

Nate LaRusso

Battalion Chief, Oxnard Fire Department

Oxnard, CA

Nate began his fire service career as a Fullerton Fire Department Explorer in 1997. After working as an EMT on ambulances, a volunteer firefighter with La Habra Heights FD, and ski patrol in Southern California, he was hired by the Oxnard Fire Department in 2003. Nate was promoted to Engineer in 2006 and assigned to a truck company. Nate promoted to Captain in 2012 and Battalion Chief in 2017. Nate currently oversees the OFD Training Division, which is responsible for recruitment, academy training, and firefighter training and development.

Over the course of his career, Nate has been heavily involved in department operations, having served in the US&R, Ocean Rescue, HazMat, Apparatus, and Dive S&R programs. He has served as a CSFM Training Instructor in multiple OFD recruit academies and 15 years with the Mt. San Antonio College Fire Academy. Nate has been a Safety Officer on CAL FIRE IMT 2 since 2021 and serves on the C-404 Safety Officer Cadre. Nate is currently the Chair for the Ventura Regional Training Group, Vice-chair for the Ventura CICCIS committee, and the President of the Oxnard Public Safety Managers Association.

Nate holds an A.S. in Fire Technology (Mt. San Antonio College), a B.S in Public Safety Management (Southern Illinois University), and an M.S. in Emergency Services Administration (Cal State University, Long Beach).

In his spare time, Nate enjoys spending time with his family and outdoor activities, including motocross, snowboarding, surfing, and mountain bikes.