

April 30, 2020

Community Update

by Fire Chief Paul S. Wilson

City of Cathedral City Fire Chief Retirement

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been my honor to serve as the Fire Chief for the City of Cathedral City during the past five years. I will be retiring effective May 28, 2020 and relocating to Mesa Arizona where our families live.

My wife Pam and I have enjoyed living in the City and being active in the community.

As I reflect back on 2015 - 2020, the Cathedral City Fire Department (F.D.) has made significant improvements on how it provides protection and services for the residents, businesses and visitors.

The F.D. is proud to provide ambulance transport, emergency medical services, emergency management, fire prevention / public education, and fire protection in the city.

Strategic plans were developed for the F.D. through a collaborative labor and management process for the periods of 2015 - 2019 and 2019 - 2023.

Supported by the City Council and City Manager, F.D. staffing was added through cannabis revenues (four firefighters and one fire inspector), by an award of a federal three-year grant (6 firefighters) to provide fourteen on-duty firefighters / EMS personnel among the three fire station locations.

Personnel Services recruited diverse and talented employees, including the hiring of local residents and bilingual individuals, who reflect the community.

Community Services were enhanced by engine / truck company personnel conducting fire inspections and providing public education at schools and community events. Additionally, the 2019 Building and Fire Codes being adopted by the City Council to provide built-in life safety and fire protection for new buildings.

Emergency Management developed a 2017 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (updated every five years and part of the City General Plan update), a 2020 Emergency Operations Plan (revised every five years), improved the City's Emergency Operations Center, and managed the COVID-19 pandemic.



Support Services implemented fire apparatus replacement of a 2020 Command vehicle, a 2020 Fire Inspector vehicle, and a 2020 Fire Engine (scheduled for delivery in June 2020.)

A new fire station is under construction at Date Palm Dr. and Buddy Rogers Ave. to replace an aging fire facility, which is located on the site of the future Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Casino. The new fire station is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2020.

The men and women of the fire department are proud to deliver efficient and effective emergency and support services to the community. I am thankful to have been part of the accomplishments during the past five years.

In parting, I share with you the words of Bob Dylan,

**May your hands always be busy,
May your feet always be swift,
May you have a strong foundation,
When the winds of change shift.**

**May your heart always be joyful,
May your song always be sung,
May you stay forever young.**

Our Mission

The Cathedral City Fire Department is Committed to Preserving Life, Environment and Property Through Quality Emergency Response and Service

Our Values

Compassion - Honesty - Integrity - Professionalism

For Emergencies Dial 9-1-1

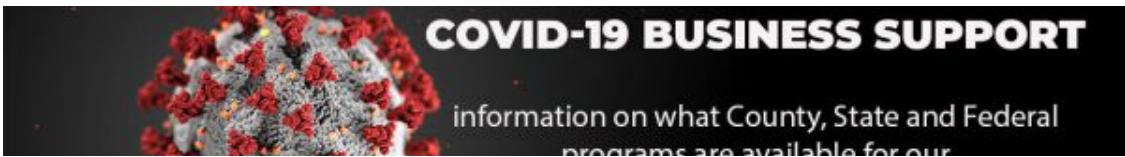
Cathedral City Firefighters CARE

NEWS



COVID-19 Information

Get the latest on Coronavirus Disease 2019



Business Support

Cathedral City Economic Development



Councilmember Rita Lamb Reads for “Coronavirus Storytime”

As school children are required to Stay at Home during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the reading to children programs have switched from the classroom to online. Councilmember Rita Lamb has taken the “Coronavirus Storytime” challenge that many people, including celebrities from around the world, are doing to keep children interested in reading. Councilmember Lamb reads, “Where the Wild Things ...[Read more.](#)

SCE Offering Programs to Save on Electric Costs

Please know SCE will not disconnect your power now because you’re having trouble making payments due to hardships caused by COVID-19. SCE has temporarily suspended service disconnections for nonpayment and waiving late fees. If you are having trouble paying your bill, SCE encourage you to contact the SCE Customer Contact Center to talk about a payment extension or arrangement. For ...[Read more.](#)



Shred Event for May

The City of Cathedral City
Community Shredding Events

THE MAY 2, 2020 SHREDDING EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED.

To help STOP identity theft and as a FREE service to its residents, **the next Shredding Event will be October 3, 2020.**

Eventos Comunitarios para Triturar
 de la Ciudad de Cathedral City (documentos)

EL EVENTO DEL 2 DE MAYO, 2020 PARA TRIZAR DOCUMENTOS HA SIDO CANCELADO.

Para ayudar a ponerle un ALTO al robo de identidad y como un GRATUITAMENTE servicio a sus residentes, **el próximo evento para Trizar será el 3 de Octubre de 2020**

2nd Canceled Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the May 2nd Shred Event has been canceled. The shred event happens from October to May. The next shred event is scheduled for October 3, 2020. [Read more.](#)

Riverside County Provides Several Updates Related to COVID-19

Face Coverings and Social Distancing Extended to June 19 The county public health director released an amended order starting May 1st that requires face coverings to be worn in public with numerous exceptions and to maintain social distancing between others through June 19, 2020 ...[Read more.](#)



Cathedral City Director of Emergency Services Issues New Short-Term Lodging Order

The Cathedral City Director of Emergency Services issued today Emergency Order 2B, which affects the rental of short-lodging facilities.

The new order forbids the rental or lease for short-term lodging facilities through June 19, 2020 except for items listed in Sections 3 and 5. This new order mainly forbids short-term vacation rentals from renting or leasing properties to extended family members beyond the owner or his/her immediate household...[Read more.](#)

Restaurant Delivery Service for Seniors and

High Risk Individuals for COVID - \$66 per Day

On April 24, 2020, Governor Newsom announced the “Restaurants Deliver: Home Meals for Seniors” program that provides home meals for individuals at high risk of contracting COVID or who are currently ill with COVID. The program allows a senior to spend up to \$16 breakfast, \$17 lunch and \$28 for dinner, plus \$5.00 for incidental expenses. The total daily benefit ...[Read more.](#)



State Amends Its Order of Essential Workers

On April 28, 2020, the State Public Health Officer amended its March 19, 2020 order for Essential Workers. The amendment expands the list of

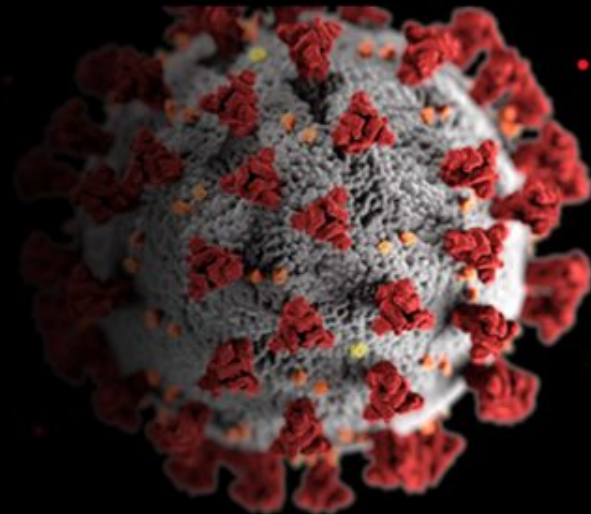
essential workers including auto sales and leasing which is a large industry here in Cathedral City. Here is the expanded order: [Read more.](#)

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell



CDC Updates Common Symptoms of COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control recently updated the symptoms of COVID-19 as they may range from mild to severe. Additionally, the following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19: Cough Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing Or at least two of these ...[Read more.](#)



Cathedral City Residents and Local Businesses Giving Back During the COVID Pandemic

Fire Chief Paul Wilson and the first responders are so grateful for the generosity of Cathedral City residents and local businesses giving needed personal protective equipment and

care packages to help them make it through this unprecedented time. Please thank Thommy and Michael Kochan for making and donating over a 100 face masks that were used to provide protection ...[Read more](#).

Filing for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Now Available



From the EDD.CA.GOV website: As part of the federal CARES Act, the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program helps unemployed Californians who are business owners, self-employed, independent contractors, have limited work history, and others not usually eligible for regular state UI benefits who are out of business or services are significantly reduced as a direct result of the pandemic. The provisions ...[Read more](#).



Riverside County Public Health Updates COVID-19 FAQs

Riverside County has recently updated its COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions on the following website. The answers provide guidance to various orders by the governor and the county public health officer. [Read more](#).



Cathedral City Postpones Special Events Until Further Notice

The Governor has issued a Stay at Home Order and the Riverside County Public Health Officer has issued social distancing orders through June 19, 2020. The City of Cathedral City will suspend all special events until further notice. [Read more.](#)



For Questions or Comments, Contact Chris Parman, Communications and Events Manager
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