



Fire Watch

Los Angeles Fire Department Newsletter

October, 2005
Volume 2, Issue 10

Los Angeles Fire Department

BUREAU OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Los Angeles Fire Department
200 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213)978-3845
Fax (213)978-3815

Visit Our Website
www.lafd.org

Our Mission

“To preserve life and property, promote public safety, foster economic growth through leadership, management and actions, as an all-risk fire and life safety response provider.”

The Los Angeles Fire Department Newsletter is published monthly by the Planning Section.

Direct newsletter inquires to:

Planning Section
LAFD
200 North Main Street, Rm. 1800
Los Angeles, CA 90012

During Fiscal Year 2004/05, the Bureau of Support Services continued to provide the Department's support functions, i.e., logistics, maintenance, administration of the Fire Station Building Program, and communications.



VICKI KEOSEJAN
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT II

SUSIE STILES
SECRETARY

JANICE WOOD
Management Analyst I

SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Supply and Maintenance Division is responsible for the procurement of supplies required by the Fire Department and the maintenance of all apparatus and equipment. The Fire Department's fleet, including first-line and back-up, consists of 1,092 motorized vehicles, helicopters, and boats with a book value of more than \$246 million.

Triples - 202
Ambulances - 203
Business Sedans - 246
Delivery Vans - 45
Fire Boats - 7

Aerial Ladder Trucks - 63
Emergency Sedans - 152
Pickups - 61
Helicopters - 5
Special Apparatus - 108



For the past several years, the fleet replacement program (heavy apparatus and light vehicles) has been funded by debt financing through the Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA). MICLA sells certificates of participation to fund major equipment purchases for the City of Los Angeles. Fire Department funding has averaged approximately \$23 million per year for the past four years. Heavy apparatus have a 15-year replacement program and light vehicles average from 6 to 8 years.

The Annual Operating Budget for Supplies and Equipment is \$12 million, which includes the following:

- Printing and Binding - \$250,000
- Construction Materials - \$175,000
- Contractual Services - \$1.2 million
- Auto Parts - \$3 million
- Rescue Supplies and Expenses - \$1.2 million
- Uniforms - \$1.5 million
- Fire Hose and Fittings - \$400,000
- Administrative and Operating Supplies - \$1.5 million

- Small Equipment Items - \$400,000

The Purchasing and Supplies Section processes 10,000 purchase orders per year and delivers all supplies (on a monthly basis) to 103 fire stations and 40 office locations.

The Maintenance Section employs 82 civilian repair and maintenance personnel. The Shops include the Triple Shop, Aerial Shop, Light Vehicle Shop, Electric Shop, Sheet Metal Shop, Carpenter Shop, Body Shop, and the Mobile Repair Units. During Fiscal Year 2004/05, the Maintenance Section completed over 10,750 repairs and maintained over 88 percent in service rate.

The Equipment Engineering Unit is responsible for the design, specification, and purchase of all emergency apparatus and equipment utilized in the Department.

During Fiscal Year 2004/05, the Division delivered the following apparatus into service:

- 34 Rescue Ambulances
- 7 Pickup Trucks
- 19 Emergency Sedans

- 28 Non-Emergency Sedans
- 4 Delivery Vans
- 4 Passenger Vans
- 16 Pumper Apparatus
- 2 Swift Water Apparatus
- 2 Utility Service Trucks

The Test Pit Unit tests every pumping apparatus on an annual basis and utilizes state-of-the-art technology to test every aerial ladder. The Test Pit also conducts quality control checks on emergency apparatus prior to reassignment to the field.

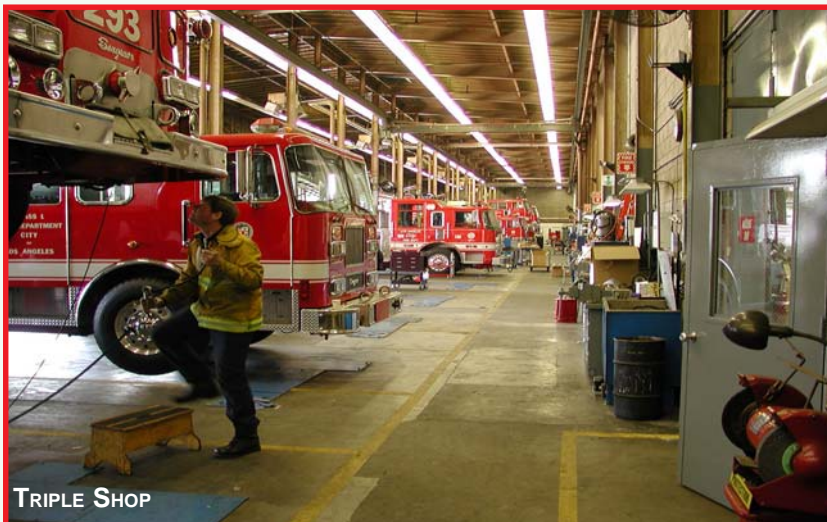
The Rescue Maintenance Unit tests, rebuilds, and overhauls every emergency breathing apparatus on an annual basis. The Rescue Maintenance Unit staffs the Emergency Air apparatus, which provides emergency air bottle refilling services on location at major emergencies. In Fiscal Year 2004/05, Rescue Maintenance fitted and tested 3,400 Department members to their self-contained breathing apparatus facepiece.

OPERATIONS CONTROL DIVISION

Dispatch Section:

The Dispatch Section is staffed by Firefighters on a 24/7 basis and is responsible for processing and prioritizing calls from the public. Field resources are dispatched to handle emergency calls, and non-emergency calls are directed to the proper agency or Fire Department subdivision.

The Dispatch Section is responsible for tracking the status and location of approximately 600 emergency vehicles at all times. Dispatch Section personnel also provide on-scene incident commanders with the logistical





OPERATIONS CONTROL DISPATCH SECTION (OCD)

support needed to mitigate emergencies. The type of support provided is "incident driven" and operates parallel to on-scene incident management activities.

During Fiscal Year 2004/05, Firefighter Dispatchers processed over 766,000 calls, of which 344,719 were emergencies requiring the dispatching of fire and ambulance crews. During this reporting period, an average of 944 emergency incidents were dispatched per day requiring a total of 689,803 resource responses for the fiscal year.

Fire Command and Control Systems/ Radio Control Network Section (FCCS/RCN):

The FCCS/RCN Section is responsible for all communications hardware and software applications that are utilized by fire and EMS resources to communicate with the Dispatch Section, including the Computer-Aided Dispatch System (CAD). The CAD System automates the creation, tracking, and archiving of information about emergency incidents. The CAD System also interfaces with telephone systems, voice radios, mobile data computers, management information systems,

and has communication links to each fire station.

Personnel assigned to this Section coordinate the activities of the Fire Department's Dispatch Systems Support Unit (DSSU), and the Information Technology Agency's (ITA) Office of Public Safety Services (OPSS). FCCS/RCN personnel are charged with maintaining these mission-critical systems, implementing enhancements, and identifying potential points of failure.

The FCCS/RCN Section is responsible for developing communications equipment specifications for all Fire Department vehicles, and works closely with the Equipment Engineering Unit of Supply and Maintenance in this endeavor. Section personnel also work closely with ITA Shop Services overseeing the installation of specified radios, mobile data computers (MDC), and intercom systems. The FCCS/RCN Section maintains an inventory of over 1,000 mobile radios, 3,000 hand-held radios and 600 MDC's. The FCCS/RCN Section has primary responsibility for the implementation of interoperability

solutions, and interfaces with other agencies such as the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to ensure adequate radio coverage in special locations like subway tunnels.

The FCCS/RCN Section is currently drafting dispatch system requirements for construction of a new dispatch center that will be funded under Proposition Q. The new dispatch system is anticipated to leverage readily available technology such as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) in order to improve communications. It is anticipated that this technology will help reduce overall emergency response times and shrink operating expenses on a per-dispatch basis.

FIRE FACILITIES DIVISION

The Fire Facilities Division is responsible for coordinating the Department's Bond Construction/ Capital Improvement Programs and coordinating the maintenance and repairs of 110 Fire Department facilities.

Facility Maintenance and Repair Program:

The Fire Facilities Division is the Fire Department's principal liaison for facility repairs and construction, which are coordinated through the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Building and Safety, and Department of General Services.

During the 2004/05 Fiscal Year, the Fire Facilities Division received over 2,500 repair requests.

Proposition F – Fire Bond:

The Fire Facilities Division manages the Prop F Fire Bond Section. This Section has been involved in a comprehensive construction project to replace obsolete fire stations with state-of-the-art Department facilities.



Fire Station 21

The total budget for this Bond is \$378,506 million. During the 2004/05 Fiscal Year, the following has been accomplished:

Project Completions

Fire Station 89's In-Service Training and Apparatus Storage Facility opened in the fall of 2004. This is the completion of Phase 1 of work that has been earmarked for Fire Station 89. Phase 2 will be a Prop Q project to remodel the existing station.

Fire Station 77 is the first full newly completed fire station. This station opened on June 22, 2005.

New Fire Station Construction

Several construction projects continued and/or commenced during the 2004/05 Fiscal Year. Fire Stations 5, 36, 59, 65, 77, 81, 83, 84, 89, and Air Operations have been under construction during this time period. Fire Stations 77 and 89, as previously mentioned, have been completed.

Continued Construction

Construction on three additional fire stations will begin during the 2005/06 Fiscal Year. These fire stations include Fire Stations 4, 13, and 78. The entire Proposition F includes

20 different Fire Department projects that extend throughout the City.

Proposition Q - Fire Bond:

The Fire Facilities Division, in association with the Bureau of Engineering, is currently working on a program that will improve the infrastructure of the City's fire stations, as well as fire station expansion and remodel projects. These projects are funded under voter-approved Proposition Q, which identified \$60 million for the

New Dispatch Center and \$25 million for Fire Facility Renovation and Capital Improvements.

Completed projects include:

- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Upgrades (HVAC)
Fire Stations 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 20, 33, 34, 38, 42, 47, 50, 58, 61, 70, 72, 76, 79, 100, and 101
- Apparatus Door Replacement
Fire Stations 35, 39, 50, 51, 59, 70, 71, 72, 75, and 96
- Kitchen Renovation and Upgrades
Fire Stations 59, 70, 96, 97, 98, and 109
- Plumbing and Shower Upgrades
Fire Stations 9, 11, 26, 29, 37, 39, 48, and 66
- Fire Station Expansion and Remodel Projects
Fire Stations 48, 59, 69, 79, 85, HQ, Shops, and Fuel Site at 96

FIRE STATION 64





Projects currently in design and/or construction

- Kitchen Renovation and Upgrade
Fire Stations 18, 24, 38, 42, 90, 100, and Rescue Maintenance
- Apparatus Storage Bays
Fire Stations 6, 33, and 44
- Fire Station Expansion and Remodel
Fire Stations 33, 85, 89, and 98
- Diesel Exhaust Capture System (DECS) Upgrades
Fire Stations 4, 9, 16, 33, 59, 62, 70, 71, 106, and 108

Future projects include:

- Separate Gender Facility Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Kitchen Renovations
- Fire Station Expansion and Remodel (FS 95)
- Shower Repairs and Upgrades
- Cord Reel Upgrades and Repair
- Apparatus Door Safety Upgrades
- Sidewalk and Apron Repair and Upgrades
- Roofing Repair and Upgrades
- Window Upgrades
- Fuel Site Expansion (Fire Stations 23, 75)

VOLUNTEER SECTION OVERVIEW

The Los Angeles Fire Department has an extensive volunteer program. It is comprised of four units: General Volunteers, Support Services Volunteers, Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) Volunteers, and Explorer Scouts.

General Volunteers provide staffing for conferences, training, and work as part of the Community Fire Patrol Program. The Department currently has 57 active volunteers in this category. This year, General Volunteers donated hundreds of hours for various programs. The most noted program was the Fire Department Instructors Conference-West (FDIC). At this Conference, firefighters from around the world converged in Los Angeles to learn the latest in fire service training.

Support Services Volunteers provide vital support to the Supply and Maintenance Division and Emergency Services Bureau. The Department currently has 31 active volunteers in this category. One of their

primary duties is to respond as needed 24 hour day, 7 days a week to support firefighters on the fire line with movement of equipment and supplies and to provide rehabilitation services to ensure they are hydrated and receive vitally needed nutrition. This year, the Support Services and ACS volunteers were provided with old Fire Station 77. By year's end, it will be restored and will be equipped with amateur radio equipment to support the ACS program as well as Community Fire Patrol.

Auxiliary Communication Service Volunteers provide emergency communications for the Fire Department in case of natural or man-made disasters. The Department currently has 107 active volunteers in this category. The ACS Program provides the vital communication link between the Fire Department and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Community Fire Patrol (CFP) Teams, and between Division Offices and the EOC/DOC when other means of communication are overloaded. ACS is the primary support to the CFP Program. July 4, 2005, was a record day for the CFP Program. During the ten-hour patrol period from noon to 10:00 p.m. in the El Sereno area, over 100 miles were driven and not one fireworks-related fire was reported in the heavily patrolled area of Fire Station 47's district. Scores of flyers were passed to residents urging them not to engage in illegal fireworks activity.

Explorer Scouts are assigned to various fire stations throughout the Department referred to as "Posts." These Explorer Posts have from 10 to 75 Explorers assigned. The Department currently has 341 active volunteers in this category. Their training includes fire service apparatus and equipment, fire suppression techniques, emergency medical services, and general Fire Department policies and procedures. The Explorers gain valuable training and experience to prepare them for a fire service career. The program is open to young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21.

Volunteer Hours for 2004/05:

- General Volunteers - 237
- Support Services Volunteers - 3,047
- Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteers - 4,187
- Explorer Scouts - 1,595

Grand Total Volunteer Hours - 9,066



Old Fire Station 77 Update:

Work parties in July have accomplished the following: Approximately 250 staff hours trimming trees, cleaning the outside of the Station, yard work, reinstalling AC units, cleaning apparatus floor, and removing all refuse from station as well as cleaning the carpeting. Holes in walls patched and ready for paint. Also, lighting timers and a new floodlight were installed at the Station for security purposes.

Ongoing work:

On a weekly basis, the following tasks are performed: yard work, lawn mowing, apparatus floor cleaning, parking lot and yard cleaning. Captain Nida goes by the facility at least twice a week to check status and meet with the volunteers. Our overall goal is to “restore” the Station to the Department’s 1950-60’s color scheme.

The Station will be primarily maintained by the Support Services Volunteers. Additional assistance will come from the Department’s Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS) volunteers. Battalion 12 CERT has also participated with the above.

ACS will have a stand-alone radio room and CERT will have external equipment and supply storage that will equal three pallets, six feet high. The City’s Emergency Preparedness Department’s Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) is funding ACS for new radio antennas, cable, and mounting hardware. Volunteer staff (Mark Willardson, Truman Van Dyke and Captain Nida) will install.

Most of the work was completed prior to the official opening of the new FS 77 so the community could see that they were not only gaining a new fire station, but also gaining a restored station that has a community plan and a community resource.

Don Tovar is the old FS77 project manager under Head Volunteer Mike Cunningham. They are doing great work!



DENNIS R. KEANE
DEPUTY CHIEF

NOTE: Special thanks to Bureau of Support Services Deputy Chief Dennis R. Keane, a 32-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department, and his staff for providing information for this month’s Fire Watch.