

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

August 2016



The Los Angeles County Fire Department applauds the men and women who continue to battle numerous wildfires throughout a drought-stricken California. I commend our personnel for their continued dedication to protecting lives and property during the 2016 fire season.

This month, we welcomed the arrival of our contract aircraft to augment our air attack program; we received a \$956,000 grant award for wildland personal protective equipment (PPE); and we are preparing for a future move into new office space in Diamond Bar.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL

The Bombardier CL-415 air tankers (commonly referred to as the SuperScoopers) from Quebec and the Erickson Aircrane helitanker arrived two weeks earlier than usual this year. The helitanker was put into service on August 1, and the SuperScoopers reported for duty on August 8. The Department will monitor fire activity, wildland fuel conditions and weather

forecasts to determine if these firefighting resources will be extended past their lease periods.

The SuperScoopers and helitanker are valuable and powerful tools that strengthen our air attack fleet by increasing water-dropping capacity. The numbers alone speak volumes:

- Helitanker: 2,650 gallons
- SuperScooper: 1,620 gallons

Contract aircraft do not come without a price. The leases on these aircraft total \$12.75 million per year, and they are worth every penny spent in order to protect the lives and property of the residents we serve.

GRANT AWARD

I am pleased to announce the Department was awarded a \$956,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This one-year Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) award will be used to

partially offset the cost to purchase single-layer wildland PPE for safety personnel and to produce an online training video on how to properly wear the PPE.

The single-layer wildland PPE will increase firefighter safety and enhance operational efficiencies. This PPE will replace the current double-layer gear and address the dangerous physiological heat-related injuries firefighters experience when working on wildland fires.



Beginning in 2011, the Department has collaborated with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Defense, U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE and numerous Southern California fire agencies to focus on risk management as a means to protect personnel from thermal and environmental injuries caused by increased metabolic heat accumulation.

The results of this collaborative effort, along with input from subject matter experts such as Battalion Chief Mike Inman, the Department's Equipment Development Committee, Financial Management, Information Management and Fleet Services divisions, provided essential guidance to the Grants Management Section on the AFG application and narrative.

Because grant awards must be accepted by the Board of Supervisors, the timeline to procure and distribute the single-layer wildland PPE will be communicated in a future message.

The Department is proud to partner with DHS FEMA to support projects that enhance public and first responder safety from fire and related hazards.

LACoFD MAKES MOVES

In the coming months, the Department will initiate the bidding process to build a new administrative office in the city of Diamond Bar. The new building will provide approximately 10,000 square feet of much-needed office space for Department personnel.

Working with the Department of Public Works, construction is projected to begin in May 2017 and end by March 2018. This \$3.9 million project started in June 2013 when we took over the city's former library.

Once renovations are complete, the one-story brick building will support 30 staff members, including those from Division 8, the Fire Prevention Division, Emergency Medical Services



(EMS) Bureau, Recruitment Unit, and Construction and Maintenance Division. The new space will also house a training classroom and conference room.

New office space is essential to support the growth of the Department as we meet our daily operational and business responsibilities. This is just one infrastructure project on a list of many that we hope to accomplish over time.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank our communities and residents for showing their support to our first responders by taking the proper measures to ensure brush clearance/defensible space and complying with evacuation orders. You not only protected your families, neighbors, pets and area wildlife, you also allowed our firefighters to access areas to defend your homes and keep everyone safe.