

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

March 2016



As we go about our daily duties and responsibilities, our unwavering commitment to provide exceptional service delivery internally and externally allow each of us to achieve successful outcomes. Together, we accomplished many great things in March, from reopening Fire Station 172 in Inglewood, to recognizing our personnel through the Valor Awards, to meeting with the County's Quality & Productivity Commission, and graduating our first class of 20 young adults from the Fire Service Career Prep Program.

Without a doubt, March proved to be a busy month for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, allowing us to work toward common goals to diligently carry out our mission.

VALOR AWARDS 2016

It is always an honor to recognize members of the Department.

Over 500 people gathered on March 1 for the Valor Awards ceremony at the Pasadena Convention Center.

I had the privilege of presenting Medals of Valor, Certificates of Valor, Unit Citations, Certificates of Merit, Letters of Commendation and Exemplary Service

Awards. The Valor Awards allow us to recognize and express our appreciation and gratitude to those who exhibit and exemplify the highest traditions of the fire service and public safety.

This year, we handed out four Medals of Valor, the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the Department. It is given to uniformed personnel in the Department who exhibit courage above and beyond the call of duty, risking their life to save another under conditions that put them at extreme personal risk.

The four Medal of Valor recipients were Fire Captain Daniel McKeen, Fire Captain Mark Roberts, Fire Fighter Paramedic Matt Prasch and Fire Fighter Paramedic Leo Harris. McKeen and Prasch were honored for rescuing and providing medical care for victims as part of USA Task Force 2 after a large earthquake and aftershocks struck Nepal. Roberts and Harris were recognized for rescuing fellow firefighters trapped during a raging fire at an abandoned casino in Cudahy.

In total, the Department honored more than 100 of its extraordinary members, other first responder agencies and civilians for their exceptional heroism and commendable service.

On behalf of the Executive Team and myself, congratulations again for a job well done!

To hear more from our Medal of Valor recipients and see who was honored at the annual Valor Awards, our Department has produced a video: vimeo.com/161121355/74be2104dd.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Members of the Los Angeles County Quality & Productivity (Q&P) Commission recently visited Department headquarters. The Q&P Commission visits various County departments every two years for updates on initiatives and projects that involve the Commission. These biennial meetings help determine departmental needs and assist with planning for future goals.

The visits are opportunities for the Department to share ideas for future grant funding. The Q&P Commission listens to our suggestions and advocates on our behalf to the County Chief Executive Office and Board of Supervisors.

I started this year's official visit with a brief overview of the Department and the services we provide to County

residents, including a video produced by our Training Services Division and hosted by actor Harrison Ford. The video highlights the homeland security grant-funded Regional Training Group (RTG) that allows us to partner and collaborate with 30 other fire agencies in Southern California. Through the RTG, we can work and train together more efficiently and effectively: vimeo.com/148913561.

Grant funding is an important component of the Department's business continuity and innovation.

Not long ago, we received two Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) grants from the Q&P Commission, and I am proud to report their success:

- A \$200,000 PIF grant launched the Countywide Hands-Only CPR training program for students. So far, 7,500 students have received training, with more training scheduled in the months to come.
- A \$155,000 PIF grant transitioned firefighter in-service training from the class to a Blackboard-based online program, which will soon be available to other fire agencies in the region.

With PIF grants, the Department has been able to carry out and accomplish goals related to the Strategic Plan, while also supporting our needs.

Next week, our Human Resources Division (HR) will distribute a briefing manual directive to notify personnel of a PIF grant opportunity focused on technology: The Digital Government

Challenge. This particular \$100,000 grant is currently soliciting for proposals aimed at cost-cutting, time-efficient digital programs or concepts that will also improve the public's access to the County and its services.

I strongly encourage employees with out-of-the-box concepts and innovative ideas to apply for this grant. Durable, long-lasting organizations are built on forward-thinking innovation and input from employees.

If you have an idea that you believe would improve or benefit the Department, please contact your chain-of-command or HR. There are several opportunities throughout the year to apply for and obtain funding through the Q&P Commission PIF that can finance and deliver ideas from concept to completion.

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

Through a partnership between our Department and the Community and Senior Services Department, 20 young adults were the first to graduate from the Fire Service Career Prep Program on March 26 at the Inglewood Library.

This was the first graduating class of the new pilot program operated by Fire Captain Brent Burton, Fire Captain Ben Hernandez and Ocean Lifeguard Specialist Lidia Barillas, who serve as instructors and mentors.

The eight-week course prepares 18- to 24-year-old Los Angeles County residents who are interested in entry-level positions that may serve as a

stepping stone to becoming a firefighter, lifeguard or dispatcher, as well as pursue other public service careers.

The continuation of this program is an integral part of succession planning as we look to our future, prepare, diversify and build our Department—one person at a time.

The program's next course begins in late April/early May. For more information on the program, contact Tony Massengale (AMassengaleSr@css.lacounty.gov) or JJ De La Rosa (JDeLaRosa@css.lacounty.gov).

MOVING FORWARD

With each day that passes, my Executive Team and I are forging ahead with our sights set on accomplishing our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan goals and Countywide initiatives, with a continued focus on the many essential needs identified in both business and emergency operations.

It is important and vital to celebrate our successes, but we should stay grounded and humble—upholding our Department's core values to maintain exceptional service and sustain our legacy of excellence.

No matter where you work or what you do, you are a reflection of this Department and an essential part of our team. Thank you for your professionalism, dedication and commitment in going above and beyond to provide services to the four million residents in the communities we proudly serve and protect.

