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ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
DIVISION 3, BATTALION 6
DIVISION CHIEF CHEYNE MAULE

A Quarterly Update of What's Going on in Division 3

San Clemente 2023 4th Quarter

Keep in Touch

Division Chief Cheyne Maule
Office: (949) 347-2273
Email: CheyneMaule@ocfa.org

Battalion Chief Neal McCann (A Shift)
Office: (949) 487-0102
Email: NealMcCann@ocfa.org

Battalion Chief Reid Gibson (B Shift)
Office: (949) 487-0102
Email: ReidGibson@ocfa.org

Administrative Captain Jeremy Vallone
Office: (949) 347-2275
Email: JeremyVallone@ocfa.org

Division Administrative Assistant
Michelle Schneider
Office: (949) 347-2277
Email: MichelleSchneider@ocfa.org

Community Relations/ Education
Specialist
Chris Barry
Mobile: (949) 919-2759
Email: ChristopherBarry@ocfa.org

INNOVATIVE HELOPOD UNVEILED TO ENHANCE AERIAL FIREFIGHTER CAPABILITIES



Speed, force and volume when it comes to dropping water on wildfires is paramount. On December 15th, the OCFA introduced a dedicated helicopter water source, strategically located at the Quest Diagnostics facility along the Ortega Highway Corridor, which will support that by enhancing our wildland firefighting capabilities.

This first-of-its-kind facility will be dedicated to providing essential water replenishment services for firefighting helicopters combating wildfires across Orange County. The innovative and strategic addition to the OCFA's firefighting arsenal comes in response to the increasing challenges posed by what is now a year-round wildfire season and will bolster the agency's ability to achieve its goal to keep wildfires 10 acres or less 95% of the time.

This HeloPod is the result of the collaboration and support of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Quest Diagnostics, and the Santa Margarita Water District. We are grateful for our partners who continue to support us in mitigating the thread of wildfires to our communities and around California.

Wildland Operations 2023 Year End Update

Anchored, Built and Holding. With Pride.

After a year of redefining and building, our handcrews have grown into their 25 strong staffing model. This culminated in one of our most noteworthy accomplishments this year which was earning status as a Type 1 Handcrew. On the heavy equipment side, we've spent the year preparing for what the future may ring. The life's blood of this entire section is fire experience. While the season did not bring extraordinary opportunities in that regard, we took advantage of every opportunity that came our way.

Winter 2023 – Summer is typically when handcrews and heavy equipment earn their keep. This year seemed to be inverted, with consistent OES and OCFA upstaffing for winter storms (and one summer storm). Both crews worked tours in the San Bernardino Mountains in support of the only recorded blizzard in their history.

Fire Season 2023 – This fire season ended with few than average fires and responses regionally. OCFA responses for both engines and crews were centered around a few heat waves that produced fires – mostly in Riverside and San Diego Counties. The anomaly to the slow fire season was the lightning siege in Northern California that El Toro handcrew participated in.



MEET OUR SAN CLEMENTE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

On November 14th, the San Clemente Exchange club hosted their annual Deputy and Firefighter of the Year luncheon. Firefighter Geoffrey Coleman from station 50 was selected for providing the citizens of San Clemente outstanding service for the past 2 years.

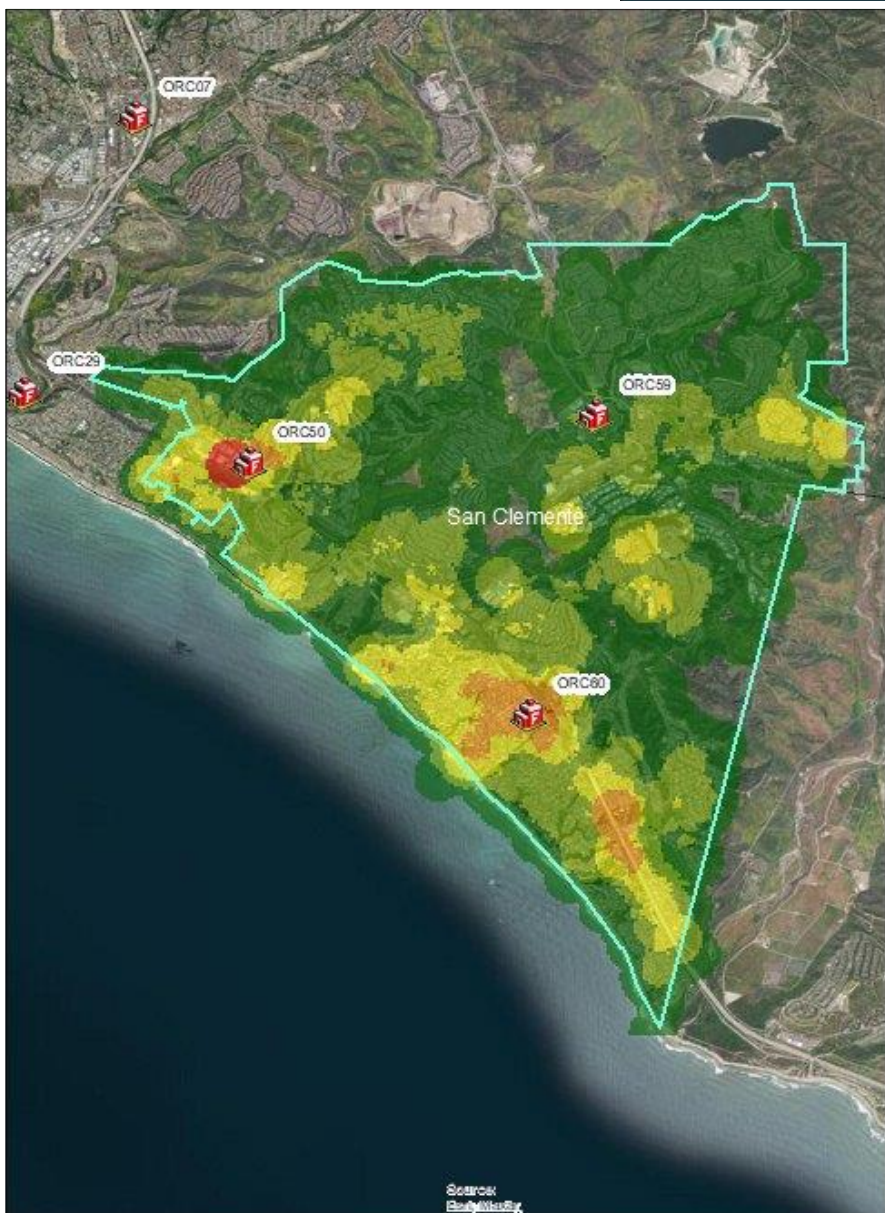
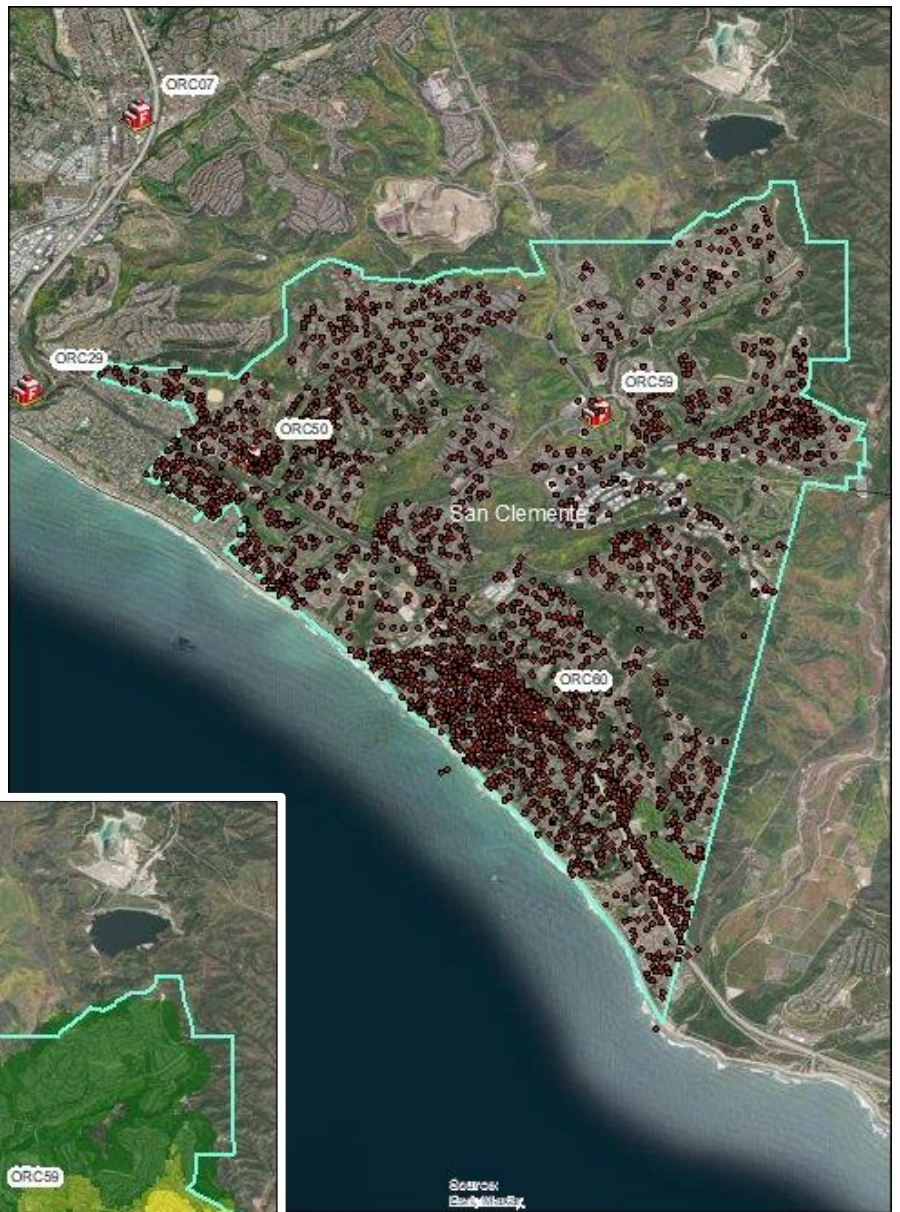
Firefighter Coleman (middle) with Chief Maule (left) and Chief Lopez (right)

Geoffrey's passion for service and safety traces back to his 15 years with the US Forest Service. He fought fire while on Palomar and Big Bear hotshot crews. He also spent time maneuvering Type 3 fire engines across the rugged terrains of the Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests.

In 2020, Geoffrey embraced a new chapter, joining the Orange County Fire Authority. Geoffrey currently serves the City of San Clemente. Geoffrey took the lead in training all firefighters in wildland training as part of our annual refresher training. Last fire season was particularly challenging, with two significant two-week fire assignments. One mission took him to New Mexico for an 18-day deployment with our California Officer of Emergency Services Type 6 engines.

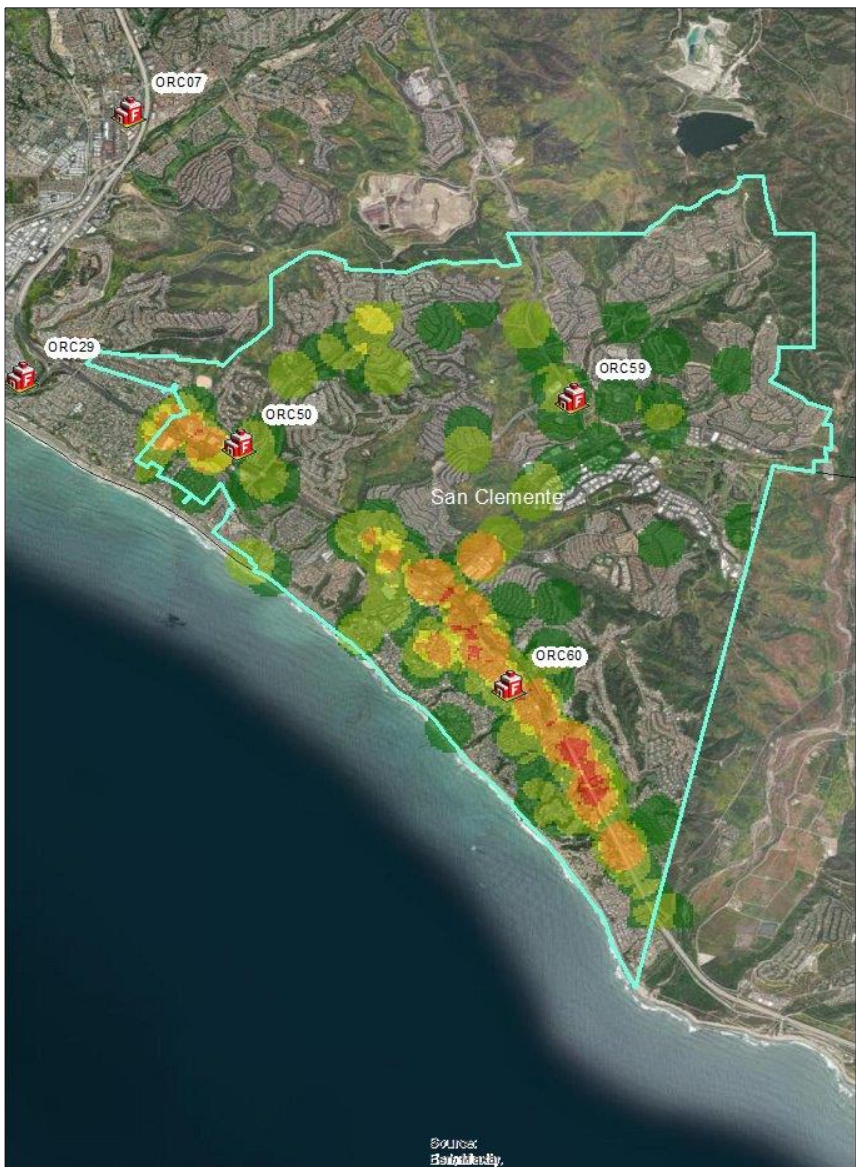
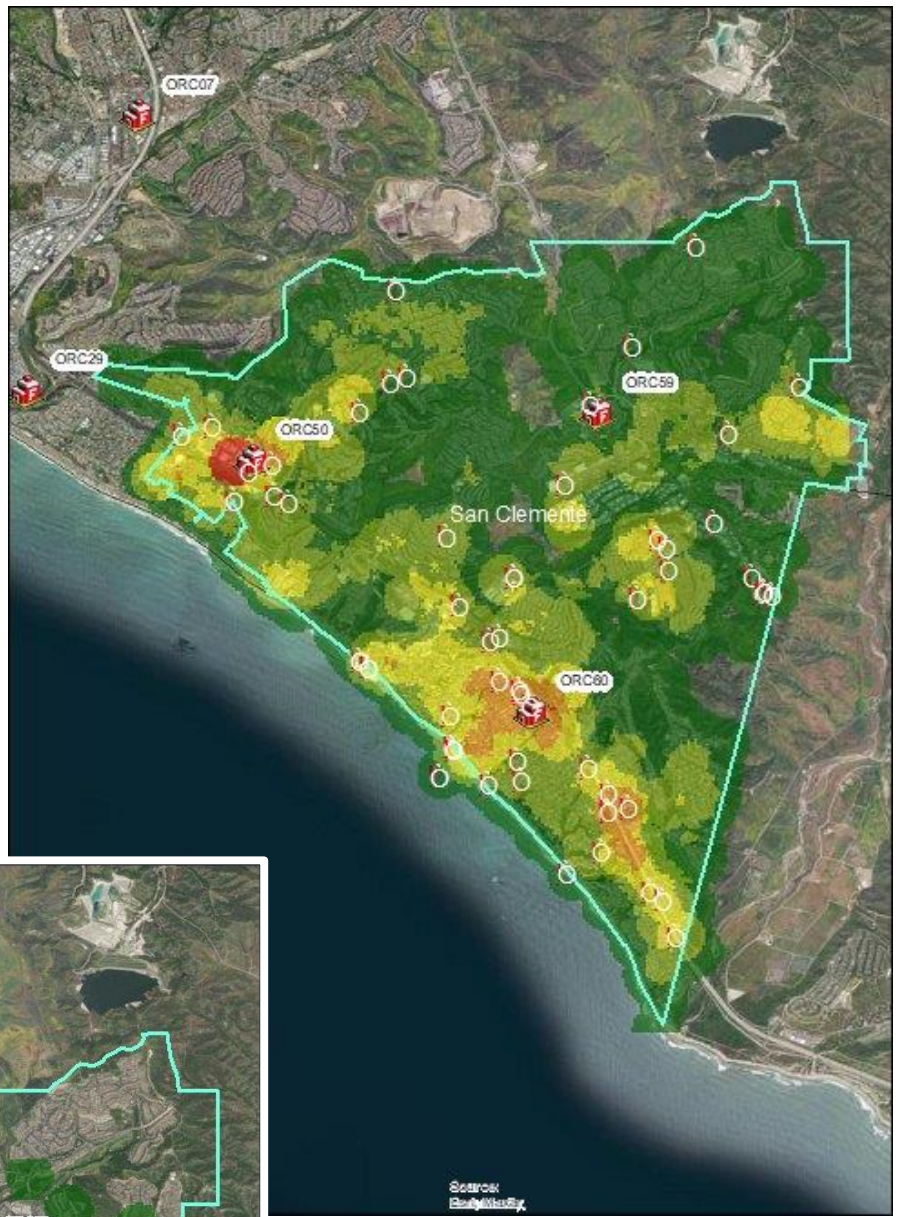
Geoffrey is a pivotal member of the OCFA Crews & Equipment section. He has been entrusted with mentoring our newest hand crew members, sharing his expertise and experiences to shape the next generation of fire service professionals. Geoffrey represents the OCFA's finest and we are proud to introduce and honor him.

2023 Incidents Overview



2023 Incidents Density

2023 Incidents Density with Fire Overlay



2023 Traffic Collision Incidents



The roof is the most at-risk part of a home during a wildfire. Even if the flames never reach your property, windblown embers can threaten your home and bring fire to your front door.



*Keep your roof
clear of debris year
round.*



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

www.ocfa.org/RSG

If burning embers cause your roof to catch fire, it is likely that the fire will spread to the rest of your home. Homes with flammable roofs are much more likely to be destroyed than those with fire-resistant roofs.

Pine needles, leaves, and debris build up put your roof at risk from burning embers.

Plug gaps between the roof covering, roof deck or sheathing with non-combustible materials regardless of your roof's rating. This is often called "bird stopping," as it stops birds from building nests in gaps on the roof's edge.

Replacing plastic skylights with dual pane glass is another way to better protect your home. Dual panes and tempered glass are much more likely to resist damage if exposed to burning embers.

For more information, please visit the OCFA website or call **(714) 573-6774** to schedule a Wildfire Home Assessment.

Incident Responses

INCIDENT RESPONSES

CALL TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total	Monthly Average
Medical Aid - Automatic Paramedic Alarm	8	13	12	15	9	15	15	17	17	15	13	13	162	14
Medical Aid- Back to Bed/ Lift Assist	16	10	13	7	8	7	14	8	15	10	8	9	125	10
Medical Aid- Cardiac (Chest Pain, Cardiac Arrest)	42	39	29	28	37	40	27	45	27	31	33	26	404	34
Medical Aid - Stroke (Unconscious, Altered Mental State)	58	58	47	43	56	48	63	62	56	67	59	49	666	56
Medical Aid- Diabetic Emergency	7	6	6	8	6	8	8	8	7	8	7	6	85	7
Medical Aid- Respiratory (Respiratory Arrest, Difficulty Breathing)	43	38	38	27	29	44	27	25	25	41	33	47	417	35
Medical Aid- Fall	93	61	70	68	95	100	109	97	83	97	95	90	1058	88
Medical Aid - Illness (Sick Person, Injury, Illness)	25	37	38	38	34	35	51	48	40	42	48	50	486	41
Medical Aid- Abdominal Pain	32	24	25	26	20	35	29	24	30	34	33	29	341	28
Medical Aid- Seizure	10	14	12	33	16	18	9	15	14	11	9	7	168	14
Medical Aid - Misc. (Choking, Headache, Pregnancy, Bleeding, Assault, Burn, Intoxication, Psychiatric, Environmental)	51	43	49	52	42	54	59	61	48	42	47	50	598	50
Medical Aid- Traffic Collision (Auto vs Auto, Auto vs Pedestrian)	25	32	39	22	38	25	32	34	33	34	22	24	360	30
Fire - Structure	3	2	5	6	4	3	3	0	5	4	6	7	48	4
Fire - Vehicle/ Dumpster	0	6	4	2	2	2	2	4	3	4	0	6	35	3
Fire- Vegetation, Brush, Tree, Bush, Misc.	6	7	4	3	10	3	12	10	5	2	6	6	74	6
Service Call- Misc. (Odor Check, Stuck Elevator, Automatic Fire Alarm)	60	47	51	44	53	70	65	78	55	46	44	50	663	55
Total Monthly Incidents	479	437	442	422	459	507	525	536	463	488	463	469	5690	474

CALL TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	MO. AVG.
Medical Aids	410	375	378	367	390	429	443	444	395	432	407	400	4870	406
Fires	9	15	13	11	16	8	17	14	13	10	12	19	157	13
Misc	60	47	51	44	53	70	65	78	55	46	44	50	663	55

Your Firefighters in Action

October 14th
Incident # 23-140285

Firefighters responded to a commercial fire in the 200 block of N El Camino Real shortly after 1pm. Upon investigation, found fire in a wall/duct system in the restaurant. Firefighters ensured everyone was evacuated and were able to quickly get the fire under control – subsequently preventing the fire from spreading to adjacent businesses.



October 7th
Incident # 23-136639

Our ECC received a call reporting a mountain bike accident in a remote area near Avenida Vista Montana. Crews from Engine 60, Truck 59, Patrol 7 and Battalion 6 were dispatched along with Helicopter 2. Due to its remote location, firefighters hiked in to locate and begin treatment, finding an adult male with serious injury. The patient was safely hoisted into the helicopter and transported to the hospital with continued care by our firefighter paramedics.



Community Outreach

Some 4th Quarter Events:

- On December 5th, 4 adults and 10 high schoolers from the Boys and Girls Club visited station 60. Mission accomplished in learning what it takes to be a firefighter.
- A local Mother's group toured station 50 on December 7th. The group consisted of 10 excited children and their moms.
- On December 21st, the crew from Truck 59 made quite the entrance in delivering Santa (*a little early*) to the neighborhood of Camino Forestal.