

Fire Chief G. Panholzer, City of Monterey Fire Department

Panholzer has strong ties to the local community. His career in the fire service began at the Carmel Highlands Fire District in 1977. In addition to his strong field experience, Chief Panholzer has a background in fire training at Monterey Peninsula College, Hartnell College, Cabrillo College and the South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium. He was appointed Monterey's Fire Chief in 2014. He also has served as the Director of the Monterey County Regional Fire District since 2008.

Gaudenz Panholzer has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from UC Berkeley, an associates' degree in Fire Science from MPC and has completed coursework for a master's degree in Public Administration at San Jose State.

Police Chief D. Hober, City of Monterey Police Department

In 1988, Hober started with the San Jose Police Department (SJPD) retiring as a Deputy Chief. Chief Hober was appointed as Monterey's Chief on July 15, 2015. Various assignments throughout his career included; Patrol, Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET), Mobile Emergency Response Group & Equipment (MERGE), Field Training Officer (FTO), Vice, Assaults, Robbery, Detective, Internal Affairs, Chief's Adjutant and as a Tactical Negotiator. In 1996 Chief Hober graduated from the FBI National Academy. Hober was a patrol watch commander, commanded the VCET/HMU/Air Support units and the Criminal Intelligence/Vice units. As a captain, Dave's assignments included commanding various Bureaus such as Investigations Division. Prior to leaving SJPD Dave commanded Investigations, Technical Services and the Bureau of Field Operations. Dave holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and dual graduate degrees in Public Administration and Criminal Justice Administration from San Jose State University.

Mr. Kirk Gafill, Owner CEO Nepenthe Restaurant, Big Sur

Nepenthe opened in 1949 and has been a special place in Monterey County and has had a colorful past. Attracting the many notables, from the traveling musician, Hollywood actors, musicians or hippies of the 60's, Nepenthe has been an iconic site. Public gatherings, food, fun and wonderful activities all with tremendous views on the cliffs of the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Gafill has experienced a variety of business interruptions, road closures, rain and mud washouts, and numerous threatening fires. Through it, all this business has been a model of perseverance and guiding leadership for the small community of Big Sur. Monterey County emergency planning and response professionals have all worked well with the Big Sur community in a collaborative manner and much credit goes to Kirk for his leadership and influence.

In the heart of Big Sur and just south of the finally opened bridge on SR1 at Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, this family owned business has seen its share of emergencies. Road closures and fires just to name a few business challenges throughout the years. This last year has been exceptionally difficult for our friends down the coast. The impacts have been felt, but through all the hardships the Nepenthe Restaurant and Big Sur businesses have survived and learned valuable lessons that should be shared.

Mr. Luis Alvarez, CEO Alvarez Technologies INC

Luis has served 21 years of combined active and reserve duty with the United States Air Force. When in the Air Force, he served in various command positions including the Air Force Information Warfare Center/Air Force Computer Emergency Response Team (AFIWC/AFCERT) and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Luis is considered an expert in business process flow and the integration of IT for maximum profitability. He led the industry towards a managed services model, an operational strategy that allows ATG to offer continuous monitoring and management of client IT infrastructure at an affordable price point. Luis designed the iTeam service delivery system based on this managed services model.

Luis has received numerous accolades and awards, most notably landing on the MSPMentor 250 list every year since its inception as well as leading the company to an appearance on the Inc. 5000 Fastest-Growing Private Companies list in 2011. He also recognized as a community leader, serving on the board of numerous non-profits, including the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Rotary Club of Salinas and the Monterey Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mr. Gerry Malais, Director Monterey Office of Emergency Services

Mr. Malais has 30 years of fire service coming Los Angeles Fire Department to Monterey County Office of Emergency Services, (OES) in 2016 just in time for the Soberanes fires and various County emergencies. Director Malais is responsible for ensuring all phases of emergency management are addressed in strategic planning efforts, building the core capabilities and disaster resiliencies within the communities of Monterey County.

Additionally, Director Malais and his staff Conduct on-going emergency preparedness and educational campaigns. Serving as the emergency management point of contact for government officials, public safety, organizations, nonprofit and community based organizations, city, county and private industry partner and stakeholders. He provides information and guidance to the public and elected officials including emergency warnings and alerting. The OES Director reviews and maintains internal and external emergency operations plans and preparedness programs for the operational areas and ensures that emergency planning follows state and federal guidance.

Ms. Katherine Daniels Kurz, Chief of Staff Monterey County 5th District Staff to Supervisor Mary Adams

Born and raised in Carmel, CA, she studied in New York where she received her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and her M.A. from Columbia University. Before joining Candidate Mary Adams as Campaign Manager, Kate taught at Monterey Peninsula College and ran the international news publication The Women's International Perspective at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Supervisor Adams joined the Board of Supervisors on the heels of the massive Soberanes Fire which led directly into a year of devastating winter storm damage. Working with the County Administrative Office, State Parks, the businesses and community in Big Sur, members of the MCHA, the Chambers of Commerce and the MCCVB, Kate and the District 5 team spearheaded the effort to get the temporary shuttle service in place to support business continuity in the isolated portion of Big Sur due to Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge collapse.