

**BRIAN FENNESSY
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
SAN DIEGO FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Fennessy is a 37-year veteran of the fire service currently serving as Assistant Chief for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD). He spent his first 14 years working as a wildland firefighter with both the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. As a result, he has enjoyed a diversity of leadership and management experiences in both the wildland fire and structure fire communities.

Chief Fennessy serves on multiple international, national, state and local committees and boards; including the IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee, NWCG Leadership Subcommittee, and Chair of the San Diego Urban Area All-Hazard IMT Steering Committee.

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

My interest, motivation, and objective is to serve the citizens of San Diego City and the men and women of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) by becoming its Fire Chief. As a native Californian, I started my fire service career 37 years ago with the goal of becoming Fire Chief of a large metropolitan fire department which prides itself on providing superior service to its citizenry through dedication and innovation.

My experience and vision towards the future makes me uniquely suited to overcome and excel during these challenging times of needed change. I am prepared and eager to lead the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department successfully into the future--a future filled with opportunity and challenge and to continue to provide strong leadership and management to one of the most progressive fire agencies in the United States.

My career goals include my continuing to be a progressive leader within the fire service recognized for being an ongoing contributor to the advancement of the SDFD and profession by participation on local, state and national committees. I have the courage to lead and fortitude to guide the organization to new levels of achievement and organizational health.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Thirty-six (37) years of progressively increasing responsibilities within the fire and rescue service with a demonstrated track record of leadership and accomplishments. I have developed an effective, efficient and inclusive management style based on my proven ability to build and foster relationships and partnerships with internal and external stakeholders; City and County of San Diego elected officials; State and Federal Legislators; other public safety agencies; influential community leaders; and the business community. I have extensive labor negotiation experience and an excellent relationship with organized Labor as a result of my collaborative approach.

I have enjoyed a diversity of executive leadership and management experiences in both the wildland fire and metropolitan fire service communities.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, & QUALIFICATIONS

My education, training, and professional experiences/qualifications have enabled me to learn and improve the organization while meeting my professional goals.

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration (California Coast University)
- Miramar & Other Community Colleges - 33 Fire Science/Technology Units
- Completion of over 100 Fire Service, NIMS, and Incident Command System courses since 1978
- Completion of the Center for Creative Leadership Program
- Completion of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fire Service Executive Development Institute (February 2015)

I am qualified in multiple Incident Command System (ICS) positions including:

- Incident Commander (Type 3)
- Operations Section Chief (Type 2)
- Air Operations Branch Director

CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of San Diego is the 8th largest city in the nation, spanning approximately 331 square miles with a resident population of more than 1.3 million people. Included in the 331 square mile service area includes responsibility for a substantial waterfront – 17 miles of coastline extending 3 miles offshore, plus the 4,600 acres that constitutes Mission Bay Park, and over 900 miles of linear canyon rim representing a significant WUI challenge.

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) includes 47 fire stations, 1 air operations base, a communications center; apparatus and equipment repair facilities, a training facility, 10 permanent lifeguard stations, 49 seasonal lifeguard towers, a Department Operations Center, an administrative headquarters and provides Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) for the San Diego International Airport. Including permanent Lifeguard, Office of Homeland Security, and non-sworn staff, the SDFD includes a total of over 1,200 SDFD employees. SDFD responds to over 125,000 calls for service annually.

The SDFD is a highly regimented agency that incorporates both paramilitary structure and command principles. In order to achieve the mission and the goals of this large organization, Fire-Rescue is organized into two major groups: Emergency Operations and Support Services. Each of these groups is headed by an Assistant Fire Chief who reports directly to the Fire Chief.

As the Assistant Fire Chief of Emergency Operations, I lead and manage the largest Divisions within the SDFD. This command includes all 47 fire stations & assigned personnel, the Emergency Medical Services Division, the Special Operations Division, and the Lifeguard Division. The Sections and Units falling within the this command include: Heavy Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response Team, FEMA US&R CA-TF8, Air Operations, All-Hazards Incident Management Team, Emergency Management (includes command of the Department Operations Center), Emerging Technologies Section, Tactical Paramedic Program, Arson Investigation Unit (FD & PD), the Explosive Device Team and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

From 2009-2012, I was assigned as the Assistant Fire Chief of Support Services. The Divisions and Sections falling within this command included: Fiscal & Administrative Services, Human Resources, Training Division, Fire Communications Center, Professional Standards Unit, Logistics Division and the Fire Prevention Bureau. I was the Department authority responsible for in-year and out-year budget development and monitoring.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee Vice-Chair (International)
- IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Section Board of Directors/WFPC Liaison (International)
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Leadership Subcommittee (National)
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Planning Team (National)
- NFPA 1026 Standard for Incident Management Personnel Professional Qualifications (National)
- All-Hazards Incident Management Team Association (AHIMTA) Board of Directors (National)
- Helicopter Association International (HAI) Government Services Committee (International)
- University of Pennsylvania Wharton Leadership Program - Mission Critical Teams Committee (National)
- FIRESCOPE Operations Working Team (State)
- California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Committee (State)
- Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force - WUI Standards of Cover Subcommittee (State)
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Regional Training Committee (Regional)
- U.S. / Mexico Border Area Fire Council (Regional)
- OES Region VI Operational Area County Ops Chiefs & Metropolitan Zone Ops Chiefs Chair (Regional)
- San Diego UASI All-Hazards Type 3 IMT Program Manager & Steering Committee Member (Regional)
- San Diego (FBI/LE/FD) Public Safety Leadership Development Program Planning Committee (Regional)
- Fire-Rescue Magazine Editorial Board (IAFC) Member (Volunteer)
- United Way's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Board Director & Executive Board Member (Volunteer)
- Burn Institute Camp Beyond the Scars Charitable Golf Tournament Planning Team (Volunteer)

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Development & implementation of the Department's Leadership & Succession Development Programs. As a member of the NWCG Leadership Committee representing local government at the national level, I introduced a principle-based leadership/succession development program to each of the City's public safety agencies (Fire, Police & Lifeguard) in 2006. The expansion of the program to municipal fire agencies now includes the entire San Diego region, southern California region, the State of California and multiple Fire Departments/Districts throughout the U.S.

Establishment & development of a DHS/FEMA/USFA Multi-Discipline / Agency Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT). Obtained federal grant funds to establish first Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region multi-agency/discipline ICS Type 3 AHIMT in California. The AHIMT is one of twelve U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) AHIMT's and includes members of fire, law enforcement, lifeguards, public health, emergency management, public works, and non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Development & implementation of a regional multi-mission fire/rescue/EMS helicopter program. As a result of identifying a significant gap in emergency service delivery, I introduced the concept of a regional multi-mission helicopter program in 1997. In 2002, the SDFD began to provide these services to both the City and County of San Diego on a year-round basis. In 2005, three new helicopters were delivered. The fourth new helicopter was delivered in 2008. Two of the four regional helicopters currently operate on a 7/24 basis providing fire/rescue/EMS emergency services to the citizens throughout the San Diego region.

Development of 2012 FEMA AFG Fire Act Grant for IAFF Fire Ground Survival (FGS) training program. I wrote, submitted and the SDFD was successful in securing a \$1.6M grant to have IAFF FGS training delivered to all SDFD members. The Fire Ground Survival (FGS) program is the most comprehensive survival skills and MAYDAY prevention program currently available within the fire service.

Establishment and execution of a wildland fire structure triage & firefighter survival training course for all department members. Following the 2003 San Diego County firestorms, coordinated with nationally recognized Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) subject matter experts and delivered WUI structure triage & survival training to enhance firefighter safety. Outcome was an increase in firefighter knowledge and safety and a reduction in life and structure loss during 2007 firestorm.

Development and implementation of a Countywide Super Scooper (CL-415) Air Tanker and Helitanker program. Collaborated with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the City of San Diego Mayor, the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association, and the Province of Quebec (Canada) to introduce, develop and implement a fixed-wing and Type 1 helitanker program following the 2007 firestorms in San Diego County.

Development of multiple grants to enhance fire department operations and employee health & safety. Developed and administered progressive grant programs to maximize outside funding to meet the needs to the department and incorporate new capabilities. \$6M+ raised to date.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1978-1983: U.S.D.A. / USFS - Firefighter/Hotshot/Engine/Helitack Captain
- 1984-1990: U.S.D.I. / BLM - Captain/Crew Superintendent/Battalion Chief
- 1990-Present: City of San Diego FD - FF/Eng./Capt./Battalion Chief/Deputy Fire Chief/ Assistant Fire Chief

In addition to my department operational and administrative responsibilities, I have extensive experience commanding large-scale incidents. I am qualified in multiple Incident Command System (ICS) positions and have had an opportunity to serve on both Type 1 Federal/National and Type 2 Federal/Local Incident Management Teams.