



From left: Capt. Dave Schmitt, Burbank Fire Department, presents commendation letters to the DWP fire heroes. The letters were signed by the Burbank Fire Chief Ray Krakowski.

Photos by Robert Larios, Club Director of Operations, and courtesy the DWP

On Aug. 24, members of the General Construction staff at the DWP responded to what could have been a very serious situation.

There was an incident next to the Headworks Reservoir project. A car traveling east on the 134 Freeway was on fire and had pulled over. This started a small brush fire between the Freeway and the Headworks Reservoir project.

Three water trucks, some Heavy Duty Truck Operators, and two of the Maintenance and Construction Helpers (MCH) staff that were on site immediately responded to the scene and started wetting down the area and extinguishing the fire. 911 was called, and the Burbank Fire Department, Station 12, Engine 12 responded. When they arrived, the brush fire was out, and they used the DWP water trucks' fire hoses to extinguish the car fire.



At the Burbank ceremony, from left: Roger Yessner, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; Timothy Rupp, Maintenance and Construction Helper; Jerry Loaiza, Maintenance and Construction Helper; Alfred Sosa, Maintenance and Construction Superintendent, Club Member; Tom De Smet, Labor Supervisor; Ricky Brazile, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; and Brian Guzel, Heavy Duty Truck Operator.

DWP

Fire Heroes!

DWP crew spots car on fire, comes to the rescue.

The DWP General Construction employees, the first responders who helped prevent the fire from escalating into a very serious situation were:

- Tom De Smet, Labor Supervisor;
- Jerry Loaiza, Maintenance and Construction Helper;
- Timothy Rupp, Maintenance and Construction Helper;
- Ricky Brazile, Heavy Duty Truck Operator;
- Brian Guzel, Heavy Duty Truck Operator; and
- Roger Yessner, Heavy Duty Truck Operator.

There were no reports of injury to the occupants of the car, or to the DWP or fire crews attending the situation.

A ceremony was held Sept. 8 by the Burbank Fire Dept. to honor the DWP heroes.

"With the high-fire danger that existed that day [and] the quick thinking and actions of your LADWP team, you prevented the vehicle fire from



At the Burbank ceremony, from left: Alfred Sosa, Construction and Maintenance Superintendent, General Construction Division; with Tom De Smet, Labor Supervisor, 22 years of service.

extending into the surrounding brush and the Griffith Park area," wrote Ray Krakowski, Fire Chief, Burbank FD, to Supervisor Tom De Smet, in a letter of recognition. "I commend and thank you for your service in assisting the Burbank and Los Angeles Fire Departments in averting a serious fire from becoming a potentially large and dangerous wildland fire."

Congratulations to the hardy, heroic and quick-thinking DWP crew, who might have saved a Griffith Park hillside, and quite possibly a lot more!

Special thanks to Alfred Sosa, Construction and Maintenance Superintendent, General Construction Division, DWP; and Club Member, for assisting us in the production of this article.



Brian Guzel, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, 4 months of City service, helps contain the fire.



Project Engineer Craig Davis, Waterworks Engineer, 24 years of City service.

SECOND DATE ADDED!

For the Pirates Dinner Adventure, a Club Exclusive Event.

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REC AND PARKS

...and on the Golf Course, Too

Joel Tinajero saves the life of a golfer.



From left: Joel Tinajero, Gardener Caretaker, Rec and Parks, and the life he saved, Victor Gaw.

Photos by JuanCarlos Chan, Rec and Parks

On Aug. 8, at approximately 10:15 a.m., Joel Tinajero, Gardener Caretaker, Golf Maintenance, Rec and Parks, was working in his section at the Harbor Park Golf Course when he observed a 69-year-old male golfer, Victor Gaw, collapse near the fifth hole.

Upon seeing the golfer collapse, Joel immediately ran to his side and started rendering aid, while also using his department radio to call the Golf Starter's office for help. The Golf Starter's office called 911. As Joel Tinajero began to assess the golfer's condition, he determined that he was not breathing, had no pulse, and was in full cardiac arrest. Joel began to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), learned through the training he had received from Rec and Parks.

Joel radioed the Golf Starter's office again, requesting that the course's Automated External Defibrillator device (AED) be delivered to the scene. An AED device was quickly delivered, which Joel immediately connected to the victim. The AED device advised that an electric shock was needed. After one cycle from the AED, Joel detected a faint pulse and observed the victim breathing with difficulty. Joel continued to care for the golfer and monitor his condition until LAFD paramedics arrived on scene and took over. The golfer was taken via ambulance to Torrance Memorial Hospital for additional care. After several weeks of treatment and recovery, the golfer

returned home where he continues his recovery.

On Oct. 5, Rec and Parks Board of Commissioners honored Joel for his quick actions.

Joel is commended for his quick and decisive action in responding to this emergency. He followed his training perfectly and was flawless in his actions, while paying great attention to detail. His actions were above and beyond the call of duty, and were in keeping with the highest standards and traditions of public service. He truly saved a life.

Joel received training in responding to med-

ical emergencies on the City's public golf courses. The training focuses on first aid, CPR, AED deployment, and the administration of oxygen. This training was initiated under the Rec and Parks Golf Division's "Golfer Down Program," a program designed to render assistance to our golfing public in the event of an emergency.

Huge congratulations from the Club to Joel, for saving a life, and to the golfer, Victor Gaw, on his recovery. Well done!



At the Commission hearing congratulating Joel Tinajero, Gardener Caretaker, were, from left: Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Rec and Parks; W. Jerome Stanley, Rec and Parks Commissioner; Lynn Alvarez, Rec and Parks Commissioner; Joel Tinajero; Victor Gaw, whose life was saved; Barry Sanders, Rec and Parks Commission President; and Jill Werner, Rec and Parks Commissioner.

STUFF THAT STOCKING

With movie tickets from the Club!

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