



Calit2 UC Irvine division and  
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present the 2006 RESCUE SEMINAR SERIES

## Advanced Technology in Orange County Public Safety

**DATE:** Friday, June 30, 2006

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Calit2 Room 3008

**RELATED LINK:** [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

For additional information on this series, contact  
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Faculty Sponsor: Sharad Mehrotra



**SPEAKER**  
Rich Toro  
Orange County Fire Authority

### Advanced Technology in Orange County Public Safety

Rich Toro  
Orange County Fire Authority  
[richtoro@ocfa.org](mailto:richtoro@ocfa.org)

Rich Toro's talk will start with a discussion of the technologies employed by the Orange County Fire Authority in the past, move to a description of today's operational technologies and then focus on future requirements.

Orange County's public safety radio system dates back to 1934. Over the years additional frequencies were allocated, and sharing of channels between fire and police became possible. In 1984 the department moved from 46 MHz communications to an 800 MHz trunked system. Over time, channels became dedicated to either voice or data (mobile data services). Voice channels are now reserved for tactical communication while mobile data channels are used for more routine communications. Although data rates are low (19.2 kbps), the system works well and successfully offloads routine communications from voice channels. Planning is now underway to enable large amounts of data to be transmitted over the air. Situational awareness and information dissemination to field units are very important. The vision is "to bring the office to the incident." It's all about getting the right information to the right person at the right time during crisis response.

Rich will also discuss opportunities for RESCUE students to serve as paid interns for the OCFA under a grant the Authority has recently received from DHS. Projects of interest include automatic vehicle location and wireless LAN (licensed band.)

#### Biography:

Rich Toro is responsible for advanced information technology and communications for the Orange County Fire Authority, which serves 22 of the 32 cities in the second most populated county of the most populated state in the U.S. Rich has served for 31 years in public safety communications in Orange County, the last 18 years for the OCFA.

In the past Rich has been an 911 operator and 911 communications supervisor for the OCFA. He is a certified Incident Command System unit leader. His deployments include the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing as part of the FEMA urban search and rescue effort. Rich regularly is responsible for communications for major fires in Orange County such as the recent February 2006 Sierra Fire.