



### From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

Every month of the year, we in the OCFA recognize many annual awareness campaigns and cultural history celebrations, and May is no exception. Indeed, with May being Mental Health Awareness Month, the beginning of both Wildfire Awareness and Drowning Prevention Season, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, it is a heightened time of impact and responsibility for our agency.

As you will read and see below, we have proudly and effectively answered that call while also upholding and enhancing the stated commitment in our vision statement to "protect lives and property with first class public safety and emergency services through courage, compassion, and competency."

Of these three qualities — courage, compassion, and competency — all were on full display this past month, as evidenced by the stories and links below. But given our region's recent heartache from both the loss of life in a mass shooting and the loss of homes in a wildfire, I want to take a moment to focus on what is often the most important tenet in that trio: compassion.

A few weekends ago, I spent the afternoon at Coronado Pointe, the neighborhood that tragically lost homes in the Coastal Fire. As I made my way down the street, I stopped at a residence where, three days earlier, I had personally witnessed the property being partially saved by OCFA Strike Team 1402A, in the heat of an intense fire. And here were these same firefighters, some 72 hours later, working through the rubble to not only safely retrieve the family's most prized valuables, but also package and load them in their car to take to storage — all while comforting the residents as they askeed about why each item was so important to them.

The next day, I was on scene at the Laguna Woods church shooting. In addition to the courage and competency exhibited by our crews who treated and transported the victims, our compassion was once again on full display. Local 3631 leadership was present, partnering with Executive Management and Risk Management for a timely launch of our Critical Incident Stress Debrief. And as we were collaboratively arranging behavioral health services for our responding firefighters, our OCFA chaplains were also on scene — first at the incident and then in the hospital — providing support and spiritual counseling for victims and family members in need.

And of course, our OCFA Board of Directors were well-represented in their support and leadership throughout these incidents — from Chair Staggall, Vice Chair Kuo, and Directors Rains, Kalmick, and Bartlett's support on scene at the Coastal Fire to Directors Hatch and Bartlett's presence at the site of the church shooting, and on and on.

Indeed, it is clear that when we say "OCFA Family," it is not an empty tagline. It is heartfelt and who we are. And like all families, when we are tested by tragedy, our bonds only strengthen, our sense of community only heightens, and our respect for one another only deepens.

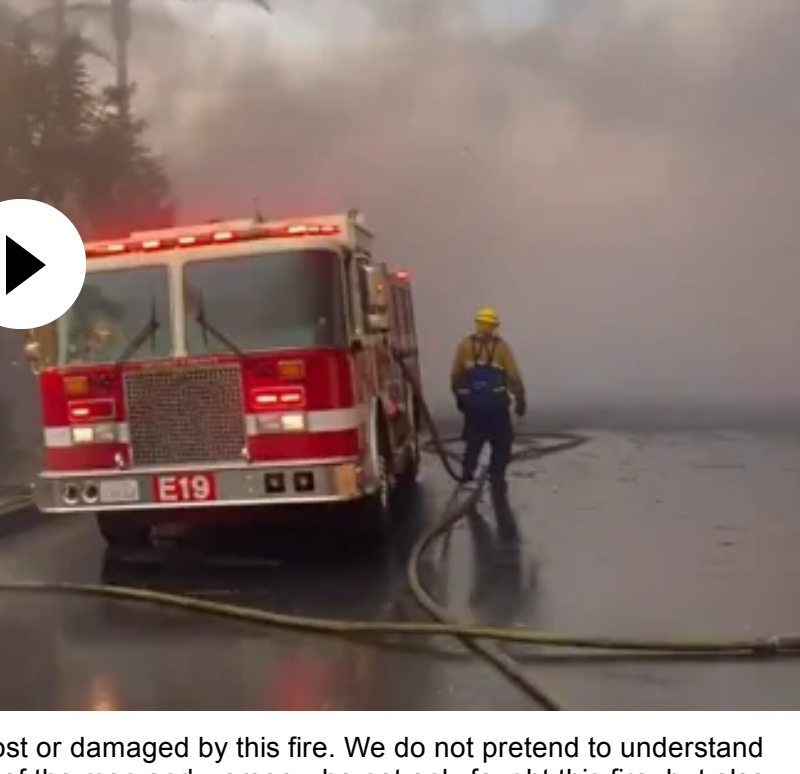
Thank you for breathing life into that truth, not just this past month, but every month, and not just for each other, but for every single one of the nearly two million residents we serve. Always with courage and competency, of course, but above all else, with heartfelt compassion as one OCFA Family.

What an honor to be a part of it.

Sincerely,  
Brian Fennessy  
Fire Chief

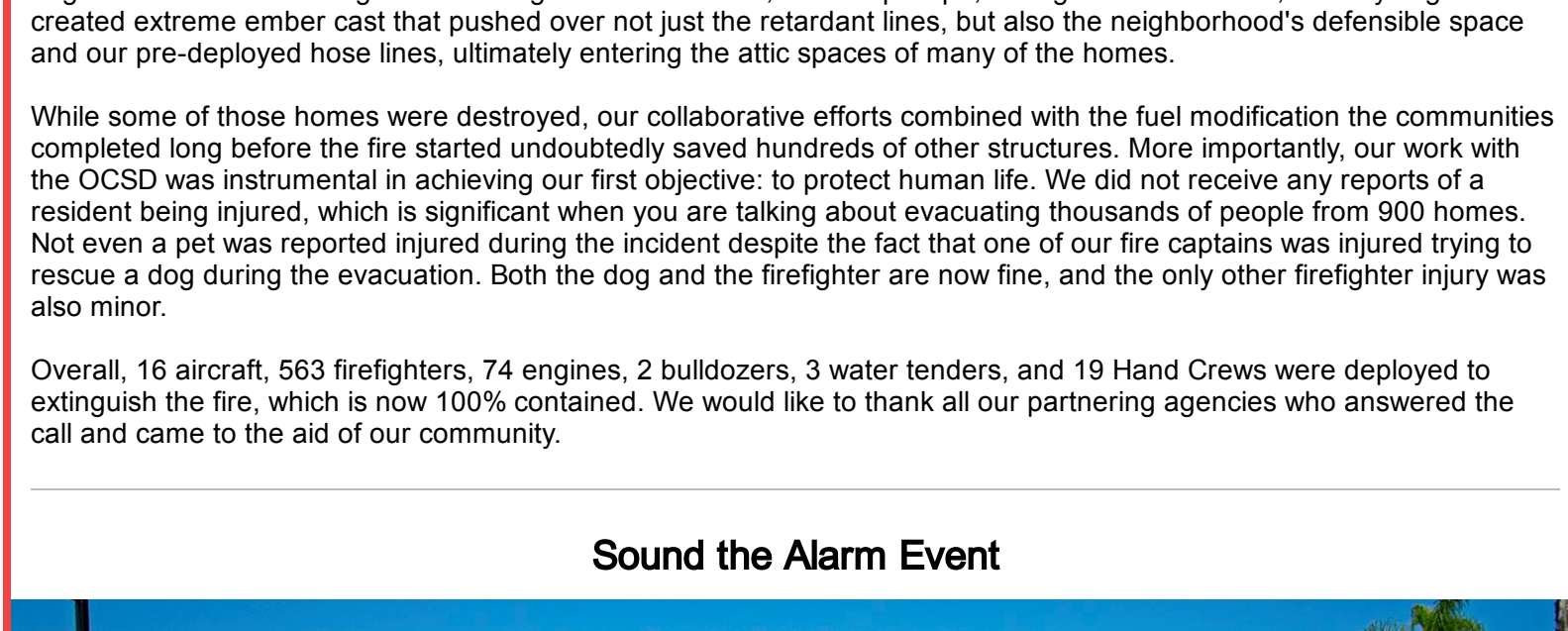
### IN THIS ISSUE

- Monthly Spotlight - Excellence in Service
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Updates
- Monthly OCFA Social Media Feature Topics
- Recognition Months
- Retirements



### MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

#### Coastal Fire



First, our hearts go out to the families whose homes were lost or damaged by this fire. We do not pretend to understand what the homeowners are going through, but we are proud of the men and women who not only fought this fire, but also stayed in the community to safely retrieve family heirlooms and provide a safe and supportive return for the evacuees.

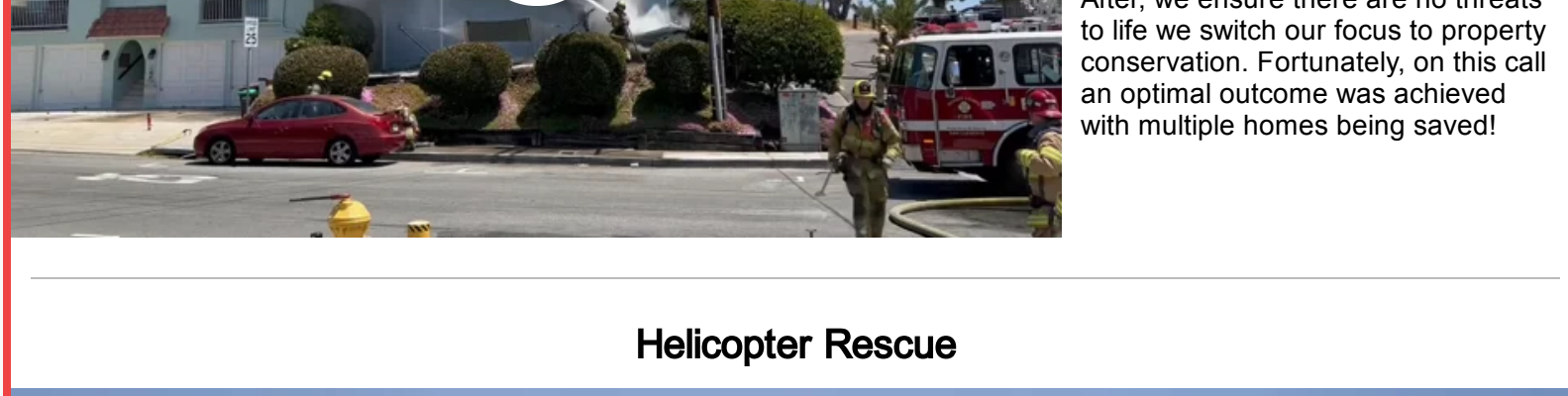
The initial attack on this vegetation fire centered around stopping it where it originated - in the bottom of Alicia Woods Canyon where the winds and topography were not as extreme. These efforts included numerous dozers, engines, and firefighters with hose lines around the fire in the canyon base and multiple helicopter water drops. During this initial attack, our continued assessment of the conditions and engagement with the fire prompted us to call in additional air support.

Despite these efforts, which included air support aggressively hitting the fire before it reached the homes and numerous engines and crews working from the neighborhoods above, the steep slope, strong sustained winds, and dry vegetation created extreme ember cast that pushed over not just the retardant lines, but also the neighborhood's defensible space and our pre-deployed hose lines, ultimately entering the attic spaces of many of the homes.

While some of those homes were destroyed, our collaborative efforts combined with the fuel modification the communities saved long before the fire started undoubtedly saved hundreds of other structures. More importantly, our work with the OCSD was instrumental in achieving our first objective: to protect human life. We did not receive any reports of a resident being injured, which is significant when you are talking about evacuating thousands of people from 500 homes. Not even a pet was reported injured during the incident despite the fact that one of our fire captains was injured trying to rescue a dog during the evacuation. Both the dog and the firefighter are now fine, and the only other firefighter injury was also minor.

Overall, 16 aircraft, 563 firefighters, 74 engines, 2 bulldozers, 3 water tenders, and 19 Hand Crews were deployed to extinguish the fire, which is now 100% contained. We would like to thank all our partnering agencies who answered the call and came to the aid of our community.

#### Sound the Alarm Event



The Orange County Fire Authority partnered with the American Red Cross and community volunteers to install free smoke alarms for the residents of Garden Grove on May 7th, 2022. A total of 486 smoke alarms were installed, and residents in all 660+ homes received information on fire safety and home escape plans.

#### San Clemente Structure Fire

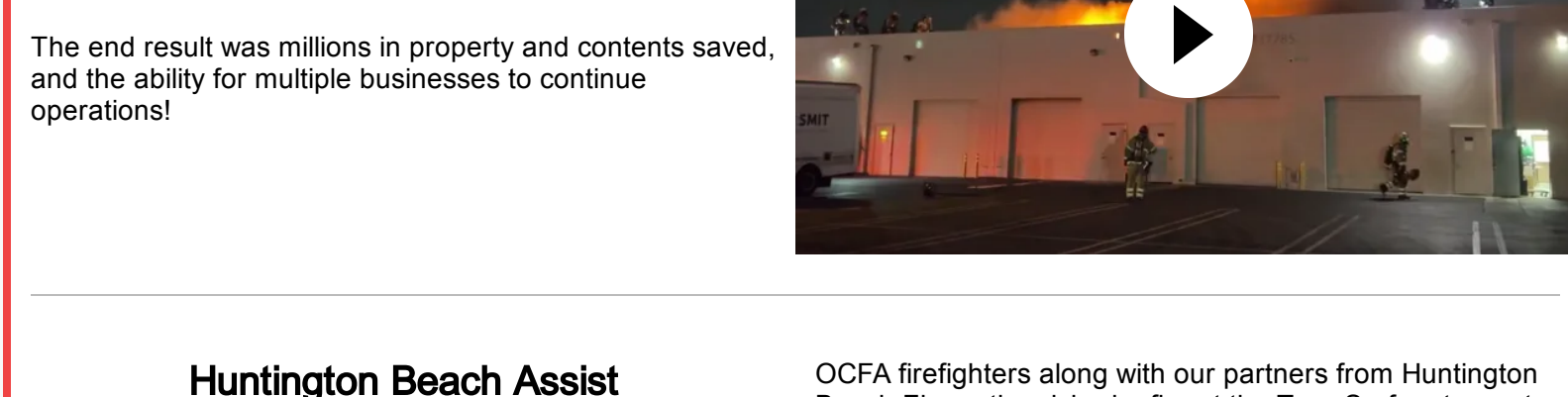


On May 7th firefighters rushed to the scene of a garage fire in San Clemente and quickly made a stop.

The fire was imminently threatening two separate apartment buildings. The rapid attack and deployment of resources saved both buildings from damage.

After, we ensure there are no threats to life we switch our focus to property conservation. Fortunately, on this call an optimal outcome was achieved with multiple homes being saved!

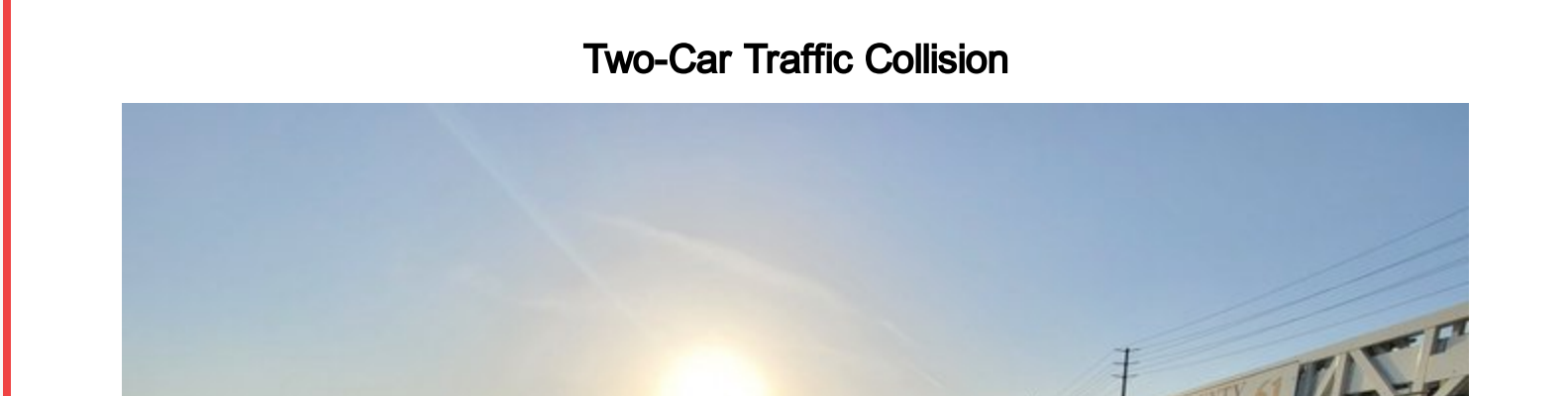
#### Helicopter Rescue



In mid-April Air Operations were called to assist Laguna Beach Fire & Lifeguards with rescuing an injured individual who was on the rocks near the water. Laguna Beach FF did a tremendous job treating and packaging the individual.

Our team then hoisted the patient into our helicopter where our helicopter rescue medic provided care during the transport. The reason this highly technical rescue looks so smooth is because the team trains constantly for any and every eventuality.

#### 3 Alarm Fire in Irvine

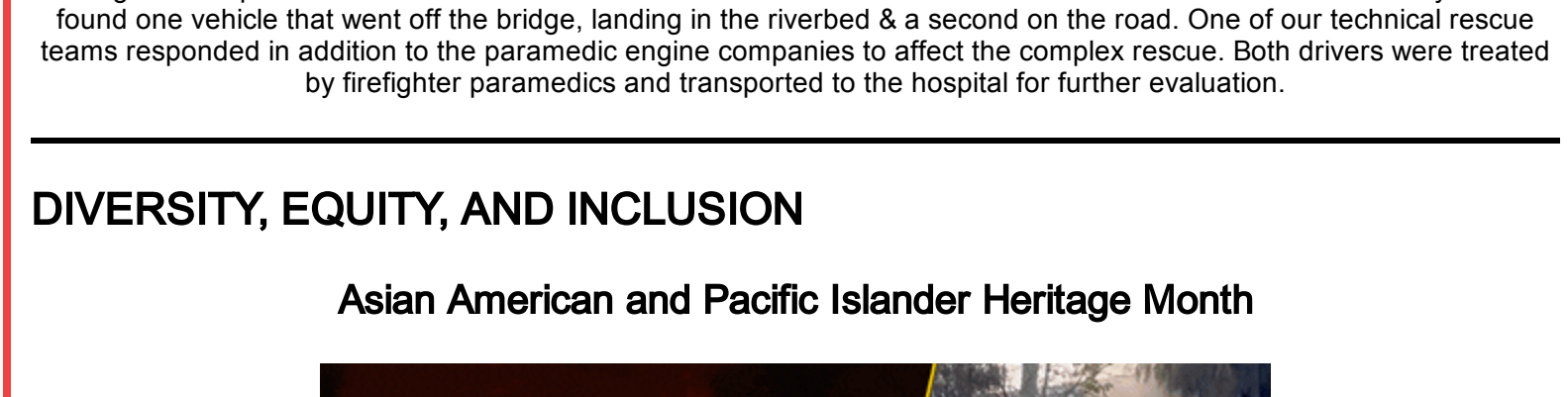


On April 20th a three alarm blaze broke out in an industrial strip center in Irvine. OCFA firefighters arrived on scene to find 2 units with significant fire involvement.

Fortunately, an aggressive, well-coordinated fire attack with simultaneous vertical ventilation on the roof contained the fire to the 2 suites of origin.

The end result was millions in property and contents saved, and the ability for multiple businesses to continue operations.

#### Huntington Beach Assist



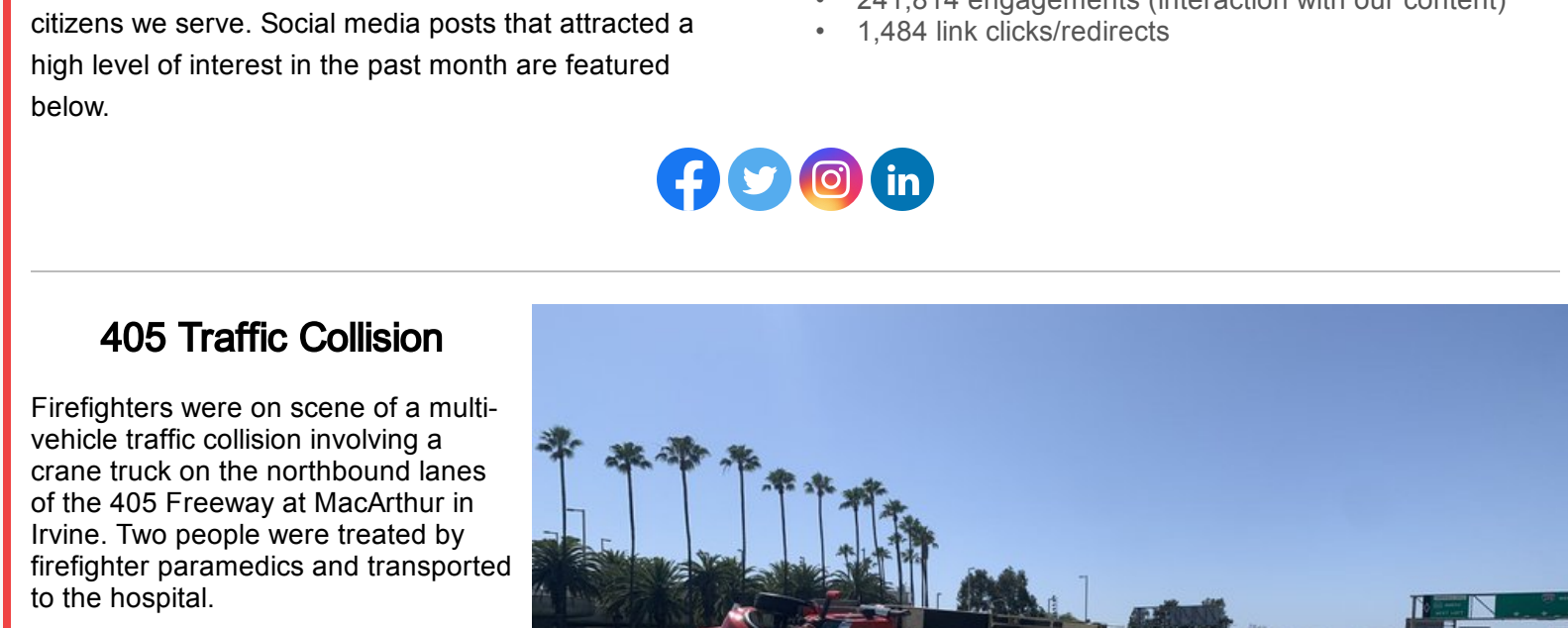
OCFA firefighters along with our partners from Huntington Beach Fire extinguished a fire at the Taco Surf restaurant in Surfside.

In the video you can see the impact Positive Pressure Ventilation has on the fire-ground.

Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) is a firefighting technique that involves the use of high-powered ventilation fans to remove smoke, heat, and other combustion products from a burning building so firefighters can perform tasks within the structure in a more tenable atmosphere.

Notice the change in smoke conditions within the structure in the video.

#### Two-Car Traffic Collision



Firefighters responded to a two-car traffic collision in the area of Katella Ave/East Willow St and the 605 freeway. Crews found one vehicle that went off the bridge, landing in the riverbed & a second on the road. One of our technical rescue teams responded in addition to the paramedic engine companies to assist the complex rescue. Firefighters were treated by firefighter paramedics and transported to the hospital for further evaluation.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

#### Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



For Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we are proud to celebrate just a handful of our outstanding AAPI firefighters and professional staff members on all OCFA social media outlets. More to come, including a tribute to retired Deputy Chief Craig "Kino" Knothita, so please continue to monitor our social media and join us in this important AAPI celebration!

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

OCFA's Corporate Communications personnel seek opportunities to share information of interest with the citizens we serve. Social media posts that attracted a high level of interest in the past month are featured below.

- Over the past month we had:
- 241,814 engagements (interaction with our content)
- 1,484 link clicks/redirections



#### 405 Traffic Collision



Firefighters were on scene of a multi-vehicle traffic collision involving a crane truck on the northbound lanes of the 405 Freeway at MacArthur in Irvine. Two people were treated by firefighter paramedics and transported to the hospital.

[View Social Media Post](#)

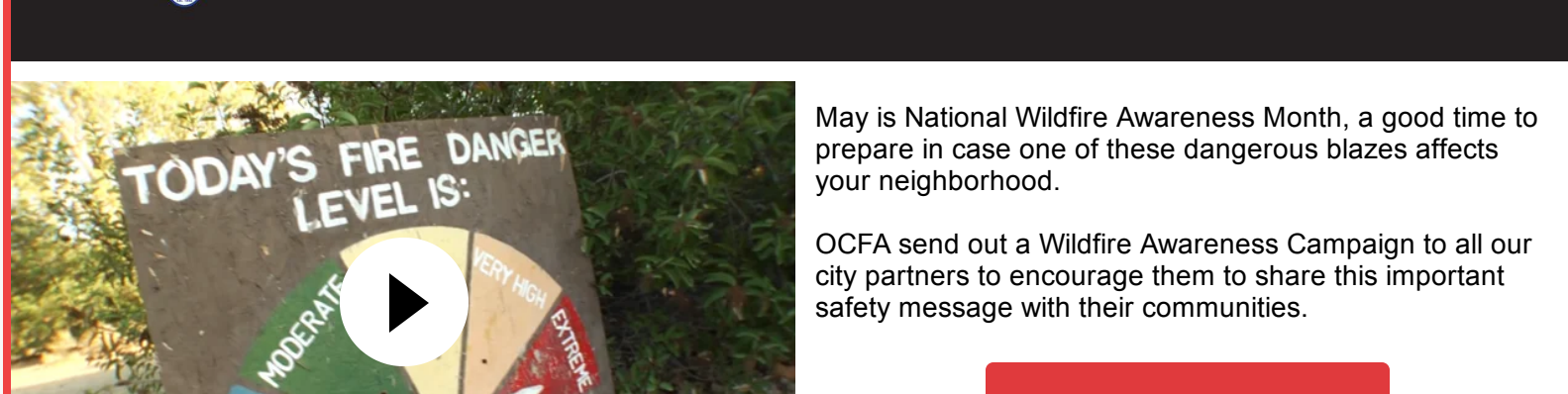
#### San Clemente Truck Fire



Due to a rapid response by firefighters, a large truck fire on the northbound 5 freeway at Cristobal Road was kept to a minimal and disaster prevented earlier today. Fortunately, no one was injured.

[View Social Media Post](#)

#### Big Rig Crash on 5 Freeway



A big rig crash can have big challenges. OCFA firefighter paramedics, truck firefighters, and Hazardous Materials Response Team provided patient care while also mitigating a fuel leak and a hydraulic fluid leak last night on the 5 freeway in Irvine. The driver of the so-vehicle collision declined ambulance transport.

[View Social Media Post](#)

### RECOGNITION MONTHS

#### Wildfire Awareness Month



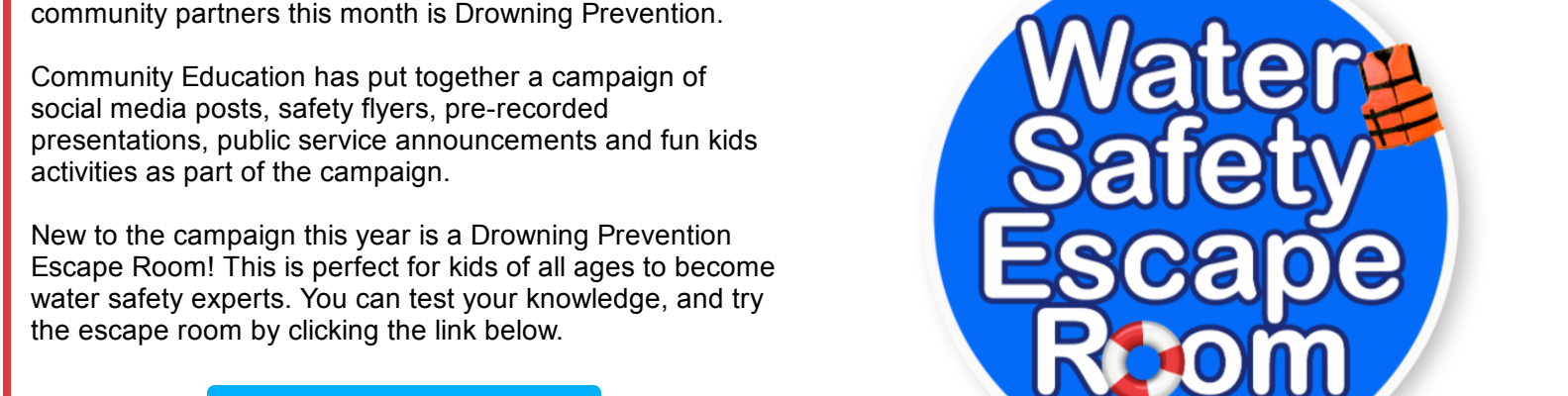
Today's FIRE DANGER LEVEL IS: LOW PRESENT

May is National Wildfire Awareness Month, a good time to prepare in case one of these dangerous blazes affects your neighborhood.

OCFA send out a Wildfire Awareness Campaign to all our city partners to encourage them to share this important safety message with their communities.

[Visit the RSG! Website](#)

#### FIRIS



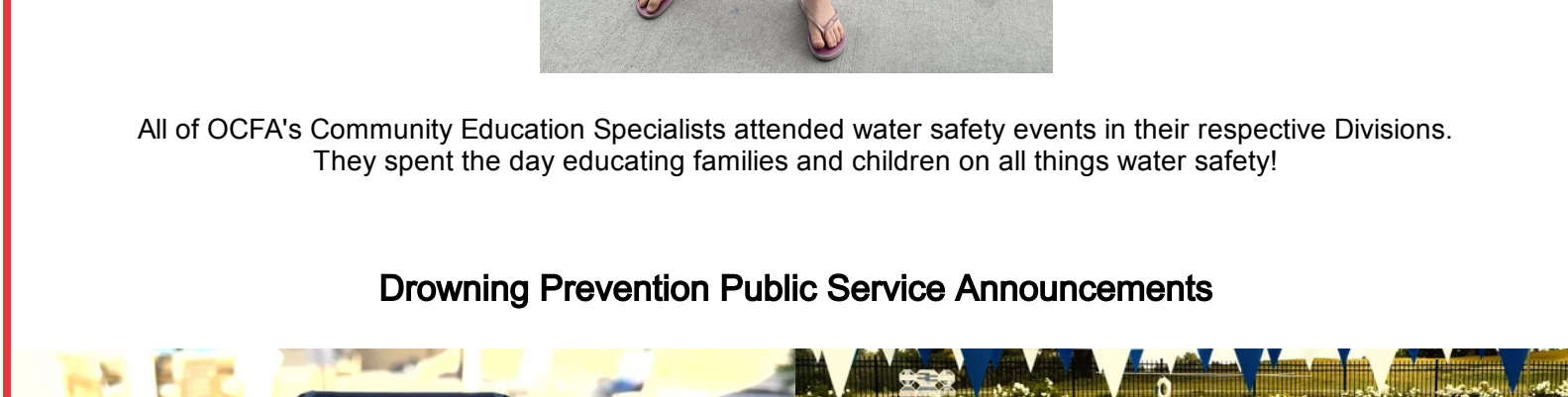
In recognition of Wildfire Preparedness Month, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is highlighting FIRIS, an enhanced technology to better detect and fight wildfires that is thoroughly explained in the above video.

Now a \$30 million dollar investment in California's mutual aid system and part of the governor's budget proposal that the legislature is on track to approve, FIRIS has proven to be an incredibly valuable resource for providing real time video intelligence, fire spread projections, and situational awareness during wildfire suppression.

On May 5, 2022, Chiefs Fennessy and Perkins were on hand as Subject Matter Experts for a Cal OES-led FIRIS Press Conference at the Hollywood Burbank Airport featuring Intel 24. Much of the coverage touted FIRIS' use and humble beginnings back to OCFA.

[Click Here to Read the Article](#)

#### Water Safety Month



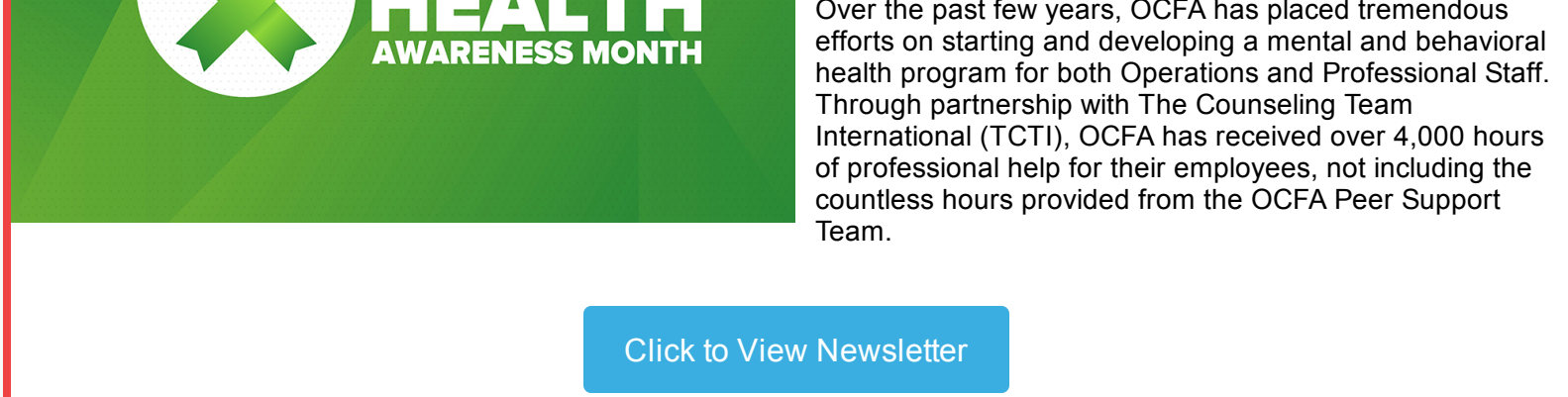
Another safety topic we're starting to share with our community partners this month is Drowning Prevention.

Community Education has put together a campaign of social media posts, safety flyers, pre-recorded presentations, public service announcements and fun kids activities as part of the campaign.

New to the campaign this year is a Drowning Prevention Escape Room! This is perfect for kids of all ages to become water safety experts. You can test your knowledge, and try the escape room by clicking the link below.

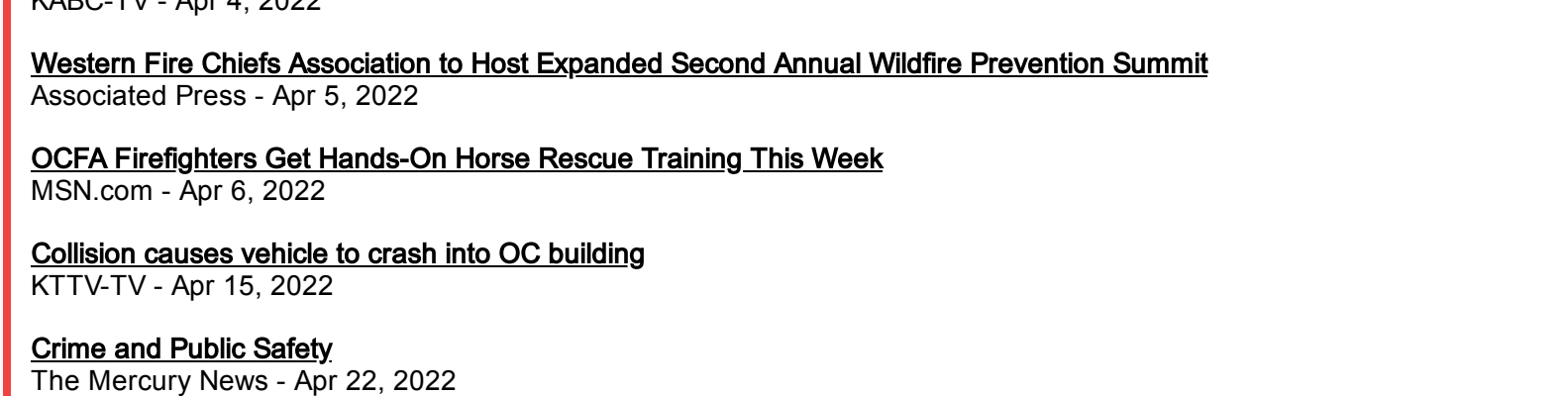
[Try the Escape Room!](#)

#### Water Safety Challenge Event



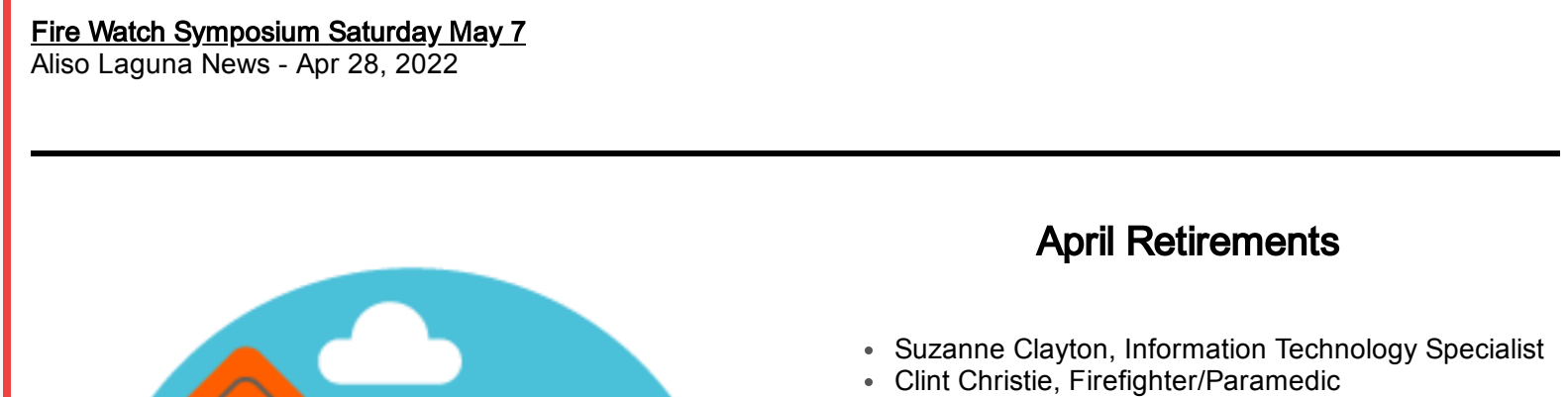
All of OCFA's Community Education Specialists attended water safety events in their respective Divisions. They spent the day educating families and children on all things water safety!

#### Drowning Prevention Public Service Announcements



NEVER SWIM ALONE  
Adults 50 years and older are the most at-risk age group for fatal drowning

#### Mental Health Awareness Month



This May marks the 73rd year that Mental Health Awareness Month has been recognized in the United States. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness for mental health by fighting stigma, educating those around us, providing support for those in need, and to advocate for change as the statistics on mental illness continue to rise.

Over the past few years, OCFA has placed tremendous efforts on starting and developing a mental and behavioral health program for both Operations and Professional Staff. Through partnership with The Counseling Team International (CTCI), OCFA has received over 4,000 hours of professional help for their employees, not including the countless hours provided from the OCFA Peer Support Team.

[Click to View Newsletter](#)

#### Orange County Fire Authority In the News

- WATCH LIVE: Firefighters battle massive fire ripping through Garden Grove commercial building**  
KABC-TV - Apr 4, 2022
- Western Fire Chiefs Association to Host Expanded Second Annual Wildfire Prevention Summit**  
Associated Press - Apr 5, 2022
- OCFA Firefighters Get Hands-On Horse Rescue Training This Week**  
MSN.com - Apr 6, 2022
- Collision causes vehicle to crash into OC building**  
KTTV-TV - Apr 15, 2022
- Crime and Public Safety**  
The Mercury News - Apr 22, 2022
- Crime and Public Safety | Man who set several fires along 281 toll road...**  
The Orange County Register - Apr 22, 2022
- Irvine Police Department and Orange County Fire Authority Open House**  
Huntington Beach News - Apr 25, 2022
- OC Firefighters Lead Mock DUI Crash At Teano High Photo**  
Patch.com - Apr 28, 2022
- Fire Watch Symposium Saturday May 7**  
Also Laguna News - Apr 28, 2022

#### April Retirements



- Suzanne Clayton, Information Technology Specialist
- Clint Christie, Firefighter/Paramedic
- Steven Solomon, Firefighter