

## ENGINE 61 CREW-MEMBERS OKAY AFTER ACCIDENT

While responding to a medical aid call on March 13th, Engine 61 was involved in a solo vehicle accident. The four crew members were treated and immediately transported to UCI Medical Center for their continued care and evaluation. Although the initial injuries appeared to be mild to moderate in nature, the good news to report is that all of our crew members involved in this accident were released that same evening after a thorough medical evaluation by doctors at UCI.



As with all incidents where our personnel have suffered injuries, our first and primary goal is to ensure that our members receive the best care possible. A full investigation is underway and moving forward.

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## ENGINE 31 MAKES AN INCREDIBLE SAVE

The frantic call came in at 7:44 a.m. on January 6th. A 51-year old male was complaining of chest pain and then passed out. With no history of heart disease, Gregg Kawczynski wasn't a likely candidate for heart disease. Engine 31 and Medic 31 rolled on this call that day and made a miraculous save. Firefighter/Paramedic's Collin Cate and Dave Cunningham remember vividly what it took to save Gregg.

"We shocked him seven times," said Cate. "While we worked on him we got his pulse back three times, but he was really unstable; and in the emergency room they shocked him seven more times for a total of 14 shocks. That is unbelievable." While in the emergency room, doctors and nurses lowered his body temperature to stop possible brain and tissue damage and finally got a steady pulse, stabilizing him after 44 minutes of hard work. Gregg only has one reminder of that day, one stent that was put in to keep one of the arteries open. With the long road behind him, Gregg is now leading a healthy lifestyle trying to alleviate his stress and he even quit smoking.



Gregg and Gosia Kawczynski recently visited the crew that helped him out that frenetic day. The crew consisted of Fire Captain Kirk Grant, Fire Apparatus Engineer Dan Cassidy, Firefighter Victor Espinoza, Firefighter/Paramedic Collin Cate, and Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Cunningham.

## FIREFIGHTERS MAKE UNIQUE HEAVY RESCUE

On January 29th, a unique call came in that would put OCFA firefighter's to the test, using a heavy rescue as well as a technical rescue response. At approximately 10:27 a.m. crews were dispatched to a big rig that fell on top of another vehicle with a patient trapped on the Eastbound 22 freeway connector to the Northbound 5 & 57. With numerous engines and trucks responding there was significant planning to figure out how to upright the ten-thousand pound big rig that was carrying a 40-thousand pound load, and get the person trapped out of his vehicle that was pinned underneath. The plan began with accessing and stabilizing the patient who was stuck inside a confined space. The firefighters needed to stabilize the tractor-trailer in order to get the patient out. The complex task took multiple agencies including OCFA, Orange Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, and LA County Fire Department. OCFA and LA County Fire used their Heavy Rescue units to stabilize the big rig and it took approximately 30 minutes to get the patient out of the small space that he was in. This incident was a great opportunity for all of these agencies to work together and achieve a positive outcome.



## THIRTEEN NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT OCFA

On January 24th, the Clerk of the Authority swore in 13 new Directors for our JPA Board so we want to be sure to welcome them into our fire family. In an effort to help familiarize all the board members – new and returning – with our department, we held a Board Orientation session where the Directors visited Dispatch, sat down with the Chiefs in Executive Management, and took an extensive tour of our facility.



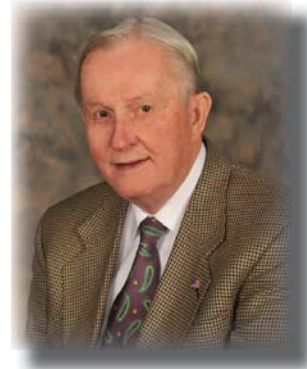
**Robert Johnson**  
Cypress



**Jeff Lalloway**  
Irvine



**Gerard Goedhart**  
La Palma



**Jerry McCloskey**  
Laguna Niguel



**Noel Hatch**  
Laguna Woods



**Kathryn McCullough**  
Lake Forest



**Warren Kusumoto**  
Los Alamitos



**Joe Aguirre**  
Placentia



**Bob Baker**  
San Clemente



**Todd Spitzer**  
County of Orange



**Rick Barnett**  
Villa Park



**Eugene Hernandez**  
Yorba Linda



## CHILDREN ACT FAST...SO DOES POISON!

A poison exposure is the ingestion of or contact with a substance that can produce toxic effects. Both children and poisons act fast. It is the responsibility of parents, grandparents, and other caregivers in preventing poisonings in the home.

The most dangerous poisons are right within your home, including:

- Medicines/Vitamins – including iron pills
- Cleaning products – including those that can cause burns such as drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaner, rust remover, bleach, and pool supplies
- Antifreeze
- Windshield washer fluid
- Hydrocarbons – including furniture polish, lighter fluid, lamp oil, kerosene, turpentine and paint thinner
- Carbon monoxide
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Mushrooms
- Houseplants – including philodendron, lily, and berries from mistletoe and holly



If poisoning occurs, do not induce vomiting unless instructed. Call 9-1-1 and Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. Stay calm and have the following information ready:

- Child's condition, age and weight
- Product bottles or containers
- Time of poisoning
- Your name and telephone number

## OCEFA BLOOD DRIVE

We are searching for all living creatures, who are not afraid to actually step up and save a life. You have the time, now make the commitment. Sign up to donate blood. Orange County Fire Authority is hosting your blood drive on Wednesday, March 27th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Training Room 3 at our headquarters facility in Irvine (1 Fire Authority Road).

For the lost souls, come on in and find your home, we need your precious blood. Don't be scared a little pinch is all you will feel and we will make sure to give you some delicious sweets when you are done.

To schedule an appointment, sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code *ocfire*. You can always contact the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS.



## BE EMBER AWARE

Wildfires are a fact of life in Orange County. It's only a matter of time until the next one occurs. Unfortunately, media coverage and our natural fear of fire have led many people to believe that direct flame contact is responsible for the destruction of most homes, which isn't true. In order to protect your home, you need to understand what really threatens it during a wildfire.

Most homes are started by wildfire embers, not flames. Embers are burning pieces of flammable material like pine cones, tree bark, twigs, and wood shingles. Once they're picked up by strong Santa Ana winds, embers can travel as much as five miles ahead of the active front of a wildfire. Before flames get anywhere near your home, windblown embers can fall like rain on the roof, patio cover, and deck. Whether they smolder under a wood shingle, swirl under an open eave, burrow into a crack in combustible siding, or enter through an unprotected vent, embers that come in contact with flammable material can result in flames that threaten your home.

If embers fall on and ignite nearby trees and bushes, the radiant heat produced by the fire can ignite combustible siding, doors, or window frames. Radiant heat can also cause windows to break, creating passages that flames and embers can use to enter your home. Once the home is on fire, it will create more embers that can be picked up by Santa Ana winds, travel to other homes and neighborhoods, and increase fire loss for the entire community.



Embers create an enormous threat during a wildfire, and the most effective way to reduce that threat is to follow Home Hardening and Vegetation Management guidelines. Take responsibility!

It's the steps you take now to harden your home and manage your vegetation that will protect your family, your home, your neighborhood, and your community during the next wildfire.

For more information, visit [www.readysetgooc.org](http://www.readysetgooc.org) and schedule a home assessment.

