

Joe Buchmeier

Deputy Chief/Department Safety Officer

CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters

Joe began his career with CAL FIRE in 2001 as a Seasonal Firefighter in the Tehama-Glenn Unit (TGU). In 2004 Joe accepted a limited term (LT) Fire Fighter II position in the Riverside Unit and in 2005 went to Sonoma Lake Napa (LNU) as a LT Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) working on the Schedule A side, becoming permanent FAE later that year. In 2009 Joe promoted to Fire Captain in LNU on the Schedule B side and later moved to a Schedule A FC position in LNU. Joe promoted to Schedule A field Battalion Chief (BC) in 2015, became the Unit Safety Officer BC in 2017 and in 2019 promoted to Central Division Chief in LNU. In 2020 Joe promoted to Deputy Chief in Sacramento as the Department Safety Officer where he currently works.

Joe has served on Incident Management Team Six as the Safety Officer for 12 years. He is the Cadre Lead for CAL FIRE Serious Accident Review Team, cadre member for C404 Safety Officer, Advanced All-Hazards Incident Management (AAIM), and has been Cadre Lead for Hazmat Incident Commander and hazmat FRO, he has served on the Napa Interagency Hazardous Incident Team for 15 years. Currently he is the chair person for the CAL FIRE (Safety Advocacy For Employees Committee (SAFECo), Personal Protective Equipment Working Group (PPEWG) and is a member of Statewide Training, Wellness advisory Committees as well as California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG).