



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MEDIA ADVISORY

July 21, 2023

CON FIRE TO HONOR FIREFIGHTERS WHO MADE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE THIS DATE IN 2007

Annual Event Recognizes Tragic Deaths of Captain Matt Burton and Engineer Scott Desmond Attempting to Rescue Couple from San Pablo House Fire

WHEN: Friday, July 21, 2023, 11 a.m.

WHERE: Con Fire Training and Safety Division Memorial Wall and Garden, 2945 Treat Boulevard, Concord

WHAT: Con Fire leaders, employees, and family members will gather to pay tribute to Captain Matt Burton and Engineer Scott Desmond, fallen firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on this date in 2007. The service takes place on the 16th year anniversary of the tragic deaths of Captain Burton and Engineer Desmond. The United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Honor Guard and bagpiper will also participate in the event.

While this event will focus exclusively on the anniversary of the loss of Matt and Scott, an annual fallen firefighter observance, recognizing the sacrifices of all our members who died in the line of duty, will be conducted on September 11 at Fire Station 11 in Clayton.

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About Contra Costa County Fire Protection District – With implementation of a contract for service with the City of Pinole in March, 2023 and annexation of the former East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) in July, 2022, Contra Costa Fire now provides fire and emergency medical services to more than 770,000 residents in 12 cities and 11 unincorporated areas across our expanded 557 square-mile jurisdiction. The district now comprises 33 fire stations and more than 600 employees. Through our unique ambulance "Alliance," the district delivers EMS and ambulance transport services to much of Contra Costa County. In 2022, the district responded to nearly 100,000 incidents of all types, including 67,000 fire medical emergencies, and dispatched some 100,000 ambulances, conducting more than 75,000 ambulance transports. Contra Costa Fire remains dedicated to preserving life, property, and the environment.

Media Contact: Steve Hill, Public Information Officer, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, (925) 532-6512

For incident-related media queries 24/7, please call our On-Call PIO Line at 925-660-PIO1 (7461).



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FACT SHEET

July 21, 2023

Con Fire Michele Drive Line of Duty Deaths

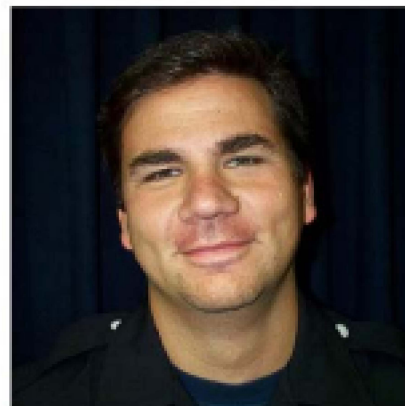
In the early morning hours of July 21, 2007, Fire Captain Matthew Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond made the ultimate sacrifice. Both men died in the line of duty while making a valiant effort to rescue an elderly couple trapped in their burning home. The tragic deaths of these two firefighters have left an unimaginable void in the lives of family members. Matt's wife Chantel, daughter Megan, and son Joshua, and Scott's wife Carolyn, son Tyler, and their parents and siblings have suffered a loss that words cannot describe.

Matt and Scott's other family, the men and women of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, along with countless other members of the fire service from around the state and nation, also feel great sorrow for the tremendous loss of our brothers.

While there is nothing we can do that will change the outcome of that fateful night, we can and must make a solemn pledge to learn the lessons from this tragedy, and to then implement and support changes that are necessary to help prevent a future tragedy. By doing so, we honor Matt and Scott's courage, dedication and sacrifice; we help keep them in our hearts by working safely and caring for each other every day; we strive to ensure their deaths will not be in vain.



**Fire Captain
Matt Burton**



**Fire Engineer
Scott Desmond**