



Everyday Heroes in Action

Alive! looks at Everyday City Heroes, in pictures.
Photos by Mike Meadows

On June 1 at 4:50 a.m., 31 companies of Los Angeles Firefighters, 9 LAFD Rescue Ambulances, 1 Arson Unit, 1 Urban Search and Rescue Unit, 2 Rehab Units, 1 Hazardous Materials Team, 4 helicopters, 4 EMS Battalion Captains, 7 Battalion Chief Officer Command Teams, Emergency Air 1, Foam Tenders 60 and 100, the Heavy Equipment and Dozer Company, Supply and Maintenance Mobile Mechanic, 1 CERT Coordinator, under the direction of Agency Representative Assistant Chief Greg West, responded to assist the L.A. County Fire Department to a backlot Soundstage Fire at Universal Studios, 3900 Lankershim Bl. in the Studio City area.

A Unified Command was established to combat the spectacular fire at Universal Studios backlot. More than 400 Firefighters from the combined agencies fought the blaze, which could be clearly seen from the 134 Freeway. Firefighters worked diligently for hours saving several buildings. Facades constructed on the backlot for several television shows (New York street, the courthouse from *Back to the Future*, and the "King Kong" building) proved to be a monumental task. Firefighters used unconventional methods of obtaining water after experiencing low water pressure, by drafting from lakes on the property.

Other challenges facing the Firefighters were explosions caused by compressed gas containers, propane tanks and tire and gas tanks of private vehicles from the intense heat.

A knockdown was called eight hours after the initial dispatch. The cause and dollar loss is currently under investigation. There were 10 reported minor injuries: four members from L.A. County Fire, five members from L.A. City Fire and 1 Sheriff's Deputy.



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