



# ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

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Keith Richter, Fire Chief

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August 12, 2010

Doctors Choi, Schnall, Dobson, Israel, Baker  
Center for Occupational and Environmental Health  
5201 California Avenue, Suite 100  
Irvine, California 92617

Dear Doctors:

We are pleased to provide this letter in support of the research study titled "*Exploring Occupational and Behavioral Risk Factors for Obesity in Firefighters*" supported by a two-year award from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to be conducted by you and your colleagues at the University of California, Irvine, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (UCI-COEH).

We understand the goal of this study is to assess the relationship between work characteristics, health behaviors, and cardiovascular risk factors including obesity among OCFA firefighters. This study will enhance the existing WEFIT program and support efforts to protect and improve the health of OCFA firefighters and firefighters nationally.

We also understand that the following are components for this study: 1) development of a firefighter-specific work and health questionnaire with input from OCFA firefighters; 2) collection of responses from 375 firefighters to the work and health questionnaire; and 3) the monitoring of physical activity and completion of a food diary for three days by a small group (N=80) of firefighters.

Most importantly, we understand that firefighter participation in this study is entirely voluntary and all participants will be informed of the risks and benefits of this study as required by the UC Irvine Institutional Review Board (IRB). All survey data will be collected and maintained confidentially. Only aggregate (group level) data will be reported. No individual data will be available to the OCFA or to the IAFF Local 3631.

We want to express our support for this important study and indicate the willingness of both the OCFA and Local 3631 of the IAFF to collaborate in this project. We look forward to working together with the UCI COEH research team in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Keith Richter, Fire Chief  
Orange County Fire Authority

Joe Kern, President  
Orange County Professional Firefighters  
Association, IAFF Local 3631