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COMMANDER**
DEPUTY CHIEF

Armando Hogan

**ASSISTANT
BUREAU
COMMANDERS**
ASSISTANT CHIEF

Dean Zipperman

Elise Brodowy

**TRAINING
OFFICER**
CAPTAIN II

Joseph Angiuli

**LAWA
REPRESENTATIVE**
CAPTAIN II

OSCAR SCOTT

**EMS / RESILIENCE
OFFICER**
CAPTAIN I

Kevin Johnson

EMS EDUCATOR

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BUREAU MESSAGE
Greetings,

As summer turns to fall and the school year is underway (or something which slightly resembles it), I wish you the very best that life has to offer. I realize that we continue to address COVID19 concerns, restricted movement, demonstrations, party houses and encampments. It will get better, it must.

As this year enters its final three months, let's focus on three things: self-preparedness, family preparedness and community preparedness.

The vegetation throughout the City of Los Angeles has now cured and our concerns have heightened based on the challenges faced with fires in the northern portion of the state.

Be that as it may, I ask that you exercise previously discussed safety suggestions such as establishing a Go Bag, Brush Clearance, LAFD Alerts, Social Distancing, as well as eating healthy and maintaining a physical fitness regimen.

For those of you who are CERT members don't forget to practice those techniques that will aid in your response to emergencies and community support.

This quarter we will share and discuss LAFD Crew 3, Halloween 2020, Brush Health Awareness, A Zoom Thanksgiving, OWB's EMS/Resilience Officer Captain Kevin Johnson, Christmas Tree Safety, Hardening Your Home, LAX People Mover, Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC), OWB's Calendar of Events, Light the Night Event, Notice of Commendation, Community Information, West Bureau Council Districts, West Express Hyperlinks, OWB in Action and our back page which recognizes promotions and transfers into OWB.

On behalf of the many members of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Active & Retired, we remain optimistic and confident that we will bounce back stronger, better and more resilient than ever. Stay safe, stay healthy and be well.


LAFD CREW 3

LAFD Crew 3 is a Volunteer Type II Hand crew managed by the Los Angeles Fire Department and lead by Foreman Firefighter III Paul Wingate. Crew 3 Members receive wildland classes and hands-on training as well as career guidance to help with successful careers in the Fire Service. Crew 3 is managed and run by LAFD members with extensive wildland training and handcrew experience. There is so much that happens "behind the scenes" and we want to share all the hard work of your LAFD Crew 3. We invite you to view a video of impressive team of young adults of Crew 3.

***Inside LAFD: Crew 3**

HALLOWEEN “2020”

Finally it's time to start dreaming of fall ... those chilly nights, crisp apple cider and, of course, Halloween! Everyone's favorite, with costumes and candy, scary make-believe (and candy), trick-or-treating (and CANDY), fun decorations and ... Stop.



In case you forgot, the coronavirus is still a very real boogeyman, lurking behind every mask. Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health has already put the kibosh on Halloween traditions such as haunted houses and parties and recommends people avoid door-to-door trick-or-treating or even “trunk-or-treating,” by which children collect treats walking from car to car at gatherings in school or church parking lots.

“Door to door trick-or-treating is not recommended because it can be very difficult to maintain proper social distancing on porches and at front doors, ensure that everyone answering or coming to the door is appropriately masked to prevent disease spread, and because sharing food is risky,” according to the new health order. “This year, it's just not safe to celebrate in the ways we usually do,” Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told The Times. “We are recommending that trick-or-treating not happen this year.”

Canceling Halloween may seem particularly harsh, considering all the challenges and disappointments kids have faced this year, but health officials are doing everything they can to reduce the spread of the infection, which some fear could see a resurgence this fall. “Viruses don't take holidays,” said Anne Rimoin, professor of epidemiology at UCLA's School of Public Health. “Until the community has low transmission rates, lots of things won't be back to normal. The way a virus transmits doesn't change because we're in holiday mode. In fact, it often makes us less cautious because our guard is down. We have to accept the fact that the virus is dictating the precautions we have to take.”

Lest you've forgotten those precautions, that means six feet of social distancing (i.e., no kids crowding around a candy bowl at your front door), wearing masks (not cute Halloween masks, but protective masks that cover your mouth and nose), avoiding crowded, confined spaces (like haunted houses, where people do a lot of screaming, thus expelling germs) and practicing good hygiene (washing hands often and absolutely no bobbing for apples). No, darn it, this is America, land of the free and home of “There's *got* to be a way,” so, of course, people are already working on this problem.

Not surprisingly, the National Confectioners Assn. is all over this issue on its Halloween Central website at alwaysatreat.com. The website includes statistics, such as 74% of millennial moms and young parents say Halloween is more important than ever this year, and tips for how to celebrate Halloween out of the house or in.

[LA Times / Halloween](#)

****THE WEARING OF MASKS AND DISTANCING REDUCES RISKS****

Brush Smoke Health Awareness

Brushfire smoke can irritate your lungs, cause inflammation, affect your immune system, and make you more prone to lung infections, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that cause COVID-19. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing for Brushfires might be a little different this year. Know how wildfire smoke can affect you and your loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic and what you can do to protect yourselves.



Create a cleaner air space at home to protect yourself from wildfire smoke during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Use a portable air cleaner in one or more rooms. Portable air cleaners work best when run continuously with doors and windows closed.

If you use a [do-it-yourself box fan](#) filtration unit, never leave it unattended.

During periods of extreme heat, pay attention to the [temperature](#) and know how to [stay safe in the heat](#).

- Whenever you can, use air conditioners, heat pumps, fans, and window shades to keep your cleaner air space comfortably cool on hot days.
- If you have a forced air system in your home, you may need to speak with a qualified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) professional about different filters (HEPA or MERV-13 or higher) and settings ("Recirculate" and "On" rather than "Auto") you can use to reduce indoor smoke.

Avoid activities that create more indoor and outdoor air pollution, such as frying foods, sweeping, vacuuming, and using gas-powered appliances.

Know the difference between symptoms from smoke exposure and COVID-19.

- Some symptoms, like dry cough, sore throat, and difficulty breathing can be caused by both wildfire smoke exposure and COVID-19.

Learn about [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Symptoms like fever or chills, muscle or body aches, and diarrhea are not related to smoke exposure. If you have any of these symptoms, the CDC COVID-19 [Self-Checker](#) can help you determine whether you need further assessment or testing for COVID-19. If you have questions after using the CDC COVID-19 [Self-Checker](#), contact a healthcare provider.

Captain I / Paramedic Kevin Johnson



Captain Johnson - better known as KJ, has been an asset to OWB since his arrival nearly three years ago. He has 30 years of experience with LAFD and currently serves as our EMS/Resilience Officer.

His duties include representing West Bureau as our Community Relations/Special Events Liaison, coordinating our High School "Hands Only CPR" program and is our point person for our community "Smoke Detector Canvass" program.

Prior to his arrival, Captain Johnson worked in several communities of Los Angeles and has experience as an Emergency Incident Technician (EIT), LAFD recruiter and a Firefighter/Paramedic, for which he has held this certification for 26 of his 30 years with the LAFD. Captain Johnson's skill set includes photography, fine carpentry, computer technology and the creator of our newsletter, the West Express.

His assistance is continually requested by our Regional Training Group (RTG) and our In Service Training Division. Additionally, he is the official "sound technician" at all LAFD Recruit Graduation Ceremonies.

Captain Johnson is a graduate of the LAFD Leadership Academy and is married to his lovely wife Staci. They are the proud parents of 3 beautiful daughters, one of which proudly serves her country in the United States Navy.

A Zoom Thanksgiving? Summer of COVID-19 could give way to bleaker fall

As the Summer of COVID draws to a close, many experts fear an even bleaker fall and suggest that American families should start planning for Thanksgiving by Zoom. Because of the many uncertainties, public health scientists say it's easier to forecast the weather on Thanksgiving Day than to predict how the U.S. coronavirus crisis will play out this autumn. But school reopenings, holiday travel and more indoor activity because of colder weather could all separately increase transmission of the virus and combine in ways that could multiply the threat, they say.

Here's one way it could go: As more schools open for in-person instruction and more college students return to campuses, small clusters of cases could widen into outbreaks in late September. Public fatigue over mask rules and other restrictions could stymie efforts to slow these infections. A few weeks later, widening outbreaks could start to strain hospitals. If a bad flu season peaks in October, as happened in 2009, the pressure on the health care system could result in higher daily death tolls from the coronavirus. Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has said that scenario is his biggest fear.

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



Hardening Your Home



Rain Gutters - Keep rain gutters clear or enclose rain gutters to prevent accumulation of plant debris.

Vents - Vents on homes create openings for flying embers. Cover all vent openings with 1/16-inch to 1/8-inch metal mesh. Do not use fiberglass or plastic mesh because they can melt and burn. Protect vents in eaves or cornices with baffles to block embers (mesh is not enough).



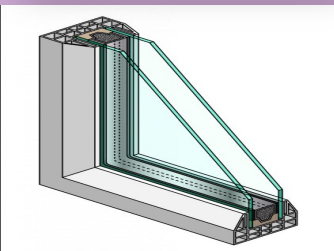
Decks - Surfaces within 10 feet of the building should be built with ignition-resistant, non-combustible or other approved materials. Ensure that all combustible items are removed from underneath your deck.



Chimney - Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a non-flammable screen. Use metal screen material with openings no smaller than 3/8-inch and no larger than 1/2-inch to prevent embers from escaping and igniting a fire.



Patio Cover - Use the same ignition-resistant materials for patio coverings as a roof.

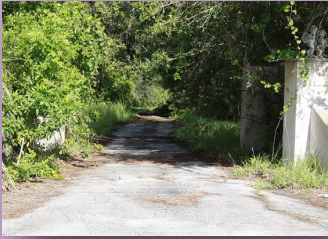


Windows - Heat from a wildfire can cause windows to break even before the home is on fire. This allows burning embers to enter and start fires inside. Single-paned and large windows are particularly vulnerable. Install dual-paned windows with one pane of tempered glass to reduce the chance of breakage in a fire. Consider limiting the size and number of windows that face large areas of vegetation.



Walls - Wood products, such as boards, panels or shingles, are common siding materials. However, they are flammable and not good choices for fire-prone areas. Build or remodel your walls with ignition resistant building materials, such as stucco, fiber cement wall siding, fire retardant, treated wood, or other approved materials. Be sure to extend materials from the foundation to the roof.

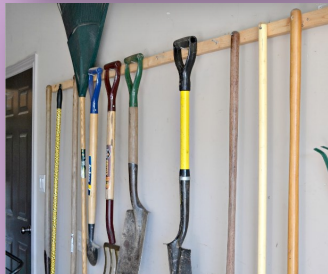
Hardening Your Home



Driveways and Access Roads - Driveways should be built and maintained in accordance with state and local codes to allow fire and emergency vehicles to reach your home. Consider maintaining access roads with a minimum of 10 feet of clearance on either side, allowing for two-way traffic. Ensure that all gates open inward and are wide enough to accommodate emergency equipment. Trim trees and shrubs overhanging the road to allow emergency vehicles to pass.



Fences - Consider using ignition-resistant or non-combustible fence materials to protect your home during a wildfire.



Garage - Have a fire extinguisher and tools such as a shovel, rake, bucket, and hose available for fire emergencies. Install weather stripping around and under the garage door to prevent embers from blowing in. Store all combustible and flammable liquids away from ignition sources.



Address - Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.



Water Supply - Consider having multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider getting a pump.



Roof - The roof is the most vulnerable part of your home. Homes with wood or shingle roofs are at high risk of being destroyed during a wildfire. Build your roof or re-roof with materials such as composition, metal or tile. Block any spaces between roof decking and covering to prevent embers from catching.

LAX PEOPLE MOVER PROJECT ELEVATED GUIDEWAY MOVES FORWARD WITH FIRST CONCRETE PLACEMENT

Concrete was placed for the first segment of the 2.25 mile elevated guideway of the Automated People Mover (APM) project at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Work on the guideway segment, which is located due west of the future Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF)-West station near 96th Street and Vicksburg Avenue, was enabled by the prior erection of falsework and assembly of formwork into which the reinforcement bar and concrete was placed.

"Our vision for LAX is taking shape and the changing landscape serves as a reminder that our future remains bright," said Justin Erbacci, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). "We are reimagining every step of the airport journey, and now can start to see how our Automated People Mover train will provide an exciting new way for our guests and employees to get to and from LAX."

Construction of a typical guideway span follows foundation work and the subsequent construction of the guideway columns. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of concrete was used in the construction of the guideway deck for this segment. An estimated 72,000 cubic yards of concrete will be used to construct the entire guideway, which includes the foundation piles, columns, guideway deck and concrete tracks. The APM guideway will be constructed span by span, with an average length of 85 feet for each of 93 total spans. That is enough concrete to cover 33 NFL football fields with 12 inches of concrete.

Once the concrete cures to prescribed strength, the formwork and falsework are stripped and the guideway span is revealed. As segments of guideway are constructed, work on the system's concrete tracks will

begin. Construction of the guideway deck for the entire APM system will require approximately 304 major concrete placements.

"Concrete placement for the first segment of guideway represents the latest achievement in a series of significant critical construction milestones for our team," said Sharon Gookin, Project Director at LINXS Constructors. "It is exciting to see our team's hard work and effort has come together in a visually demonstrative way."



Once the guideway is in place at the sites of the future APM stations, steel erection for the stations can begin. The APM's electric train system that will transport travelers in and out of the LAX Central Terminal Area (CTA) is the centerpiece of LAWA's Landside Access Modernization Program. The APM will feature six stations: three stations inside the CTA, which connect to the terminals via elevated pedestrian walkways, and three stations outside the CTA, which will connect to new off-site parking facilities, regional light rail transportation and a Consolidated Rent-A-Car Facility. Scheduled to open for passenger service in 2023, the APM is expected to relieve congestion within the CTA and in turn the surrounding thoroughfares, thereby reducing emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

Supporting OWB

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC)

In May 2020, Operations West Bureau (OWB) received a generous donation of over 75 - 36" Reacher / grabber devices from Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC).

These devices can be used in emergency and non-emergency responses and are found on emergency resources in our bureau.

Additionally, this tool will aid in social distancing, limiting exposure and increasing safety while adhering to all Covid-19 protocols.

The LAFD recognizes HUNC for its outstanding example of leadership demonstrated in the Hollywood community.

OWB wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our valued partners.



OWB CALENDAR

OCTOBER

12th Indigenous Peoples Day
31st Halloween

NOVEMBER

3rd Election Day
11th Veterans Day
26th Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

24th Christmas Eve
25th Christmas Day
31st New Year's Eve

Battalion West Express

Be a Part of America's Tribute to Fallen Firefighters



COVID-19 Does Not Stop Us from Honoring Our Nation's Fallen Firefighters

On Saturday October 3rd, our fallen members names will be read. On October 4th, at 10:00 am EDT, the lives of 82 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2019, and 21 firefighters who died in previous years will be remembered in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's production of America's Tribute to Fallen Firefighters.

This 45-minute special will be available to watch on www.firehero.org and through the NFFF's social media platforms. [Flyer](#)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES (OWB) NOTICE OF COMMENDATION

Firefighter / Paramedic
Trevor Stepan



In the early morning hours of August 11, 2020, Engine 52 responded to a reported structure fire at an apartment complex in their district. Upon their arrival they found heavy smoke and fire showing and were informed that someone was hanging from a window of the involved unit.

FF/PM Trevor Stepan took quick action and grabbed the ladder and affected a courageous window rescue.

FF/PM Trevor Stepan's quick actions with little regard for his own personal safety were instrumental in saving the life of this distressed resident.

We are honored to recognize FF/PM Trevor Stepan for his heroic efforts and proud of his incredible representation of the LAFD.

To request LAFD resources at public events (community fairs, school visits, etc.), please send an email to LAFDrequest@lacity.org with the details of your event (date, time and duration, location, etc.). As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Suggestions, questions, comments or concerns, email us at LAFD.westbureau@lacity.org

COMMUNITY

Community Organized Relief Effort

CORE is working with the LA Mayor's Office and the Los Angeles Fire Department to provide free COVID-19 testing for all LA residents. Priority is given to those with symptoms, but now, anyone can sign up to get tested!

Make an appointment now:

<https://la.curativeinc.com/welcome>



WEST BUREAU COUNCIL DISTRICTS

Council District 4 (David Ryu)

LOS ANGELES - Councilmember David Ryu introduced legislation to temporarily halt construction in sensitive hillside areas within the Los Angeles Fire Department's "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" which are at greatest risk for wildfire. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Paul Koretz, calls for a halt in construction on narrow hillside roads in fire-sensitive areas until November 30th, 2020.

"This is a fire season like no other in our history, and Los Angeles is at unprecedented risk," Councilmember Ryu said. "We must halt construction in our fire-sensitive neighborhoods and keep evacuation routes safe if we want to prevent fires locally while our resources are already strained."

Council District 5 (Paul Koretz)

Los Angeles — August 19, 2020 — A motion authored by Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5) and Mike Bonin (CD11) relative to the City's protected tree ordinance was approved today by the Los Angeles City Council instructing the Urban Forestry Division and the City's Forest Officer, Rachel Malarich, to convene and consult with stakeholder groups to determine methods to preserve overall native tree cover and habitat areas, limit damage to trees during development, and possibly add more trees, based on circumference and species notability, to the protected list. The motion originated from concerns raised by hillside community members in Bel Air, Laurel Canyon, and Mandeville Canyon about how trees are being too easily removed by developers even before development permit applications are submitted, trees are not being protected during construction activities, and building permits are routinely issued without the Department of Building and Safety being aware of the presence of protected trees on the affected properties. One simple suggested fix was to prioritize trees at the top of the Building and Safety check list, rather than the bottom, where they are an afterthought.

Council District 11 (Mike Bonin)

LOS ANGELES – Councilmembers Nury Martinez, David Ryu, Paul Krekorian, and Mike Bonin introduced the latest effort to root out corruption from City Hall, a motion to expand the type of conflicts requiring City officials to recuse themselves from taking action or casting votes. The motion, which highlights the recusal standard used by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), seeks a higher standard of recusals and conflict-of-interest rules. "Our goal as a City Council is to restore public trust in City government," said Council President Nury Martinez. "There are two ways to do that. One, all public officials must act with integrity. Two, the City's rules, laws, and procedures must be effective and transparent. The first requires personal commitment. The motion is in pursuit of the second. He looks forward to hearing the Ethics Commission recommendations as we work to restore the public's trust in our City government."

Council District 13 (Mitch O'Farrell)

COVID-19 Help for renters: Tenants in the City of Los Angeles who experience COVID-19 financial stress will continue to be protected from eviction by the City's existing tenant pandemic ordinance. The City's ordinance offers overall greater protection for tenants than the State's new law (AB 3088 - The Tenant Relief Act of 2020) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new order, although the State's new law provides some additional benefit that tenants should consider. Here are a few facts that help answer some key questions facing LA tenants and landlords.



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"OWB" IN ACTION



LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT — OPERATIONS WEST BUREAU

◇ To those whom have transferred into OWB, welcome !!! We look forward to your commitment to continued service.
Thanks again.

- Deputy Chief -Armando Hogan

◇ Transfers Into OWB

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| PERALTA, William | BC |
| CONROY, Matthew | CI |
| GOMEZ, Abel | CI |
| LARSON, Timothy | ENG |
| PASHABEZYAN, Makar | ENG |
| WYRICK, Kurt | ENG |
| VONDERHARR, Nathan | FF/ PM |
| BREWSTER, Chelsea | FF/ PM |
| HAMBLY, Scott | FF |
| MONTES, Francisco | FF |
| BONNER, Lawrence | FF |
| WHITE, Steven | FF |
| DUYAO, Brandon | FF |
| ELMORE, Tyler | FF |
| CRESTA, Anthony | FF |
| GALLAHGER | FF |
| MACLEARN, Jeremiah | FF/ PM (RIDEALONG) |
| PIETRANTONI, Matthew | FF/ PM (RIDEALONG) |

◆ Promotions / PGA's Out of OWB **

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| PIETRANTONI, Matthew | FF |
| HUNGERFORD, Tomas | FF |
| DAK, Aaron | ENG |
| ROSS, Jordan | ENG |
| GARCIA, Edgar | FF |
| AVILA, Luis | FF |
| KELLY, Andrew | ENG |
| HAMILTON, JEFFREY | ENG |
| GIBBS, Kenneth | ENG |
| CARRANZA, Armando | FF/ PM |
| GORME, Alexander | FF/ PM |
| CATES, Daniel | FF/ PM |
| DUREPO, Nicolas | ENG |
| HARDY, Joel | ENG |
| BURGESS, Christian | ENG |

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

OWB recognizes Battalion Chief Jesse Cisneros for his over 30 years of service with the LAFD.
Congratulations on your retirement.

*Timeframe is from July 1st to present

Register to vote at LAvote.net



TIME OFF TO VOTE

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each Election Day. If you are scheduled to be at work during that time, California law allows you to take up to two hours off to vote, without losing any pay.

You may take as much time as you need to vote, but only two hours of that time will be paid.

Your time off for voting can be only at the beginning or end of your regular work shift, unless you make another arrangement with your employer.

If you think you will need time off to vote, you must notify your employer at least two working days prior to the election.



California Elections Code section 14000

Secretary of State Alex Padilla, 1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

(800) 345-VOTE (8683)

www.sos.ca.gov