

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

April 2016



Tremendous responsibility comes with being a member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Since joining this Department 32 years ago, I have served the public in a number of firefighting ranks and responsibilities. I understand how much the public counts on the availability of emergency services each day. These experiences have given me a unique perspective about the mission of our organization and how each member of our team plays an integral role.

As the Fire Chief, I lead a great team of emergency responders and business professionals who serve the public with care and compassion. Each one of us is expected to consistently perform at the peak of our potential and ability; to diligently deliver exceptional service; and to uphold our Department's core values. Together, bound by our core values, mission and vision, we succeed at whatever we focus on.

This month has been one of both reflecting on the past and looking positively into the future. We thanked one of the world's foremost authorities on seismology for her contributions; traveled to Washington, D.C. for an annual County delegation visit with our nation's leaders and top officials; and remained focused on providing

promotional opportunities paramount to the success of our Department.

PROMOTIONAL EXAMS UPDATE

Succession planning and providing promotional opportunities are priorities for the Executive Team. By promoting highly deserving individuals into leadership roles, we are also supporting our Strategic Plan and Countywide initiatives, while strengthening the Department's future.

We continue to work with the Administrative Services Bureau to focus on filling vacancies and conducting promotional exams for various positions.

As a follow-up to my January 2016 message, below is an update on the promotional exam posting dates:

- Fire Fighter Specialist: posted April 2016
- Assistant Fire Chief: May 2016 (revised date)
- Fire Captain: June 2016
- Battalion Chief: July 2016



COUNTY DELEGATION VISITS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Each year, the Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Officer bring a delegation of County officials with them to visit legislators in Washington, D.C. This month, I had the privilege of joining the delegation, along with Sheriff Jim McDonnell, Director of Health Services Dr. Mitchell Katz, County Counsel and other key County staff.

The agenda primarily focused on public safety, affordable housing, health, homeless assistance, military veterans, regional interoperable communications, combatting human trafficking, transportation and grant funding.

We met with key officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and First Responder Network Authority, as well as Congressional representatives and their staff.

During these meetings with federal agencies, the County succeeded in retaining continued support to fund the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System and obtaining approvals for continued projects regarding our Land Mobile Radio project.

I also sought approval for the remaining \$37 million of the \$154.6 million grant from NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The BTOP grant funding increases our capacity and build-out of the Long-Term Evolution wireless communications system.

My meetings with Congressional offices focused on continued funding and requests for increases to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) programs. As it is, the UASI allocation for the Los Angeles/Long Beach area was \$68.6 million for Fiscal Year 2016, while the County's allocation for SHSG was \$10.3 million.

These grants are vital to the Department and County as they provide a primary funding mechanism for building and sustaining national preparedness capabilities in response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and manmade incidents. Follow-up meetings are scheduled with Congressional offices to discuss increased funding needs for fire assistance grants.

SHAKING THINGS UP: DR. LUCY JONES SEMI-RETIREES

After 33 years as a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and a visiting research associate at Caltech, Dr. Lucy Jones recently retired from her



post. She plans to continue her work, applying her knowledge and know-how into making legislative change and creating solutions for the most seismic vulnerabilities in Los Angeles.

Dr. Jones has not only been a leading authority on seismology but also a dear colleague and friend to the Department. Over the years, we developed a partnership and friendship with her that has proven to be mutually beneficial.

Years ago, I was introduced to her by Battalion Chief Larry Collins who was tasked to work with her on how to better prepare our Department for earthquakes. After the 1987 Whittier Narrows quake (5.9) shook Southern California, it revealed vulnerabilities in earthquake preparedness that all fire agencies needed to better address. Primarily, it prompted the creation of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

She bridged the gap between science and first responders, allowing us to work closely with one another to better help each other prepare for large-scale

seismic events and natural disasters, such as tsunamis and mudslides.

Who could even imagine being at risk for a tsunami? It seemed highly improbable. But when Chief Collins and Dr. Jones brought up the idea and scientifically defended the creation of a County-wide emergency plan for tsunamis, it was difficult to dispute the facts.

Years later, after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake (8.9) in Japan, the threat of a tsunami became all too real and we were more than ready and prepared for the possibility of one hitting our shores. Thanks to the collaborative partnership with Dr. Jones, we enhanced emergency preparedness efforts and the way we envision and plan for the future. We will continue to work with Dr. Jones on future initiatives and wish her well in her new role.

TOGETHER, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

We are seamlessly woven together by our responsibility to one another—and to the people who depend and rely on us daily.

Through your dedication and commitment, we successfully accomplish short- and long-term goals.

Thank you for being here day in and day out, keeping each other accountable and ensuring the success of our Department.

I am proud we are all on the same team.



Fire Chief Daryl Osby recognized National Public Safety Telecommunications Week by meeting with Command and Control Division personnel during the week of April 10 – 16.