

RODEO-HERCULES FIRE DISTRICT NAMES
GARY BOYLES CHIEF/ADMINISTRATOR

Rodeo, CA, May 22 - Gary E. Boyles, a 27-year veteran of San Bernardino County Fire Department, has been appointed Chief/Administrator of the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. Boyles will assume the assignment effective June 18th, following the retirement of incumbent Chief Dennis Salmi.

Boyles joined the San Bernardino County Fire Department in 1972 and rose steadily through the ranks to the post of Assistant Fire Chief, a position he achieved in 1995.

"We are pleased to have such an outstanding fire service professional to lead the Rodeo-Hercules District," said Bill Ridle, chairman of the District Board. "Chief Boyles' record, qualifications and character made him an excellent candidate."

Retiring Chief Salmi joined the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District as a firefighter in 1968, and was named Chief/Administrator in 1997.

According to Ridle, Chief Salmi brought honor and distinction to the District. "There have been numerous changes during Chief Salmi's tenure, but in his steady and capable hands, the District was up to the challenge. The residents of the District are grateful for his exemplary service."

Incoming Chief Boyles holds a Bachelor's degree in management, a Master's degree in public administration, and associate degrees in fire science and in police science.

A native Californian, Chief Boyles and his wife, Jolene, will relocate to the area from their home in Fontana, CA. The Boyles have two sons: Greg, 21, and Jeff, 28. Jeff is a firefighter in the Newport Beach Fire Department.

The Rodeo-Hercules District, established in 1927, serves a 25-square mile area including the City of Hercules and the unincorporated town of Rodeo, with a combined population of about 28,000. The District also includes the Tosco oil refinery in Rodeo, and a portion of the busy I-80 (East Shore) freeway.

Fire and medical response from two fire stations is provided by 18 professional firefighters and an administrative staff of three, supplemented by 10 reserve firefighters.

District personnel respond to about 2,000 calls per year for fire, rescue and medical assistance. The District also engages in extensive fire prevention and public education activities.

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