



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



**Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal**

Welcome to the August State Fire Marshal Report! This month's report will highlight the SFM Pipeline Safety Unit's response to the recent California earthquake; the latest approved building materials for the wildland urban interface; what's up with NFPA 25; the ever popular Code Development and Analysis update and other events that have impacted the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

I want to recognize the efforts of the Photovoltaic Guideline Task Group for their time and energy over the past year in the development of the Photovoltaic Solar Systems Final Draft Guidelines (now available on the OSFM website). The committee includes the solar industry, fire service (operations and prevention), the building industry and building officials. This group came together and provided a guideline that is currently being shared throughout the state and

country as a tool in building an understanding of how these systems operate and in sharing fire service concerns with system installations. The guidelines are not the “end all” and the hope is that this group will continue to work together to provide education and regular updates on this important industry.

Speaking of education, staff from the OSFM along with Fire Captain Wes Kitchel from Santa Rosa Fire and Sue Kateley with the California Solar Energy Industries Association have been providing PV educational sessions to discuss the development of the guidelines, what really is “PV” and how the installation of solar panels on roofs potentially impact fire-ground operations. These sessions have been well received and if your building department, fire department and other interested parties want to host one of these one-day sessions, please contact OSFM Division Chief Vickie Sakamoto.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is committed to providing opportunities to share important fire and life safety information and we hope you enjoy this month’s report.

OSFM Going the Extra Mile

Many SFM staffers stepped forward to support our firefighters in the field during the recent fire siege. Employees from State Fire Training, Prevention and Law Enforcement, FRAP, Fire Engineering and Fire and Life Safety answered the call to help in many different ways. These staff members went above and beyond their job descriptions to be a part of the solution once again.



Several SFM staffers worked on the MAFFS (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System) during the recent fires. (SFM Law Enforcement Chief, Tom Hoffman was MAFFS Liaison Officer.) The C-130s in this photo were converted into MAFFS which flew more than 680 hours and dropped more than one million gallons of retardant.

SFM staff provided I.T. support, damage assessment, clerical support, public information, documentation, and much more.

Photo at right shows morning briefing. Different uniforms demonstrate that whether it was military, civilian, state, federal or local government, we were all in there working together.



The OSFM was proud to be part of this tremendous effort.

Fire Engineering

Approved Building Materials

As of January of this year, building products used in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) may be required to meet the standards specified under Chapter 7A of the 2007 California Building Code. The SFM Fire Engineering Division produced a handbook which lists all of the approved products which have been reviewed and verified by SFM staff. The book is divided into four main sections: Wall Siding and Sheathing, Exterior Windows, Under Eaves and Decking. To access the book visit:

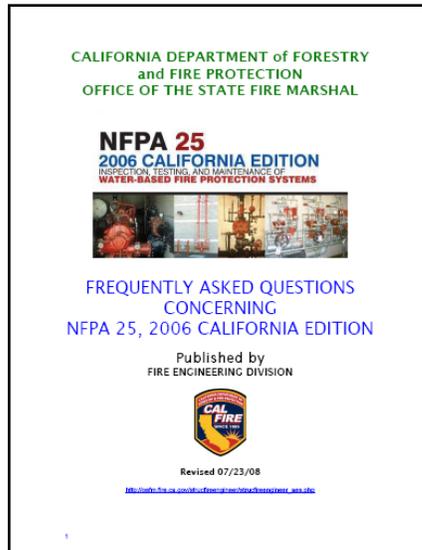
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducts.pdf>



For product approval information, contact
Chief Ben Ho:
Ben.ho@fire.ca.gov

For questions regarding Wildland Hazards and Wildland Urban Interface regulations and Chapter 7A contact
Assistant Chief Ethan Foote:
ethan.foote@rfire.ca.gov

Implementing NFPA 25



Last month, the SFM, in conjunction with California Fire Chief Association Prevention Officers Section (Southern and Northern Divisions) (FPO's), Los Angeles Area Fire Marshals Association (LAAFMA) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), hosted two training sessions, each followed by an informational roundtable forum, on the implementation of NFPA 25, 2006 California Edition (water-based automatic extinguishing systems).

The first forum was held in Brea and moderated by Bil Murphy, Fire Marshal, Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. The second forum was held in Hayward and moderated by Lorin Neyer,

OSHPOD-Technical Advisor.

Forum panelists included James Parsegian, SFM; Jack Thacker, P.E., Allan Automatic; Jim Feld, P.E., UC Berkley; Bruce Lecair, NFSA; Randy Dysart, Cintas Fire Protection; James Carver, Fire Marshal, El Segundo Fire Department; Jim Lake, P.E., NFPA. These forums answered many questions concerning implementation throughout the state.

As a follow-up, the State Fire Marshal's Office has developed a list of "frequently asked questions" (FAQs) which can be found at the following website:
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/aes/aesfaqs.pdf>

Fire and Life Safety

Kudos for the Team

It's not often that people are grateful for a visit from a fire marshal inspection team. Following is an excerpt from a letter that recently arrived in our office. The letter speaks for itself about the great work of Division Chief Ernie Paez and Supervising Deputy SFM Michele Nachtmann and the good will they generated when they were "just doing their job".

... "While we did have deficiencies that needed immediate correction, these individuals approached this challenge with professionalism, technical knowledge, respect and truly a perspective of support and helpfulness. Because of this approach, we were able to correct the deficiencies expediently and now have a safer site in which to educate our students. Furthermore, I am now much more knowledgeable in this area and have a far greater awareness of how to create and maintain a safe environment for students. I appreciate and applaud them both for all of the help they provide us in improving the safety of our middle school site."

**Sincerely,
Walter Con
Director of Business Services
Bear Valley Unified School District**

Meet Wendy Collins

Fire & Life Safety Division-North welcomes our newest team member, Deputy State Fire Marshal Wendy Collins. (Wendy is on the left, after being sworn in by Assistant State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover). Wendy will be temporarily training at the Sacramento Headquarters for awhile and then assigned various northern counties. She began her career in the fire service in 1986 as a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT with Samoa Peninsula Fire Department where she worked until 2002 while simultaneously working in the Billing, Authorizations, Payroll and Human Resources Departments at Eureka Internal Medicine from 1995-2008. Wendy relocated to Blue Lake in 2002 and joined their Fire Department as an EMT/Fire Prevention Officer where she is still employed on a volunteer basis. She has also worked as a Pyrotechnician with a private company for the past ten years, shooting public display firework shows at Infineon Raceway, Redding, Eureka and Benbow. Welcome Wendy!

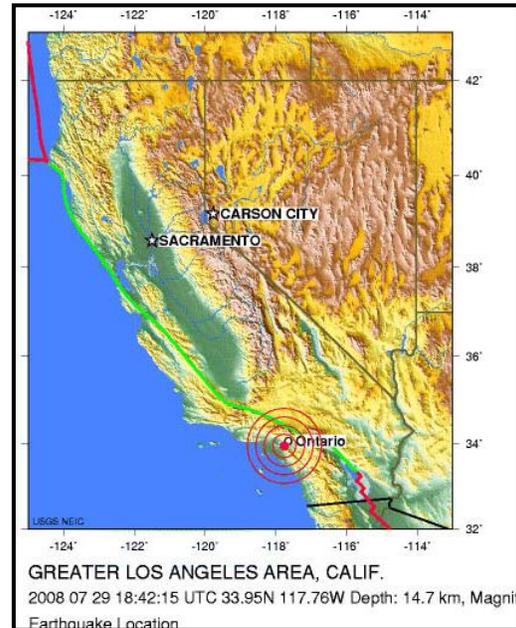


Pipeline Safety

Pipeline Division Springs to Action Following 5.4 Earthquake In Chino Hills

At 11:42 A.M. on July 29, 2008, a 5.4 magnitude earthquake struck the Chino Hills area of Los Angeles County. The quake was the largest in several years and was strongly felt in CAL FIRE's Lakewood office. The initial few minutes following the quake was spent determining the epicenter and strength and assuring personal safety.

Once the location was identified, CAL FIRE Pipeline Safety Engineers began the process of calling the more than 2 dozen pipeline operators located in the LA basin to determine if they incurred any damage to their pipeline systems.



The pipeline division's GIS mapping unit was quickly able to pinpoint 5 operators that were within a 10 mile radius of the epicenter. Then, pipeline safety engineers verified that the pipeline operators conducted their post-earthquake response procedures. These involve shutting the pipelines down, reviewing alarms and pressure readings, sending line riders out to survey the pipeline route and conducting a standup pressure test before resuming operations.

Through this entire process, our staff continually monitored news channels, California Office of Emergency Services spill reports and provided situation reports to the U.S. DOT-Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) and Sacramento Headquarters. We were pleased to determine that no damage occurred to any of the pipeline facilities.

Code Development and Analysis

California Building Code/NFPA 13 Correlation Work Group

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has formed a California Building Code/NFPA 13 Correlation Work Group. The purpose of the work group is to review and evaluate the 2002 and 2007 NFPA 13 as it relates to the 2007 California Building Code and the future 2010 California Building Code. The work group will make recommendations to the OSFM on what edition of NFPA 13 to adopt and/or propose amendments or changes. The group consists of seventeen participants from both the private and public sectors and is chaired by Office of the State Fire Marshal, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Steve Guarino. This group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at various locations throughout Sacramento and is anticipated to be in effect from June through October 2008. If you have any question, please contact Steve Guarino at (916) 341-6641 or steve.guarino@fire.ca.gov.

Current activities:

- The 2007 annual rulemaking cycle to create the supplement to the 2007 California Codes is nearing an end. OSFM's rulemaking packages will be heard by the Building Standards Commission (BSC) at their next meeting September 11, 2008. Publication date of January 1, 2009 and an effective date of July 1, 2009, have been tentatively set.
- OSFM has been working closely with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) during their review of the International Residential Code (IRC).
- OSFM submitted revisions to the Building, Mechanical and Fire Codes:
 - Rewrite of the L occupancy provisions in CBC Section 443
 - Revisions to standby and emergency power systems for high-rise buildings
 - Adoption of the 2007 edition of NFPA 72 and corresponding amendments
 - SFM amendments (most) in chapter 30 are proposed to be repealed as these provisions are now contained in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A17.1.
 - Clean up of misc. provisions related to Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs)

- OSFM is working with NorCal and SoCal FPOs to draft regulations that would reprint provisions of Title 19 into Fire code for local enforcing agencies.
- This year OSFM will be reviewing the 7A provisions for further cleanup as well as reconvening the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) committee that helped develop chapter 7A. The committee will discuss design, construction, enforcement and the prevention measures of 7A and consider further enhancements that may be necessary.
- OSFM is developing Information Bulletins relating to several changes without regulatory effect made to correct sections of the 2007 California Building and Fire code relating to; high-rise elevator lobbies, large family day care, RCFE's, and low level exits signs and pathway marking. On July 14, 2008, the California Building Standards Commission filed these corrections with the Secretary of State on behalf of the OSFM.

International Code Council (ICC) Model Code Development

CALIFORNIA NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED. California building and fire officials (state and local) need to actively participate in the development of these codes both at the hearings and the committee level. OSFM would like to further its relationship with the FPO's and CALBO in addressing concerns with the model codes as well as the other state agencies and the fire service as this is an on-going effort by all and we need to be involved together.

OSFM has had great success (so far) during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 cycles advancing several provisions to the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) and to roof assemblies (not a WUI issue) in the International Building Code (IBC). The OSFM feels that continued successes are directly related to the relationship between FPOs and Building Officials.

CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal

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