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SIERRA MADRE FIRE DEPARTMENT BEGINS PARTICIPATION IN AUTOMATIC AID

Sierra Madre, CA. – 1/3/2020

Effective January 1, 2020 the City of Sierra Madre Fire Department began a six-month trial period to participate in Unified Response with the Fire Departments in the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Burbank, Glendale, Montebello, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, San Marino, and South Pasadena. Unified Response allows for the closest fire engine from these participating agencies to respond to an emergency within the unified response geographic area, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries. Unified Response allows for quicker fire apparatus response times and increases the amount of fire equipment, personnel, and resources that respond to fires or other emergencies on the initial dispatch of the incident. Each fire incident is dispatched directly from the Verdugo Communications Center in Glendale under a single automatic aid agreement.

“Sierra Madre engaged the City of Arcadia in a year-long fire services study to get to this point,” said City Manager Gabriel Engeland. “The analysis of the data compiled for the study is the basis for Sierra Madre’s inclusion in Unified Response. At the conclusion of the trial period, we anticipate Sierra Madre will continue participating in Unified Response with our peer, professional Fire Departments.”

Sierra Madre has been a member of the Verdugo Communications Center since 2000, however, because Sierra Madre was a volunteer fire agency, the department was contractually excluded from the automatic aid component of the the Unified Response agreement when it was signed in 2006. The Sierra Madre Fire Department transitioned to a career department in fall of 2019.

“The transition from a volunteer Fire Department to a professional Fire Department has been a long standing goal of this City Council and the community. Participating in Unified Response improves the safety of Sierra Madre residents while also allowing the Sierra Madre Fire Department to improve the safety of residents in our neighboring cities,” said Mayor John Harabedian.

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