

OFFICE of the STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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



*Acting State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover*

January Message from the Chief:

Welcome to 2010 and the next decade! It is hard to believe that we have passed two marks in time so quickly...the year 2009 and a decade. We have much to celebrate as we look back, but January is about looking forward. There is a popular song called "Welcome to the Future" and I can't help but think about the months ahead.

This year will bring about many experiences that will tap the core of what the fire service strengths and challenges are. I am confident that we will have a successful adoption of the California Building Standards that will strengthen our fire fighting and life safety abilities. Within fire service training, we will continue to move forward with the updating of curriculum and training materials while meeting the demand for training in new building technologies. In January, the Office of the State Fire Marshal's "Red and Green Initiative" (the fire service and green-sustainable building) will kick off with the formation of the Fire Operations and Photovoltaic working group that will be developing awareness level training materials.

The New Year also brings about a re-commitment to our partnerships. We will continue to share information with our organizational partners such as Cal-Chiefs, CALBO, CAFAA and CalSAFE while staying committed to assisting local government fire department partners and our own fire department (CAL FIRE). We are strong in our mission when we stand together in support of that goal and continue to share information and collaborate on ways to serve our communities. There is much to continue doing...and we will adapt and overcome, as necessary, to keep our firefighters and public safe. Our roles may change and our duties expand, but we each have a role in the mission.

I am looking forward to being part of the continuing mission here at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. I look forward to sharing with our partners and moving forward with our fire and panic safety initiatives, each of which make the California Fire Service the best in the country! Happy New Year and welcome to the future!

Be safe!

Tonya L. Hoover
Acting State Fire Marshal

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Fire Engineering Division

New License Classification (Type L) For Automatic Extinguishing Systems

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has established a new Limited License category (Type L) for the Automatic Extinguishing Program. This Type L License allows the building owner or lessee who has trained and experienced employees to conduct inspection, annual testing, and maintenance of wet pipe sprinkler systems, standpipe systems or private fire service mains in structures or properties they own or lease. For more information regarding the program, please log on our Web site at:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/strucfireengineer_aes.php

Joint Letter From The Office of the State Fire Marshal And The California Fire Chiefs Association

The CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), in partnership with the California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs), issued a letter to address the approval, the permitting process and fire safety concerns relative to the temporary hospital shelters during the H1N1 outbreak. We recognize the unique circumstances and need for expedient placement of these tents and want to provide assistance and coordinated efforts to local hospitals and the California fire service in addressing fire safety issues. We ask that fire agencies contact hospital staff in their jurisdiction to share this information and encourage hospital staff to work with their local fire department early in the permitting process. The letter is currently posted on the following Web sites:

Office of the State Fire Marshal:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/firemarshal/calfirecalchiefh1n1letter.pdf>

California Fire Chiefs Association:

http://calchiefs.org/items/H1N1_Letter.pdf

For information regarding the approval of tents, please contact Francis Mateo, Flame Retardant Program Coordinator, at (916) 445-8396 or francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov

Pipeline Safety Division

Emmett Cooper Retires

After 21 years with the State Fire Marshals' Pipeline Safety Division, Emmett Cooper has decided to retire. His vast knowledge and wisdom coming from 63 years of pipeline industry experience will be severely missed. Emmett conducted com-

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prehensive inspections of hazardous liquid pipeline operators, monitored hundreds of pipeline construction projects, pipeline repair projects and conducted accident investigations. These actions helped to achieve the outstanding safety record of the pipeline industry in California. Because of his work in taking GPS coordinates of all jurisdictional pipeline facilities in California, the Division has been able to map and accurately locate over 6000 miles of pipelines. This is only equaled by Emmett's uncanny memory of the location of these pipelines. Emmett has earned the respect of all pipeline operators. We wish Emmett the best in his retirement years. He will be missed and cannot be replaced.



Code Development and Analysis Division

Proposed Code Adoption and Approvals – Title 24, 2010 California Building Standards Codes. The California Building Standards Commission will take action January 12 and 13, 2010 on the following State Fire Marshal code proposals to approve, disapprove, further study, or approve as amended any of the proposed code changes based on the criteria established in Health and Safety Code 18930.

- Proposed adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Building Code with amendments for incorporation into the 2010 California Building Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2).
- Proposed adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code with amendments for incorporation into the 2010 California Residential Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.5).
- Proposed adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code with amendments for incorporation into the 2010 California Fire Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9).
- Proposed adoption of amendments to the California Referenced Standards Code for incorporation into the 2010 California Referenced Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 12).



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The Commission will consider the proposed changes and its justifications, the Code Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendations, and comments submitted during the public comment periods. The public may comment on any challenges to the proposals or CAC recommendations submitted during the public processes.

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No new issues or new information challenging the proposed code changes may be presented to the Commission in the adoption of the following proposed regulations.

Comments and information received during the public comment periods are located at the following:

http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/pc_09_comment.htm

The State Fire Marshal's final rulemaking documents may be found at:

http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/commission+action+.htm

Complete meeting notice and agenda may be found at:

http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/cal_evnt/2010/2010-01_Jan_12_cbsc_agenda_2_.pdf

Meeting location and time:

California Building Standards Commission
Department of Consumer Affairs
1625 North Market Blvd.
First Floor Hearing Room
Sacramento, CA 95834
January 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
and January 13, 2010* at 9 a.m.

**Note: if all items are completed on January 12th the continuation of the meeting to January 13th will not be necessary.*

Fire and Life Safety Division

December 2009 was a great month for Fire and Life Safety. Not only did we add a new Deputy State Fire Marshal to our team; one of our own was recognized by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for extraordinary bravery and heroism in saving a life. We also celebrated the retirement of a Deputy whose career benefited all Californians.

Welcome Deputy State Fire Marshal Jeff Schwartz

On December 8, 2009, Chief Hoover swore in Deputy State Fire Marshal Jeff Schwartz. Jeff brings to Office of the State Fire Marshal approximately ten years combined military (U.S. Navy) and civilian fire service experience. Jeff is a Navy veteran and is still active in the Navy Reserve. After some initial training, he will be reviewing plans and inspecting state buildings in Northern California.

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Medal of Valor

On December 10, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger awarded Supervising Deputy Steve Guarino, the Governor's Medal of Valor. This gold medal demonstrates an extraordinary act of heroism by a State employee extending far above and beyond the normal call of duty or service performed at great risk to his or her own life in an effort to save human life.



Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor, Stephen Charles Guarino

On October 27, 2008, CAL FIRE Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor Stephen Charles Guarino was in Sacramento County traveling on Interstate 5 when he witnessed a pick-up truck and van chasing and slamming into each other through traffic. When the van attempted to force the pick-up truck off the road, the truck lost control, ran off the highway, collided with a tree, and caught fire. Deputy Guarino stopped his vehicle and saw that the male driver was going in and out of consciousness. The truck doors were jammed shut, so Deputy Guarino used a fire extinguisher to break the driver's side window and pulled the driver out of the burning truck. Deputy Guarino's heroic and speedy actions saved the man's life.



Governor's Medal of Valor

Alisa Morua Retires

This month we also say goodbye to the Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist Alisa Morua who retired with over 31 years of State service. She began her career with Cal Coast Company as a Stenographer in October of 1977. In April of 1978, Alisa was promoted to Office Assistant II (Typing) with the Department of Mental Health, a position that she held until October of 1986 when Alisa was transferred to a Word Processing Technician position with the Department of Developmental Services. Mrs. Morua worked as a Word Processing Technician until May of 1988 and then was promoted to a State Fire Marshal Trainee with CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal. Deputy Morua remained in a Trainee position until May of 1989 and then promoted to a Deputy State Fire Marshal. Where she worked until April of 1996 at which time she was promoted to the Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist and has served in this position until retiring on December 30, 2009. She will be missed.



Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist, Alisa Morua

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Inspection Requests

Questions and/or inspection requests for the San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties should be directed to either Deputy Jim Tringham at (510) 622-4023, jim.tringham@fire.ca.gov or Supervising Deputy Steve Guarino at (916) 341-6641 steve.guarino@fire.ca.gov.

Law Enforcement Division

The civil cost-recovery staff is gearing-up for another busy year in case management and program formation. With over 50 major cases (valued at \$50,000 or more), case managers are working tirelessly with attorneys from the California Department of Justice to recovery suppression costs totaling nearly \$140 million. Program staff aims to have the program's governing policies and procedures fine-tuned within the next few months.

Arson Arrests

One of the busier CAL FIRE Units, Riverside Unit, has made 13 felony arrests in 2009 for arson caused fires. The following excerpt from a news release is an example of one such arrest.

Temecula Business Owner Arrested on Arson Charges December 9, 2009

Temecula – This morning CAL FIRE Investigators arrested the 54-year old owner of the 7 Mares Restaurant in Temecula for arson.

Due to recent suspicious activity at the restaurant, located at 29000 Old Town Front Street, CAL FIRE Investigators were conducting surveillance at the business; Chavez was observed leaving and a fire was found in the structure within minutes. Chavez was taken into custody without incident where he was arrested and transported to the Riverside County Southwest Detention Center. He was booked on charges of arson to a structure. The case is being handled by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

Another job well done.



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

State Fire Training Division

State Fire Training and NFA Sponsored Off-Campus Programs

State Fire Training (SFT) in cooperation with the National Fire Academy (NFA) presents nine Off Campus 2-Day Programs to host agencies throughout California. The NFA classes are taught at no charge to either the host agency or the attending student. An added benefit to these classes is that the instructors can be from any location in the country. The NFA curriculum that they teach may have added value when the instructor's unique regional experiences are added. Depending on the subject taught, students will be provided with student manuals and other material from NFA.

State Fire Training is currently going through the "Course Call" process for FY 11. The final date to collect the host agency choices for this coming fiscal year is January 31, 2010. If you are interested in potentially hosting one of the NFA sponsored Off-Campus 2-Day Programs, or for more information on the classes available, please contact Deputy Ken Vollenweider at (707) 718-2920 or email, Ken.Vollenweider@fire.ca.gov.



Currently there are 3 classes offered for the remainder of the FY 10 calendar that may still have open seats available. For more information contact the host agencies.

ISO (Incident Safety Officer) – 2/6 & 7/10. This course examines the Safety Officer's role at emergency response situations. A specific focus on operations within an Incident Command System as a Safety Officer is the main theme. Hosted by Blue Lake Fire, (707) 668-5765, Chief Stonebarger.

PICO (Preparation for Initial Company Operations)– 3/20 & 21/10. This course is designed for Company Officers, acting Company Officers, or senior firefighters responsible for the management of single engine resources at an emergency incident, and those officers who are responsible for company readiness, personnel safety, and leadership as it relates to company operations. Hosted by Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department, (408) 306-4193, Captain Hall.

CCWUIFOSCO (Command and Control of the Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Operations for the Structural Chief Officer)- 4/24 & 25/10. Designed to provide Chief

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Officers, or Company Officers who may have command responsibility for multiple resources, with the essential tools and skills to operate safely in a wildland/urban interface incident. Course content covers interface incidents, fire behavior, safety, and operational considerations. Hosted by Dixon Fire Department, (707) 678-7060 x 109, Chief McAlister.

Who Checks the Prerequisites?

There are but a few State Fire Training classes that require a prerequisite class before students are allowed to enroll in a higher level course. The question of who checks to be sure that students meet the prerequisite is a question that many instructors are asking. The answer is: it is the primary instructor's responsibility to check that students meet the course prerequisites!

An example is the new Rescue Systems 1 (2010) training program that is replacing the older Rescue Systems class starting January 1, 2010. Since the updated Low Angle Rope Rescue (LARRO) class has been in place for the past 3 years it is common knowledge that the new LARRO program will become the prerequisite for the new RS-1 2010 class.



Rescue Systems is predicated on the fact that students come to the program with the required skills and abilities to learn more advanced rescue techniques. These skills are checked at the beginning of the Rescue Systems 1 class to be sure that everyone is operating with a base level of skills. And if needed, remedial training is identified.



It makes a difference for each rescue class that students are pre-qualified to move up to the next level of training. This will require Rescue Systems Instructors to request a copy of the LARRO certificate from their students at the beginning of each class. This information should be conveyed in the flier or announcement before the class.

State Fire Training operates on an honors system. State Fire Training does not currently have the technology or the capacity to check every student against the database. So the burden of proof falls to the student and instructors. Can the system be cheated? It certainly can, but at the risk of passing people who can not function at the level to which they are allegedly trained. In the case of technical

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rescue training, pre-qualifying students could have life and death consequences in the long run.

To maintain the integrity of your training system, it is imperative that instructors pre-qualify their students when it is required. For more information on this topic please contact Rodney.Slaughter@fire.ca.gov or your regional SFT representative.

State Fire Training and Los Angeles Fire Department Evaluate New Rescue Systems 2 Site Requirements

When the Los Angeles City Fire Department submitted a Rescue Systems 2 site evaluation request, it was the perfect opportunity to test the site requirements that will soon become the standard for all Rescue Systems 2 sites statewide.

On December 29, the Los Angeles Fire Department was evaluated for compliance with the latest version of Rescue Systems 2 (2010) props, tools and equipment. This site inspection was conducted at Los Angeles Fire Department's Station 88 located in the San Fernando Valley.

The site evaluation team included, Deputy Mike Garcia from SFT, Chief Len Chesmore of Cal EMA, and Bob Masonis of Newport Beach Fire (a member of the RS-1 and 2 workgroup). Los Angeles Fire Department provided Battalion Chief Jack Wise, Fire Captains Rick Denning, Mike Jacalone and Tom Hengzen to assist the inspection team in reviewing all of the props, tools, equipment requirements necessary to deliver an effective Rescue Systems 2 course.

This evaluation of a new site against the new site requirements provided practical insight on the impact site requirements have on local agencies. Definitions, the size of material, and the number and type of tools were all evaluated necessitating minor changes to the new RS-2 site requirements.

This initial inspection was beneficial to all involved and will guarantee a consistent training program from one end of the state to the other. State Fire Training extends our appreciation to Chief Jack Wise and the Los Angeles Fire Department for taking the risk of being one of the first departments to undergo the scrutiny of the site evaluation team.



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For more information on which Rescue Sites are currently approved to provide Rescue Systems I, Rescue Systems 2, or Confined Space Training please visit, http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training_information.php, and review the approved Rescue Site link. For more information about RS-1 and RS-2 site requirements please contact you area SFT field representatives or e-mail Rodney.slaughter@fire.ca.gov.

The Essentials of Photovoltaics

Rooftops across California are developing a new and interesting feature—Solar Electric Panels or, technically termed, “Photovoltaic Panels.”

These panels can cover the roof tops of commercial buildings or can be seen on the South and Western slopes of residential structures.

The panels collectively can generate a considerable amount of energy when the sun is shining. The potential hazards and new guidelines are in development to protect firefighters during rooftop operations.



The fire service community and photovoltaic industry has been working on building codes and regulations to address firefighter safety issues. At the same time, State Fire Training has been asked to update the current PV training program for statewide delivery. Fire service instructors who are interested in this technology are encouraged to send in their resumes by January 22, 2010 to Mike.Garcia@fire.ca.gov if they would like to work with the solar industry and other fire service instructors on the developing curriculum. Travel expenses for workgroup meetings will be paid for interested subject matter experts.