

## Message from the Fire Chief

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The Redlands Fire Department's motto is "*Preserving the Past...*" "*Protecting the Future.*" Never before has this sentiment been more applicable. 2009 was filled with many new challenges and multiple opportunities to be creative in adapting to the changing environment while maintaining quality service delivery.

I would especially like to thank the members of the Redlands Fire Department (RFD) for their superlative flexibility and commitment over the last year as they welcomed me as the new Fire Chief and adapted to the rapidly changing economic conditions.

The best example of this flexibility is the transition from the previous interim Fire Station 264 to a modular building designed and constructed to serve temporarily for up to the next five years. By moving from our former temporary quarters, we are making room for the Redlands Police Department as they adapt to their lack of a police headquarters.

Over the last year, we sought to develop a very clear picture of our many active projects and ongoing programs that are the underpinnings of a modern fire and emergency medical agency.

Information Technologies continue to play an important role in the modernization of the RFD. Plans are in place to transition from CONFIRE IT support to a centralized City of Redlands configuration. As part of this initiative, we will be reviewing virtually all activities for appropriate applications of technological solutions. The RFD has already taken an important step in our efforts to go paperless in our activities documentation by discontinuing the use of hard copy "daybooks." Fire officers now use available management information software to log routine activities, which had historically been tracked in daybooks.

Many challenges await the RFD in the coming year. The age and condition of our fleet is a growing concern, as is the condition of our facilities. As we continue to adjust to limited staffing, we will be pressed to develop innovative methods for maximizing program and project ownership and management.

Finally, I would like to challenge the residents of Redlands to maximize their individual fire prevention and disaster preparedness awareness. Each individual must do all they can to prevent fires, limit accidents, and maximize their readiness for disaster.