

California Office of the State Fire Marshal

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Priorities for '09

Rosebowl
Parade

Division
Reports



Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal

California's Top Two Fire and Life Safety Issues

Here at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, we start each New Year much as you do - looking ahead and setting our goals for a successful year. We are beginning the planning process for our 2-Year Work Plan, considering the fire prevention goals that are most important to accomplish in 2009 and 2010. Our work now is especially significant because what goes into this particular edition of the 2009-2010 Work Plan are those fire prevention goals that are most important to accomplish during the remaining two years of this administration.

Narrowing down our large state's fire and life safety issues into a few goals is a challenging process but I believe the top two fire issues in California are Residential Fire Fatalities and Wildland-Urban Interface(WUI) Fires. Between the two of them, our citizens and firefighters face their greatest life threat from fire and our communities face their greatest losses. Dealing an effective mitigation blow to each of these hazards requires using our "Shaping the Battlefield" (STB) concepts - mitigating the 'battlefield' before our firefighters need to respond.

Priority Number 1 - Residential Sprinklers. Residential fires and fatalities can be virtually eliminated by installation of residential sprinklers in all new construction. Over time - yes, it will take decades -

January's theme is Planning.

Visit the SFM Website where we post and regularly update our Two Year Plans.

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

we will see significant drops in fire losses and fatalities. Meanwhile, for existing structures, smoke detectors and public education are our best lines of defense for rapid detection and escape. Installation of the new 10-year batteries should be a priority for all community safety programs. For 2009-2010, the OSFM will be focused on working with our partners and stakeholders on the political, operational, and cost issues that must be addressed for a smooth adoption and implementation of the model residential sprinklers provision in the International Residential Code.



Priority Number 2 - Wildland/Urban Interface Fires. WUI costs and losses range from civilian and first responder life safety to large-loss fire statistics and on to overwhelming community and environmental damage. Effectively dealing with this urgent fire problem requires not just supporting adequate responder staffing and training, but also aggressively pursuing public education, defensible space success, and land-use, or firesafe planning. We have learned the lesson many times over. These large-loss fires (NFPA's most recent Large-Loss Fire Report) in California are the result of ember-generated conflagration fires where so many houses ignite simultaneously that we are unable to extinguish them safely. The California fire service must continue to develop a comprehensive set of policies and practices that support public education, evacuations, building materials and defensible space, local fire plans, and risk analysis as well as the fire prevention and responder staffing. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an integral part of that effort and will focus in the next two years on developing and supporting effective goals for this very real fire safety emergency.

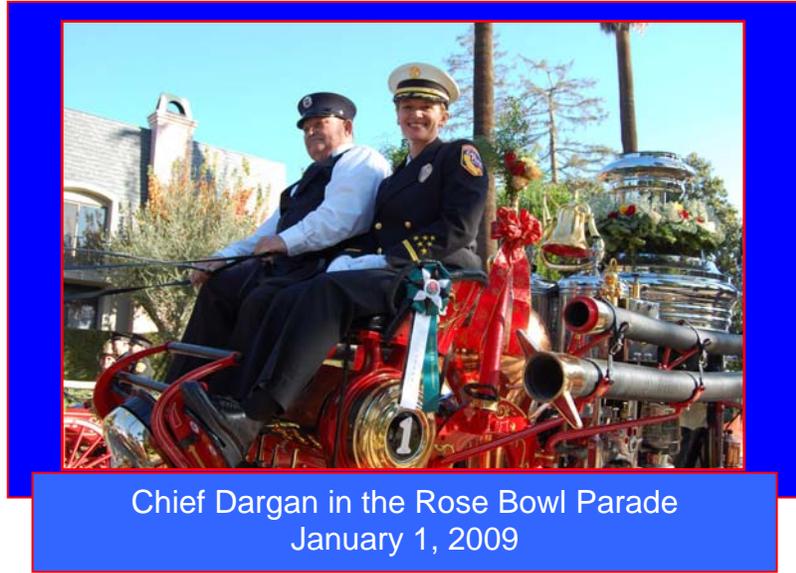


If we are successful on these two issues alone, our time under Governor Schwarzenegger would be a pivotal period in California fire history. His support for fire safety and fire prevention is well-recognized in the fire service community and these next two years are such an opportunity.

Shaping the battlefield one day at a time....

For
information on
SFM Code
Development
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Code Development

Supplement to the 2007 California Codes

The 2007 annual rulemaking cycle to create the supplement to the 2007 California Codes has been completed. Publication of the supplement is tentatively scheduled for February 1, 2009 with an effective date of August 1, 2009.

OSFM made several 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-rises.
- Adoption of the 2007 edition of NFPA 72 and corresponding amendments.
- Several amendments in chapter 30 have been repealed as these provisions are now contained in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A17.1 standard.
- Clean up of provisions related to Residential Care Facilities.

SFM Pipeline
Safety
Division Chief:

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2010 California Building Standards Code Pre-Rulemaking Activity

Code Development and Analysis Unit has started the pre-rulemaking activities to adopt and amend the 2009 editions of the base model codes for inclusion in the 2010 California Building Standards Codes. Over the next six months, Code Development and Analysis will be holding focus group and stakeholder meetings requesting input and vetting SFM proposals. If you would like to be included in the Code Development and Analysis stakeholder email distribution list please email kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov

The California Building Standards Commission has been compiling an online erratum for the 2007 Edition of Title 24 which can be downloaded:

http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/Title_24/documents/Errata/Errata080108.pdf

Pipeline Safety



Track hoe hits Shell Oil Company crude oil pipeline

Supervising Pipeline Safety Engineer Chuck MacDonald responded to this incident in the City of Bakersfield. The investigation will focus on whether or not the “Call Before You Dig” law was properly followed.

Fire and Life
Safety

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Fire and Life Safety

Two Retirees to Thank

Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist **Wes Cochran** and Deputy State Fire Marshal **Ed Madden** retired on December 30, 2008. Wes Cochran began his career with the Office of the State Fire Marshal in 1984 and retires with twenty-four years of state service. Wes was the field Deputy for Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Yuba counties.

Ed Madden began his career with the then California Division of Forestry in 1976 and worked for various state agencies before coming on board with the Office of the State Fire Marshal in 1983. He retires with thirty-two years of state service. Ed was the field Deputy for Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama counties.

Congratulations to Deputy Cochran and Deputy Madden on their retirement and best wishes!

Fire Prevention, Engineering and Law Enforcement

Jacalyn Dunkle is the Staff Services Analyst in the new Civil Cost Recovery (CCR) Program. Jacalyn comes to the CCR from the Law Enforcement Unit where she has been secretary for the last five years. While Law Enforcement Secretary, she provided Civil Cost Recovery support as part of her regular duties. Jacalyn will manage expert witness contracts, develop recordkeeping and tracking, track program performance in cost recovery, prepare reports, and support Region staff with their cost recovery needs.



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