

## *Message from Fire Chief Jeffrey Jones*

Thank you for visiting the Santa Maria Fire Department's website. The men and women of this department recognize our responsibility to help ensure the safety of the people in our city. We consider public service as a privilege and value the trust we are given by the people we serve. We are dedicated to delivering our services in a courteous, expedient, and efficient manner.

For more than 100 years, our Department has worked hard to adapt and evolve to meet the challenges of providing a wide spectrum of fire services to a diverse community. I believe our greatest asset is our team of employees who consistently go the extra mile in delivering these vital services. It's people who carry out our mission and the people who make up the Santa Maria Fire Department are all working both individually and collectively to make Santa Maria a safer place to live and work.

Organizationally, we are faced with an enormous task. The department's response area covers approximately 25 square miles and we serve a population of more than 92,542 with 14 on-duty suppression firefighters. During 2009, we received 8,984 calls for emergency service, averaging nearly 25 incidents every day. As a department, we must do more than simply respond when called; we must do all we can to prevent fires and prepare in advance for emergencies.

Our Fire and Life Safety division is tasked with providing for review of construction plans, inspections as required by codes, periodic inspection of occupancies within the City, including hazardous material occupancy inspection and investigation of fires to determine cause and origin. Additionally this division is responsible for CERT, public education and all other required fire prevention activities. This division also augments our ARFF program.

The Fire Department continues to move forward and strives to utilize innovative methods to meet our operational goals and financial needs. There has been dramatic improvement over the past several years with the modernization of our fleet, facilities, equipment, and operational practices. This has been due to on-going strategic planning and consistent execution of recommendations from our findings.

We continually work to ensure that our training, equipment and facilities are at the necessary levels to meet the needs of the citizens and community we serve. In the recent past, we entered into Aircraft Rescue Firefighting operations at the Santa Maria Public Airport District and also placed a new OES fire engine into service. We currently have two new fire stations in the planning process and are in the process of upgrading the City's Emergency Operations Center.

As the Fire Chief, I take it as my personal responsibility to make this city as safe as possible through our commitment to Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services, Fire and Life Safety and Emergency Planning. I encourage you to browse through our web pages to learn more about our department.

  
JEFFREY JONES  
Fire Chief