



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: OCTOBER 3, 2017**
FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH AND EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

ISSUE:

Receive a presentation recognizing October as National Fire Prevention Month, and recognize the contributions of Fire Safety Inspector II Tracy Shaw.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council receive and file this presentation recognizing October as National Fire Prevention Month, and recognize the contributions of Fire Safety Inspector II Tracy Shaw.

BACKGROUND:

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), many Americans underestimate their home fire risk, and fail to develop and/or practice a fire emergency escape plan. To increase public fire safety awareness, October is designated National Fire Prevention Month.

DISCUSSION:

In recognition of this important annual fire and life safety campaign, the Downtown Fire Station No. 1, Arlington Fire Station No. 2, Magnolia Center Fire Station No. 3, University Fire Station No. 4 and Arlanza Fire Station No. 7 will be open to the public between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14. Residents are encouraged to stop by any of these five fire stations to meet the station crews, tour the station, and enjoy light refreshments while learning to protect their homes and families from fire.

In addition, on Saturday, October 21, Riverside Fire Department (RFD) will celebrate National Fire Prevention Month with a Public Safety Expo between 12 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., on Mission Inn Avenue, between Lime and Orange Streets. Visitors can tour the Downtown Fire Station and Fire Museum, view specialty fire apparatus up close, watch various rescue demonstrations and enjoy light refreshments. Children can explore the educational KidSafe Trailer, meet "Freddie the Fire Truck" and enjoy fun hands-on activities while learning to be fire safe.

Following is a brief summary of recent Fire Department activity.

Significant Fire Incidents

On December 8, 2016, RFD responded to a fire at Mt. Rubidoux Manor, a 16-story apartment building that houses low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. Upon arrival, fire crews found an apartment on the 10th floor fully engulfed. Multiple Fire units assisted, both within the City and from surrounding jurisdictions. Seventy-three on scene firefighters brought the blaze “under control” within 10 minutes, preventing spread to additional floors. Two residents suffered minor injuries from smoke inhalation, and approximately 50 residents were displaced.

On February 27, 2017, a six-seat twin-engine plane departed from Riverside Municipal Airport en route to San Jose when it crashed into an adjacent neighborhood shortly after takeoff. Two homes were destroyed, with several nearby residences suffering moderate damage. One hundred and sixteen personnel were assigned to the incident, including seventy-six from RFD. Tragically, four of the five airplane occupants died from their injuries.

Mutual Aid

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CAL-OES) is responsible for the coordination of fire and rescue mutual aid activities. Recognizing that no community has resources sufficient to cope with any and all potential emergencies, the State Mutual Aid system creates a formal structure for provision of mutual aid and cost reimbursement. The benefits to RFD’s participation in the State Mutual Aid system include full reimbursement for mutual aid response costs, being a “good neighbor” by assisting communities throughout the state, the assurance that additional resources will be available to assist the City when needed, and hands-on experience gained by RFD personnel, leading to better managed incidents within RFD’s jurisdiction.

For the 2017 summer fire season, RFD provided mutual aid assistance for the following incidents throughout the State:

Incident	Fire Acres	RFD Personnel Deployed
Holcomb Fire	1,503	3
Manzanita Fire	6,309	14
Alamo Fire	28,687	11
Whittier Fire	18,430	6
Garza Fire	48,889	2
Bridge Fire	460	8
Detwiler Fire	81,826	11
Modoc Fire	83,120	7
Bryant 2 Fire	325	4
Park Creek Fire	13,333	1
Blaine Fire	1,044	6

Urban Search and Rescue – California Task Force 6 Deployment

On August 29, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall along the Texas coast as a Category 4 hurricane, resulting in widespread flooding and over 60 deaths. The state of Texas requested Federal Assistance for local and state authorities to assist with emergency response and recovery efforts. A select group of twelve California Task Force 6 member were deployed from Riverside to Houston, Texas to assist with incident management and water rescue efforts.

Community Engagement – STEM LEAPS Program

On August 14 – 18, 2017, RFD collaborated with Bourns, Inc. to engage community youth through the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Law Enforcement and Public Safety (LEAPS) Learning Lab. Sixty local high school students learned how technology, such as “Jaws of Life” extrication tools can help first responders save the lives of vehicle accident victims. Furthermore, the students learned how science and technology assists Fire Investigations, Hazardous Materials Incidents, and emergency medical services.

The students also attended a two-day Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class, which provided hands-on training in first aid and fire extinguishment. At the conclusion of public safety week, the students presented their ideas on how to improve the fire service using science, technology, engineering and mathematics. RFD is proud to mentor these young students and help inspire them to pursue careers in the fire service.

My Safe:Riverside

RFD continues to collaborate with My Safe:Riverside, a public/private partnership between the City of Riverside, RFD, and the non-profit California Fire Prevention Organization to promote fire and life safety education. This partnership emphasizes community risk reduction. Recent activities include production of two Public Safety Announcements, “Pull to the Right” and “Wildfire Safety” that aired on RiversideTV and the City’s website throughout the year. Information on earthquake preparedness and fire life safety for children and adults is available online at <http://mysaferiverside.org/>.

Drowning Prevention Program

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children ages 1 – 4. To help prevent these tragedies, RFD presents a drowning prevention program to over 2,000 local first grade students each year. RFD crews, including a member dressed in a duck costume, visit local first grade classrooms to read the story *Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim*, which is written for children ages 2 – 6 as a child’s first guide to water safety. This fun and interactive program teaches young children through story and song the importance of learning to swim, urges them to go in the water only when an adult is watching, and to wear a life vest. A copy of the *Stewie the Duck* book is given to the classroom to help reinforce the water safety message year-round.

Employee Recognition – Fire Inspector II Tracy Shaw

The Fire Department recognizes Fire Inspector II Tracy Shaw for his exceptional work on the California Baptist University (CBU) Events Center project. Assigned to this project in August 2015, Tracy faced many unique challenges with this 150,000 square foot building. This complex project required numerous regular and afterhours inspections with contractors, developers, architects and the project manager to ensure that time-sensitive deadlines were met. Tracy worked with the City’s Community & Economic Development Department/Building and Safety Division to issue a Temporary Use Permit, which allowed CBU to safely host two special events in the new Events Center, including the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony, prior to receiving final project sign off.

Tracy also spent a great deal of time with Fire/Operations personnel in pre-planning for the building, and educating them on the unique life and safety design features that will assist Fire personnel if an incident should occur. These life-saving features include a state of the art smoke

control system, as well as a robust communications system. In recognition of the two years spent on this project from inception to full completion, the Fire Department is pleased to honor Fire Inspector II Tracy Shaw's service to the City and the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with acceptance of this informational report.

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availability of funds: Adam Raymond, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
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Attachment: Presentation