5 minutes; raw data for sorting and selecting including such parameters as incident #, case #, city, unit, address, fire block, incident type, category, dispatch time, enroute time, onscene time and cleared time.

**NFIRS Reporting** – FireHouse is still modifying the interface that takes CAD data dumped to our RMS server and inserts it into fields in the FireHouse application. The GLENFIRS programmer finished revising his interface and it was installed Aug. 9 with no problems.

**Phase 3: Automatic Vehicle Location** – The AVL subsystem will be installed and tested during **March 2006**, moving to live CAD and mobile clients in **mid-April 2006**. We expect to use Garmin GPS 18 units in the 100 front-line apparatus for vehicle locations. Verdugo will be purchasing these units (under \$100 apiece) and each city will be responsible for its own installations (estimated at 20-30 minutes apiece).

**Phase 4: Automatic Vehicle Recommendation and Routing** – The AVRR subsystem will be installed and tested during **July 2006**.



## Fire Department Strike Team I Wildland Fire Deployment Standards

**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 & Engineer

*(Must be completed by Sept. 2005)*

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

#### Captain *(Must be completed by Sept. 2005)*

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

#### Chief Officer

*(Should have been completed by Aug. 1, 2004!)*

- I-300, S-215, S-330 or S-334, S-336, S-390, S-301

## UNIFIED RESPONSE

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

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

**Fire Chiefs:** Mike Clark, David Cruz, Dennis Downs, Chris Gray, Phil (& Acting Guiral, Vince Kemp, Roger Lowe, David Lugo, Rich Fire Chiefs) Mayhew, Cathleen Orchard, Joe Nestor, Tracy Pansini, John Penido

**Contributors:** (In addition to the Fire Chiefs mentioned above)  
Tony Trabbie, Rich Garstang, Jim Anderson, Harry Crusberg, Lenia Scanlon, Roberta Mirzayans, Rich Kaufman, Lisa Derderian, Shari Miller, Tony Bagan, Robert Navarro

**Proofreading:** Michael Matlock, Janet Scollard

### VERDUGO INCIDENTS: SUMMER 2005 COMPARED TO SUMMER 2004

Summer 2005	VERDUGO	%	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS
FIRE	2,271	16.5	198	383	401	123	107	716	83	52	28	76
MEDICAL	10,478	76.2	723	1,586	3,003	620	647	2,869	402	122	128	279
SERVICE	742	5.4	61	121	172	46	51	186	29	27	11	22
OTHER	13	0.1	1	1	4	0	1	4	0	0	1	0
OOV*	239	1.7	8	20	52	11	59	21	25	23	1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,743</b>		<b>991</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>3,796</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>387</b>

Summer 2004	VERDUGO	%	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS
FIRE	2,142	17.2	209	340	387	119	(Not yet part of Verdugo System)	784	63	58	16	64
MEDICAL	9,305	74.9	657	1,639	2,817	573		2,601	406	146	111	286
SERVICE	727	5.9	70	109	193	48		179	31	27	19	38
OTHER	34	0.3	2	0	18	0		8	3	1	0	2
OOV*	217	1.7	17	18	54	21		22	32	33	4	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,425</b>		<b>955</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>3,469</b>	<b>761</b>		<b>3,594</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>405</b>

#### 2004 vs. 2005 Comparison: Percent Difference

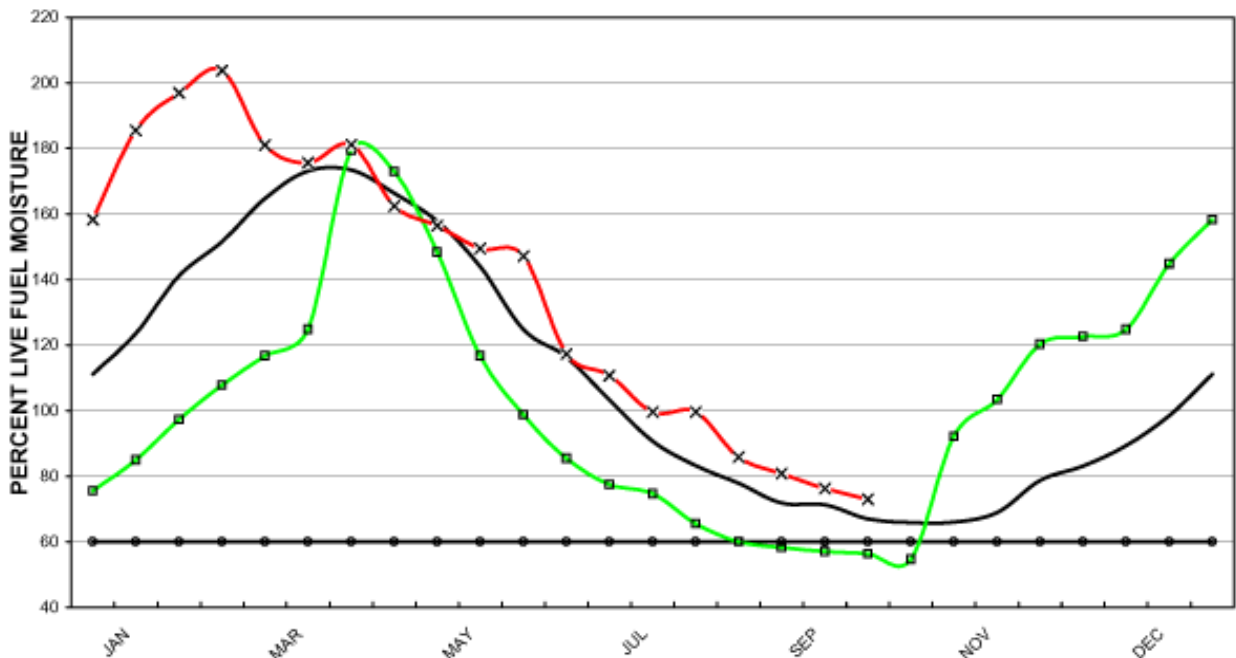
	VERDUGO	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS
Fire	+6.0%	-5.3%	12.6%	3.6%	3.4%	(Not yet part of Verdugo System)	-8.7%	31.7%	-10.3%	75.0%	18.8%
Medical	+12.6%	10.0%	-3.2%	6.6%	8.2%		10.3%	-1.0%	-16.4%	15.3%	-2.4%
Total	+10.6%	3.8%	0.2%	4.7%	5.1%		5.6%	0.7%	-15.5%	12.7%	-4.4%

\* Monterey Park joined the Verdugo System on Feb. 1, 2005. Data from Summer 2004 is unavailable at this time.

\*\* Responses outside the Verdugo System are to such locations as Los Angeles City, Los Angeles County and Alhambra (and also included Monterey Park before Feb. 1, 2005).



## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LIVE FUEL MOISTURE 1981-2005 AVERAGE ALL AREAS - ALL FUELS



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**



http://www.lacofd.org/Forestry\_folder/LFM/AllAreaGraph090905.pdf

## Verdugo Fire System Units: Total Responses June, July & August 2005

	<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>		<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>		<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Total Responses</u>		
<b>Arcadia</b>	E105	383	<b>Glendale (cont.)</b>	E27	543	<b>Pasadena (cont.)</b>	E37	333		
	E106	479		E28	174		E38	194		
	E107	206		E29	256		E39	164		
	RA105	393		HM27	9		RA31	784		
	RA106	386		RA21	1,049		RA32	642		
	T105	131		RA25	962		RA33	864		
	AU106	1		RA26	859		RA36	808		
	USR06	3		RA29	460		RA737	0		
<b>Burbank</b>	E11	595	T21	231	T31	292	<b>San Gabriel</b>	E51	311	
	E12	379	T26	210	T32	216		E52	250	
	E13	384	T29	58	USAR32	5		RA51	387	
	E14	345	USAR26	6	<b>San Marino</b>	E91	256	RA91	274	
	E15	449	WT21	2		E41	46	<b>Sierra Madre</b>	RA41	167
	E16	184	E101	487		RA81	45		<b>South Pas.</b>	E81
	E18	16	E102	368	RA81	292	<b>Verdugo dispatching non-Verdugo units:</b>			
	HM12	15	SQ101	416	<b>Alhambra</b>	E71	27	E72	45	
	RA11	578	T101	130		E73	19	E74	47	
	RA13	540	WT101	4	T71	61	RA71	0		
	RA15	611	<b>Mont. Park</b>	E61	357	RA74	18			
	T11	201		E62	277					
	T12	128	E63	261						
	USAR11	7	RA61	388						
	WT16	0	RA62	328						
<b>Glendale</b>	AU28	5	T61	97						
	E21	751	<b>Pasadena</b>	E31	851					
	E22	549		E32	457					
	E23	68		E33	810					
	E24	238		E34	511					
E25	720	E36		826						
<b>Glendale</b>	E26	586								

\*Reserve rigs are included in the total for their assigned station. For example, the E41 total includes E241 & E341 responses.

### RESPONSE TIME ANALYSIS: June, July & August 2005

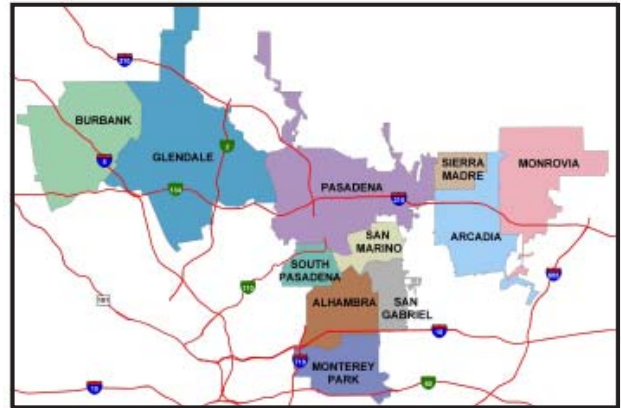
<b>AVERAGE ONSCENE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)</b>	
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Min:Sec</u>
ARCADIA	4:17
BURBANK	4:11
GLENDALE	3:59
MONROVIA	4:19
MONTEREYPARK	4:59
PASADENA	4:12
SANGABRIEL	4:12
SANMARINO	3:46
SIERRAMADRE	5:08
SOUTHPASADENA	3:59

<b>PERCENT OF RESPONSES UNDER 5 MINUTES</b>	
<u>Agency</u>	<u>Percent &lt;5 min.</u>
ARCADIA	71.0%
BURBANK	75.9%
GLENDALE	80.9%
MONROVIA	71.1%
MONTEREYPARK	54.6%
PASADENA	77.1%
SANGABRIEL	77.1%
SANMARINO	78.5%
SIERRAMADRE	58.0%
SOUTHPASADENA	78.1%

**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 mobile computer terminal when arriving at an incident) or cancellation of a unit enroute.

## OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSES: SUMMER 2005

The following tables show the number of out of jurisdiction responses for each fire department during June, July & August 2005, compared to the same three months a year earlier. 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. "XBB" refers to locations outside the normal Area C/Los Angeles response region. "XAA" includes units such as private ambulances, private company fire engines, airport crash-related vehicles and helicopters.



Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS	ALH	LAC	LFD	XBB	
June, July, Aug. 2004															
ARC	X	0	0	58	1	15	6	0	0	0	1	13	0	2	96
BRK	0	X	73	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	3	92
GLN	1	50	X	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	17	36	1	128
MRV	61	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	1	82
MPK	0	0	0	0	X	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	10
PAS	19	1	11	3	0	X	1	7	0	26	0	16	5	1	90
SGB	0	0	0	2	2	0	X	7	0	1	19	10	0	1	42
SNM	1	0	0	2	1	51	59	X	0	36	10	21	0	1	182
SMD	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	3	0	1	6
SPS	0	0	0	0	0	103	9	24	0	X	9	2	3	1	151
ALH	3	0	0	1	0	0	31	4	0	10	X	2	0	2	53
LAC	14	0	12	10	0	4	10	3	0	0	0	X	1	1	55
LFD	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	X	0	12
XAA	11	21	5	562	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	X	608
Subtotals	111	72	104	640	4	202	124	45	0	81	39	116	53	16	1607

Responding Agencies	City Where Incident Occurred														Subtotals
	ARC	BRK	GLN	MRV	MPK	PAS	SGB	SNM	SMD	SPS	ALH	LAC	LFD	XBB	
June, July, Aug. 2005															
ARC	X	0	0	55	0	9	1	0	3	0	0	8	0	0	76
BRK	1	X	85	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	8	11	0	110
GLN	0	60	X	0	0	14	0	1	0	0	0	16	36	0	127
MRV	54	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11	0	0	66
MPK	0	0	1	0	X	0	18	0	0	1	24	16	0	19	79
PAS	31	3	18	5	7	X	8	12	1	29	1	16	4	0	135
SGB	1	0	0	0	15	1	X	6	0	1	16	9	0	0	49
SNM	2	0	1	0	3	56	55	X	0	44	5	18	0	0	184
SMD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	1	0	0	2
SPS	0	0	0	0	3	17	2	20	0	X	9	0	1	0	52
ALH	0	0	0	0	62	1	40	11	0	17	X	1	1	0	133
LAC	11	0	12	13	12	3	10	2	0	0	0	X	1	0	64
LFD	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	X	0	9
XAA	22	20	6	627	17	7	0	1	0	0	3	2	1	X	706
Subtotals	122	83	127	701	120	110	134	53	5	98	59	106	55	19	1792

## Arroyo Seco Fire Academy Graduation

The Glendale Arroyo Seco Fire Academy is proud to announce the graduation of its Basic Fire Academy - Class VIII. On August 28, Class VIII concluded 11 months of basic fire academy training that meets the training requirements for Firefighter I certification under the California State Fire Marshal's certification system. The cadets had endured 780 hours of training every Saturday and Sunday for the past 11 months. In addition to the requirements for Firefighter I, the graduating Cadets have been certified in numerous FSTEP courses including Fire Control 3, 4, 5, and 6, RS1, Trench Rescue, Confined Space, S-190, Haz-Mat FRO and WMD. The Cadets spent a weekend at 29 Palms Marine Corps Base conducting jet fuel burns, and participated in flashover training at Miramar Marine Corps Base in San Diego. All graduating cadets were also successful in passing the Bittle PAT and are certified in EMT-B.

Of the 59 Cadets that started the program on September 11, 2004, thirty-eight were successful in completing the requirements for graduation. Five cadets have already been hired in full-time Firefighter positions, including Josh Massie (Pasadena), Brenda Akins (LA County FD), Ashley Haas (LA County FD), Adam Weiss (Clark County FD), and Corey Kuebler (Sacramento Metro FD). Several other cadets were sponsored and will move directly into auxiliary firefighter positions in their departments. Cadet Tyler Martin has enlisted in the Air Force and began Basic Training on September 7.

Our Honor Cadet for this class was Jason Chow. Cadet Chow also received the class awards for "Perfect Attendance," "Best Notebook," and Highest Academic Achievement." The cadets and staff have elected Engineer Jim Miller of the San Gabriel Fire Department as



the recipient of the "Roy Kline Instructor of the Year Award." Jim has been teaching with the GASFA for two years now and truly represents the quality education we strive to deliver.

Although Class VIII completed their training on August 28, they chose to conduct their graduation ceremony on September 11. Class VIII is the only class to begin training on September 11 and graduate on September 11.

The instructors and cadets of Class VIII would like to thank everyone who contributed to their success: Glendale FD, Pasadena FD, South Pasadena FD, San Gabriel FD, Sierra Madre FD, LAFD, LACoFD Camp 2, 29 Palms Marine Base, Miramar Marine Base, and the Chevron Refinery FD. Without your support we could not provide this quality of training to our future firefighters. If you would like more information about the GASFA, please contact Isman Salas at Glendale Community College at (818) 240-1000, Ext.5156. Our next class begins in January 2006.

*Anthony Bagan*

*Fire Technology Director, Glendale Community College*



Monrovia, Alhambra and Monterey Park Engines staging at the "Flying J" during the Gorman incident Sept. 3. Photo by Robert Navarro, Ventura County Fire Dispatch.

## UNIFIED RESPONSE

### Upcoming Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Winter 2005	Dec. 5
Spring 2006	Mar. 6
Summer 2006	June 5
Fall 2006	Sept. 6

**Mark your calendar!**