



SFM Report

April 2007

Special Edition

CAL FIRE State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers



**Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal**

Kate Dargan Appointed California State Fire Marshal

It was a red-letter day at the SFM Headquarters on March 26, 2007 when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger named **Kate Dargan the new California State Fire Marshal**. Chief Dargan is the 14th person to hold the position and the first woman since the office was established in 1923. She is a 30-year veteran

with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Since 2005 she has been the Assistant State Fire Marshal. Soon after she took the Assistant SFM position, she began filling in for State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva after he was named CAL FIRE Director. From 2002 to 2005, she served as the Napa County Fire Marshal and was the division chief for Cooperative Fire Protection in 2001 where she was the CAL FIRE liaison to state agencies involved in disaster response including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Prior to joining the Cooperative Fire Protection, Dargan served as battalion chief for the air attack base and conservation camp under CAL FIRE in Nevada County from 1997 to 2000 where she founded the Nevada County Fire Safe Council. Chief Dargan began her career with CAL FIRE as a firefighter in Santa Cruz County in 1977, before being promoted to fire captain and fire apparatus engineer in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties from 1980 to 1994. She serves as co-chair of the Wildland-Urban Interface Committee and is an appointed member to the Napa County Watershed Board. Additionally, she is a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, National Fire Protection Association and the American Planning Association.

Kate lives in Napa with her husband Tom Berry who retired from CAL FIRE two years ago. They have three sons: Scott Berry and Chris Dargan, both in college; and Matt Dargan who is an Army medic in Iraq.



Photos Clockwise: 1) Kate Dargan accepting the oath from CAL FIRE Director Ruben Grijalva. 2) With Chief Grijalva 3) Surrounded by family 4) With SFM Division Chiefs on the steps of the State Capitol.

Fire Prevention

Fire Hazard Severity Maps – Almost Ready for Public Review

This summer, the fire prevention personnel from all 21 CAL FIRE units will begin introducing High Fire Severity Zone Maps to the public they serve. The Units have finished validating their maps and have returned them to Sacramento headquarters where the maps are being incorporated into packages of presentation materials for each local jurisdiction. We anticipate the statewide public hearing process for the State Responsibility Area (SRA) maps to begin around June 1 and continue through Aug 1 with **final adoption by the end of December**. The maps that pertain to Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) will be Phase II of the project and will be coming out next year.

Fire Planners Learning to Acquire Grant \$\$\$

Robert Chew from Sacramento Fire Plan and J. Lopez from Los Angeles County Fire Plan have been selected to assist in the **Clearinghouse Grant Process**. Pre-Fire Engineers (PFE) are currently attending workshops to learn about the grant process of the Sierra National Conservancy and Proposition 84. There is **\$21 million** available from these programs to fund fuel modification and fire plan related projects.

Fire Engineering

Fireworks Training



The FSTEP certified "Public Display Fireworks Training" class for the San Diego area is scheduled for **April 18, 2007** at Qualcomm Stadium, Club 12, 9449 Friars Road, San Diego, CA 92108. The Los Angeles area Class is scheduled for **May 8, 2007** at Hollywood Park, 1050 S. Prairie Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90301. An identical class is set for Wednesday, **May 30, 2007** – the location is to be announced.

Each class is 9:00 - 4:00. The training is free, first come first served, space is limited and you must pre-register to attend. Please contact Marge Yarbrough at (951) 277-8796 or email marge.yarbrough@fire.ca.gov to pre-register. Remember, walk-ins will not be allowed to attend, so sign up soon.

Fire and Life Safety

L.A. Crime Lab to Open in May – Dedication May 11

The CSU-Los Angeles Hertzberg – Davis Forensic Science Center is scheduled for dedication and demonstration on May 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. **The Governor is expected to attend** among other top ranking officials from the joint agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriff Department and the California Department of Justice. Division Chief Ernie Paez will be attending as a representative for the SFM. He and his deputies have been involved in all areas of planning and construction of this facility.

Pipeline Safety

Spring Workshop – Wednesday May 30, 2007 Bakersfield

Now is the time to sign up for the spring workshop hosted by the SFM Pipeline Safety Division May 30. **Registration deadline is May 18.** The workshop will provide:

- An in-depth review of California Government Code (what you really need to know)
- The Pipeline Inspection, Protection Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006 (What parts will directly affect the Liquid Petroleum Industry in California)
- Damage Prevention (Changes to one-call law as a result of the 2004 Walnut Creek incident, implementation of 811 and pipeline operator community awareness programs)
- Proposed Pipeline Operator Fee increase (when, why, how much)
- 2007 Inspection Focus, past, present, incident review, OQ.



Location: Holiday Inn Select

Reservations: (661) 323-1900 (Ask for “in-house reservations” and mention the State Fire Marshal). The agenda for the conference will be available on the SFM CAL FIRE website at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>

Code Development and Analysis

As we told you last month, SFM staff is hard at work creating **workshops** to train inspectors for implementing the new building and fire codes. We will have details on those workshops in upcoming editions. In the meantime, if you want to read about them: Click here for the news release [California Building Standards Commission Press Release](#) or visit the website at www.bsc.ca.gov and click on Press Releases. The new California Building Code and California Fire Code will be published on July 1, 2007 and will become effective on January 1, 2008.

**Visit <http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov> for more about
CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal**
