



**State Fire Marshal  
Monthly Report to the California  
Fire Prevention Officers**



**Kate Dargan  
State Fire Marshal**

**Fire Prevention Partners:**

Summer and fire season - here we go again! Another record-busting event for California as the lightning storm of mid-June has turned into a weeks-long campaign of firefighting, media attention, mutual aid, and state and federal disasters. Every available fire service person in the state is either on a fire, returning from a fire, or en route to a fire - what a sight we are when the call comes!

Beyond fires, fireworks were a major public issue the past few weeks. There was much public discussion of a possible ban at the state level, the local consideration of fires and enforcement, and the long-standing debates of risk and public celebration. There are 271 jurisdictions in CA that allow safe and sane

fireworks - most cities and approximately 16 counties. It's a complex discussion at both the state and local level and one of the key issues is providing solid statistics about what the real risks are for the public. Cal Fire/SFM this year focused enforcement at the Nevada border as we worked to bring attention to the supply of illegal aerial fireworks. A major source of these dangerous fireworks comes through the state border from suppliers that sell California-illegal fireworks and don't believe it's their responsibility. In fact, one set of fireworks are packaged as the "California Illegal". Part of our long-term plan for addressing this risk is the rebuilding of our Arson-Bomb Program and the training of our own staff in handling confiscated fireworks. As always, please call the Fireworks Hotline if you need assistance with confiscated fireworks.

And last in the discussion for this month is preparation for the ICC Final Action Hearing for code development in Minnesota this September. We are planning on supporting this as much as possible given the state budget shortages as well as any impact an unsigned budget may have on travel ability. Hoping to see you there!

## **Engineering, Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention**

### **Seven Tons of Illegal Fireworks Confiscated**

SFM Law Enforcement Officers seized approximately 14,000 lbs. of illegal fireworks during the two weeks around the July 4 holiday. In San Bernardino County alone 41 citations were written for Possession of Illegal or Dangerous Fireworks. These citations carry a minimum \$1,000 fine. A wide variety of contraband was seized including fire crackers, M-80s and aerial mortars. When they are no longer needed as evidence, the explosives will be safely destroyed.



## Working Together On California Fires

CAL FIRE employs an “all forces” concept. That means that when the fire situation is bad, everyone in CAL FIRE pitches in to help. Many OSFM personnel are helping battle wildfires, primarily in support roles.

Chief of Law Enforcement, Tom Hoffman coordinated the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS – C130 military airtankers) during the recent fire siege. Between assignments he was able to share some light moments with Howard “Hoot” Gibson (left) and Chief Master Sergeant Archie Gaskins (right) from North Carolina Air National Guard. Gibson is a MAFFS mechanic; Gaskins is head of aircraft maintenance.



Of course, the other gentleman with Chief Hoffman needs no introduction.



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## Fire and Life Safety



Fire & Life Safety Division – South is welcoming our newest team member, Deputy State Fire Marshal George Mavrikis. George began his career in the fire service in 1994 first, as a hotshot crew member with the U.S. Forest Service and then a member of the California Conservation Corps. In 1998 George was hired on with the CDF Fresno – Kings Unit as a seasonal firefighter where he served for 4 seasons.

In 2002 George worked as a Fire Prevention Officer for CDF/Madera where he was responsible for Protection & Planning, Business License inspections, new construction and fireworks. In 2006 George transferred to CDF/Fresno Kings Unit as a Fire Prevention Specialist 1 in the fire prevention bureau. George is proud to come on board and states “A dream has become a reality”. George is married and has one child.

# Pipeline

## SF Bay Spill Drill

Pipeline Safety Engineers Doug Allen and Tommy Flores participated in the Kinder Morgan Energy, Pacific Northern Region Worst Case Discharge Exercise held in the city of Concord on June 10, 2008. The Table Top Exercise scenario included a Worst Case Discharge of 9,875 barrel release of turbine (Jet) fuel into the navigable San Francisco Bay waters near the Oakland International Airport. The simulated release occurred from a leaking underground petroleum transfer line owned and operated by Kinder Morgan Energy.

Also in attendance were representatives of the United States Coast Guard, Alameda Marine Safety Office, United States Federal Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, California Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Coastal Commission, Planning representatives from six Bay Area Counties, East Bay Regional Parks, Marine Spill Response Corporation, The O'Brien's Group, Levin and Fricke, Crawford and Company, and many representatives of Kinder Morgan Energy.

## Earthquake Drill Workshop

Division Chief Bob Gorham participated in a Golden Guardian 2008 State-Federal workshop held in San Bernardino on June 19, 2008. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss among the various utility groups the potential impact on their systems from a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. Speakers from the USGS, ARMY, OES, CAL FIRE, Dept of Public Health, Cal ISO, Verizon Wireless and East Valley Water district gave presentations. Information from this workshop as well as several others will be used during the Golden Guardian drill to be held November 13, 2008.

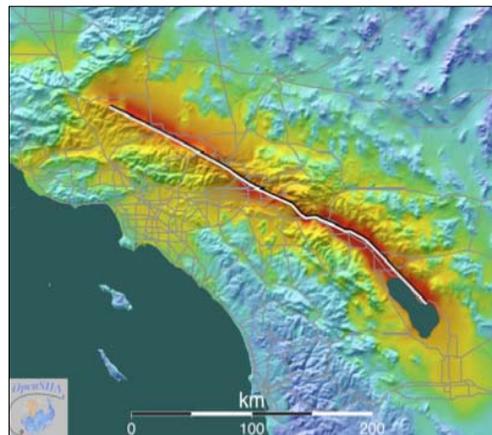


Photo Courtesy of O.E.S.

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**CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal**

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>