

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Monthly Report
August 2009



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

OSFM
Headquarters
1131 S Street
Sacramento,
California
95811

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Acting State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover

Greetings from the State Fire Marshal – August, 2009

This past month I had the opportunity to take a few vacation days and return to Oklahoma to participate once again in the **International Fire Services Training Associations Annual Validation Conference**. This year celebrated 76 years of developing and validating training and educational materials for the fire service. There are several reasons why this trip and this group are special but I would like to focus on two. First, this group is comprised of fire service professionals (the delegates) from all over the U.S. and Canada, plus international visitors. Many delegates traveled at their own expense and used personal time. Some bring their families to join in family events and the after-hour activities. To me, this speaks volumes of a commitment to the fire service even in this



IFSTA Annual Conference –
Oklahoma City, OK July 2009

challenging economy. That commitment, of continuing to move the fire service forward, is my first reason why the trip and group are special. The second item that makes this event special is the composition of the delegates. Involved individuals serve their communities in every aspect of the fire service; and within each validation committee are delegates with different skill sets and areas of expertise. There are no ranks, no badges and no stars - just people dedicated to contributing to "the cause". "The cause" is a fire service that includes every aspect, function and duty.

Many of you have heard me speak to the topic of the fire service triangle (Operations, Prevention, and Training) being "at the table" TOGETHER to address the needs of the profession. We support each other and each of us is essential to the other. There is no better way to convey that thought than by what is spoken within CAL FIRE and coined by the Director as *Total Force*. *Total Force* speaks to how we all rely on each other to do our jobs and carry our mission forward. Each of us has a different skill set, area of expertise, and responsibility to serve our communities. Each piece is important to "the cause". When we lose a piece from prevention, public education, risk mitigation, or training, we lose the total force needed to protect those responding to emergency situations and members of our communities. As we all struggle with "appropriate" resource levels, I hope that we can articulate, to those that question, the need for a total force.



**IFSTA High Rise
Committee**

And as I sat in a room discussing high-rise firefighting that included what fire fighters need to know about fire protection systems, building construction, stressing the importance of being involved in the prevention aspects of these structures and intently listening to the tactics and strategies of high-rise fire fighting from large and small fire departments from all over the country; it was apparent that we were all there for the same reason...*Total Force*... to continue to move "the cause" forward with commitment even during challenging times. Together we are the fire service!

Be safe,

TONYA L. HOOVER
Acting State Fire Marshal

Fire and Life Safety

July was a great month for Fire and Life Safety South as Chief Ernie Paez was able to bring four new Deputy State Fire Marshals on board. On July 6, Chief Hoover swore in Aaron Greer, Jena Garcia, Becky Luther and Ben Clough. All of the new DSFMs had their families present for the ceremony. After some initial training, they will be getting to work inspecting the more than 25,000 aging state buildings in the Southern California jurisdiction, as well as lots of new construction.



Left to right - Chief Hoover, Aaron Greer, Jena Garcia, Becky Luther, Ben Clough, Chief Paez

Fire Engineering Division

Fireworks Program/Fireworks Disposal

Deputy Tony Guevara, Fireworks Disposal Project Coordinator is working on an action plan to dispose fireworks collected/seized by local law and fire agencies. We are continuing to pick up fireworks seized by local law and fire authorities for disposal. Please send in the seizure form to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The fireworks seizure form can be downloaded at:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/fireworks/fwsiform.pdf>

For further information, please contact Tony Guevara, Fireworks Program Coordinator at (916) 327-8278 or tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov



Fire Extinguisher/Automatic Extinguishing System Enforcement Program

Danny Williams, owner of American Fire Protection, and employee Ken Speck were indicted for failure to maintain a fire suppression system or fire extinguisher properly, theft, diversion of construction funds, conspiracy and violations of the state fire code last month by the Tulare County District Attorney's Office after a lengthy investigation by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) and Tulare County Fire Department, with the assistance from the State Fire Marshal's Office. Supervising Deputy James Parsegian and CAL FIRE Staff Counsel Robin Harrington attended the hearing on July 16, 2009 in Tulare. As a condition of bail, the Judge suspended the license of American Fire Protection and the Certificate of Registrations of Mr. Williams and Mr. Speck.

Building Materials Listing Program:

The BML staff is working with Underwriter Laboratory Inc. (UL) on the update of UL Standard 38 to reflect the California requirements for Accessible Fire Alarm Pull Boxes.

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2007/ul38.pdf>

Kidde recently recalls their smoke alarms due to failure to warn of a fire. For more information regarding this recall, please log on the following link:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2009/duelsensorsmokealarmrecall.pdf>

For additional information regarding the BML Program, please contact Francis Mateo, BML Program Coordinator at (916) 445-8396 or francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov



Motion Picture & Entertainment Program

Deputy Al Adams conducted a SFM Fire Safety Officer class at Sony Studio in Southern California on July 20, 21 and 22, 2009.

Wildfire Protection Building Standards Program

Assistant Chief Ethan Foote conducted a training workshop in Atascadero on Jul 15, 2009, for the Central Coast ICC regarding Chapter 7A, California Building Code (CBC).

Chief Ben Ho gave a presentation regarding the approval process and code requirement for Chapter 7A, CBC at a workshop for Boise Cascade in Lathrop on July 23, 2009.

The Wildland Urban Interface Products Handbook has been updated and posted on our Web site at:

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

Code Development and Analysis

As reported last month, the Code Development and Analysis Division submitted rulemaking packages to the California Building Standards Commission for the 2010 California Building Standards Codes. The SFM is proposing for adoption and amendment into the California Code of Regulations Title 24 the following codes or portions thereof:

- Part 2, 2010 California Building Code (2009 IBC)
- Part 2.5, 2010 California Residential Code (2009 IRC)
- Part 3, 2010 California Electrical Code (2009 NEC)
- Part 4, 2010 California Mechanical Code (2009 UMC)
- Part 5, 2010 California Plumbing Code (2009 UPC)
- Part 9, 2010 California Building Code (2009 IFC)
- Part 12, 2010 California Referenced Standards Code

The California Building Standards Commission has scheduled the following Code Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings to hear the SFM and other state agency rulemaking packages:

- Green Building Standards Committee (GB)
August 4 & 5, 2009
 - Building Fire and Other Committee (BFO)
August 10 & 11, 2009
- Health Facilities Committee (HF)
August 13, 2009
- Structural Design - Lateral Forces Committee (SD-LF)
August 18 & 19, 2009

Following the CAC meetings, the rulemaking packages will go to a 45-day public comment period (dates TBA).

For updates, please visit our website at:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_2010codeadoptioncycle.php or visit the California Building Standards Commissions website for complete details and additional information regarding the 2009 annual rulemaking cycle for the 2010 California Codes at:
http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/pc_09_annual_cycle.htm

Law Enforcement Division

Most Californians know by now that as we head into the hotter summer months, our fire activity usually begins to increase. What does this mean for the Law Enforcement personnel in CAL FIRE? For these folks their jobs begin when the fire starts and sometimes doesn't end for years. Our officers are out there investigating each fire to determine where the fire started, what started it and who is responsible. They use a very methodical approach to each investigation, utilizing the extensive training they've each received. All of our officers assigned to full time enforcement have definitive training requirements which must be met. In addition to the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Regular Basic Training and the California State Fire Marshal's Courses - Investigation 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B, they also take part in two courses developed on a National level specifically for Wildland Fire Investigations: FI 210 - Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination; and FI 310 - Wildland Fire Investigation Case Development.



FI 210 - Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination is based on the certification standards and training programs for wildland fire investigators developed by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The training program includes live fire investigation training as well as a two day practical exercise where students work as a team to investigate and document a wildland fire case. Teams will determine the fire origin, collect evidence, conduct interviews, document, and give a presentation of their findings on the case.



FI 310 - Wildland Fire Investigation Case Development was also developed by the NWCG. It is intended to provide the skills necessary to develop and manage more complex fire investigation cases, in particular where serial arson is involved. The training focuses on case development, management, and organization as it pertains to wildland fire investigations and builds upon the information presented in the Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination Training. Both of these courses are currently being taught by CAL FIRE instructor cadres.

This training, along with the dedication and hard work of CAL FIRE's investigators recently resulted in the identification, arrest and conviction of two of the most prolific serial arsonists in California's history.

Pipeline Safety Division



Kudos for Pipeline Inspector

Tom Williams, a pipeline engineer working out of our Lakewood office, conducted a weeklong inspection of ExxonMobil's L.A. basin pipelines in July. Shortly thereafter, his supervisor received the following email:

"Tom was very helpful, providing insight to our many participants using his years of industry and government experience. This was my first inspection with Tom, and I give him high marks, speaking from an operator standpoint. You certainly have a great professional on your staff..."

Guy R. Peltier, ExxonMobil

Fire Planning and Risk Analysis California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS)

To provide good customer service, you must understand your customer. At least Kirsti Fong thinks so. She is the NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) coordinator in the CAIRS Program. She is much more comfortable sitting at a keyboard than dragging a fire hose. But she jumped at the chance to participate in the recent Basic Fire Training course offered at the CAL FIRE Unit in Auburn. Kirsti's job is to compile incident information into the CAIRS data base and to "increase complete incident reporting from California fire departments through customer service". The information is used to analyze the lessons learned at each incident. Analysts look at what went right and what went wrong and that helps with equipment purchases, fire resource management and safety training.



Our thanks to **Joe Navarro (L), Travis Chunn, Kim Witt, Scott Witt, and Jim Mathias** who were helpful and encouraging as Kirsti went through the training.



**In 2008,
1.9 million
incidents
were reported
to CAIRS.**

The class simulated hose lays, mobile firefighting, hand line construction, structure fire attack and entering a burning building to rescue a distressed firefighter. That was the most difficult. Kirsti says she had a tough time breathing and staying calm, “I couldn’t see my hand in front of my face”. She held on to the firefighter’s boot in front of her and when she finally got out of the building safely, she started celebrating a little too soon. “The instructor yelled for me to get back in the building and help the team pull the distressed firefighter out. Oops, forgot about that part.”

Kirsti says she gained an increased insight and appreciation for firefighters. “I realized I could never be the firefighter these brave men and women are. They completely made me feel thankful and safe to be near them.”

So the next time you report your incident information to CAIRS, know that it goes to someone who truly appreciates what you do. And that information is used to help keep other firefighters safer.





THE FIRELINE

State Fire Training Division



Training for Residential Sprinklers

Beginning in January 2011, **all new houses** constructed in California must be equipped with fire sprinklers. The State Fire Marshal has the responsibility to enforce this requirement within the 2010 International Residential Code. During the past year the OSFM facilitated the Residential Task Force Phase 1: Water Supply and Phase 2: Installation, to address issues pertaining to design and installation.

On July 21, the SFM convened the kick-off meeting of the Phase III: Training and Education Outreach to communicate the Phase I and II proceedings and identify training resources to prepare local building and fire officials, water purveyors, contractors and the building industry for the demands of the new fire protection requirements. The Task Force, representing a variety of stakeholders, will develop a training program for the implementation of residential fire sprinklers throughout California.

Draft Action Items:

1. Develop timelines and the deliverables (between January and December 2010).
2. Develop an awareness level course to educate stake holders of the issues in permitting residential fire sprinklers.
3. Create list of technical courses available dealing with installation.
4. Develop a standard glossary of terms for the installation of residential fire sprinklers.

The Final Report and Recommendations of Phase I and II will be posted to the SFM website this month. The Phase III Task Force will meet monthly and anticipates providing outreach to stakeholders in 2010.

New and Familiar Faces

Mary Wilshire Joins SFT

Mary Wilshire is the new manager of the State Fire Training Office in Sacramento Headquarters. She is responsible for the certification and instructor registration processes as well as contracts and budget related issues. Mary started with CAL FIRE in the San Bernardino Unit in 1983. She worked as a dispatcher and eventually worked in budgets where the OSFM was her program responsibility. She learned about Code Enforcement, Licensing & Certification, Pipeline, and State Fire Training, That made her a perfect fit for this position. In 2008, she moved to CAL EMA (Emergency Management Agency) where she worked in grants processing. But she is glad to come back home to CAL FIRE. Welcome Mary!



Moving on – Moving Up



We're happy to announce the promotion of **Linda Menchaca** to Staff Services Analyst, filling behind Sandy Margullis as the Instructor Registration and EMT-I Program Coordinator. Linda has been with us since June 2007 and has proven to be a valuable asset to the division. She previously served as the Course Scheduler and Bookstore Operations Lead where she developed excellent working relationships with our registered instructors, so this is a natural transition.



Filling behind Linda in course scheduling is **Brandon Erickson**. Brandon began working for State Fire Training as a student assistant. Since he is already familiar with bookstore operations, he was a great fit to take over where Linda left off. Brandon has been a pleasure to have in the division. He not only contributes great people skills, but a sense of humor as well.

New Training Specialist



One of our newest additions to State Fire Training is Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Training Specialist, Mike Garcia. Mike is a transfer from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, serving as a Fire Chief for the past 13 years. He is a current Adjunct Instructor with Antelope Valley College, a C.S.T.I. Outreach Instructor Hazmat First Responder Awareness and Operational, Incident Command and Weapons of Mass Destruction and a Registered SFT Instructor. Mike obtained an Associates Degree in Fire Protection from Oxnard College (w/ Honors), and is an SFM Certified Fire Prevention Officer III. Welcome aboard Mike!



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL