



**ENCINITAS  
SOLANA BEACH  
DEL MAR  
FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



MICHAEL STEIN, FIRE CHIEF

*“Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much.”*

*- Hellen Keller*

As 2021 came to a close, it was another challenging year for all. The persistence of COVID-19 strained our workforce mentally and physically. At times, it seemed like COVID-19 was in our rear-view mirror, only to have a new variant come out of nowhere and set us back. Just like 2020, we asked a lot from our employees. The employees across our five divisions rose to the challenge and continued to provide excellent services to our communities.

In 2021, the combined department responded to 8,320 calls for service, which is an increase of approximately 14% from 2020. This is in line with our pre-pandemic calls for service levels. We saw a significant drop in calls for service in 2020 which was directly attributed to COVID-19.

The success of the fire department first starts with strong leadership and the confidence of our elected leaders and city managers. This leadership produces a shared vision which is directly responsible for all our accomplishments. In 2021, all three cities navigated through the Orange County Oil Spill that impacted our entire coastline. This was a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency response that lasted several months. We participated in Operation Collaboration where collectively, firefighters across the region gave 56,692 vaccinations over a 152-day period. We completed a Community Risk Assessment & Standards of Cover Analysis, as well as a Management/Administrative Assessment Report that will be used to guide us in the future. We hosted a large-scale fire prevention event at the Del Mar Fairgrounds with other participating agencies. We received a California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) fire engine which adds additional fire power to our fleet. In addition, despite COVID-19, we were able to continue our CPR in the schools initiative and teach 1,587 students community CPR.

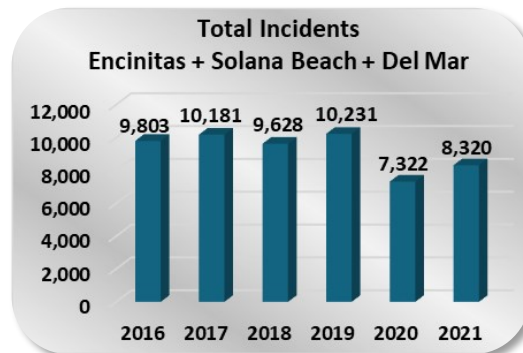
All these accomplishments and more were done in service to our communities. Our organizational motto is *“Committed to Excellence, Focused on Community.”* I firmly believe that we hit our mark in 2021.

Lastly, I want to take the time to properly recognize our members who deliver stellar service every single day. From our lifeguards that protect our beaches, to our fire prevention staff that make our communities a safer place to live and play, to our administrative staff that make sure our organization is running efficiently and effectively, and to our firefighters that respond at a moment’s notice in someone’s time of need – THANK YOU!

Collectively, each person’s commitment to this team effort made 2021 a successful year.

At Your Service,

Michael Stein  
Fire Chief



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# MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

## MISSION STATEMENT

“Proudly committed to providing the highest level of service to our communities and the people we serve, by protecting life, property and the environment.”

## VALUE STATEMENT

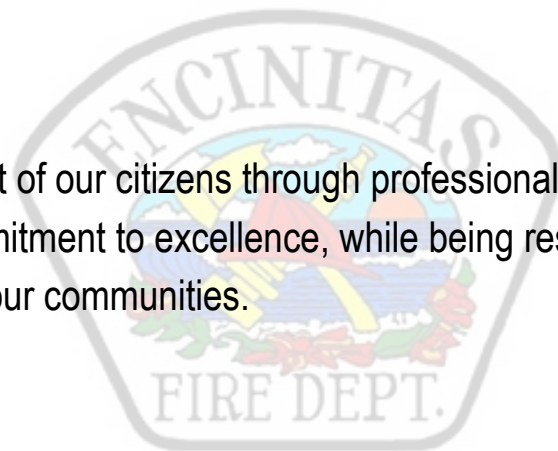
Compassion, Courage, and Commitment with P.R.I.D.E.

- **P**rofessionalism
- **R**espect
- **I**ntegrity
- **D**edication
- **E**xcellence



## VISION

To preserve the trust of our citizens through professionalism, customer service, and a commitment to excellence, while being responsive to the changing needs of our communities.



## MOTTO

“Committed to Excellence, Focused on Community”

# 2021 NEW HIRES, PROMOTIONS, AND RETIREES

## RETIREES



Lorn Cannon  
SOL Fire  
Captain



Larry Giles  
ENC Marine Safety  
Captain



Duke Harbin  
ENC Fire  
Firefighter



Randy Loftis  
SOL Fire  
Captain



Jim Mickelson  
ENC Fire  
Battalion Chief



Jeff Penacho  
DMR Fire  
Captain

## PROMOTIONS



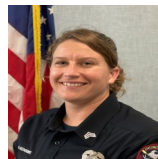
David Brown  
ENC Marine Safety  
Captain



Marco Garcia  
ENC Fire  
Captain



Josh Gordon  
ENC Fire  
Battalion Chief



Sydney Hammerness  
ENC Marine Safety  
Sergeant



David Huff  
ENC Marine Safety  
Sergeant



Carson Hogan  
SOL Fire  
Captain



Jon Lim  
ENC Fire  
Engineer



Charles Mead  
SOL Fire  
Engineer



Ryan Pester  
SOL Fire  
Captain

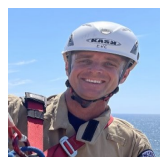


Morgan Sherman  
DMR Fire  
Captain



Jon Strickland  
ENC Marine Safety  
Lieutenant

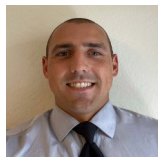
## NEW HIRES



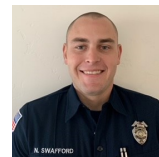
Tom Allen  
ENC Fire  
Firefighter



Mike Monken  
SOL Fire  
Firefighter



Chris Schmit  
SOL Fire  
Firefighter



Nick Swafford  
DMR Fire  
Firefighter

# ENCINITAS, SOLANA BEACH, & DEL MAR BY THE NUMBERS

## Total Land Area

24.8 sq. miles

## Total Population

79,696

## Total # of Stations

8

## Total # of FTE's

101

### Sworn Personnel

1 Fire Chief  
1 Deputy Fire Chief  
4 Battalion Chiefs  
27 Fire Captains  
24 Fire Engineers  
27 Firefighter/Paramedics

### Fire Administration

1 Sr. Management Analyst  
1 Management Analyst  
1 Dept. Admin Coordinator  
1 Admin Assistant (SOL)  
1 EMS Coordinator

### Fire Prevention

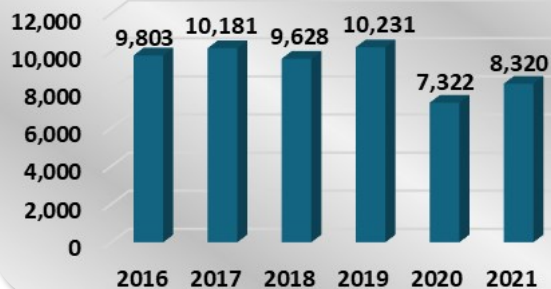
1 Fire Marshal  
1 Sr. Deputy Fire Marshal  
2 Deputy Fire Marshals  
1 Fire Inspector (SOL)  
1 Program Assistant

### Marine Safety

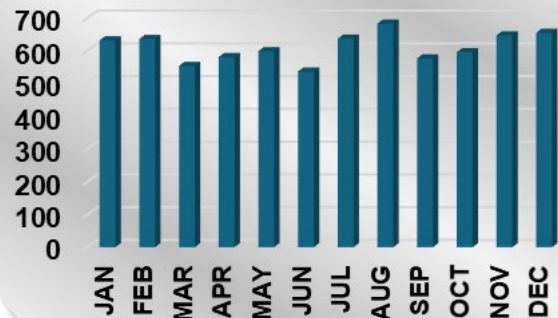
1 Captain  
1 Lieutenant  
4 Sergeants

## INCIDENT STATS

**Total Incidents**  
Encinitas + Solana Beach + Del Mar

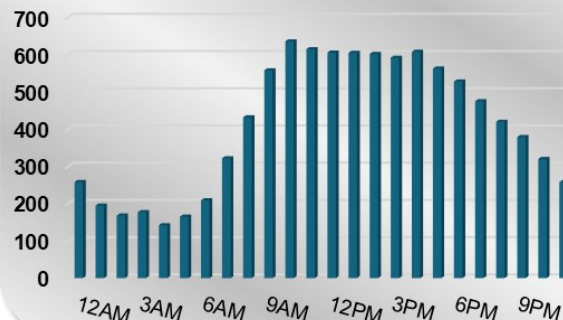


**INCIDENTS BY MONTH**

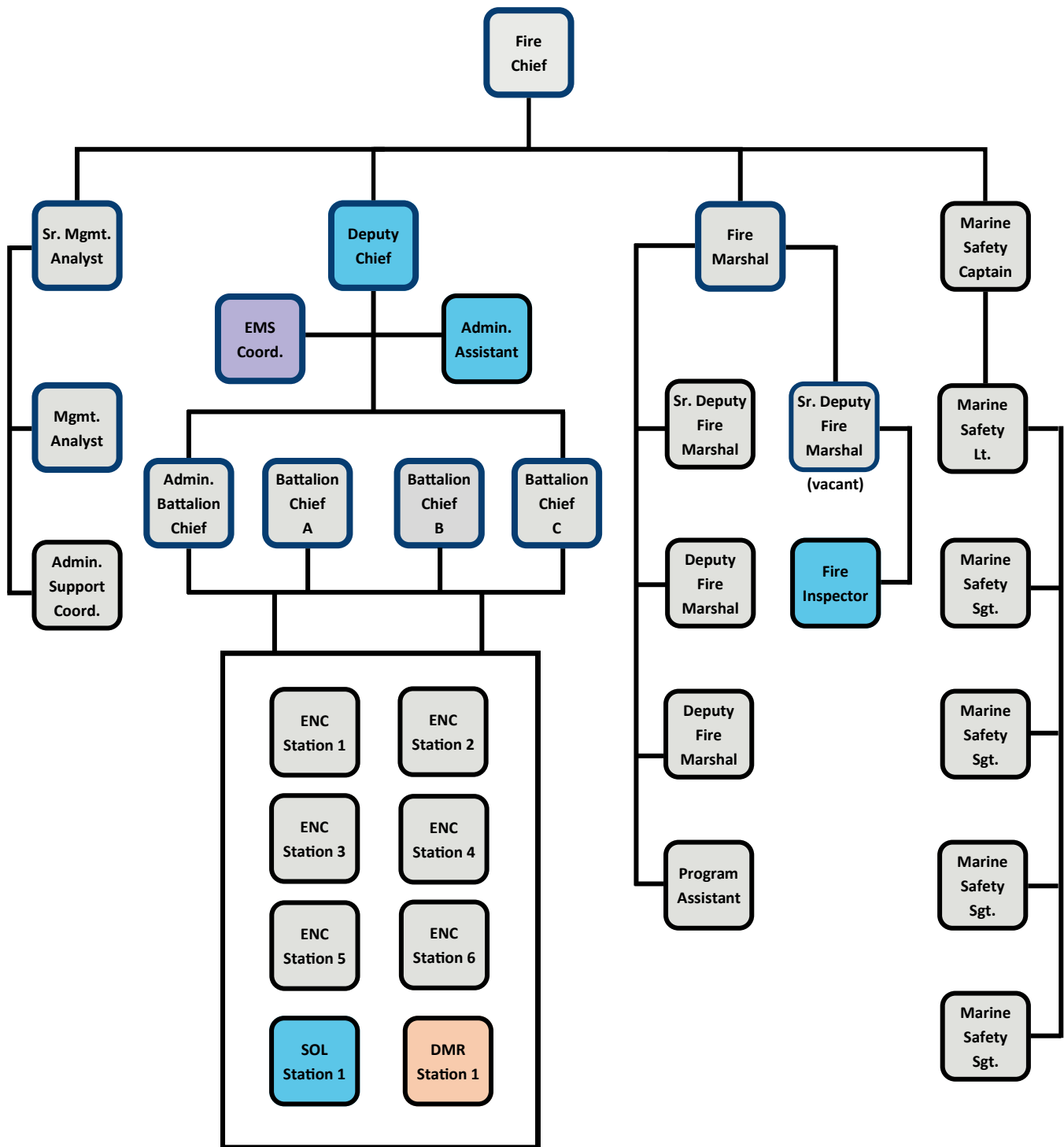


Auto Aid Received Incidents ————— 301  
Auto Aid Given Incidents ————— 1,338  
Average Response Time ————— 5 min 14 sec  
(turnout + drive time)  
Training Hours Logged ————— 22,806

**INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY**



# FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



LEGEND		Encinitas	Solana Beach	Del Mar	CSA—17
Shared All					
Not Shared					

# ENCINITAS SNAPSHOT

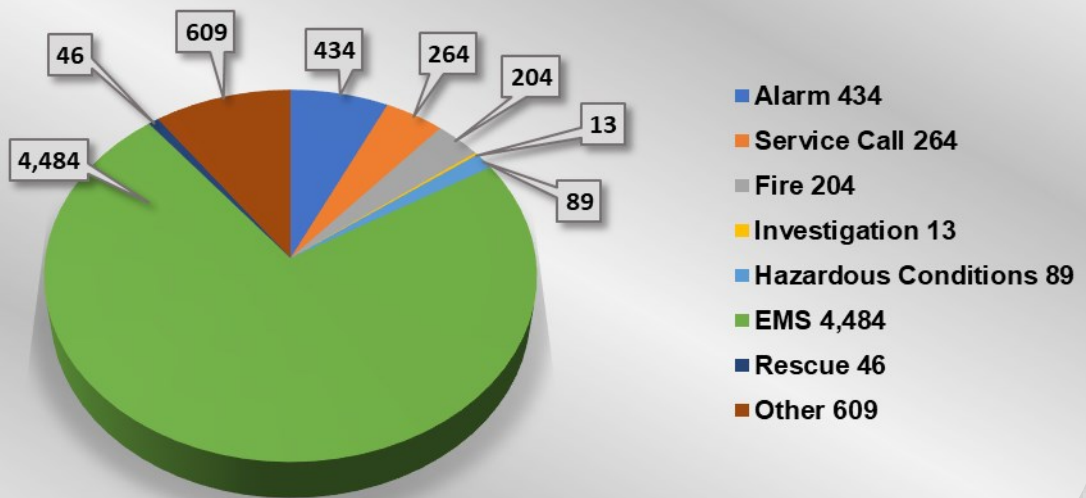
Land area = 19.6 square miles

Population = 61,928

# of Stations = 6

# of Firefighters = 51

## 2021 EMERGENCY REPSONSES TOTAL = 6,143



Average Response Time = 5 min 20 sec



# SOLANA BEACH SNAPSHOT

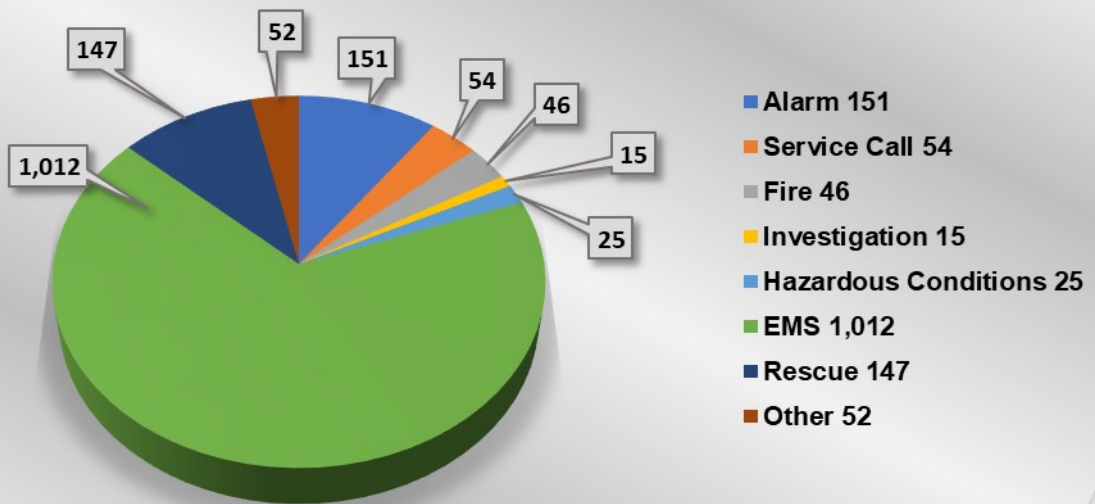
Land area = 3.4 square miles

Population = 13,494

# of Stations = 1

# of Firefighters = 18

## 2021 EMERGENCY REPSONSES TOTAL = 1,502



Average Response Time = 4 min 58 sec

# DEL MAR SNAPSHOT

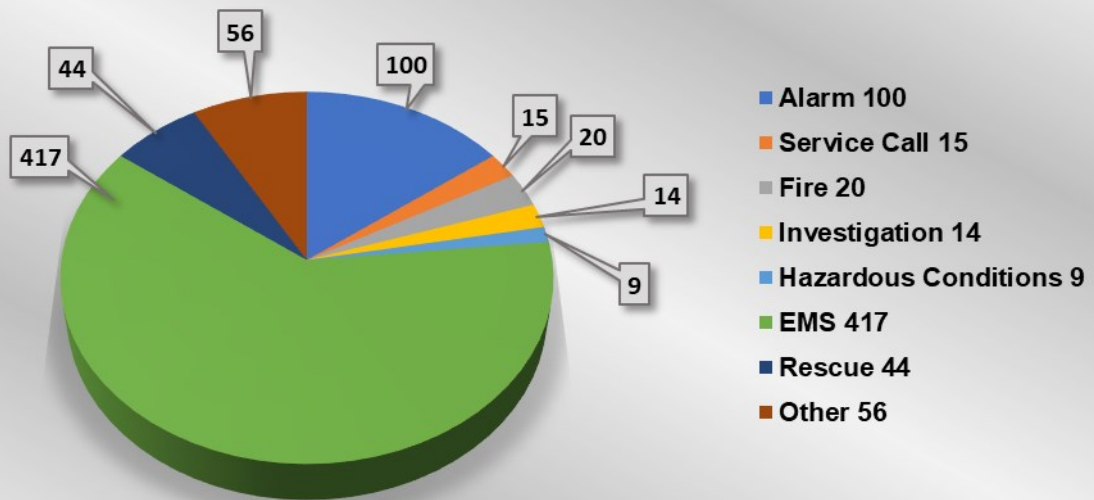
Land area = 1.86 square miles

Population = 4,214

# of Stations = 1

# of Firefighters = 9

## 2021 EMERGENCY REPSONSES TOTAL = 675



Average Response Time = 5 min 02 sec

# OPERATIONS

Our service area is covered by 8 fire stations strategically located throughout our 3 cities to provide “round-the-clock” coverage to our communities. 6 stations are located in Encinitas. The Cities of Solana Beach and Del Mar each have 1 station. These fire stations house the departments’ 81 fire suppression personnel (including Battalion Chiefs), 6 type-1 structural firefighting engines, 4 reserve engines, 2 truck companies, 2 type-3 brush engines and 1 type-6 fire engine. Our paramedic ambulance provider, AMR, also houses 3 ambulances in our fire stations.



As an all-risk department, our firefighters are trained to respond to fires (both structural and wildland), medical aids, vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, confined space and trench rescues, weapons of mass destruction incidents, swift water rescues, and many other emergencies. When not responding to emergencies, firefighters perform a variety of activities such as conducting fire safety inspections of local businesses, inspecting and maintaining fire hydrants, training, pre-fire planning, maintaining equipment and stations, and providing safety classes and station tours for the public.

The Operations Division is overseen by the Deputy Chief . There are three different shifts (A, B, and C Shifts) of firefighters that staff each fire station in order to provide 24-hour service to our communities. Personnel assigned to Operations work a 56-hour work week on average. Each fire company (apparatus) is staffed with 3 firefighters. This includes a company officer (Fire Captain), the driver/operator of the apparatus (Engineer) and a Firefighter/Paramedic. The exception is Encinitas Fire Station 6, which consists of a Fire Captain and Firefighter/Paramedic . Firefighters report to a Fire Battalion Chief that oversees the departments’ daily operations of 8 fire stations and 9 companies.

# TRAINING AND SAFETY

The Training Division provides firefighters with continuous operational training on an annual basis. Firefighters receive a variety of general training courses including firefighting, emergency medical services, apparatus driver training, hazardous materials, rescue, collapse, and operational readiness. All new hires must complete a three week firefighter academy. This physically and mentally intense program consists of approximately 120 hours of training. Candidates who complete the academy will earn the right to staff our fire apparatus and work through their one year probationary period. During their one year probationary period, probationary firefighters must complete their probationary task book and several paramedic and firefighting tests. Those who can meet the challenge and complete probation become permanent employees of our fire departments.

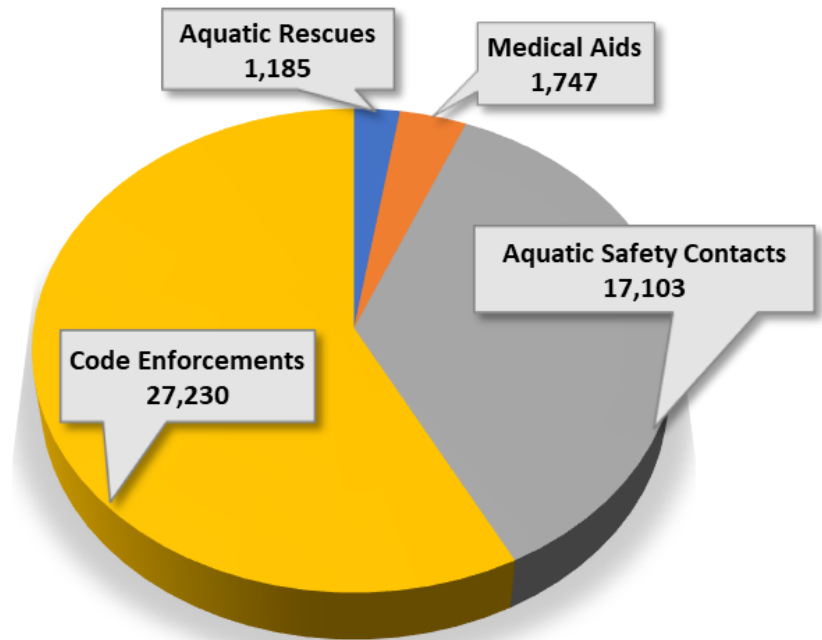


The Training Division must continually research and evaluate trends and developments related to firefighting, communications, dispatching, apparatus, equipment, and information systems. The Training Division is an active member of the regional training section known as the North Zone Fire Training Chiefs. The North Zone Training Chiefs produce training events for all of the 15 city fire departments in North San Diego County. These training events include, but are not limited to, high angle rescue, hazardous materials, palm tree rescue, swift water rescue, wildland firefighting, and fire ground skills.

# MARINE SAFETY

The Marine Safety Division provides public safety services for the 3.5 miles of coastline in Encinitas from Swamis to South Ponto. Lifeguards also provide mutual aid to neighboring beaches and cities during large scale incidents. In 2021, the Marine Safety Division included 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants, over 60 seasonal lifeguards and assistants. Marine Safety services included rescues (open water/surf, swiftwater/flood, under-water, and cliff), medical aids, mitigation of safety hazards on the beach, and providing proactive measures and safety information to the public.

## 2021 Statistics



- Aquatic Rescues
- Medical Aids
- Aquatic Safety Contacts
- Code Enforcements

## New Hire Academies

The Marine Safety Division completed its second Ocean Lifeguard Academy in the Spring of 2021. Eight graduates joined the lifeguard ranks and helped protect Encinitas' coastline and instruct in the Junior Lifeguard program.



# MARINE SAFETY

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



### Oil Spill Response

As part of a regional response in October 2021, the Marine Safety Division played an important role in providing daily reports of oil found on the shoreline throughout Encinitas to the San Diego and Orange County Emergency Operation Centers. Lifeguards also posted signage and provided public education as part of the response. Beaches remained open during the entirety of the event which went on through mid-December.

### Captain Giles Retires

Captain Larry Giles retires from the City of Encinitas after 30 years of service. “Today we are here to say, your watch stands relieved. Relieved by those you have trained, guided, and led. Lifeguard, you stand relieved. We have the watch,” Sergeant Robert Veria.



# MARINE SAFETY

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### Portable Towers Slammed by Surf and Tidal Surge

Multiple lifeguard towers were put to the test as they were slammed by large surf and king tides in June of 2021. Some damage was sustained but all towers were kept in service for the entire Summer.



### Panga and Boat Fire Rescues

In early July, lifeguards conducted a search for possible victims after an overturned Panga was discovered in the surf line south of D street. The guards were able to right the vessel and clear the search area. All victims were accounted for onshore, and the boat was safely removed from the beach.

Later in July, Encinitas lifeguards observed a black column of smoke approximately four miles northwest of Moonlight Beach. Lifeguards responded to the 50+ foot fully engulfed vessel to support a multi-agency rescue operation.



# EMS

The EMS Division delivers state of the art pre-hospital medical care to our residents and visitors in their time of critical need. This includes rapid response to the emergency, assessing the sick and injured, and providing rapid care and stabilization for transport to an emergency care facility.



Each firefighting team is staffed with at least one paramedic. These trained and licensed paramedics carry a multitude of medications and treatment modalities that literally bring emergency room care to the patient's living room.

Our EMS system is part of County Service Area 17 (CSA-17). CSA-17 consists of:

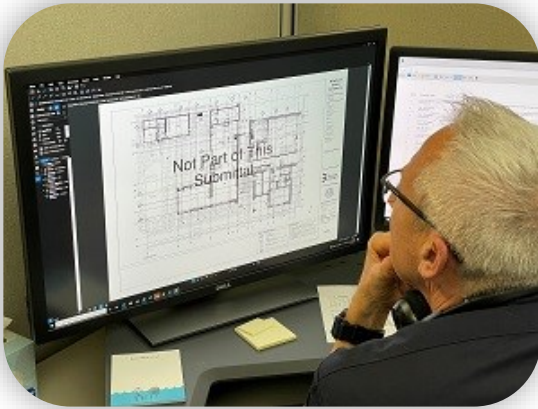


- Del Mar
- Del Mar Heights
- Solana Beach
- Encinitas
- Rancho Santa Fe
- Portions of Elfin Forest

Ambulance service is provided through American Medical Response (AMR). AMR ambulances are stationed at Solana Beach Station 1, Encinitas Station 2 and Encinitas Station 5.



# FIRE PREVENTION



The goal of the Fire Prevention Division is to reduce fire and life safety risks to our community and firefighters. Fire Prevention manages several programs: annual business license review and inspections; weed abatement; fire hazard severity zones inspections (AB38); hazardous materials storage, use, and disposal; facility improvements and planning; construction and fire protection system plan checks and inspections; and fire investigations.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021

### Programs

Encinitas Fire Prevention continues processing all permits such as sprinkler permits, building permits, tent permits, and use permits electronically through the EnerGov system. This paperless system has increased efficiency and reduced waste.

The Fire Prevention Division ended the business self-inspection program and reverted to in-person business inspections in July 2021 in Encinitas, Solana Beach and Del Mar.

### Vegetation Management

- Provide a proactive approach through
  - ◆ Vegetation Management
  - ◆ Website and social media information
  - ◆ Plan review
  - ◆ Perform safety assessments
    - \* Homeowners Associations
    - \* County Parks - San Elijo Lagoon, Escondido Creek Preserve, Crest Canyon
- Inspections and Enforcement
  - ◆ Complaints and Violations
    - \* Attained 100% owner compliance in our vegetation inspection programs in Solana Beach and Del Mar. Encinitas had 3 properties that required additional abatement.



### Succession Planning

We continue with our succession planning having filled two Encinitas Fire Prevention positions. Fire Prevention staff has also attended numerous training courses this year.

# FIRE PREVENTION



## Public Education

- Created three additional fire safety videos for our on-line library; Fireplace Safety, Home Kitchen safety, and Commercial Kitchen Safety.
- Provided wildfire/evacuation public education outreach to residents living adjacent to Crest Canyon in Del Mar.
- Olivenhain Town Hall wildfire public education event with Olivenhain Fire Safe Council.
- Large Animal Evacuation education with Double LL Ranch stables.
- Wildfire public education event via zoom for Solana Beach residents.
- Del Mar Wildfire evacuation presentation.
- Updated websites with new safety information and internet links.

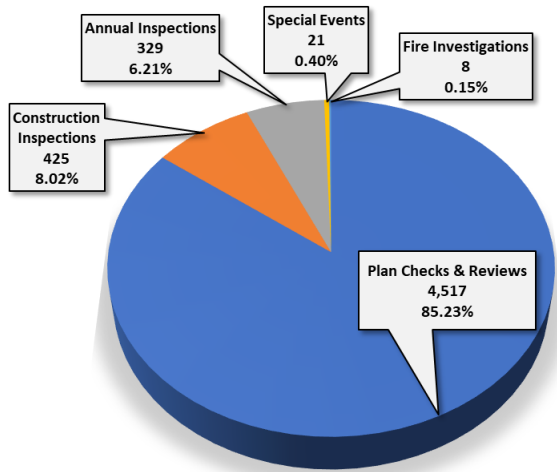
## National Fire Prevention Week Open House

National Fire Prevention Week was celebrated with a multi-agency Open House at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Participating agencies included Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar, and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Departments; Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar Lifeguards; San Diego Sheriff's Department; the San Diego Burn Institute, SDG&E, AMR, TIP, Olivenhain Fire Safe Council, and CERT members from Encinitas, Solana Beach and Del Mar. In addition, live music was provided by students of The Rockademy. This was our second event of its kind and we are thankful to the Del Mar Fairgrounds Governing Board for use of the site. This was a great educational opportunity for all and we look forward to future events.



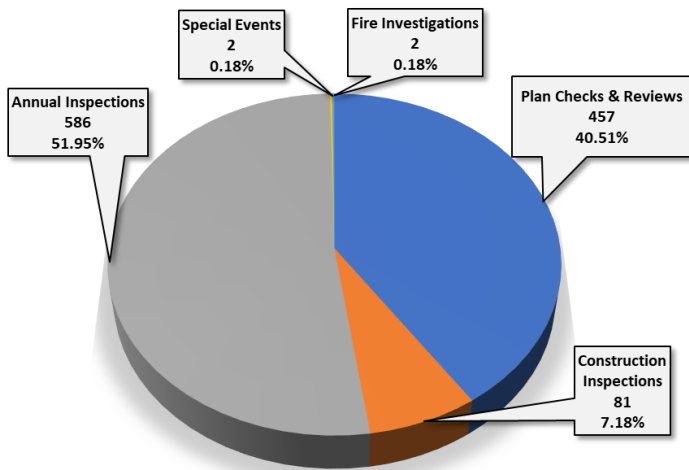
# FIRE PREVENTION

## Encinitas



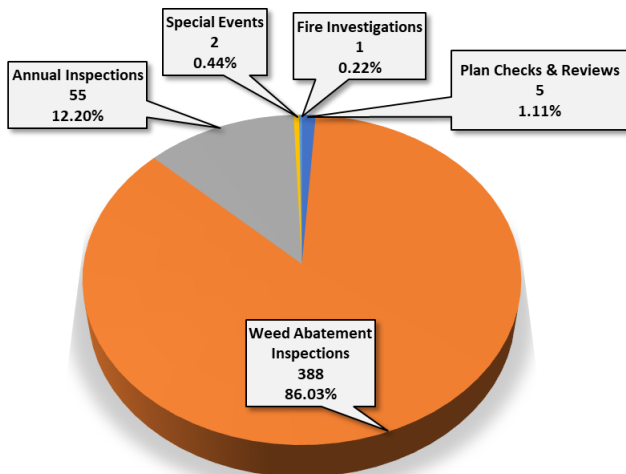
- Plan Checks & Reviews
- Construction Inspections
- Annual Inspections
- Special Events
- Fire Investigations

## Solana Beach



- Plan Checks & Reviews
- Construction Inspections
- Annual Inspections
- Special Events
- Fire Investigations

## Del Mar



- Plan Checks & Reviews
- Weed Abatement Inspections
- Annual Inspections
- Special Events
- Fire Investigations

## FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The Administrative Division is comprised of 6 full time employees: the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Senior Management Analyst, Management Analyst, Administrative Support Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant (funded & located in Solana Beach). This Division provides management, direction, and administrative support for all 3 departments, conducts long-range planning, prepares the budget, provides fiscal analysis of departments' activities, and pursues grants to purchase needed equipment and fund educational programs. In addition, the Fire Administration Division is responsible for managing all 3 cities' emergency management/disaster preparedness programs and conducting emergency planning. The Encinitas Lifeguard Captain also works in the administrative offices. In October 2009, the cities of Encinitas, Del Mar, and Solana Beach entered into a Cooperative Fire Management Services Agreement. Through this agreement, Encinitas and Solana Beach senior fire staff provide operational oversight for the Encinitas, Del Mar, and Solana Beach Fire Departments. Duties include: supervising fire suppression operations and emergency medical services by shift battalion chiefs; emergency management; fire prevention activities; purchasing of materials, supplies, and fire equipment; management of services contracts; and administrative functions.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### **EOC**

The Emergency Preparedness Division manages the implementation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is activated during a local emergency or natural disaster, and coordinates EOC training for all City staff.

### **Drills**

The Division coordinates exercises such as the Great Shakeout (earthquake drill) and EOC exercises to ensure all City employees are knowledgeable of what actions to take in the event of an emergency.

### **Public Education**

The division promotes emergency preparedness through social media platforms and provides several pages of information on the City's website to educate the public on how to prepare for emergencies.

### **The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program**

To prepare residents for a catastrophic disaster, the Fire Department started a CERT program in 2004. This program teaches citizens basic emergency skills and trains them to respond effectively to disasters as part of a team. The program includes special training for basic fire suppression and medical care. Volunteers also learn how to size-up search and rescue situations, such as a collapsed building, to determine whether it is safe to go in. The classes are taught by firefighters or by CERT volunteers certified to teach some of the course modules. At the end of the course, the students respond to a mock emergency to give them a chance to put their skills to good use.

