

MEMO

Fire Department Administration



"People who care about people"

DATE: September 10, 2024

TO: Battalion Chief Josh Cazier, Santa Barbara County Fire Department

FROM: Harry Muns, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Chula Vista Fire Department Letter of Intent to Receive Donated Crew Carrier

The Chula Vista Fire Department established its first ever Fuels Crew (hand crew) in November 2023. The primary mission of the CVFD Fuels Crew is to perform hazardous fuels reduction projects and reduce the cities risk to wildfires in the high/very high fire hazard severity zones and wildland-urban interface areas. The Fuels Crew was established as a three-year pilot program, through fiscal year 2026. The approved budget for the Fuels Crew program did not include an allocation for permanent vehicles.

Since its inception, the Fuels Crew has continued to achieve its primary mission of providing hazardous fuels reduction and defensible space, completing four different project areas, clearing more than 60 acres of high-risk vegetation. Additionally, in its first year, the Fuels Crew has expanded its capabilities and has trained to become a hand crew, able to support fire suppression operations throughout San Diego County. The crew has performed these tasks on a limited budget, with rental vehicles and equipment.

Most recently, the CVFD Fuels Crew has achieved a new milestone in becoming a deployable resource as a Type II Handcrew. As a Type II Handcrew, the "CVFD Crew 1" will need vehicle support for the crew to navigate the tough terrain and environments that wildland firefighters face while on assignment.

A donated crew carrier from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department would greatly benefit CVFD Crew 1 to accomplish its mission to perform fuels reduction in the city of Chula Vista and provide support to incidents throughout the nation. The crew carrier will help with transportation of equipment and personnel to and from project/incident sites. It is important for the crew to have dedicated and reliable vehicles to support the success of the program.

The Chula Vista Fire Department and Crew 1 appreciate the partnership and support of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department in helping us grow the Fuels Crew program by donating essential equipment.

Respectfully,

Harry Muns
Fire Chief
Chula Vista Fire Department