

### SAN MIGUEL FIRE & RESCUE

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT







### FIRE & RESCUE **ANNUAL REPORT** FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

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BOTTOM COVER PHOTO AND STATION PHOTOS EDITORIAL AND LAYOUT DESIGN CREIGH PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN KELLEY

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

As the Fire Chief for San Miguel Fire & Rescue, and on behalf of the men and women who every day provide Service Beyond Expectations, we are proud to present the Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Annual Report. As dedicated professionals, we are committed to excellence and we hold dear to the principles of Commitment, Compassion, and Community. We stand

ready to provide a wide range of emergency and nonemergency services, 24 hours every day to the 140,000 residents and thousands of visitors within our 50 square mile service area.

This past year was challenging, but also reward-

ing, as we navigated the everchanging COVID landscape. The pandemic affected normal day-to-day operations and consumed a significant amount of staff time to respond to the many changes from local and state health orders. It was no surprise that our San Miguel family did what it does best—adapt and prepare to provide service in an increasingly dangerous environment.

Providing the community with the same level of service as prior to COVID required some changes and presented some challenges. Dispatch added COVID questions and



alerts to the information provided to responding crews. Patients were asked to walk to the front door to limit crew exposure. Enhanced personal safety equipment is now the norm. Certain treatment protocols were adjusted to prevent unnecessary exposure and contamination. First responder and ambulance equipment required decontamination after every call, dramatically increasing out-ofservice times. Crews were unable to transfer their patient to hospital staff for extended periods of time, sometimes hours, when hospital capacities were exceeded countywide.

Once a COVID-19 vaccine was available, San Miguel personnel partnered with other county firefighters to plan and support a massive COVID vaccination outreach. We not only provided centralized vaccination locations within the San Miguel District, but also delivered and administered vaccinations to residents in local care facilities who would otherwise not have been able to exercise their choice to be vaccinated.

As the pandemic continued, we had to postpone opportunities to personally connect with the community. Fire safety and education couldn't be delivered to students as schools moved to virtual learning, and visits to community groups, station open houses, fire safety presentations, pancake breakfasts, and ride-alongs were halted. Many local businesses couldn't be inspected and our ability to provide fire safe education was severely hampered.

Despite this, our personnel continued to work to implement positive changes and programs, such as providing Quarterly Financial Reports that give a well-rounded view of where the District sits financially, established task books for newly

promoted Engineers and Captains during their probationary periods, created truck-specific task books for all ranks, and established a robust response data analysis program (mySidewalk) that will provide further data for the Battalion Chiefs and Captains to open Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement processes to optimize our response times.

Fiscal Year 2020–2021 is our fourth year back as a standalone Fire District. We've made significant investments in personnel, apparatus, and facilities. Four years ago, our personnel's pay was over 20% behind the comparable median, most apparatus were beyond industry service life standards, and our stations were in need of repair and improvements after years of deferred maintenance. After four years of continued collaboration between the Board, Labor, and Management, our employee pay is at or above the target median, one year earlier than our forecast of five years. We've significantly improved our fleet and have addressed many high-priority facility deficiencies.

I continue to see compassion from our San Miguel family, with team members going above and beyond to treat citizens of the community like members of our own family. Whether it's making

someone lunch after providing medical services, buying someone who's homeless a jacket when it's raining, or taking a few moments to fix a broken railing on someone's porch, it just seems to be in their hearts to always provide Service Beyond FIRE CHIEF Expectations.



CRISS BRAINARD San Miguel Fire & Rescue

### **VISION STATEMENT**

SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

### MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated professionals committed to excellent service with compassion and pride, providing for the health and safety of the communities we serve

# CORE VALUES

SACRIFICE

Act selflessly to benefit the community and strive to adapt to your situation EMPATHY

Build understanding and compassion for all individuals RESPECT

Invest time, knowledge, and understanding at all levels



COMMITMENT to service that's guided by our shared goals and values

COMPASSION for others and a willingness to assist those who need us most

> **COMMUNITY** involvement to inspire and to also lead by example

**VALOR** 

**Dedicate your efforts** to the protection of others despite great personal risk

**INTEGRITY** 

**Build and instill trust** wherever possible, as it is of utmost importance in public safety

COLLABORATION

Listen to others and actively exchange ideas in pursuit of common goals

**EXCELLENCE** 

Strive to always exceed expectations

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**DAVE RICKARDS** AT LARGE Nov 1999 - Nov 2006 Nov 2008 - Nov 2020



DIVISION 1 Nov 2010 - Present



AT LARGE Nov 2012 - Nov 2020



JIM EK AT LARGE Nov 2014 - Present



THERESA MCKENNA AT LARGE Nov 2014 - Present



**MIKE VACIO** AT LARGE Nov 2014 - June 2021



KIM RADDATZ **DIVISION 2** Nov 2016 - Present

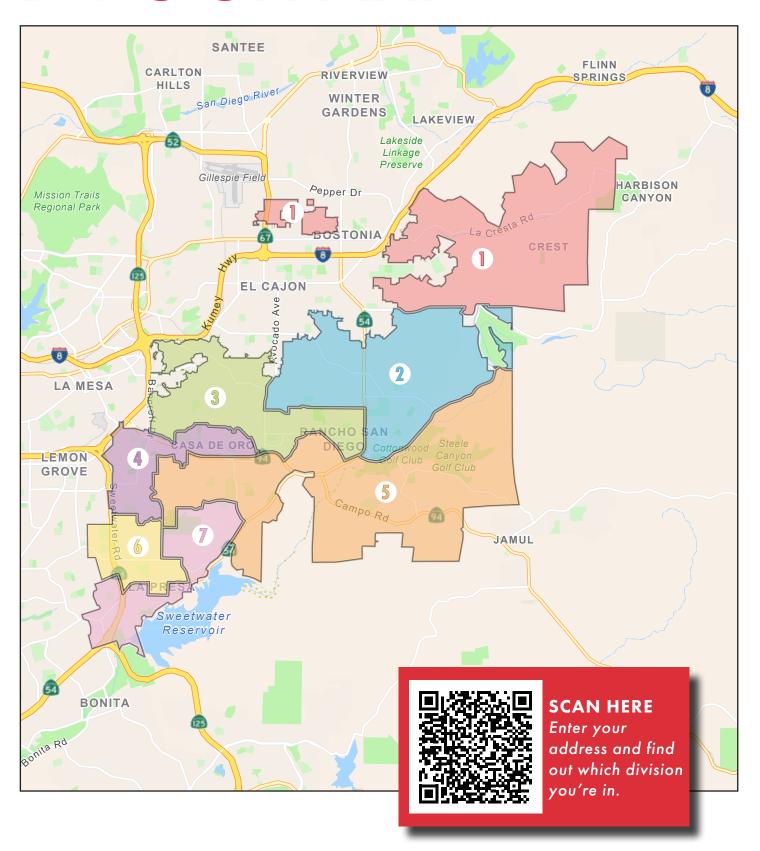


**DAVID POMERANZ DIVISION 4** Nov 2020 - Jun 2021



**JESSE ROBLES DIVISION 6** Dec 2020 - Present

### **DIVISION MAP**



### STATION MAP

San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District is one of the largest fire districts in San Diego County. Our 8 fire stations cover a service area of about 50 square miles, and serves a population of nearly 140,000 people.



STATION 14
3255 Helix St.
Spring Valley, CA 91977
2,285 TOTAL
INCIDENTS



**STATION 16**905 Gillespie Dr.
Spring Valley, CA 91977 **3,868 TOTAL**INCIDENTS



**STATION 19**727 E Bradley Ave.
El Cajon, CA 92021

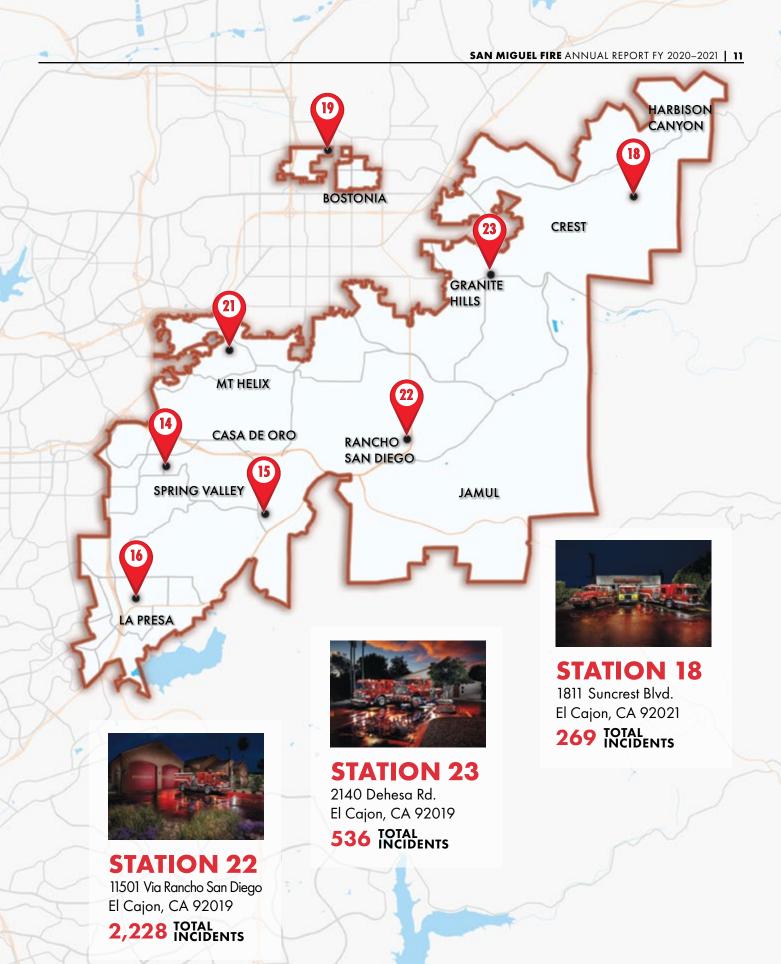
1,556 TOTAL INCIDENTS



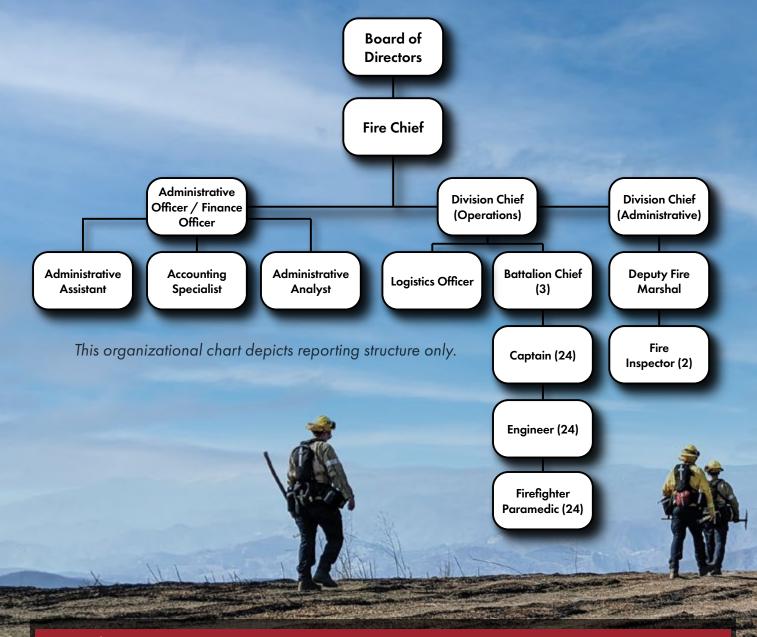
STATION 21 10105 Vivera Dr. La Mesa, CA 91941 853 TOTAL INCIDENTS



STATION 15
2850 Via Orange Way
Spring Valley, CA 91978
2,106 TOTAL
INCIDENTS



## **OUR PEOPLE**



#### **New Hires**

Garrett Hardin Firefighter Paramedic 3/1/2021 Firefighter Paramedic 5/17/5021 Justin Holscher Amal McNew Firefighter Paramedic 3/1/2021 Zachary Martinez Firefighter Paramedic 5/17/2021 Corey Switzer Firefighter Paramedic 3/1/2021 Nicholas Firefighter Paramedic 5/17/2021 Vosdoganes Laura Fernandez Accounting Specialist 5/10/2021 Firefighter Paramedic 5/17/2021 **Anthony Diaz** Firefighter Paramedic 6/22/2021 Adam Burg

### **Employee of the Year**



Personnel Promotions				
Jacob Burkard	Captain	11/7/2020		
Ron Quinlan	Battalion Chief	11/11/2020		
Patrick Carroll	Captain	11/23/2020		
Stanley Milewski	Captain	12/1/2020		
Joseph Bartucca	Engineer	12/1/2020		
Christopher Ciampi	Engineer	12/1/2020		
Andy Lawler	Division Chief	12/31/2020		
Todd Romenesko	Captain	1/4/2021		
Eric Hille	Captain	1/4/2021		
Carlos ("CJ") Marin	Captain	1/11/2021		
Kari Moore	Captain	5/10/2021		
Scott Medinger	Engineer	5/10/2021		
Matthew Foster	Engineer	5/10/2021		
Matthew Foster Kyle McKee	Engineer Engineer	5/10/2021 5/13/2021		



# KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Administrative Key Perfo	rmance Measures (KPMs)		
Procurement Request Notifications	Approve or deny procurement requests within two days, 90% of the time.	95%	<b>②</b>
Accounts Payable Turnover	Pay invoices within 15 days, 90% of the time.	84%	
Accounts Receivable Turnover	Receive outstanding payments within 30 days, 90% of the time.	83%	•
Credit Card Statement Submission	Approved statements submitted to Finance within 14 days of receiving, 90% of the time.	<b>77</b> %	•
Public Records Requests (PRAR)	Submit PRAR to requester within 10 days of request, 90% of the time.	99%	<b>②</b>
Strike Team Documentation Submission	Completed/approved F-42 packets to finance within 4 days of return, 90% of the time.	84%	•
Operations Key Perform	ance Measures (KPMs)		
Districtwide response time	8 minutes or less 90% of the time.	6:54	<b>②</b>
Districtwide turnout time	90 seconds or less 90% of the time.	1:08	
Trauma patients off scene	10 minutes or less 90% of the time.	45%	•
Determine fire scene area of origin	90% of the time.		
Provide effective fire force on working structure fires	Provide 17 Firefighters on scene in 10 minutes or less 90% of the time.		<b>3</b>
Complete primary search	90% of the time within 5 minutes of the arrival of the first apparatus.		•
🕮 Heavy Fleet Key Perform	ance Measures (KPMs)		
90 day inspections/service	Completed in 1 work day 90% of the time.		<b>②</b>
6 month preventive maintenance inspection/service	Completed in 3 work days 90% of the time.		<b>②</b>
Annual maintenance inspection/ service	Completed in 5 work days 90% of the time.		<b>②</b>
Apparatus doesn't experience/repeat the same mechanical issue	Apparatus doesn't return to the shop for the same issue within 5 days 95% of the time.		0
Reserve apparatus fleet availablibility	Reserve fleet available days 90% of the time.		

Transport Key Performan	ice Measures (KPMs)		
Ambulance response times districtwide	Arrive in 12 minutes or less 90% of the time.	89%	0
Late calls (greater than 12 minutes) transport critical patients	Transport code 10 occurs 10% or less of the time.	95%	<b>②</b>
Outlier calls (greater than 18 minutes)	Arrive on scene in 18 minutes or less 95% of the time.	98%	<b>Ø</b>
Fire Prevention Key Perfo	ormance Measures (KPMs)		
Make contact w property owners prior to forced abatement	Contact made 100% of the time.	100%	<b>②</b>
Fire company inspections	Completed on time 90% of the time.	0%	
Fire prevention inspections	Initiated on time 90% of the time.	35%	0
California State Fire Marshal mandated inspections	Completed on time 90% of the time.	100%	
EMS Key Performance M	easures (KPMs)		
Endotracheal intubation	No unrecogized esophageal intubation at 100%.	100%	
Capnography use with advanced airways	Initiated and maintained at 100%.	100%	•
Patient care documentation	Completed and submitted by end of shift at 100%.	100%	
STEMI/CVI patients	Transported to appropriate facility at 100%.	100%	
Training Key Performance	e Measures (KPMs)		
Fire ground manipulative drills	Completed by deadline at 90% of the time.		
Tailboard safety briefings	Completed by deadline at 90% of the time.		
EMS continuing education and manipulative drills	Completed by deadline at 90% of the time.	100%	<b>Ø</b>
Training satisfaction surveys	Approval of 4 of 5 - 90% of the time.		1
Health & Safety Key Perf	ormance Measures (KPMs)		
Quarterly training required on health and safety topics	Completed 95% of the time.	100%	
Vehicle accidents/damage	Reviewed within 10 days 90% of the time.	100%	
All workers' compensation injuries	Reviewed within 2 days 95% of the time.	100%	

**⊘** Met matrix

Missed matrix, but achievable



Failed (issue to meet matrix in future)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Administrative Division has been working diligently on updating processes and procedures to streamline workloads and ensure accountability.

The team implemented the **5S System**, which is used for organizing spaces so work can be performed efficiently and effectively. The 5S system focuses on putting everything where it belongs and keeping the workplace tidy, making it easier for people to do their jobs without wasting time.

Administrative desk reviews were implemented to ensure organization and standardization. The Administrative Officer/Finance Officer (AO/FO) conducts weekly desk reviews to ensure:

- Projects are completed on time.
- Issues with deadlines are discussed.
- Redistribution of work, if appropriate.
- Check on filing and work pile-ups.
- Discuss organizational strategies for individual administrative team members.

These tools have given the team guidance on organizing their thinking and methods to accomplish their tasks. New processes in Human Resources, Finance, and Administration have been successfully implemented as a result of standardization.

Processes implemented include:

- Credit card submission process.
- Payroll processing flowchart and overtime tracking standardization.
- Recruitment announcement standardization.
- Administrative desk reviews.
- Grant committee and guidelines.
- Writing guide.
- Hiring and Onboarding process created.
- Created new workers' compensation process.



#### THE 5S SYSTEM

#### **SORT**

Go through work areas to determine what stays and what can be removed.

#### **SET IN ORDER**

Create ordering strategies.

#### SHINE

Clean up work area to maintain a tidy office.

#### **STANDARDIZE**

Standardize assigned tasks and create schedules, processes, checklists, and routines that help standardize workflow for better productivity.

#### **SUSTAIN**

Maintain procedures and update them as necessary.

### **FINANCE & BUDGET**

California Government Code § 61110 states that preliminary budgets for Special Districts must be approved on or before July 1 of each year and final budgets must be adopted by October 1 of each year.

The District breaks out expenditures by category:

- Salaries Benefits
- Capital Outlay
- Services and Supplies
- Designated Reserves

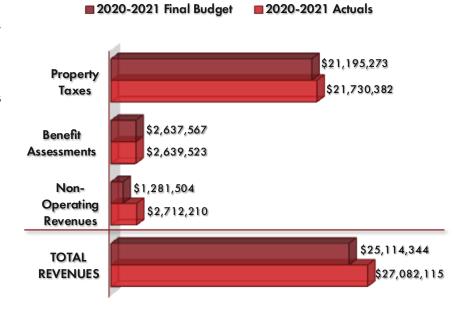
### **BUDGET VS. ACTUAL REVENUES**

#### **GOALS FOR LONG-TERM** FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

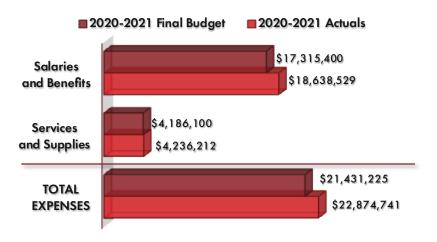
- 1) Fiscal Stability and Resiliency
- 2) Strong Community Connections
- 3) Sustainable Growth and **Development**

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

- Tracked COVID-related spending and applied for relief funding.
- Created first budget book since being back as a stand-alone agency.
- Completed full year of quarterly updates to the Board of Directors.
- Added district financial information to the website for more transparency.



#### **BUDGET VS. ACTUAL EXPENSES**



**IRECHCICE** 

# INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

San Miguel Fire & Rescue is an all-hazard agency which means our personnel are trained to tackle any problem, big or small. We pride ourselves on being compassionate and customer service oriented.

11,851
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL INCIDENTS



469

FIRE INCIDENTS

Structure, Vegetation, Vehicle, & Dumpster

596

#### **SERVICE INCIDENTS**

Police Assist, Illegal Burn, Elevator Entrapment, Station Move-ups, Powerline Problem, Lock-In/ Out, Investigations, Help a Citizen



15

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS



638
GOOD INTENT CALL



**132** 

OTHER INCIDENTS

Automatic Fire Alarms,
Malfunctioning Appliance, Rescue

13,701
TOTAL INCIDENTS\*

\* An incident is any 9-1-1 call that generates a response from the Fire Department.

### **RESPONSE DATA**



Fiscal Year 2020–2021 was challenging for the Operations Division. In addition to normal operations, our personnel responded to an increase in service calls, managed several large incidents, and navigated the ongoing COVID pandemic. Despite increased risk, this was completed with professionalism, competence, and pride.

We implemented a new data dashboard that provides us with response information at our fingertips. This information will soon be used to identify how we can improve both turnout times and response times. This is just the start of technology improvements that will continue into the next fiscal year to ensure we continue providing Service Beyond Expectations.

We welcomed several new hires and celebrated several promotions in the ranks of Engineer, Captain and Battalion Chief.

Operations personnel and the ability to interact with the public in non-emergency functions has remained limited due to the pandemic. It is our sincere hope that we will be able to engage in school/station visits and other community functions in the coming

#### **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS**

The District had several significant incidents which tested our personnel, other Central Zone agencies, and our mutual aid system.

The Willow Fire, fueled by intense Santa Ana winds, threatened dozens of homes in the Rancho San Diego area. One home was destroyed, but there were no injuries or deaths to civilians.



The Campo Fire also threatened several homes in the Casa De Oro area. A quick and robust response prevented loss of any lives or homes.

Our crews also spent an active fire season assisting with multiple fires in the State. This was done while maintaining full staffing across our 8 stations.

#### **FACILITIES**

Despite deferring major station improvement projects because of the fiscal uncertainty that surrounded the pandemic, Station personnel continued to do an excellent job in maintaining and making minor improvements:

- Repairs at older facilities were increased.
- ♦ A new emergency generator was installed at Station 21.
- ♦ The Board of Directors approved developing a scope of work for projects at our Headquarters that will include improvements to Station 15 as well as administrative offices.



## **ING HIGHLIGHTS**



**12,34**1

#### TRAINING HOURS

For all personnel during Fiscal Year 2020-2021

1,011

**TOTAL MONTHLY** TRAINING HOURS

TRAINING HOURS **PER PERSON PER MONTH** 

#### **ONBOARDING**

- Onboarded 11 Firefighter Paramedics.
- Standardized entry-level and promotional exam tests and grading rubrics.
- Created new hire reference check questionnaire.

#### PROMOTION TRAINING

- Established education & training for Captain and Engineer probationary periods.
- Established two-year post-probation education & training for Firefighter Paramedics.
- Promoted and monitored 4 Engineers and 4 Captains.
- Created processes for and administered 7 entry, open, lateral, and promotional exams.
- Created exit interview form for retiring personnel.
- Developed Upward Assessment supervisor evaluation process (not yet adopted).

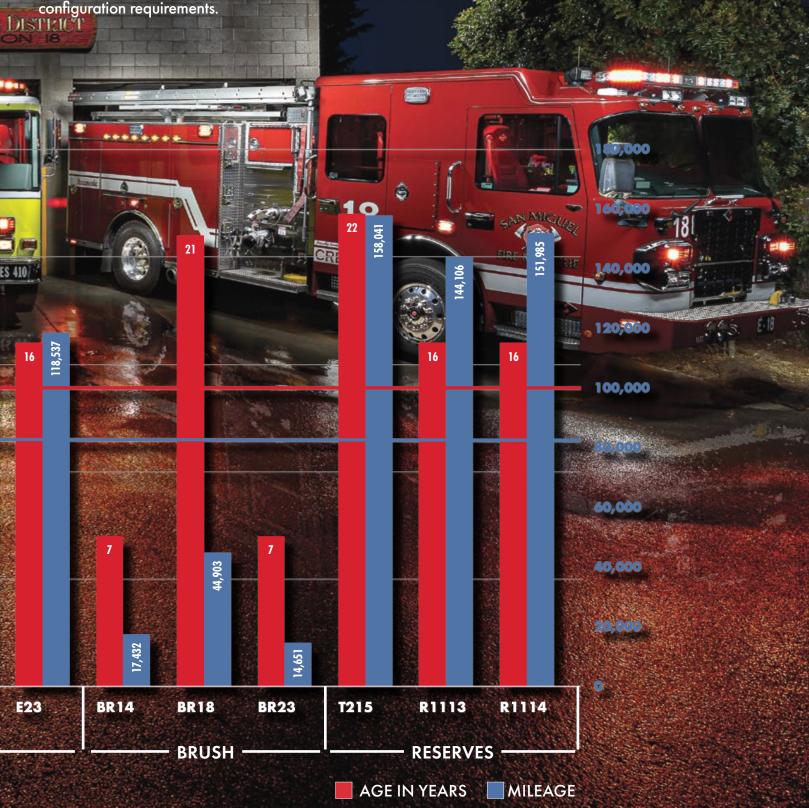
#### **ONGOING TRAINING**

- Created an all personnel training calendar.
- Created Truck Certification task books and edited all task books for Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter Paramedics.
- Adopted Courtroom Testimony Guidelines for employees supboenaed to appear in court.
- Established guidelines for future Fire Investigation Unit.
- Reached agreement with Fish & Wildlife for chainsaw course.
- Partnered with Cal Fire/County Fire on a contractual agreement for use of the County Training site.





The District has made significant progress improving our emergency response apparatus, including fire engines and a truck company. Since resuming service as a standalone Fire District 4 years ago, the Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of two Type 1 Pierce fire engines and a Pierce truck. During Fiscal Year 2020–2021, our apparatus committee spent several months evaluating numerous fire apparatus manufacturers to determine if we should buy additional Pierce apparatus or switch manufacturers. After extensive analysis, specification comparisons and on-site evaluations at other fire departments, San Miguel will now purchase fire apparatus manufactured by KME at a substantial cost reduction while maintaining our



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

6:52 AVERAGE EMS
RESPONSE
MINUTES SECONDS TIME

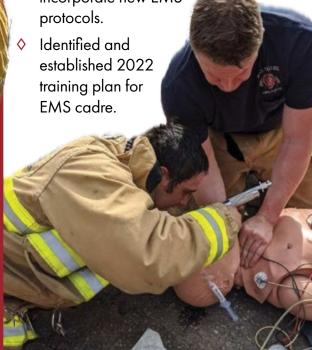
OF AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES ARE LESS THAN 12 MINS



#### **EMS TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS**

 Restructured and scheduled Regional Cooperative Care Program training for 2022.

Rewrote Firefighter Paramedic probation quizzes and tests to incorporate new EMS protocols.



### FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for ensuring community safety through building plan review, site inspections, and follow-up for new construction as well as certain existing public occupancies within the District. They work in concert with San Diego County Planning and Development Services as well as San Diego County Fire Authority Community Risk Reduction.





COUNTY-REQUESTED











**BLAST PERMIT INSPECTIONS** 



UNLICENSED CANNABIS





San Miguel has several long-term partnership that provide the District with direct oversight of services while maximizing cost efficiency.

#### PARAMEDIC TRANSPORT

All first responder apparatus are staffed and equipped to provide essential advanced life support assessment and treatment, arriving first on scene more than 80% of the time. San Miguel is covered by paramedic transport contracts with three ambulance agencies: American Medical Response (AMR), Mercy Ambulance and County Service Area (CSA) 69 ambulances, which provide paramedic transport services for all eight of San Miguel's station districts. These contracts allow for state-of-the-art paramedic transport after joining the San Miguel first responder crew at scene. The funding for these transport programs is provided from the patient's transport fees.



#### **DISPATCH SERVICES**

San Miguel along with 10 other fire departments from Central Zone are partners in Heartland Communications Facility Authority (HCFA). Each department's fire chief sits on the HCFA Board of Chiefs to oversee and provide direction. HCFA is linked to the other 4 fire dispatch



#### **BRUSH MANAGEMENT**

San Miguel has contracted with Fire Prevention Services (FPS), a private company who ensures compliance with the District's brush management codes and requirements for more than 20 years. When a property is deemed to be out of compliance, every effort is made to notify and educate the property owner regarding what steps are necessary to bring the parcel into compliance. If the property owner fails to comply, forced abatement can be ordered. Contracting with FPS has proven to be an effective way to reduce risk to wildfires and eliminates the need for District employees to perform these services.

# TRAINING FACILITY San Miguel Fire & Rescue and 10 other Central Zone fire departments belong to a state-of-the-art training facility called the Heartland Fire Training Authority (HFTA). Fire crews from all member agencies rotate through pre-scheduled classroom and manipulative training scenarios and props. HFTA is also governed by a Board of Chiefs that provides direction to the facility manager.

#### **RESERVE FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM**

The Reserve Program will return to normal operation next fiscal year after taking a break during COVID. The goal of the program is to prepare potential candidates for full-time employment with San Miguel.

#### **EXPLORERS POST 2202**

The Fire Explorer Program will return to normal operation next fiscal year after taking a break during COVID. The program is designated for individuals between the ages of 14 and 20 who have completed 8th grade and wish to pursue a career in the fire service.



### **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

#### PEER SUPPORT

A Peer Support Group was established with Local 1434, which includes 10 personnel, three of whom have been trained in peer support. Monthly webinars are assigned to all personnel in peer support, and peer support informational boards are now in each station.



### **CHAPLAIN**

The Chaplain program, led by George Helewa, conducted several large incident debriefings with San Miguel Fire crews, law enforcement, and



dispatch. The Chaplain also assisted with Willow Fire victims that lost their home.

#### PERSONNEL SAFETY

Station Inspections: All stations were inspected for OSHA and ADA compliance.



Incident Rehabilitation Documentation: Completed on all working structure fires and catalogued.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH**

**FOCUS Psychological** Services: Personnel usage averages 11 hours per month. FOCUS conducted an in-house meeting with crews to discuss services available



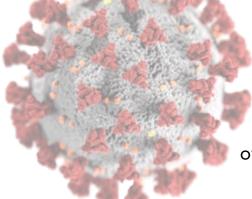
**Butler Therapy Inc:** Personnel usage ranges from 3-7 employees per quarter. Topics include plans for retirement, anxiety, family stress, marital/relationship, and work stress

#### PHYSICAL HEALTH

Wellness Physicals: Approximately 68% of operational and staff personnel attended full wellness physicals.



- ♦ COVID: Approximately 73% of the workforce is vaccinated. The District has run over 70 internal COVID tests, which include rapid 15-minute antigen tests as well as PCR tests in partnership the County public health liaison.
- Hydration: Replaced Gatorade with DripDrop for a more comprehensive mineral replacement during dehydration of personnel.
- Sunscreen: Sunscreen was purchased for personnel to utilize on duty to reduce the risk of skin cancer.



Taking into consideration the health and safety of our communities and personnel, San Miguel Fire & Rescue made a concerted effort to reduce non-emergency contact with the public due to concerns over the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

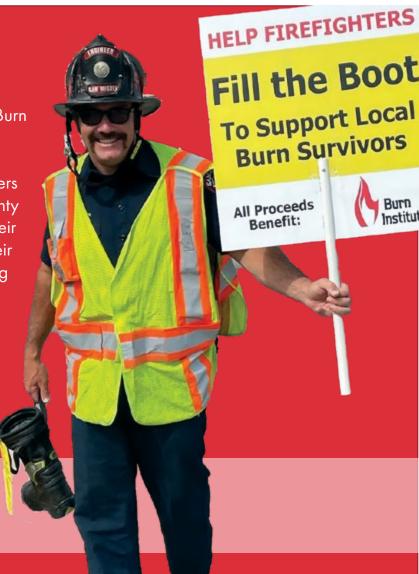
### FIREFIGHTERS GIVE BURNS THE BOOT

One event we participated in was The Burn Institute's Annual Firefighter Boot Drive.

Each year, hundreds of uniformed firefighters from fire departments all over San Diego County join together at traffic intersections within their communities. They collect donations in their boots during both the morning and evening commutes.

Proceeds collected benefit the Burn Institute's fire and burn prevention education programs, and burn survivor support programs, such as Camp Beyond the Scars for burn-injured children 8–17 years old.





### COVID-19 **VACCINATIONS**

San Miguel Fire & Rescue assisted with Operation Collaboration, a combined effort between dozens of fire, emergency medical services, public health agencies, and hundreds of personnel across San Diego County to administer COVID-19 vaccinations.





Operation Collaboration is an important resource as we ensure vaccines are provided equitably to people throughout our entire County. Just as they did during COVID-19 testing, the first responder community is again demonstrating its creativity and commitment to public health.

> Wilma J. Wooten, MD, MPH San Diego County Public Health Officer















