



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

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## **ABANDONED BABIES HAVE GREATER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL** *County Expands Safely Surrender Baby Locations to Include Fire Stations*

**WHAT:** San Diego County is expanding Safely Surrender Baby locations to include County fire stations. Since 2001, San Diego County hospitals have been designated as Safely Surrender sites. Starting today, most County fire stations will serve that purpose as well. San Diego County firefighters have undergone training on what to do when a parent surrenders a newborn at their station. Sacramento Fire Captain Jim Doucette will be available to speak with reporters about the success of the program in his community; two infants were recently safely surrendered at Sacramento fire stations.

**WHO:** District Two Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Vice-Chairwoman, San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
La Mesa Fire Chief Dave Burk, President, San Diego County Fire Chief's Association and member, San Diego County Fire Districts Association  
Mary Harris, San Diego County Health and Human Services Director of Child Welfare Services  
Sacramento Fire Captain Jim Doucette

**WHEN:** **Friday, May 2, 2008 11:30 a.m.**

**WHERE:** San Miguel Fire District Station No. 15  
2850 Via Orange Way  
Spring Valley, CA 91978

**WHY:** According to the State of California, more than 225 babies have been safely surrendered statewide since the law went into effect in 2001. San Diego County recently had its fourth safely surrendered newborn.

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