

# OFFICE of the STATE FIRE MARSHAL

April 2011 Report

## OSFM Monthly Report

- **Message from Tonya L. Hoover**
- Planning and Risk Analysis Division
- Code Development and Analysis
- Pipeline Safety Division
- Fire and Life Safety Division/ Fire Engineering Division

## The Fireline

- State Fire Training Division



*Acting State Fire Marshal  
Tonya L. Hoover*

## April Message from the Chief:

The information technology highway is well on its way to becoming the primary source and/or resource in our personal and professional lives. I'm reminded of this as we are faced with the enormous amount of planning involved as we address fiscal impacts, legislation, code implementation, public safety, etc. With instant information access at our fingertips, and the ease of the internet, we have an abundance of websites to check out. The question becomes what do we find on the internet and is the information validated by a credible source?

In today's public service environment we must have complete information and facts. That means having well informed people delivering the message and making sure the message is delivered consistently. Our messages are brought forth from a wide variety of entities - the fire prevention bureau enforcing code and regulations, the public education specialist sharing a life safety message to a community group, or an engine company conducting a drill while the public looks on; and originate from every critical part of the fire service. The important messages that we the fire service, share with our communities must come from sources that are credible, factual, and respected.

We are fortunate to have several credible internet sites that provide information that can be used to strengthen discussions and validate program impacts. Most of us know the typical sites (such as the National Fire Protection Association, the NFPA), but do we remember to look at the Research Foundation site on the NFPA page? Many of us know that the United States Fire Administration (USFA) webpage has a large collection of information, but do we regularly "check out" the site to see what new statistics have been gathered or what new research has been started or completed? And what about the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)? Not only does NIST provide research programs for fire prevention and control but also addresses energy- high-performance buildings, improving construction productivity, information on disaster-resilient structures and communities, as well as in depth investigations for building and fire. These three organizations are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to research, information, and trends. The US Census Bureau just released the 2010 census information which provides tracking on building trends, demographics, and population and these numbers may help in supporting education and outreach to our communities. Universities also serve as a valuable resource for information



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with peer review and validation as an important piece to the credibility of the information. Let's not forget groups such as the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) or Safe Kids. Both organizations have a wide variety of information to strengthen public information and outreach programs.

Now more than ever we must be diligent in providing the public with timely, accurate information and utilize all available information and sources to protect our communities and strengthen our programs.

Be safe!



Tonya L. Hoover  
Acting State Fire Marshal

*Note: The following are the links to the sites mentioned in this month's article*

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)  
[www.nist.org](http://www.nist.org)  
[www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)  
[www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org)  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

To connect with the Office of the State Fire Marshal go to the CAL FIRE site at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) and click on the Fire Prevention tab.



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## Planning and Risk Analysis Division

### Fire and Resource Assessment Program

The Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) announced the availability of their federally (2008 Farm Bill) and State mandated (Public Resource Code 4798) *California's Forest and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment*, along with a new companion document, *California's Forest and Rangelands: 2010 Strategy Report*.

The *California's Forest and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment* discusses and analyzes key issues that affect the forests and rangelands in California, and the current status and trends associated with forest and rangeland resources. The *Assessment* also identifies management priorities and landscapes on both public and private land. The purpose of *California's Forest and Rangelands: 2010 Strategy Report* is to outline strategies that address each of the priority issues and landscapes that were presented in the *Assessment*.

These reports are available on the FRAP website at:

<http://frap.fire.ca.gov/assessment2010.html>

## Code Development and Analysis

The Code Development and Analysis Division have submitted rulemaking packages to the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) for the Supplement to California Code of Regulations, Title 24, 2010 California Building Standards Codes. The State Fire Marshal (SFM) is proposing building standards and amendments to several Parts of the 2010 California Building Standards Codes as follows:

- Part 2, 2010 California Building Code
- Part 2.5, 2010 California Residential Code
- Part 3, 2010 California Electrical Code
- Part 9, 2010 California Fire Code

The CBSC, AD HOC [Building Fire and Other (BFO)] Code Advisory Committee reviewed the SFM rulemaking packages on March 24, 2011. The SFM rulemaking packages were recommended for approval with only a few provision that were recommended for further study and one recommended for disapproval. Provisions recommended for further study included; horizontal sliding doors, tactile exit signage and exempt locations of fire sprinkler provisions in Group I occupancies. Amendments relating to combustible projection had been recommended for



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disapproval. The official Ad HOC committee's recommendations to the CBSC for final approval and adoption are expected to be published in July/August 2011.

The CBSC has scheduled the 45-day public comment period from April 22 through June 6, 2011. Notice for the comment period will be published in early April.

For updates, please visit our website at:

[http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment\\_2010interimcodeadoption.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_2010interimcodeadoption.php) or visit the CBSC website for complete details and additional information regarding the 2010 interim rulemaking cycle for the 2010 California Codes at: [http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd\\_chngs/pc\\_10\\_annual\\_cycle.htm](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/pc_10_annual_cycle.htm)

## Pipeline Safety Division

### The Importance of Pipeline Integrity Management to California

Did you know that there are 5,710 miles of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines operating in California? These pipelines transport petroleum products such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, and crude oil throughout our State where some 36.9 million residents live, work, and play. The majority of these pipelines travel through "high consequence areas" (HCA) that are either highly populated areas, unusually sensitive areas (such as drinking water or ecological resource areas), or navigable waterways (where commercial navigation exists).

By federal regulation (49 CFR Part 195.452), a "Pipeline Operator" of one or more hazardous liquid pipelines must use risk assessment to determine if these pipelines could affect an HCA. If it is determined that one or more of these lines could affect an HCA, the operator must develop a written pipeline "integrity management program" that addresses the risks on each segment of pipeline. This integrity management program requires the hazardous liquid pipeline operator to conduct a "baseline assessment plan" to assess low frequency electric resistance welded pipe or lap welded pipe susceptible to longitudinal seam failure. The baseline assessment plan must include the method used to assess the integrity of the pipeline. Examples of acceptable methods include "internal inspection tools" (smart pigs) or hydrostatic pressure testing. Whatever method an operator chooses to assess the integrity of their pipelines, it must be capable of assessing seam integrity and detect corrosion and deformation anomalies. In addition, a pipeline operator must establish intervals (not to exceed five years) for continually assessing the pipeline's integrity.



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Periodic pipeline integrity evaluations are conducted to determine if an anomalous condition (dents, corrosion, and or metal loss) on a pipeline exist. If conditions are discovered that could reduce a pipeline's integrity, the pipeline operator will remediate the condition of the pipeline. The operator must be able to demonstrate that the remediation will ensure the condition is unlikely to pose a threat to the long-term integrity of the pipeline.

California was the first state in the country to institute an integrity management program. Since 1984, all hazardous liquid pipelines must be tested or internally inspected every five years. Largely because of this program, California has experienced a steady decline in the amount and size of pipeline releases occurring during the past two decades. Pipeline integrity management continues to be vital to public safety and natural resource preservation.

## Fire and Life Safety Division (Enforcement) & Fire Engineering Division (Product Approval – Listing) in regards to the California Law Requiring Carbon Monoxide Devices

### Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act

On May 7, 2010, Senate Bill (SB) 183 was enacted into law and is known as the Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Act (Act). This will require the placement of carbon monoxide devices in all dwelling units; and requires that the presence or absence of these devices must be disclosed when residential real estate is transferred.

This Bill is a result of Senate hearings that dealt with the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. According to the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide poisoning is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. The California Air Resources Board has determined that thirty to forty "avoidable deaths", on average, occur in California each year due to unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning; and "avoidable" emergency room visits and hospitalizations in the State range up into the high one hundreds per year.

This bill applies to existing housing. It covers every "dwelling unit intended for human occupancy" which means single-family dwelling, factory-built homes, duplex, lodging house, condominiums, motels, hotels, dormitories, stock cooperatives, time-share projects and dwelling units in "multiple-unit dwelling unit



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buildings” (apartment houses). It applies to every dwelling unit that has “a fossil fuel burning heater or appliance, fireplace, or an attached garage”. “Fossil fuel” means coal, kerosene, oil, wood, fuel gases, and other petroleum or hydrocarbon products, which emit carbon monoxide as a byproduct of combustion.”

This Act requires dwelling units to have installed a “carbon monoxide device” that is designed to detect carbon monoxide and produce a “distinct, audible alarm”; and requires the State Fire Marshal to certify and approve carbon monoxide devices and their instructions. This Act prohibits the marketing, distribution, or sale of devices unless they and their instructions have been approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal.

The devices must be installed, consistent with new construction standards or according to the approved instructions, in all existing single-family dwelling units no later than July 1, 2011. All other dwelling units (such as apartments) must have proper carbon monoxide detectors installed no later than January 1, 2013.

As noted, there are disclosure requirements with respect to carbon monoxide detectors. Currently, sellers of residential properties in California must provide the buyer with a state-mandated form known as the Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS). The TDS requires the seller to answer a variety of inquiries as to features of the property. SB 183 amends the TDS so that, effective January 1, 2011, the seller will have to say whether or not the property contains one or more carbon monoxide detectors. It is important to note that, even if the answer is “no”, that will not invalidate the sale or transfer of the property. A footnote explains that the lack of such a device may fail to meet current safety standards. Nonetheless, a transfer of the property may still take place.



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## Carbon Monoxide Product Approval and Listing

Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms and detectors are required to be listed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Fire Engineering Division prior to marketing and sale in California. To view the listing database on line please go to our website: [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting\\_bml\\_searchcotest.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licenselisting_bml_searchcotest.php)

Under “Category”, click on the sort by “Number” button, then go to the drop down menu (right down arrow) to select “5276-CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS” or “5278-CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS”. Then Click on “Search” and it will list all CO alarms or detectors that are currently approved and listed by the OSFM.

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## Carbon Monoxide Awareness

In an effort to increase awareness as to the potential dangers of CO, the OSFM would like to emphasize the following:

- CO is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States.
- CO is produced by furnaces, common household appliances, unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, automobile exhaust, generators, fireplaces, and other systems that are powered by the burning of fuel that includes, but is not limited to, natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil, and wood.
- CO is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless poison gas that can be fatal when inhaled, and it is known as “the silent killer” because it cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted.
- Public education and awareness about CO poisoning are critical to protecting residents of California from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the home.
- CO alarms and detectors have been determined to be the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide.



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## State Fire Training Division

### Statewide Workshops Focused on Marine Fire Fighting

The first of a series of statewide workshops focused on the plan development for competent maritime fire fighting training began at the Port of Los Angeles Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center on February 22, 2011. The meeting participants included 31 representatives from 18 federal, state and local agencies. The second workshop took place at the South San Francisco Fire Department Training Center on March 21, 2011.

The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), as Chair of the State Emergency Response Training Advisory Council (ERTAC), has recommended the California Maritime Academy in conjunction with State Fire Training, facilitate statewide efforts to develop a uniform, standardized professional training curriculum plan for first responders with Marine Fire Fighting (MFF) responsibilities within the state of California. This project is partially funded through a Fiscal Year 2009 State Homeland Security Grant awarded to the California Maritime Academy.



Ultimately, the MFF Curriculum Plan will identify training subject and performance criteria dealing with all aspects of marine and/or maritime-based fire mitigation. The plan will address MFF for the following areas:

- small boat marinas
- commercial maritime operations (e.g., fishing, tug, workboats, etc)
- piers
- wharves
- offshore platforms
- passenger ferries
- large trans-ocean and inter-coastal commercial freight
- liquid bulk
- passenger vessel operations

The planning will begin with establishing an information baseline that documents existing and planned MFF education and training capabilities, and any resultant

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gaps, or shortfalls. The project will conform to technical and professional guidance provided by the National Fire Academy, the National Fire Protection Association, and other state, national and international consultative entities.

### Instructor Registration Due Date Extended

The due date for the recognition of Fire Instructor 1A and Fire Instructor 1B course completion certificates, to verify instructor methodology training, has been extended from June 30, 2011 to December 31, 2011. This change is necessary due to the addition of Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP) courses that have increased the enrollment demand for the required Regional Instructor Orientation (RIO) courses. The revised Training Instructor Transition Timeline dated March 30, 2011 may be accessed on our website at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/pdf/capstonetransitiontimeline.pdf>

State Fire Training, in collaboration with our Accredited Regional Training Programs, will continue to provide RIO courses through the extended timeframe in an effort to meet the anticipated enrollment demands. Updated RIO schedules and classes may be accessed at <http://sft.fire.ca.gov>.



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