

BURN INSTITUTE-INLAND EMPIRE – CASE STATEMENT

About the Burn Institute-Inland Empire

The Burn Institute-Inland Empire (BI-IE) dedicates agency efforts and resources to saving lives by reducing the number of fires and burn injuries within the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties). While 80% of burn injuries are preventable, there remain a high number of burn injuries and premature deaths within the Inland Empire as a result of intentionally set or accidental fires, scald burns, electrical burns and other causes of accidental burn injuries.

History

The Burn Institute-Inland Empire is an affiliate of Burn Institute. Founded in 2002, the BI-IE endeavors to emulate the successful programs and services of the Burn Institute. Located in San Diego and serving the counties of San Diego and Imperial, the Burn Institute is one of the largest and most-effective fire and burn prevention agencies in the United States. The Burn Institute was founded 35 years ago with an initial mission of developing a local burn center. The Burn Institute continues to serve the communities of San Diego and Imperial counties while supporting the burn center at UCSD. Together, the Burn Institute-Inland Empire and the Burn Institute provide programs and services to most of the Southern California region. The combined counties served by the two agencies encompass a vast area made up of coastal, desert, mountain and inland lands and includes the largest county of the United States (San Bernardino).

Mission Statement

The Burn Institute-Inland Empire is dedicated to saving lives by reducing the number of fires and burn injuries within the Inland Empire by providing assistance for the medical treatment, care, and recovery of burn patients; by providing and facilitating activities and programs that lead to the prevention of burns; by supporting burn centers located within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties; and by supporting research into burn care and burn prevention.

Structure and Governance

The Burn Institute-Inland Empire is a 501 (c) 3 California nonprofit health agency. The agency is governed by an all volunteer Board of Directors currently consisting of 17 members, all elected by the process stated in agency by-laws. The Board of Directors and the agency Advisory Board is reflective of the diversity of the people of the Inland Empire. Members of the board include medical and firefighting professionals, business and civic leaders, burn survivors and family members of burn survivors and other interested persons.

Click [Board of Directors {insert hotlink}](#) for a complete listing of the Board of Directors and their biographies.

President: Deputy Chief David Waltemeyer, City of Corona Fire Department

Vice-President: Chief Ed McOrmond, Pechanga Fire Department

Treasurer: William “Bud” Korn, Service Planner-Southern California Edison

Secretary: Gayanne Bonar, Dress for Success Cleaners

Executive Director: Gary Stansberry, Fontana, CA

Agency Activities

The Burn Institute-Inland Empire is seeking to expand agency capacity to serve the people and communities of the Inland Empire. Programs and services of the BI-IE are provided free of charge to those we serve. Therefore, the Executive Director and Board of Directors are necessarily engaged in fundraising activities throughout the year. The agency endeavors to be a “charity of choice” for donors. Because the agency operates as a true public benefit agency, there is never a charge for the programs and services we provide.

Financial resources are used to provide programs, burn survivor support activities, benevolent services and special projects. Currently, the BI-IE is focused on three distinct but mission related areas:

1. To provide prevention programs and materials independently and in conjunction with other medical, firefighting, and civic groups and citizens of the communities we serve.
2. To provide compassionate, non-bureaucratic support to burn survivors and their families.
3. To support burn injury research and treatment at the Edward G. Hirschman Burn Center at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, California.

The BI-IE provides language and age appropriate prevention literature to schools, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, fire departments, medical offices, civic minded organizations such as the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and to individual citizens at community health fairs, prevention week activities and anywhere else there is a receptive audience.

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The agency is a proud co-host of [Camp Beyond the Scars {insert hotlink to BI-IE camp link}](#), a specialized camp for children and youth recovering from the often lingering effects of a burn injury, both physical and emotional. Camp Beyond the Scars is operated in the winter snow areas of the San Bernardino Mountains and warm and sunny mountains of San Diego County. The camps take advantage of the synergy and resources of both the [Burn Institute {insert hotlink to website}](#) and the Burn Institute-Inland Empire. This specialized camp is staffed by a small army of volunteers that rearrange vacation and family days, coordinate their work shifts and make other personal sacrifices in order to be able to assist with the camps. Many of the camp counselors and volunteers are they themselves burn survivors; while others have a servants' heart and are willing to provide specific skills, music and other talent and needed clothing resources or to sponsor a child to camp. There are many [volunteer opportunities {insert hotlink to BI-IE volunteer link}](#) for the camps and other agency needs throughout the year.

The Executive Director and agency resources are also used to provide emergency financial and other support to burn patients and family members. This assistance might be for assisting a wife to be with a husband that has been burned, or a mother to be with a child or for other simple but often daunting needs when one has been burned out of their home. Something as simple as getting home from the burn unit can become a formidable task for a burn patient. The agency also assists the medical and social work staff of the Burn Center in acquiring assistance from an invitation only foundation interested in helping low-income individuals improve their lives. This resource can be used for such activities as purchasing pressure garments to reduce scarring or for psychological help for a juvenile fire setter.

A burn-injured firefighter or law enforcement professional and their families are of the highest priority for this agency. Assistance is given freely and expeditiously as a small gesture of help for the heroes of the firefighting and law professions. These professionals answer every bell, every call; it is the least we can do as an agency and as members of the community to rally support for those that sacrifice their personal safety on our behalf.

An unfortunate fact of life is that firefighters die in the line of duty more often, proportionately, than those in other "dangerous" professions. For example, more so than construction trades workers and those engaged in mining. In fact, somewhere in the United States, a firefighter dies in the line of duty every other day. Fortunately, at the Edward G. Hirschman Burn Center at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center firefighters or law enforcement

professionals suffering a burn-injury are treated with state-of-the-art care, as are the citizens of the Inland Empire.

Law enforcement professionals suffer burn-injuries in the line of duty also; most often as first responders to transportation accidents or other situations where they arrive first on the scene. Often, these first-responders are alone and unaided in attempting to save lives and property.

Then there are those too who walk among us that also risk personal safety to save the life of another. These are men and woman engaged in ordinary life activities that answer the call of courage in extraordinary situations so that others might avoid a death by fire. These men and woman are honored each year at the Burn Institute-Inland Empire's annual [Spirit of Courage Awards Banquet {insert hotlink here}](#).

The banquet is held each year to honor those who have acted heroically at that critical moment between the fight or flight response. Disregarding personal danger, these men and woman have acted to pull strangers out of burning cars that have crashed in front of them, or rescued fellow workers burned by high voltage electricity, or rescued someone from a burning building. The situations are different each year, but the survivors share in common a fortunate encounter with a real hero. Please consider attending this banquet, an evening of hope and inspiration beyond measure!

An appeal for Support:

Please consider making a financial gift to support the efforts of the Burn Institute-Inland Empire. With the recent wildfires of 2007, the reoccurring scald burns that continuously injure small children and seniors, and the day to day burn injuries that are preventable, supporting prevention activities can make a real difference.

By making a gift to support burn survivor activities, you are able to sponsor a child to Camp Beyond the Scars or contribute to the emergency benevolent funds that assist burn patients and families in their darkest hour.

By offering general support, you insure that the Burn Institute-Inland Empire can continue to offer all programs and services at no cost to those we serve. Preventing one fire in your community may be what saves your home. It may save your life or those of your neighbors. But when a burn injury occurs, the Burn Institute-Inland Empire will be there to offer support in a compassionate manner. Your gift makes so much possible but requires that you act to help a stranger, a stranger that might be your neighbor, someone you attend Church with or

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know down at the super-market. Or, maybe it will be one your own: a family member that is in need someday. Please help, act compassionately, and act expeditiously in offering your support. [insert Make a Gift](#)