



the General Alarm

Dec 2012

Fire Chief Steve Earley
3085 St. Lawrence Ave
Riverside CA 92504
951-826-5321
www.riversideca.gov/fire



Spark of Love

What is the significance of 10048? This is the number of toys collected by the Riverside City Fire Department this holiday season for the Spark of Love Toy Drive. A huge thanks to all of the folks who donated toys and to those employees and volunteers who spent countless hours helping to collect toys at the stations and several events around the City. City Parks and Recreation was the official distributor of the toys, but because of the large amount of donations, Riverside City Fire was also able to distribute toys to several special groups; a family who lost all of their presents and many of their belongings in a fire just before Christmas; a family who had recently suffered an unexpected death in the family; and about 50 families at Station 6 at the "last minute."





the General Alarm



Dec 2012

Email from Charlotte Kawa, Manager of Sierra Hills Mobile Home Park to Chief Earley on Dec 10: Hello, my name is Charlotte Kawa, I am the manager from Sierra Hills Mobile Estates here in Riverside. I am writing because of your wonderful fireman at Station #6 Engineer Chris Adams. This wonderful guy help my 24 kids at our park with smiles and tears. you see my park is a low income park and many of our parents are without jobs and sometimes food. I was so very worried that Xmas for them would not come, I had called Chris because another fire station had suggested that we could get some kind of help for the children. I was trying to get some kind of help for these children because I knew that their parents couldn't give them gifts. I know that I should of sent you this note last year but tragedy has stricken my home, so i just haven't had the time to send it. But I wanted to make sure you acknowledged this great person and the helpers at the station. God bless them all and especially their family. Thank you so very much for your time to read my note.

Email from Kristi MacEwan, Marketing & Community Outreach Director Habitat for Humanity, on Dec 14: Good Afternoon, we at Habitat were so impressed by the warm welcome, friendly assistance and overall joy at Station #4. These men are an asset to Riverside's Fire Department! It was a pleasure collecting two boxes of toys in our Habitat Riverside ReStore for Spark of Love. Thank you, we look forward to participating again next year.



Email from Riverside Resident Devin Kirby to Karen McCoy on Dec 15: To whom it may concern: I just want to say thank you to Station 11 for coming by our house. My wife and I enjoyed it almost as much as our 5 kids. The Christmas carols from the PA on the engine/truck? was awesome and Santa was so nice to my kids. Again our whole family thanks you. Happy Holidays, Devin Kerby and Family



Birthdays



Dec 2012

Certificate of Appreciation

January Birthdays

Greg Arias	1/10
Paul Avila	1/1
Jason Blomgren	1/22
Chris Boykin	1/19
Brandon Caballero	1/8
Brian Fuentes	1/13
Pat Gabler	1/1
Rob Gabler	1/16
Matt Galik	1/7
Ron Gutterud	1/16
Ryan Hicks	1/2
Lovieanne Jung	1/11
Ed Lastra	1/26
Jesus Macias	1/24
Phil McCormick	1/28
Jeremiah Meadows	1/12
Dave Nash	1/6
Norma Pagan	1/9
Zach Pettikas	1/3
John Peurifoy	1/7
Tyler Reynolds	1/12
Vince Rodgers	1/10
Jim Ryan	1/19
Chad Selk	1/29
Cathy Mitchell	1/16

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

Playing for Others

Riverside City Fire and Police Departments joined forces in December for some “friendly” competition in softball and water polo. Guests at the softball game were asked to bring donations for the Spark of Love Toy Drive. All toys collected at the water polo match were donated to F.A.C.T.O.R: Foster Advocates Coming Together of Riverside, a local organization serving Riverside-area foster children. All cash raised at this event was donated to the charity chosen by the winning team (RPD). This year RPD scored more runs and goals than the RFD, but the recipients of the toys were the real winners. Both departments look forward to the 2013 rematches for such worthwhile causes.



More Mail...

the General Alarm



Dec 2012

Email from Set Free Riverside to Chris Adams on Jan 2: We at Set Free Riverside Fellowship would like to let you know how much we appreciated your donation for the children in the downtown Riverside area. Because of your generosity, almost 300 children received toys which they might not have had otherwise; you made their Christmas special. It was a real joy and pleasure working with you. We are looking forward to working with you next year. Here are some pictures. Thank you. God bless you.



FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

Email from RFD Cpt Dave Hernandez to Battalion Chief Blair on Dec 18: I want to express my appreciation to Engine 4-A (Allen, Haney, Lavin and Macias). As a Riverside citizen on December 15, 2012, my family and I had to activate the 9-1-1 emergency system for my grandmother (Incident #12-27353). That evening, she had become altered with loss of speech, elevated heart rate and was severely dehydrated.

Engine 4 arrived at my grandmother's house and treated her with great care and respect, all while displaying a high-degree of professionalism. My family deeply appreciated the empathy and concern they displayed towards our grandmother (Exceed customer expectations by providing the highest level of customer service possible). Her conditions warranted Fire-Medic Lavin to ride in with her to RCH where I met them.

My grandmother was released from RCH last night with a full recovery. We were once again able to spend another evening with her at the dinner table. As a member of the Riverside City Fire Department, that night I was just another citizen whose family needed the services of the fire department.

I am proud of the crew from Engine 4-A. I am grateful of the service and professionalism they provided to my grandmother and family that night.



Retirees' Mail

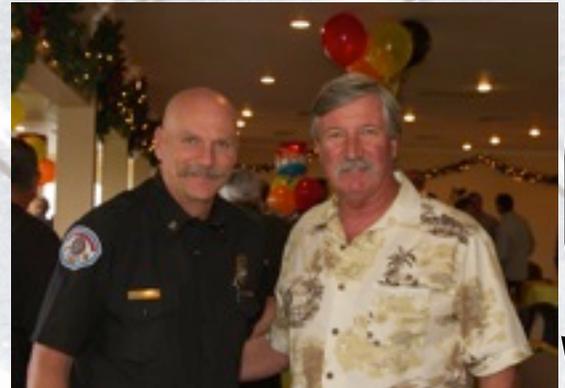
Dec 2012

Email from retiring Captain Bill Batey to all Operations personnel on Dec 5: As I prepare for the next chapter in my life, I wanted to say thanks to everyone for great career in the RFD. I'm not a man of many words, so be safe and uphold the RFD traditions and keep the coffee warm.

Email from BC Mike Koury to all RFD Personnel on Dec 26 (his last day prior to retirement): RFD, What can I say but thanks to each and every one of you for the best career that you and the City of Riverside have given me. I have such great memories fighting fire, deploying on US&R assignments, working Hazmat calls, going on strike teams, eating fantastic meals and living the station life - the best time of all! You are all a part of me and I take away from this adventure knowing that I had the best job in the world, that of being a firefighter and working for such a great department. I can truly say that it has been a fantastic ride and I am now starting a new and challenging one that I am truly looking forward to. Thank you for an outstanding and unforgettable time here and a great career that I can look back on. It has been my honor.

Email from DC Dave Lesh to all RFD Personnel on Dec 28 (his last day prior to retirement): To my fellow RFD friends, well this is it my final day, it is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye. It has been a wonderful career and made more so by my involvement in this great department. To have been able to work with all of you over the years has been an honor. I have many fond memories from over the past 29 years. I am not a man of many words but know that I will be holding all of you in my prayers and thoughts as I go forward in my retirement. Take care and God Bless I hope you all have a great New Years.

Email from DC Bob Bock to all RFD Personnel on Dec 28 (his last day prior to retirement): Thanks to all of you for your support and friendship over the years,, 30 years flies by and time to move on to the next chapter in life. Good luck to all, thanks for the memories.



Congratulations

the General Alarm



Dec 2012

Promotions: Captain Steve McKinster to Battalion Chief, Engineer Scott Richmond to Captain, Engineer Mike Estrada to Captain, Engineer Ray Mendoza to Captain, FF Stephen Loner to Engineer, FF/PM Mark Thompson to Engineer, and FF Denise Delgado

Retirements: USAR Division Chief Dave Lesh (29 years on Dec 20); Training Division Chief Bob Bock (30 years on Dec 28); Battalion Chief Mike Koury (30 years on Dec 28); Captain Bill Batey (29 years on Dec 6); Captain Don Lee (29 years of service on Dec 20); Captain LeRoy Geohagen (21 years of service on Dec 20); Arson Investigator Captain Terry Miller (28 years on Dec 20); and Plan Check Engineer Bob Jerz (21 years of service on Dec 27).

Appointments: Captain Dirk Jensen to Arson Unit Supervisor; Captain Mike Williams to USAR Captain; Fire Inspector II Margaret Albanese will be temporarily assigned to Plan Check Engineer position until an internal recruitment for this position is completed.

Once a new battalion chief promotional list is established, Battalion Chief LaWayne Hearn will be assigned as the USAR Division Chief and Battalion Chief Mitch Wesche as the Training Division Chief. Captain Tim Beeler will be assigned to the second Training Captain position once a new captain's promotional list is established.



More Holiday Photos...

the General Alarm



Dec 2013



Upper Left: On Dec 17, Engine 2 followed "Santa's route" in the Arlington neighborhood where over 200 toys were picked up for the Spark of Love Toy Drive. Thanks to longtime Arlington resident Suze Loeffler who organizes the route and toy drive.



Lower Left: A mother named Lisa Vessel who lives in Station 2's district. lost her husband in late October to a heart attack, He was only 39 and had a un-diagnosed coronary artery disease. He was the only source of income as she cannot work, and they have three teenage daughters, one who is getting a full ride scholarship to Berkeley. Due to his death and her not being able to work, she lost their cars and almost their home. We were able to help them with three bikes so the girls can get to and from school; miscellaneous gift cards to Target and other clothing stores; Nintendo DSI Game Boys; and \$50 American Express gift card so that she can pay her prepaid cellphone and maybe get herself something. She was so grateful she assisted some of our non-profit organizations in passing toys out to other needy children in Arlanza, Casa Blanca and La Sierra areas with her daughters.



Above: Engine 8 B-shift handed out candy canes on December 23rd. Overall we handed out about 200 candy canes over the two hour time period. The smiles on the little kids faces says it all.

/// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS /// FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS ///

More Mail...

Email to RFD Personnel from Linda Daugherty on Dec 14: Hello my Fire Department Family, I'm still missing you and can't help but to shed a tear when passing a Unit on the way to a response or see you at the grocery store or some place in the City. It just seems like that 22 years went bye way too fast and how did I get so old so fast. I never thought that would happen!!!!

I want to wish all of you a very happy and fun filled Christmas and safety in the Christmas season and 2013. Congratulations to those that retired. I pray you will enjoy your time and fulfill dreams.

I Love All Of You and I am still concerned of your safety each time I hear a siren go out of the stations. I won't be forgetting you and continue to sing your praises to everyone. No one had a family like mine. My Fire Family was there so many times when I needed them and also gave me many laughs that are good memories and I think of and still laugh about. I wish I could have talked some of the ones that have now retired, into writing a book filled with your experiences. Some were tear jerker's and others were filled with laughter. God Bless You All. I'll never forget you and when I can get around better, I hope to stop to see you now and then. I Love All Of YOU!!!!

PHOTO ALBUM

Dec 2012



Above: FF/PM Trey Janeway and Eng Bart Kennedy decorate the Christmas tree at Station 14.



Station 1 personnel play foosball for more than dishes. The biggest prize is pride. Losers have to wear these special hats.



Above: Roger Cutshall wears his official "Condiment Officer" helmet



Left: Inaugural A-shift breakfast on Dec 18 at Arts Bar and Grille

Thank You...

the General Alarm



Dec 2012



Tim McHargue
Fire Chief
Fire Department
303 East "E" Street
Colton, CA 92324
(909) 370-5100

December 13, 2012

Steve Earley, Fire Chief
Riverside City Fire Department
3085 St. Lawrence St.
Riverside, CA 92504

Chief Earley:

On Tuesday December 11, 2012, Colton Fire Department conducted a graveside service for retired Fire Chief Ed Temby. Chief Temby passed away at the age of 90 the week prior.

The Colton Honor Guard requested assistance from Thomas Jay to serve as bugler for the service. Mr. Jay performed an outstanding rendition of Taps that was both honoring to Chief Temby's family and the Colton Fire Department.

Thank you for allowing Mr. Jay to assist us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TM", written over a horizontal line.

Tim McHargue, Fire Chief

CIVIC CENTER
650 N. La Cadena Drive
Colton, CA 92324
(909) 370-5099

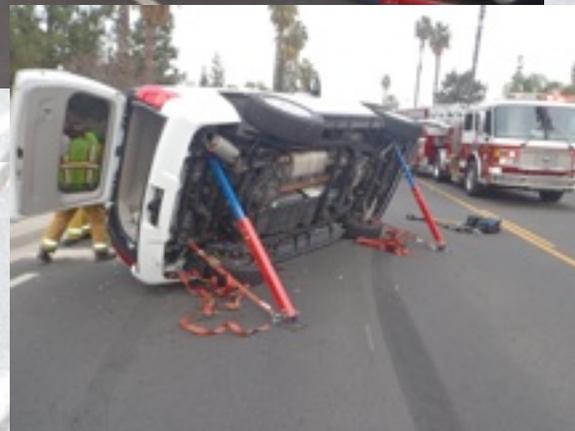
Growing Families

Hicks Baby: Congratulations to the Hicks family for their family addition on Dec 6. Allyson Jacquelyn was born at 1420. She was 21 inches and weighed in at a healthy 7 lbs. Mom, dad and baby are doing great. (Left photo: big sister Katelyn with Allyson and Santa; Right photo Allyson)



Tasker Baby: Congratulations to the Tasker family on their new addition: Riley Beth Tasker, Born on 12/7/12, 8lbs 8oz, 20 inches. Everyone is doing fine. Great job Chuck!!!!

Station 2 Rescue



On Dec 12, T-2 and E-2 worked together to move a driver from her vehicle (the one on its side). The pictures illustrate the good use of the stabilizing bars (R-42's) carried on our truck companies. While it is hard to see in the third picture, the crews used chock blocks to stabilize the car as well. You can just barely make out a T412 marking on the block. New Truck 2 has now been involved in three extrications and one structure fire since we have placed it in service two weeks ago

Retirement Luncheon

the General Alarm

Dec 2012



Now and Then: The answer to last month's question is Downtown Station 1 in the 1960's. More photos and questions will return in the January General Alarm.