Baraka Carter

Unit Chief

CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit

Chief Carter began his career in 1997 as a Seasonal Fire Firefighter in Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit (MMU). In 2000, he promoted to LT Engineer in MMU assigned to Merced County Los Banos Station 71 and joined the Merced County Hazardous Material Team as a Hazmat Specialists. In 2001, he promoted to Permanent Engineer in Merced County at Gustine City station 74 in MMU.

In 2004, he promoted to Fire Captain working at Mt. Bullion Camp in Mariposa Division until 2008 when he transferred to Los Banos B Station in MMU and in 2010, transferred to lone Training Center, assigned to the COA Battalion.

In 2011 he promoted to Battalion Chief in San Benito Monterey Unit (BEU) overseeing the Bear Valley Battalion. In 2015, he transferred back to MMU, assigned to Merced County overseeing the Delhi Battalion 19 and Merced County Technical Rescue Team.

In 2019, Chief Carter promoted to Deputy Chief in Sacramento, overseeing Safety and EMS for the Southern Region before moving to Deputy Chief of Operations in Santa Clara Unit in 2022.

In 2023, Chief Carter promoted to Unit/Fire Chief for the Santa Clara Unit (SCU) and acting as the Fire Chief for the City of Morgan Hill and South Santa Clara County Fire District.

Chief Carter was assigned to Incident Management Team 1 for 7 years functioning as the Team Safety Officer. In 2019, he moved into the Operations Section and is currently assigned to Incident Management Team 2 as the Incident Commander.

Chief Carter has sat on several Statewide Committees and Cadres such as for S-420 (Command and General Staff), AAIM (Advance All-Hazard Incident Management) and C-404 Safety Officer. He is a Certified Chief Officer and a State Fire Marshal Register Instructor.