



## NINE DROWNINGS IN JULY

With the warm summer in full swing, most families are hanging out by the pool or ocean. We have had nine drownings in July and 12 in June. That number should be at zero.

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five. Drownings happen everywhere including bathtubs, mop buckets, toilets, pools, spas, ponds, and even in standing water in as little as two inches. Looking away for just a few seconds could be worth a lifetime of regret!

To better understand the terminology, The World Congress on Drowning defines **drowning** as “the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/ immersion in a liquid.” The World

Health Organization and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC, both **categorize drownings as fatal (resulting in death) or nonfatal (not resulting in death).**

Children can drown in as little as 20 seconds, and unless rescued in less than three minutes, the chance of long-term brain injury or death is high. In May and August drowning rates increase by 89% as compared to the rest of the year.

So, why does this happen to children? Children have a poor understanding of risks and dangers, which makes it hard for them to make choices to protect their own safety. They are dependent upon adults for their safety, so everyone needs to be diligent around any water.

Never leave a child unattended and don't take your eyes off of them around any body of water. **It is a silent act, you won't hear it and you won't see it unless you are watching the water!** Children drown without a sound,

learning the ABC's of pool safety could help prevent this senseless tragedy!





## TRISH KELLY ELECTED BOARD CHAIRPERSON

At the July Board of Directors meeting, the Board elected its Chair and Vice Chair for the 2012-2013 term. The Board of Directors elected Director Trish Kelley (Mission Viejo) as its new Chair, and Director Steven Weinberg (Dana Point) as its new Vice Chair. They will help lead the Board with setting policy and procedures for OCFA throughout the next fiscal year. The Board of

Directors meets bimonthly - usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Board established an Executive Committee, which meets monthly - usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. The Board also established a standing Budget and Finance Committee to address finance and budget policy issues, which also meets monthly - usually on the second Wednesday of the month. The Chair of the Board, on an annual or as needed basis, makes appointments to the Committee.

The Executive Committee conducts all business of the Authority, with the exception of policy issues, including labor relations, budget issues, and other matters specifically retained by the Board of Directors.



**Steven Weinberg**



**Trish Kelley**

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## STANTON FIRE STATION REDUCING STAFFING

The OCFA Board of Directors voted to grant the City of Stanton's request for financial relief by reducing the staffing level at Station 46. Stanton will now have five personnel per shift with a Paramedic Assessment Unit (PAU) engine and medic van. The savings realized by OCFA from the new staffing level will be used to fund the hand crew until June 30, 2014.

All parties involved - the City of Stanton, OCFA, and Local 3631 - worked collaboratively to arrive at this mutually beneficial solution to Stanton's fiscal issues. Analysis indicates that it is feasible to reduce fire personnel from eight daily staff to five daily staff without significant impact on our response capabilities, and without falling below our Board adopted Standards of Cover. The City of Stanton will net \$695,748 in annual savings to their contract with the OCFA, which will aid them in addressing their fiscal issues. OCFA will realize \$805,538 in annual savings, which will be used to offset a portion of the projected \$1.6 million hand crew program cost through June 2014. The staffing changes will be implemented on August 24, 2012.







## CONGRESSMAN ROYCE AND CONGRESSWOMAN SANCHEZ RECEIVE AWARDS FROM OCFA

Two of our local congresspersons came out to OCFA to receive awards for their support of a grant for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez came out on July 27th to receive her award from Deputy Chief Ron Blaul, and Congressman Ed Royce came out on July 30th to receive his award from Fire Chief Keith Richter.

OCFA submitted an application to FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the replacement of 385 SCBA's after determining that more than half of the over 800 SCBA's in our

inventory are more than 20 years old. Newer SCBA's have features for improved firefighter safety, including improvements to the Rapid Intervention Crew/Company Universal Air Connection System, added capabilities with CBRN compliant assemblies and increased Heads-Up Display capabilities.

At a cost of \$4,200 each, replacing our entire inventory posed a significant cost to OCFA. Alternatively, a multi-year replacement could have been pursued to reduce cost. As with

any equipment used in operations by our personnel, compatibility and standardization is important. Therefore, staff sought to ease these impacts by seeking grant funds in an amount sufficient to replace these units over the course of one year. In developing our AFG application staff identified 385 frontline positions that would directly benefit from newer SCBA's. As with all OCFA equipment

purchases a competitive bidding process will be

conducted in the near future. We expect to have the new SCBA's in place by the end of this year.







## FIRE CORPS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Orange County Fire Authority is embarking on a new volunteering program called Fire Corps. This program gives members of the community the opportunity to assist OCFA's fire suppression and professional staff within various areas of the department. Fire Corps volunteers can donate their time to the community solely based on civic and humanitarian reasons, and there is no financial gain for participating. Some of the things that the Fire Corp volunteers could help out in the following sections with duties such as:

**Administrative** - Filing, answer telephones, greeting visitors, miscellaneous office duties.

**Logistics** - Deliveries to RFOTC sections, helping in the warehouse, deliveries to fire stations.

**Emergencies** - Assisting at the Incident Command Post or Incident Base with non-technical and non-safety tasks.



**Disasters** - Staffing of informational phone bank, distributing disaster supplies, assisting at the Emergency/Department Operations Centers.

**Community Education** - Assist OCFA community educators with delivery of school and community programs.

**Fire Prevention** - Assist the OCFA Fire Prevention Department with inspections, education, and targeted programs, such as Ready, Set, Go.

**Ceremonies and Events** - Assist at various events of the OCFA with set-up, support, clean-up, parking, serving refreshments, etc.



So, what does it take to get involved? The volunteer must be 18 years of age at the time of application submittal with a valid California Drivers License. You can visit [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org) for more detailed information and an application.

All Fire Corps volunteers must attend an initial informational meeting and orientation training prior to volunteering in any capacity. Each volunteer is required to commit to participating a minimum of 16 hours per month. The first informational meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 29th at 7 p.m. at the Regional Fire Operations & Training Center in Irvine.





Orange County Fire Authority Invites You to Our..

# Open House

**Saturday, October 13, 2012**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Regional Operations & Training Facility**  
**1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine (Jamboree & Tustin Ranch Road)**

***Have 2 Ways Out!***

**You can also visit your local fire station!**  
**Saturday, October 6th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**For more information, visit [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)**

Most people think a home fire won't happen to them, so they get complacent about fire safety. We need residents to know that fire can and will happen anytime, anywhere, and to anyone. Having two ways out of your home is one of the first steps in being prepared for a fire within the home.

National Fire Prevention Week will wind down with our 7th Annual Open House on **Saturday, October 13th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** at our Regional Fire Operations & Training Center located at 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree & Tustin Ranch Road) in Irvine. While you are walking around and learning life and fire safety, your family and friends can see live fire demonstrations, put out make-believe fires, take a ride in a fire engine, try on firefighter turnouts, and see first-hand how dangerous a fire can be, all in a fun-filled environment.

To see how firefighters prepare and stay abreast of current firefighting techniques, demonstrations on the training grounds will occur every half-hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (714) 573-6200 or visit [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org).