

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 149

Introduced by Assembly Members Keene and Berryhill
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley, Fuentes, Fuller, Hancock, Laird, Saldana, and Wolk)

June 25, 2008

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 149—Relative to firefighters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 149, as amended, Keene. Firefighters.

This measure would recognize and commend the bravery and selflessness of the firefighters of CAL-FIRE.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California Department of Forestry and Fire
2 Protection (CDF) firefighters, the men and women of CAL-FIRE,
3 perform an essential public service, and CAL-FIRE is the second
4 largest firefighting agency in the country, operating 804 fire
5 stations and over 1,000 fire engines throughout the state; and
6 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the significant duties,
7 responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of the approximately 6,900
8 CDF firefighters; and
9 WHEREAS, CAL-FIRE was founded 103 years ago and has a
10 long and proud history of public service, and the men and women
11 of CAL-FIRE continue to devote themselves to their jobs,
12 regardless of the potential hazards and dangers to themselves; and
13 WHEREAS, California is the most fire prone state in the ~~United~~
14 *United States* and CAL-FIRE is the preeminent agency in wildland

1 and urban interface firefighting in the country, responding to an
2 annual average of over 5,600 wildland fires across the state; and
3 WHEREAS, CDF firefighters have consistently demonstrated
4 their bravery and skill in responding to such devastating fires as
5 the Oakland Hills Fire of 1991, the Southern California Fire Sieges
6 of 2003 and 2007, and, this year, the Humboldt Fire that burned
7 over 23,000 acres in Butte County and the 41 Fire that burned over
8 3,000 acres in Madera County; and

9 *WHEREAS, CAL-FIRE efficiently and tirelessly managed an*
10 *unprecedented siege of dry lightning strikes this year in northern*
11 *California, which added hundreds of fires to a statewide peak of*
12 *over 1,700 fires that burned over 700,000 acres by July; and*

13 WHEREAS, In addition to responding to wildfires across
14 California, CDF firefighters play a critical role in responding to a
15 multitude of statewide and national emergencies, including, but
16 not limited to, the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989, the Cantara
17 Spill of 1991, the Northridge Earthquake of 1994, the Central
18 California Floods of 1997 and 1998, the Oklahoma City Bombing
19 of 1995, New York City after September 11, 2001, and Hurricane
20 Katrina in 2005; and

21 WHEREAS, CDF firefighters answer an average of over 350,000
22 calls a year and only 1.6 percent, approximately, of those calls
23 relate to wildland fires; and

24 WHEREAS, The firefighters of CAL-FIRE perform the same
25 work as other municipal fire departments, such as responding to
26 structural fires and automobile accidents, attending to victims of
27 heart attacks and drownings, and rescuing flood and earthquake
28 victims; and

29 WHEREAS, CDF firefighters continue to work nearly one-third
30 more hours than their municipal counterparts on average as part
31 of their regular duty, often fighting fires for weeks on end without
32 relief during every fire season; and

33 WHEREAS, Because of drought, bark beetle infestations, and
34 sudden oak death disease, we are facing historically high levels of
35 fuels, and the 2008 fire season looks to be as dangerous as any in
36 recent years; and

37 WHEREAS, The California Firefighters' Memorial in Capitol
38 Park bears the names of approximately 1,200 firefighters who have
39 died in the line of duty and approximately 75 of those are CDF

1 firefighters who have lost their lives protecting our residents, their
2 homes, parks, and communities; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
5 hereby recognizes and commends the bravery and selflessness of
6 the firefighters of CAL-FIRE, and expresses its appreciation for
7 their continued service and dedication to the residents of this state;
8 and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
10 of this resolution to the *author, the* Director of CAL-FIRE ~~and,~~
11 *and the* President of the CDF Firefighters.

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