

VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
2003 - 2004  
Annual Report





## *message from*

Fire Chief Gary Fisher

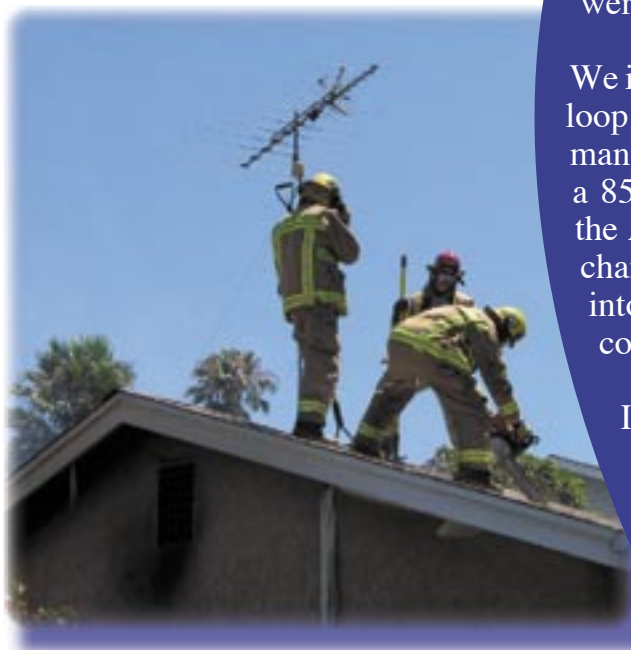
*On* behalf of the men and women of the Vista Fire Department, I present our Annual Report, a summary of our activities for the past fiscal year. As one of the newest members of the department, I am honored to be a part of an organization that clearly defines professionalism. The Vista Fire Department works very hard to provide the highest level of service to the community in all aspects of life safety and property conservation.

Last year's devastating wildfires are still fresh in the minds of the public and especially the fire service. Vista was very much involved in the suppression efforts, with crews deployed literally all over the state. Crews were out for several days, away from their families, working to control the fires that were ravaging the state. In addition, because of those deployments, we recalled the entire fire department, staffing all remaining apparatus in the event a major fire were to break out in Vista. These dedicated firefighters were also away from their families for several days, staffing the fire equipment locally. It was truly an effort of commitment and teamwork.

Additionally, this past year has been one of significant change for the department. While some of the changes, such as the statewide fiscal crisis, have been imposed upon us, many changes were initiated from within the department for improving services.

We implemented a customer service survey, resulting in a feedback loop for improvements in service. We brought the vegetation management program back in house. We are currently enjoying a 85-90% compliance rate, with no complaints. We reorganized the Administrative Division, modifying position descriptions and changing budgeting processes. We also reorganized our budget into cost centers, separating operational costs from support costs, allowing our budget to be more accountable and efficient.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of the City Manager, City Council. We hope this report will provide some insights of our commitment to the community. On behalf of the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District, we want to thank you, our neighbors and friends, for helping us help you. We look forward to a bright future.





# The mission

of the Vista Fire Department is to minimize deaths, injuries and property loss by taking all feasible action to prevent fires and, if they occur, to extinguish them promptly, and to provide advanced life-support and emergency medical transportation for the community.

To serve without prejudice or favoritism, all citizens within the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District, by safeguarding collectively and individually, their lives against injurious effects of fire, explosion, other related hazards and provide emergency medical care.

To safeguard the general economy and welfare of the community by preventing major conflagrations and the destruction by fire of economically essential industries and businesses.

To protect all the community's citizens and property owners, their individual material wealth and economic well-being, against the destructive effects of fire and explosions. All property deserves to have an equivalent degree of protection, commensurate with the actual property hazard involved regardless of geographic location or monetary value.

## equipment & facilities

- 4 Full time Stations
- 4 Fire Engines (front-line)
- 2 Fire Engines (reserve)
- 1 Ladder Truck

- 3 Brush Engines
- 3 Paramedic Units (front-line)
- 3 Paramedic Units (reserve)
- 1 Rescue Vehicle

- 1 Incident Support Vehicle
- 1 Breathing Air Support Trailer
- 1 Battalion Command Vehicle
- 1 Training Chief Support Vehicle
- 1 Parade-Display Antique Engine

# major incidents



Residential Apartment Explosion & Fire -  
1500 Shadowridge Drive

Residential Apartment Fire -  
1475 Oak Drive #11

Residential Apartment Fire -  
815 Avenida De Benito Juarez

Residential Apartment Fire -  
756 Silver Drive

Residential Fire -  
2453 Ramona Drive

Vehicle & Garage Fire -  
1719 Coyote Court



Residential Fire -  
1424 Phillips Street #C

Elementary School Fire -  
151 Escondido Avenue

Residential Fire -  
1332 Palomar Place

Residential Fire -  
608 Crest Drive

Garage Fire -  
1200 Vale Terrace

Residential Fire -  
1663 Alta Vista Drive

Mulch Fire -  
319 Main Street



BOMB/ARSON

SHERIFF

EOD

SAN DIEGO COUNTY



## *2003 - 2004 statistics*

Incident Type	Number	Average Response Time	Fire Loss	Pre-incident Value
Fires	345	0:06:55	\$2,676,525.00	\$27,958,875.00
Explosion/Rupture	2	0:06:21		
EMS/Rescue	5,924	0:05:26		
Hazardous Conditions	322	0:05:34	\$250.00	\$400,100.00
Service Calls	605	0:05:31	\$5,300.00	\$1,800,000.00
Good Intent Calls	1,038	0:06:31		
False Calls	329	0:06:58	\$10,000.00	\$1,050,000.00
Severe Weather	1			
Other	6			
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,572</b>		<b>\$2,692,075.00</b>	<b>\$31,208,975.00</b>
			8% - Lost	92% - Saved

# october wildfires

On October 25, 2003 Engine 1213 was dispatched as part of a strike team to the area of Crestline and Lake Arrowhead for what was to become the *'Old Fire'*. This was the first of the Vista Fire Department's involvement in what was to become the worst fire season in California's history.

Engine 1213 was on this assignment for eight days.

On October 27th Vista units, Engine 1212, Brush 1262, Engine 1222 (reserve) and Chief 1206 were dispatched throughout the day on various strike teams to what would become known as the *'Paradise Fire'* in the Escondido / Valley Center area of San Diego County.

As these fires continued, the *'Cedar Fire'*, became California's largest and most devastating fire, raging through San Diego City, Ramona and East County, a general recall of all Vista firefighters occurred.

All personnel worked either on assigned strike teams or in Vista, several days straight.



# *october wildfires*



Paradise Fire - Strike Team 6418A





The Vista Fire Department's Annual Report is published by William K. Conover, FF/PM.