

**Statement of John B. Tripp, Chief Deputy of Emergency Operations
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Station Fire Response Panel – Rep. Adam Schiff
Pasadena, California – October 12, 2010**

As the Chief Deputy of Emergency Operations who oversees the emergency service delivery of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), I reviewed the initial actions of the LACoFD on August 26, 2009. That review indicated that the firefighters fought the fire in an aggressive and effective manner to contain the fire to 20 acres. As part of the review of the sequence of the situation the night of August 26, 2009, and the early morning of August 27, 2009, the fire spotted in a canyon that was inaccessible. This unfortunately led to the fire growing larger in size.

The information contained within the review provided factual information regarding the personnel and equipment response of the LACoFD to the incident from the period beginning at 3:24 p.m., Wednesday, August 26, 2009, through 6:00 a.m., Monday, August 31, 2009.

This time frame covers several critical and successive stages of the fire, beginning with the LACoFD's initial response of personnel and equipment to its partners in the Angeles National Forest (ANF), through the incident's escalation in intensity, the transition of LACoFD from an assisting agency to a Unified Command partner, and to the burn over and accident at Fire Camp 16 in Mt. Gleason.

Importantly, this review has enabled the LACoFD's commanders to assess key and critical areas of current strengths, as well as improvement opportunities regarding command, structure protection, citizen evacuation, and interaction with other agencies.

That interaction with ANF has led to improved communications of ordering aircraft for future incidents. As in the past, we look forward to the continued cooperation and coordination of unified command for wildfires that are on the borders of our jurisdictions and the ANF.