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MESSAGE
FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to present the San Marino Fire Department’s 2018 Annual Report. I hope you will find the report informative as you take an inside look at the accomplishments of the Fire Department and our ongoing efforts to protect our residents and ensure the safety of our community.

This report provides selected highlights of the many accomplishments, initiatives, and programs undertaken by the dedicated Firefighters of the San Marino Fire Department. The report also includes a statistical analysis of the Fire Department’s performance for emergency medical incidents, fires incidents, and response times.

We continue to successfully provide life saving emergency services through a rigorous training regimen, rapid response and professionalism. The Firefighters strive to treat every resident “The San Marino Way,” with courtesy, compassion and kindness. Together, with the support of the City Council and our residents we will continue to provide premium service and enhance public safety for all who live, work, or visit San Marino.

Over the last two years, the Fire Department has worked to accurately measure and improve our overall performance. Fire Department Performance Reports are provided to the City Council and the Public Safety Commission each month to ensure accountability. Despite this, the Fire Department remains forward thinking to address emerging trends, and researching new equipment affecting public safety. Within this report, you will learn how fire personnel are working collaboratively with other San Marino City Departments, neighboring fire departments, and non-profit groups to address public safety and community concerns. The Firefighters continue forward, making great strides and look forward to the new challenges in 2019. We are an organization that remains active, continuously looking to improve and provide the best services possible for our community.

THE MISSION OF THE SAN MARINO FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY, AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Your Fire Department is focused on increasing community support through our actions of being visible, accessible, and responsive emergency services. We recognize the trust bestowed upon us by those we serve must be earned each day. We are committed to meet that challenge.

I am honored to lead such a talented, diverse, and committed team of fire service professionals as we continually seek to fulfill our mission: protecting lives and property, and ensuring the safety of our community. I am appreciative of your continued support and that of our City Council, Public Safety Commission and City Manager.

Mario Rueda
Fire Chief, San Marino Fire Department
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The San Marino Fire Department Station 91 is located at 2200 Huntington Drive in the City Hall Complex. Station 91 provides the following services to the City of San Marino:

- Fire Response
- Emergency Medical Services
- Rescue Operations
- Fire Investigation
- Fire Prevention
- Emergency Management

Since 1923, the San Marino Fire Department has been dedicated to providing the highest skilled response to the residents and visitors of the City of San Marino. San Marino Firefighter / Paramedics remain on duty twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week.

1,864 TOTAL INCIDENTS

$5,214,249 DEPARTMENT BUDGET

COURTESY IN SERVICE

665 INSPECTIONS

20 SWORN PERSONNEL

13,327 POPULATION

INTEGRITY
QUALITY
SAFETY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GOALS

- Placed a new, outfitted fire engine into service as Paramedic Engine 91.
- Placed a new outfitted Command Vehicle into service as Battalion 9.
- Placed one new Zoll Advanced Life Support Heart Monitor into service on Engine 91.
- Completed Hazardous Vegetation Inspections in the High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.
- Completed annual hydrant testing for all fire hydrants in the City.
- Completed an annual inspection and audit of all Fire Department apparatus, equipment, living quarters, records and personnel.
- Conducted a disaster preparedness exercise in the City, including a simulated EOC activation.
- Completed Fire Department/Los Angeles County disaster radio installation in the EOC.
- Completed and submitted the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for FEMA approval.
Fire Chief Mario Rueda and Division Chief Mark Dondanville

A SHIFT
FF/PM Anthony Alvarado, FF/PM Richard Fixsen, Engineer Nathan Foth, Captain Dominic Petta, FF/PM Jeff Tsay, FF/PM Shawn Stewart

B SHIFT
Engineer Dan Wagenbrenner, FF/PM Dwayne Carlton, FF/PM Kirk Batterson, Captain Jason Sutliff, FF/PM Russ Wilcox, FF/PM Tim Chow

C SHIFT
FF/PM Dave Tannehill, FF/PM Brian Campbell, FF/PM Sam Benites, Captain Nick Maza, Engineer Mike White, FF/PM Eric Gashi

SOUTH PASADENA SHARED COMMAND
Division Chief Eric Zanteson and Division Chief Chris Szenczi
FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYMENT

This past year, in March of 2018, the San Marino City Council considered the Fire Department’s Deployment Study Implementation Plan. As a result of the Deployment Study of the Fire Department, the Department developed implementation strategies for each of the eight recommendations made by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI). The City Council ultimately approved recommendations made by the Fire Department related to six of the eight Consultant recommendations. One of the two recommendations that the City Council did not adopt was to, “Ensure the long term ability to staff the engine with four personnel.” However, the City Council ultimately supported and approved the recommended 2018/19 Fire Department Budget. The other recommendation that was not acted on by the council was to explore cooperative service and consolidation opportunities.

I am convinced that our current deployment is critical to meeting the needs of our residents, and allows the SMFD to continue to provide premium service. Completion of simultaneous critical life saving tasks requires our current staffing, and can make a difference in the outcome of our patients. Emergency medical responses represents 74% of the SMFD’s emergency response workload. A picture with a description of Firefighter/Paramedic’s activities during a critical medical response is included below.

1. **Captain/ Paramedic** - Consoles loved ones, gathers facts from witnesses, obtains pertinent patient medical history from family members, finds patient’s prescription medications, explains what is going on to family members, overall scene management and crowd control if necessary.

2. **Firefighter/ Paramedic** - In charge of patient care, delegates assignments to crew members, attaches patient to defibrillator, interprets EKG reading, when indicated administers electrical shock via the defibrillator, obtains patients vital signs.

3. **Firefighter/ Paramedic** - Contacts base hospital, obtains medical direction from base hospital physician, documents patient care being administered, completes patient care report form which is vital during transferring of care to emergency room, drives the ambulance.

4. **Firefighter/ Paramedic** - Maintains patent airway, provides supplemental oxygen via bag valve mask, provides positive pressure ventilation which is crucial for vital organ survivability, preps and performs intubation to establish an advanced airway.

5. **Firefighter/ Paramedic** - Provides continuous chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute. Compressions must be uninterrupted to ensure brain and tissue perfusion.

6. **Firefighter/ Paramedic** - Establishes intravenous access through an intravenous cannulation. Maintains a patent IV line. Checks blood sugar levels which is critical in diabetic patients. Administers lifesaving cardiogenic medications which can potentially restart the heart.

Fire Department staffing may also be critical if and when a disaster impacts the City. During a disaster, each City within the Verdugo Communications System is responsible for its own jurisdiction. Additional
help from surrounding Cities will not be sent until the situation has been stabilized within their own jurisdiction. A critical disaster may potentially leave the City of San Marino with only one Engine and one RA to protect the City. In part, the Fire Department’s staffing and deployment is intended to ensure that we provide premium service and meet the day to day customary emergency work in our City. However, we also prepare for the day our City may be impacted by disaster. When it comes to disaster response, the Fire Department and Police Department are the community’s first and only option.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYMENT STUDY: ONE YEAR LATER

The San Marino Fire Department (SMFD) Deployment Study required an intensive analysis of all aspects of the SMFD deployment policies. The analysis used various tools to review historical performance, evaluate risk, validate response coverage, and defined critical tasking and alarm assignments. The purpose of the Deployment Study was to assist our Fire Department in ensuring a safe and effective response force for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and specialty situations. A Deployment Plan document also helps the Fire Department maintain the public trust with our residents and elected officials.

In March of 2018, the Fire Department presented a Deployment Study Implementation Plan. The consultant made eight recommendations intended to chart a course to improved capability and service. Significant progress has been made on the implementation of the eight recommendations.

1 FORMALY ADOPT RESPONSE PERFORMANCE GOALS

On March 2, 2018, the San Marino City Council formally adopted the performance goals recommended by the consultant. The SMFD’s fire and life safety response performance goals are intended to be targets for achievement. The SMFD regularly reports progress on achievement of these goals in a monthly report to the City Council and the Public Safety Commission.

2 IMPROVE THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF INCIDENT DATA

Since March of 2018, the SMFD has produced and distributed an SMFD Monthly Performance Report. The SMFD captures data that permits the City Council, Public Safety Commission and Residents to evaluate our response system. This data is analyzed each month by the SMFD so that system performance is understood.

The San Marino Fire Department is currently working with IntelesysOne (the City’s contract IT service) to improve collection and utilization of data.

3 & 4 REDUCE THE TIME REQUIRED TO NOTIFY RESPONSE PERSONNEL OF AN INCIDENT & IMPROVE TURNOUT TIME PERFORMANCE

The San Marino Police Department (SMPD) dispatch is the first to answer a 9-1-1 call. In the past, SMPD dispatchers query the caller to determine the nature and location of the emergency and ask questions to identify if a police response is necessary. Verdugo fire dispatchers (VFD) query the caller again to determine the nature and location of the emergency. The
outcome of this caller query process was a delay in notification of fire department response resources. In 2018, the City implemented a new phone system that contains a provision to pre-alert SMFD resources if they are in quarters. Once the SMPD dispatcher determines the call for service requires fire department response, the dispatcher can send a pre-alert the fire department via a paging system. Overall improvement in time, turnout time, for SMFD personnel to receive the alarm and respond from the fire station in 2018 averaged 1 minute and 27 seconds, so far in the first two months of 2019, that time has been reduced to 57 seconds. That is a dramatic improvement in turnout time, and that time saving can be critical in an emergency.

6 ENSURE THE LONG-TERM ABILITY TO STAFF THE ENGINE WITH FOUR PERSONNEL

Although this recommendation was not adopted by the City Council, the SMFD’s budget that ensures four-person staffing has been supported by the Council.

7 IMPROVE WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY THROUGH ACTIVE FUELS MODIFICATION EFFORTS

For the first time in 2018, the SMFD conducted a Hazardous Vegetation Inspection Program in the City’s High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. SMFD personnel conducted several public meetings to educate our residents, then inspected each property in the City’s High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, and issued notices requiring compliance with the City’s Code.

5 IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY INCIDENTS

The SMFD current practice is to send both the fire engine and rescue ambulance to all emergency medical incidents regardless of the severity. This is the practice of the VFD system. It essentially over triages in some circumstances, because not all calls for service are critical medical emergencies. The consultant, ESCI, recommended that the SMFD initiate discussions with VFD to determine if medical categorization can be initiated. This issue was brought to VFD’s attention; however, was placed on hold until VFD completed the implementation of a new Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD). CAD purchase and implementation is scheduled for completion in 2019.

The implementation of medical categorization of calls for service may provide increased availability of resources for a second simultaneous call for service in our City. However, in 2018, 74% of the calls for service in the City of San Marino are for serious medical emergencies requiring both the fire engine and rescue ambulance. The SMFD will continue to monitor this recommendation.

8 EXPLORE COOPERATIVE SERVICE AND CONSOLIDATION OPPORTUNITIES

The City Council did not act on this recommendation. However, in conjunction with the South Pasadena Fire Department, the SMFD shares Fire command Chief Officers for the two Fire Departments. By sharing resources, both Fire Departments can provide an enhanced service at a lower cost.
In 2018, the San Marino Fire Department responded to 1,864 total incidents. There was a 13% decrease in total call volume from 2017. As a result of negotiation with our Verdugo Dispatch System partners, the response area for Rescue Ambulance 91 was reduced, and therefore RA91 remains available for more emergencies in San Marino. In 2018, the San Marino Fire Department responded to 37% fewer calls outside of jurisdiction.

**INCIDENT OVERVIEW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EMS Incidents</th>
<th>Fire Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,682</td>
<td>1,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,097</td>
<td>1,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**90TH PERCENTILE TURNOUT & RESPONSE TIMES**

The San Marino Fire Department has adopted the National Fire Protection Association 1710 turnout time standards for turnout and total response time. In 2018, SMFD met the EMS turnout target of 01:00 minutes 82% of the time and Fire turnout target of 01:20 83% of the time. SMFD personnel met the EMS total response target of 05:00 79% of the time and Fire response target of 05:20 72% of the time.

Using percentiles, the San Marino Fire Department is able to more accurately measure performance of responding units. In 2018, 90% of all EMS turnout times were 01:16 minutes or less and EMS total response times were 05:55 minutes or less; 90% of all Fire turnout times were 01:37 minutes or less and Fire total response times were 06:52 minutes or less.

Neighboring agencies (including Alhambra, Pasadena, San Gabriel, and South Pasadena) averaged 90th percentile response times of 01:36 turnout and 06:25 response for EMS incidents and 02:06 turnout and 08:11 response for Fire incidents.
MUTUAL AID

Mutual Aid is the exchange of emergency assistance across jurisdictional borders when an emergency response exceeds an agency’s resources. The San Marino Fire Department participates in Mutual Aid with neighboring agencies through the Verdugo Fire Communications Center as well as through an agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Additionally, SMFD participates in the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Mutual Aid System. The Cal OES Mutual Aid System provides for systematic mobilization, organization, and operation of available fire and rescue resources on a local, area, regional, and statewide basis.

OUT OF CITY RESPONSES

In 2017, after meeting with a number of residents, and the City Council, the San Marino Fire Department (SMFD) went back to the negotiating table to reduce the first due response area for Rescue Ambulance 91. The SMFD was successful in shrinking the area and reducing the number of responses by Rescue Ambulance 91 outside of the City of San Marino. Although reducing the responses of Rescue Ambulance 91 outside of our City does reduce revenues, it improves the availability of our ambulance for our residents.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In 2016, the San Marino Fire Department entered an agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (County) to provide Paramedic service to EMS incidents within Los Angeles County jurisdiction. San Marino Fire Department personnel responded to 150 EMS incidents within Los Angeles County jurisdiction in 2018. 68 (or 45%) of incidents resulted in patient treatment by San Marino Fire Department Paramedics.
WOOLSEY FIRE

At approximately 1:00 pm on Friday, November 9, 2018 Engine 91 was deployed as part of Strike Team 1364A to the Woolsey Fire in Ventura County. This was the first Strike Team deployment of the new Pierce Fire Engine. Engine 91 was staffed by Captain Dominic Petta, Engineer Nathan Foth, Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Alvarado, and Firefighter/Paramedic Kirk Batterson. Engine 91 was immediately engaged in protecting homes and structures in the Malibu area. Captain Petta described the very difficult conditions of narrow streets, high winds, and ember storms showering the Firefighters. Engine 91 was demobilized on Saturday, November 17, 2018.

FERGUSON FIRE

At approximately 12:00 pm on Thursday, July 26, 2018 the San Marino Fire Department received a request for mutual aid to the Ferguson Fire in Awahanee, CA. Firefighter/Paramedic Tim Chow was dispatched as a Fireline Paramedic to the incident and arrived to basecamp at approximately 9:00 pm Thursday night. Firefighter Chow was deployed on the Ferguson Fire until he was demobilized on Friday, August 10, 2018.

CRANSTON FIRE

At approximately 11:45 am on Friday, July 27, 2018 San Marino Fire Captain Jason Sutliff was dispatched as a Strike Team Leader Trainee to the Cranston Fire in the San Bernardino National Forest. Captain Sutliff arrived at command post at approximately 2:00 pm and was assigned to protect homes with Los Angeles County Strike Team 1130A. Captain Sutliff was demobilized on Monday, July 30, 2018.
San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics responded to 1,374 EMS incidents in 2018. Of those incidents, 79% required Advanced Life Support. 714 patients were transported to local area hospitals.

All San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics maintain current Paramedic certification with the State of California and accreditation with the County of Los Angeles. San Marino Paramedics are qualified to provide both Basic Life Support (BLS) service and Advanced Life Support (ALS) service.

Every month, San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics receive Continuing Education training and Quality Improvement instruction from a certified UCLA Pre-Hospital Care Nurse Educator. The Nurse Educator reviews all EMS patient records for accuracy and compliance with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services protocols, as well as provides instructional courses for Paramedics to maintain and improve EMS skills.

714 TRANSPORTS
$434,297 REVENUE

MOST COMMON EMS INCIDENT TYPES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FALL - ALS</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAFFIC COLLISION</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHORTNESS OF BREATH</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSON SICK</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAUMA</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYNCOPE/FAINTED NOW CONSCIOUS</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABDOMINAL PAIN</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEST PAIN - HEART ATTACK</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIST THE INVALID</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CARDIAC ARRESTS

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States and has a 70% - 90% fatality rate. The Center for Disease Control estimates that more than 357,000 patients suffer from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest annually.

In 2018, the San Marino Fire Department responded to 16 Cardiac Arrest incidents; a 100% increase from the previous year. Of the cardiac patients treated by San Marino Paramedics:

- 75% were over the age of 65
- 100% of patients under the age of 65 were male
- 38% of patients of all ages were female.
- 50% of all cardiac patients had a return of spontaneous circulation while being treated by San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics.
TRAUMATIC INJURY

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. Prompt treatment is crucial and early action can minimize brain damage and potential complications. San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics responded to 17 incidents in which a stroke was the primary provider impression.

STEMI

STEMI is short for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction and is a type of heart attack during which one of the heart’s major arteries is blocked. STEMI can be detected by using a 12-lead EKG. San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics carry a 12-lead EKG monitor/defibrillator on both front line apparatus and participate in extensive training in its use and operation.

MEDICATIONS/THERAPIES

San Marino Firefighter/Paramedics are licensed by the State of California and accredited by the County of Los Angeles to provide pre-hospital medications and therapies that an EMT would be unable to administer. Commonly administered medications include:

Albuterol: shortness of breath and breathing problems
Epinephrine: allergic reactions
Fentanyl: pain management
Nitroglycerin: chest pain and shortness of breath
Zofran: nausea and/or vomiting.
REVENUE

The San Marino Fire Department contracts all ambulance billing to Wittman Enterprises, LLC. In 2018, Wittman billed a total of 720 transports. After contractual allowances, the City of San Marino’s net charges were $610,921.08. As of December 31, Wittman received $434,297 in payment for transports occurring in 2018.

In 2016, the San Marino Fire Department entered an agreement with the Los Angeles County (County) Fire Department to provide Paramedic services within Los Angeles County jurisdiction. The County agreed to pay the City of San Marino $67 for every response by RA91 and $454.95 for incidents in which patient treatment was initiated. In 2018, RA91 responded to 150 EMS incidents in Los Angeles County; the City of San Marino estimates $36,430 in revenue from this agreement.

The San Marino Fire Department participates in the CalOES Mutual Aid System and is eligible for reimbursement of personnel, equipment, and administrative costs related to the incident. In 2018, the San Marino Fire Department responded to four CalOES Mutual Aid requests and received $111,875.00 in reimbursement.

GROSS & NET CHARGES BY PAYOR CATEGORY

- **Insurance**: $346,004.99
- **Medicare**: $786,545.74
- **Medi-Cal / Medicaid**: $190,921.24
- **Private**: $121,224.50

**EMSBILLING**

- **$434,297**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

- **$36,430**

**CALOES REIMBURSEMENT**

- **$111,875**

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15
TRAINING

The San Marino Fire Department is committed to providing the highest standard of service to residents of San Marino. Each day, San Marino Firefighters commit a minimum of two hours of training on topics and tasks essential to the safe and effective delivery of emergency services in the community. San Marino Firefighters completed a cumulative total of 5,822 hours of training, including; fire suppression, rescue, HAZMAT, vehicle extrication, and EMS continuing education. In addition, all Firefighters are required to maintain a current Paramedic certification with the State of California and the County of Los Angeles.

5,822 TRAINING HOURS

FIRE PREVENTION

The goal of Fire Prevention is to mitigate the risk of injury and damage by providing educational and inspection services to residents and business owners in San Marino. The San Marino Fire Department provides educational lessons to local schools and community groups upon request. SMFD also offers Operation Fire Safe—a free home inspection service to residents of San Marino.

SMFD conducts annual inspections of all businesses, apartments, schools, and churches within San Marino to ensure that they comply with local, State, and National Fire Codes. In 2018, SMFD initiated a brush clearance program for homes located in the City’s High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.
ARSON INVESTIGATION

The San Marino Fire Department Arson Investigations Unit was formed in 2015 with Investigator Captain Jason Sutliff, Engineer Mike White, and Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Tsay. Since its inception, the program has grown into a well-respected and successful investigative tool serving our area. The Investigators are part of the Area C—San Gabriel Valley Verdugo Arson Task Force. All of the Task Force members determine the cause and origin of fires, investigate, and make arrests if a fire is determined to be arson.

The Investigators have had formal training in investigations and interview techniques from the Office of the State Fire Marshal; the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the California Conference of Arson Investigators; the International Association of Arson Investigators; the National Association of Fire Investigators; the Los Angeles Fire Department’s Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section; and the Los Angeles Police Departments Major Crimes Division. They have in combination more than 2,400 hours of training specific to the investigation of fire and explosive scenes, motives associated with intentional fire setting, and the enforcement of the relevant sections of the California Penal Code.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Last year our Nation witnessed devastating floods, hurricanes, mudslides, and the deadliest fire in our State’s history.

The San Marino Fire Department is very aware of the sometimes human inability to see beyond ourselves, so that what we experience now or in any recent memory becomes our definition of what is possible. We think the common smaller events are all that we have to face, and that because the biggest earthquake isn’t in anyone’s memory, it isn’t real. In reality, the City of San Marino is potentially vulnerable to 10 of 16 disasters identified by the Federal Government. Many people also believe that if disaster strikes, they will be able to rely on the hope that first responders will be able to reach them in time during a major disaster. However, the bigger the disaster, the more strain that will be placed on our limited City resources, and the less likely the San Marino Fire or Police Department will be able to respond. As a result, it is imperative that the City and every one of our City residents is ready, and can use their own resources and skills to take care of each other or a neighbor.

In 2018, the Fire Department successfully completed and submitted for FEMA approval the Emergency Operations Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Together, these plans assist City personnel and residents in identifying risk and outlining policies and actions to mitigate and respond to disasters.

Additionally, the San Marino Fire Department has prepared an Emergency Survival Guide to assist residents in responding and recovering from potential disasters. The guide is available on the City of San Marino website at https://www.cityofsanmarino.org/1106/Emergency-Survival-Guide and is available in English and Chinese.
The San Marino Fire Department maintains the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program as an official emergency preparedness program for our City. The CERT curriculum educates participants about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact our City, and CERT trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. One major goal of the training is for local responders to rely on CERT trained residents during disaster situations to help themselves or a neighbor, which allows responders to focus on more complex tasks. The Department trained over 200 residents in CERT during 2018.

In January 2018, the Fire Department launched Operation Fire Safe, a home inspection service for residents of San Marino. Operation Fire Safe is a voluntary program intended to teach San Marino residents of the dangers of fire and how to prevent them. Residents may schedule a home safety inspection with San Marino Fire Department personnel to ensure they are taking the necessary precautions to prevent accidental fires by contacting the Fire Department at (626) 300-0735 or fire@cityofsanmarino.org

Following any residential structure fire, the San Marino Fire Department partners with MySafe CA to install new smoke alarms in neighboring homes. Smoke alarms installed by the San Marino Fire Department meet 2018 California Heath and Safety Code and contain non-removable batteries that can last up to 10 years.

In a study by the National Fire Protection Association, it was found that the risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms. Further, dead batteries caused 25% of smoke alarm failures.

More than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside the hospital each year and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation can double or triple a person’s chance of survival. The San Marino Fire Department partners with MySafe CA to provide CPR classes for students and faculty of San Marino High School. Students are taught hands only CPR as well as how to use and locate an AED in an emergency.

In May of every year, the San Marino Firefighters Association hosts the annual Pancake Breakfast in Lacy Park. The event brings residents and local vendors from the community together to raise money for the Association’s charitable endeavors, including the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles and Firefighters’ Quest for Burn Survivors.
Every August, in conjunction with the San Marino Police Department, the San Marino Fire Department participates in National Night Out. National Night Out is a community-building campaign that promotes neighborhood camaraderie and strong partnerships between the community and public safety agencies. During the event, Fire Department personnel provide demonstrations of fire suppression techniques and safety equipment.

On October 4, 2018, Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Tsay graduated from the Los Angeles Fire Department’s Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is a graduate level course developed at the United States Military Academy at West Point and was adapted to the leadership concerns of the fire service today. Instructors of the Academy included members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security, Los Angeles Fire Department Command Staff, Los Angeles Police Department Command Staff, Active Shooter Experts, and US Military personnel. Participants in the program explore 28 behavioral science theories and apply them to a “Leader Problem Solving Model.” The program utilizes case study methods anchored in multiple theoretical domains and course work includes extensive reading, written exams, and a 20-page term paper. Congratulations to Firefighter/Paramedic Tsay on his accomplishment!

Every December, the San Marino Fire Department participates in the many holiday events in the San Marino Community as well as participates in the Toys for Tots collection drive. On Christmas morning, San Marino Firefighters escort Santa Claus on Old Engine #1 as he visits the families of San Marino.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager; I am convinced that with their guidance, we will continue to provide premiere public safety and ensure that the City of San Marino remains a safe place to live, work, and play. I also remain strongly committed to ensuring the San Marino Fire Department is run with efficiency and that we continue our proud tradition of providing excellent services and a quality of life that makes San Marino a unique residential community.