

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Ruben Torres

SUBJECT: Interim Leadership for San José
Office of Emergency Services

DATE: September 20, 2013

Approved

Date


9/27/13

INFORMATION

Christopher Godley, Director of the Office of Emergency Services since 2010, has announced his departure from the City effective October 5, 2013, to take a position in the private sector. We will begin the recruitment and selection process to fill the vacancy as soon as practical. To provide stability for emergency operations planning in the interim, I have assigned Fire Department Division Chief Colleen Mulholand to manage the Office of Emergency Services effective October 13, 2013. Her broad range of experience, both as an emergency responder and a program manager, make Chief Mulholand an ideal choice for this temporary assignment.

Over her twenty-seven-year career with San Jose Fire Department, Chief Mulholand risen through the ranks from firefighter to division chief and is presently assigned in one of the three operational shifts in the Bureau of Field Operations. She has adjunct responsibility for the Critical Incident Stress Team, Employee Assistance Program, Departmental Safety Program, and Line Inspection Program. Colleen has had significant administrative responsibilities, including managing the Hazardous Materials and Department Safety programs, and serving as the Administrative Battalion Chief for the Bureau of Field Operations. Chief Mulholand has a master's degree in Emergency Services Administration from California State University, Long Beach. Additionally, she has certifications as a Terrorism Liaison Officer and Hazardous Materials Specialist, and is currently responsible for Urban Shield Training and for creating and updating the emergency response curriculum for industry safety.

On behalf of the Department and the City, I thank Chris Godley for his effective leadership that has enhanced our Citywide capacity to be better prepared for a broad range of potential emergencies, and I wish him every success in his new role. I also look forward to the contributions that Colleen will make as she steps into her new role and works with City staff and our emergency services partners, both regionally and throughout California. I am confident that our Office of Emergency Services will continue to provide exemplary service in protecting the lives, property and environment of the people of San Jose.


RUBEN TORRES,
Acting Fire Chief, Fire Department

For questions, please contact Ruben Torres, Fire Chief, at (408) 794-6951.

