

CSE Insurance Group Sponsors “Blazing Hot Chef” Competition Benefiting a Firefighter Charity

Company raises more than \$20,000 for firefighters and their charities



WALNUT CREEK, CALIF. — Civil Service Employees Insurance Group (CSE Insurance, www.cseinsurance.com), held their third annual “Blazing Hot Celebrity Chef Competition” charity event at Butterfly Restaurant in San Francisco on Saturday, April 12. The event brought together a host of local celebrities while raising more than \$20,000 for firefighters and their charities.

The event challenged four teams of celebrity chefs and firefighters to see whose cuisine reigned supreme. The winners were:

1st Place: Team White – Sean Lanthier from the Palo Alto Fire Departments and Chef Kathy Fang from Fang Restaurant (www.fangrestaurant.com) won \$5,000 for the SF Firefighter Cancer Prevention Foundation (www.sffcpf.org).

2nd Place: Team Black – James Brunson from the Vallejo Fire Department and Chef Gaston Alfaro from Half Moon Brewing Company (www.hmbrewingco.com) won \$1,500 for the Solano Napa Firefighters Foundation.

3rd Place: Team Blue – Danny Gracia from San Francisco Fire Department and Chef David Lawrence from 1300 on Fillmore (www.1300fillmore.com) won \$1,000 for the SF Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation (www.sffcpf.org).

4th Place: Team Red – Bill Douglas from the Oakland Fire Department and Chef Sammy from Butterfly Restaurant (www.butterflysf.com) won \$669 in boot donations for Make A Wish Greater Bay Area (<https://sf.wish.org>).

Liam Mayclem, host of KPIX-TV's Eye on the Bay and KCBS Radio's Foodie Chap emceed the event, and chefs and community leaders were on hand to judge the event. The panel included Paige Meyer, Fire Chief of the San Ramon Fire Department; and Harry Crusberg, Jr., owner of Firefighter Insurance Services, as well as San Francisco chef Hoss Zare of Flytrap, and food critic Tamara Palmer from Zagat. Mayor Jean Quan from Oakland was also in attendance.

"Firefighters willingly put themselves in harm's way every day," said Mr. Paige Meyer. "The support we receive from our community and from everybody involved in charitable events like this is something that we all appreciate."

The competition featured two sliders from each team. Entries were judged on a variety of criteria including flavor and creativity. Picking a winner was no easy feat, but ultimately the judges bestowed top honors upon Team White.

CSE Insurance and Firefighter Insurance Services also donated \$12,500 to the Fire Family Foundation (www.firefamilyfoundation.org), an organization that assists firefighters, their families, fire victims, and fire departments. To make a donation to the California Fire Foundation or the Fire Family Foundation, please visit www.cseinsurance.com/firefighterevent.

"CSE is proud to raise awareness of the sacrifices that firefighters and their families make every day," said Richard Rey, CEO of CSE Insurance. "We thank everybody who helped make this event a success, including the firefighters, the chefs, the judges, the volunteers who helped organize the event, Butterfly Restaurant, and everybody who attended."