Stay Connected

April 19, 2024
Here’s the latest news impacting Los Angeles Firefighters…

Feature

Firefighter recruit killed in hit-and-run on the 101 Freeway
The Los Angeles Fire Department is mourning the loss of a recruit firefighter who was killed in a hit-and-run crash on the northbound 101 Freeway in Studio City Monday morning. According to LAFD, Jacob Fuerte, 22, “may have been involved in a traffic collision” shortly after 5 a.m. near Vineland Avenue as Fuerte was on his way to training. “He got out of his vehicle, likely to assess the situation and render aid to anyone in need, when he was hit by another vehicle,” fire department spokesman Erik Scott said in a videotaped statement posted on X, formerly Twitter. Despite the efforts of emergency responders, including the fire department, Fuerte was pronounced dead at the scene. “We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the immediate family, friends and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time,” said Scott. KTLA5/LAFD

1 dead after flames rip through Sun Valley home
One person was found dead after flames tore through a home in Sun Valley on Wednesday. The fire was reported just after 4 p.m. in the 7500 block of North Craner Avenue. It took 30 firefighters about 13 minutes to extinguish the flames at the one-story home. They found one person dead inside the home. ABC7/LAFD

Barbeque fundraiser raises $51,000 for firefighters hurt in Wilmington explosion
Community members rallied together to help the firefighters who were hurt in a devastating truck explosion in Wilmington two months ago. A day of donations and dedication was held Saturday as the community honored and offered support to the firefighters of LAFD stations 38 and 49, who were the first on the scene of February's explosion. Nine firefighters were injured, two of them critically, when the natural gas-powered truck caught fire and exploded. All of them have since returned to work.
ABC7

Photo courtesy of Gary Apodaca

LAFD Welcomes Graduates of Recruit Training Academy Class 2023-3
The Los Angeles Fire Department's Recruit Training Academy Class 23-3 celebrated their graduation on April 4, 2024, as they became proud probationary members of the LAFD. Friends and family of the 35 graduates were joined by City of Los Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley and civic and community leaders, in congratulating and welcoming these newest members of the Department in a ritual filled ceremony at the LAFD Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center. LAFD

LAFD Captain Richard Moody Honored as LAFD Firefighter of the Year
The Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los Angeles City Firefighters Association are proud to recognize Captain II Richard Moody as "Firefighter of the Year” for his many personal and professional accomplishments during calendar year 2023. With 24 years of exceptional service to the people of Los Angeles, Captain Moody brings spirited leadership, selfless dedication, approachability and positivity to all he does. Prior to joining the Los Angeles Fire Department in 2000, Richard spent ten years as a paid-call Firefighter and Captain for the Orange County Fire Authority. After commencing his LAFD career, he quickly discovered a love for firefighting truck operations, and was soon promoted to Apparatus Operator, serving that role with distinction at Fire Stations 17 (Industrial Eastside), 102 (Valley Glen), 10 (Convention Center District), and 98 (Pacoima).
LAFD

Fire Watch

Dramatic fire rips through textile business in downtown LA's Fashion District
A massive fire raged through a downtown Los Angeles textile building early Friday, sending towering flames and plumes of smoke high into the air. It took 120 firefighters more than four hours to get the blaze under control, leaving the building a total loss but fortunately resulting in no injuries. The blaze began shortly after 5 a.m. at the building, described as a family-owned textile business, in the 1400 block of South Main Street. Firefighters on scene initially took an aggressive approach, entering the building and positioning on the roof to fight the flames. But they soon had to pull back into defensive mode for safety, remaining on the exterior as flames consumed the building and eventually the roof collapsed. ABC7/LAFD

Los Angeles Firefighters Extinguish Vermont Vista Home Blaze in 13 Minutes, Two Adults Rescued
Earlier today, flames engulfed a single-family home in Vermont Vista, prompting a swift response from the Los Angeles Fire Department. The incident, designated INC#0422, took place at 650 W 111th Place and was first reported at 8:20 AM. Moderate smoke was seen billowing from the one-story dwelling as firefighters geared up to tackle the blaze, according to the LAFD. Reports indicate that there were patients inside the residence when the LAFD arrived on scene. Crews entered the building in offensive mode, fighting the fire that seemed to have concentrated in a room towards the rear of the home. The quick and decisive actions of the firefighters resulted in a "knockdown" of the fire in just 13 minutes, as per the LAFD. This rapid control of the emergency scenario contained the damage to a single room and part of the adjoining hallway.
Hoodline

LAFD Swiftly Extinguishes Fire in Vacant Los Angeles Building, Injured Woman Rescued
In a swift response to an emergent blaze, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) tackled a fire that erupted in a vacant building on the evening of April 13th. The incident, recorded as #1498, was announced in an LAFD alert elucidating that flames were visible from the attic of a one-story house at 310 W 82nd Street in the Florence neighborhood. Firefighting crews were first dispatched at 09:28 PM. However, an update to the initial report at 09:35 PM corrected the property description to a two-story structure, specifying that the fire was showing from the second floor's rear end. Around this time, a female civilian was found wounded exterior to the building, her condition and connection to the incident were unbeknownst to authorities at that moment. Hoodline

Boat fire in San Pedro near Port of Los Angeles leaves 2 with minor injuries
Two people suffered minor injuries following a boat fire Thursday in San Pedro, authorities said. Firefighters responded to Berth 42 in the Port of Los Angeles area just before 2 p.m. after receiving reports of a 40-foot pleasure boat on fire. When they arrived, they saw heavy smoke coming from the boat. Video posted on the Citizen app showed clouds of black smoke in the distance. "Firefighters initiated marine firefighting tactics and extinguished the flames in 20 minutes, protecting the other nearby vessels," said the fire department in a statement. ABC7

Los Angeles Firefighters Extinguish Granada Hills Blaze in 13 Minutes, One Injured
Early this morning, Los Angeles firefighters faced a raging inferno as they battled a second-floor blaze in a Granada Hills residence. The fire erupted at 11256 N Paso Robles Avenue where crews quickly went to work, attacking the fire from inside the home and cutting through the roof to release heat and smoke, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. The LAFD reported that it took 36 firefighters just 13 minutes to snuff out the flames, after responding to the scene shortly before 5 a.m., one adult male with burn injuries was treated at the scene before being whisked away by paramedics to a local hospital their efforts were hampered not by a lack of courage, but by the blaze's stubborn refusal to yield.
Hoodline

Owner claims arson after taco truck fire in downtown Los

Angeles
A taco truck in downtown Los Angeles was seriously damaged in a fire, and the owner suspects it was an act of arson. The incident happened around 11 p.m. Tuesday near Grand Avenue and Olympic Boulevard, according to the Los Angeles Police Department. Responding firefighters quickly extinguished the flames. The owner of Danny's Tacos says a customer saw someone running from the truck after the fire started. Cellphone video shows a masked man with a gas can arguing with another person moments before the taco truck went up in flames.
ABC7

House fire turns into hours-long standoff in South LA
A burglary suspect who had barricaded himself inside a home near the University of Southern California was arrested after an hours-long standoff, authorities said Friday. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, officers responded to the 700 block of West 30th Street, one block west of Figueroa Street, around 6 p.m. Thursday to a report of a burglary suspect who was arrested at the location but later returned to the area and barricaded himself. It was unclear when the suspect was previously taken into custody. Los Angeles Fire firefighters arrived at the scene around 6:35 p.m. Thursday to investigate and extinguish a fire in a two-story craftsman-style home with visible smoke.
NBC4

Firefighters extinguish fire at South LA Burger King
Firefighters quickly extinguished a fire that broke out at a South Los Angeles Burger King on Sunday. They arrived to find the building, located in the 2500 block of S. San Pedro Street, with heavy smoke showing, according to a statement from Los Angeles Fire Department. "Firefighters utilized fire attack hose lines with vertical ventilation to quickly extinguished the flames and keep the fire from spreading vertically or horizontally," LAFD said in a statement. In all, it took more than 30 firefighters just over 15 minutes to extinguish the flames.
KCAL News

LA Firefighters Swiftly Extinguish Commercial Building Blaze in Pacoima; No Injuries Reported
Fire crews battled a blaze at a one-story commercial building in Pacoima on the evening of April 16th, quickly knocking down the flames in a precise operation. The Los Angeles Fire Department reported smoke showing from the building located at 10312 N Norris Ave at approximately 6:13 PM. Upon entry, firefighters discovered the source of the smoke was a contents fire that fortunately had not yet spread to the building's structural elements. As detailed by the LAFD alert, the 32 firefighters on the scene initiated an offensive mode to control the situation; the coordinated effort of the responding units included Engines 24, 75, 77, 98, 275, and 298, Trucks 75 and 98, and Battalion 12, among others. The fire, located in the San Fernando Valley area within Council District 7, was under attack with hose lines strategically deployed by crews to combat and extinguish the fire before it could cause more extensive damage.
Hoodline

Los Angeles Firefighters Extinguish Attic Blaze in Sherman Oaks Home in Under 30 Minutes A Sherman Oaks residence was consumed by flames on April 12, with the Los Angeles Fire Department battling the blaze that broke out in the home's attic and wall space. According to the LAFD alert, the fire started around 3:49 PM at the 3935 N Witzel Drive address. Firefighters were faced with the challenge of extinguishing the fire, which was reported to have started near the fireplace chimney of the two-story dwelling. Despite the initial challenges posed by the location and intensity of the fire, the response team consisting of 30 LAFD firefighters managed to 'knock down' the flames in just under 30 minutes. Hoodline

Fire Damages Single-Story Home in Venice
Fire Saturday damaged a single-story home in Venice, authorities said. Firefighters dispatched at 12:47 p.m. to 1700 S. Penmar Ave. had the blaze out within 27 minutes of their arrival, the Los Angeles Fire Department reported. Firefighters utilized hose lines with vertical ventilation to quickly extinguish the flames and keep the fire from spreading vertically or horizontally, according to the fire department. MyNewsLA

Los Angeles Firefighters Quickly Extinguish Blaze at Silver Lake Home; No Injuries Reported
Firefighters battled a blaze at a Silver Lake home on April 15th, demonstrating quick action and precision in the face of danger. According to the Los Angeles Fire Department, the fire began at around 8:08 PM on the lower floor of a two-story house nestled on the hillside at 3117 W Berkeley Avenue. The flames, which originated from an exterior patio involving swimming pool equipment and menacing propane tanks, threatened to spread to the adjacent three-story home. Hoodline

Firefighters Put out Flames in Vermont Knolls House
It took firefighters 27 minutes to put out a stubborn fire in a house in the Vermont Knolls area of South Los Angeles, authorities said Monday. The fire was reported at 11:25 p.m. Sunday inside a 1,400-square-foot house at 502 W. 77th St., according to the Los Angeles Fire Department’s Brian Humphrey. The fire was out at 11:52 p.m. Firefighters rescued two uninjured dogs from the fire, “which was fueled by excessive personal storage within the structure,” Humphrey said. No injuries were reported but at least three people were displaced and were receiving placement assistance from the American Red Cross, he said. MyNewsLA

Los Angeles Firefighters Quickly Extinguish Blazing Garages, Safeguard South Park Homes
Flames ripped through a row of garages in South Park, but skilled firefighters worked swiftly to protect nearby homes. The Los Angeles Fire Department reported a fire at 9:09 PM on April 10 at 336 W 50th Street, where at least four garages were engulfed in heavy fire directly behind two residential fourplexes. These buildings were in danger, prompting an immediate response from Fire Station 46, Battalion 13, and other units from the South Bureau, according to the LAFD. The firefighting battalion's response was both rapid and effective, as they aggressively worked to protect the imperiled structures. The crews managed to, within a mere 27 minutes, access the heart of the inferno, confine it, and thoroughly extinguish the flames, thus preventing what could have potentially become a more catastrophic event, as reported by the LAFD.
Hoodline

First Responder News

Crash involving wrong way driver on 10 Freeway leaves 1 dead, 3 seriously injured
A crash on the 10 Freeway that involved a wrong way driver killed one person and sent three others to the hospital with serious injuries, authorities said. According to preliminary information, the three-car collision occurred just after 1:50 a.m. Sunday on the westbound span of the 10 near Overland Avenue in West L.A.’s Rancho Park neighborhood. Before the crash, officers were receiving calls of a motorist traveling east in the westbound lanes, CHP officials confirmed to KTLA, also stating that their initial investigation indicated the crash was caused by that driver. KTLA5

One Killed, Two Injured in Violent Two-vehicle Collision in South Los Angeles
A tragic car accident in South Los Angeles claimed one life and left two others injured, the Los Angeles Fire Department reported. The violent two-vehicle collision occurred on April 11th at approximately 9:30 PM near the intersection of Figueroa Street and Vermont Avenue. Firefighters arrived at the scene to find two people trapped in the wreckage of their cars, according to a LAFD alert. Emergency personnel worked tirelessly using hydraulic rescue tools to pry apart the mangled vehicles and reach the victims. Despite their efforts, one individual was pronounced dead at the scene. Hoodline

Worker killed after getting stuck underneath forklift in Bel Air
A man was killed after he was trapped underneath a toppled forklift in Bel Air on Monday. Los Angeles Fire Department crews were sent to the scene, in the 900 block of N. Moraga Drive, at around 1:30 p.m. after learning of the incident, according to a statement. They say that the worker, an adult male, was trapped underneath the forklift as it was carrying steel rebar at a construction site. Firefighters attempted to render medical aid but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. On Tuesday, he was identified as 42-year-old Tony Gallegos by the Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner.
KCAL News

Individual Fatally Struck by Metro Train at Westlake/Macarthur Park Station in Los Angeles
A fatal accident occurred on Friday at a Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro rail station in Los Angeles when an individual was struck and killed by a Metro train after falling onto the tracks, authorities reported. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) arrived on the scene at around 9:13 PM to discover that a pedestrian had been fatally struck by a train. Firefighters coordinated with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Medical Examiner to handle the body recovery, as detailed in an LAFD alert. Hoodline

LAFD Rescues Individual from Trapped Vehicle
On Sunday, April 7, the Los Angeles Fire Department disclosed they rescued an individual in Griffith Park after an accident. The incident was reported at 5:47 a.m. on the northbound 5 freeway. A solo vehicle with two persons trapped in the vehicle, one of whom (undetermined age/gender) was deceased. The other patient (undetermined age/gender) was disentangled from the wreckage by firefighters and has been taken to a regional trauma center in critical condition. No other injuries were reported. The name of the deceased has not been disclosed to the public. The vehicle was found by the California Highway Patrol on the right shoulder with heavy damage. Canyon News

Two People Critically Injured in West Hills Crash
Two people were rushed to a hospital in critical condition Saturday evening as a result of a crash in the West Hills area of Los Angeles. The crash was reported at 9:43 p.m. Saturday at 6618 N. Fallbrook Ave., south of Vanowen Street, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department’s Mark McLean. It’s unclear how many vehicles were involved. Paramedics took the injured patients to a trauma center for treatment, McLean said. A description of the patients was not provided. MyNewsLA

1 adult, 3 children injured after van slams into center divider on 5 Freeway in Sylmar
One adult and three children were seriously injured when their minivan slammed into a center divider on the 5 Freeway in Sylmar late Sunday. The crash happened a little after 7:50 p.m. on southbound lanes of the freeway, just south of the 14 Freeway, according to California Highway Patrol officers. Firefighters rescued one of the passengers from inside of the car after they were trapped.
KCAL News

Person Rescued from Catwalk Near Paramount Studios Firefighters rescued a person Saturday who somehow got stuck on a catwalk about 50 feet above the ground near Paramount Studios. Firefighters dispatched at 8:24 a.m. to 5555 W. Melrose Ave. utilized a lowering technique with a rope system that assisted the person to the ground, the Los Angeles Fire Department reported. The patient was being evaluated by paramedics. MyNewsLA

Los Angeles Fire Department Contains Refrigerant Leak at Hollywood Office Building
A chemical scare occurred this morning in Hollywood when a refrigerant leak was discovered at an office building located at 1575 N Gower St. The Los Angeles Fire Department was called to the scene at approximately 10:47 AM to address the situation. Firefighters arrived promptly to contain the hazard. according to their LAFD. The leak sprung during maintenance work on an air conditioning system, as reported by the Los Angeles Fire Department. Although the chemical released is not considered toxic when inhaled, the real danger lies in its potential to displace oxygen, which can present a significant hazard, particularly in enclosed spaces.
Hoodline

LAFD Successfully Contains Natural Gas Leak at Lincoln Heights Sanitation Yard in Los Angeles
Emergency responders quickly contained a hazardous leak at a Lincoln Heights sanitation yard late last night. According to the Los Angeles Fire Department, firefighters were called to 452 N San Fernando Rd at approximately 11:30 PM after a liquid natural gas tank was reported to be leaking. The LAFD alert described how crews worked to isolate the danger area, preventing entry to ensure public safety. Specialists were soon on the scene to assess the situation and determine a response. The incident, logged under INC#1676, drew considerable attention from local residents and authorities alike. Today's follow-up revealed that LAFD's Hazardous Materials Specialists managed to quickly identify and stop the leak earlier this morning.
Hoodline

83-year-old injured hiker airlifted from Granada Hills to hospital
A man has been airlifted to a hospital after suffering a head injury from a fall during a hike in Granada Hills. The Los Angeles Fire Department said the 83-year-old hiker was located in a remote area. Because ground crews were not able to bring an apparatus to his location, the man was airlifted to a hospital. His current condition was not known. KCAL News

Hiker Rescued Near Nichols Canyon
The Los Angeles Fire Department announced a hiker was rescued on Sunday, April 14. The LAFD reported the incident transpired at 10:56 a.m. at Nichols Canyon. The LAFD Ground and Air Response assisted an adult male hiker with an apparent ankle fracture, on the Lower Trebek Trail east of Nichols Canyon Road in the Santa Monica Mountains. The patient was hoisted aboard a hovering LAFD rescue helicopter in fair condition and will receive continuing in-flight care from LAFD Flight Paramedics during direct helicopter transport to a regional trauma center for treatment. Canyon News

Female Hiker Rescued by LAFD Air Operations in Chatsworth After Distress Call
A hiker in need of rescue was airlifted to safety by the Los Angeles Fire Department in Chatsworth on Wednesday after suffering an incident in rugged terrain. The Department conducted the rescue operation following a distress call that came in earlier that day. A woman, stranded and unable to make her way out after an undisclosed injury or medical issue, was swiftly located by firefighters in a remote area near Jeffrey Mark Court, according to the LAFD. The call for help was received at approximately 11:03 AM, and crews from Station 96 were dispatched to the scene. Hoodline

Man, Threatening to Jump, Falls 20 Feet as Crews Set Up Rescue Cushion
A man who had been threatening to jump from a pillar in Boyle Heights fell 20 feet to the ground Sunday evening as firefighters were setting up an air cushion to get him down safely, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. The man was transported to a regional trauma center in unknown condition at around 5:20 p.m., firefighters said. It's unclear if his fall to the ground was deliberate or accidental. The incident appears to have occurred at the Cesar Chavez Bridge over the Los Angeles River. Firefighters and the Los Angeles Police Department responded to Cesar Chavez Avenue and Mission Road Sunday evening. As firefighters were setting up an air cushion below the pillar to provide the man a safe landing, he fell to the ground, according to the LAFD. Los Angeles Patch

LAFD Help Rescue Potential Jumper
On Sunday, April 7, the Los Angeles Fire Department helped rescue a jumper in Hollywood. The incident was reported at 12:13 p.m. at 1086 N. Street Andrews Pl. Firefighters were on scene working with the Los Angeles Police Department to assist with a man on a power pole in a possible psychological crisis. Firefighters attempted to set up a rescue air cushion for the rescue purpose. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were on scene as well to assist with power shutoff for safety concerns for the individual.
Canyon News

National News

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.
988

Above & Beyond

LAFD Chief Joins Health Leaders to Salute and Inspire 'Heart Heroes' in Los Angeles
During National Public Health Week, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is proud to announce the launch of the department’s Community Readiness Champions Initiative, a series of in-person and online trainings (Hands-only CPR/AED (Automated External Defibrillator) awareness, STOP THE BLEED®, Mental Health First Aid, and Naloxone training) aimed at equipping county residents and workers with lifesaving skills that may be needed during an emergency or disaster where emergency services may be delayed.
LAFD

In Remembrance

Remembering Our Fallen Brothers & Sisters

Firefighter III
Roberto S. Sanchez
Deceased: 4/15/2024
Appointed: 2/16/1975
Assignment: OCD
Retired: 7/5/2000

Engineer
David J. Breuer
Deceased: 4/6/2024
Appointed: 9/23/1957
Assignment: FS 50
Retired: 7/11/1988

Engineer
William J. Sneeringer
Deceased: 4/5/2024
Appointed: 5/19/1958
Assignment: FS 72
Retired: 11/1/1976

Firefighter III
Randall W. Brass
Deceased: 3/30/2024
Appointed: 4/13/1986
Assignment: MFC
Retired: 3/31/2016

Fireboat Pilot
Philip M. Jungferman
Deceased: 3/28/2024
Appointed: 9/22/1947
Assignment: FS 49
Retired: 6/1/1978

Firefighter III
Randall W. Brass
Deceased: 3/23/2024
Appointed: 8/23/1969
Assignment: FS 88
Retired: 4/20/2000

Captain
A. D. Brown Jr.
Deceased: 3/18/2024
Appointed: 4/1/1957
Assignment: FS 8
Retired: 7/8/1984

Engineer
Walter H. Engstrom, Jr.
Deceased: 3/11/2024
Appointed: 2/1/1955
Assignment: FS 92
Retired: 11/1/1976

Firefighter III
Lauren P. Derosier
Deceased: 2/14/2024
Appointed: 5/4/1980
Assignment: OCD
Retired: 8/31/2015

Engineer
William C. Stromberg
Deceased: 2/12/2024
Appointed: 6/27/1959
Assignment: FS 85
Retired: 5/16/1982

Captain
David L. Buising
Deceased: 3/10/2024
Appointed: 6/10/1961
Assignment: FS 93
Retired: 8/19/1984

Captain
Robert Vanderhagen
Deceased: 3/2/2024
Appointed: 1/24/1949
Assignment: FS 12
Retired: 1/1/1978

About UFLAC: Since 1918, UFLAC has been the labor organization of the proud men and women that serve as firefighters and emergency medical responders protecting the City of Los Angeles. The members of the Los Angeles Fire Department rely on UFLAC to focus on the wellbeing and safety of those that protect the lives of others. For more information, visit www.uflac.org.

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