



NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Jim Johnstone to Lead Mountain Division

San Bernardino County Fire Division Chief Jim Johnstone has taken the helm as Division Chief of the Mountain region (Division 4), overseeing fire and emergency medical response, and rescue operations. Division 4 covers over 600 square miles of vegetation-covered mountains, foothills and valleys. County Fire works closely with the local community in the mountains through the Fire Safe Councils and the multi-agency Mountain Area Safety Taskforce.

“I look forward to maintaining this strong collaboration with the community,” stated Chief Johnstone. “My promise is to productively engage in our mountain communities and foster positive relationships with our neighboring fire departments. I am thrilled and honored to be given the responsibility of leading such a diverse region and look forward to this new chapter in my career with County Fire, which began more than 25 years ago.”

Johnstone currently oversees the Valley Region (Division 1) since his promotion to Division Chief in August of 2011 and will continue to do so. Division 1 encompasses all unincorporated areas of the San Bernardino Valley as well as the Cities of Fontana and Grand Terrace.

Prior to his promotion, Chief Johnstone was a Battalion Chief in the North Desert region since early 2008. He began his career with the San Bernardino County Fire Department in 1985 as a Firefighter Paramedic in Lake Arrowhead. During his career with County Fire, Chief Johnstone promoted to Engineer Paramedic and to Captain Paramedic. He has served as the Technical Rescue Coordinator for the Mountain Division and as a Rescue Team Manager on County Fire’s Regional Taskforce 6. He has a BS Degree from the University of California Riverside in Administration.

Chief Johnstone is qualified as a Type 2 Operations Chief on Southern California Incident Management Team #2. Prior to this position, he served as a Division/Group Supervisor on this same management team.

Chief Johnstone lives in Lake Arrowhead with his wife Bridgett. Jim and Bridgett have five grown children and two grandsons. He and his family enjoy numerous outdoor activities together.

Chief Johnstone replaces Division Chief John Salvate, who has proudly served the Mountain residents for the past five months. Chief John Salvate was leading both Divisions 4 and 5 encompassing the Mountains and South Desert regions. Chief Salvate will now be permanently assigned to Division 5 in the South Desert.

A photograph of Chief Johnstone is available on our website at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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