



Orange County Fire Authority

On the Front Line

TWO-ALARM FIRE IN LAKE FOREST

OCFA firefighters responded to a structure fire around 10:45 a.m. on January 23rd to find a two-story home with a three-car garage fully involved in fire. Upon quick inspection it was determined that the fire had extended into the second story of the house and into the attic. With the fire extending into the attic, a Second Alarm was requested at 11:01 a.m. Firefighters cleared the house to make sure that everyone was out safely. The good news is that nobody was injured in this fire. The fire was brought Under Control at approximately 11:30 a.m. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



IRVINE FIRE GUTS GARAGE AND HOME

On January 25th, OCFA crews were dispatched at 9:38 p.m. to a structure fire on Wheeler in Irvine. Engine 26 arrived on scene to a two-story single family residence with a working garage fire along with two vehicles in the driveway also on fire. The fire extended into the 2nd story of the residence. One occupant was transported to Western Medical Center with minor smoke inhalation. The Red Cross responded to assist with five displaced residents. Units remained committed for extension overhaul.



YOUNG STUDENT MAKES GENEROUS STUFFED ANIMAL DONATION

She came to the OCFA bearing gifts for children who are scared, but what nobody knew about this little bundle of energy was the amazing story behind her donation. Jessica Carscaden, a vivacious 10-year old young lady, who is in the fourth grade decided to do something special for other children. What's so unique about Jessica is that she was abandoned after birth by her birth parents due to a facial defect. She went on to spend the first months of her life in a "dying room" (where babies are placed without care to die) in a Chinese orphanage. She continued to live in an orphanage until she was 5 years old; that is when Kathleen Carscaden saw her and decided to adopt Jessica. Two years later Jessica was all hers, and the story starts from there.

As her mom put it, Jessica was cleaning her room and decided to donate many of the stuffed animals to the local fire department to keep in their trucks for kids they meet on calls. Now Jessica has started a project called "We Care Bears."

The aim of her project is to provide the local police and fire departments with bags of stuffed animals to keep in the vehicles to give to kids they encounter who may be scared or injured. Jessica has been able to put bags of bears in more than 100 local emergency response vehicles for scared or injured children including every fire truck and ambulance in San Diego County District, Orange County, and Clark County (Nevada).

"My goal was to put bags of stuffed animals into 10 vehicles," said Jessica Carscaden.

"So far, I have been able to put them in 290 emergency response vehicles all over Southern California. I

thought kids would be less scared if the fireman had a stuffed animal to give the kids. "

Jessica's project is amazing and we are so thankful that she was able to assist the Orange County Fire Authority with an added resource, and very grateful for her generous donation.





HELP PREVENT SCALDS AND BURNS

Each year, more than 100,000 children 14 and under are treated for fire and burn injuries. The leading causes of burn injuries in young children are hot liquids and steam. Your house is full of common things that can burn your child. National Burn Awareness Week is observed the first full week in February, and is the perfect calendar observance to focus on preventing fires and protecting children.

Reduce water temperature

- Set the hot water heater to 120 degrees. If you rent, ask your landlord to do it.
- Consider putting anti-scald devices on faucets. A child's skin burns at lower temperatures and more quickly than adult skin.



Establish a "Kid-Free Zone"

- Make the stove area a "Kid- Free Zone" (3 feet is a good distance). Mark it on the floor with bright tape.
- Always stay in the kitchen when your children are there.
- Do not hold children while cooking or while carrying hot foods or liquids.

Avoid hot spills

- Cook with pots and pans on back burners; turn handles away from the front.
- Do not place hot foods or liquids near the counter or table's edge.

Test food and drink temperature

- Taste cooked food and heated liquids to make sure they're not too hot.
- Never microwave a baby's bottle. Drinks heated in a microwave may be much hotter than their containers.
- Heat bottles with warm water and test before feeding.

Remove items that burn

- Teach your child to never touch matches or lighters. Store these items in locked cabinets and do not use these items for fun — children can imitate you.
- Keep children away from candles and other open flames.
- Keep cords out of your children's reach.





You're
Invited...



OCFA BLOOD DRIVE

Join us as the Orange County Fire Authority holds a blood drive on Wednesday, March 27th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Training Room 3 at our headquarters facility in Irvine.

Everyone is invited to come out and give blood for those who need it, you could save a life with your donation.

To schedule an appointment, sign up online at redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code ocfire.org. You can always contact the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS.



FIRE EXPLORING PROGRAM

The OCFA offers a Fire Exploring Program for young adults to gain valuable real-life experience, training and exposure to a career in the fire service. The program also provides mentoring in the pursuit of a career as a professional firefighter.

Candidates for the position of Fire Explorer must be age 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) to age 21 and comply with the following conditions:

- Be a registered member of the Learning For Life (LFL) Exploring subsidiary.
- Be free of any physical defects that would cause injury to themselves or jeopardize other participants in the Program.
- Have no serious arrests or convictions.
- Must maintain fire safe grooming standards.
- While attending school, must maintain an overall grade point average of at least a 2.0.

Fire Exploring gives young people valuable insight into the fire fighting profession. This insight will allow the individual to decide whether or not he/she desires to pursue a greater role in the fire service.

By participating in the program, the individual will gain personal confidence, learn to use various tools, develop mechanical skills and aptitude, and gain a greater awareness of fire safety.

Post activities are planned around the five emphasis areas: career, character, service, life skills, and leadership experience. For more information, visit www.ocfa.org/Menu/Departments/HumanResources/ExplorerProgram.





RESERVE FIREFIGHTERS RAISE MONEY FOR SUPERSTORM SANDY VICTIMS

Reserve Firefighters from Fire Station 26, along with Battalion Chief Cliff Bramlette, spearheaded a pancake fundraiser to assist SuperStorm Sandy Fire Department victims for the Toms River Volunteer Fire Department in New Jersey. In preparation Firefighter Reserves from 26 repainted entire Apparatus Floor, maintained all vegetation around the station and detailed the station apparatus. Many Firefighter Reserves from around the OCFA took part in the coordination and participation of this event. An estimated 800 people attended the breakfast and approximately \$12,000 dollars was raised for the cause. Raffles, apparatus displays, tours, and safety information was also provided.

