



CHIEFS REPORT – January/February 2026

January Highlights:

IFPD continued its work on the HWY 243 thoroughfare project.

IFPD received additional implements for our new Caterpillar 275 Skid Steer/Track Loader (Grant Funded)

IFPD Provided numerous courses of study for our Fire Crew.

IFPD Firefighter Paramedics continue with the Paramedic recertification Process.

IFPD spoke at Rotary regarding the importance of property abatement.

IFPD completed access road repair work on the Strawberry Fuel Break and also began mechanical thinning and mastication on the Strawberry fuel break project.

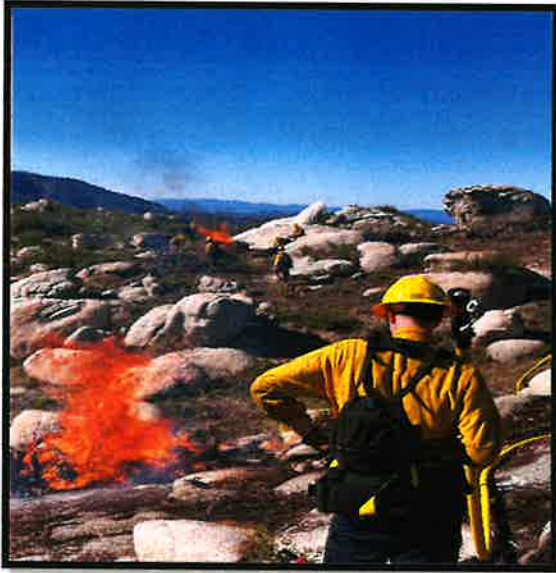
We began our (Long – Overdue) remodel and upgrade project at IFPD Station 621 as part of our ongoing CIP project work.

IFPD ADHOC Committee /Fire Chief and ICFA continued working on 2026/2030 MOU.

IFPD Provided resources for the USFS Pine Cove Fuels project helping with RX burn operations.

IFPD Held a Career Staff Meeting.





Crew 621 continues to work on critical fuels reduction projects and will continue this work into 2026. These fuels projects (though a main priority of the IFPD) are often delayed by fire incidents that our crew gets deployed to for Mutual Aid assistance. Current Projects include: Hwy 243 roadside fuels clearance and right of way project. Strawberry Fuels Break west of Idyllwild.

February Highlights:

IFPD Assisted the USFS with a field “clean up” Day at Lake Hemet. The Idyllwild Fire Protection District provided personnel and equipment for this joint clean up day at lake Hemet, picking up trash, cleaning up the day use areas and removing overgrown fuels from the day use sites.

IFPD continued to assist the USFS with the Pine Cove Fuels project by supporting RX fuels operations.

IFPD participated in the Annual IIMT (Interagency Incident Management Teams) Team Selections process held in Bakersfield CA this year. (Mark LaMont and William Sandborg attended as IFPD Representatives)

IFPD and BDF held a joint policy and agreements class for our personnel.

IFPD assisted the San Bernardino National Forest with and S 215 class at the USFS training center in San Bernardino.



IFPD ADHOC Committee /Fire Chief and ICFA completed negotiations of the 2026/2030 MOU. (IFPD Board approved this MOU at the January Meeting.)



IFPD Paramedics completed working on recertification (ACLS/PALS/PHTLS/CPR,AED)

IFPD and USFS began work on the Strawberry Fuels break (Partnership agreement)

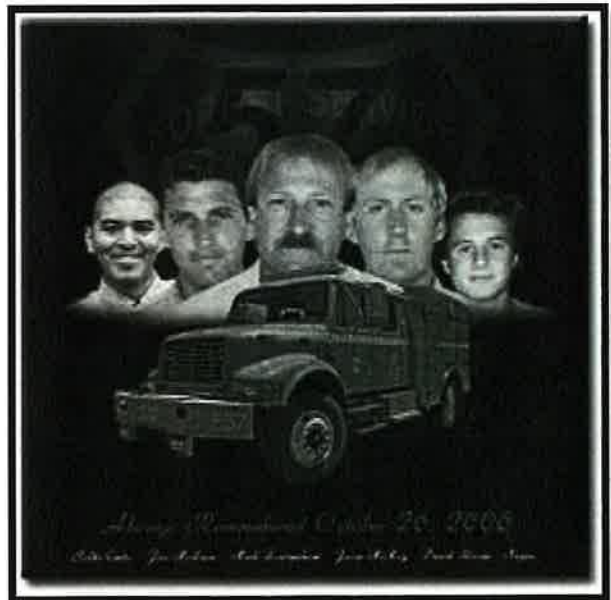
(USFS District Ranger Micheal Nobles trimming fuels during the Lake Hemet cleanup day, while USFS Division Chief Chris Fogle "pulls" fuels)

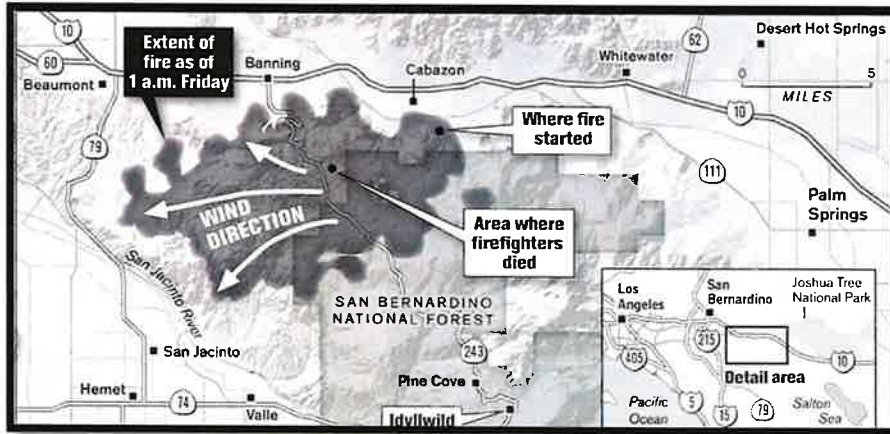
REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED AND MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE:

2006 Esperanza Fire was a large, wind-driven, arson-caused wildfire that started on October 26, 2006, in a river wash near Cabazon, California, United States, west of Palm Springs. By October 29, 2006, it had burned over 41,173 acres / 61 square miles

Five firefighters died defending a vacant house locally known as the "Octagon" that was ultimately destroyed by the fire: Mark Loutzenhiser Jason McKay, Jess McLean, Daniel Kurtis Najera, and Pablo Cerda.

In June 2009, Raymond Lee Oylar was sentenced to death for starting the fire.





It has been 20 Years since the Esperanza Fire tragically swept across our landscape taking the lives of our good friends.

We will NEVER Forget!



Property Abatement 2025:

Our annual notification Postcards were mailed out early this year.

As with previous years, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District will continue inspecting ALL (3829) properties for compliance with ORD 19-01. This local ordinance is in addition to the CA State abatement regulations: (IFPD abatement Inspections begin late spring generally Early to Mid-April – Early June each year).

This year's 3rd inspections were conducted and failed notices were mailed out to 826 property owners.

Final inspections began June 15th, 2025. (TOTAL FINAL FAILS = 270 and Citations have been mailed) Those failing the final inspection have received a citation per IFPD ORD 19-01

It is important to note that the following items top the "Failed" inspection list each year:

- **Address Numbers – These must be 4" or greater in size and must be visible from the street in a contrasting color. (270* address only)**
- **Clearance around Propane Tanks – Must have a minimum of 10' clearance around LP tanks.**
- **Roof clear of flammable debris – Your roof must be free from pine needles, leaves, and other flammable debris.**
- **Thirty (30') ft. clearance of all vegetation around your home.**



Mutual Aid Assistance:

The IFPD Continues to meet the challenge of providing assistance through the Mutual Aid system to those communities in their time of need. IFPD thanks our Cooperators and Partners for their strong commitment to this critical system of emergency service.

Currently the IFPD has responded to the following Mutual Aid Incidents during 25/26FY:

- Wolf Fire (Riverside County CA)
- BDF Support (San Bernardino NF)
- Green (Shasta NF)
- Dale (Riverside County CA)
- Rosa Fire (San Bernardino NF)
- Gifford Fire (Los Padres National Forest)
- Gold Fire (Big Bear California)
- Little Fire (Lake Isabella / Kernville CA)
- Garnet Fire (Sierra National Forest)
- Dillon Fire (Six Rivers National Forest)
- Blue Fire (Klamath NF)
- Log Fire (Klamath NF)
- Weather Pre Position

- Rain Pre Position

The IFPD has Invoiced \$ 3,281,383.00 in Mutual Aid to date for 25/26FY.

Previous Mutual Aid Invoicing for FYs 19/20 – 20/21 – 21/22 – 22/23 – 23/24 – 24/25:

In the 2024/25 FY IFPD Invoiced: \$ 4,666,858.00

In 2024 IFPD invoiced \$2,427,631.09

In 2023 IFPD invoiced: \$ 1,353,000.00

In 2022 IFPD invoiced: \$ 2,010,000.00

In 2021 IFPD invoiced: \$ 1,205,000.00

In 2020 IFPD invoiced: \$ 500,000.00



Incident Volume:	JAN : 2026	FEB: 2026
Medical:	51	56
Fires:	08	03
Hazardous Cond:	06	04
Public Service:	13	16
False Alarm:	03	02
Other:	05	04
Total number of Incidents:	86	85

	YTD TOTALS:		
Medical:			593
Fires:			68
Hazardous Cond:			63
Public Service:			129
False Alarm:			53
Other:			54
	Jan:2026	Feb:2026	
Transports:	34	28	342
AMA:	23	21	251
 Running total:	FY25/26	YTD	960

Equipment Update:



Suppression Equipment:

Unit	Mileage	Condition	Notes
T-621	30465	Good	2025 Ladder test completed.
E-621	38335	Good	In shop / computer issue.
RE-622	66700	Good	Front line
BR-621	69172	Fair	PM Scheduled
BR-622	133655	Good	PM Scheduled
BR-625	42492	Excellent	NA
OES-6608	24928	Excellent	NA
WT- 1	7728	NEW	Excellent

Ambulances:

Medic Unit One 1	71935	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit Two 2	50765	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit Five 5	57998	Excellent	<i>Air Conditioning Repair</i>
Medic Unit 626	64945	Good	NA

Administrative/Other Units

		Condition	Notes
C-6200	97103	Good	(In shop / transmission)
B-621	27575	Excellent	NA
B-622	46255	Excellent	NA
B-625	92067	Excellent	NA
Supt. 1	3392	Excellent	<i>NEW Supt. Vehicle (CRW)</i>
S-621	54425	Good	NA (Squad 621 CRW)
U-621	139915	Good	NA (Utility 621 CRW)
CRW-1A	104010	Good	CRW Vehicle
CRW-1B	46288	Excellent	CRW Vehicle

Please remind your family, friends, and neighbors that Fire Prevention and Abatement efforts are a year-round commitment.



January marked the 1 year anniversary of the "Palisades Fire" in Los Angeles. And the "Eaton Fire" in Altadena.
Palisades Fire : 23,448 acres, 12 Deaths, 6,837 Structures Destroyed, Damage Cost est. : \$ 30 Billion Dollars.
Eaton Fire: 14,021 acres, 19 Deaths, 9,418 Structures Destroyed, Damage Cost est. : \$ 28 Billion

Combined: 37,469 Acres, 31 Deaths, 16,255 Structures Destroyed, \$ 58 Billion Dollars in Damage.

*Please help us Keep Idyllwild Fire Safe!
 Thank you for your efforts in helping to keep Idyllwild Fire Safe!*

Emergency Siren Testing

3rd Saturday of each month

@ 1:00pm.



IFPD Response Time Averages: *(time of dispatch to time of arrival)*

Medical Aid Incidents. 2.35 Minutes

Fire Related Incidents. 3.45 Minutes

Overlapping Incidents 30.33%



From our Family to Yours,

“You are our Mission.”