



# City of Placentia Press Release

***For Immediate Release***  
September 17, 2024

**Contact: Damien R. Arrula**  
**City Administrator**  
**(714) 993-8171**  
**administration@placentia.org**

## **PLACENTIA FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY PERSONNEL HONORED BY ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL AT FIRST RESPONDERS DINNER**

**PLACENTIA, CA**—On Thursday, September 12th, the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) hosted its annual First Responders Dinner to recognize first responder organizations that protect and serve Orange County businesses and communities. At this dinner, the OCBC recognized Captain Joshua Martin, Engineer Samuel Listoe, and Probationary Firefighter Mark Aguirre for their notable rescue of a woman from a sewer fire in May.

"This recognition is well-deserved and highlights the incredible work our Fire and Life Safety Department does every day. On behalf of the City Council, I thank them for the selflessness and courage they displayed during this rescue," said Mayor Jeremy B. Yamaguchi. "The City of Placentia is proud to have them on our team, and I want to thank the Orange County Business Council for this significant recognition of our Fire and Life Safety personnel."

"The actions of Captain Martin, Engineer Listoe, and Firefighter Aguirre exemplify the very best of our Department," said Fire Chief Jason Dobine. "Their quick thinking, teamwork, and commitment to public safety saved a life that night. I continue to be proud of their bravery, dedication, and selfless service to the Placentia community. I am incredibly honored to be their Fire Chief and lead a dedicated team of professionals."

On Monday, May 20, 2024, at 9:55 p.m., Placentia Engine 1, Truck 2, and Battalion 1 were dispatched to a potentially life-threatening incident involving smoke emanating from a storm drain near Orangethorpe Avenue and the northbound 57 freeway onramp. Initial reports suggested the presence of individuals possibly trapped within the storm drain, prompting the urgent addition of paramedics and emergency transport to the scene.

The crew from Engine 1, including Captain Joshua Martin, Engineer Samuel Listoe, and Firefighter Mark Aguirre, arrived first and quickly confirmed the presence of light smoke from the storm drain. Concurrently, Placentia Police Department officers were also on-site, seeking to locate any trapped victims. In their efforts to establish contact with anyone who may be trapped, they made voice contact with a distressed female trapped within the storm drain and suffering from smoke inhalation and burns. This victim was discovered in an underground storm drain chamber heavily filled with smoke, making self-extrication impossible. Demonstrating exceptional resourcefulness, the crew from Engine 1 opened the manhole cover above the victim's location. Utilizing a New York Hook—a tool typically used to breach ceilings—they extended it down to the trapped female, providing her a means to hold on. With coordinated effort and teamwork, the crew, alongside a Placentia Police Officer, successfully hoisted the victim out of the manhole. The female victim was promptly transferred to Paramedic Unit 1 for immediate hospital transport and was later discharged.

"The professionalism and heroism demonstrated by these men are a testament to the caliber of our first responders in Placentia. Their actions reflect our deep commitment as a City to ensure the safety and well-being of every resident and visitor," said City Administrator Damien R. Arrula.

--END--