

MISSION AREA HISTORY

The area of Mission Division was once patrolled by Van Nuys, Foothill, and Devonshire Area. With the population growth in the San Fernando Valley, it became evident that a need for more public safety resources was needed. On May 1st, 2005, Mission Area entered into service.

Mission Area was the 19th police station in the City of Los Angeles and was the first new police station in a quarter of a century, which originally served the residents of Granada Hills, Mission Hills, North Hills, Panorama City and Sylmar. Mission Area began operations at 0700 on May 1, 2005, under the command of Captain III Kirk Albanese, Area Commanding Officer and Captain Robert Green, Patrol Commanding Officer. Mission Area opened with 248 sworn and civilian employees.

In November 2008, high wind, heat, low humidity, and dry brush formed conditions that incubated a mountainside inferno that devoured 11,262 acres and destroyed 480 mobile homes, nine single-family homes, 104 outbuildings and 10 commercial buildings. The Sayre Fire, also known as the Sylmar Fire, was the worst loss of homes due to fire in the City's history. The fire was reported at 10:29 pm on November 14th, 2008 and was not 100% contained until November 20, 2008.

Officer Valentin 'Val' Martinez, Serial No. 38701, was the first sworn LAPD officer to die of COVID-19, and the second coronavirus-related officer death on the Department. Officer Martinez was a 13-year veteran who was last assigned to Mission Patrol Division

In 2019, Officers Kenneth Morales, Luis Lopez, Jose Moya, and Christina Shente were awarded the Medal of Valor during their assignment at Mission Division for entering a home engulfed by flames to rescue a resident. Their heroic and decisive actions, for sacrificing their own safety that resulted in the saving of a human life which would have been lost without their direct involvement, and ability to function under the most stressful, chaotic and perilous conditions embody the finest traditions of the Los Angeles Police Department.