



# HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017



## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



*On behalf of the members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD), I am honored to present our Annual Report for 2017. This report illustrates our commitment to the residents, businesses, and visitors of our community and it highlights the exceptional work accomplished by our fire operations, marine safety, fire prevention, and administrative staff.*

*As the Fire Chief and a longtime resident of Huntington Beach, I am extremely proud of our Class 1 Fire Department, and the high-level of quality services that we provide on a regular basis. I can attest that our members routinely go "above and beyond" in caring for our customers, while displaying and promoting the Mission and Values of the HBFD.*

*As in previous years, 2017 was very busy for our Department. Most notably, we responded to a record number of 9-1-1 calls for a total of 20,740 emergency responses. The Fire Department also participated in the planning and support of several large special events to include the Surf City Marathon with over 15,000 participants; the Fourth of July celebration with over 500,000 in attendance; the US Open of Surfing competition with approximately 300,000 attending over a nine day period; and the Breitling-HB Air Show with over one million attending over a three day period.*

*Overall, we continue to be challenged with an increasing demand for emergency services. These challenges are being met through progressive training, organizational effectiveness, state-of-the-art equipment, technological advancements, and by our motivated and dedicated members who strive to deliver the highest quality services possible.*

*As we look toward 2018, the HBFD will continue to adapt to ever-changing times and will remain dedicated to serving the residents, businesses, and visitors with the utmost respect and dignity. Regardless of the challenges that face our Fire Department, each and every member of the HBFD is committed to supporting the community in an innovative and fiscally responsible manner.*

*I would like to thank all the members of our Department for their professionalism and commitment at every level of the organization. I would also like to thank the Elected Officials, City Manager, the Executive Team, and our outstanding City staff, for their ongoing support and teamwork.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Segura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent.

David A. Segura

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Huntington Beach Fire Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality fire, marine safety and emergency medical services to protect our community.*

**TEAMWORK • EXCELLENCE • QUALITY SERVICE • PROFESSIONALISM • HONESTY & INTEGRITY**



## FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

### **FIRE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

The Fire Administration Division provides management, research, clerical, financial, and records support for the Fire Department. Fire Administration also establishes and modifies Fire Department strategies, tactics, and policies; administers the Central Net Operations Joint Powers Authority Training Center and the FireMed Membership Program. The Department is a member of MetroNet, an eight-city Joint Powers Authority for fire and medical emergency communications and the Orange County-City Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Authority.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION**

The Emergency Response Division provides a professionally trained and well-equipped emergency force for fire, medical, rescue, and hazardous materials incidents. Eight fire stations are strategically located to provide quick emergency response. Paramedic engine companies are located in each station and staffed by four personnel, a configuration that allows the department to meet the needs of the City's rapidly increasing annual call volume. Additionally, two truck companies, a State Office of Emergency Services engine, a hazardous materials response vehicle, a mobile decontamination unit, an urban search and rescue/light and air vehicle, six emergency medical transport units and a Battalion Chief/shift commander complete the 24-hour emergency response capabilities.

### **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

The Fire Prevention Division has responsibility for enforcing local, state, and federal codes in order to reduce the loss of life and property from preventable fires and other emergencies. This is accomplished through inspection and code enforcement, plan review, public education and fire investigative services. Oil inspections are conducted to enforce regulations in environmental and oil industry safety, including the Huntington Beach Oil Code. The Fire Prevention Division operates the Hazardous Materials Business Plan Program (HMBP) as a Participating Agency to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The HMBP Program is responsible for identifying, inspecting, and monitoring businesses that use and store hazardous materials. The Division includes the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Office, and coordinates the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) Program and the Senior Home Inspection Program (SHIP).

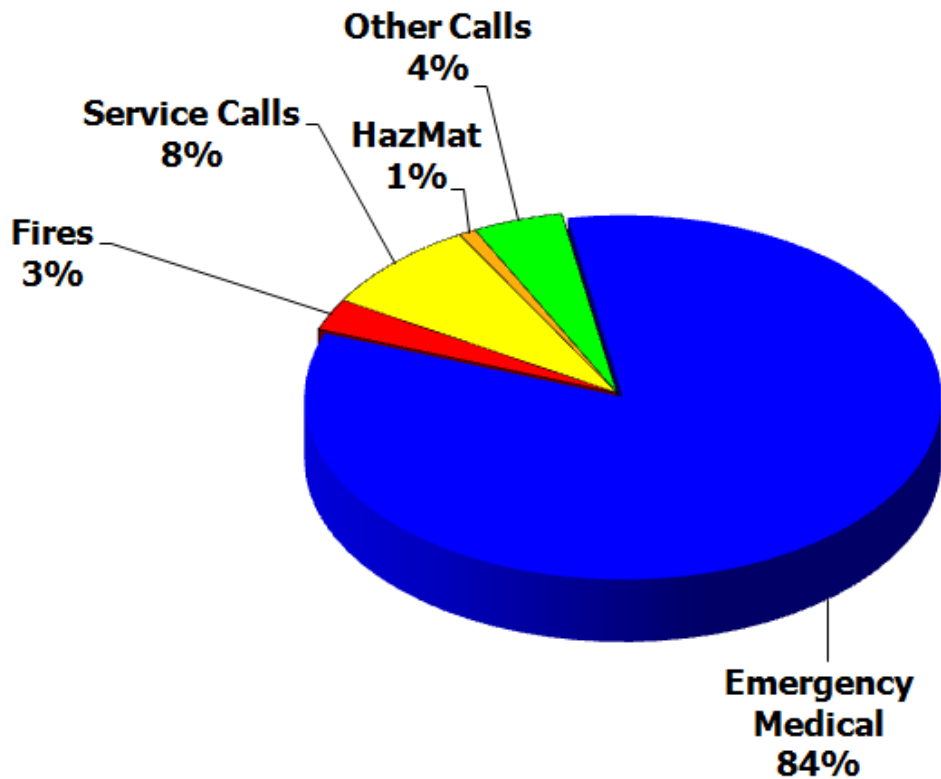
### **MARINE SAFETY DIVISION**

The primary goal and purpose of Marine Safety is to provide quality open water and beach safety through education, prevention, and emergency response. Marine Safety provides year-round lifeguard services on the City's beach, including medical aid and code enforcement services, manages the summer Junior Lifeguard Program and provides staffing as required. Lifeguard services are also provided to Sunset Beach. The Division is comprised of 14 permanent Marine Safety Officers and management staff, and is supported by more than 150 recurrent ocean lifeguards.





EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION  
*Dave McBride, Division Chief/Operations*



CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017
<i>Fires</i>	547	562	<b>529</b>
<i>Emergency Medical</i>	16,319	16,978	<b>17,343</b>
<i>Hazardous Materials</i>	171	169	<b>222</b>
<i>Other Emergencies</i>	895	1,016	<b>915</b>
<i>Service Calls</i>	1,617	1,647	<b>1,731</b>
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>19,549</b>	<b>20,372</b>	<b>20,740</b>



## TOP 15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSES BY CATEGORY

<i>Bleeding (Non-Traumatic).....</i>	1,189
<i>Breathing Difficulty.....</i>	1,309
<i>Cardiac Arrest.....</i>	318
<i>Chest Discomfort/Heart Problems.....</i>	1,271
<i>Convulsions/Seizures.....</i>	562
<i>Diabetic.....</i>	337
<i>Falls/Accidents.....</i>	2,027
<i>Mental/Emotional/Psychological.....</i>	611
<i>Motor Vehicle Accident.....</i>	1,047
<i>Overdose/Poisoning.....</i>	757
<i>Sick (Unknown)/Other.....</i>	2,546
<i>Stroke .....</i>	486
<i>Trauma.....</i>	1,020
<i>Unconscious/Unresponsive.....</i>	1,877

## EMERGENCY RESPONSES BY UNIT

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Battalion 4	396	400	<b>388</b>
Engine 41	3,278	3,334	<b>3,324</b>
Emergency Transport 41	3,717	3,890	<b>3,782</b>
Emergency Transport 241	-	-	<b>348</b>
Engine 42	3,121	3,179	<b>3,037</b>
Truck 42	1,529	1,662	<b>1,771</b>
Emergency Transport 42	3,630	3,723	<b>3,711</b>
Urban Search & Rescue 42	28	49	<b>46</b>
Engine 43	2,341	2,410	<b>2,526</b>
Engine 44	2,193	2,108	<b>2,149</b>
Emergency Transport 44	3,008	3,128	<b>2,402</b>
Engine 45	2,700	2,950	<b>2,953</b>
Truck 45	1,478	1,740	<b>1,786</b>
Emergency Transport 45	3,195	3,417	<b>3,681</b>
Emergency Transport 245	-	-	<b>350*</b>
Engine 46	1,589	1,534	<b>1,593</b>
Emergency Transport 46	3,067	3,213	<b>3,225</b>
Emergency Transport 246	-	-	<b>869*</b>
Hazardous Materials Unit 46	19	31	<b>55</b>
Engine 47	1,751	1,729	<b>1,624</b>
Engine 48	2,715	2,690	<b>2,797</b>
Special Assignment Units	211	346	<b>532</b>
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>39,946</b>	<b>41,533</b>	<b>42,949</b>
	<b>12% Annual Increase</b>	<b>4% Annual Increase</b>	<b>3% Annual Increase</b>

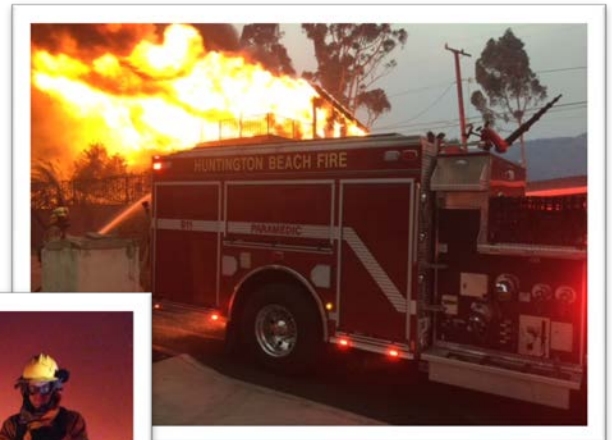
\* Results from implementation of Pilot Peak Load Ambulance Project



## RESPONDING TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED

This past year, HBFD responded to numerous mutual aid requests for assistance with major fires and serious disasters. HBFD is part of a statewide mutual aid system, which coordinates resources from various jurisdictions in California when a local agency is quickly overwhelmed. The experiences gained during these deployments allow personnel to bring back knowledge and expertise about how to operate and manage large scale emergencies for our own community.

FIRE	COUNTY SERVED	NUMBER OF DAYS	MONTH
Whittier Fire	Santa Barbara	4 days	July
Alamo Fire	San Luis Obispo	4 days	July
Garza Fire	Kings	7 days	July
Detwiler Fire	Mariposa	6 days	July
Salmon August Complex Fire	Siskiyou	17 days	August
Pier Fire	Tulare	21 days	August
Railroad Fire	Madera/Mariposa	9 days	September
La Tuna Fire	Los Angeles	4 days	September
Peak Fire	Mariposa	4 days	September
Canyon Fire	Orange	.5 days	September
Canyon Fire 2	Orange	5 days	October
Southern LNU Complex Fire	Napa/Solano	8 days	October
Central LNU Complex Fire	Napa/Sonoma	8 days	October
Wildomar Fire	Riverside	1 day	October
Thomas Fire	Ventura/Santa Barbara	19 days	December
Rye Fire	Los Angeles	6 days	December
Creek Fire	Los Angeles	9 days	December
Prado Mobilization	Riverside	9 days	December



## URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM



The HBFD Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team is certified by the State of California, Office of Emergency Services as a Type 1 Heavy Rescue Unit, the highest level of certification. They specialize in technical rescue, such as confined space, trench, rope rescue, and search and rescue scenarios created by disasters, including mud slides and earthquakes. In 2017, major activities for the team included responding to 46 technical rescue emergency calls and training with other agencies and organizations.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM



The HBFD Hazardous Materials (“HazMat”) Team is one of only three teams in Orange County. HazMat provides response capabilities across the county for terrorism concerns during events, industrial mishaps and environmental protection associated with the wetlands and coastal waters. There were 55 incidents in 2017 involving the stabilizing and mitigation of hazards at situations ranging from chemical spills and gas leaks, to bomb threats and drug labs. Other activities included quarterly training with various government agencies and training emergency personnel.

## TACTICAL PARAMEDIC PROGRAM



The purpose of the HBFD Tactical Paramedic Program is to provide a high level of emergency medical expertise to individuals who sustain injuries during police department tactical operations. The paramedics selected for the program become members of the police department’s Special Weapons and Tactics (“SWAT”) unit. During a tactical operation, they are deployed by the police department to a designated staging area close to the incident so that critical treatment may be provided immediately. Tactical Paramedics help to reduce the chance of death, injury or illness to officers, civilians, bystanders and suspects.

## CENTRAL NET TRAINING CENTER (“CNTC”)



CNTC is one of two ‘live burn’ training centers in Orange County. Classroom and hands-on instruction is provided to the member cities of Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley and other agencies. Major activities in 2017 include training safety personnel to federal and state mandated emergency standards, completing recruit academies and promotional exams/academies, facilitating live fire training for other agencies, becoming an approved site for the State Fire Marshal Firefighter Certification testing, and developing a new electronic web-based facility calendar to improve efficiency.





## HONOR GUARD AND PIPERS



The Huntington Beach Fire Department Honor Guard operates with dedication and pride as a foundation to honor and celebrate the brotherhood and service of active and retired Huntington Beach Firefighters as well as all servants abroad. The Honor Guard acts as the 'guardians of the colors' by displaying and escorting the national and state flags at ceremonial and official functions. The Pipers are a musical ensemble with bagpipes who often accompany the Honor Guard. In 2017, these dedicated personnel served as goodwill ambassadors at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Orange County Fire Service Memorial, 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony, Downtown Lighting Ceremony, HBFD Fire Academy Graduation, HBFD Award and Recognition Ceremony, memorial services for fire service personnel and the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

## PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Huntington Beach Fire Department held its Seventh Annual Promotion and Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, March 2, 2017. This ceremony recognizes and decorates Fire Department personnel, whose actions exemplify the spirit of the fire service. In addition to presenting awards, a number of recent promotions were also celebrated on stage. The audience included Fire Department personnel, family members and friends, other City employees and elected officials. It was an excellent event that celebrated the professionalism, skills, and commitment to public service that is found by all members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department.





FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION  
*William Reardon, Division Chief/Fire Marshal*

INSPECTIONS	2016	2017
<i>High Rise Structures</i>	7	<b>8</b>
<i>Institutional, Educational, Residential Facilities</i>	2,864	<b>2,822</b>
<i>Merchants and Businesses</i>	2,228	<b>2,773</b>
<i>Public Assemblies</i>	354	<b>389</b>
<i>Hazardous Materials Occupancies</i>	454	<b>484</b>
<i>New Construction</i>	1,995	<b>1,664</b>
<i>Oil Wells</i>	349	<b>320</b>
<i>Special Events</i>	49	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL INSPECTIONS</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>8,510</b>

PLAN CHECKS	2016	2017
<i>Fire Plans</i>	1,020	<b>906</b>
<i>Fire Plan Recheck</i>	1,051	<b>982</b>
<i>Development Review</i>	93	<b>42</b>
<b>TOTAL PLAN CHECKS</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>1,888</b>

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS	2016	2017
<i>Fire Investigations (All Types)</i>	48	<b>36</b>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICE



The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Office develops and coordinates disaster plans and programs for businesses, schools, civic groups, and the public. This office provides City emergency preparedness programs for natural and man-made disasters and coordinates the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) volunteers. It also ensures that the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in readiness condition 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides public information before, during, and after an emergency.



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

The CERT Program is a Fire Department volunteer organization that uses Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) endorsed training to prepare community members about what to do in the event of a disaster. CERT volunteers are trained to prepare for and respond to a disaster until first responders arrive. Providing support to the Fire and Police Departments, the volunteers donated 2,641 hours to the City, trained 93 residents, staffed first aid tents for various special events and provided 837 sandbags to 58 handicapped and elderly residents during the winter rains.



### RADIO AMATEUR CIVIL EMERGENCY SERVICE (RACES)



The Huntington Beach RACES is an organization of volunteer amateur radio operators who provide radio communications for State and Local government. They are certified by the State of California as Disaster Service Workers. These volunteers provide radio communications during emergencies, disasters, and events such as the Surf City Marathon, Police Department Baker to Vegas Run, 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, Fire Department Shadow Drill, RACES Field Day, and the Breitling Huntington Beach Air Show.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE EXPLORERS



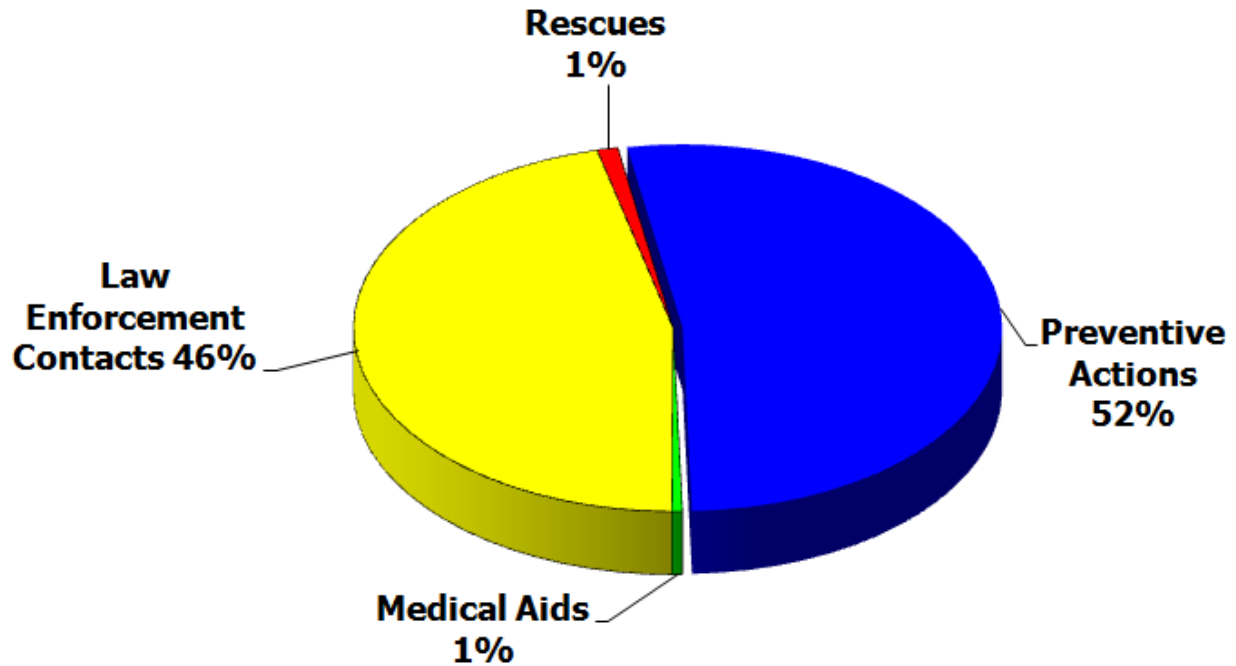
Huntington Beach Search and Rescue Explorers Post # 563 is sponsored by the Huntington Beach Police and Fire Departments and chartered by the Orange County Council of the Boy Scouts of America. A program designed to expose high school age students to careers in the emergency services field. Activities include training numerous hours in law enforcement, fire and marine safety disciplines, responding to requests by public safety for additional help at urgent situations, and supporting many civic events which include the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Breitling Huntington Beach Air Show and the Surf City Marathon.

### PROJECT SHIP (SENIOR HOME INSPECTION PROGRAM)

Project SHIP assists seniors in making their home a fire safe place to live and for a possible earthquake. The HBFD recruits and trains volunteers who are provided with a solid knowledge on how to identify and eliminate home safety hazards. The volunteers install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors free of charge. In 2017, volunteers inspected 70 homes and provided 100 hours of education.

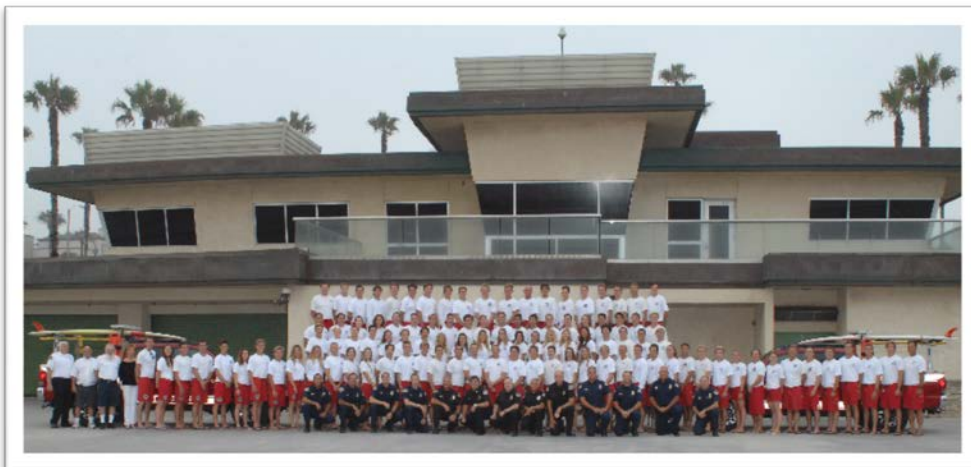


**MARINE SAFETY DIVISION**  
*Mike Baumgartner, Division Chief/Marine Safety*



CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017
Law Enforcement Contacts	47,635	73,827	155,283*
Water Rescues	6,631	3,731	3,532
Medical Aids	2,047	1,649	1,783
Preventive Actions	251,148	202,732	176,172
Attendance	11,995,559	12,979,527	13,470,959
Boat Rescues	3	5	2
Lost and Found Persons	314	186	225
Public Education Lectures	58	14	99
Public Education Students	3,795	2,124	1,782

*\*As a result of increased curfew enforcement*





## JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM



For the past 53 years, the Marine Safety Division has offered a Junior Lifeguard Program for City and area youth. The Program educates children to recognize potential hazardous conditions associated with an ever-changing aquatic environment. In 2017, approximately 850 students participate in the Program, which emphasizes safety, respect, physical fitness, instruction, and discipline. Students are schooled in the oceanic environment, first aid, CPR, mutual cooperation, competition techniques, and lifesaving methods.

## SWIFTWATER RESCUE TEAM



All Marine Safety permanent staff members are trained as Swiftwater Rescue Technicians and primarily respond throughout the city to assist with rescue and evacuations due to flooding. The Team also provides swift water mutual aid responses with other agencies for incidents and rescues in the Santa Ana River. In 2017, the Swiftwater Rescue Team responded on five mutual aid incidents involving reports of swimmers in the Santa Ana River and was placed on stand-by status during the heavy rain events with potential to flood sections of the city.

## RESCUE DIVE TEAM



The Marine Safety Rescue Dive Team is comprised of the ten Marine Safety Officers and three Marine Safety Lieutenants. Their primary role is rescue and recovery operations in the ocean, harbor, lakes, and waterways in Huntington Beach, but they also provide mutual aid responses to other cities within Orange County. In 2017, the Rescue Dive Team responded on mutual aid responses outside of the city to search for missing swimmers at Bolsa Chica State Beach and the City of Seal Beach. The dive team also responded to a missing swimmer in Huntington Harbor.

## SURFERS AWARENESS IN LIFE SAVING TECHNIQUES (SALT) PROGRAM



The Huntington Beach Surf Lifesaving Association (HBSLSA) is a non-profit organization of current and former HB Lifeguards. HBSLSA developed the Surfers Awareness in Life Saving Techniques (SALT) Program. SALT is offered to local surfers to recognize hazards and victims in distress, provide lifesaving rescue intervention, and initiate an emergency response from lifeguards, emergency medical service personnel, and/or other surfers. More than 500 young surfers and adults were trained in 2017 through courses at high school surf teams and surf clubs.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



*Sidewalk CPR*

*Every 15 Minutes Program*

*Spark of Love Toy Drive*

*Career Days at Schools*

*Community Fire Safety Presentations*

*Huntington Beach Citizens Academy*



*HBFD Open House*

*Light A Light Of Love Parade*

*9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony*

*Fire Station Tours*

*Walk For Alzheimer's*

*National Night Out*

*Sunset Beach Festival*

*Community Festival*

*Surfing Day Parade*

*Senior Saturday*

*HBHS Car Show*

*Pumpkin Patch*

*Huck Finn Fishing Derby*

*Easter Hunt*

*Downtown Halloween Fest*





## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The members of the Huntington Beach Firefighter's Association ("HBFA") are your firefighters who serve our community. Serving the community does not stop at responding to emergencies and answering calls for help. It also means selflessly giving back to the community in other ways that adds to the well-being of residents and organizations. HBFA members dedicate countless hours on their own time. Quite often they are behind the scenes by assisting and promoting successful community events.



In 2017, the HBFA members, with family, friends and other fire department personnel, generously contributed to the community by:

- Providing 20 sponsorships to community events, charities and organizations, such as Project Self Sufficiency, HB Council on Aging, the Hurricane Harvey Fundraiser and the Boys and Girls Club
- Supplying over 5,000 BBQ meals at twelve events, including 'Lace Up, Walk, Run' for Cystic Fibrosis, HB Youth Shelter Open House, Kiwanis Easter Hunt, American Cancer Society Relay For Life, and the HBFD Open House
- Hosting impressive firehouse meals for nine groups representing various charity organizations

Major activities and support included the Great Balls of Fire Charity Golf Tournament which benefitted Robyn's Nest (supporting at-risk and homeless Huntington Beach students), the Muscular Dystrophy Association "Fill The Boot", Waves for Warriors (helping wounded veterans learn to surf), the Maui Ola Foundation (ocean-based activities for individuals with genetic diseases) and the Firefighters Quest for Burn Survivors.







**CLASS 1**

# HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017

2017 ANNUAL REPORT PUBLICATION

**Co-Editors:**

**Jane Cameron, Fire Medical Coordinator**

**Kevin Justen, Administrative Analyst Senior**

**Contributors:**

**William Reardon, Division Chief/Fire Marshal**

**Fire Department Program Managers**

**Administrative Staff**

**Metro Cities Fire Authority (Incident Statistics)**

**Graphic Designer:**

**Jane Cameron, Fire Medical Coordinator**

**Cover Photo:**

**Thorpe Logemann, HBFD Fire Engineer**

HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT  
2000 MAIN STREET  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648

***For more information about the Huntington Beach Fire Department,***