

SAN DIEGO FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

NO.: 05-046
DATE: May 31, 2005
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Jeff Bowman, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: Death of Lifeguard Sergeant Wayne Auer

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I have the sad news of passing on the death of Lifeguard Sergeant Wayne Auer on Monday, May 30, 2005. Sergeant Auer was riding his motorcycle yesterday with two other lifeguards, Brian Hojonacki and Daryl McDonald, on Wildcat Canyon Road about 2:00 p.m. They were riding single file with Brian in front, Wayne in the middle and Daryl bringing up the rear. For some reason, Wayne drifted to the left into oncoming traffic. Despite Brian and Daryl's efforts, Wayne was pronounced dead on scene.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, and especially Lifeguard Services Division, are deeply sorrowed with his passing. Wayne started as a San Diego Lifeguard in 1979 and has progressed to be one of the experts in cliff and swift water rescue. He has recently worked with Copter 1 in performing water rescues by deploying from Copter 1 to save victims. Wayne's parents both predeceased him, and his closest relative is an aunt in Austin, Texas. San Diego Lifeguards are his family.

Flags will be flown at half-mast on all fire and lifeguard facilities until the day of his memorial services, which are currently being planned.

