



# CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters • California Labor Federation • AFL-CIO



# FIGHTING BACK AGAINST PENSION ATTACKS

## Budget battle, initiative threat highlight fight to protect retirement security

For most of the last decade, firefighters, teachers, police officers and other public employees in California have been fighting to protect the retirement security they have earned through a lifetime of service.

In 2011, the anti-pension crowd is at it again. But unlike past battles, the fresh round of attacks aren't limited to pension and health care security. Instead, the fight has escalated into a full assault on your staffing, your negotiating rights and even your value as public safety professionals.

"It's not just 'same old same old,'" said **Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters.** "This time, they want to take it all away."

### Divide and Conquer

The blueprint for the attack on your retirement security is not too different from that being employed in many states where benefits are under attack. But unlike Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Florida or New Jersey, the attacks in California are coming at the local level:

**Costa Mesa:** Nearly half of all local employees were sent layoff notices in a bid to outsource virtually all of that city's public services.

**San Carlos:** Another bid to outsource fire protection services was narrowly averted after extraordinary public outcry, but imposed contract terms still threaten the city's department.

**San Jose:** The mayor of San Jose has sought an unprecedented declaration of "fiscal emergency" – basically bankruptcy without the courts – with an eye toward rolling back retirement benefits for current workers.

**San Diego:** City officials have launched a ballot campaign aimed at privatizing all public worker retirement, exempting only police.

Whereas past battles have avoided taking on firefighters and other well-regarded groups, these professions have been the primary targets in the latest attacks.

"We know the public supports us, but the attacks are demoralizing," said **John Marini**, a member of **San Bernardino City Firefighters Local 935.**

### Myths vs. Facts

If you go by the numbers, California is coming back from the depths of the Wall St.-led economic meltdown of 2008-2009. Private sector employment is up, state and local budget revenues are increasing. In July, CalPERS reported its 2010-2011 investment return was nearly 21% -- the fund's best performance in 14 years.

"A lot of this is driven by Wall Street, but most of the pension funds are coming back," said Paulson. "But (the anti-pension ideologues) don't want to acknowledge that things are getting better. They'd rather live in the crisis."

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Those "living in the crisis" continue to promote the same old myths.

"Public workers are getting fat on six-figure pensions": Only about 2% of all public pensions exceed six-figures, and the bulk of those are management personnel. Firefighters and other public safety workers getting six-figure pensions are often chiefs or at the back end of 30+ years on the front lines.

"Taxpayers are footing the bill for public pensions": In fact, employees are paying into their own retirement, and the bulk of pension funding comes from investment income. At most, the employer pays only about 20 cents out of every pension dollar.

"Unions are blocking reform": Statewide, labor has offered up hundreds of millions of dollars in givebacks and concessions. According to the League of California Cities, one in five California cities has negotiated cost-saving pension changes, including a second tier for new workers, longer vesting periods and higher employee contributions.

## In July, CalPERS reported its 2010-2011 investment return was nearly 21% -- the fund's best performance in 14 years

"Pensions are stealing money from other vital services": In fact, pensions are not busting the state's budget. Only 3% of all state spending goes to pensions. If pension spending had ended this past June, California would still have been nearly \$10 billion in the red.

### Punching Back

The tenacity of the attacks on working families is being met with a feisty and focused response. At the center of the effort is Californians for Retirement Security, the CPF co-sponsored pro-pension coalition. Since the beginning of the year, the coalition has stepped up its pushback against anti-pension ideologues, through editorials, media events, and a statewide "Pension Truth Squad" tour.

"We've been the punching bags for those on the extreme right," said Dave Low, who co-chairs (with President Paulson) Californians for Retirement Security. "Now, we're punching back."

These efforts have had an impact, as state lawmakers held firm against proposals that would have gutted retirement security not only for future generations but also for active employees.

### The Road Ahead

Despite these gains, the fight will, if anything, get more difficult from here on out. An anti-pension initiative is almost certain to be on the statewide ballot in 2012. Labor also faces a

renewed effort to steal its strong voice in the public debate. These same anti-employee ideologues will likely re-introduce a twice-defeated plan to eviscerate labor's ability to spend money on politics, even as it keeps corporate and management dollars flowing unabated.

To defeat these new attacks, labor will have to unite as never before. Low says supporters of public pensions will also have to remind the public that the fight is not just about protecting public employee retirement, but about restoring the security stolen from those working in the private sector as well.

"We should be focusing on pension security for everyone," says Low, "rather than stealing it away from those who still have pension security."



#### Watch It!

Snap a photo of this barcode to watch CPF Firevision's episode on retirement security.

# Pensions Provide Powerful Boost to State Economy

**Question: Which of the following supports the greatest number of jobs in California?**

**A: Air transportation**

**B: Broadcasting**

**C: Utilities**

**D: Public employee benefits**

If you guessed "D", you've correctly answered "The \$26 Billion Question!"

According to an eye-opening study from CalPERS, California's 431,000 retired public employees in CalPERS generate \$26 billion in economic activity in our state. According to the exhaustive study, every dollar spent by a CalPERS recipient produces \$2.26 in economic benefit for the state.

Perhaps more importantly, the study concludes that this economic engine supports more than 93,000 jobs in California – more than the three industries identified above. It also generates more than \$1 billion in

additional tax revenue for state and local coffers.

"CalPERS retirement checks are a powerful engine helping to drive California's economy," said CalPERS CEO Anne Stausboll. "The research shows that every dollar in retirement funds we send out sparks new business activity and generates jobs for our state's workers and tax receipts for our state's cities and counties."

More than \$11 billion in pension benefit payments were made by CalPERS last year. Not included in the CalPERS study were an additional \$10 billion in payments made by CalSTRS – the State Teachers Retirement System.

"It's pretty clear that, far from being a drag on our economy, public employee pensions are actually helping to build our state's future," said **CPF President Lou Paulson**.

Read the full report and complete updates on retirement issues on the "Pension Updates" page at [www.cpf.org](http://www.cpf.org)

## PUBLIC PENSIONS: A \$26 BILLION ECONOMIC ENGINE

✓ **\$1 of pension benefits = \$2.26 in economic benefit**

✓ **Pensions support 94,000 California jobs**

✓ **Pensions generate over \$1 billion in taxes**

✓ **The average CalPERS pension is \$2,200/month**

✓ **CalPERS 2010-2011 investment return was nearly 21%**

Source: The Economic Impact of CalPERS Pension in 2010, July 2011

# MORE THAN A UNION




LOU PAULSON

**A**s firefighters, we all feel part of something larger than ourselves ... a collective sense of duty to each other, our profession and the public. That larger sense of purpose and connection is the glue that binds us in good times and in bad. It is at the heart of our mission at **California Professional Firefighters**.

CPF was founded on the bedrock of the firefighter labor movement. Our founding purpose is to improve the lives of fire service professionals and their families, by helping them win better salaries, benefits and working conditions.

In Sacramento, the cornerstone of that commitment has been CPF's tenacious (and highly successful) legislative and political action. At the Capitol, CPF has had a hand in every significant innovation in California benefitting the lives and families of the men and women on the front lines, from the nation's first firefighter cancer presumption law to the Firefighters Bill of Rights.

At the ballot box, our bipartisan, issue-based approach to political action has

allowed CPF to build a level of trust and impact rivaling that of organizations whose campaign bankrolls dwarf ours.

But just as we view firefighting as more than just a job, CPF's vision of service to firefighters extends beyond the bottom line to the front lines. As we have stated on more than one occasion, CPF is "more than a union."

- **Honoring our fallen.** The **California Firefighters Memorial** – build and maintained by CPF's non-profit **California Fire Foundation** – honors all firefighters who fall in California ... local, state and federal. The Foundation also supports local firefighters when their members fall.
- **Training our future.** CPF co-founded the **California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC)**, a foundation of labor-management partnership that has brought innovation and, more importantly, critical funding to firefighter training in California.
- **Sending your message.** The newspaper you hold in your hands was printed by our **Firefighters Print & Design**. Our successful **CPF Firevision** podcast is produced by our **FireStar Productions**. And the close collaboration between your local leadership and our communications and political action teams helps insure that firefighters are heard on statewide issues that matter to them at the state and local level.
- **Protecting your health.** CPF created **Personal Exposure Reporting** to insure that firefighters are able to document the toxic exposures that are proven to shorten their lives.
- **Supporting your local.** When your local leadership needs support – whether it's with advice on image building, consultation on political contests or background and research on health, safety, workers' comp or survivor benefits, CPF is a go-to resource.

This larger vision of California's firefighting profession has always been a part of CPF's DNA. In these times, that vision is more important than ever.

At every level of government – federal, state and local – the very concept of public service is under attack. As we have seen throughout the nation and here in California, the haters no longer discriminate between professions – all of us are painted with the same broad brush.

Next year, we expect to find ourselves facing not only a renewed fight over pensions, but yet another attempt to pass an initiative to silence your voice in political action. These proposals and others like them are built to scapegoat people like you and me while protecting the Wall Street predators who continue to profit from our current economic crisis.

When facing battles like these, we can't afford the luxury of believing that it's all about "someone else." It's about us ... all of us. If we're going to win – locally, in Sacramento or even at the national level – we need to work ever-harder to cement the ties that connect us as firefighters, as working people and as Californians.

## Letters of Appreciation

At about 1900 hours on January 3, 2011, our brother **Scott Carnevale** lost his battle with occupational cancer. Scott was a long-time member of our Executive Board, and a champion of the **Personal Exposure Reporting** program offered by CPF. In fact, he was responsible for enrolling all of our members in the program to make sure that they were all documenting their potentially life-threatening exposures. He was a skilled firefighter and a solid union brother. He believed in the Wellness/Fitness initiative and led a healthy and fit lifestyle. He was the perfect example of a California firefighter. The irony that this terrible disease would claim him is almost unbelievable.

As the president of a small local with 92 members, my worst fear had come to be and was thrust into a situation that luckily had not been experienced by our local in about 17 years. After a rough night of notifying all of my members, the first call I made the next day was to CPF. From the moment I called the CPF office on January 4, 2011, I felt like I, along with all of our members, were in good hands.

Tasked with ensuring that all the benefits due to the Carnevale family for ultimate sacrifice paid by Scott were obtained, CPF and the **IAFF** were incredibly helpful in navigating these uncharted waters for our local. In addition to helping us with all of those items, we had a memorial service to plan. Vanessa Errecarte was there for us all along the way. Her organizational skills and knowledge helped us to complete some of Scott's final wishes. He wished that his memorial service would shine a light for the community on the hidden dangers firefighters face each and every day on the job. Vanessa made herself available to me day and night to provide guidance, reach out to other locals and

provide moral support in the wake of this overwhelming situation.

Lou, you were there for us, as well. From delivering a wonderful speech at the memorial service, to reaching out to the family, this local was proud to have you as the president of our state organization and appreciated every moment of your time spent supporting us through this very difficult time.

**The Pipes and Drums of CPF** were amazing. Their performance at Scott's memorial on board the Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet was one of the best I have ever seen. After the service, I received many compliments on their dress, their choreography, and of course, their musical performances. They truly are the best.

**FireStar Productions** was also a huge part of this service. Given the dramatic backdrop of the USS Hornet docked here in Alameda, with San Francisco in the background, made for a powerful video. As always, the production quality was second to none. Kelley Trujillo and Debbie George were a pleasure to work with and we appreciate everything.

**Firefighters Print & Design** helped us compose the finest programs out there. Some have been made into framed memorials and many will adorn the lockers of our members for decades to come. Mariena De Anda helped to get them proofed and printed without one single error. An amazing feat given the short timeframe we had to work with.

As you can see, CPF was an indispensable part of the organization of Scott's memorial service, and when these tragedies strike. I hope all of our locals in CPF realize the depth of assistance that is available to them in their time of need. All it takes is a phone call to get it started.

In closing and on behalf of all our members and Executive Board, I offer

my most sincere thanks. My thanks to you, Vanessa, the Pipes and Drums, Kelley, Debbie, Mariena and all of the staff at CPF for what I consider one of the most monumental and meaningful tasks a local could ever have to undertake. Just as we have vowed to never forget Scott's sacrifice, the sacrifice of the Carnevale family, all fallen firefighters and that of their families, we certainly will not forget the help that CPF provided in our darkest hours. You can be proud of your leadership, of your staff and the great organization that is the California Professional Firefighters.

**Domenick Weaver**  
President, Alameda Firefighters  
IAFF Local 689

I want to express my appreciation for your gracious generosity in support of the PFFW Defense Fund. Your organization's commitment was incredibly helpful and enables us to pursue our efforts to maintain worker's safety and rights and to combat anti-labor initiatives. Your assistance means so much to me but even more to all of those working-class families deeply affected by the labor movement crisis.

Thank you from all of us at the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin. Your assistance has been invaluable to us during this process.

Again, thank you so much. I greatly appreciate your generosity.

**Mahlon Mitchell**  
State President, Professional Fire Fighters of WI, Inc.

On behalf of Long Beach Firefighters Local 372, I want to thank you for your posting of Hank Zavaleta's passing on your website and allowing the Pipes & Drums to be part of his memorial

service last Saturday. Hank's family and the Long Beach Firefighter organization will never forget the outstanding support they received from so many people. Hank's eight-year battle with brain cancer ended with an outstanding tribute in honor of a truly good man, husband, father, firefighter and friend.

Again, I offer my sincere thanks for all your help.

**Rich Brandt**  
President, Long Beach Firefighters  
Local 372

## CPF Firevision on Retirement Security

The last Firevision helps to sustain my motivation to educate others. The recent piece contains good information but also puts the information in terms that will help me explain the situation better to the public. Thanks CPF!

**Pete Marshall**  
Member, Contra Costa Firefighters  
Local 1230

Nicely done video!

**Dina Martin**  
California Teachers Association

This is really excellent and well done.

Thanks to you and CPF for your efforts.

**Nathan Trauernicht**  
Assistant Fire Chief, UC Davis & City of Davis Fire Departments

View the retirement security episode of CPF Firevision at [www.cpfirevision.org](http://www.cpfirevision.org)



## POINT and SHOOT!

Throughout this issue, you'll find these QR Codes. Use your smartphone to snap a photo of any tag and you'll gain instant access to related videos, websites and more! To start, download a QR code reader app online. There are plenty of free ones to choose from, depending on what smartphone you use!

## WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Journalists and the general public, when asked to describe a firefighter, frequently use words like “selfless, brave, courageous, a team player.” In most circumstances, these terms are accurate and well-earned.

However, for some, there is nothing like a crisis or trial to turn one’s primary motivation to “self.” All sane human beings have a keen sense of self-preservation. But how does a firefighter deal with the internal battle centered on the ugly question: It won’t affect me, will it?

The “it” are the uncertainties surrounding supposed pension reforms, collective bargaining revamping and staffing reconfigurations. We all know people who, in their hearts, quietly tell themselves that as long as it does not personally affect them, they will either ignore it or say that it is just inevitable.

Thankfully, most of us have a different attitude.

The Wisconsin firefighters were “carved out” of their governor’s gutting of collective bargaining rights. But those firefighters stood tall with their brothers and sisters throughout the labor movement in that state and refused to ignore the plight of others. Solidarity ruled the day and the governor sorely underestimated their resolve.

The events in Wisconsin pose questions to each of us. If the enemies of organized labor here in California attack unions except for us, would we lock arms and fight for others? Or would we quietly sit back and say, “We’ve got ours”? If your agency proposed draconian “takeaways” for the next generation of firefighters, would you turn the other way, reasoning that it’s really just an economic adjustment?

If staffing cuts or wage reductions are confined to a small segment of your department, will you breathe a sigh of relief or have the mindset that “we’re all in this together”?

As you contemplate how you would respond (or perhaps have already been

faced with a similar situation), hopefully words like “solidarity” permeate your thoughts.

There are no easy answers, but let’s hope that adjectives like “selfless” continue to be accurate labels that we wear with pride.



LEW STONE

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## CPF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA **CONTINUES TO ADVANCE**

With the uncharacteristically on-time approval of the state budget, attention in Sacramento refocuses on hundreds of bills making their way through the Legislature. CPF is pleased to report that all of its sponsorship and co-sponsorship measures are still alive as of mid-July.

### SPONSORSHIP



**AB 210** (Jose Solorio, D-Santa Ana) – Requires local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSA) to enter into written agreements with local governments granting the authorization or exclusive operating area for pre-hospital EMS services (if it's been providing those services since June of 1980) and clarifies what should be in those agreements regarding city or fire district authorization and management of its own EMS resources. *Approved by the Assembly in a 53-20 vote and is now working its way through the Senate.*



**AB 585** (Paul Fong, D-Mountain View) – Clarifies that the state's existing workers' compensation public safety cancer presumption, originally enacted over 30 years ago, applies to firefighters serving on two California-based facilities owned by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). *Approved by Assembly and currently making its way through the Senate.*



**AB 678** (Richard Pan, M.D., D-Sacramento) – Allows local fire departments to submit certified public expenditures for unreimbursed Medi-Cal ground emergency medical transportation services for federal reimbursement. *Approved by the Assembly by a 76-1 vote and is currently making its way through the Senate.*



**AB 936** (Ben Hueso, D-Chula Vista) – Requires that any local government adopt a formal resolution with a recorded roll call vote before forgiving repayment of any loan to its redevelopment agency. Also requires public disclosure (via resolution) of any loans or payments that may have been forgiven since the beginning of 2010. *Unanimously approved by the Assembly and is currently working its way through the Senate.*



**AB 1245** (Das Williams, D-Santa Barbara) – Clarifies that the regulations by the EMS Authority for state approval of an emergency medical responder (EMR) training course does not confer a new EMR scope of practice, certification, licensure or category of EMS personnel. *Unanimously approved by the Assembly and is currently working its way through the Senate.*



**AB 1320** (Michael Allen, D-Santa Rosa) – Establishes new Taxpayer Adverse Risk Prevention accounts in both the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL) and the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937 (a.k.a. '37 Act) for the purpose of stabilizing public employer contributions to these retirement systems. *Approved by the Assembly in a 51-26 vote and is currently working its way through the Senate.*



**SB 457** (Ron Calderon, D-Montebello) – Closes-off a loophole in existing law to ensure that an employee-funded health care trust is reimbursed for the actual costs associated with providing for an employee's medical care in instances where such care has been determined to be related to an industrial injury or illness and therefore, compensable under workers' compensation. *Approved by the Senate in a 25-14 vote and is currently working its way through the Assembly.*



**SB 488** (Lou Correa, D-Santa Ana) – Ensures that public safety governmental and organizational logos, insignias, emblems, trademarks and other identifiers are used only with the approval of the governmental agency, department, group or organization to which the identifier belongs. Additionally, this bill requires specified disclosure information to be displayed on a mail piece. *Approved by the Senate in a 28-7 vote and is currently working its way through the Assembly.*

### CO-SPONSORSHIP



**AB 183** (Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco) – Requires that alcohol purchases to be made through a face-to-face transaction, ensuring that the state can guarantee that necessary age and/or sobriety verification steps are taken. *Approved by the Assembly in a vote of 48-26 and is currently making its way through the Senate.*



**AB 506** (Bob Wieckowski, D-Fremont) – Establishes neutral evaluation process for local agencies in financial crisis as a method for local governments to solve their financial problems before filing for bankruptcy. *Approved by the Assembly in a vote of 48-27 and is currently making its way through the Senate.*

# NEW STATE BUDGET ENDS COSTLY REDEVELOPMENT SUBSIDIES



Sacramento's "mermaid bar" is one of many taxpayer-subsidized misadventures financed by redevelopment agencies.

**D**espite some last minute wrangling, the California Legislature has approved a state budget that, for the first time in recent memory, will be signed and in effect before the end of the fiscal year.

The \$86 billion spending plan slashes an additional \$5 billion on top of roughly \$12 billion cut from state spending earlier this year. It also holds out the possibility of nearly \$4 billion in additional cuts to schools, public safety and other vital services if state revenues fall below projections.

The new budget package also includes a significant reform that will mean billions in new revenues for local fire

agencies. ABX1 26 will eliminate local redevelopment agencies, ending a controversial system that has benefitted developers at the expense of vital public services.

The costly and unaccountable local agencies have been diverting nearly \$6 billion in property tax revenues away from vital services and into the pockets of local developers. Intended to eliminate blight, redevelopment dollars too often wind up going to specious projects such as golf courses, parking lots, arena deals and, in one case, a "mermaid bar."

"At a time when local fire services are being slashed, it's hard to justify

diverting billions in tax revenues to developers -- no matter how valuable the projects may be," said **CPF President Lou Paulson**. "The Legislature has taken a courageous step and implemented a significant fiscal reform."

The redevelopment reform plan includes a one-time shift of \$1.7 billion in property-tax revenue to help finance local public schools. Additional money would also be redirected back to local cities, counties and special districts, including fire districts.

In following years, all redevelopment dollars (save those needed to pay down existing debt) will be reallocated to

local agencies, unless new agencies reform or agree to skim significantly less money for their projects.

The elimination of redevelopment agencies is a victory for Gov. Jerry Brown, who proposed the idea in January as part of his original budget plan. However, the redevelopment lobby -- led by the League of California Cities -- has indicated it will file suit in an effort to protect the developer subsidies.

CPF was an early and strong supporter of eliminating redevelopment agencies, as it would make more money available to restore fire protection services being slashed at the local level.

## BUDGET PRODUCES MIXED BAG FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

**F**or only the third time in a quarter century, California got an on-time budget this year.

The \$86 billion spending plan slashes deeply into every corner of state service, including public safety and public education, all part of bridging a budget gap pegged in January at more than \$20 billion.

### Deep Cuts That Could Get Deeper

The budget signed June 30 by Gov. Jerry Brown contains billions more in budget cuts on top of the \$12 billion approved and signed earlier this year. It does not, however, contain the package

of tax extensions that could have helped the state deal with its long-term funding crisis.

To close the remaining gap, the budget forecasts an additional \$4 billion in revenue to be generated from the state's improving economy. If, by December 15th, the state determines that the revenue isn't there, additional cuts will be automatically triggered along the following formula.

- \$3-4 billion or more -- no additional budget cuts
- \$2-3 billion -- \$600 million in additional cuts, including \$15 million to the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA)

- \$0-2 billion -- \$2 billion in additional cuts, including the CalEMA cuts and possibly others affecting first responders.

### Firefighter Issues

The budget package offers a mixed bag on firefighter issues:

**Redevelopment Reform:** The new budget contains a major victory for firefighters and other local service providers by eliminating local redevelopment agencies. These costly agencies currently siphon \$6 billion in property-tax revenue away from vital services and into special projects favoring developers. Future budgets will reallocate these revenues back to cities, counties and special districts, which could mean billions more for direct local services like firefighting and law enforcement. CPF supported the elimination and helped lead the effort to implement this important reform.

**SRA Fees:** The budget includes an additional fee imposed on residents living in fire-prone State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The proposal imposes an additional tax on residents in SRAs in order to backfill \$50 million in cuts to state fire protection services. **CPF and CDF Firefighters Local 2881** opposed this fee.

### CPF-Backed Reform Proves Its Value

While the budget is far from perfect, its on-time approval was a victory for CPF and other supporters of last year's Prop. 25. The successful ballot measure reduced the vote threshold for passing a budget from 2/3 to a simple majority, and docked legislators' pay if the budget wasn't passed on time. The pressure of losing salary and the majority vote provisions allowed California to avoid the kinds of wrenching budget struggles that have characterized past budget struggles.

# Lodi Firefighter Competes on Food Network Show



**L**odi firefighter **Kris Graves** is used to battling the unexpected on his 24-hour shifts at Lodi's Fire Station 1. But this spring, Graves pulled a shift he'll never forget, as a competitor on the Food Network's "24 Hour Restaurant Battle."

Kris Graves and his fraternal twin brother Michael competed in "24 Hour Restaurant Battle," a Food Network reality TV show that challenges two teams to create, design and open their own restaurant – all within a 24-hour time frame. The winning team receives \$10,000 and bragging rights back home.

"It was a harrowing nightmare. It was nonstop and crazy and something we've never done before. But would I do it again? Absolutely," smiled Kris, who has always enjoyed cooking and is the resident chef at the firehouse. After charming the casting call directors in San Francisco, the Graves brothers were flown to Brooklyn, New York to take on their competitors: a New York City firefighter John Sierp II and his fraternity brother Jeffrey Waters.

After enduring three 12+ hour days of work, the Graves brothers opened Enigma, a restaurant that honed comfort food with a touch of class. Michael Graves, who is a sales manager in Santa Rosa, was the front-of-house manager, responsible for the restaurant décor as well as juggling host and waiter duties. Kris Graves was the force in the kitchen, crafting three appetizers, three main courses and two desserts for 100 diners. One of the meal's highlights featured on the show was Kris's pork

tenderloin with a seven-spice rub served with cranberry chutney (See sidebar for Kris's recipe).

It's a winning recipe in Fire Station 1 and scored big points with the panel of restaurateurs and food critics who were judging the competition.

"(Winning) felt phenomenal to be recognized for something I put out, something we did. It was our vision," said Kris Graves.

It was something he knows would have made his mother, Patti, exceedingly proud. She passed away from uterine cancer six years ago and not a day goes by that he doesn't think about her and her legacy as a mother, school teacher and gifted home cook.

Kris and Michael will be using their winnings to start up a foundation in

memory of their mother. The Mama Bear Foundation will help ease the financial burdens that so many people face when caring for loved ones with cancer.

Check your local listings for the "Firehouse Cooks" episode of "24 Hour Restaurant Battle" on the Food Network.

For more information about the Mama Bear Foundation, visit [www.themamabearfoundation.org](http://www.themamabearfoundation.org). Donations can also be sent to The Mama Bear Foundation, 1415 Fulton Road #205-173, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

## WATCH IT!



Take a photo of the barcode with your smartphone to watch Kris Graves cooking on CPF Firevision.



## Kris Graves' Pork & Chutney Recipe

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons fennel seeds
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 pork tenderloins (1 package contains 2 loins)
- Olive oil, for searing
- Cranberry Chutney, for serving, recipe follows

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

In a medium bowl, combine the cinnamon, chili, cumin, fennel, paprika, pepper and salt.

Rub each pork loin generously with the seasoning blend. Let the pork sit 20 to 30 minutes at room temperature.

Preheat a large, oven-proof saute pan over medium-high heat. Once hot, add enough oil to coat the bottom of the pan. Place the pork tenderloins in the pan and sear the pork on all sides until golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Place the seared pork into the oven and cook until an instant-read thermometer reads 155 to 160 degrees F, 20 to 30 minutes. Remove the tenderloins from the oven, place them on a plate or cutting board, tent with foil and allow the meat to rest 10 minutes.

Cut the pork into 1-inch thick slices and spoon liberal amounts of Cranberry Chutney over the pork and enjoy!

## Cranberry Chutney

- 1 yellow onion, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 tablespoon fennel seeds
- 1 teaspoon chile flakes
- Pinch ground clove
- 1 (6-ounce bag) dried cranberries
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

*Cook's Note: Any dried fruit that you like will work; I just like cranberries the best.*

In a medium saucepot, add the onions, garlic, 1/2 to 3/4 cup water, vinegar, sugar, ginger, allspice, fennel, chile and cloves. Bring the mixture to a boil.

Add the cranberries to the pot and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cook the mixture until the cranberries have reconstituted and start softening and breaking down. If too much liquid evaporates, just add more water and keep cooking until you achieve the desired consistency. The chutney should be on the firmer/chunkier side of a jelly. Once the chutney is cooked, season with salt and pepper.

Total Time: **2 hrs**      Prep: **20 min**  
 Inactive: **40 min**      Cook: **1 hr 0 min**  
 Yield: **4 to 6 servings**



## CPF HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST DELIVERS INSURANCE PRODUCTS TO MEMBERS

In 1971, CPF formed its premier insurance benefits organization with the establishment of the CPF Health Benefits Trust. Since then, the Health Benefits Trust has continued to provide the best available insurance products and services to CPF members.

Ultimately, their goal is to provide CPF members high quality, cost effective benefits that ensure you and your family are well protected, and compensated.

The seven directors of the CPF Health Benefits Trust comprise active and retired firefighters. More importantly, they represent CPF members.

Their services include:

- Home & Auto Insurance
- Long Term Care
- Long Term Disability (PYI Plan)
- Life Insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance
- Union Liability

For more information, visit [www.cpf-insurance.com](http://www.cpf-insurance.com).

## CPF LAUNCHES NEW MEMBER SECTION OF CPF.ORG

California Professional Firefighters has a new addition to its award-winning website: A New Member section.

Now visitors can view member benefits and services, view photo and video galleries and purchase CPF merchandise on a dedicated section of the website. The section launched this spring in conjunction with the publication of a new member brochure, which also illustrates CPF member benefits in a handy pocket guide.

“We wanted to make it easy for our new members to see all the ways that CPF is working for them,” said **CPF President Lou Paulson**. “We’re continuing to explore new technologies and ways to reach out to all of our members.”



CPF's new member brochure and new member section of CPF.org launched this spring.



# RUN TO REMEMBER

SACRAMENTO

SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>



## Memorial 5K Run/Walk Sunday, September 11, 2011

For Registration And Event Details  
Go To

[www.SAC911RUN.com](http://www.SAC911RUN.com)

## The Tribute In The Park Sunday, September 11, 2011 10AM-3PM



## FIREFIGHTERS SEEK HELP TO 'FILL THE BOOT' FOR MDA

Santa Ynez Valley News, April 28, 2011

## Giving MD The Boot

Crestline Courier-News  
June 9, 2011

## Firefighters Work to Fill the Boot for Jerry's Kids

CBS/KCAL9, June 10, 2011

## Firefighters Lend Helping Hand

West Covina Highlander, May 5, 2011

## Generous motorists, firefighters 'Fill the Boot' to fight muscular dystrophy

Whittier Daily News, June 10, 2011

## Fire Fighter Chili Cook-Off and Padres Tailgate to benefit MDA

San Diego Magazine, June 12, 2011



## MDA LAUNCHES "FIRE FIGHTER AMERICAN HERO" CAMPAIGN

**F**irefighters are some of the most trusted people in America and for 57 years, they have been highly trusted partners of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In fact, the **International Association of Fire Fighters** is MDA's largest national sponsor.

To thank the IAFF for its legendary support, MDA is honoring the union through its Firefighter American Hero campaign. It's a public service campaign thanking firefighters for their powerful commitment to MDA.

MDA recognizes that our regional economy is one of the worst in the country. The decrease in revenue to the state, fire districts and municipalities has increased the amount of scrutiny on your profession. In spite of this, you continue to rally the support of your members in order to continue the IAFF tradition of filling the boot for your local MDA families.

California Professional Firefighters' affiliates have raised funds for MDA clinics, providing braces and wheelchairs for those with neuromuscular diseases, and to fueling MDA-funded global research initiatives in the relentless pursuit

of finding treatments and cures for neuromuscular diseases – and MDA wants to make sure California residents know about it!

Recently MDA secured 50 Firefighter American Hero public service announcements to run in the Sacramento market on both KCRA Channel 3 and KQCA MY 58. In June, Anaheim firefighters filled the boot at Angels Stadium along with many of the players' wives. Several media outlets highlighted the Anaheim firefighters involvement with MDA Fill the Boots, including the *Orange County Register*, CBS and the Angels.com newsletter.

"The positive response that our members receive through our involvement with MDA is invaluable," said **CPF President Lou Paulson**. "We are proud to do our part."

MDA's goal with the American Hero campaign is to help enhance public awareness about the good deeds California firefighters do for MDA and the American public in every community in our state. MDA thanks you for all you do for families affected by Muscular Dystrophy. California firefighters really are American heroes to the families served by MDA.

## California Fire Foundation Forges Landmark Partnership for Comprehensive LODD Assistance

**T**he California Fire Foundation has joined in a first-of-its-kind partnership with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to provide comprehensive support for local fire departments who lose one of their own in the line-of-duty.

The National Fallen Firefighter Foundation's Local Assistance State Team (L.A.S.T.) program provides departments and locals with a paid team of individuals who can assist with every aspect of a line-of-duty death funeral. Funding for this program is provided by the Department of Justice.

In a landmark memorandum of understanding, the California Fire Foundation has been designated as the exclusive administrator of this unique and comprehensive line-of-duty death assistance program for the state of California.

The program will be known as the **California Last Alarm Service Teams (Cal-LAST)**.

In addition to being the first such agreement in the nation, the partnership also breaks new ground by extending support to locals for presumptive as well as traumatic LODDs. Presumptive cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and stroke are not recognized by the Department of Justice on a national level. However, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the California Fire Foundation have agreed to treat presumptive line-of-duty deaths in the same fashion as traumatic line-of-duty deaths for this program in California.

"When a line-of-duty death occurs, it is difficult to think straight, let alone put on a firefighter funeral," said **Lou Paulson, president of California Professional Firefighters and chair of the California Fire Foundation**. "We want to help ensure that any fire department in California -- paid or volunteer -- has access to the resources they need during their difficult times. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has worked with us to



modify their program to work for our state and we are very grateful for the resources this program will bring to our members and the entire California fire service."

Individual Cal-LAST teams will exist regionally throughout the state and consist of a Behavioral Specialist, a Fire Service Survivor, an Honor Guard Commander, an Auxiliary and a Chaplain. Cal-LAST will be administered by the California Fire Foundation. Initial training will be conducted by representatives from the National Fallen Firefighters

Foundation, with ongoing training provided by the California Fire Foundation for the duration of the program.

*The California Fire Foundation ([www.cafirefoundation.org](http://www.cafirefoundation.org)) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation supporting fallen firefighters, their families and the communities they serve.*

*The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation ([www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org)) is a non-profit organization that offers programs to honor U.S. fallen firefighters and assistance to their families.*

SAVE THE DATE

## CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

OCTOBER 1, 2011

[www.memorial.cpf.org](http://www.memorial.cpf.org)

# 9/11 Tribute Painting For Sale

*Proceeds benefit the California Fire Foundation*

The California Fire Foundation is currently selling a limited edition 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary 9/11 tribute painting by one of our own, retired Santa Clara City firefighter and **Pipes & Drums of California Professional Firefighters band member Frank Walsh**. Walsh generously donated the painting to the Foundation, hoping that the sales would help bolster the newly formed **California Firefighters Endowment**.

In Walsh's painting, a firefighter and police officer are shown standing together, where the World Trade Center once stood.

"For the families of the 343 FDNY firefighters, 37 PAPD and 23 NYPD police officers, this was a most tragic day but for these men and women it was their finest hour," said Walsh. "To serve and protect is what they do and sometimes they make the

ultimate sacrifice. This was never more exemplified then on September 11, 2001."

To honor the first responders' sacrifice, Walsh painted each of their names in the smoke. The 343 on firefighter's helmet shield represents the number of firefighters lost.

All proceeds benefit the California Fire Foundation.

**Canvas Giclee 20"x30"**: Time limited through September 11, 2011. Signed and numbered by artist. \$343 each.

**Lithograph**: Limited to 1,000 editions or through September 11, 2011, whichever comes first. Signed and numbered by artist. \$75 each

**Poster**: Unlimited. \$25 each.

Please go to <http://bit.ly/j48XFF> to download an order form.



**PURCHASE IT!**

Take a photo of this barcode with your phone to download an application form to purchase Frank Walsh's "Twin Towers" painting.

## Firefighter Appreciation Night Benefits California Firefighters Endowment



The Pipes & Drums of California Professional Firefighters opened the game

Over 2,000 firefighters were honored before a packed AT&T Park in San Francisco for the San Francisco Giants' Firefighter Appreciation Night.

Firefighters were honored with a pregame tailgate party. A fire boat show in McCovey Cove was accompanied by the National Anthem and the game opened with the beautiful sounds of the **Pipes & Drums of California Professional Firefighters**.

Standing on home plate, in front of thousands of Giants fans, **Lou Paulson, President of California Professional Firefighters and Chair of the California Fire Foundation**, addressed the crowd.

"We must never forget all of our brother and sister firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty. As a profession, we are committed to honoring the memories of our fallen, and taking care of the loved ones they leave behind. That is

what the California Fire Foundation is here for," said Paulson.

The Giants and the San Diego Padres gave them all their money's worth, with a 14-inning duel. In the end, the Giants won ... and so did the families of fallen firefighters.

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the newly formed **California Firefighters Endowment**, which is a program of the Foundation and operates under the mission to ensure that every child of a fallen firefighter has the opportunity to attend the college of his or her choosing.

President Paulson noted that the Giants gave them an opportunity to get the word out about the Foundation's programs and mission. Additionally, the thousands raised through ticket sales for the event allowed firefighters to use their recognition to chip in for a good cause.

"Many families stand to benefit from the tribute. We are grateful for this partnership with the Giants, and appreciative to all of our members who came out to show their support," said Paulson.

The Foundation is already working with the Giants to plan next year's Firefighter

Appreciation Night and has formed a long-term partnership with the team.

"We're really looking forward to this," said Cameron Lochte, Special Events Manager for the Giants. "This is going to be a good thing."

The California Firefighters Endowment has now reached over \$50,000. This is a strong start. The Foundation set a goal to raise \$2 million in five years, which would allow the organization to raise scholarships from \$2,000 to \$10,000 each.

To help reach this initial goal, the California Fire Foundation will be embarking on a campaign to ask every CPF member to donate \$100 either all at once or over a five-year period. If all members participate, this goal would be exceeded by \$1 million.

"Strength in numbers can accomplish wonderful things," said Paulson. "Right now we are focused on the \$2 million, but if we can exceed our goals, it may be possible to give these kids a full ride someday. How incredible for them would that be?"

To donate, please go to the California Fire Foundation's website at [www.cafirefoundation.org](http://www.cafirefoundation.org) or contact Vanessa Errecarte at 916-921-9111.

# Tim Strack

CPF 1<sup>st</sup> District Vice President



CPF District 1 represents the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial and Orange.



## Rancho Cucamonga Hosts Fire Ops 101

City leaders had a chance to see what it's like to be a firefighter after **Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters Local 2274** held their first Fire Ops 101 in June.

Sponsored jointly by the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District and Local 2274, the event was well attended by the entire City Council, along with Mayor Dennis Michael, the city manager, police chief and other city officials.

"Local 2274 wanted to allow an opportunity for participants to ask questions and experience hands-on what some of the requirements were for the fire district," said **Local 2274 Secretary Steve Brown**. "The focus was on demonstrating how the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District is an 'all risk' agency. We wanted to let the policy makers really understand what their money is being used for and why."



Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department Battalion Chief Jim Curatalo and City Manager Jack Lam at Rancho Cucamonga's Fire Ops 101.

The day-long event gave participants the opportunity to experience three scenarios. The first was a full residential structure fire assignment with a civilian rescue. Observers witnessed how and why the fire department sends the equipment that they do.

"We wanted them to understand the best way to mitigate the escalation of an emergency is to aggressively neutralize the incident and this takes manpower," said Brown.

The second scenario was an auto extrication with a trapped victim. Here crews rushed in and aggressively secured the scene, stabilized a real patient and loaded them onto Upland Fire Department's H-165 helicopter, where they were taken up for a flight over Rancho Cucamonga.

The last scenario was a full cardiac arrest scenario. Observers witnessed the initial time it took for dispatch to be notified and the dialogue that took place between caller and the communications center. Firefighters then incorporated a four-minute response time and demonstrated that a cardiac arrest scenario truly is an "all-hands" emergency. San Antonio Hospitals Dr Parks discussed STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction) protocols, as well as the up-and-coming hypothermia treatment for post-cardiac arrest patients that RCFD will be implementing.

The day ended with helmet presentations as well as certificates to all members who participated. "The event proved to be successful for the entire city of Rancho Cucamonga and is why the City is maintaining well during such difficult times," Brown said.

## Newport Beach Hosts California Firefighter Summer Olympics

Firefighters from across our great state convened July 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> to attend the California Firefighters Summer Olympics in Newport Beach. The event celebrates its 41<sup>st</sup> year.

This year, **Newport Beach Firefighters Association Local 3734** was the proud host local.

Governed by the California Firemen's Athletic Association, the California Firefighters Summer Olympics began in 1970 as an opportunity for all California firefighters to get together, encourage camaraderie and promote physical fitness.

"It's a great event and we're very pleased to be hosting the event in our town this year, especially as our local celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> year of service," said **Local 3734 President Brian McDonough**.

Over 30 competitive events were held from softball and basketball to surfing and dodgeball. This year, they've added stand-up paddleboarding as a new event.

They even held a Kids Olympics one evening at the host hotel. Kids could jump in the bounce houses, compete at games and enjoy snow cones and popcorn.

All of the proceeds from the Olympics were donated between the Children's Hospital of Orange County, Grossman Burn Foundation, the City of Newport Beach Parks and Recreation Department and the Newport Beach Firefighters Association Benevolent Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Newport Beach firefighters play dodgeball at the California Firefighter Summer Olympics.

## Norco Fire Department Suffers Draconian Cuts

The city of Norco is attempting to solve its budget deficit, on the backs of its city firefighters.

In the past several months, the Norco Fire Department budget has been slashed from \$4.3 million to \$2.9 million. Staffing has dropped from four to three. Three firefighters have been laid off. And at the time of this publication, they are considering litigation with the City for refusing to implement their 3 at 50 benefit, which was part of the terms of their current contract, effective June 30, 2011.

In addition, the city imposed terms on the fire department for one year, reducing salaries by 22 percent on average, across the board. For some firefighters, that's meant a loss of as much as 32% of their salary for the next year.

"They took away everybody's longevity and education incentives," said **Norco Firefighters Local 3806 President Ron Laursen**. "It's not been an even playing field. City officials haven't reduced salaries for any other city employees. Other bargaining units are paying 4% of their PERS instead of 9% as we have been asked to do. I think some council members have an underlying agenda."

And just when Norco firefighters thought it couldn't get any worse, the Norco City Council voted to send out requests for proposals for fire protection and emergency medical services to neighboring cities and counties in June.

At the time of this publication, the City Council has not decided whether to contract their fire services.

# Chris Mahon

CPF 2<sup>nd</sup> District Vice President



District 2 represents CPF Local Unions in the counties of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles - with the exception of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 and Los Angeles County Fire Fighters Local 1014.



Television and web-based spots - produced by FireStar Productions - emphasized Measure B's public safety risks

## San Luis Obispo Residents Vote on Binding Arbitration, Pension Reform

A battle over binding arbitration and pension reform has been brewing in San Luis Obispo.

In April, San Luis Obispo City Council voted 4-1 to call a special mail-in election on August 30th in an effort to repeal binding arbitration from their city charter and reduce retirement benefits for city employees.

Since then, **San Luis Obispo Firefighters Local 3523** has been at battle, setting up Facebook pages, special websites ([www.slotruth.org](http://www.slotruth.org)) and starting a campaign with the help of **FireStar Productions** and the **Firefighters Print & Design**.

"The Print and Design shop has been an invaluable resource during this campaign. They have catered to all of our campaign needs with signs, banners, mailers and drop pieces. Our success has a lot to do with the quality work coming from the Firefighters Print & Design," said **San Luis Obispo Firefighters Local 3523 President Erik Baskin**. "In addition, having a company like Firestar Productions definitely gives every local a distinct advantage when it comes to running a full media

campaign. It is a luxury that cannot be taken lightly."

The local has been putting on presentations for mobile home communities, retirement communities, local community recreation rooms and targeting other high propensity voters in their city to educate them about what a yes on Measure A (pension benefits) and Measure B (binding arbitration) would mean for their city.

"I think the average citizen knows what they read in the paper," said Baskin. "It's incumbent on us to really educate and do as much as we can to dispel myths about public pensions and binding arbitration. The San Luis Obispo firefighters and police have been out in force making contact with voters by knocking on doors and making sure the voters at large understand what the election is really about."

So far, the community reaction they have received has been very positive.

"When a firefighter or police officer makes face-to-face contact with the public, like we are doing, the confidence that we have in making this election a success grows," said Baskin.

Ballots hit the mail August 1st and voting will take place all month.

## El Segundo, LA County FD Merger on April 2012 Ballot

In El Segundo, firefighters have been under fire.

To help balance a \$10 million shortfall, daily staffing at the El Segundo Fire Department has dropped from 19 to 18 to 17 to 14, reducing service by 27%. They eliminated a four-person truck and a four-person engine. Response times increased.

When a City Council-issued survey found that merging with LA County Fire Department would save El Segundo \$5.7 million a year and increase fire protection, the City Council refused to give up local control and refused to vote in favor of a merger.

**El Segundo Firefighters Association Local 3682** responded by filing for an initiative to mandate a transfer of fire protection if it was passed by a vote of the people. Then they had over 20% of registered voters to sign the petition.

"It was a way to provide political cover so politicians could say that all of these people signed the petition to maintain fire protection," said **Local 3682 President Chris Thomason**. "The hope was that residents could vote on this issue before public employee groups went into negotiations."

But the City Council chose to delay the vote until April 2012 because the city didn't want to pay for a special election. Even when Local 3682 offered to pay for the cost of the election (up to \$60,000), the city council refused. One councilmember accused firefighters of trying to buy the election.

And so Local 3682 recently began negotiations by doing something different: they started with mediation.

"We met with the City and both sides had the opportunity to express their issues. The City wants to reduce the staffing levels to control costs and we want to maintain them to continue delivering quality service" said Thomason. "Even though a merger with LA County Fire solved the City issues, the city manager would not even consider the merger as a viable solution. He stated that it is a non-starter due to the direction given to him from the City Council."

The people will vote on the fate of the merger in the April 2012 election.

## An Update from Montebello

Times are still tough but there is a small silver lining in Montebello: Fire Station 56 is back in service, as of July 1.

The station has been closed for six of the last 12 months. It has since reopened as a three-member paramedic assessment engine.

"We've been in negotiations for one year and we finally got it reopened. That's a success. It's still not a full paramedic assessment, but we are back up and running," said **Montebello Firefighter Association Local 3821 President Craig Barker**.

Local 3821 is now looking to November elections to campaign for firefighter-friendly candidates.

Meanwhile, the city of Montebello remains under investigation from agencies including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the State Controller's office for mismanaging funds.



"Vote No on Measure B" mailers were designed by Firefighters Print & Design, [www.ffprint.org](http://www.ffprint.org).

# Bobby Weist

## CPF 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice President



CPF District 3 represents the counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Mendocino, Tehama, Plumas, Lake, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Yolo, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras, Alpine, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mono, Merced, Mariposa, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Nevada, Tulare and Inyo.

### Pioneer Firefighters Lose County Funding

Since El Dorado County cut funding to Pioneer Fire Protection District, Pioneer firefighters are hoping that the passage of a parcel tax will help keep their fire district alive.

The County used to annually provide \$279,000 for the last several years. The county reduced this assistance by almost \$100,000 for 2010-2012 and the full amount of assistance will go away July 1, 2012. This funding accounts for almost 25% of their entire budget.

On November 8, residents will vote on a parcel tax measure that will directly benefit the Pioneer Fire Protection District. The proposed tax is \$85 per parcel for developed parcels and only developed parcels will be taxed. If passed, it would raise \$237,235 annually.

"We've recently made concessions and we're just barely hanging on to keep 24-hour staffing the way it is," said **Local 4586 President Jack Daniels**. The Pioneer Protection District covers 296 square miles with one ALS fire engine and respond to 790 calls per year. "We need the passage of this parcel tax. It will ensure that we can maintain local control as well as response and service levels as they currently stand."

Pioneer Professional Firefighters Local 4586 now has a PayPal donate button on their website: [www.pioneerfirefighters.com](http://www.pioneerfirefighters.com) to raise funds for their fire district operations.

### Sacramento Area Firefighters Raise Money for Retired Captain's Granddaughter

When retired West Sacramento Fire Department Captain Wally Enos's granddaughter Addison was diagnosed as one of only a few reported children to have the rare blood disease HLH and

AML Leukemia, Enos's firefighter family was there to offer support.

In June, Sacramento area firefighters, police and military personnel gathered at the CrossFit facility in West Sacramento to participate in a StandOff, a competitive event to raise money for 2-year-old Addison Enos.

Eleven teams of four members competed in three physically demanding workouts that require strength, power, speed, endurance and heart. Tasks included lifting weights, a 400m sprint, pull-ups and lunges.

BloodSource was also on hand at the event, registering potential bone marrow donors.

"Participants got a good workout, while also raising proceeds for the family to cover medical expenses associated with Addison's care."

"We were blessed by the warm hearted people of CrossFit West Sacramento, with a fundraiser event for Addie. So many men and women put everything aside and sacrificed their bodies to grueling physical challenges in honor of Addison and as a representation of her physical struggle over the last year," said Amanda Kukuk, Addison's mother.

"It's just one example of the way that we support a firefighter brother or sister in need," said **Rich Schmiedt, President of Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522**. "Even if you are retired, you are always one of us."

To make a donation to support Addison Enos, visit [www.caringbridge.org/visit/addisonenos](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/addisonenos).

*Editor's note: As this issue went to press, we learned that Addison had passed away. Our deepest condolences to her family.*

### Lathrop-Manteca FFs Hope Parcel Assessment Raises FD Revenue

After seeing a dramatic drop in property tax revenues, **Lathrop-Manteca Firefighters Local 4317** is hoping a parcel assessment will provide the lifeline that they need.

The proposed assessment would add a flat rate to parcels, as well as a fee

for the square footage of structures. Rates would vary for residents and businesses. For the average household, the assessment will be an additional \$4/month. This revenue will go directly toward fire protection.

"If this parcel assessment passes, it will generate \$1 million, which would provide 20 to 25 percent of our operating budget. If doesn't pass, there is a good likelihood that we will be forced to lay off several firefighters and close one of our four stations. It's make it or break it for us," said **Local 4317 President Josh Capper**.

At the time of publication, the local has received good feedback from the community about the assessment, despite the fact that it is a difficult time economically for most citizens to spend more money.

"Most of the people we have been talking to have been willing to spend the extra dollars, as long as it's going towards fire protection," said Capper.

Local 4317 has been raising awareness about the assessment by walking their precinct, flying door to door and putting up signs around town about this important vote. In addition, the local partnered with the Lathrop-Manteca Fire District to host public workshops to educate residents about the assessment and give them an opportunity to ask questions.

Ballots were mailed in early June and the deadline for returning ballots was July 26.



A fundraiser for retired West Sacramento Fire Department Captain Wally Enos's granddaughter Addison was held at the West Sacramento CrossFit.

# Randy Sekany

CPF 4<sup>th</sup> District Vice President



CPF District 4 represents the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara.



## San Carlos Reopens This Fall as Hybrid Fire Department

The Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department will be shutting down this fall, and San Carlos Fire Department will reopen as a hybrid fire agency. The department will share Redwood City Fire Department's fire chief and administration staff.

The move is expected to save the city of San Carlos \$1.5 million a year.

At the time of this publication, San Carlos was hiring 17-21 firefighter, firefighter-paramedic and captain positions to staff the new department. But **Local 2400 President Ed Hawkins** noted that the recruitment process has begun but they haven't first offered positions to the current employees of Belmont-San Carlos, which they are legally obligated to do.

"People are hungry for work so they are getting candidates. My concern is that they aren't giving jobs to our members who are currently working for them," said Hawkins.

In addition, Hawkins said that the new department offers no vacation or overtime pay to staff, in addition to providing a 2% at 50 retirement formula.

## Alameda County Defends Contract Against Wackenhut Threat

Now that the Alameda County Fire Department's five-year contract with Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) is up, Wackenhut Corp. is making a play to take over the fire protection contract.

It is the first time that a for-profit company will bid for the contract, which represents three companies and 40 positions. Alameda County has

provided fire protection services with LLNL since 2007.

**Alameda County Firefighters Local 55** is ready for battle. Their battle plan has included drafting talking points, assembling a strong group of labor and management leaders in support of Alameda County and gathering letters of support from groups including the IAFF, CPF, IAFC, CAL FIRE Chiefs, Alameda County Central Labor Council, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Congressmen McNerney and Garamendi, and State Senator Corbett. They have also conducted research and located supporting documents highlighting Wackenhut's mismanagement.

Since 2007, Alameda County Fire Department has met the safety standards and security clearances, improved their training and response times for LLNL.

"We have done the legwork and spent a lot of time on this, but it's also been an opportunity for labor and management to work together. We're together in this fight," said **Local 55 President John Torres**.

The final decision will be made by the UC Board of Regents in September.

## Spotlight on Windsor Firefighters Local 4407

Sometimes being small has its advantages.

Twelve-member **Windsor Firefighters Local 4407** has flown under the radar and weathered the latest economic storm relatively unscathed.

"We've had a very conservative fire chief for the past 42 years, who built up a lot of reserves," said **Local 4407 President Mike Elson**. The Windsor Fire Protection District staffs two

fire stations, responds to 2,200 calls each year and serves roughly 33,000 residents in the town of Windsor.

From 2007 until now, members have seen no pay raises and contracts have been flat. On the other hand, they haven't had to contribute to PERS and they haven't seen layoffs or brownouts, or reductions in salary or benefits, like other neighboring departments have experienced.

Elson said relations between labor and management have greatly improved in the past three years and that the board of directors has been extremely

transparent with the local, particularly in matters of budgeting.

In 2010-2011, Windsor Fire Protection District was forced to go into their deficit spending and it is anticipated that they will need to dip into their reserves again in 2011-2012.

"The reserve account continues to dwindle to balance the budget and until we see a strong economic recovery, that is what we'll be faced with. But right now, at least we are on a one- to two-year delay from what everyone else is experiencing," said Elson.



Windsor firefighters on the job. This small Northern California local has fared better during the economic downturn than many of its neighboring locals.

# Michael Massone

CPF 5<sup>th</sup> District Vice President



CPF District 5 represents federal firefighters across the state of California



## AB 585 Would Extend Cancer Presumption to Moffatt Field

In 2008, the Governor signed SB 1271, which recognized that California-based firefighters serving and protecting California-based military installations and government facilities do the same job as any other firefighter.

But members of **Moffett Field Firefighters Association Local I-79**, who were once covered under the state's public safety cancer presumption statute, have since been inadvertently excluded given a recent change in their employer.

Assembly Bill 585 hopes to change that.

Authored by Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-Mountain View), the bill aims to even the playing field and ensure that the existing cancer presumption is extended to a handful of California firefighters serving the NASA Ames Research Center on the Moffett Federal Airfield in the Bay Area and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

In July, members from Local I-79 testified in support of AB 585 during a Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee hearing at the State Capitol and the bill was approved unanimously.

"We do the same job and are exposed to the same kinds of carcinogens as other firefighters in the state," said **Local I-79 member Carlos Pinedo**, who testified at the Capitol. "I hope we can be covered under the cancer presumption law, which protects all other firefighters in California."

## Local F-85 Marks 50 Years

2011 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of union membership for Camp Pendleton's firefighters.

Fire protection duties aboard the massive Marine Corps Base were transitioned from the Marines to civilian firefighters in the late 1950s. In April 1961, a charter was granted to the **Federal Firefighters Association, IAFF Local F-85** to represent their labor rights.

Today, Local F-85 does business as **Camp Pendleton Professional Firefighters** and represents over 140 suppression and fire prevention personnel. Reflecting back on the decades, it's easy to see the many changes in the fire service, but the mission of the local is the same.

2011 will see the ratification of a new labor contract after several years of



Local F-85 recently commissioned a limited edition "Challenge Coin" to mark the locals' half-century of labor affiliation.

hard work on a litany of negotiable items, like health and safety, training and promotions, as well as the many small but important quality-of-life issues that members have fought for.

The representational duties of a local, as we all know, are just a small part of what California's union firefighters do. We also give back. To that end, F-85 is very enthusiastic in its annual fundraising efforts in San Diego County. Members also make time for fun, with an annual golf tournament and other social events - a must in building strong bonds.

To commemorate its half-century of labor affiliation, F-85 recently

commissioned a limited edition "Challenge Coin." The coin was released in May, and has been an overwhelming success. An anniversary T-shirt will also be produced, and a barbeque will be held this summer for members and their families to celebrate 50 years of fraternal unity and service. Finally, the local is in the process of establishing a relief association, which will provide emergency assistance to members in need for years to come.

## Bill Helps Military Veterans Enter Firefighting Career

In California, the Firefighter I certificate is the basic training standard required for firefighting jobs.

Assembly Bill 398, authored by Assemblymember Mike Morrell (R-Rancho Cucamonga), would give the State Fire Marshal the authority to accept the firefighter certification by the U.S. Department of Defense as an alternative to the Firefighter I certificate.

"With the passage of this bill, military veterans could draw from their existing firefighter training to apply for a career with the fire service," said **5<sup>th</sup> District Vice President Mike Massone**. "This would ease the burden of finding employment that is frequently experienced by military veterans after their return from service.

At the time of this publication, the bill was making its way through the Senate.

## El Centro Joins CPF

Lastly, welcome **El Centro Federal Firefighters Local F-156** to CPF's 5<sup>th</sup> District. This 34-member local joined CPF in April.



Local I-79 firefighters Eric Flemming and Carlos Pinedo testify at the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee in support of AB 585



Local F-85 crews conduct overhaul ops at a recent house fire.

# Bob Wolf

CPF 6<sup>th</sup> District Vice President



## New Director

It is our great honor, as the leadership of **CDF Firefighters Local 2881**, along with the **California Professional Firefighters** to join all of our brothers and sisters within CAL FIRE to congratulate Ken Pimlott on his official appointment as Director of CAL FIRE.

These are not easy times in which to take a leadership position. The challenges go far beyond the economic problems confronting California and go to the core of how fire departments will continue to operate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is gratifying for those of us who have known Ken Pimlott throughout his career to see that Governor Brown has recognized him for both his extraordinary capabilities and his great honesty.

While the union has no plans to walk in lock-step with the department, we are confident that controversies can be handled with respect. At the end of the day, we share a philosophy with Director Pimlott that honorable people can not only work together in a positive fashion, but can also disagree honorably.

## SRA Fees

Evidently, the two things you cannot get rid of are a Palm Springs condo and SRA fees.

The state of California has spent a decade trying to squeeze profits from either the buildings or the acreage in the State Responsibility Area. There have been several iterations of fee schedules promulgated and none of them have worked.

The newest version of the SRA fees is put in place to handle a \$50 million backfill to the CAL FIRE budget and have future revenues of \$150 million for the General Fund.

It is a long way to Tipperary.

There are many more questions than there is substantive public policy as it relates to SRA. There are enormous costs in deciding how many habitable structures there are in the SRA. It is even a challenge to figure out the definition of habitable. Putting this paradigm together, the Board of Equalization and every level of government are going to want to shave administrative costs off that top.

There is also a conflict on how the money will be spent. In order to get around the fee versus taxes question, the legislation mentions that it will be used only for prevention. However, information from the Administration is that it will be used for suppression and other purposes, which raises the specter of a tax question being raised.

There is also an appeals process in place for those individuals who feel that they are being charged this fee unfairly. Those of us who have worked in government for a long time recognize that the appeals process could likely be more expensive than the fee that is being collected. And, there is no doubt that there will be litigation and legislation to purposefully adjust to the considerable weaknesses in the proposal.

While all of us support the idea that individuals who live in the SRA and pay absolutely no fees or taxes for emergency services need to pay their own freight, a blanket SRA fee has proven expensive to enforce and an empty bucket when it comes time to collect.

## Sacramento Political Environment

There is a peaceful revolution taking place in California politics. The voters supported redistricting and, as a

consequence, for the first time the congressional and state Senate and Assembly district lines are no longer in the hands of the politicians, but rather under the aegis of a private commission. If the commission's recommendations do not work, then it goes to the Supreme Court for them to make the final adjustments.

We will be seeing highly competitive races for these offices during the next election. One pundit said that it wasn't like having one Ali-Frazier fight, but rather a dozen set up in one arena so that we could watch the chaos unfold.

The hope of the voters is that it will make policymakers more responsive to their home districts. That is a lot to hope for.

## Fire Season

We have already experienced more fires this year than last. I do not care what the weather is like in the months leading up to fire season, the state is always at risk to burn. I know how dedicated each and every one of you are, and I know the incredible sacrifices your families make when you are gone for days and weeks at a time. We look forward to continuing our work alongside the men and women throughout CPF as we battle what will be another undoubtedly active fire season.

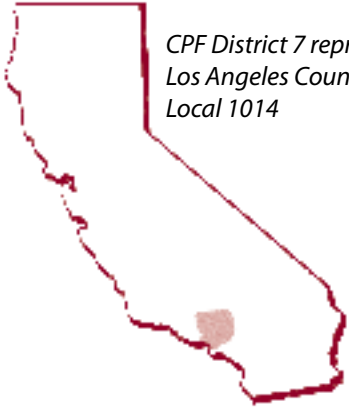
Please be safe. We want every one of you to go home to your families when the fires end.

It is an honor to work with you.



# Dave Gillotte

CPF 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice President



CPF District 7 represents Los Angeles County Fire Fighters, Local 1014



In the very busy 7<sup>th</sup> District, the **Los Angeles County Fire Fighters Local 1014** membership continues to face the dynamic challenges that most every other fire union faces in California. Most recently, we were hit with some funding cuts that will affect Los Angeles County and Orange County Fire Protection Districts as a result of **CAL FIRE 2881's** direct hit in the final adopted state budget.

We rely on the lobbying team of **CPF** and **President Paulson's** careful eye to act on the issues that affect our members as a result of the budget. While we are actively engaged and watchful ourselves and work with partners in our fire chief and the County of LA and contract counties' chiefs, sometimes things get finished that we didn't see coming.

We have been watching the State Responsibility Area (SRA) funding mechanisms and the redevelopment agency items because they directly affect our funding and new revenue potential, but the impact of reductions in augmented staffing to CAL FIRE in the Southern California from around 20-25 engines to 10 engines including the engines that we staff with that funding was a shot fired we didn't see coming.

We will be working very closely with CAL FIRE 2881 and CPF to ensure that not only do we battle the instant cuts, but also the potential of SRA fees (taxes) being levied in the SRA area that Los Angeles County protects as a contracting county. Those areas have always been our work jurisdiction and we have always provided the wildland and watershed protection, as well as BLS, ALS and air operations, Haz-Mat, USAR and other specialized services. For 15 years now, we have had a current "special fire tax" in place. Combine that with regular property tax dedicated for LA County Fire Protection District and you can clearly see that a third SRA fee or tax cannot and will not be tolerated by Local 1014.

Special thanks to CAL FIRE and CPF for opposing these budget items, but it is clear we have much work to do to protect current funding and any future funding through RDA agreements. No different than other unions, we, too, battle to stabilize current funding, and protect or generate future revenue.

As we hit the streets to continue with the great tradition of Fill the Boot for MDA, we raised nearly \$300,000 again this year in this tight economy and we are proud to give our support. This year was particularly personal because in addition to many of our sisters and brothers' families being affected by the diseases associated with ALS, we had two of our brothers pass away from ALS-related diseases: an active duty brother (a 44 year old with two kids) and a retired brother with 15 years in the bank post-retirement. Both funerals were held during the FTB Drive, with the active brother's funeral on our final day of Fill the Boot with sisters and brothers hitting the streets in the morning prior to paying our respects. May our brothers rest in peace. The MDA staff, the Executive Board and the membership did an outstanding job pulling this together and we are lucky to have had the help.

Local 1014 members also have been facing the continued challenges of return-to-work and workers' compensation issues. Not new to anyone in California, we are now engaged in trying to negotiate a workers' compensation carve out agreement. We are at the table now trying to craft a system that actually works and gets our members treated and back to work in a timely manner. Hard to believe that even the presumptive injuries and illnesses would be hard to navigate for our administrators and chief officers, but as you all laugh a bit, we battle the same battle as you all do ... ignorance and ambivalence unless it affects you personally ... and some chiefs have now begun to see the light. We hope to craft an agreement like a few other

agencies have done, and get out of the third party administrator dartboard of treatment policy.

Local 1014 is also embarking on a venture of a different sort this year. We are spearheading an effort to represent all of our members more effectively by starting a Women in the Fire Service Issue Commission. Rumors were already starting about the "New Women's Only Union", but nothing could be further from the truth. So many times department managers and County administrators cannot deal with issues that affect woman because they are so scared and uncomfortable about these issues, much less acknowledging that certain things apply to women who have carved into what used to be an all-male profession.

Well, we decided to blow the lid off of the rhetoric, kill the fantasy issues, put some reason and math, and fairness into analyzing the "issues" and got to work on them. Why? Because we represent many great members in all ranks who happen to be women. They also happen to be men and all happen to be of different nationalities, religions, sexes, body shapes, strengths and weaknesses. We wanted to get the 800-pound elephant out of the corner and into sane professional conversation and action. As luck would have it, the issues, believe it or not, affect not only the women who serve in our department, but also the men. We even have some women who not only serve proudly and do a great job, but have honorably served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan before getting a bear on their badge.

Bottom line: we are off and running, tackling simple to very complex issues with a grassroots, member- and union-supported commission with effective lobbying power and an approach that no longer separates and isolates, but rather incorporates the very old school way of considering issues on their merits and nothing else. We

hope to contribute efforts to end up with a system that provides for and ultimately judges and accommodates all firefighters, based on quality of job performance, standards that apply to all, method and state-of-the-art training and equipment and of course wages and working conditions that spend the same for all!

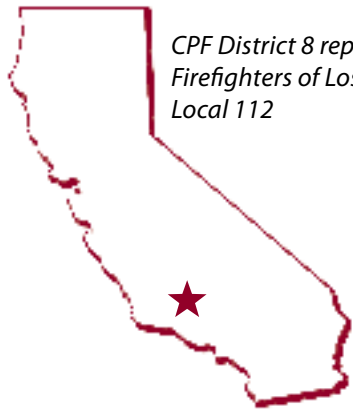
Our political action work is never done. We are finally figuring out it is a way of life for us and we are watching the state and federal redistricting efforts to see what effect it will have on vote count. We are also continuing with our local political action efforts in some of our contract cities, again most notably in Monterey Park where our Monterey Park 1014-represented members continue to work hard to get a survey to the table to become LA County Fire Fighters. We are as close to getting that job done as anyone has been in nearly 20 years. There is much to be done with continued election cycles and initiatives as well as vote count, but we are on track, and we negotiated for the second contract extension in a row - no losses for the MP Firefighters and protections that no other groups will be getting as we continue to move towards a potential annexation deal. The MP Firefighters are strong and are always there for their own issues, as well as statewide issues.

As this addition goes to print we are tracking the language and the effects of AB 210, SB 457 and AB 340 relative to EMS, Workers Comp, and 37 Act Retirement Issues...stay tuned to see what the outcome of those important bills have on us all.

There is so much more to come with negotiations set to potentially start for Fire and Sheriff at the end of the year as our contract extensions come to close. The economy continues to improve but at such a sluggish rate, it is hard to tell if the balance sheet can remain balanced. We will keep you posted as we once again move through the stormy sea.

# Pat McOsker

CPF 8<sup>th</sup> District Vice President



CPF District 8 represents the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112

The long and painful budget fight is over. The outcome has been decided.

On July 5, in accordance with the 2011/2012 adopted LAFD budget, the LAFD will suffer the “hard-closure” of as many as 18 fire companies and four rescue ambulances.

I refuse to call these closures permanent and I say “as many as” because the City Council passed amendments to the Mayor’s budget meaning there is a plan to someday restore these resources, and there is hope that the first round of restorations could occur prior to July 5th. Had we not fought the mayor and his fire chief on their permanent downsizing plan, neither possibility would exist.

The pending changes to the LAFD – the reduction of staff at so many firehouses, the calculated, delayed responses to so many neighborhoods, and the assignment of so many UFLAC members in staffing pools – will all be painful and dangerous. We are being forced to operate understaffed and under-supported while protecting America’s second largest and most firefighter challenging city.

The minute that we became aware of the Chief’s intention to offer permanent closures in exchange for temporary, rotating closures, we discussed our

options. We concluded that neither plan was safe. If there was any doubt in our minds that management’s priorities were upside down, it was completely erased when – on the very same day that the Fire Chief made his hard-closure plan public – he stood before the Council’s Personnel Committee fighting for permission to hire nine civilian investigators for an expansion of PSD. He made it abundantly clear that he was for the permanent elimination of 318 first-responder positions and the addition of civilian staff to harass what was left of us.

We decided right then to ramp up the fight to get our resources back. We revived our public awareness campaign, sending mail into fire station districts slated for hard closures. We held rallies and press conferences in communities and at City Hall. We were there in numbers and T-shirts for every City Hall vote and discussion of the issue. We spoke honestly and bluntly to the people of LA through the press. We talked about safe staffing, delayed responses and the mayor’s upside-down priorities. We pushed back against the LAFD management team doing the mayor’s bidding.

In the end, we just couldn’t muster enough votes on the Council to stop the fire chief’s closures. Thankfully, the Council President Eric Garcetti worked out a compromise.

Garcetti introduced two amending motions to the mayor’s LAFD budget plan. The first authorized all current LAFD field positions for 2011/2012, including those which the mayor had cut the funding for. That amendment makes it easier to bring staffing back when money materializes. The second was an acknowledgment that the Fire Department is the Council’s highest priority for restoration when revenue returns. It created a special “Restoration of Neighborhood Fire Services” account, and said that any new revenue or savings attained through negotiations or other means would go into the account to be used for resource reopenings, the order of which will be determined by the Fire Chief on the basis of need. Both motions passed unanimously.

While it’s clearly not the victory that we wanted, the amended budget is better than the alternative that we almost got. Just days after the Council’s vote on our spending plan, I was back in their chamber, speaking against the Fire Chief’s hoped-for expansion of PSD. In the end, the Council did the right thing by choosing to put the savings into the new account instead.

The next likely source of funding for our service restoration account is savings gained from us through contract negotiations. We are after all, at the bargaining table trying to work out a deal. So are our brother and sisters on

the LAPD. The City clearly expects both of us to make yet another sacrifice, and it would seem that they fully intend to get 2% from us to help pay for the medical subsidies that we will all get in retirement. If they don’t get our help voluntarily, you can bet that they will try to take more than 2% of our pay – of pensionable pay – by imposing a contract with takeaways. They’ve also made it clear that they would try to freeze subsidies for future retirees (you and me) at the current level for the rest of our lives.

As I have said many times before, the only solution to our seemingly constant struggles is to have the votes on City Council when we need them. Everything we do and everything we care about as union firefighters comes down to politics. If the fiscal crisis that we’ve been through the past few years has taught us anything, it has taught us that we should double down on political action.

The changes brought about by the Mayor’s new deployment plan will be painful and dangerous. UFLAC leaders will do everything in our power to achieve, through negotiations, the most fair and favorable working conditions possible for pool assigned firefighters and all union members. We only hope that management will work with us to achieve that goal. We also won’t stop fighting until every last resource is reopened someday.

# COOPERATIVE WILDLAND TRAINING KEY AS FIRE SEASON GEARS UP

*L.A. County Drills Offer Live-Fire Training to Firefighters Throughout Region*

On a sprawling property alongside L.A. County's Honor Camp, firefighters convened almost daily over the course of a month to conduct live-fire wildland training.



The sight of smoke and flames steadily climbing an arid hillside is all too common in the Tehachapi Mountains northeast of Los Angeles during the summer. One hot morning in mid-June, a small army of firefighters from LA City and County worked side-by-side on one such hillside, battling the heat, dust and flame to keep fires from climbing up and over a brush-covered ridge.

Fortunately, it was only a drill ... this time.

On a sprawling property alongside L.A. County's Honor Camp, firefighters convened almost daily over the course of a month to conduct live-fire wildland training. Engine companies from departments throughout the county participated in the training, honing communication and wildland firefighting skills that will help them when called out for "the real thing."

The goal was to provide training on initial attack ... before a huge management team comes in ... to keep small fires small," said L.A. County Fire Captain Rudy Gilson, one of the training mentors at the exercise. "The goal is to make it as realistic as possible ... and there's nothing more realistic than live fire."

The emphasis on bringing multiple agencies into the exercises reflects a new reality in the fire service: In an age of limited resources, firefighters need to have the broadest possible training, and be able to "speak the same language."

"Many of the firefighters who come out here may go to wildland fires once a

year, or once every two years," said L.A. County Battalion Chief Jim Crawford. "The more experience we give them to supplement their training, the better they do."

That supplement benefitted the companies from Los Angeles City who were part of the drill. Many of those in attendance were paramedic rescue personnel that rotate on and off their engine. As a result, they don't get a lot of fire suppression training time.

"To get them out here with me so that we can all go through the same training ... because we are a team ... is invaluable," said L.A. City Captain Don Darby. "It doesn't happen very often."

The **California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee** sent its FireStar Productions video team to shoot footage of the exercises. In addition to direct fire attack, the drill also included training evolutions

covering dozer operations and After Action Reports. The footage will be used in future updates to the CFFJAC's well-regarded training programs.

"In order to be credible and effective, training must be as realistic as possible," said **Yvonne de la Peña, Program Director of the CFFJAC**. "Having the opportunity to get right up close to the action helps make the JAC programs a realistic and relevant supplement to their ongoing apprenticeship training."

"All of the skills we develop are perishable, and if you don't use them, you're not proficient," noted Gilson. "When lives are on the line, that's not the time to become proficient. You have to be proficient."

Refresh your wildland knowledge at the CFFJAC's "Wildland Firefighter Safety" section by clicking on "Training" at [www.cffjac.org](http://www.cffjac.org).



## CFFJAC Joins with Kaplan To Deliver Web-Based TCM Training

To insure that California's firefighters stay on top of their training, **California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee** experts have turned to the web.

The CFFJAC is set to roll out the first in a series of 10 web-based continuing education courses. These programs will be available through the CFFJAC website portal to Kaplan University. "Improvised Explosives and Incendiary Devices" will launch this summer with additional courses unveiled in the coming months.

"California firefighters will always have access to further their TCM knowledge, thanks to CFFJAC and its partnership with Kaplan University," said **CFFJAC Program Director Yvonne de la Peña**. "These courses not only make training more accessible, but also allow for continuing education and updated training."

For more information, visit [www.cffjac.org](http://www.cffjac.org) and click on the TCM Training button on the home page.

## Has CalPERS Given You Full Credit for Your Military Time or Air Time Purchase If You Took an Industrial Disability Retirement?

A class action lawsuit against CalPERS alleges that firefighters, police officers and other safety employees who took an industrial disability retirement (IDR) may be getting little or nothing for their military service credit or "air time" purchases.

The class action claims that CalPERS illegally seizes some or all for the military time or "air time" if the member ends up taking an IDR. CalPERS misclassifies the military time or "air time" purchases and treats them the same as the normal contributions a member makes in the safety job where he or she is working at the time of the service credit purchase.

Then if the safety member goes out on an IDR, CalPERS transfers all or part of the member's military time or "air time" investment to the employer's account. In effect, the lawsuit claims, CalPERS takes the member's money and uses it to reduce the employer's cost of paying the member's own disability allowance.

Here's the situation according to the lawsuit: Suppose two firefighters in the same agency get injured and have to retire on IDR. They are both under 50 years old – a real possibility since the average age of taking IDR is 46. One bought 4 years of military service time for \$50,000. The other didn't. According to the lawsuit, CalPERS gives both of them the same 50% of their last salary as an IDR allowance. The safety member

who spent \$50,000 for military time would not get an extra dime. CalPERS will not refund the \$50,000. CalPERS simply keeps it or transfers it to the employer's account to pay for the IDR.

About 5% of the 500,000 current CalPERS retirees retire on IDR. Firefighters likely have greater rates. More than 50,000 CalPERS members have purchased military service credit, air time or similar optional service credit over the years. So it is likely that a number of firefighters and other safety members have not gotten the full value of their purchases.

*John Michael Jensen, an attorney in Los Angeles, represents the Plaintiffs.*

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