

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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OSFM Headquarters
1131 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
<http://osfm.fire.gov>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the April edition of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) report. The last time I had the opportunity to share information was in February with the release of the 2011 Year in Review. There has been much activity since that publication.

First, let me start by congratulating Chief Mike Richwine on his appointment by Governor Brown as the Assistant State Fire Marshal. I am truly excited to have Chief Richwine serve in his new role; he is passionate about CAL FIRE, the OSFM, and the role the OSFM plays in advocating for balance fire safety, continuing to enhance safety for the citizens, emergency responders, and visitors to our great State, and protecting our natural resources. Mike's calendar will not only be full performing the duties and responsibilities of the Assistant State Fire Marshal, but he will also continue to oversee State Fire Training as the program moves further down the road of "mission alignment". I hope you will join me in congratulating Mike on his appointment!

Speaking of congratulations, I would like to congratulate the California Fire Chiefs, Fire Prevention Officers Section on another successful workshop. The topics for this year spoke to current issues and challenges facing our communities and gave participants an opportunity to share their solutions for success in reducing community risks. During this year's Officers' Installation Banquet, the OSFM's own Kevin Reinertson was recognized by the Northern Division of the Fire Prevention Officers' (Nor Cal FPO) Section by awarding him the "Charlie Gray Award for Outstanding Service to the Nor Cal FPO". It was with great pride that I watched a surprised Chief Reinertson accept this award. Again, please join me in congratulating Chief Kevin Reinertson for being recognized as someone that continues to provide outstanding service to not only the fire service but to all of our stakeholders.

Please take a moment to "catch-up" on what is going on within the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Whether your focus is fire engineering, code development, wildland-urban interface, or fire service training, there are things happening, progress being made, and no one is standing still. As I close my remarks for this month's report I do not want to forget those that have passed through this life. Over the last couple of months we have lost family members, friends, colleagues, and mentors. Each of these fire service professionals has made a mark to better our communities, profession and state. Let's not forget what they stood for and how they worked to make a positive difference.

As always, be safe!

TONYA L. HOOVER
State Fire Marshal



State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

I-3 Task Group

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) I-3 Task Group has been meeting since September 22, 2011. This group is comprised of representatives from the OSFM, Corrections Standards Authority, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Mental Health, Administrative Office of the Courts, California fire service, county sheriffs and various disciplines related to in-custody, correctional and rehabilitation industry. The purpose of the I-3 Task Group was to provide information and suggest recommendations and solutions to the State Fire Marshal on all issues related to facilities or portions thereof where persons are restrained. The scope of the group was to review and evaluate the current California Code of Regulations, Title 24 – California Building and Fire Codes, specifically, Group I-3 provisions and other facilities or occupancies where persons can be restrained.

The Task Group has completed reviewing the code to determine if revisions (amendments) are needed for the next California code cycle. The Task Force is in the process of finalizing approximately 34 proposed code changes that will be included in the full report submitted to the State Fire Marshal for review and approval.

Residential Care Advisory Committee

The OSFM Residential Care Advisory Committee, with participants from the Department of Social Services, local fire service, and residential care providers continues to move forward and addressing issues concerning fire and life safety, code change proposals, carbon monoxide detectors, education for the fire service and care providers, exterior ramps, foster care, and proposed current legislation. A Sub-Committee was established to look at all regulations for small and large family daycares and adult daycare facilities. Recommendations made by the sub-committee will be presented to the full Advisory Committee for approval and then forwarded to the State Fire Marshal for review and approval. Deputy State Fire Marshal III Supervisor, Michelle Nachtmann, will be the Chair for the Daycare Sub-Committee.

The Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Anyone wishing to participate on the Residential Care Advisory Committee can contact Division Chief, Ernie Paez at (626) 305-1908.

High-Rise Task Group

In June 2010, the OSFM created a working task group to review current high-rise building regulations and make recommendations on possible new regulations for high-rise buildings. Phase I of the Office of the State Fire Marshal High-Rise Task Force worked with the northern and southern fire services' operations personnel to gather their professional perspective. These high-rise first responders strengthened their knowledge on code proposes and on how the codes enhance the effectiveness of their work. This exercise contributed significantly to the High-Rise Phase I Task Force and resulted in 26 recommendations that could be considered as part of the OSFM rulemaking Code Package.

Phase II members of the Task Force are currently meeting. They are reviewing the recommendations of Phase I along with additional proposals, for potential changes to the State's High-Rise Regulations. The Phase II High Rise Task Group should complete their work by the end of April 2012. Upon completion, the final recommendation package will be submitted to the State Fire Marshal for review and approval.

For more information please contact John Guhl, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal/Task Force Leader at john.guhl@fire.ca.gov.

PIPELINE SAFETY

National Safe Digging Month

Spring is officially upon us, and so is National Safe Digging Month! The Office of the State Fire Marshal is asking fire departments across the State to show their support for National Safe Digging Month by reminding their community members to call the State One Call Center at 811 before any digging project – large or small.

One free call to 811 two days prior to digging, starts the process of having underground utility lines marked. This simple call reduces the chance of diggers unintentionally striking a utility line (gas, electric, communications, water or sewer) that could cause inconvenient outages, harm to themselves or someone else, and/or repair costs.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal asks that you simply post a brief reminder to call 811. This can be on the marquee in front of your fire station, or on your community's information board this month. Here are a few examples to consider:

- Know what's below. Call 811 before you dig.
- Digging soon? Call 811 first.
- April is Safe Digging Month. Call 811 before you dig.
- Call 811 or you may be calling 911.

Additionally, we encourage you to distribute educational materials at safety forums, community events or open houses. You may obtain these free safety materials by visiting Call811.com.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to raising awareness of safe digging. This awareness helps protect everyone.



Planning and Wildland Fire Prevention

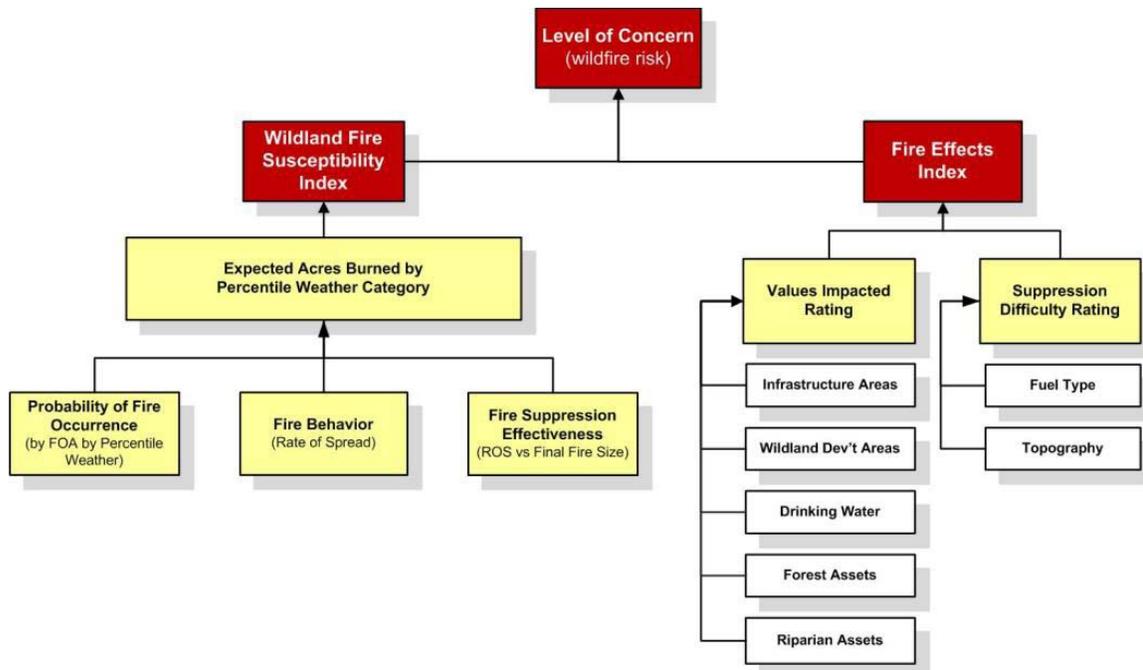
PLANNING AND RISK ANALYSIS

West Wide Risk Assessment Nearing Completion

Since 2009, a study has been in progress to document the risks associated with wildfire by quantifying the magnitude of the current wildland fire problem in 17 western states and selected Pacific Islands. This study is called the West Wide Risk Assessment (WWA) and is sponsored by the Council of Western State Foresters and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition. Staff from CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal serve on the project steering committee and are participating in the study.

The WWA is now targeted for completion in May of 2012. Additional materials are being developed to facilitate technology transfer; and use of the results by western states, local government and stakeholders will be available by the end of 2012.

The assessment approach uses regionally consistent data and methods to determine a “wildfire risk level of concern” that captures both fire susceptibility and fire effects. The schematic of the model is below.



The final report will include a summary of the risk assessment methods and findings along with state and regional statistics. The report will also facilitate comparisons among regional geographic areas, states, and other areas of concern. There will also be a comprehensive GIS data repository reflecting current wildfire related conditions. This GIS database will leverage existing federal mapping programs combined with state, tribal, and local data. The database is being used to derive the assessment outputs. It will also be delivered to support on-going fire protection planning efforts such as the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (www.forestsandangelands.gov), updates to Forest Action Plans (www.forestactionplans.org), and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Further information on the project can be found at the WWA website at: www.westwideriskassessment.com.

Planning and Wildland Fire Prevention (Continued)

WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION ENGINEERING

Review of Fire Safe Regulations for State Responsibility Areas Continues

The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) is continuing review of its Fire Safe Regulations adopted pursuant to Section 4290 of the Public Resources Code. These regulations provide minimum standards for defensible space in areas where CAL FIRE has the primary responsibility for fire suppression and prevention (called State Responsibility Areas or "SRA"). These standards cover such topics as fire equipment access for roads, private water supplies, fuel breaks and green belts, and identification signs for streets, roads and buildings. They standards are found in Sections 1270 *et seq* in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

The BOF adopted regulations in 1991 for building construction and development in SRA. The BOF has periodically received input on issues regarding the implementation and interpretation of these regulations from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE units and stakeholders affected by the regulations.

Beginning in September 2008, the BOF began a review of these regulations to address specific issues. The review primarily focused on proposed regulatory changes for the Administrative Article related to scope, inspection authority and exceptions. Areas of concern still to be addressed include, but are not limited to, access roads, private water supplies, equivalency of local ordinances to be certified by the BOF, and overlap between existing BOF regulations and other regulations such as the California Fire Code.

The intent is to complete the review by the end of 2012. As these regulations are developed, information will be made available on the BOF website at: <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/>. For more information on Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering, please contact Melodie Durham, Staff Chief at melodie.durham@fire.ca.gov.

STATE FIRE TRAINING

Toyota's Fact Finding Mission

Members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal greeted representatives from Toyota Japan and Toyota U.S.A. The Toyota visitors included Mr. Oakamoto, and Mr. Sasaki of Toyota, Japan along with Mark Saxonberg and Doug Sato of Toyota Motors U.S.A. They were visiting the State Capitol on a fact finding mission focused on how best to reach their target audience of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMS personnel with critical information regarding high voltage electrical systems.

These representatives wanted to meet with State Fire Training staff and registered Alternative Fuel Vehicle Instructors to discuss the Emergency Response Guidelines (ERG) for Toyota's future alternative fuel vehicles.

Toyota has been very responsive to requests by emergency responders for information regarding Toyota's alternative fuel vehicle operations and emergency shutdown. This information was instrumental in the development of State Fire Training's "Emergency Response to Alternative Fuel Vehicles" training (<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/alternativefuelvehicles.php>).



Left to right, Doug Sato, Mark Saxonberg, Rodney Slaughter, Mr. Oakamoto, Tonya Hoover, Mr. Sasaki, Don Florence, Rich Stover, and Mike Richwine.

After visiting the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Toyota Team met with Sacramento Fire Department to see firefighting tools and discuss the methodologies firefighters use to extricate victims from a wrecked vehicle. The Toyota team took home valuable insights into the California Training System and the fire services ability to respond to vehicle emergencies in the future.

Advanced All-Hazards Incident Management (AAIM) Beta Class

The Advanced All Incident Management (AAIM) training program was successfully delivered at the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone February 12-17. The "Beta" class was useful in timing instructional activities required to complete the class. Two incident management teams were used to test the curriculum, and to gather feedback and information. Overall the class was viewed as a success by all attendees.



This course focuses on critical thinking and decision making skills. The AAIM class is intended to develop the training of a Type I All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) consistent with state and federal standards. It is not intended to replace the Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) or the Advanced Incident Management Course (S520).

The AAIM cadre will reconvene in April to review and update all course material in preparation for the next course delivery (planned for February 2013). The material generated for this class will be accessible to approved instructors via a secure web-portal. The AAIM program is being supported by a grant from California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), volunteers from CAL FIRE Units, local government, industry statewide and by CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal management. For additional information about the course contact Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal III at Rodney.Slaughter@fire.ca.gov.

STATE FIRE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Fire-Rescue Vessel Operation in a Marine Environment

The Los Angeles City Fire Department has submitted the first, of many training programs, relative to marine fire and rescue. The "Fire-Rescue Vessel Operations" class was submitted to State Fire Training to be considered as an additional FSTEP course. This course covers the operation and navigation of large fire/rescue vessels.



This class is unlike the current "Rescue Boat Operations" class, approved as an FSTEP program in 1998 which focuses on smaller boat operations.

The emphasis of "Fire-Rescue Vessel Operations" course is boating safety, regulations, navigation, piloting and vessel operations. The class requires the access and use of a vessel fully equipped with electronic navigation systems, radio and radar, and personal floatation devices for all hands.

The course has been submitted to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to be added to the Federal Compendium of approved classes as port security is a priority against the threat of terrorism.

Relative to the marine fire and rescue environment, the ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Humboldt, West Sacramento, and Stockton each have varying levels of need for this specialized training. The Los Angeles City Fire Department has an operational need for specialized marine training with target hazards that include; tank farms, container ships, cruise ships, luxury yachts and the built environment that supports and surrounds the port. In keeping with the strategy for a comprehensive state-wide training program this class will meet the immediate operational need for fire departments that operate fire/rescue vessels.

For additional information about this program contact Rodney Slaughter, DSFM at Rodney.Slaughter@fire.ca.gov.