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Last Updated: Thursday, June 23, 2011

## FLAG Trailers to Provide Regional Live Fire Training for Los Angeles County Firefighters

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LACoFD firefighters will soon be able to train more frequently in a live fire environment without having to leave their regions thanks to three new Fireblast 451 Flammable Liquid and Gas (FLAG) II Advanced trainers acquired by the Department. These mobile trailers provide an assortment of training props and modules to simulate a variety of FLAG incidents commonly found in hazardous materials responses. Each trailer has a 200-gallon propane tank to power props for several scenarios, including gas meter,

running flammable liquid spill, fuel and chemical spill, and pressurized tank fires. "These trailers provide a variety of evolutions that are excellent for recruit training as well as challenging for the seasoned veteran," says Fire Fighter Specialist Quvondo Johnson, one of seven personnel trained on the use and maintenance of the trailers on June 15, 2011. "With these trailers you can drill on live fire everyday," he says.

Currently, most of our personnel train in a live fire environment at the Del Valle Regional Emergency Training Center (DVTC) in Castaic, which offers similar scenario-based drills. However, because of the DVTC's remote location, many units have to be taken out of service or personnel have to use their own time in order to attend these trainings. Now, with a FLAG trailer for each region, live fire training can be delivered to our personnel at their assigned locations without them having to leave their service area. This will allow for more frequent live fire training for our firefighters. "The more live fire training, the more confidence you have in a live fire environment," says Johnson. "This is especially important when you work in an area where there's just not as many fires. With these mobile simulators, personnel can keep their skills fresh, feeling the fire, working the hose lines, and getting the right water pressure from the pumper."

These FLAG trailers also offer the added bonus of fire extinguisher props that can be used to teach civilians in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) on proper extinguisher use. "These extinguisher props will offer more effective training for CERT members," says Johnson. "Civilians will feel the heat as they practice putting out a real fire. Plus, these extinguisher props can be used multiple times without damaging the units."

Thanks to the efforts of our Grants Unit, which procured grant funding to make these FLAG trailers possible, our Department has found another cost-effective method of keeping our firefighters ever-ready to battle fires and protect the lives, property and environment of our communities.

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