

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

September 2016



Collaboration has been a key theme this month. Working together with our associations, partner agencies, and fellow County departments, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with the communities and residents we serve.

This month, we witnessed the County of Los Angeles Fire Museum move a step closer to becoming reality; celebrated a milestone anniversary for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT); and marked the 15th year since the tragic day of September 11, 2001.

A MUSEUM MOMENT

After decades of patiently toiling away, the County of Los Angeles Fire Museum Association (CLAFMA) inched toward a permanent home for the museum.

On September 22, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the museum's future site at 16400 Bellflower Boulevard.

The Ledor Group will design and build the brand-new, state-of-the-art Bellflower Events Center and County of Los Angeles Fire Museum. More than 7,500 square feet of the building's first floor will be dedicated to the museum, which will stand as a tribute to the fire service.

Honoring past and present firefighters, the museum will provide valuable history and amazing stories of courage through rotating fire apparatus displays and fire memorabilia, including the permanent exhibit of Squad 51 and the Ward La France Engine 51 from the 1970s television show *Emergency!*



The museum will also enrich our fire service legacy by inviting the public to see what we do and how we proudly serve our communities. It is important for us to rightfully recognize our history and how it has influenced our present day as well as our future.

I am pleased to see the museum remain in the City of Bellflower, where the Department has provided fire protection and life-safety services to residents since 1923—and we anticipate many more decades together.

Projects such as this are a testament to the patience of CLAFMA members and their Board of Directors. While it took nine years of planning with the City of Bellflower, the vision itself has been around for nearly three decades.

Congratulations to CLAFMA and the City of Bellflower on this worthwhile project and major attraction! I look forward to attending the ribbon-cutting and grand opening.

CELEBRATING CERT

This year marks the 30th anniversary of CERT. I recently spoke at the National CERT Conference to honor the CERT community and celebrate the program's achievements and positive impact on communities in California and across the nation.

CERT volunteers provide invaluable support to first responders. While they do not necessarily don turnouts and wear badges, they do provide immediate response in their neighborhoods and workplaces after major disasters and incidents.

Our trusty volunteers have mopped up the aftermath of mudslides; assisted with public safety demonstrations; and walked door-to-door to show their neighbors how to prepare for disasters in their own homes.

Since the Department launched its own program in 2003, more than 14,000 residents have received CERT training.

Thank you to our many CERT volunteers for courageously stepping forward and participating in this emergency support program. CERT volunteers deserve



plenty of accolades for caring enough to help their neighbors by volunteering their time, effort and skills.

This year alone, our Department's dedicated trainers have taught the fundamentals of disaster support to over 2,000 CERT volunteers. Before year-end, we are projected to train 500 additional volunteers Countywide.

If a major earthquake devastated Los Angeles, first responders would be overwhelmed with emergency calls and there would not be enough of us to help everyone. This is why disaster plans and rapid recovery depend on a network of CERT volunteers who are highly skilled, willing and able to give selflessly to neighbors at critical times.

We truly appreciate our CERT volunteers who make our County stronger and safer, one community at a time.

For additional information on upcoming CERT training opportunities, please visit www.fire.lacounty.gov/cert.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Fifteen years ago on September 11, 2001, every American—no matter where we were—stopped what we were doing and collectively witnessed a different chapter of our lives unfold, changing us and affecting us in ways we never imagined.

From that day forward, our lives as we knew it were no longer the same. As first responders, that day remains ingrained in our memories and heavy in our hearts.

This year, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, we remembered the lives lost in a ceremony held at the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Firefighters Memorial.

While the nation eventually stood firm, rebuilt and somewhat healed, we have



never forgotten all those we lost that day—the nearly 3,000 men, women and children.

Let us also never forget those first responders, including our law enforcement partners and 343 New York City Fire Department firefighters, who were there and bravely and selflessly ran into danger to save people's lives.

There is not a day that goes by that we are not reminded of this tragic day, and of the sacrifices made and the people who perished.

May we keep all of them in our hearts and minds forever.

RISE ABOVE

I am proud to be part of a committed team of individuals who recognize the importance of honest and hard work. Together, we rise above challenges and recognize through action, courage and integrity that we achieve positive outcomes.

May we continue to do good deeds and make a true difference in the communities we serve.