

# Office of the State Fire Marshal

Monthly Report  
June 2009



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

**OSFM  
Headquarters**

**1131 S Street  
Sacramento,  
California  
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**Kate Dargan  
State Fire Marshal**

Greetings!

This is my last message to all of you as the State Fire Marshal. Of course, I have deeply mixed feelings about the transition from full-time fire service member to retired and will miss this work and the wonderful people I have had a chance to work with, advocate for, and lead on behalf of, these past few years. Here are a few of my parting thoughts:

1. It's always about the relationships. If and when we successfully adopt residential fire sprinklers in California next January, it will be because we built respectful, collaborative relationships between all the critical stakeholders one day, one issue, and one conversation at a time. Nothing will substitute for open dialogue, mutual respect, and collaborative problem-solving in the long-run.

2. Always consider both today and tomorrow. I am a firm believer in Colin Powell's teaching that what makes success happen is the ability to see around corners. Developing an organizational culture that values strategic planning in its everyday process will bring everyone closer to their goals. Always.

"Retirement  
may be an  
ending, a  
closing, but it is  
also a new  
beginning."

*Catherine  
Pulsifer*

3. If you are fortunate enough to become a recognized leader, assume the responsibility humbly and gracefully and then BE a leader. Be willing to be controversial, tough, fair, compassionate, and selfless. The trust of others is one of life's most cherished gifts and leaders carry the weight of that.

The honor of serving as California's 14th State Fire Marshal has been all mine, and I thank each and every one of you who have shared this road with me. To the fire service - thank you for the past 30 years and raising me up as a firefighter. To the fire prevention service - you are, always will be, my heroes and our future lies with you. To the fire and building safety partners, be they public or private - your willingness to talk and partner has changed how we conduct our fire safety business. And to the incredibly hard-working, committed, loyal, and caring men and women at the Office of the State Fire Marshal - no one could ask for better. You are the best team to work with.

I will not be far nor absent as I explore the next chapters in life, and I will see many of you around as all unfolds. Remember to support one another even when you don't feel like it and believe that what you give is what you'll get. Thank you for letting me hold the torch for awhile.



## Welcome John Ellis



John Ellis has joined the OSFM as the new Chief of Law Enforcement, Fire Prevention and Engineering. Chief Ellis has a long and distinguished career in the California fire service going back to 1984 when he began as a Public Safety Officer. Most recently he was the CAL FIRE Unit Chief for the Santa Clara Unit. He will oversee the Law Enforcement Division including arson investigations and the recently beefed-up Civil Cost Collection Unit; the Fire Prevention Division including wildland and structure fire prevention responsibilities; and the Fire Engineering Division which includes the testing and listing of fire products, materials and services.

# Congratulations!

## CAL FIRE Director's Award to SFM Staff

The following SFM personnel were presented a CAL FIRE Director's Award for 2008. The Director presents the awards annually to those employees who have performed above and beyond the typical standards for their position. These employees deserve our congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

Dee Tokimitsu – Chief of SFM Administration  
Vickie Sakamoto – Chief of Fire and Life Safety Northern Region  
James Parsegian – Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Kathy Battles – Office Technician Pipeline Safety  
Adriana Crasnean – Pipeline Safety Engineer  
Jeff Hartsuyker – Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Marge Yarborough – Deputy State Fire Marshal (ret.)

## Honoring 9-1-1 Heroes



Assistant SFM Tonya Hoover (front - second from right) was one of several dignitaries who presented the 2009 California 911 Heroes Award to three exemplary dispatchers and a 9 year old girl for saving lives using the 911 system. The ceremony was on the Capitol steps Tuesday May 26. From left to right: Assembly member 61<sup>st</sup> District Norma Torres; Daphne Rhoe – DGS Communications; Tim Brown 911 for Kids Chairman-Retired Oakland Raider and 1987 Heisman Trophy winner; Chief Hoover; and Richard McCarthy Executive Director, Seismic Safety Commission). [www.911forkids.com](http://www.911forkids.com)

# Fire Engineering Division

## Fire Retardant Certification



Fire Engineering Division is in the process of renewing all SFM Building Material's listings and flame retardant certifications for fiscal year 2009-2010. They will be posted and available for download on our web site after July 1, 2009.

## Chapter 7A Wildfire Protection Building Standards Task Force

An interagency ad hoc task force has been formed to advise the OSFM on code change proposals for the 2010 California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 7A "Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure" and related building standards regulations (including the SFM 12-7A Test Standards, California Fire Code Chapter 47). The ultimate goal for facilitating the implementation of Chapter 7A is for the OSFM to work with fire researchers and other stakeholders to improve the regulatory language so that compliance is easily understood, efficient, and effective. The task force recommendations will assist OSFM in preparing code changes proposed to the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) for consideration in the 2009 Annual Code Adoption Cycle ([http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd\\_chngs/pc\\_09\\_annual\\_cycle.htm](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/pc_09_annual_cycle.htm)) administered by the BSC which is scheduled to begin in June 2009. For more information regarding this task force, please contact Assistant Chief Ethan Foote, Wildfire Protection Building Construction Program Coordinator at (707) 576-2996 or [ethan.foote@fire.ca.gov](mailto:ethan.foote@fire.ca.gov)

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has adopted the 1999 Edition of UL-38, Manually Actuated Signaling Boxes for Use with Fire Protective Signaling Systems, with California Amendments into the 2007 California Building Code. This became effective since January 01, 2008. For more information, please refer to the Information Bulletin on our web site: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2007/ul38.pdf>

An update Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products Compliance Handbook can be downloaded at:

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

*Above and beyond the cause!*

## Pipeline Safety Division

Pipeline Safety's big news this month was that two of their own won the Director's Award for extraordinary job performance. The staffers were honored at a ceremony at the CAL FIRE Academy in May, hosted by the CAL FIRE Director himself, Del Walters.



Left-Right - Linda Zigler, Adriana Crasnean, Director Del Walters, Chuck MacDonald and Kathy Battles.

Pipeline Safety Engineer Adriana Crasnean, from the Lakewood Office and Office Technician Kathy Battles of the Sacramento HQ, were nominated by their supervisors, Chuck MacDonald and Linda Zigler (respectively) for their excellent work in 2008.

## Code Development and Analysis Division

The Code Development and Analysis Division will be working throughout the month of June to fine tune our adoption package for the 2010 California Codes and meet with interested stakeholders. Within the July report, there will be detailed information regarding the adoption of the 2010 California Codes and the OSFM adoption packages. For updates, please visit our website at:

[http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment\\_2010codeadoptioncycle.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_2010codeadoptioncycle.php)

## Fire and Life Safety Division

Sandy Margullis has joined Fire and Life Safety North as a Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM). Sandy has been with the OSFM for 20 years, most recently with State Fire Training. She is a part-time volunteer firefighter intern and took Fire Science classes at Cosumnes River College to prepare her for the DSFM position. Congratulations Sandy!



*Welcome  
Sandy  
Margullis -  
New Deputy  
State Fire  
Marshal!*



# THE FIRELINE

## State Fire Training Division

### National Fire Academy Grant Allows for Rural RIC Training

*Rapid  
Intervention  
Crew Tactics*

State Fire Training (SFT) was pleased to have been awarded a grant from the National Fire Academy (NFA) to deliver the **Rapid Intervention Crew Tactics (RIC)** course to rural areas in California. The intent of the grant is to provide experienced instructors from metropolitan fire departments to teach these classes. SFT conducted a needs analysis and determined that small, rural fire departments may not have the experience, resources or budget to provide this important firefighter safety training program.



RIC Instructor Jeff Clark, Sac City Fire, reviewing the tools in a RIC bag (the RIC bag contains specialized tools for the RIC team).

Seven host agencies were identified for the delivery of the RIC course -- four in Northern California and three in Southern California. The grant will provide for a team of two registered instructors to teach each of the eight classes. Four classes have already been conducted: Weaverville, Calexico, Willits, and Crescent City. The remaining host agencies include:

- Susanville Fire Department
- Twenty-nine Palms Fire Department
- Bishop Volunteer Fire Department

Those firefighters who would like to either initiate the RIC instructor trainee position task book at one of the classes, or those current Assistant Instructors who would like to work towards completing their task book, are encouraged to contact Ken Vollenweider, SFT Training Specialist at (707) 718-2920 or [ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov](mailto:ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov) There may be openings for assistant instructors to help teach these classes.

State Fire Training thanks the National Fire Academy for providing the opportunity to deliver these potentially life saving classes to California fire fighters.

### **Fire Control 3 Instructor Update Classes are Underway**

With the recent revision to Fire Control 3 (FC-3) having been completed, instructor update classes are now underway. Nine classes were scheduled throughout the state starting in April and continuing through June. The class was developed for currently registered FC-3 instructors



and is required in order to teach the new curriculum. The update class will provide existing FC-3 instructors an opportunity to review the new course content, share their personal training experiences, and network with other instructors to gain information and ideas to improve their future live fire training classes.

FC-3 is one of the original classes that has been the backbone of the State Fire Training's FSTEP program. The class was the model used by Chief Ed Bent to create the first edition of NFPA 1403, the Live-Fire Training Evolutions Standard. The class was split into two parts by the work group during the curriculum update. This was supported by existing FC-3 instructors. FC-3A focuses on live fire training in acquired structures; whereas, FC-3B focuses on live fire training conducted in burn simulators. It was felt that the skill-set and experience needed to effectively and safely conduct live fire training in a burn simulator were not necessarily the same skills needed to safely prepare and conduct live fire training in an acquired structure.

The implementation date for the new curriculum will be **July 1, 2009**. All SFT FC-3 classes after that date must follow the updated curriculum and must be taught by an instructor who attended an update class.

*Check back  
next month  
for news on  
our new  
Student ID  
Cards!*

All registered FC-3 instructors were mailed a letter providing information on the update classes. If you are a registered FC-3 instructor in good standing and you did *not* receive this notice, you may review it on our website. While you're there, please take a moment to update your contact information with us to avoid missing future communications.

If there are any questions regarding FC-3, please contact Ken Vollenweider, SFT Training Specialist at [ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov](mailto:ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov) or (707) 718-2920.

## **Message from the Manager**

This month marks change for State Fire Training with the promotion of a long-time, dedicated staff member. Sandy Margullis, Instructor Registration and EMT-I Program Coordinator was recently appointed as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Fire and Life Safety Division. Though we recognize this is a loss for our division, Sandy has put years of hard work into this transition of her career path, so we are proud to see her advance and wish her all the best.

The recruitment process to find her replacement is well underway and I anticipate being able to select an appropriate candidate soon. In the mean time, you may contact Laine Schendel ([Laine.schendel@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Laine.schendel@fire.ca.gov)) with any EMT-I related questions, and can contact me ([christy.owen@fire.ca.gov](mailto:christy.owen@fire.ca.gov)) with any instructor registration issues.

In addition to Sandy's departure, I have also accepted a position in the Support Services Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. We have established a plan for gradual transition while my replacement is selected. I know that we will find an excellent candidate to continue to foster and develop the program enhancements we've begun. It's a relief to me to know that I will be close by to provide assistance to SFT staff in whatever way is needed until the transition is complete.

I consider it an honor to have been a part of State Fire Training and I continue to be excited about the changes that have been made and those that are coming. I am also proud of the team we've built. They are devoted to providing excellent service and support to our constituents even in this time of adjustment.

All my best,

Christy Owen  
Manager of Certification and Registration

## Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC)

The Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) had their second quarterly meeting of 2009 on April 10<sup>th</sup>. A variety of topics were covered including new courses, new standards and delivery of Fire Officer Courses in on-line and hybrid delivery formats. If you're interested in more information, check out the minutes which are posted to our website in the STEAC section.

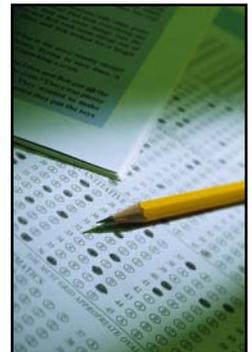
The next meeting is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>. The agenda is placed on our website in advance of the meeting for all those who are interested in attending. We ask that you R.S.V.P. if you're planning to attend and are not a committee member to Monica Miller ([monica.miller@fire.ca.gov](mailto:monica.miller@fire.ca.gov)) due to limited space.

### Friendly Reminders from SFT Support Staff

Occasionally we like to remind those of you who are registered instructors of some of the small details that help to keep things running smoothly for all of us. This month, we'd like to focus on a few small but important items:

First, please remember that we do not accept checks with course returns. Because our invoicing is coordinated through CAL FIRE Headquarters Accounting Office, it is critical that you hold off on payment until you receive the invoice in the mail. This cuts down on a substantial amount of work and confusion since often times the checks submitted with course returns are for the incorrect amount.

Second, and we can't stress this enough, please remind your students to carefully complete the Scantron forms with a Number 2 pencil. Hours upon hours are wasted when SFT staff have to correct bubbling errors made by students in the name and address sections. The **Scantron** readers are unforgiving and will print and store information exactly as it's bubbled in. What takes an individual student minutes to do correctly, equates to a lot of time wasted by staff when done incorrectly. This results in longer turn around times for receiving course completion certificates, duplicate records in the database, and the list of impacts goes on and on. Your assistance in stressing the importance of completing the form accurately with your students will go a long way in improving the service we can provide.



*Reminder:  
Always mail  
forms to the  
address  
provided on  
the form  
you're using!*

Last but certainly not least, the Course Information and Required Materials Manual, available on our website (<http://sft.fire.ca.gov>) and adopted by regulation lists all of the requirements for each SFT course including the maximum number of students. We require all of our instructors to adhere to these guidelines. Please be aware that exceeding student maximums (even by 1 or 2 students), delivering a class in less than the minimum number of hours, and/or using other than adopted texts makes an instructor subject to disciplinary action. If you are going to exceed student maximums or plan to deliver a course in an alternate format (still meeting minimum hours), you are required to submit a written request to the Chief of State Fire Training in advance of the class.

We value our instructors and appreciate the legacy of knowledge you are leaving the fire service in California, and we thank you for your cooperation in these areas!



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



*OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL*