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## **News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 25, 2017

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The OCFA has conducted a preliminary review of the information regarding the initial attack dispatch for the Canyon 2 Fire on Monday, October 9, 2017, and is providing the following response details and radio recordings.

**Summary:**

- At 5:41 AM, Emergency Command Center (ECC) receives a request from the State Office of Emergency Services requesting “Immediate Need Mutual Aid” two wildland engine strike teams for the Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County. Duty Chief initially responds that they hold all resources due to “Red Flag” weather patterns anticipated. ECC Supervisor advises that Sonoma County was facing dire loss of life and property and the Duty Chief authorizes one wildland engine strike team (5 engines and a Battalion Chief). One engine was from Station 53.
- At 6:00 AM, Duty Chief contacts the Duty Manpower Coordinator to advise of the strike team response and discusses staffing. Duty Manpower Coordinator advises that they will immediately begin back-fill of staffing and the Duty Chief authorizes the utilization of all resources available to hire back off-duty personnel.
- At 8:32 AM, OCFA ECC receives 9-1-1 call transfer from CHP of a caller reporting a fire in the area of the 91 freeway and the 241 Toll Road, approximately 400’ above the freeway.
- At 8:36 AM, OCFA ECC contacts Fire Station 53 and asks crews to view the area around the 91 Freeway and the 241 Toll Road due to a report of fire in this location.
- At 8:39 AM, Fire Station 53 calls back to OCFA ECC to advise there is ash coming off the canyon that looks like smoke.
- At 8:39 AM, California Highway Patrol (CHP) was contacted to update that their previous call was believed to be ashes.
- At 9:27 AM, OCFA (ECC) receives a report of smoke and dust in the area. In the days leading up to the start of the Canyon 2 Fire, OCFA received numerous reports of possible smoke in the burn-scarred area of the previous fire.
- At 9:28 AM, Metro Net Dispatch JPA (Anaheim Fire Rescue) calls OCFA ECC and advises of a caller who reported flames in the previous burn area of the Canyon Fire, commonly referred to as “the black” by firefighters.

- Between 9:29 AM and 9:30 AM, OCFA contacts CAL FIRE Riverside and United States Forest Service (USFS) dispatch centers to see if they have units in the area. In the days following the Canyon Fire, both agencies were patrolling the area.
- Between 9:31 AM and 9:34 AM, OCFA dispatches two Engines (Engine 32 immediately dispatched, Engine 53 delayed awaiting one firefighter to complete staffing), one Battalion Chief, and orders one helicopter to conduct a smoke check in the area of East-bound 91 Freeway and South-bound 241 Toll Road.
- At 09:36 AM, OCFA Station 53 reports a spot burning on the west side of the hill and inside the black between Gypsum and Coal Canyon off the 91 Freeway.
- At 9:41 AM, OCFA Station 53 advises from the station the fire is building and requests additional resources. At the same time, Engine 32 is at the 91 Freeway and Weir Canyon (according the GPS location) and unable to see any visible fire.
- At 9:43 AM, OCFA dispatches a Vegetation Fire/High Watershed Fire in the Mutual Threat Zone, which includes seven Engines (including units from Anaheim Fire and Rescue), two Helicopters, two Water Tenders, two Bulldozers, one Hand Crew and Superintendent, one Wildland Patrol, three Battalion Chiefs, one Fire Investigator, one Public Information Officer, one Division Chief, one Service Support unit, 2 fixed-wing aircraft and 1 air attack Supervisor.

*Audio recordings are attached and summarized below, additional information compiled from Computer-aided Dispatch (CAD) and interviews with personnel on the ground.*

**Timeline:**

**08:32 AM-** OCFA ECC receives 9-1-1 call transfer from CHP of a caller reporting a fire in the area of the 91 freeway and the 241 Toll Road, approximately 400' above the freeway.

**08:36 AM-** OCFA ECC contacts Fire Station 53 and asks the on-duty personnel (bulldozer crew) to view the area around the 91 Freeway and the 241 Toll Road due to a report of fire in this location.

**08:39 AM-** Fire Station 53 calls back to OCFA ECC to advise there is ash coming off the canyon that looks like smoke.

**08:39 AM-** CHP was contacted to update that their previous call was believed to be ashes.

**09:27:11 -** OCFA ECC receives a report from a passerby near the 91 Freeway at Gypsum/Green River stating smoke and dust approximately 2.5 miles west of Green River Road.

**09:28:04 -** Metro Net Dispatch JPA advises OCFA ECC that California Highway Patrol (CHP) contacted them to report a caller seeing flames eastbound 91 Freeway, south of 241 Toll Road in the burn area of the Canyon Fire.

**09:29:04 -** OCFA ECC calls USFS to report smoke in the area of the Canyon Fire.

**09:29:26 –** OCFA ECC calls USFS to report a small spot fire in the black (prior burn area). USFS states they do not have any units in the area.

**09:30:21 -** OCFA ECC calls CAL FIRE Riverside to inquire if they have units in the area. CAL FIRE states they do not have any units in the area.

**09:31:48 -** OCFA ECC calls OCFA Station 53 (near E La Palma Avenue and Gypsum Canyon Road) and requests crew do a visual assessment from the station. The crew reports only ash blowing within the black.

**09:32:11 -** OCFA ECC calls OCFA Helicopter Station 41 to find out how soon they can lift-off to verify a fire in the Canyon Fire burn area. Crews advise they will lift-off in the next 10 minutes to confirm reports.

**09:33:09 -** OCFA ECC receives a report of smoke near Gypsum Canyon; no flames were seen.

**09:34:04\*** - OCFA Engine 53 dispatched (with two personnel) to investigate initial reports.

**09:34:30\*** - OCFA Engine 32 dispatched for a smoke check to the area of East Bound 91 Freeway and South Bound 241 Toll Road. The initial response is Code 2, upgraded to Code 3 (lights & sirens) after more information is received from Station 53.

**09:35:08** - Metro Net calls OCFA ECC to inquire about OCFA's response. OCFA advises Metro Net that a helicopter is being sent. Metro Net confirms they have had reports of smoke odor but nothing seen.

**09:35:24\*** - OCFA ECC calls OCFA Battalion 2, who reports he is in the area of Fire Station 32 and will investigate.

**09:35:54** – OCFA ECC receives two calls, one reports smoke and an off-duty firefighter reports visible flames deep over the hill near Coal Canyon.

**09:36:52** –OCFA Station 53 reports to OCFA Engine 32 that a spot is burning on the west side of the hill and inside the black between Gypsum and Coal Canyon off of the 91 Freeway. ECC contacts Battalion 2 to confirm whether or not he can see any fire. Battalion 2 reports he will be in the area shortly. ECC confirms Engine 32 response and air support, and Station 53 reports that they will respond with two personnel on the engine and will upgrade response as necessary.

**09:40:28** - Radio traffic from OCFA Engine 32 and Station 53 captures units coordinating their response. Siren can be heard in the background.

**09:41:27** - OCFA Station 53 reports a spot fire actively burning in the previous burn area and requests a “Wildland Assignment” vegetation response. OCFA Battalion 2 sees smoke production deep into the black and concurs with the vegetation response including fixed wing aircraft. All units switch radio frequencies to prepare for communications with incoming state resources.

**09:43:18\*** - Vegetation Response/High Watershed in a Mutual Threat Zone dispatched by OCFA ECC.

**09:44:00** - OCFA ECC announces radio communications plan for all incoming units.

\* Time stamp validated within Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) or from interviews with on-the-ground personnel

Any questions should be directed to Battalion Chief Marc Stone at (714) 573-6028.

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*The OCFA is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.8 million residents in 23 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.*

**Orange County Fire Authority Communications and Public Affairs**

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