



**ORANGE COUNTY
FIRE AUTHORITY**
**20TH ANNIVERSARY
1995-2015**





"We have to retain our fire family structure. There are many great things in the fire service, but it is also work. It's not just a glorious thing, it's a demanding and draining thing. The dedication is a spiritual reality, and if a firefighter loses that reality, they've changed the reason for being a firefighter. We're out to help and that's the whole point."

- Monsignor John Sammon

Greetings,

The Orange County Fire Authority celebrated its 20th anniversary in spring of 2015. In one sense it's difficult to imagine where the time has gone, but one look back at what has taken place and it's easy to see two decades of significant accomplishment. While there is so much we have done, there remains so much more we have yet to do.

A Joint Powers Authority, established among 18 cities, transformed the former Orange County Fire Department into the Orange County Fire Authority in March 1995. A committed group of cities and the Orange County Board of Supervisors formed the JPA with an organizing meeting on March 1. This was followed by the inaugural Board of Directors meeting on March 30 that launched OCFA. The founding members included Buena Park, Cypress, Dana Point, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Lake Forest, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Placentia, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, and Yorba Linda.

Shortly after the inception of OCFA, also in 1995, the City of Westminster joined the Authority. They were followed by Laguna Woods in 1999, Rancho Santa Margarita in 2000, and Aliso Viejo in 2001. With the addition of OCFA's new cities has come the construction of six new fire stations, as well as updates and reconstruction of several existing fire stations.

Through the years, OCFA has faced some formidable challenges well beyond our primary business of saving lives and putting out fires. The pages and timeline that follow are a testament to our lasting strength and unending commitment to provide the best service possible for nearly 1.8 million citizens who live in our member-cities and the county.

A special note of recognition is appropriate here for one of our directors, who has not only served longer than any of his colleagues, but has been a member of the OCFA Board of Directors since its inception. Stanton Councilmember David John Shawver has served for 20 years with tremendous dedication and distinction. We are proud to say he's still going strong, faithfully representing all OCFA cities.

Enjoy this publication and the decades that follow.

Jeff Bowman
Fire Chief

Al Murray
Board Chair



Fire Chief Jeff Bowman



Board Chair Al Murray





95 March 1
 An organizational meeting is held at 180 South Water Street, Orange, to establish a Joint Powers Authority that will guide the future Orange County Fire Authority.

95 March 30
 The inaugural meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board (established among 18 cities and the county) is held at the Irvine City Council Chambers; Board Chair Thomas Wilson presides.



March 30
 Larry Holmes is named OCFA's first fire chief.



95 April
 OCFA sends California Task Force 5 members to assist with recovery efforts following the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19.



96 March 1
 Fire Station 6 opens in Irvine.



95 July 20
 Westminster becomes OCFA's 19th member-city.

1995-1996



97 1997
 OCFA's Executive Committee officially recognizes the Pipe and Drum Corps. The Corps performs at OCFA functions, member-city events, and during local, state and national memorial services.



97 October 1
 Chip Prather is named OCFA's second fire chief.



98 1998
 OCFA's Executive Committee recognizes the formation of the OCFA Honor Guard. The Honor Guard presents colors at all formal OCFA events and travels to annual state events in Sacramento and the national fallen firefighter ceremonies in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1997-1998



98

September 22

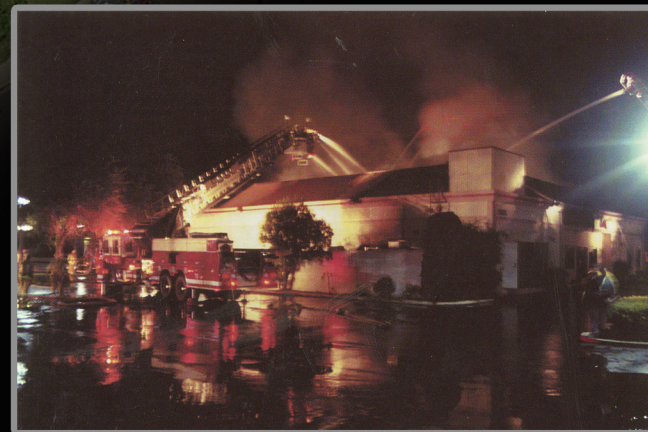
A 5 million gallon water reservoir in the city of Westminster fails, sending a wall of water and concrete cascading into Fire Station 65 and an adjacent condominium complex. Several on-duty firefighters sustain injuries and the water causes thousands of dollars in damage. Six people are injured, and more than 30 people are rendered temporarily homeless. Incredibly, no lives are lost.



99

December 26

An arsonist is caught on video setting fire to a massage center in Laguna Hills. Seventy-five firefighters are called into action, and the damage is estimated at \$1 million.



1998-1999



00 March 23
Rancho Santa Margarita becomes OCFA's 21st member-city.



01 January 12
Fire Station 47 opens in Irvine.



00 January 27
Laguna Woods becomes OCFA's 20th member-city.



01 July 26
Aliso Viejo becomes OCFA's 22nd member-city.



01 September
Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, OCFA sends dozens of firefighters to assist in recovery efforts at Ground Zero.



01 November 17
Ground breaking ceremonies are held for OCFA's \$50 million, 20-acre campus. The facility will eventually be called the OCFA Regional Fire Operations and Training Center.



02

April 23

OCFA crews, including the Urban Search & Rescue Team, respond to a head-on collision between a southbound Metrolink commuter train and a northbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight hauler. Two passengers are killed and hundreds are injured.



02

October

OCFA supports efforts by neighboring agencies to fight a siege of fires that burn from October 21 through November 4. OCFA sends 35 engines in support of the firefighting efforts throughout Southern California.

2002-2003



04 2004

OCFA's WeFit, (Wellness and Fitness Program), is created to promote injury prevention and employee health and wellness. The collaborative effort, between OCFA and Local 3631, provides employees with access to health and lifestyle information, routine or trainer-led workouts, and specific programs to build strength, flexibility, and fitness.



04 April 7

The Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC) opens, consolidating Executive Management and all OCFA administrative functions within a single location.



2004



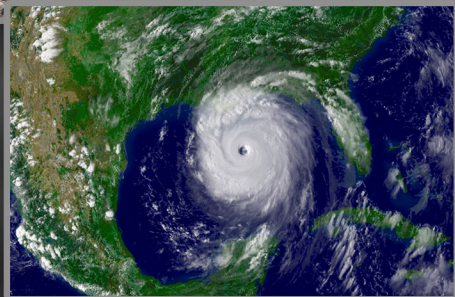
06 February 7

A fire breaks out at Sierra Peak in the Cleveland National Forest. The fire is contained six days later with more than 10,000 acres burned and eight firefighters injured.



07 September 14

Fire Station 27 opens in Irvine.



05 September 2005

OCFA sends members of California Task Force 5 to support Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.



05 September 7

Fire Station 51 opens in Irvine.





From
Portola
Hills
**THANK
YOU**

07 October 21-November 8

On October 21, one of the most significant Orange County wildland fires in more than 30 years ignites. The arson-caused fire burns near Santiago Canyon Road and Silverado Canyon Road, east of Irvine Lake. Driven by extreme Santa Ana winds in excess of 50 mph, combined with low humidity and long-range spotting of embers, the fire spreads three miles in less than 20 minutes. It lasts for 19 days, burns 28,517 acres, and destroys 42 structures (14 homes, four commercial buildings, and 24 out buildings). Another 14 structures (eight homes, three commercial buildings, and three out buildings) are damaged before the fire is contained on November 8.



08 January 2008
Member-cities approve a 20-year contract to run from 2010-2030 under the Joint Powers Agreement.



08 April 10
Fire Station 55 opens in Irvine.



2008



08 November 15-19

On November 15, the Corona Fire Department receives an initial report of a vegetation fire at the westbound 91 Freeway and Green River. Within minutes, OCFA receives similar reports at its Emergency Command Center. Driven by high temperatures, eight percent humidity, Santa Ana winds in excess of 60 mph, and long-range ember spotting, the Freeway Complex Fire results in the greatest loss of Orange County homes since the 1993 Laguna Beach Fire. More than 381 homes, commercial structures, and out buildings are damaged or destroyed. Six cities in four counties are impacted within the fire's 30,000-acre path before it is contained on November 19.

2008



08 December

OCFA purchases two Bell 412 helicopters equipped with water tanks, snorkels, rescue hoists, and night vision capacity. The helicopters improve response capabilities in wildland firefighting and remote rescues.

2008-2009



April 20
Santa Ana becomes OCFA's
23rd member-city.

12

10 December 22
OCFA responds to numerous emergencies following heavy rains, mudslides, and debris flows. This prompts evacuations in Silverado, Modjeska, Dove, and Williams Canyons, as well as parts of San Juan Capistrano. Five homes in Dove Canyon sustain severe damage during the mudslides and several homes in Silverado Canyon and Williams Canyon are also damaged.

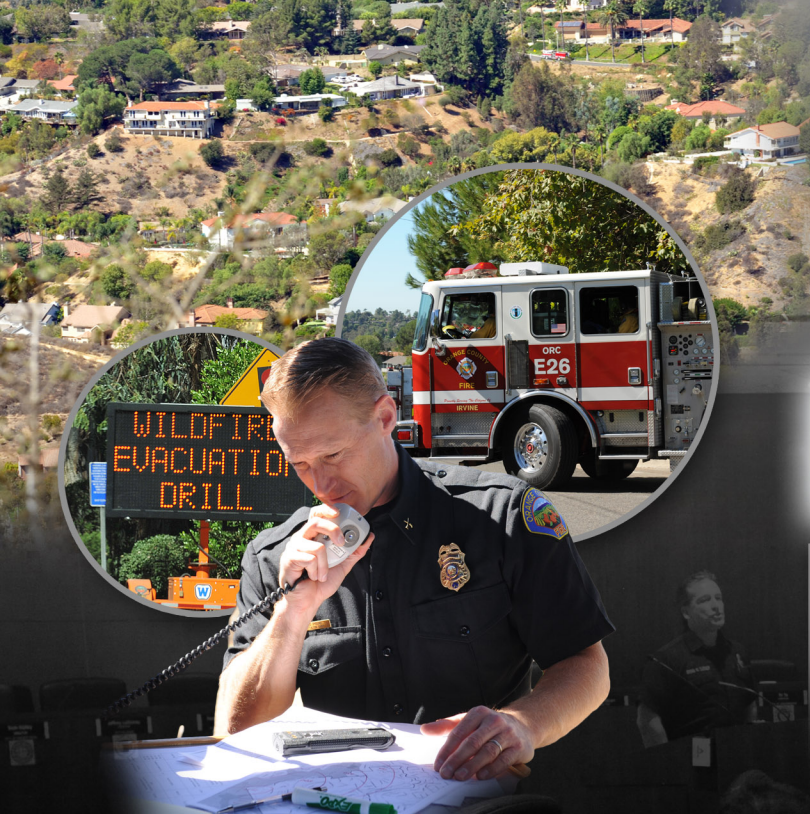


11 September 11
On the day marking the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, OCFA pays tribute to those who lost their lives in 2001.



09 June 11
Keith Richter is named
OCFA's third fire chief.

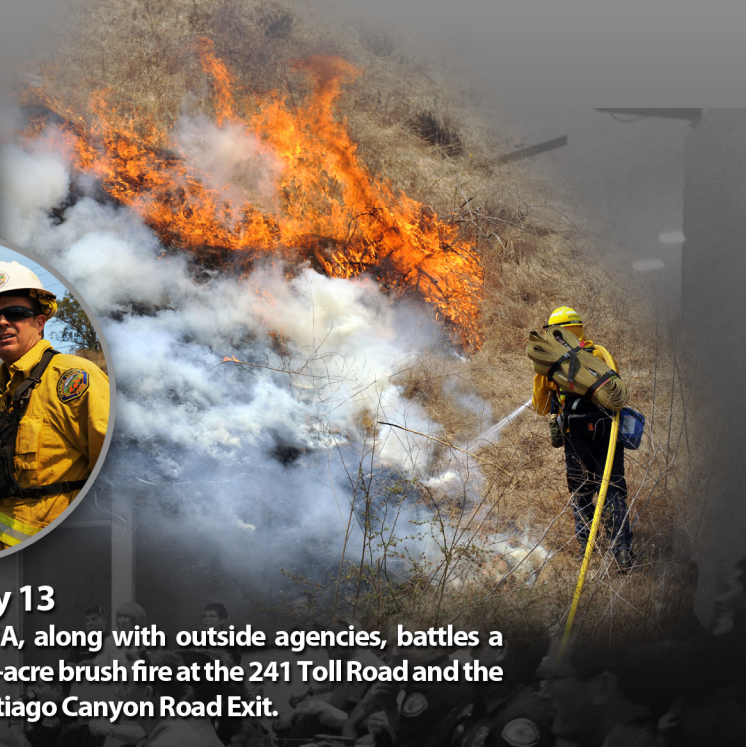
10 2010
OCFA implements fiscal measures to reduce costs and sustain service levels during what comes to be known as the Great Recession, one of the most devastating economic downturns since the Great Depression. Despite severely curtailed revenue, OCFA avoids layoffs and keeps all stations open.



14 December 1
 Jeff Bowman is named
 OCFA's fourth fire chief.



15 July 13
 OCFA, along with outside agencies, battles a
 230-acre brush fire at the 241 Toll Road and the
 Santiago Canyon Road Exit.



13 September 28
 Following after-action report
 recommendations from the
 Santiago and Freeway Fires,
 OCFA and partner agencies
 successfully conduct Orange
 County's first-ever community
 evacuation drill. More than
 1,000 households from the
 wildland urban interface
 neighborhoods of Cowan
 Heights and Lemon Heights
 participate.

UNIT #	ADDRESS	STATUS
15-020331	2822 Glen Ridge, WYO	APA
15-020329 / HP 020298	15871 SPRINGDALE ST, HTB	EMRG
OCFAHQ Response Unit: E25		
OCFAHQ Response Unit: E26		
15-020329 / H1 020329	20402 NEWPORT COAST DR BLDG C, NPB	EMRG
HP 020329		
15-020327 / H1 020324	16191 COLUMBIA LN, HTB	EMRG
OCFAHQ Response Unit: E88		
15-020326	24312 El Toro Rd, LOW	PAUSE
OCFAHQ Response Unit: M4		
15-020324	14692 Myraena Port Rd, TST	ADVIS
OCFAHQ Response Unit: M4		
15-020322	2214 Via Mariposa E RD, LOW	ADVIS
OCFAHQ Response Unit: M4		
15-020320	27788 SANTA MARGARITA RD, HTB	ADVIS
OCFAHQ Response Unit: M4		
100 N Rose Bl		



14 September 9
 OCFA reaches a milestone when the TriTech
 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system is brought on
 line. More than one million addresses and 160,000
 street segments are incorporated into the CAD, a
 geographic information system that will improve
 location accuracy and reduce response times.



15 July 16
 Fire Station 56 opens in
 Ladera Ranch.

2013-2015

The Firefighter's Prayer

Alan Donalan
September 13, 1998



Tom Wall
October 10, 1998



James Owen
September 16, 2010



Greg Hennessey
January 20, 2014



When I'm called to duty God
wherever flames may rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be its age

Help me to embrace a little child
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate

Enable me to be alert
to hear the weakest shout
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out

I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property

And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife.

- Author Unknown

LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY



Year	Fire	EMS	Other*	Total	Population
1995	2,628	32,190	24,100	58,918	1,102,882
1996	2,820	35,724	26,786	65,330	1,106,760
1997	2,649	37,003	29,308	68,960	1,130,169
1998	2,273	38,204	28,838	69,315	1,164,893
1999	2,320	41,452	27,113	70,885	1,193,638
2000	2,371	45,240	26,169	73,780	1,226,465
2001	2,083	47,617	23,427	73,127	1,256,428
2002	2,224	48,177	23,125	73,526	1,274,684
2003	2,517	52,509	24,547	79,573	1,289,771
2004	2,230	53,463	24,220	79,913	1,308,813
2005	2,186	55,272	25,207	82,665	1,333,386
2006	2,225	56,621	24,956	83,802	1,351,398
2007	2,257	58,252	25,143	85,652	1,384,831
2008	1,888	60,002	24,685	86,575	1,383,617
2009	1,540	60,208	24,039	85,787	1,389,189
2010	1,329	60,792	25,398	87,519	1,403,072
2011	1,458	61,147	25,373	87,978	1,414,573
2012**	1,827	75,358	27,550	104,735	1,694,010
2013	1,919	81,182	29,232	112,333	1,712,234
2014	1,979	88,158	26,963	117,100	1,733,563

* Includes: hazardous material response, swift water rescue response, and public service calls
 ** Santa Ana joins OCFA

20 YEARS BY THE NUMBERS

INCIDENTS AND POPULATION



Al Murray
Board Chair/Tustin



Gene Hernandez
Board Vice Chair/Yorba Linda



Phillip Tsunoda
Aliso Viejo



Elizabeth Swift
Buena Park



Lisa Bartlett
County of Orange



Todd Spitzer
County of Orange



Rob Johnson
Cypress



Joseph Muller
Dana Point



Jeffrey Lalloway
Irvine



Gerard Goedhart
La Palma



Don Sedgwick
Laguna Hills



Jerry McCloskey
Laguna Niguel



Noel Hatch
Laguna Woods



Dwight Robinson
Lake Forest



Warren Kusumoto
Los Alamitos



Ed Sachs
Mission Viejo



Craig Green
Placentia



Carol Gamble
Rancho Santa Margarita



Bob Baker
San Clemente



John Perry
San Juan Capistrano



Angelica Amezcua
Santa Ana



David Sloan
Seal Beach



David John Shawver
Stanton

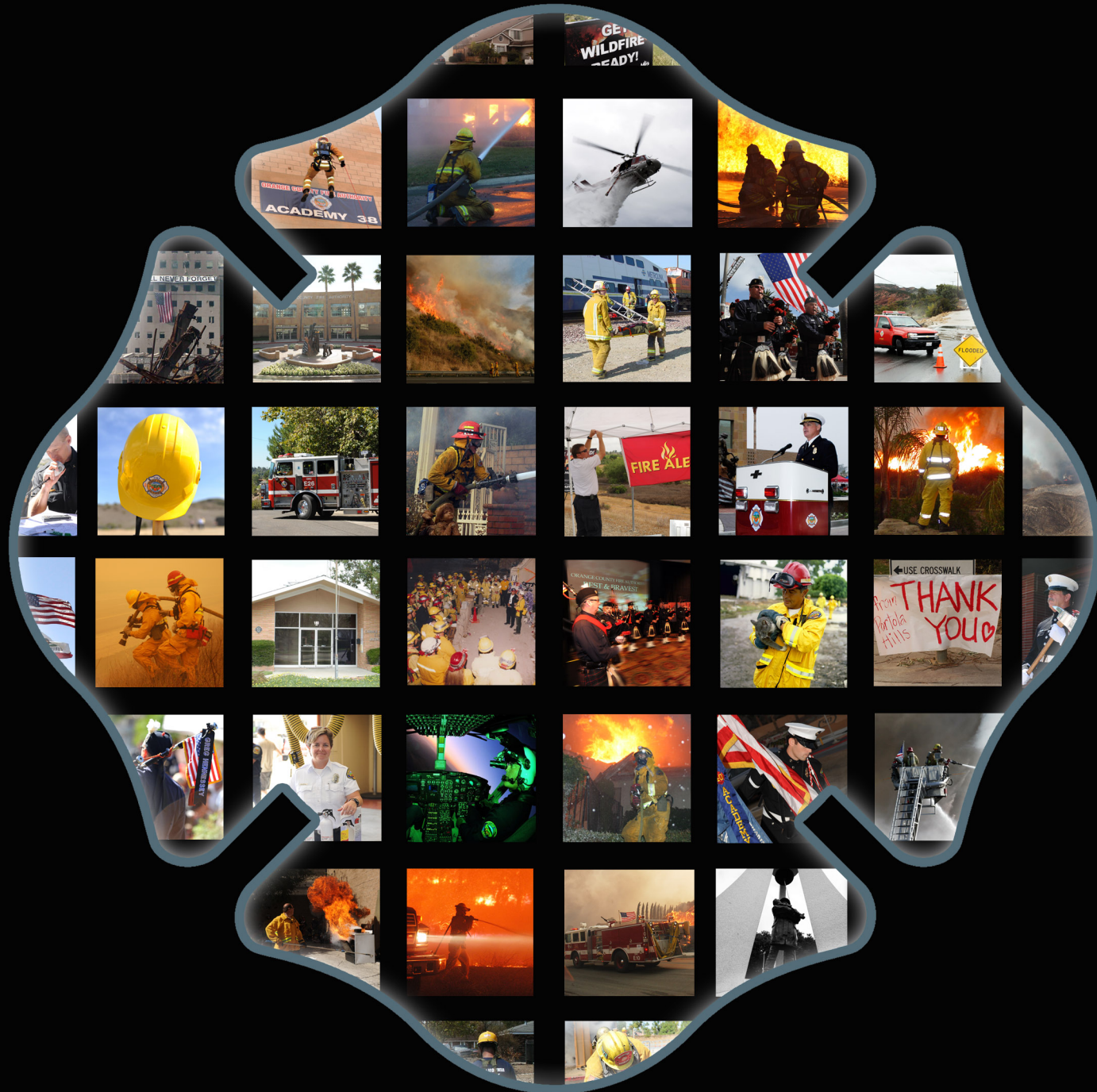


Rick Barnett
Villa Park



Tri Ta
Westminster

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015



OCFA 1995-2015

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