

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Monthly Report
July 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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CAL FIRE Director Names Tonya Hoover Acting State Fire Marshal



CAL FIRE Director Del Walters named Tonya L. Hoover Acting State Fire Marshal on June 30, 2009. "With over 20 years of experience in the fire service and a commitment to public education and risk mitigation, Tonya is a proven leader," said Chief Walters. "I am confident she will provide a seamless transition in leadership and will play a vital role in shaping the future of fire safety issues in California."

Chief Hoover has served as Assistant State Fire Marshal since September 2007. She graduated from Oklahoma State University with degrees in Fire Science and earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration and Human Resources from the University of Phoenix. She is currently an Executive Fire Officer candidate at the National Fire Academy. Her professional associations include: National Fire Protection Association, International Fire Service Training Association, and International Fire Chief's Association. She is a past president of California Fire Chiefs' Fire Prevention Officers Section and winner of the Charlie Gray Award for Outstanding Service to NorCal Fire Prevention Officers.



**Acting State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover**

Welcome to the July Issue of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Report and the Fireline.



This month I have the honor to write to the California Fire Service not as the Assistant State Fire Marshal but as the newly appointed Acting State Fire Marshal. It is a moment of great reflection on the past 22 months and appreciation for the men and women of CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the California Fire Service.

My tenure and particularly these past few months have been devoted to continuing relationships and transitioning leadership. I have had the pleasure to share both a personal and professional relationship with Chief Kate Dargan; afforded the opportunity to take on new challenges; and be shown what leadership is all about. I wish her the very best as she embarks on her retirement.



My sincere thank you and appreciation go to Chief Del Walters, Director and the entire CAL FIRE organization for their support for me both as Assistant State Fire Marshal and Acting State Fire Marshal. I am honored to serve and continue to move the mission of CAL FIRE - OSFM throughout the State.

As I assume this new role, I must acknowledge that all the opportunities and great work the OSFM achieves every day, would not be possible without the relationships and partners we have in the California fire service, particularly those in prevention. I am looking forward to meeting, visiting, learning, and sharing experiences in collaboration with all of you as we are mindful that fire prevention is an integral part of keeping us all safe!

Tonya Hoover
Acting State Fire Marshal



Hale and Farewell

As we reported earlier, State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan retired as of June 30. Her last act as SFM was to host a retirement reception for Staff Chief Wayne Mitchell. Chief Mitchell had a long and impressive career in the fire service including resource management, fire protection and fire prevention. In the past several years he has implemented the department's Fire Plan and managed the CAIRS (California All Incident Reporting System) unit. **At right-Chief Dargan reads a long list of his accomplishments** and thanks him for his dedicated service to her team. Both of these fine professionals will be sorely missed. We wish them both all the best.



Fire Engineering Division



Fireworks Program

Chief Vickie Sakamoto and Chief Ben Ho attended the Annual Statewide and Greater Sacramento Area Fireworks Safety Task Force press conference on Wednesday, June 24, 2009. The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office along with local police, sheriff and fire officials, with the support of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, announced at the press conference that this year they will strictly adhere to the tough disposition/sentencing guidelines for both adults and juveniles found to be possessing or using illegal fireworks this 4th of July.

MSNBC Headline:

Exploding Fireworks Not OK In Sacramento

Zero Tolerance Policy For Illegal Fireworks In Effect

Flame Retardant Fabrics and Chemicals Program



All State Fire Marshal certifications for flame retardant chemicals and fabrics have been renewed and are available on line at the following site:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licensinglistings_flameretardant.php

For additional information regarding the SFM Flame retardant chemicals and fabrics, please contact Helen Brockenbrough at (916) 445-4106 or helen.brockenbrough@fire.ca.gov

Wildfire Protection Building Standard



Chapter 7A Task Force has completed the "Proposed Regulations" language to revise Chapter 7A of the California Building Code for the next adoption cycle and will submit to our Code Development and Analysis Division. We are working to update the "acceptance policy" for vent products. The new "accepted" policies will be posted on our Web site after July 1, 2009. For additional information regarding the Wildland Urban Interface Chapter 7A Task Force and the acceptance policy, please contact Ethan Foote, Wildfire Protection Building Standard Program Coordinator at (707) 576-2996 or ethan.foote@fire.ca.gov

Building Materials Listing Program

BML

Building Materials Listing Program

State Fire Marshal listings for 2009-2010 are now available on line at:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/licensinglistings/licensinglistings_bml.php

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

Code Development and Analysis

The Code Development and Analysis Division has 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 Building 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:

- Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical and Energy Committee (PEME)
July 7, 2009
- Accessibility Committee (ACCESS)
July 22 & 23, 2009
- Building Fire and Other Committee (BFO)
August 10 & 11, 2009
- Structural Design - Lateral Forces Committee (SD-LF)
August 18 & 19, 2009
- Health Facilities Committee (HF)
August 13, 2009
- Green Building Standards Committee (GB)
August 4 & 5, 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

Fire Planning and Risk Analysis



Congratulations to **Dean Cromwell** on his recent appointment as Chief of Fire Planning and Risk Analysis, Office of the State Fire Marshal. This new position consolidates the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) with Fire Planning and Fire Statistics under his leadership. Dean has been with CAL FIRE for over 30 years, the last ten as Research Manager for the Department's Fire and Resource Assessment Program. Prior to that, he was Executive Officer to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.



He has worked on a variety of projects for CAL FIRE, including such things as Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapping, State Responsibility Area boundary review, fire planning, and forest and range resource analysis. Dean has undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

Fire and Life Safety Division



Welcome!

Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Jeff Hartsuyker to the Fire and Life Safety Division South team. Jeff started with CDF/CALFIRE in 1985; joined the State Fire Marshal's Office in West Covina in 1993 working for Fire & Life Safety until 2001. He accepted the DSFM III promotion under the CALFIRE contract in Madera County until 2006 when he returned to Fire & Life Safety South. In his spare time, Jeff coaches baseball and soccer games with his 10-year-old son Garrett. He will be located at our Fresno office.



THE FIRELINE

The finest California academies train the best firefighters.

State Fire Training Division

Best Practices the New Measure of Excellence!

Rodney Slaughter

Excellence is a standard that, by any measure, is provided in each of California's Accredited Fire Academies around the state. But, what separates one fire academy from another is less obvious. Oftentimes you have to visit each campus to see the fundamental differences between programs and facilities.

In the past two years State Fire Training has been actively accrediting and re-accrediting fire academies across the state. The site team, which consists of members of the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee, Fire Technology Directors and State Fire Training Staff, look for these differences or "Best Practices" while conducting accreditation site visits.

Of the 16 accreditation site visits conducted to date, the accreditation site teams have identified a least one or more exceptional programs offered at each of the accredited fire academies. Examples were found in such areas as, recruitment, acculturation, unique training and educational opportunities, outreach to working adults, exceptional facilities, instructor support and training, along with exceptional local fire department support.

Recruitment

While many campuses are actively recruiting women to the fire service, El Camino Community College takes a more proactive approach by opening an office specifically for women in the vocational education building. It is the first office you come to as you walk



Fire service core values are at the heart of a good training program.

through the main doors. There, women are introduced to a wide range of vocational programs. In this office it is hard to miss the Fire Technology program spotlighted with color posters and program information.

Many campuses are reaching out to the fire fighters of the future through local ROP programs and/or fire explorer programs offered at the local high schools. Many campuses recognize that they need to develop an interest and foundation early in a student's education to get top quality fire academy recruits.

Acculturation

The acculturation of fire cadets to the fire service is accomplished in several programs where, as in the case of Mount San Antonio College, students define their own "core values." The entire academy staff uses these student defined values to correct behavior and reinforces the "core values" for that academy every day.

The acculturation process continues in programs like Crafton Hills College. The college has formed an honor guard to raise and lower the American flag daily and who also host an annual fire academy alumni luncheon to honor those firefighters that came before them.



Educational Opportunities

The introduction of new educational opportunities has also been noted by the site teams. Mt. San Antonio College for example realized that fire science students were not likely to cross the campus to access technical resource tutors in math, reading, and writing, so the campus included a technical resource center within the fire science building. At the Lake Tahoe Community College, job interview training is offered to their cadets and fire science students.

Unique Training Programs

Other unique training opportunities are offered in a wide range of subject areas like; "Cultural Awareness" training offered by the recently accredited San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department. This class introduces cadets to the Native American culture in an effort to develop sensitivity to their traditions and to eliminate stereotypes.

It is not just fighting fire, excellent academies offer specialized training.

Good facilities are good places to learn.

Similarly, the Sexual Harassment class offered by Lake Tahoe Community College provides an education and understanding of gender related issues that plague many fire houses around the country. As one of the few all female run academies, this training is offered by the Dean herself! At the El Camino Academy, students are required to visit the Black Firefighter Museum and write a research paper. All of these practices insure a “diversity” tolerant fire fighting work force.

Outreach

In recognition of the working adults who are trying to complete their education and fire academy coursework, Sierra College created an extended academy that includes training over the weekend and classes in the evening. Recent research by the Riverside Community College reveals that meeting the need for working adults is a hallmark of many other academies across the state.

Specialized Training

Many academies, with the input of the local fire departments, provide specialized technical training in their fire academies. In many cases, like the San Pasqual Reservation Fire Department this includes CAL FIRE approved “67 Hour Wildland Fire Fighter Training,” or specialized rescue training. In some cases, area specific training is included in the Fire Fighter 1 curriculum like Ice and Swift Water Rescue offered by Lake Tahoe Community College.



Facilities

Training facilities can take a real beating year after year. Yet in spite of the potential abuse, a couple of outstanding sites stood out. The Modesto Junior College training center, though 15 years old looks as if it were built yesterday. Here, students are taught to respect the property as you would expect them to in the fire house. Similarly, the Antelope Valley College classroom facilities and training grounds are in great shape for the abuse that they take. But the site team also looks at other campus resources. Noteworthy is the library, and fire related training resources available at the Santa Ana Community College campus.

Local fire departments provide input to create better programs.

Instructors get training too.

Looking for a few good course reviewers

Support by Local Fire Departments

Local fire department input and support, has been noted by several site teams. Local area fire department representatives have become a part of the accreditation site visit in places like Los Medanos, El Camino, Riverside, Sierra, and Lake Tahoe Community Colleges. This level of support insures that local training needs are being addressed and new programs can be identified and instituted.

Instructor Support

A large part of an excellent program is the quality of the instructional staff. El Camino College requires that up-and-coming instructors, intern with the fire academy for two years before they are offered a paying position at the academy. Lake Tahoe Community College offers former academy graduates an opportunity to work as instructional assistants to keep their skill set current while looking for employment. Riverside Community College, however, takes instructor training to the next level by offering instructional methodology seminars to their instructional staff. This practice ensures that instructors are up to date on the latest instructional methodologies.

These are just a few examples of “Best Practices” that have been observed by our accreditation site teams. Collectively, these represent the health and vitality of our accredited academy system. State Fire Training is looking forward to visiting the remaining Accredited Regional Training Programs and Local Academies in the next year— in search of even more examples of exceptional program ideas that can be shared and replicated throughout our training system.

Committee Members Recruitment: Fire Prevention Officer And Fire Marshal Course Reviews

SFT will be reviewing the educational requirements (courses) for the Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, Plans Examiner, and Fire Marshal certification levels funded through FEMA’s Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant (AFG). The process for this review will be to compare the newly adopted Fire Marshal Certification Training Standards (CTS) to the existing course outlines within the existing Fire Marshal Certification tracks. The committee will identify the number of classes that shall be completed for each level of certification. It is expected that the number of classes, and the titles, for each may significantly change from the current system. The committee will embed Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code information in either a range of classes or where appropriate, as a stand-alone class specific to WUI issues.

Student ID cards allow you to safeguard your personal information.

We are looking for SFT registered instructors who are interested in participating in this committee. Instructors currently registered to teach classes in the Fire Prevention series are preferred, but we will consider all registered instructors with applicable experience. If you would like to participate, please submit a current resume and cover letter, along with a letter from your fire chief expressing support of your involvement in the project. Reimbursement for travel and per diem will be provided through the grant. We anticipate that the committee will meet for eight, 2-day meetings within the period of the fiscal year. The deadline for applications is July 31, 2009.

Please mail your interest packet to State Fire Training, P. O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, to the attention of Monica Miller. If you have questions regarding this project, contact Ken Vollenweider at (707) 718-2920.

State Fire Training Gears Up for Student ID Numbers

This fall we will begin the long-awaited implementation of a student ID number. This unique identifier will be used by students in place of their Social Security Number (SSN) on all SFT class documents.

Here's how it will work:



After September 1st, when you attend a SFT class you will be issued a student ID card via mail once course documents are processed at our office. As soon as you receive your ID card, you may begin using your unique identification number in place of your SSN on all future SFT class documents.

It will be important for you to keep your card in a safe location and remember to use your ID number when you take a class. More information will be available on this topic as we approach the implementation date.

