

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Monthly Report
April 2009



**STATE FIRE
MARSHAL'S**
Monthly Report
&
THE FIRELINE
From
State Fire Training

**OSFM
Headquarters**

1131 S Street
Sacramento,
California
95811

In this issue:

**California All
Incident Reporting
System**

**Train Derails –
Avoids Pipeline
Damage**

Fire Training News



**Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal**

Fire Service Partners –

My message last month focused on the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS); who sits on that advisory body and its purpose.

This month, I want to introduce you to the full scope of the CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal organization. Like the SBFS, it has changed faces in the past few years and reflects CAL FIRE's commitment to fire prevention as a fire department as well as the traditional mission of the OSFM.

With our new Director, Chief Del Walters, we have recently finalized an organizational structure that works to actively integrate the two roles of the historic "CDF" and the OSFM. These two departments merged approximately 10 years ago. The State Fire Marshal reports to the Chief and Director of CAL FIRE.

The mission of the Office of the State Fire Marshal is intact as is the responsibility for wildland fire prevention that came with the CAL FIRE responsibilities. To serve both those missions, we collaborated

on our strategic planning and are now organized into a single entity that focuses on fire prevention and training.

The OSFM branch of CAL FIRE is transitioning to a reporting structure that is headed up by three executive operational chiefs:

- **Assistant State Fire Marshal** who oversees most of the traditional SFM mission (Codes, Fire and Life Safety, Pipeline Safety, State Fire Training)
- **Chief of Fire Engineering and Enforcement** who will oversee all fire engineering (structural and wildland), fire investigations, arson/bomb, fireworks, fire cost recovery, defensible space, and law enforcement programs
- **Chief of Planning and Risk Analysis** who will oversee the Fire Plan, CAIRS/NFIRS, Fire and Resource Assessment Program, mapping and GIS, and fire mitigation/risk planning including impacts from climate change.

Together this team, along with the State Fire Marshal, will be responsible for developing the policy, support, and implementation of a broad set of fire service training, prevention, and planning programs that span a range of issues from Firefighter I certification to building codes to wildfire hazard mapping to pipeline safety. All of it, however, is directly related to the planning and preparedness phase of public safety risk management and that is the concept behind our organization.

"Fire Prevention" is a term that is shifting from a concept of education and inspection to one of comprehensive management of the risk factors that contribute to a successful fire emergency response. What serves our citizens and our firefighter's safety best is the full integration of fire prevention with fire preparedness and fire response, and we are working to organize our business structure to reflect just that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. D. ...".

Fire Engineering

Fire Extinguisher Recall

In conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC, FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, XL2.5TCZ-3, XL5TCZ-1, E-340-3 are being recalled due to failure to function.

Specific information about the product recall is available at www.kidde.com or at 1 (888) 345-4407.



What is CAIRS and Why Should You Care?

Incident Reporting to the Office of the State Fire Marshal

California fire departments report statistical information on all fires (wildland and structure), medical aid incidents, and hazardous materials incidents to the OSFM's California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) staff. The incident data are validated by CAIRS staff and sent to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) in compliance with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0 format.



CAIRS staff assists fire departments with incident reporting questions and is responsible for managing the collection and publication of statistical information related to California's fires and other emergency incidents involving fire department response. Staff assists in research efforts,

fire detection, prevention, suppression and first responder health, safety and effectiveness.

The data collected are used for compiling and analyzing summaries of statewide fire incidents including causes, types and locations of fire

service and civilian casualties. Ad hoc reports are requested from the public and other fire entities that reveal the various relationships between fire causes and effects and the contributing factors. Fire departments use fire incident data to plan their equipment and staff needs, training and risk-reduction programs, thereby improving service to the community and making their firefighters safer and more effective.

Fire departments can use the information to support budget requests by comparing their own districts with others with similar responsibilities. State fire service managers use fire incident data to develop and support fire safety codes and ordinances and guide legislation.

At the federal level, data are used to identify consumer product failures, identify current fire trends, support federal legislation, develop national codes and standards and guide allocation of federal funds.

In 2008, over 1.6 million incidents were reported to the OSFM from 487 California Fire Departments.

(Statistics as of March 4, 2009)

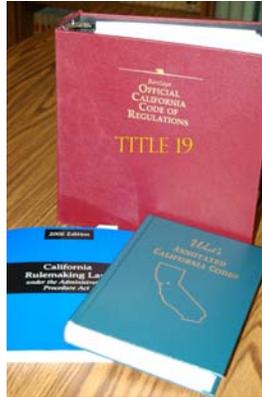
Top 10 List of Reported Incidents

Los Angeles City FD	285,977
Los Angeles County FD	141,876
Sacramento FD	61,170
San Bernardino County FD	51,275
Riverside CFD	41,793
Sacramento Metropolitan FD	34,259
Stockton FD	27,643
Oakland FD	25,269
Riverside FD	24,029
San Francisco FD	21,525

Incident Reporting Facts for 2008

Fire Departments Reporting 5,000 Incidents or Less	419	86.04%
Fire Departments Reporting 5,000 - 20,000 Incidents	57	11.70%
Fire Departments Reporting 20,000 Incidents or More	10	2.05%

Code Development and Analysis



Code Development and Analysis (CDA) Division began pre-rulemaking activities to adopt and amend the 2009 editions of the base model codes to be included in the 2010 California Building Standards Codes.

As announced in last month's edition of the SFM Report, CDA will hold **focus group and stakeholder meetings** requesting input and vetting OSFM proposals April 16, 23 and 30. Notice and Agenda for these meetings will be sent out early April. Contact Kevin Reinertson at kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov to be included in the CDA stakeholder email distribution list.

Pipeline Safety Division

On March 2, 2009, the Pipeline Safety Division received a California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) report that indicated nine Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) cars had derailed near the town of Livingston in Merced County. The nine cars derailed and spilled raw corn kernels near a 12 inch underground Kinder Morgan refined products pipeline that runs parallel to the UPRR tracks. Each rail car contained an estimated 90 tons of corn kernels.

Pipeline Safety Engineer, Tommy Flores responded to the derailment. Kinder Morgan confirmed that two of the nine rail cars had partially landed over their underground pipeline. They were able to determine that their pipeline was not leaking petroleum, but they still needed to inspect it for any evidence of damage.



On March 13, 2009, Kinder Morgan confirmed through tests that there was no damage to their pipeline and put it back into service.



Lights, Camera, Action

The Pipeline Safety Division is featured on the latest edition of CAL FIRE TV. Check it out:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_calfiretv_episode4.php

Fire and Life Safety

Letters on the Way to Fire Departments

Detention Facilities Inspections

Health and Safety Code Section 13146.1 states that every jail or place of detention for persons charged with or convicted of a crime shall be inspected at least once every two years. The Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire & Life Safety Unit is sending **inspection inquiry letters** to



the Chiefs of California fire departments in which we inquire whether or not their department will be conducting the local jail/detention inspections of facilities located in their area for the 2009/2010 calendar years. Your prompt response to the inspection inquiry letter is appreciated so that we can gauge and plan the inspections that we will need to conduct where the local fire authorities have determined that they will not be conducting the inspections. Please use the inspection report form available on the SFM Website:

"Inspection Report for Adult/Juvenile Detention Facility Form"
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/firelifesafety/pdf/buildingsafety/FireLifeSafetyInspectionReport.pdf> If your department does not receive a letter by April 15, 2009 or if you have any questions, please contact Celeste Mahugh at (916) 445-8550 or celeste.mahugh@fire.ca.gov



High-Rise Annual Inspections

Section 13217 of the California Health and Safety Code requires that the State Fire Marshal inspect every high-rise building annually unless the local fire department elects to conduct the inspection. Local fire department inspections must be reported to the OSFM within thirty days of the inspection. These surveys are for the purpose of enforcing state fire and panic safety regulations.



Annual reminder letters along with a copy of the State Fire Marshal Annual High-Rise Building Inspection Report and inspection guide will be sent to local Fire Chiefs beginning April 1, 2009. You can find more detailed information regarding H&S Code 13217 by visiting <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>. The High-Rise Building Inspection Guide can be found on the OSFM web-site Fire & Life Safety Division link.

Any questions regarding these inspections contact: ernie.paez@fire.ca.gov or vickie.sakamoto@fire.ca.gov



THE FIRELINE

State Fire Training

Preserving Our Proud Heritage

The fire service and fire protection disciplines have a long and proud history of protecting our communities across the country as well as here in California. Preserving this heritage is of special interest to Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal who was elected as a Board Member to the National Fire Heritage Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland and also sits on the Advisory Board for the California Fire Museum, in Orange County California.



The National Fire Heritage Museum will maintain archived records and published materials for preservation that will be accessible for viewing or to those conducting research on fire related programs. The Board members are negotiating the use of the soon to be vacated building of the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company to house the current collection of materials.



The California Fire Museum is incrementally closer to striking an agreement to set up their museum on the former El Torro Marine Corp Station in Orange County. The facility will become one of many attractions for the Great Parks facility planned there. Rodney is focusing on securing grant funds for both museums, though both take donations from those who are interested in preserving our fire culture, traditions, and artifacts. For more information about each museum visit their web-sites at <http://www.cafiremuseum.org/> <http://nationalfireheritagecenter.com/Logo.htm>.

Kudos to the Training Instructor Work Group!

SFT would like to express our thanks to the members of the Training Instructor Work Group for their tireless efforts in updating the curricula for the new Training Instructor Certification. This was a huge undertaking that could not have been done without the expertise of our volunteers and staff. The update replaces Fire Instructor 1A and 1B with Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C, using the Seventh Edition of Fire and Emergency Services Instructor.

Chief Ron Martin from Contra Costa County Fire Protection District was the Project Manager, lending his leadership skills and vast knowledge in the realm of training to build a strong team, staying on time and on task. He was assisted by SFT staff member, Alicia Hamilton, who offered 25 years of experience in curriculum development.

The Work Group included: Richard Beckman, San Gabriel Fire Department; Jim Brown, Monterey Fire Department; Bob Buell, Alameda Fire Department; Mike Cahill, Woodland Fire Department; Jim Eastman, Sacramento Metro Fire Department; Mary Jennings, CFF JAC (Retired); Matt O'Donnell, Ebbetts Pass Fire District; Gaudenz Panholzer, San Jose Fire Department; Lee Parker, Modesto Fire Department; and Bill Vandevort, Monterey Fire Department (Retired).

Kudos to all involved! We appreciate their willingness to donate their time and knowledge to bring this project to fruition. We commend their dedication to fire service training.

Additional Update Classes Offered for Master Instructors

If you are a registered Master Instructor and were unable to attend the previously offered update classes, you'll be happy to know we've added three additional classes to the schedule. The classes will be delivered in San Jose, Riverside, and Seaside between September of this year and January of 2010. In order to enroll, you **MUST** be currently registered (or will become registered before 12/31/2009) to teach Fire Instructor 1A and 1B. The update class is required to become registered to teach the new Level 1 Instructor courses. Existing Fire Instructor 1A and 1B courses will be phased out in 2009.

Attention Fire Prevention Instructors

Curricula have been updated on the Fire Prevention 1A and 1B Bridge courses. Thank you to those instructors who let us know what needed to be corrected and provided us with their comments and suggested revisions. In early April, we will be sending a CD-ROM with the 2009 edition of the Instructor Guide and Student Supplement to all who purchased the 2008 edition, along with a summary of the changes. We will also begin shipping new course materials at that time for any pending classes.

Driver Operator 1A/1B Instructors

A correction has been made on page 7 of Topic 2-1: Types of Fire Pumps. The net pump pressure has been reduced from 75 to 50 psi to match the IFSTA textbook. You can download the corrected Instructor Guide page on our website, <http://sft.fire.ca.gov>.

Notice regarding changes, updates, and/or corrections will be posted to our website for all instructors to access.

Committee Members Recruitment: Fire Prevention Officer and Fire Marshal Course Reviews

Beginning this spring, SFT will be reviewing the educational requirements (courses) for the Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, Plans Examiner, and Fire Marshal certification levels funded through FEMA's Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant (AFG). The process for this review will be to compare the newly adopted Fire Marshal Certification Training Standards (CTS) to the existing course outlines within the existing Fire Marshal Certification tracks. The work group will identify the number of classes that shall be completed for each level of certification. It is expected that the number of classes, and the titles, for each may significantly change from the current system. The work group will embed Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code information in either a range of classes or where appropriate, as a stand-alone class specific to WUI issues.



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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