

Foothill Area History

Foothill Area was established and opened on September 1, 1961. Foothill Area serves the communities of Pacoima, Sunland, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, Tujunga, and Sun Valley. It has remained at the same location since 1961, at 12760 Osborne Street. Prior to its founding, the area was patrolled by what was known as "Valley Division."

Foothill Area's most notable incident was the videotaped assault of motorist Rodney King by four LAPD Officers in 1991. Resident George Holliday filmed the incident from his balcony across the street, near the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Osborne Street. The resulting investigation led to the indictment of the four officers: Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind, Theodore Briseno, Rolando Solano, and the officer's supervisor: Stacey Koon. The following trial resulted in the acquittal of the involved officers on April 29, 1992, and is attributed as a cause of the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising. At a federal trial in 1993, a jury found Laurence Powell and Stacey Koon guilty of violating Rodney King's Civil rights and they were sentenced to prison. Timothy Wind and Theodore Briseno were acquitted once again but fired by the Department.

Other notable incidents of Foothill Area include the 1978 Verdugo Hills Cemetery Landslide, which unearthed and distributed a mass of graves from a hillside cemetery into residences below. In 1957, a midair plane collision over Pacoima Junior High School resulted in the loss of all 8 passengers on board both planes and 3 students in the school.

The Sayre Fire of 2008 resulted in the response of officers of Foothill Area to assist in evacuations and protection of property. It is considered the worst loss of homes due to a fire in the City's history.

On December 5, 2017, the Creek Fire ignited in the Kagel Canyon area in Foothill Division. The fire lasted until January 9th, 2018. Response to the fire demanded the use of mutual aid of other agencies from nearby cities and officers from all throughout Los Angeles to assist Foothill personnel. No deaths resulted from the fire.

Foothill Area celebrated its 60th Anniversary as a police station on September 1 of 2021.

Foothill Area has been home to numerous recipients of the Department's Medal of Valor, including Officers Manuel Solis and Lazaro Ramirez, who on February 15th, 1998, came under gunfire by a mentally ill subject armed with an assault rifle. Officers Solis and Ramirez rescued two downed officers while under gunfire of the subject. The subject surrendered after Officer Ramirez returned fire as the rescues occurred.