

# Building a Mission Driven Culture

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## Brian Fennessy

Chief, Orange County Fire Authority

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Chief Fennessy began his career in 1978 with the US Department of Agriculture's United States Forest Service and the US Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management. In 1990, Fennessy joined the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) and ultimately became Chief of Department in 2015. One of his many accomplishments while with the SDFD was developing and establishing a multi-mission Fire/Rescue/EMS helicopter program designed to serve the citizens of the City of San Diego and the region. Fennessy became Chief of the Orange County Fire Authority in April 2018.

Chief Fennessy has enjoyed a diversity of executive leadership and management experiences in both the wildland fire and metropolitan fire service communities. He believes that Mission-Driven Culture is the future of the fire service and has presented on this topic at a variety of local, state and national venues. Chief Fennessy has held multiple Incident Command System certifications and positions, served on National Incident Management Teams, and developed one of the first All-Hazard Incident Management Teams in the US. He currently serves as the representative for the nine Western Division FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Task Force Sponsoring Agency Chiefs, is vice-chair of the California Fire Chiefs Association Metro Chiefs and vice-chair of the FIRESCOPE Board of Directors.