



Milpitas Police Department

*Dennis Graham
Chief of Police*

PRESS RELEASE

California Conference of Arson Investigators Officer of the Year Award

Milpitas Police Officer Eric Emmanuele was recognized as “Officer of the Year” by the California Conference of Arson Investigators (CCAI) at their annual conference on March 26, 2012 in San Luis Obispo. The CCAI is the oldest and the most active fire and arson investigator's association in the country, with over 1,100 members. CCAI transcends the gap between the public (fire service, law enforcement) and private (i.e. insurance adjusters, private investigators) sectors. Created in 1954, it serves the professional needs of men and women engaged in all aspects of fire and arson investigation.

In 2007, the City of Milpitas created a unique joint venture between the police and fire departments to develop a multi-disciplinary arson investigation process. Emmanuele was assigned to lead the venture, and not only enhanced processes and training levels in Milpitas, but shared these opportunities throughout the Bay Area. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Emmanuele coordinated 12 advanced fire/arson investigations courses that provided training to over 300 fire investigators, police detectives, crime scene investigators and assistant District Attorneys. Federal grant funds covered the cost of this training.

As a result of his expertise, he was requested to assist on the investigations of high profile regional fires including the Trace Elementary School fire in San Jose, the Paul Zumont arson/homicide in Palo Alto and the PG&E gas line explosion in San Bruno.

“Eric was given a tremendous opportunity by the City of Milpitas, and he made the most of it. He excelled by taking a collaborative approach within Milpitas and then beyond our borders, to the benefit of the whole region,” stated Milpitas Police Chief Dennis Graham. “We’re very proud of his accomplishment. Due to reductions in our sworn staff, Eric is back on patrol in Milpitas, where he has already made an impact by personally arresting several residential burglars. The CCAI award is an outstanding honor, and we commend Eric for his drive and dedication that resulted in this achievement.”

Date: April 26, 2012



Milpitas Police Officer Eric Emmanuele, Bill Kilpatrick, President of CCAI