November 13, 2018

TO: ALL LIFEGUARD DIVISION PERSONNEL

FROM: ACTING CHIEF LIFEGUARD FERNANDO BOITEUX
ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF LIFEGUARD TIM ARNOLD

SUBJECT: WOOLSEY FIRE - SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS

DISPOSITION: PLEASE POST UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2018; THEN DISCARD

The Woolsey Fire has wrought devastation across a wide swath of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Many of our Department personnel have been displaced with this fire hitting particularly close to home for the Lifeguard Division’s Northern Section crew. The outpouring of support has been tremendous and exemplifies our Department’s Core Values. Your support for our friends, neighbors, relatives, and colleagues has been exemplary.

The LS300 team has been working around the clock since the fire broke out, providing support to residents who could not escape, caring for animals left behind, sharing information and providing logistical support to the City of Malibu local government within the fire perimeter. LS300 personnel stepped into the role of Staging Area Manager during the critical initial attack phase of this fire siege, allowing every available Engine to directly engage in fire attack and structure defense. The Zuma Beach parking lot has been a staging area, an evacuation center, a helispot, and a community center, with the LS300 crew involved in all aspects of these operations.

The Woolsey Incident Command has initiated an Occupancy Support Task Force with Firefighters and Lifeguards assigned indefinitely. This Task Force will continue the work the LS300 crew began in the early phase of this fire by providing welfare checks and distributing relief supplies to residents within the fire perimeter. The logistics of relief supply distribution are daunting, but our personnel are up to the task and will not stop until the needs of our constituents are handled to the best of our ability.

With this in mind, we ask that personnel wishing to assist people affected by this fire do so in the most productive manner possible, by supporting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) conducting disaster relief with cash donations. Some of the NGOs doing critical work supporting the victims of these fires include:

- Ventura County Community Foundation (https://vccf.org/donate/hill-fire-and-woolsey-fire-sudden-and-urgent-needs-effort/)

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• The Humane Society of Ventura County (https://www.hsvc.org/donate)

• The Airbnb Evacuee Program (https://www.airbnb.com/welcome/evacuees/venturacounty)

• The American Red Cross (https://www.airbnb.com/welcome/evacuees/venturacounty)

• Team Rubicon (https://teamrubiconusa.org/)

The supplies donated to this point have been greater than the need, and are challenging the operation logistically. The Department has requested that members of the public who wish to donate to the relief effort do so financially to one of the many NGOs supporting this mission. The incredibly generous donation of goods has begun to create more work for the first responders who are working tirelessly to bring this fire under control. Providing cash donations to the NGOs listed above allows these organizations to provide exactly the assistance needed by those that have been impacted by these terrible fires.

We thank you all for your continued efforts to help. If you feel that you must do something more, consider registering with the State of California as a disaster relief volunteer (https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov).

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