

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



KRISTIN M. CROWLEY
FIRE CHIEF

May 16, 2024

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 24-052

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Kristin M. Crowley, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: OPERATIONS VALLEY BUREAU ANNUAL REPORT – CALENDAR
YEAR 2023

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

The forthcoming document offers a thorough examination of the administrative performance metrics meticulously evaluated by Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). Spanning an expansive territory of 260 square miles within the greater San Fernando Valley, this bureau shoulders a critical responsibility in ensuring public safety, enforcing stringent fire prevention measures, and orchestrating swift and efficient emergency response protocols.

Contained within these pages are in-depth insights into OVB's administrative performance metrics for the calendar year 2023, meticulously scrutinized across Battalions 10, 12, 14, 15, and 17. This comprehensive report seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the bureau's operational efficacy, offering detailed analyses of key performance indicators and strategic initiatives implemented to uphold the highest standards of service delivery within its jurisdiction. Through transparent assessment and reflection, this document aims to inform stakeholders and the broader community about OVB's unwavering commitment to excellence in fire service administration and emergency management.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and File.

DISCUSSION

Area of Coverage:

OVB of the LAFD is responsible for overseeing

emergency response and fire protection services across a vast and diverse geographical expanse within the City of Los Angeles. This expansive jurisdiction encompasses not only the sprawling San Fernando Valley but also extends to include key areas such as North Hollywood, Van Nuys, and Pacoima. By serving these dynamic communities, OVB plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and well-being of residents, businesses, and critical infrastructure within its coverage area.

Through strategic deployment of resources, proactive prevention efforts, and robust emergency response capabilities, OVB remains dedicated to upholding the highest standards of public safety and emergency preparedness across its multifaceted jurisdiction.

Key Operations:

- **Emergency Response:** Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) stands as the frontline defense against a diverse array of all-hazard emergency incidents, ranging from the intensity of structure fires to the complexity of hazardous materials incidents. Additionally, OVB is poised to combat the unique challenges presented by brush fires, grass fires, river and swift water rescues, and technical rescues. These critical response capabilities are honed through rigorous training and preparedness efforts, ensuring that OVB personnel are equipped to swiftly and effectively mitigate emergencies, safeguard lives, and protect properties.

By maintaining a comprehensive approach to emergency response, OVB upholds its commitment to serving as a steadfast guardian of public safety within the San Fernando Valley, ready to confront any challenge with resilience and determination.

OVB Emergency Response			
Incident	2022	2023	% Change
Structure Fires	1108	904	-18%
Fatality Fires	9	13	44%
Grass Fires	119	86	-28%
Brush Fires	208	104	-50%
River/Swift Water Rescues	2	19	850%
Technical Rescues	17	14	-18%
HAZMAT	679	721	6%

A highly skilled cadre of firefighters and paramedics, equipped with advanced training and expertise, swiftly respond to emergency incidents to mitigate risks and deliver critical aid to individuals in distress. These dedicated first responders undergo rigorous training programs, ensuring they possess the necessary knowledge and skills to handle a wide range of emergencies effectively.

From structural fires to medical emergencies, their prompt deployment and decisive action are instrumental in saving lives, minimizing property damage, and restoring stability in crisis situations. By prioritizing excellence in emergency response, Operations Valley Bureau demonstrates its unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the communities it serves.

OVB Turnout Times			
Incident	2022	2023	% Change
EMS Turnout Time	00:52	00:52	0%
Fire/Other Turnout Time	00:52	00:53	2%

- **Fire Prevention and Inspection:**

Comprehensive fire prevention measures, encompassing rigorous building inspections, are diligently carried out to uphold compliance with fire codes and regulations across a spectrum of occupancies, including residential, commercial, and industrial structures. These proactive efforts are essential for identifying and mitigating potential fire hazards, ensuring the safety of occupants, and safeguarding properties from the devastating consequences of fire incidents.

By meticulously enforcing fire safety standards, Operations Valley Bureau demonstrates its unwavering commitment to protecting lives and properties within its jurisdiction, fostering a safer and more resilient community environment for all.

OVB Inspections						
Battalion	3 Year	1 Year	Night	Notices Written	Re-inspection	Legal Packages
10	1611	1110	96	5	5	1
12	2151	713	77	32	2	0
14	1377	1377	170	23	8	0
15	1727	994	89	9	8	0
17	2362	2143	150	46	36	0
Total	9228	6337	582	115	59	1

- **Community Outreach and Education:**

Engagement with the 34 diverse communities within the San Fernando Valley is a cornerstone of the OVB's mission. This engagement is fostered through a comprehensive array of educational programs and outreach events that emphasize fire safety, disaster preparedness, and prevention measures. Our firefighters are deeply committed to community interaction, actively participating in school visits, community meetings, and public events. These activities provide invaluable opportunities to

disseminate crucial information, educate residents on safety protocols, and build strong, trusting relationships with the community.

By prioritizing these outreach efforts, OVB ensures that residents are well-informed and prepared to respond effectively in emergency situations, thereby enhancing overall community resilience and safety.

OVB Community Outreach and Education Events					
Battalion	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
10	15	14	14	14	57
12	15	16	14	16	61
14	16	15	14	15	60
15	14	14	14	15	57
17	15	14	14	14	57
Total	75	73	70	74	292

- **Wildfire Management:**

Given the presence of wildland-urban interface areas, OVB plays a crucial role in wildfire management and prevention within the Mutual Threat Zones (MTZ) of the Susana and Foothill regions in the greater San Fernando Valley. OVB's efforts are integral to safeguarding these vulnerable areas, especially during peak fire seasons. Our approach includes specialized training programs that equip our personnel with advanced firefighting techniques and strategies tailored for wildfire scenarios. Moreover, we actively collaborate with multiple agencies, including local, state, and federal partners, to enhance our mitigation efforts.

This collaboration ensures a unified and robust response to wildfire risks, leveraging shared resources and expertise to protect lives, property, and natural resources from the devastating impacts of wildfires.

- **Special Operations:**

The Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) is expertly equipped to handle a wide range of specialized operations, including urban search and rescue, air operations, swift water rescues, and hazardous materials incidents. Our highly trained personnel utilize state-of-the-art equipment and advanced techniques to ensure an effective response to complex and high-risk situations. OVB's commitment to continuous training and operational excellence enables us to meet the challenging and evolving needs of our emergency environment.

By staying at the forefront of emergency response capabilities, OVB ensures the safety and well-being of our communities, adapting to new threats and scenarios with agility and precision.

- Challenges and Future Initiatives:

Despite commendable efforts, the Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) faces ongoing challenges including increasing population density, evolving fire threats, and budget constraints. These issues complicate our mission, but OVB remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing our capabilities. We are actively investing in comprehensive training programs to ensure our personnel are well-prepared for any scenario. Additionally, we are adopting cutting-edge technologies to improve our response times and effectiveness.

Through strategic planning, community engagement, and leveraging innovative solutions, OVB is dedicated to addressing these emerging challenges and safeguarding the communities we serve with resilience and efficiency.

- Battalion Performance Metrics:

OVB Battalion Emergency Response						
	Batt 10	Batt 12	Batt 14	Batt 15	Batt 17	OVB
Structure Fires	190	207	202	127	178	904
Fatality Fires	2	5	4	1	1	13
Grass Fires	42	26	11	5	2	86
Brush Fires	16	52	8	21	7	104
River/Swift Water Rescues	2	14	1	0	2	19
Technical Rescues	0	5	6	2	1	14
HAZMAT	166	128	177	99	151	721
EMS Turnout Time	0:55	0:51	0:50	0:53	0:50	0:52
Fire/Other Turnout Time	0:56	0:53	0:52	0:54	0:49	0:53

- Notable Incidents and Achievements:

Over the past year, the OVB has successfully conducted comprehensive evacuation training exercises in collaboration with Council District 7, executed in two distinct phases. These impactful operational exercises involved a robust coalition of internal and external agencies, including the Emergency Management Department, Department of Animal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Department of Recreation and Parks, Mountains Recreation Conservatory Authority, U.S. Department of Forestry, Glendale Fire Department, Burbank Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Fire Department. This multi-agency

collaboration was pivotal in enhancing our collective preparedness and response capabilities, ensuring seamless coordination and effective evacuation strategies.

Additionally, a significant milestone was achieved with the completion and operationalization of OVB's new office and fixed command post at the historic Fire Station 39. This state-of-the-art facility now serves as a strategic hub for emergency operations, providing advanced command and control capabilities that are crucial for managing high-risk incidents and enhancing overall operational efficiency. The new headquarters underscores OVB's commitment to leveraging historical infrastructure while integrating modern technologies to better serve the San Fernando Valley communities.

CONCLUSION

Operations Valley Bureau of the LAFD is integral in safeguarding the residents and properties within its jurisdiction through a wide range of specialized operations and an unwavering commitment to public service. Despite facing inherent challenges such as increasing population density, evolving fire threats, and budget constraints, OVB relentlessly pursues excellence in its mission to protect and serve the diverse communities of the San Fernando Valley. From urban search and rescue to wildfire management and community outreach, OVB's multifaceted approach ensures high level of preparedness and resilience.

- **Acknowledgments:**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated members of the Operations Valley Bureau. Your tireless efforts, professionalism, and unwavering dedication are the cornerstone of our success in fulfilling our mission. Your commitment to excellence and service makes a profound difference in the safety and well-being of our communities. Thank you for your invaluable contributions.

Board report prepared by Jason G. Hing, Deputy Chief, Operations Valley Bureau.

Attachments



Operations Valley Bureau Board of Fire Commissioners Report

06/04/2024

Agenda

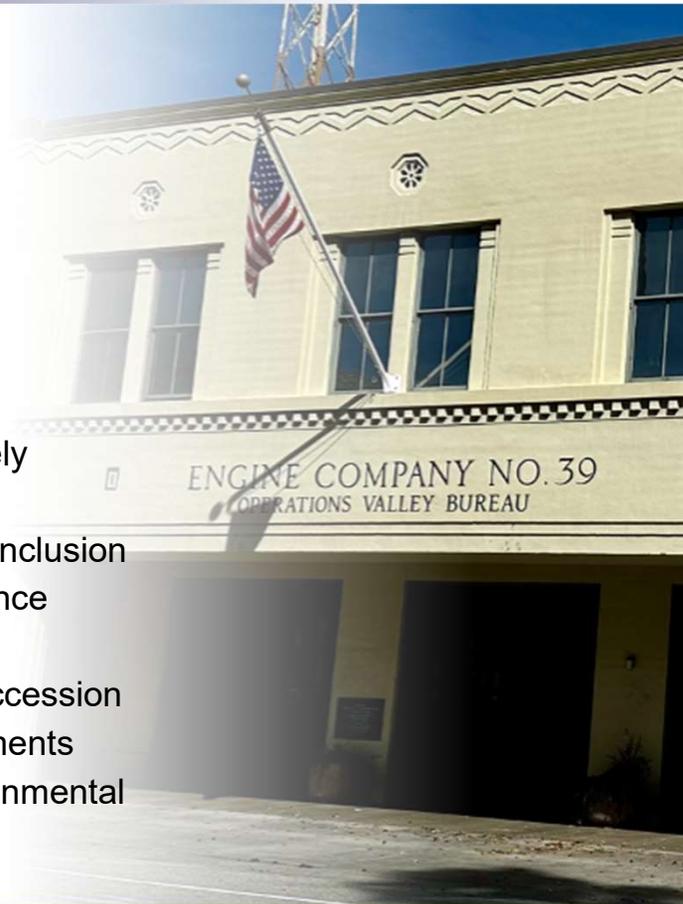


Operations Valley Bureau (OVB) Overview

- Council Districts within OVB
- Specialized Resources
- Major Training Events
- Challenges
- Significant Incident Responses 2023

OVB Strategic Plan Goals

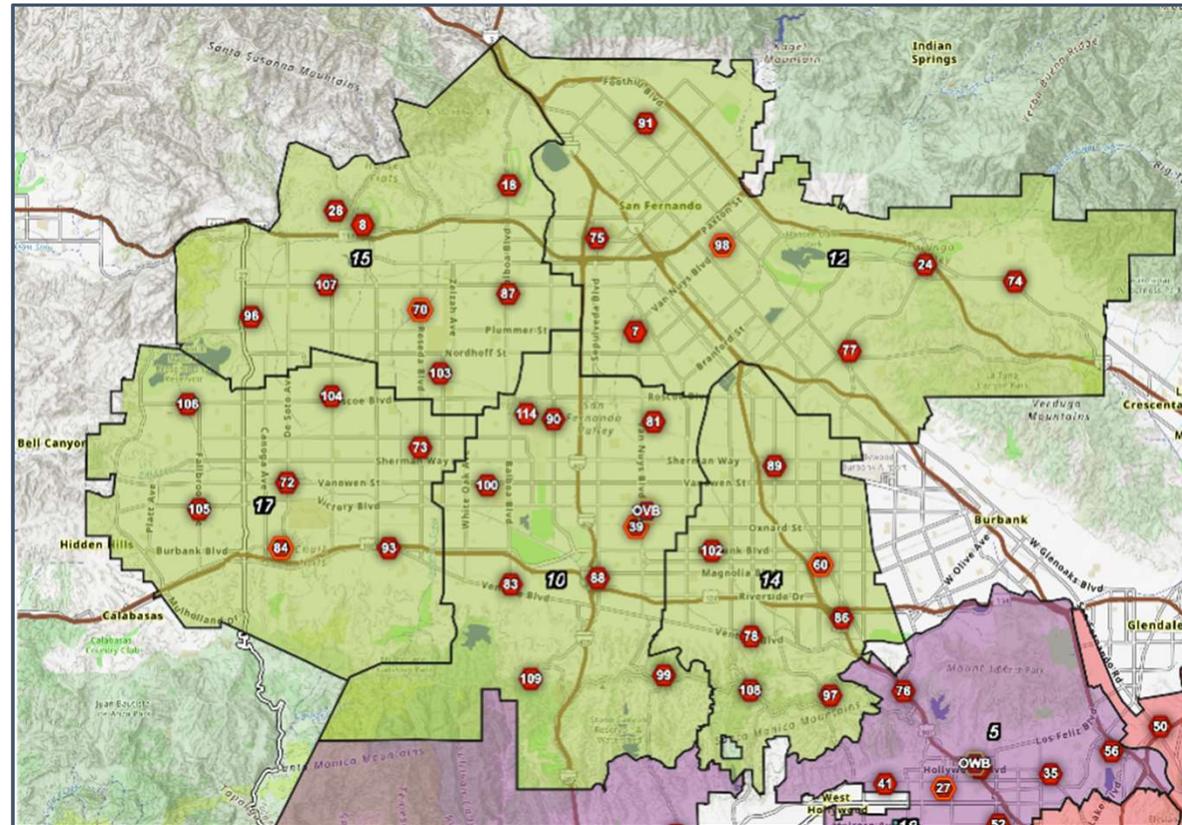
- Goal 1: Deliver Exceptional Public Safety and Emergency Service
- Goal 2: Promote A Safe, Healthy, And Progressive Work Environment That Effectively Manages Personal & Organizational Risk
- Goal 3: Commit to An Organizational Culture That Embraces Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion
- Goal 4: Improve Collaboration, Participative Leadership, And Responsible Performance Management
- Goal 5: Foster Personal Growth, Professional Development, And Organizational Succession
- Goal 6: Explore, Implement And, Integrate Technological Innovations and Advancements
- Goal 7: Enhance Community Resilience, Disaster Recovery Capabilities, And Environmental Sustainability



OVB Overview



- Over 2 million people
- 260 square miles that make up the greater San Fernando Valley
- 8 Council Districts
- 34 Neighborhood Councils
- 5 Battalions
- 38 Fire Stations
- 980 Sworn & Civilian Members
- Variety of specialized resources
- OVB handles over 165,000 calls for routine medical emergencies to major fires





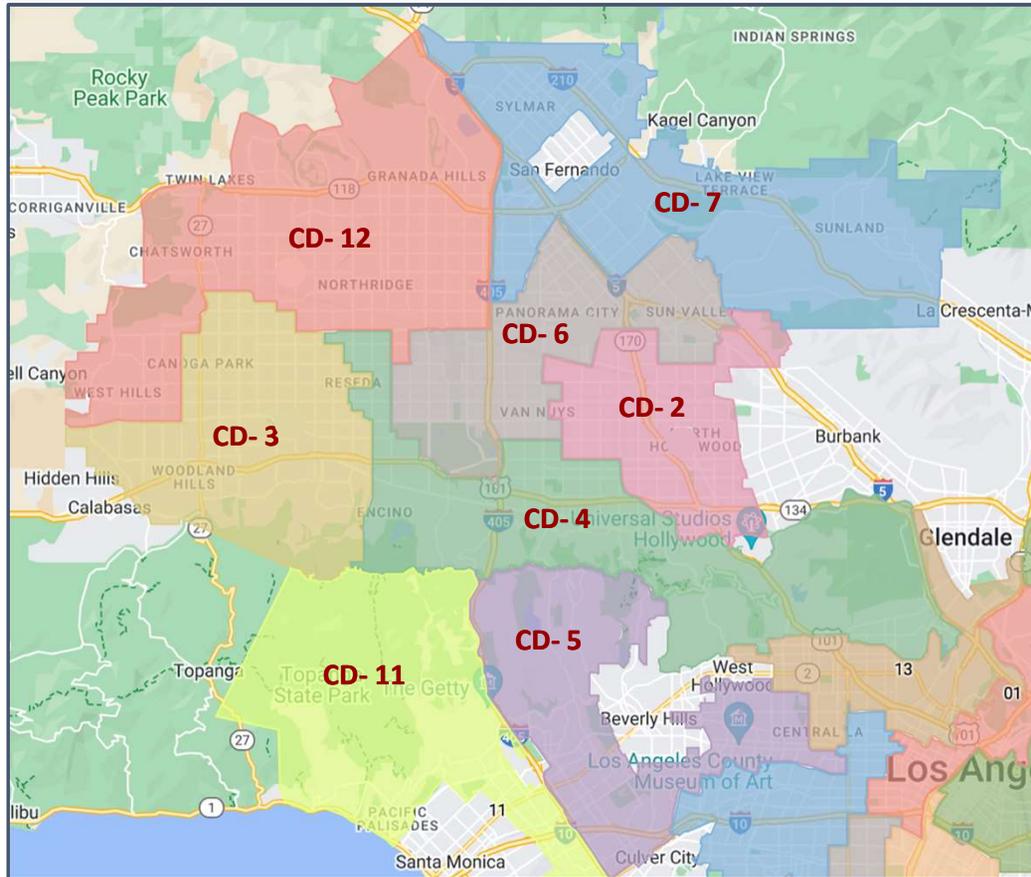
OVB Council Districts 2, 3, 4, & 5



Paul Krekorian CD-2
Batt 14
FS 60, 78, 89, & 97



Bob Blumenfield CD-3
Batt 17
FS 72, 73, 84, 93, 104, & 105



Nithiya Raman CD-4
Batt 10, 14
FS 88, 99, 102, & 108



Katy Yaroslavsky CD-5
Batt 10
FS 83



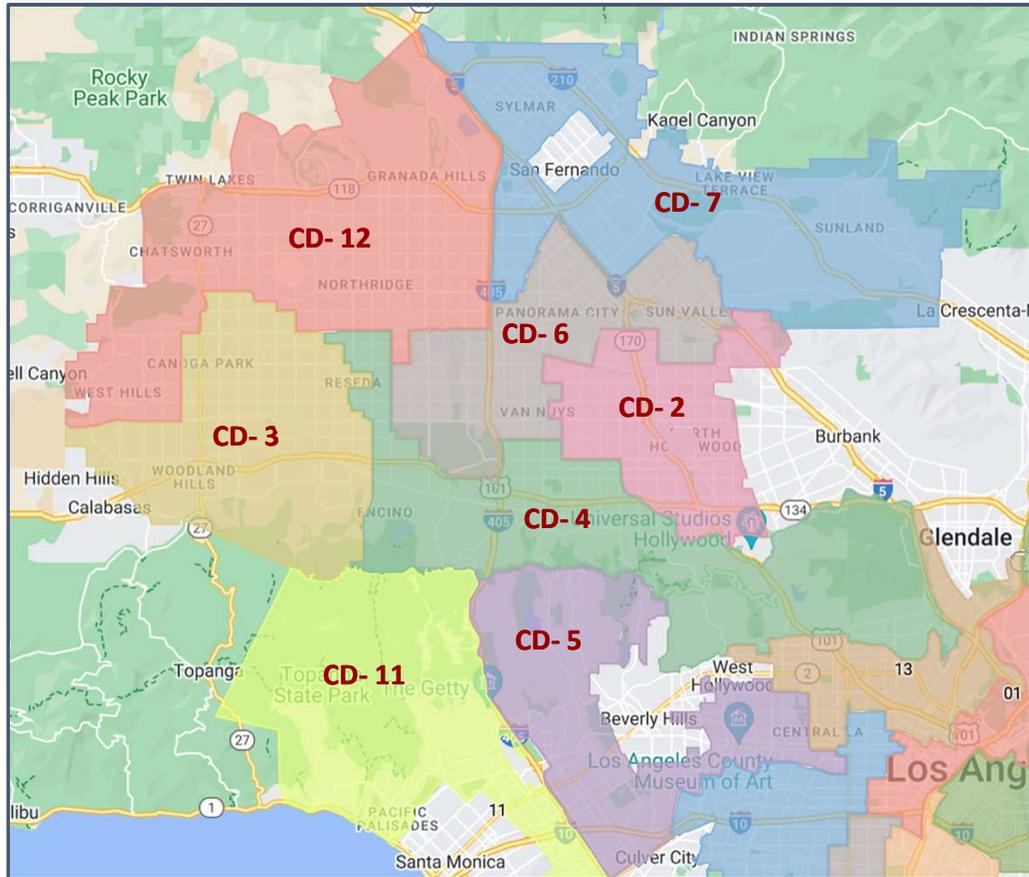
OVB Council Districts 6, 7, 11, & 12



Imelda Padilla CD-6
Batt 10, 12
FS 7, 39, 81, 90, 100, 114



Monica Rodriguez CD-7
Batt 12
FS 24, 74, 75, 77, 91, 98



Traci, Park CD-11
Batt 10 FS 109



John, Lee CD-12
Batt 10, 12, 15, 17 FS 8, 18, 28,
70, 87, 96, 103, 106, 107

OVB Specialized Resources



- 2 Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces
- 1 Hazardous Material Task Force
- 1 Robotic Firefighting Vehicle
- 2 Water Tenders
- 3 Dozers (2 D-8 & 1 D-5)
- 5 Brush Patrols
- 4 Cal-OES Type III Engines
- 1 Cal-OES Incident Support Unit
- Brush Hand Crew 3, Volunteer Type II Hand Crew
- Air Operations (5 AW139 & 2 Bell 505)
- Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF)
- Disaster Response Section (CA-TF-1, RTF-3)





OVB Major Training Events

- Sep 2023 **Evacuation Training** with CD-7, Federal, State, County, & City Partners
- Sep 2023 **Simulation Training** (Greencell) Brush, Structure, & Swift Water for Command Staff
- Oct 2023 **Live Fire Training** all Bureau Companies
- Oct 2023 **High-Rise Training** all Bureau Companies
- Oct 2023 **Mutual Threat Zone Training** with Federal, State, and County Partners
- Jan 2024 **Swift Water Training** for Command Staff
- Mar 2024 **Burbank Airport Full-Scale Exercise**
- Apr 2024 **Live Fire Training**
- Apr 2024 **Bi-Annual Operational Evaluation** Battalion 15
- Apr 2024 **Area Command** all Bureau Battalion Chiefs
- May 2024 **CD-7 Evacuation Exercise/MTZ Training**





OVB Community Events

- Grateful Hearts Fundraiser event (Apr)
- Old downtown Canoga Park Memorial Day parade (May)
- Warner Center Park Fourth of July Celebration (Jul)
- Fire Service Day (May)
- Touch-a-Truck Westfield Fashion Square (Apr)
- Our House Grief Support Center - Fundraiser 5K Walk (Apr)
- Lanies Legacy Walk (May)
- Discovery Cube Sylmar Touch a Truck (Mar)

The flyer is for a disaster preparedness event. At the top, it features the 'Grateful Hearts LAPD & LAFD' logo and text indicating it is produced by the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce, Grateful Hearts Committee, and GoodSuite. The event details are: DATE: APRIL 6, 2024, TIME: 9 AM - 4 PM, LOCATION: WARNER CENTER PARK. The main title is 'DISASTER PREPAREDNESS' with 'EVACUATION SIMULATION' and 'PRÁCTICA DE EVACUACIÓN' below it. The date is 'SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024' and 'SABADO, 18 DE MAYO DEL 2024' with the time '10:00 AM - 2:00 PM'. The location is 'Hansen Dam - Soccer Fields, 11658 Foothill Blvd, Lakeview Terrace, CA 91342'. The flyer lists activities: 'LIVE HELICOPTER, EMERGENCY ALERT, HORSE SAFETY, RESOURCE FAIR, AND MORE' and 'HELICÓPTERO EN VIVO, ALERTA DE EMERGENCIA, CUIDADO DE CABALLOS, FERIA DE RECURSOS, Y MÁS'. Logos for LAPD, LADOT, and the Emergency Management Department are at the bottom. Contact information for the Sunland-Tujunga District Office is provided: 7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042, Tel 818-352-3287, www.monicarodriguez.org.



OVB Challenges

- Brush fires - Foothills, Santa Susana, Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountain Ranges, and Sepulveda Basin
- Interface/Intermix homes, structure fires, debris flow, & Evacuations
- 7 major freeways pass through OVB, Multi-casualty traffic accidents, hazardous materials incidents
- 3 Airports - Van Nuys, Whiteman, and Burbank
- LA River Tributaries and Watershed areas across the greater San Fernando Valley
- Metro Red Line





OVB Significant Incident Responses 2023



Structure Fires

2022
1108

2023
904 ↓



Grass Fires

2022
119

2023
86 ↓



Brush Fires

2022
208

2023
104 ↓



Swift Water Rescue

2022
2

2023
19 ↑



Air Emergencies

2022
35

2023
47 ↑



Technical Rescues

2022
17

2023
14 ↓



Hazardous Material

2022
679

2023
721 ↑

OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 1

DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICE

GOAL 2

PROMOTE A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND PROGRESSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY MANAGES PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RISK

GOAL 3

COMMIT TO AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT EMBRACES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

GOAL 4

IMPROVE COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATIVE LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBLE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

GOAL 5

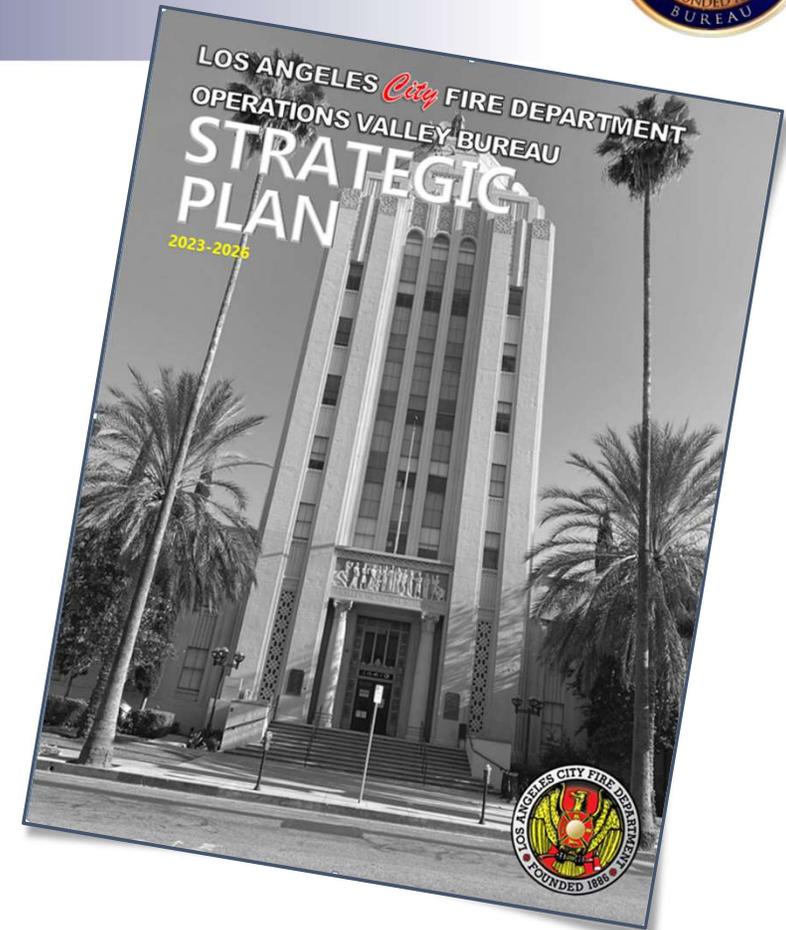
FOSTER PERSONAL GROWTH, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESSION

GOAL 6

EXPLORE, IMPLEMENT, AND INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND ADVANCEMENTS

GOAL 7

ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, DISASTER RECOVERY CAPABILITIES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 1

DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICE

Enhance operational competency, confidence, and efficiency of OVB members.

- Simulation Training (Greencell) Brush, Structure, & Swift Water for Command Staff, Sep 2023
- Live Fire Training all Bureau Companies, Oct 2023
- High-Rise Training all Bureau Companies, Oct 2023
- Addition of E207 at Fire Station 7, May 2024

Cultivate and improve public safety partnerships:

- Quarterly MTZ meetings
- CD-7 Evacuation Drill, Oct 2023 and May 2024
- Burbank Airport full scale exercise, Mar 2024



OVB Strategic Goals

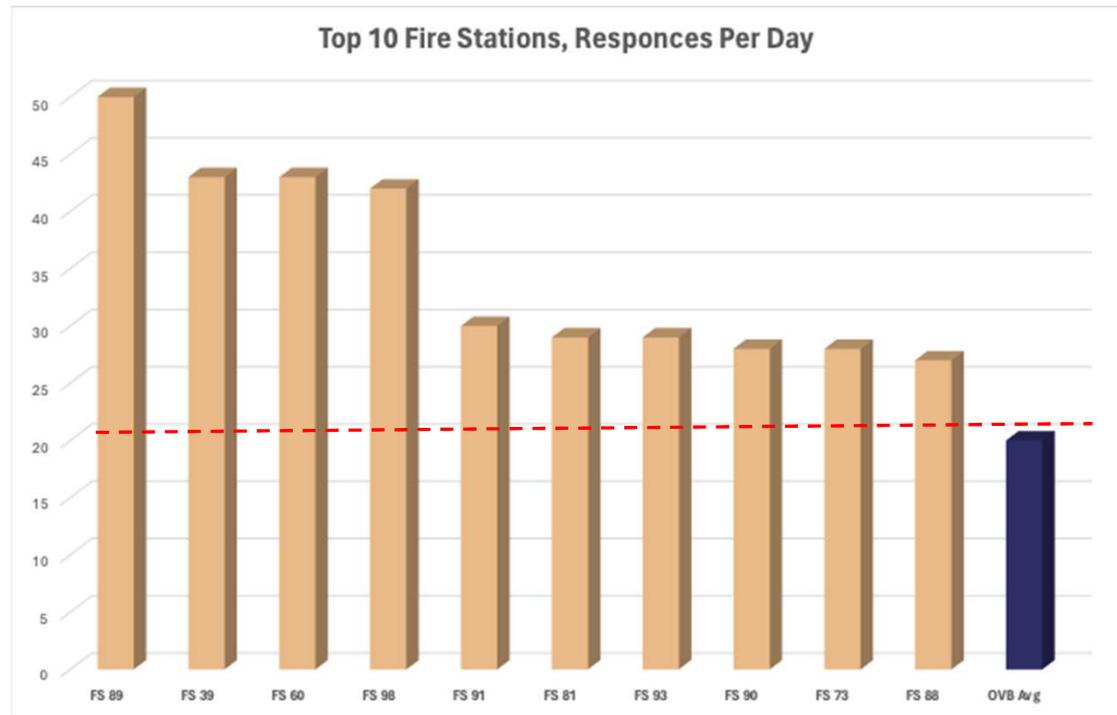


GOAL 1

DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICE



Fire Station	Per Day
FS 89	50
FS 39	43
FS 60	43
FS 98	42
FS 91	30
FS 81	29
FS 93	29
FS 90	28
FS 73	28
FS 88	27
OVB Avg	20



OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 2

PROMOTE A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND PROGRESSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY MANAGES PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RISK

Reduce Injuries and elevate members physical and behavioral health.

- Athletic Trainer from Injury Prevention Center

Promote safe operation of heavy and light apparatus.

- CM42 accident hearings
- OVB driver safety coordinator program

Ensure a safe working environment, minimizing environmental and incident hazardous exposures.





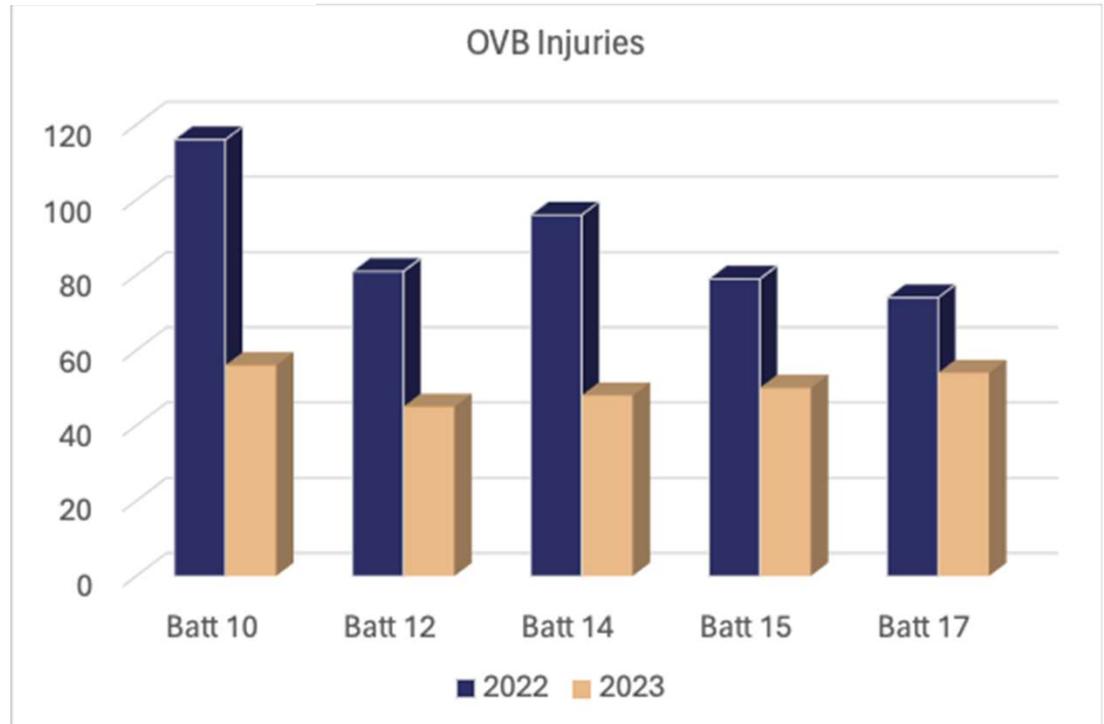
OVB Injuries

GOAL 2

PROMOTE A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND PROGRESSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY MANAGES PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RISK



	2022	2023
Batt 10	116	56
Batt 12	81	45
Batt 14	96	48
Batt 15	79	50
Batt 17	74	54
OVB Total	446	253



OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 3

COMMIT TO AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT EMBRACES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as systemic values and principles throughout OVB.

Bolster Department recruitment efforts in OVB to hire a diverse workforce, representative of the community.



OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 4

IMPROVE COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATIVE LEADERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBLE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Effectively communicate and reinforce the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the Department, Emergency Operations, and the Operations Valley Bureau (OVB).

Develop a culture of performance leadership, performance measurement, and performance management.

Maintain a steadfast focus on service, professionalism, and accountability.





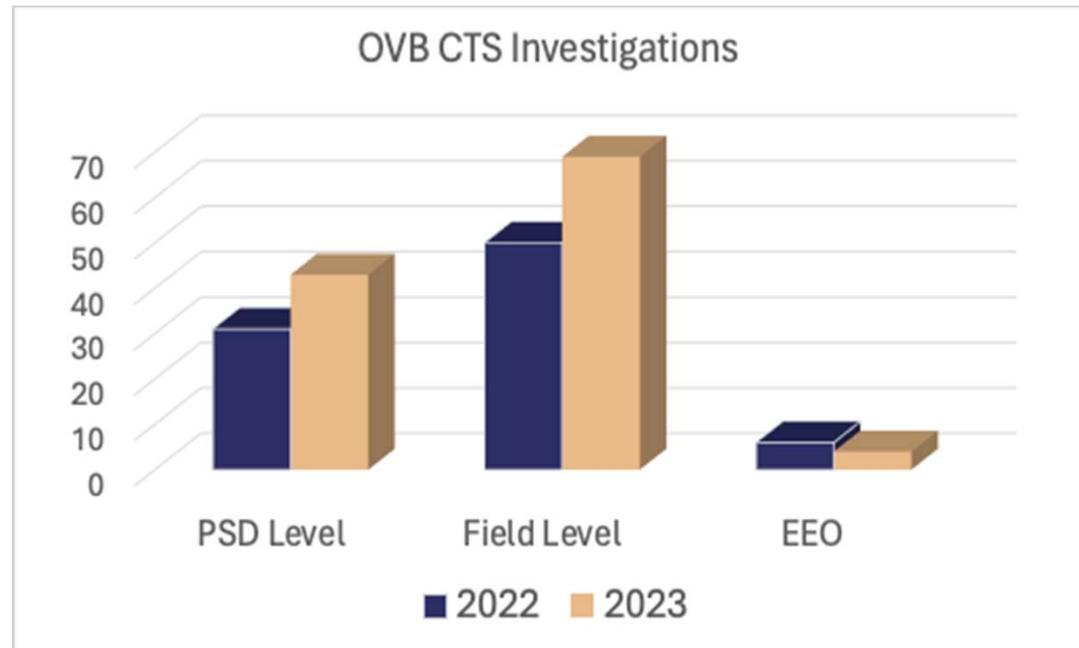
OVB Complaint Tracking System

GOAL 4

IMPROVE COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATIVE LEADERSHIP,
AND RESPONSIBLE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT



	2022	2023
PSD Level	31	43
Field Level	50	69
EEO	6	4



OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 6

EXPLORE, IMPLEMENT, AND INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS AND ADVANCEMENTS

Continually research and pursue the use of new equipment and software that will improve operational effectiveness and enhance firefighter safety.

- Fotokite
- Drones for brush fires, mud slides, and technical rescues

Identify opportunities to use existing technology more efficiently and implement processes to increase administrative and operational efficiency.

- LAFD Ready Map
- WiFire
- MCad Application



OVB Strategic Goals



GOAL 7

ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, DISASTER RECOVERY CAPABILITIES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Pursue opportunities to collaborate with various government and non-government organizations to enhance community resilience.

Develop Los Angeles Wildfire Resilience Alliance (LAWRA) partnerships in each OVB council district.

Increase OVBs community engagement and education related to resilience and sustainability.



Questions

