





Thank You!



The Prime Healthcare Hospitals of Orange County

proudly salute and thank the

brave men and women of the Orange County Fire Authority for their dedication to the citizens of Orange County.



PROGRAM

RECEPTION 5:30 PM

Welcome 6:30 PM Ryan H. Turner

Invocation Chaplain Warren Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome from the Exchange Club Kay Kearney & Ron Lashmett

> **Dinner** 7:00 p.m.

Awards Presentation 7:30 p.m. Michele Gile

Benediction 8:30 p.m. Chaplain Warren Johnson

CLOSING





2012 Best &Bravest

Thank you all for your accomplishments, support and dedication not only to the citizens of Orange County

but to the people that you work with everyday.

3631 Executive Board

President Joe Kerr • Vice Presidents: Bob James & Dave Rose • Treasurer Hiddo Horlings • Secretary Tony Bedolla Directors: Robert Alvarado, Tony Bedolla, Jon Biegler, Kenny Gabrielson • Business Agent John Latta

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A strong community starts with strong support.

CapitalSource Bank is a proud sponsor of the **Orange County Fire Authority Best and Bravest Awards Dinner.**



21 offices in California to serve you.

Laguna Hills 24181 Ronda Del Rossmoor 949.457.6363

Vicki Harris, Branch Manager

OCFA's Congratulations to the honorees!!

CapitalSource Bank

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Member FDIC



Michele joined KCAL in 1990 as the Orange County reporter and she has loved it there ever since! She now reports from the field for both KCAL 9 and CBS 2.

Michele attended UCLA and transferred her junior year to USC to join the Broadcast Journalism School. Upon graduation, Michele landed her first job as a reporter in Palm Springs. From there she was off to Santa Barbara and on to CNN for further reporting assignments.

Michele's busy career has included stories from the Laguna Beach fires, the LA Riots, the abduction of Samantha Runnion and many other important news events. Michele has received many prestigious honors including two Emmy awards, a Golden Mic and the national Clarion Award for the best television spot news story.



The Ceremony, Awards, and Protocol Project Team was estab-

lished in 1999 and consists of ten people from both field and staff assignments. The team was formed to revise the existing Standard Operating Procedures regarding awards, commendations, funerals and flag policies, and develop and implement how the Authority recognizes its people for outstanding or meritorious performance. Current members of the CAP Team include: Jose Valbuena, Steve Pardi, Sean Doran, Mike Sheehan, Bob Feldtz, Eric Gilbert, Tamy Rivers, Tara Miali and Olivia Covarrubias.



The National Exchange Club – a service organization with 700 clubs and more than 21,000 members throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico – is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Founded in 1911 in Detroit by businessmen who wanted to "exchange" ideas on making their community better, the Exchange Club moved its headquarters to Toledo in 1917. For a hundred years, Exchange Club volunteer efforts have supported the needs of the country and of local communities, making it the country's oldest American service organiza-

tion operating exclusively in this country.

The Last alarm

MY FATHER WAS A FIREMAN. HE DROVE A BIG RED TRUCK AND WHEN HE'D GO TO WORK EACH DAY HE'D SAY "MOTHER WISH ME LUCK". THEN DAD WOULD NOT COME HOME AGAIN 'TIL SOME TIME THE NEXT DAY. BUT THE THING THAT BOTHERED ME THE MOST WAS THE THINGS SOME FOLKS WOULD SAY. "A FIREMAN'S LIFE IS EASY, HE EATS AND SLEEPS AND PLAYS. AND SOMETIMES HE WON'T FIGHT A FIRE FOR DAYS AND DAYS AND DAYS". WHEN I FIRST HEARD THESE WORDS I WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND BUT I KNEW WHEN PEOPLE HAD TROUBLE DAD WAS THERE TO LEND A HAND. THEN MY FATHER WENT TO WORK ONE DAY AND HE KISSED US ALL GOODBYE BUT LITTLE DID WE REALIZE THAT NIGHT WE ALL WOULD CRY. MY FATHER LOST HIS LIFE THAT NIGHT WHEN THE FLOOR GAVE WAY BELOW AND I'D WONDERED WHY HE'D RISKED HIS LIFE FOR SOMEONE HE DIDN'T KNOW. BUT NOW I TRULY REALIZE THE GREATEST GIFT A MAN CAN GIVE IS TO LAY HIS LIFE UPON THE LINE SO THAT SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT LIVE. SO AS WE GO FROM DAY TO DAY AND WE PRAY TO GOD ABOVE SAY A PRAYER FOR YOUR LOCAL FIREMEN. HE MAY SAVE THE ONES YOU LOVE.

CARVED IN STONE AT THE NATIONAL MONUMENT FOR Fallen Firefighters in Colorado Springs, CO

2011 BEST AND BRAVEST NOMINEES

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

B1 – Chuck Barta
B2 – Greg Brinkley
B3 – Linda Brown
B4 – Jay Sellars
B5 – Robert Davidson
B6 – Tim Perkins
B7 – Brad Haldeman
B8 - Chuck Fedak
STAFF – Brian Norton

RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR B5 – Chad Swanson B6 – Michael Fleck B8 – Steven Johnson

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Tammie Pickens Rick Robinson Jonathan Wilby

PROFESSIONAL STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR Angela Garbiso Maura Monk

Ramon Ramirez

UNSUNG HERO EMS Section

2011 CAP AWARD HONOREES

CERTIFICATE OF HEROISM (CHIEF'S AWARD) Alvin Luedkte

SPECIAL OPERATIONS CITATIONS - SWIFT WATER RESCUES

Jack Perisho, Raul Ramalho, Paul Holaday, and Clayton Record Robert Bucho, Shawn Metcalfe, Jorge Robledo, Ryan Higgins, Jeeter McAlpin, Jeff Duran, Dan Tessieri, Jeff Frazier, and Doug Obermeier

> LIFESAVING MEDALS Loni Christensen and Frank Janicke

> > MEDAL OF MERIT Brad Haldeman

MEDALS OF VALOR Aaron Clark and Jamie Murphy

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Firefighter of the Year

BATTALION ONE FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER CHUCK BARTA



During his 30 plus years, Chuck Barta has unselfishly dedicated himself to the citizens of Orange County and the Fire Authority. His tireless efforts to improve the working conditions of his battalion and station, including countless hours spent training and mentoring others, and his stellar and flawless job performance have kept the traditions of the fire service and public service at a high level.

Chuck has worked on several committees within the OCFA, including: GEO/Mapping project which has given our department new district maps,

special area maps, and has reduced our response times to life threatening emergencies; the development of the OCFA Major Event Operations Guide book; and recently he provided guidance to individuals preparing for the OCFA Firefighter Recruitment. This included meetings, information and mock oral interview panels for the participants. There is no doubt that his efforts helped prospective participants to be successful in the recruitment process.

Chuck is very proactive in identifying ways to improve emergency services through training and the upgrading of equipment carried on department apparatus. He also participates in several OCFA community programs including: Opportunity Knocks, the Christmas Ball, Spark of Love, school programs for young children, and emergency preparedness courses presented to local citizens.

Chuck Barta is an invaluable member of the Orange County Fire Authority and always gives 110% to helping others. He is a self-starter, has an easy-going personality, always has a big smile, laughs easily, and is constantly looking to help others around him. He is the type of individual who is constantly on the move, always involved in a worthwhile project or activity, and is a model for the other firefighters in the battalion.

BATTALION TWO FIRE CAPTAIN GREG BRINKLEY



With almost forty years of dedicated service to The Orange County Fire Department, The California Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry, The California Department of Forestry's Orange Ranger Unit, The County of Orange Fire Department, and the Orange County Fire Authority, Greg Brinkley has been a valuable asset, a mentor, an inspiration, and a friend to his fellow employees and the citizens we serve. He began his career in the early 1970's on an Orange County career wildland firefighting hand crew and quickly transitioned to a career with CDF's Orange Ranger Unit working his way up through the ranks. He has been consistent in his

enthusiasm for the occupation of fire fighting and has always set a good example to the public we serve and his fellow employees.

Greg has held the rank of Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Engineer, and Fire Captain and worked those positions throughout Orange County at Structural, Wildland, and Crash Fire Rescue Stations. Those who have worked alongside him, worked for him, and supervised him all remark that his professionalism and mentorship of others is an example all should strive for.

Greg has participated in a vast number of community events, departmental functions, fund raisers, athletic events, and department competitions with pride and enthusiasm. His training records and diverse assignments speak to his career development and the training and experience he has attained is gladly shared with others.

Over the years, Greg Brinkley has been involved in every imaginable OCFA function (both on and off duty) with no ambition or request for personal recognition. He has always done his best to not only improve the Operations Section but other important sections, bureaus, and departments.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Firefighter of the Year

BATTALION THREE FIREFIGHTER LINDA BROWN



Linda Brown is a Firefighter at Station 37 in the City of Tustin. Linda teaches and develops lesson plans for Battalion 3 drills such as, High Point Training, Low Angle Rope Rescue Drill, and Positive Pressure Ventilation Drill. Linda has spent many of her own hours, without pay and with her own money to study for and attain her commercial Class B driver's license. Linda has also assisted with the training of the Explorers at the Fire Explorer Academy, acted as a Manpower Coordinator, developed lesson plans for battalion drills and handled inspection responsibilities at Station 43.

One of the most time consuming projects Linda has worked on during her off-duty time at no cost to the department was the placement of a cell phone tower at headquarters. This project could not have been done without her expertise in business relations and is something that will create a positive cash flow for years to come.

Linda has the reputation of being one of the hardest workers both on calls and around the fire station. She is always thorough, friendly, compassionate, willing to tackle any challenge and demonstrates an extremely professional demeanor. She is exceptionally reliable and trustworthy when given an assignment and places a high emphasis on safety in routine and emergency situations. The benefits of her hard work are felt department wide.

BATTALION FOUR FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER JAY SELLARS



Fire Apparatus Engineer Jay Sellars is an active participant at home, raising his four children with his wife Melanie. Jay's son Alec was recently awarded his Eagle Scout badge. The highest achievement a boy scout can receive. I believe much of Alec's success was attributed to the tireless contributions Jay has made to his son and the Boy S couts of America. Jay is also active with his two daughters and his newborn son.

Jay has participated in several key assignments/projects at the station, battalion/division and most importantly, the department-wide level, which

include: volunteering to work on a department-wide Auto Extrication training manual; teaching elevator training and vehicle extrication to all OCFA truck companies; teaching auto extrication to OCFA Recruit Academy #34; teaching and participating in the department-wide Tiller training certification process; assisting members of the Kern County Fire Department with a Tiller certification program; teaching several Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes; participating in the Firefighter recruitment process; assisting in retooling the Battalion 4 Earthquake Command Post; and participating in numerous school and public education programs such as Fill the Boot, Guns and Hoses, and the 9-11 charity ride.

Jay's knowledge, skills and abilities make him one of the best firefighters and engineers I have ever worked with. He has been a mentor and role model to numerous new firefighters who have passed through Fire Station 22 in recent years. His mechanical aptitude is second to none and he exemplifies the qualities and skills of a truck company engineer and the best the OCFA has to offer.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Firefighter of the Year

BATTALION FIVE FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC ROBERT DAVIDSON



During an emergency response where the OCFA was assisting the Irvine Police department on an incident, Robert intervened in assistance of an officer who was attacked by an assailant. Robert physically removed and detained the assailant, saving the officer from further injury. He was honored by the Chief of Emergency Services for the City of Irvine who presented Robert with a rarely seen challenge coin as a token of appreciation. OCFA Chiefs also recognized Robert for his extraordinary service in the protection of our fellow officers of the Irvine Police department.

Although this is only an example of the outstanding level of performance regularly demonstrated by Robert Davidson, it does illustrate the level of performance he practices. Recently, Robert spearheaded the construction and building of a fire prevention prop for the latest OCFA Open House. This effort is remarkable due to the fact that Robert "donated" his expertise, tools, and equipment to produce a very professional end product.

Robert has recently and in the past donated to the Fallen Firefighters relief fund. He operates a business of flooring and surface preparations with specialized coatings and preparations. The recently donated item issued as a charity silent auction item was valued in the neighborhood of \$2,500.00. The previous donated items were valued at \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00. The work and materials were donated by Robert to better the attendance and ultimately the funds received by the charity event. This is just another outward sign of Robert's dedication to the OCFA and the fire family we enjoy here.

Robert routinely coaches and mentors others for paramedic level preparation and the job role of Firefighter using skills obtained over his 15 years in the field. Robert Davidson personifies all that we as an organization aspire to be and conducts himself with complete professionalism.

BATTALION SIX FIRE CAPTAIN TIM PERKINS



Fire Captain Tim Perkins has been extremely active in all aspects of being a firefighter. He takes pride in the smallest details when performing his duties at the station level, and has helped to shape policy and influence the way we conduct business as an organization. Not only has he had a hand in training individuals who are fresh out of the Academy and are learning our most basic skills and practices, but he has participated in Engineer and Truck Academies, taught TAG sessions and lent his particular brand of knowledge, skills and abilities to our most technical and demanding rescue disciplines.

Tim has tirelessly contributed to the OCFA with a vision of what we could be capable of, and a voice willing to speak out in an effort to make it a reality. He has served on various committees, helping determine how we can most effectively staff and deliver rescue assets to all corners of our county; and in forums outside the walls of Orange County, Tim has assisted on a state and national level, through Air Operations and the Urban Search and Rescue Program.

Around the station, Tim is the type of individual who fosters an environment which promotes learning and skills development. His dedication to training is second-to-none. On emergency calls, Tim is known by his peers as being calm, competent and capable. His professional and enthusiastic demeanor is infectious among his crew and colleagues. His leadership abilities and understanding of Fireground, Wildland and Rescue Operations are on par with our best Company Officers.

As members of the Fire Service, we value the following principles: Service, sacrifice and hard work; along with a good attitude, the capacity to make good decisions, and the ability to work and play well with others. Tim truly embodies these ideals and conducts himself as such, both personally and professionally. It is hard to imagine someone who is more passionate about our traditions, or more dedicated to preserving our legacy as an organization or as firefighters.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Firefighter of the Year

BATTALION SEVEN FIRE CAPTAIN BRAD HALDEMAN



Fire Captain Brad Haldeman began his career as a Firefighter in 1986 for the City of Corona, and accepted employment with the OCFA in 1997. He completed Paramedic school in 1996, and in 2002, was State certified as a Hazardous Materials Specialist and assigned to the OCFA HazMat Team at Station 4. Brad continues to maintain his certification as a Hazardous Materials Specialist while currently assigned to Engine 31 in the City of Mission Viejo. He has also strived to balance work and family time by supporting his son as a Board Member of the Trabuco Hills Football Booster Club. He serves as the Field and Facilities Director on the Board and is responsible for

directing and coordinating all game day events as they pertain to the Booster Club.

On July 20, 2011, the OCFA Training Center was certified by the State of California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) as a Hazardous Materials Field Training Facility site. This was due in large part to the hard work, personal sacrifice and perseverance of Fire Captain Brad Haldeman. Captain Haldeman has devoted over 600 hours of his personal time to research, obtaining the necessary materials through donations and support by the OCFA, building the necessary training props, and submitting the required paperwork. Our newly certified site is only one of six in Southern California. Prior to certification, our Hazardous Materials Team was required to travel to Ontario for training. New HazMat Team members were required to travel throughout the State to receive the necessary 240 hours of mandatory training. This was a direct expense to the OCFA for the cost of the class, mileage, accommodations, food, and additional backfill hours. Being able to conduct this 240-hour class at our own facility will be a savings to the OCFA of \$5,000 per student. Captain Haldeman's efforts to secure State certification has provided immeasurable benefits to the OCFA and other local fire agencies, and has ensured that we will provide the best service available to the communities we serve in the event of a Hazardous Materials incident.

BATTALION EIGHT FIRE CAPTAIN CHUCK FEDAK



Fire Captain Chuck Fedak is simply exceptional in every regard. It begins with his attitude and singular enthusiasm; he truly embodies our challenge of "Initiate, Create, and Complete." Each contribution is done not for recognition, but simply because it's a valuable contribution. Chuck gives back to his community in many ways, from being an AYSO Soccer Coach, a volunteer with the Sparkling Angel Charities, a Training Center Coordinator for the American Heart Association and EMT and CPR Program Director to serving on committees such as the CA Council of EMS Educators and the OC EMS Quality Assurance Board.

Chuck has played an integral role at the battalion level by initiating Patrol and Air Ops training for Engine 13 personnel, a commercial level fire training exercise, and creating an exceptional La Palma Hospital preplan. He is responsible for the development and implementation of our SAFE Forms and is always willing to help out with the Paramedic school candidate selection interviews process.

Whether it's volunteering for another school program or tour, embracing his first due responsibilities by becoming intimately familiar with its nuances, handling a Fire Friends matter in text book fashion, or simply by being responsive to requests and handling matters professionally...Chuck takes care of business. As for incident management, Chuck handles them like a seasoned Captain, despite being relatively new to the role. His prioritization and calm approach to a recent large truck traffic collision with fire was impressive. In summary, Chuck is a joy to work with.... Captain Reliable.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Firefighter of the Year

STAFF FIRE CAPTAIN BRIAN NORTON



Fire Captain Brian Norton is constantly looking for ways to improve himself, his section and our organization. Brian heads up the California Incident Certification and Credentialing System (CICCS) for the OCFA. He has worked tirelessly to ensure all OCFA members are properly trained and certified to perform in Incident Command positions. He also serves on the Operational Area and Regional Peer Review committees for CICCS. He is recognized for his expertise as well as his fairness in the process.

This year Brain arranged several "staff rides" where OCFA officers had the opportunity to visit sites of major fires involving fatalities and/or extreme

fire behavior and learn from those who experienced these incidents first hand. He also arranged numerous "back country tours" where OCFA officers had the opportunity to tour the wildland areas of Orange County and become familiar with the terrain and the fire hazards as well as meet and work with members from our neighboring fire agencies.

Brian serves in a leadership role in the OCFA Equipment committee where he is responsible for researching a variety of equipment issues, and is continually searching for safer equipment and ways to improve operations for the department. During this last year Brain was key in the formation of the PROS Project which brought Camp Pendleton, San Diego County, Riverside County, and Orange County fire agencies together to develop a common operating plan. In Brian's position as the Division 6 Administrative Captain, he also provides support to the Training Section, Community Volunteer Services, Emergency Command Center, and the Division 4 Chief. This includes activities such as grants research, report writing, information collection and project support to mention a few. He has attended many classes, and has also assisted in the instruction of a variety of Command and Control classes. He is a true work horse.

The CAD Team wishes to congratulate all of tonight's nominees and honorees! Thank you for all that you do!

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Reserve Firefighter of the Year

BATTALION FIVE RESERVE FIREFIGHTER CHAD SWANSON



Reserve Firefighter Chad Swanson has been instrumental in the success of the Reserve program at Station 26. He is always at the station improving equipment or taking on special projects. Chad can be counted on to help mentor new recruits and improve the training curriculum. He is one of the top responders and is always striving to gain more knowledge and experience for the betterment of the crew as well as himself.

Chad's commitment goes far beyond the minimum requirements set forth by the OCFA. He is always the first to volunteer his time for community

events, public education events, assisting with the Career fire academies, and helping with the Spark of Love toy drive. Chad does all this not for personal recognition but because he truly cares about the organization and the community in which he serves. He is the epitome of what the ideal employee, friend, mentor, and colleague should be.

Chad takes initiative with everything he sees needing improvement whether it is making a map box for the patrol or cleaning the station and everything in between. An employee such as Chad is any supervisor's dream; he's respectful, always striving to improve, can work well with anyone, and doesn't need to be told to do things. Since day one, Chad has poured his heart and soul into the Reserve program. He has definitely made the reserve program at Station 26 a much better place. Without members like Chad, our program would not be as successful as it is.

BATTALION SIX RESERVE FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL FLECK



Reserve Firefighter Michael Fleck is currently a certified Firefighter 1, Emergency Medical Technician, OCFA Patrol Operator, Sate Fire Marshall LARRO Technician, posses a Commercial Firefighter endorsement to his driver license, and has completed his OCFA Reserve Officer training class. Mike exceeds the Reserve program requirements for responses and drills and is consistently one of the top responders at Fire Station 7.

As a qualified Patrol Operator he is responsible for helping maintain the high expectations and reputation of the Reserve program at Fire Station 7.

Mike continues to step forward to teach classes on various fire related topics and assists the new recruits with being prepared for their next training session. He has actively assisted with and participated in numerous community events including CERT Drill, Reserve Academies, Explorer Academies, Relay For Life, and the City's Swallow's Day Parade among others. Mike also participates in the San Diego County Fire Reserve program which provides him the opportunity to learn different techniques that support his experience and training within the OCFA. In addition to his duties as a Reserve firefighter, Mike is also employed as an EMT with a local ambulance provider serving the community. Mikes has always had a very serious attitude about making the community a safer place to work and live.

Mike is well respected by his peers and is held in high regard by career staff and Battalion 6 Chiefs. He makes his commitment to the success of the Reserve program obvious by his involvement and willingness to go above and beyond. Mike defines the qualities and characteristics of a valuable member of the Reserve program.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Reserve Firefighter of the Year

BATTALION 8 RESERVE FIREFIGHTER STEVEN JOHNSON



Reserve Firefighter Steven Johnson accepts his role as a RFF with great pride and dedication; therefore he is constantly striving to improve the Reserve program. Steven is always willing to volunteer for coverage assignments with the helicopters as they participate in community static displays, such as the Fullerton Airport Day and Westminster Safety Day. He also volunteers with the Explorer Program at Station 61 on Monday nights, Cub Scout day camp, and has participated in the "Fill the Boot" campaign.

Steven is very involved in assisting other Reserve firefighters with training opportunities. He has been a mentor for the Cadets in the RFF Academy.

Also, last summer, Steven participated in the Reserve DMV Academy and took it upon himself to be the mentor for the other C41 members in the academy. He directed all the additional training for the DMV academy at the station level and assisted C41 members with their 20 hours behind the wheel.

Steven has one of the highest participation rates at our station, both drill nights and responses. He has covered a couple of extended cover calls for the helitender this summer when other Driver Operators weren't available. He makes himself available for coverage assignments as well. His dedication to the position of RFF is a great example to others in the program.



ABOUT OUR NOMINEES

Manager of the Year

TAMMIE PICKENS GENERAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER



Tammie Pickens has played an integral role, not only within the Finance section but the OCFA as a whole. She has successfully implemented the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board's Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, as well as OCFA's annual financial statements. This was a huge change to our financial statements and required the creation of several Board policies. In addition, Tammie assisted with the creation of the Orange County Non-Profit Foundation. She provided technical assistance relating to income tax and financial reporting. She also worked with the OCFA external auditor to incorporate

the Non-Profit Foundation's financial statement with OCFA.

Tammie is an active Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is required to complete a specific number of continued education hours to maintain her license. She continually shares her accounting experience with other staff employees to help them develop the knowledge needed to perform their job functions. Tammie works hard to prepare for the annual financial audit each year. The auditors are very impressed with the preparation and the quality of the audit schedules. Through her efforts, OCFA's financial statements continue to receive awards from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and a clean audit opinion from the auditors. Tammie oversaw the annual Spot Check Inventory process which helped streamline and improve the accountability of the OCFA inventory process. The number of unaccounted items has reduced and the amount of write-off required is fairly minimal.

Tammie actively participates in the Strategic Planning Sub-committee and served as the Management representative. She volunteers annually as a camp leader to provide help to children with special needs and contributes a large amount of time and energy to serving her community. Tammie has consistently performed at an exceptional level. She is a dedicated employee and is always willing to help when needed.

RICK ROBINSON DIVISION CHIEF



As the Division 3 Chief, Rick serves as the OCFA representative to the cities of Dana Point, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, the unincorporated area of Ladera Ranch, and additional unincorporated areas in South Orange County. Rick is the main point of contact and liaison between the city managers and the OCFA. Rick's involvement in the OCFA extends far beyond the Division 3 office. He currently participates on a number of teams, including the Strategic Plan Project Team and the Optimal Outcome Team. If there is a team or committee whose goal is to help improve and move the OCFA forward, Rick wants to be a part of it.

Rick is a lifelong learner. His academic accomplishments include a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Education from National University, and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. As for his occupational accomplishments related to education, Rick attends several classes and conferences each year and was a participant and graduate of the OCFA's first Leadership Institute in 1999. In 2006, Rick achieved the California State Fire Marshal certification requirements for Chief Officer. In 2008, he earned the title of Executive Fire Officer through the National Fire Academy.

Community activism is very dear to Rick's heart. He is an active member of his church in Oceanside, and participates in yearly service weekends consisting of community improvement projects. Recently, he and other volunteers painted the oldest chapel on Camp Pendleton and improved the landscaping. Rick is an active supporter of the Walk for the Cure and American Cancer Society's 'Relay for Life' events in the communities in which he serves as Division Chief. Rick is a huge fan and supporter of the Trauma Intervention Program and has participated in the Orange County TIP Chapter's "Adopt a Volunteer" fundraiser. Rick believes in supporting communities not only through monetary donations, but by being an active participant whenever and wherever he can.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Manager of the Year

JONATHAN WILBY RISK MANAGEMENT SAFETY OFFICER



Jonathan began his career with the OCFA in May of 2006. As the Risk Management Safety Officer, he is responsible for the development of both direct and indirect training of OCFA personnel pertaining to defensive driving classes for non-safety OCFA drivers, OCFA emergency planning, fire extinguisher training, ergonomic training, and Cal/OSHA notification training. He demonstrates excellent decision-making sand judgment in approaching safety and occupational health issues and in developing solutions and plans for addressing the issue. Jonathan has a Master of Science in Industrial Hygiene. a Bachelor of Science in Loss Control Management, is a Board Certi

fied Safety Professional (CSP), and has an Associate in Risk Management designation (ARM) with a Public Entity emphasis.

Jonathan works and responds on a daily basis to a variety of safety related issues and concerns. He has played a key role in raising the level of safety and occupational health awareness by using OCFA's resources, such as the SharePoint Intranet to revise the Risk Management Occupational Health & Safety site to provide for better access of key information to OCFA members. Jonathan has also developed the RFOTC Emergency Plan and trained key personnel on the implementation of the plan should an emergency occur at the RFOTC.

Jonathan understands his role and works well with all Sections and Departments of the OCFA. He has excellent leadership qualities in all of his interactions and in establishing an OCFA Safety and Occupational Health program. Through his efforts, Jonathan has assisted in reducing and mitigating employee injuries and illness.



On behalf of the 18,000 employees represented by OCEA, we offer our enthusiastic congratulations to all of tonight's "Best and Bravest" honorees.

Orange County Employees Association

830 N. Ross St., Santa Ana, CA 92701 • (714) 835-3355 • www.oceamember.org • www.facebook.com/oceamember

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Staff Employee of the Year

ANGELA GARBISO COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPECIALIST



In her role as Education Specialist, Angela's primary focus is the betterment of the community and the safety of community members. Angela spends her day educating the public on fire and life safety prevention and mitigation strategies to a wide range of audiences from pre-schoolers to the elderly in residential and business settings.

Angela's commitment to building a safer community continues long after her work day ends. She frequently spends her evenings and weekends staffing information tables at city-sponsored and community events. Topics

Angela teaches include: fire safety, drowning prevention, disaster preparedness, fall prevention, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm safety, and Team Fire Force. Angela was a valuable contributor on the Smoke Alarm Project Team and was recruited by the Multi-family Risk Reduction Project Team where she helped design web-based safety modules for apartment owners and managers. Angela also assisted our Investigations section with the development of the Arson Abatement Program and proactively researches grants to help fund program development and improvement.

Angela continually seeks ways to further her professional and personal development. She enrolls in continuing education opportunities and incorporates what she learns into program development and delivery. In the last year she attended a course on Identifying High-Risk Audiences at the National Fire Academy, earned a scholarship to attend a class on Fire and Fall Prevention for Older Adults, participated in a class on Crisis Communications and the Media, and delivered a train-the-trainer presentation to the Academy 37 recruits. In addition to her everyday responsibilities, Angela is involved with the Irvine Police/Security Partnership Group, Team Kids, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance and the Pretend City Education Committee. She has a positive attitude and continually seeks opportunities to improve herself and promote our mission and goals throughout the organization and in the community.

MAURA MONK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CLERK OF THE AUTHORITY



Maura continually offers her support to her co-workers and independently and consistently reviews current office processes and operations for effectiveness and efficiencies. She employs technology to assist in the execution of her duties and shares her successes and challenges with her co-workers. She is open and enthusiastic in mastering new assignments. Maura continually seeks to improve herself both professionally and personally. She enjoys learning new skills and often volunteers for new assignments. She is also willing to train and assist others within our organization.

Two of Maura's significant accomplishments this year benefitted not only her section but the organization overall. The first was her development and implementation of the new External Customer Feedback program on SharePoint. This new program automates the notification and tracking of all external correspondence having to do with OCFA's Customer Feedback Surveys. Through her program, she has empowered appropriate staff members to take on the responsibility of independently and responsibly handling these issues and situations. Timely responses to these correspondences have improved, which makes a more favorable impression of the OCFA on its clients and community members. The program acts as an archive and a resource tool for any OCFA manager-level employee.

Second is the purchase and implementation of Address Verification Software. She presented a method to improve the on-going distribution process for the thousands of Customer Service Surveys that are routinely send out to all members of the public who have been on the receiving end of our service calls. The purchase of this software provides the OCFA with substantial cost savings in returned postage and labor. Maura identified a need and saw an opportunity to improve efficiency in the distribution of these surveys. Her positive outlook, motivation and enthusiasm are a true asset to the OCFA.

ABOUT OUR NOMINEES Staff Employee of the Year

RAMON RAMIREZ FACILITIES MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR



Ramon is a long time resident of Santa Ana and an active member in his church. Married and the father of three daughters he takes an active role in helping within his community and makes sure to involve his children.

Ramon has been part of the Property Management Section for about five years. During that time, he has earned a reputation as an expert tradesman and an exceptional professional. From his first day, Ramon has projected a positive attitude and a service orientation seldom encountered. He combines a caring, congenial, outgoing manner with genuine expertise in a multitude of trades including electrical, painting, carpentry and plumbing. He is

a master of Mexican cooking, frequently providing the fare for section social events. His annual lunch time production for Cinco de Mayo and the Building C Christmas Party are anticipated and enjoyed by all.

There is no facilities related trade requirement Ramon cannot complete expertly. His work is always safe, thorough, clean and correct. He seems to have an infinite capacity to take on projects. No matter the tempo, Ramon takes issues in stride and with quiet, professional resolve, accomplishes difficult tasks quickly and correctly. Demonstrating initiative and foresight he acquired an aged delivery van and rehabilitated it into a facilities service vehicle. Fitted with tools and maintenance materials, Ramon has been able to provide an array of services that not only save significantly over contractor's costs, but enable him to provide a broad range of repair services not previously possible. Pride in his work and dedication to excellence and his customers are apparent in everything he does. Ramon's contribution to the Property Management Section and the OCFA is inestimable.

WHEN YOU NEED US, WE'RE THERE.



ABOUT OUR NOMINEES

Unsung Hero

EMS SECTION



Chris Richey Christi Denton Linda Verraster Donna Cloe Jane Lambert Jill Beran Dr. Ken Miller Greg Boswell Nancy Patrick Joseph Smith Ff

R.N. Division 1 R.N. Division 2 R.N. Division 3 R.N. Division 4 R.N. Division 5 R.N. Division 5 R.N. Division 5 R.N. EMS Coordinator Administrative Assistant FF/PM – EMS Equipment/ Supply Coordinator

The Orange County Fire Authority is proud of its commitment to providing high quality services to the communities we serve. The foundation of this effort is the delivery of both Basic and Advanced Life support, lead by Greg Boswell and six Nurse Professionals. They provide continuing education, paramedic skills review and other required certification training to all of our operations personnel. More impressive is their collective professional backgrounds. Their skills in both critical and emergency care represent nearly 200 years of experience. In 2011, our Nurse Professionals provided 520 EMS TAG classes of continuing education – week-days, nights and on weekends. If that were not enough, our Nurse Educators avail themselves to teach Reserves Firefighters – and also ensure that our Firefighters are afforded the necessary EMS training when returning from special leave or other circumstances.

Our EMS Team retrospectively reviews all Patient Care records to ensure quality and compliance with County protocols as well as complete documentation – and if required, our Nurse professionals ensure quality issues are addressed directly with our Paramedics to reinforce training, knowledge and skills.

Other examples of 2011 efforts by the EMS Team in support of OCFA's EMS Delivery system include: a continuing education newsletter for paramedics, training videos for Paramedic related skills, interview panels to select potential paramedic students, delivering a 32 hour Paramedic Accreditation and Assessment Center, flu vaccinations for all personnel, and 24/7 coverage for follow-up with personnel who are exposed to communicable diseases, ensuring appropriate medical evaluation, counseling and treatment.

Another important member of the EMS Team is Nancy Patrick. Through Nancy's efforts, 350 paramedic licensure applications and 530 EMTs are re-certified every two years, not to mention skills tracking, CPR and other life saving skills that require maintenance of proficiency. Nancy provides the critical link to our Operations personnel to ensure they meet and exceed all EMS related regulatory requirements.

Saving lives requires that our troops be outfitted with supplies and highly technical medical devices and equipment. FF/Paramedic Joseph Smith ensures the paramedics have those tools. Joe has been instrumental in bringing innovation and a true business sense to his position, recently implementing changes to our inventory and supply process as well enhancing vendor relations.

The OCFA EMS system benefits from the expertise of Dr. Miller. As the Medical Director for OCFA, "Ken" as he likes to be called is always available to provide expert consultation within our Chain of Command on a broad range of medical considerations, providing direct patient care in extraordinary circumstances. Dr. Miller also serves as the primary medical oversight for CA Task Force 5. His stature within the EMS community is renowned. His commitment to OCFA's Operations Mission, its people and the community is what makes our program one of the finest in the State of California.

There are many other examples of selfless acts that go unnoticed each and every day by our EMS Team. It is this commitment to exceptional service to the community and the OCFA that makes us all very proud of the EMS Section team.

2011 CAP AWARD HONOREES Certificate of Heroism

ALVIN LUEDKTE



At 0128 hours on the morning of April 5, 2011, OCFA units were dispatched to a reported traffic collision with fire on the southbound I-5 freeway, south of Oso Parkway. Information received from CHP conveyed a possible traffic collision involving two large trucks with fire visible underneath one of the vehicles. Upon arrival, the incident was confirmed to be as stated, southbound on the freeway, in the middle of traffic lanes, with one semi-transport vehicle mangled and a fully involved tractor. Within that ve hicle, the driver was trapped and unable to extricate himself due to damage received in the collision. The other semi was found on the right shoulder.

As the Battalion Chief arrived on scene, he was met by a civilian who had stopped in the attempt to render aid. The civilian, Alvin Luedkte, previously served as an OCFA Fire Explorer and had come upon the accident while driving home. Alvin provided the Chief with a quick size-up of the scene, including the number of patients and the fact that he had made attempts to extricate the victim from the burning vehicle. Alvin's assistance provided critical scene assessment information that was valuable for overall on scene emergency operations. Unfortunately, due to the damage the burning semi received in the collision and subsequent fire, the driver of that vehicle could not be removed and succumbed in the fire. Alvin placed himself at personal risk and his heroic attempts to extricate the trapped victim utilizing skills he learned as an Explorer and later fire academy training provided the victim with every possibility for survival.

Special Operations Citation-Swift Water Rescue

FC JACK PERISHO, FAE RAUL RAMALHO, FF/PM PAUL HOLADAY, FF CLAYTON RECORD



On January 20, 2011 heavy rains pummeled Orange County causing creeks to rise at or near their full capacity. Swift Water Rescue 9 (SW9) was dispatched at 1845 hours to Santiago Canyon to rescue a man trapped in his minivan from rising storm waters just off of Santiago Canyon Road. Once on scene, SW9's crew Captain Jack Perisho, Engineer Raul Ramalho, FF/PM Paul Holaday and FF Clayton Record quickly assessed the scene and noted the dangerous conditions that were present. FF Record and FF/PM Holiday were chosen to enter the moving water and perform the rescue; a dangerous task that could seriously injure both rescuers.

The rescuers entered the fast moving water from a position upstream of the trapped vehicle to avoid being struck should the vehicle come loose or start to move. The potential for increased flooding or debris flow was present. Another danger facing FF/PM Holaday and FF Clayton was a possible slip or fall that would have sent one or both rescuers downstream. To reduce the potential for a serious injury to the rescuers, FC Jack Perisho and Engineer Ramalho were positioned on the side bank with safety lines attached to the SW floatation vest of each rescuer along with a secondary unit positioned downstream in case one or both rescuers were swept away. The rescue took less than 5 minutes from the time the rescuers entered the water until the victim was removed to a safe position on higher ground.

2011 CAP AWARD HONOREES

Special Operations Citation -Swift Water Rescue

(SW61) FC ROBERT BUCHO. FAE SHAWN METCALFE. FF JORGE ROBLEDO, FF RYAN HIGGINS (T61) FC JEETER MCALPIN, FAE JEFF DURAN, FF DAN TESSIERI, FF JEFF FRAZIER (SAFE3) FAE DOUG OBERMEIER





On 12/22/10, a major weather system moved into Orange County and caused substantial flooding throughout the entire region. At 0400 hours ORCO Swift Water 61 (SW61). Swift Water 34 (SW34), Trucks 61 and 34 and Safety 3 responded to a reported vehicle in the waterway with a person trapped on the I-5 Fwy at Jamboree. After an extensive search, first arriving units found a single vehicle in a storm channel with a victim still inside the vehicle. The vehicle, an SUV, was still drifting down the channel due to the force of the water and the driver of the SUV had been in the water over an hour before he was located by OCFA units.

As the first arriving swift water rescue team, SW 61 assigned Truck and Swift Water 34 to establish a "downstream' safety team so SW 61 could enter the water. At the same time, the T61 crew and Fire Safety 3 Obermeier were assigned to secure the vehicle and set up a ladder system for the driver rescue. A rope line was thrown out to the victim and they directed him to wrap it around the vehicle. They then secured the vehicle to make sure it would not move. The ladder was lashed to a vertical wall so that the rescue team could go across and rescue the victim who was starting to become very lethargic. A life vest was sent over but the victim had difficulty putting it on.

Once all forward movement of the vehicle was stopped, Captain Bucho (SW 61) had the crew place the ladders next to the vehicle so FF's Jorge Robledo & FF Ryan Higgins (SW61) could prepare to perform a "Live Bait" Rescue approach since the extreme weather did not permit an aircraft rescue. The vehicle was located approximately 25 feet from a low head dam, which is commonly referred to as a "drowning machine". With this additional hazard, Captain Bucho insured there was a large enough water edge recovery area and safety lines in place before commencing with the Live Bait Rescue. FF's Robledo & Higgins entered the storm channel to tie off the trapped driver, in the event he fell off the ladder during the rescue. The water in this storm channel was moving at an estimated rate of 35 mph. The driver was safely removed from the channel.



PREMIER COMMERCIAL BANK, N.A.

2011 CAP AWARD HONOREES Lifesaring Medals

LONI CHRISTENSEN FIRE COMMUNICATIONS DISPATCHER



At 2001 hours on November 6th, the ECC received a phone call from a frantic caller reporting a fire in an apartment complex on Crescent Avenue in Buena Park. As Loni collected the information on the location of the fire, she quickly learned that the caller was trapped inside her apartment, above the fire, with approximately six people; two adults and four young children. The caller was frantic and extremely frightened as she described the thick black smoke pouring into the apartment. Loni quickly asked the caller to assess her options for leaving the apartment; all of them were blocked by either heavy smoke in the front or fire lapping up from below at the back

door. You could hear the intense fear in the caller's voice as she realized she had no way out. In spite of the hysteria, Loni calmly confirmed which apartment the trapped victims were in and relayed that information to her co-workers. For almost seventeen minutes Loni remained calmly on the phone with the frightened caller. She repeatedly provided them with critical instructions. She directed them to place blankets and pillows under the doors to block the smoke, ensure the doors were unlocked to allow fire department access. She directed the trapped victims to stay low to the floor, out of the smoke and to attempt to get into a room away from the heaviest smoke. Throughout the event she constantly monitored where the victims were in the house, and directed them to all stay together where it would assist the rescuers in locating them. She continuously relayed this information to units on scene. There were many times during the call when the caller started to lose control but Loni was always able to calm her and reassure her she was doing a good job. Once the fire crews began the rescue, she continued to assist by providing directions to the caller on how to hand the children off to the rescuers, constantly reassuring her.

Throughout the long 16 minutes and 56 seconds Loni displayed the highest level of professionalism. She never faltered once from her calming, reassuring mannerism. She provided them with constant directions on how to protect themselves and assessed every move they made, ensuring they had not placed themselves in a more dangerous location or situation. She remained on the phone until she was absolutely certain that every victim was outside. It's clear that Loni's actions directly contributed to the saving of six lives. Throughout the event, she displayed great ingenuity, calmness, and professionalism in an unusual situation.

FRANK JANICKE FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER



On April 24, 2011 FAE Frank Janicke was off duty and riding his Harley Davidson to Bullhead City, AZ. Frank likes to take different routes to see the back roads of America. This particular day had him on Amboy Rd. The car in front of him drifted off the road to the right shoulder, the driver overcorrected and the car spun out of control. The car slid off of the road and rolled multiple times before coming to rest on its side. Frank ran over to assist the driver who was disoriented. On Star came on and Frank was able to give them a size up. As this was happening, the car's engine caught fire. The

driver had potentially life threatening injuries that prohibited him from extricating himself from the burning car. Frank helped the driver, an elderly gentleman with four children, from the overturned vehicle and over to a safe spot. Frank then proceeded to use dirt and water from his motorcycle to douse the fire.

2011 CAP AWARD HONOREES

Medal of Merit

BRAD HALDEMAN FIRE CAPTAIN



On July 20, 2011, the OCFA Regional Operations Training Center was certified by the State of California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) as a Hazardous Materials Field Training Facility site. The requirements to obtain this certification are outlined in the California Code of Regulations and are extremely challenging to obtain. The site requires numerous large hazardous materials containers including a railroad tank car, gasoline tank truck, and storage tanks. In addition to having these "training props", they must also be able to perform various simulated leaks. Brad volunteered to complete this

project which had been underway since the opening of the RFOTC in 2004. From that moment, he gave it 200% effort. He obtained numerous items through donations from various vendors and manufacturers through his tenacious efforts. He literally searched the country to find a vendor that could work on, and add the needed props for the rail car. This was a huge challenge since there are probably only four to five companies in the U.S. that will do this type of work.

Over a period of two years, Captain Haldeman worked tirelessly to ensure the implementation of seven stand-alone training props which provide the OCFA and other fire agencies with a location to teach, simulate and improve the skills necessary to respond safely to many different types of hazardous Material incidents. The railroad flammable liquids car and the gasoline fuel tanker were just two of the seven training props that were required to meet the requirements for State certification. The other five training props included a simulated leak or failure of a polypropylene tank, chlorine tank, or compressed gas cylinders, along with leaks or over pressurization of various 55-gallon drums. Also required was a "Pipe Tree" to simulate additional situations. Each one of these props had to be modified or built to the standards set by California Title 19, Section 2560. To meet these standards, Brad spent countless hours obtaining the necessary materials through donations, and from our Automotive Section.

Once Brad received the donated materials, he had the knowledge and skills to cut, weld and construct all of the props, other than the railroad car. Brad completed all of this work on off-duty time with no compensation. He continues to work with our HazMat Team in the operation of these props and in the process of developing the training manuals associated with each prop.

Brad was able to acquire almost all of the materials necessary to build these training props, with very little direct cost to our organization. At the conclusion of this project, there was only a direct cost of \$2,000 to the OCFA.

Brad was directly responsible for the OCFA receiving this valuable certification which now allows us to provide training for not only our own members, but for public service agencies throughout the country.

OCENS CHIEF OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BEST AND BRAVEST HONOREES!

2011 CAP AWARD HONOREES Medals of Valor

FIRE CAPTAIN AARON CLARK FIREFIGHTER JAMIE MURPHY



At 01:28 hrs on October 30, 2011, a first alarm assignment was dispatched to 33331 Bremerton St in Dana Point. ECC reported enroute that there might be trapped residents. On arrival at 01:34, E29 found a well involved single family residence with neighbors reporting two elderly people trapped. E30 arrived 15 seconds later. The single story residence was well involved with heavy fire showing from the A-B corner. Heavy dark black smoke was boiling throughout the structure and pouring out of the garage and every window. Additionally, the residence was very, very overloaded with personal belongings. These belongings extended outside the residence into the common property area.

E29 and E30's members deployed pre-connected hose lines to the rear of the residence in hope of making an access point, as the front was cut off by fire. There they encountered the same heavy dark black boiling smoke. To make access into the residence, they first had to make their way through an enclosed patio area which was piled floor to ceiling with contents. This area was rectangular in shape and approximately 6' x 12'. They had to literally pull belongings out to make enough room to pass through. With Captain Clark leading the way, they advanced through blacked out conditions with their hose line and escape route threatened by falling contents. At the end of the corridor they found and broke through a sliding glass door, and were immediately met with extreme heat and smoke conditions. The heat conditions were so intense that both Thermal Imaging Cameras were "whited out". Captain Clark, followed by Firefighter Jamie Murphy, pushed into these conditions without regard for their personal safety. At approximately 01:42 and roughly 3'-4' into the room, Firefighter Murphy discovered their first victim and rescued her. She was in full arrest and suffering from severe 2nd and 3rd degree burns. After passing her off to outside firefighters, they re-entered the room. Battling these extreme conditions, with fire fingering through the smoke over them, they literally climbed over belongings in their valiant efforts to find the trapped victim. Captain Clark discovered the second victim approximately 10-12' further in at around 01:45. The victim was buried in belongings with only his elbow visible.

Low on air, in as extreme of conditions imaginable, and at great personal risk, Captain Clark dug the victim out of the contents and started to extricate him from the residence. While doing so, Captain Clark fell backwards over belongings and was now submersed in the piles. The victim was laying over him, his air was low, and fire was fingering through the smoke above him in near flashover conditions. Undeterred and unwilling to give up, Captain Clark continued his heroic efforts and didn't simply dig himself out and leave the victim. Firefighter Murphy then joined Captain Clark and helped untangle the two from the debris. Together, they were able to successfully rescue the second victim from the horrific situation. The first victim was resuscitated by on scene paramedics and transported to Mission Hospital. The second victim did not survive the fire and succumbed to his injuries.

Anaheim General Hospital

Anaheim's Community Hospital that cares for the health and wellness of the community

Congratulates Orange County Fire Huthority's Best and Bravest!