Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department Quarterly Update

Second Quarter
Fire Personnel Update
Fire Chief John “Pono” Van Gieson

• 33 years of experience in the Fire and EMS service; Montgomery County, Maryland Fire and Rescue Department

• Previous positions include: Firefighter/Paramedic, EMT Instructor, Hazardous Materials Technician, Station Commander, 911 Center Shift Supervisor, EMS Quality Assurance Officer, EMS Battalion Chief, Battalion Commander, Assistant State Fire Marshal, Operations Shift Commander, and Executive Officer to the Operations Chief

• As Executive Officer, he led a shift of the entire department consisting of over 350 personnel at 37 fire stations protecting a population of 1.2 million residents

• 28-year career with U.S. Army, Army Reserve and Maryland National Guard, retired as a Sergeant Major (Highest enlisted rank)

• Holds the highest designation of both Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer (CEMSO) in the industry
• 12 years of local government experience
• Started January 2020
• Experience includes:
  • City of Anaheim; Metro Cities Fire Authority (MCFA)
    • Helped oversee the complete renovation of MCFA’s entire dispatch center
  • Assisting Placentia with the development of its Public Safety Communications Center CAD to CAD integration with MCFA
  • Direct staff support to Chief Pono, Chief Officers, and Placentia Fire and Life Safety
Public Safety Communications Manager, Stephanie Acosta-Reyes

• 15 years of public safety experience as a dispatcher and supervisor for Fire and Police Departments
• Dispatch Supervisor and Training Coordinator
• Currently supervises 20 public safety dispatchers handling more than 314,000 emergency calls for service per year
• Developed and implemented new and innovative dispatch training programs and systems
• Will create training curriculum standards and conduct annual dispatch academy for all dispatch personnel
• Starting first week in March
Battalion Chiefs

• 3 full-time Battalion Chiefs selected for appointment
• 89 years of combined experience in Southern California municipal and county fire departments
• Each Chief Officer will command a shift consisting of 2 fire stations and 10 department personnel per shift
• Each Battalion Chief has experience in every subordinate position in the fire industry
• Meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021 standards and California State Fire Marshall Chief Fire Officer standards
• California State Fire Marshal: Inspector, Instructor, Training and Fire Investigator
• Local community college Fire Science Instructor
• Advanced college degrees and numerous additional certifications
• Firefighter of the Year acknowledgement
Additional Recruitments

• **Fire Captain Recruitment** Closes on Feb. 20\(^{th}\)
  • Requirements include:
    • 4 years of consecutive firefighting experience
    • 1 year as a Fire Engineer
    • Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate
    • Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license

• **Meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021 standards** and California State Fire Marshall Company Fire Officer standards

• **California State Fire Marshal: Inspector, Instructor, Training and Fire Investigator**

• Meets or exceeds National and State fire standards
Additional Recruitments

• Fire Engineer Recruitment Closes on Feb. 21st
  • Requirements include:
    • 3 years of consecutive firefighting experience
    • Minimum of 1 year of career service as a Fire Engineer/Apparatus Operator
    • Operator 1A and 1B or NFPA equivalent
    • Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate
    • Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license
  • These standards exceed OCFA’s standards for Fire Engineer
  • Meets or exceeds National and State fire standards
Additional Recruitments

• Firefighter Recruitment Opened on Feb. 11\textsuperscript{th}
  • Requirements include:
    • Completion of State Certified Firefighter Academy
    • CPAT or Biddle physical agility exam
    • Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate
    • Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license
• These standards exceed OCFA’s standards for Firefighter
• Meets or exceeds National and State fire standards
Additional Recruitments

• Reserve Firefighter Recruitment Opened on Feb. 18th
  • Requirements include:
    • Completion of State Certified Firefighter Academy
    • CPAT or Biddle physical agility exam
    • Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate
    • Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) license
  • These standards exceed OCFA’s standards for Reserve Firefighter
  • Meets or exceeds National and State fire standards
Fire Recruitment Efforts

• Placed on Digital Billboards along the 57 freeway

Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department
Now Hiring, All Positions Available

JOIN TODAY!

www.placentia.org/jobs
Fire Recruitment Efforts

- Advertised on the following publications:
  - Western City Magazine
  - Firerecruit.com
  - National Testing Network
  - Indeed
  - Government Jobs
  - City’s website
  - City’s Facebook and Twitter
Fire Recruitment Video

Please visit the link below to view the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8sPsEs09os
Training Standards
Training Standards

• All Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department personnel will undergo rigorous training standards:
  • California State Firefighter 1 certifications (NFPA 1001)
  • Training academies by position
  • Examples include:
    • Leadership, values and organizational mission
    • Fire Prevention and Inspections
    • Community Risk Reduction Strategies
    • Public Education and Communication
    • Active Shooter training
    • Hose evolutions
    • Ladders
    • Ventilation
    • Orange County EMT expanded scope of practice
Apparatus Update
Fire Apparatus Vehicles

- Four brand-new fire suppression apparatus
  - Seagrave Type I Engine (2)
  - Seagrave Quint with 100-foot ladder (1)
  - HME Type VI mini-pumper (1)
- Recommended and vetted by multiple experts
- Heavy apparatus in production, mini pumper ready for service in March
- Contingency plan ready
Fire Support Vehicles

- Two 2019 Ford F350’s for the Battalion Chiefs
- One 2020 Police Interceptor for the Fire Chief
- Outfitted with state-of-the-art, technologically-advanced equipment
- Ready for service March 2020
- One 15-person passenger van (Ford Transit)
- One Light duty pick-up truck (Ford F150)
- Ready for service in June 2020
Fire Department Equipment
Fire Apparatus Tools and Equipment

• All items picked specifically for Placentia, reviewed by experts and are compatible with neighboring cities

• Over 600 individual pieces of new equipment purchased and delivered, including:
  • Breathing apparatus
  • Hoses and clamps
  • Multipurpose tools
  • Bolt cutters
  • Axes and hand tools
  • Hydraulic cutting tools

• Spare equipment purchased to ensure additional supplies available on shelf if needed

• Equipment is ready for installation on apparatus & command units
Operations
Fire Station Transition Plan

• Facility Needs Assessment completed
• Toured both Placentia Fire Stations with OCFA staff to discuss Fire Station transition needs and coordination
• City and OCFA Staff meeting monthly on station transition
• Meetings with OCFA Assistant Fire Chief Ruane have been productive and collaborative in spirit
• Identified station improvements will be listed in future Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget
• Both agencies developing facility transition plan
Agency Partnership
Partnership with OC Health Care Agency and EMS

• Orange County EMS Medical Director to review and approve of medical dispatch protocols. County EMS to ensure all Paramedics are accredited to practice as requirements of Lynch's annual licensure

• Entered into agreement for electronic integration of 911 EMS dispatch data into County of Orange’s OC-MEDS data system

• Utilization of the OC-MEDS electronic reporting system by City ensures:
  • Regulatory and patient care data privacy compliance
  • Seamless coordination of call times and demographic data into patient care reports
  • Since OC-MEDS is the County data system they will have real time oversight over patient care by both PFLSD and Lynch EMS.
Several meetings held between City and Fire Chiefs from Anaheim and Fullerton/Brea, along with Lynch EMS team to review Placentia's fire/ems call data, the City’s planned service model, and support scenarios with our neighbors.

Tour of Lynch facility with neighboring Fire Chiefs and City Managers to be scheduled.
Ongoing Communications

- Senior Executive Fire Advisor Ferguson meets regularly with our neighboring Fire Chiefs to continue discussion on finalizing automatic and mutual aid agreements.
- Ensure a smooth transition that provides the highest-quality service to all residents.
- City has secured letters of intent for mutual/auto aid with surrounding Cities.
- Data indicates significant subsidy by smaller surrounding agencies to OCFA based on current deployment model (Source: Metro Cities Call Data 2019).
- Placentia's efficient deployment model will result in a far more equitable partnership with our neighbors reducing the call volume imbalance our neighbors have to currently subsidize for OCFA operations.
Public Safety Communications Center Update
Upgrades to Dispatch Equipment

• 800 MHz radio talk groups approved by Orange County Communications (OCC), Orange County Fire Chiefs Association, and Orange County Police Chiefs Association
• Motorola consoles purchased for FIRE/EMS dispatch desk
• Purchased station alerting system which will integrate with dispatching system
• New mobile and portable radios beginning to be programmed for operations
• New office area created for Public Safety Communications Manager position
Training, EMD Protocols, CAD System Training

• All Placentia Public Safety Communications Dispatchers and call-takers will be certified in CPR, CA POST Basic Dispatcher, Emergency Medical Dispatch and Emergency Fire Dispatch

• EMD and EFD protocols from the Priority Dispatch system will be utilizing proven national standards for call intake and processing

• Communications staff currently utilize Mark 43, Introduction to the Fire and EMS modules will take place once dispatch protocols are approved by Fire Chief Van Gieson
Public Safety Communications Center

- Public Safety Communications Manager has completed background and start date is March 9th. Manager to run integrated Dispatch Center
- Hired 3 new Police Dispatch/Records Clerks within the past three months
- Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols being finalized
- POST required training being conducted now for new hires = 120 hours of training
- Training will begin in May for dispatcher certification in Emergency Medical and Fire Dispatch (EMD & EFT = 40 hours of training
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records System

• City Council approved contract to upgrade Mark43 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to add Fire & EMS functionality
• Complete integration mid-March
• OCMEDS/ImageTrend Electronic Patient Care Records (ePCR) integration started
• Met with Orange County Communications to begin Dispatch radio and console upgrades
• Integration into Orange County CAD-to-CAD with Tellus Safety Solutions unnecessarily delayed by OCFA Chief Fennessy’s approval to join hub
• Staff researching CAD integration with Metro Cities Fire Authority as an alternative. Metro Cities is a JPA dispatch hub which includes Anaheim and Brea/Fullerton
• Fire GIS district grids uploaded to CAD system
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Update

Lynch Ambulance
Background & Selection of Lynch Ambulance

• All Lynch Paramedics assigned to Placentia required to have significant 911 experience
• Paramedics required to maintain CA Dept. of Justice and FBI background live scan service
• While Lynch employs over 40 Paramedics, only those demonstrating the highest of standards and core values will be selected to provide service to Placentia.
Lynch Paramedics: Training

- Bi-annual retraining for advanced pediatric and cardiac life support
- Annual skills testing for competency on high risk, low frequency medical emergencies
- Additional training in at-risk populations, hospice care and pediatrics
Lynch’s Progress in Becoming Placentia’s New EMS Provider

- Two primary ambulances and one backup have been ordered from manufacturer and are in production
  - March delivery

- Cardiac Monitors
  - Utilizes latest in advanced cardiac monitor/defibrillator technology
  - Deployed in paramedic units
Lynch’s Integration into the Placentia Community

• Data analysis
  • Lynch is currently analyzing data on call volume within Placentia and neighboring cities to develop demand predictions, heat maps and effective deployment models

• Continued involvement within the City
  • Attending events to meet the community including Taste of Placentia, Tacos and Tequila, and the Placentia Heritage Festival
  • Instructed medical training for the City’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
  • Members of the Chamber of Commerce and Placita Santa Fe Merchants Association
Next Steps/Upcoming Items
Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

• Work rules
• Knox Box purchasing and transition
• Automatic and Mutual Aid agreements
• Introduction of new Fire personnel
• Next update: May 2020