



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
Mónica Muñoz at munozm@sandiego.gov

City of San Diego Showcases New Facility for Firefighter Training Exercises

FIRE-RESCUE CREWS INITIATED PROJECT AT FIRE STATION 10; FIRST TRAINING EXERCISES TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK

SAN DIEGO – On Friday, March 18, firefighters from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) will hold the first in-service training at a new facility located at Fire Station 10 in the College Area. This facility was conceptualized and developed by members of the SDFD Training Division staff who recognized a need and took the steps to complete the project.

Traditionally, full-scale training exercises, like the one scheduled for Friday, would take place at the SDFD Training Facility at Liberty Station. That would require crews from eastern parts of the city to be out of service in traffic while commuting to the location. Having a new facility that is more centrally located allows crews to train closer in proximity to the communities they serve.

“I am impressed with the initiative and creativity shown by the personnel at our Training Division who come up with great ideas,” said Fire Chief Colin Stowell. “This is a great solution using outside funds which benefits San Diegans as well as benefitting our firefighters and partner agencies in our region.”

The cost of developing this facility was approximately \$200,000 and funds came from the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee and Fire Tech Program through Miramar College. These programs offer money to fire agencies based upon the number of training hours they log.

SDFD aims to eventually add training facilities at the Mira Mesa fire station, as well as a station in South Bay.

Fire Captain Alex Kane was the brainchild behind this training concept and was empowered by the battalion chief at the SDFD Training Division to bring it to reality. This new facility serves San Diegans as well as firefighters and residents of neighboring agencies, which embodies the Customer Service principle of the City of San Diego’s updated [Strategic Plan](#). Unveiled by Mayor Todd Gloria earlier this

year, the Strategic Plan also values a “Culture of Yes” where employees are encouraged to solve problems and offer solutions.

WHAT: Media availability

WHO: Assistant Chief John Wood, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Battalion Chief Willy Melendez, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Captain Jeff Williams, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
Captain Kevin Pendleton, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

WHEN: Friday, March 18, 2022, 9 to 11 a.m.

WHERE: SDFD Station 10
4605 62nd Street
San Diego, CA 92115

VISUALS: In-service training will consist of SDFD firefighters using chainsaws and other tools to ventilate simulated rooftops. The exercises will take place in 30-minute rotations and will include safety briefings before each rotation. News photographers will have the opportunity to record the crews as they perform the exercises.

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