Here we are, already at the middle of 2012. The first half of this year has brought about change, adaption, and interesting topics that we are all facing. We have faced staffing reduction, retirements, and promotions. Even with these staffing challenges, programs continue to move projects and initiative forward with the assistance of our stakeholders and partners.

This month I would like to target two Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) programs and their on-going efforts.

FIRE ENGINEERING

As we approach the Fourth of July holiday, the Fire Engineering Division has been busy scheduling and conducting fireworks disposal activities. The Health and Safety Code currently mandates the State Fire Marshal to dispose of fireworks confiscated by local government entities. Current disposal activities have been conducted in cooperation with the CAL FIRE San Bernadino Unit and the San Bernadino County Sheriff’s Department and other agencies. Their assistance has been vital to the success of the operation. This same process will take place at other storage sites in California as we work to reduce the amount of fireworks required to be transported to an appropriate disposal site outside of California. Within the next few weeks, Deputies from OSFM will be conducting similar operations in Los Angeles County. Once these activities are completed, the process starts all over again with the collection by local fire and law enforcement of this year’s Fourth of July fireworks. The disposal of fireworks (whether they are safe-n-sane, illegal, or dangerous) is a complicated and costly undertaking. To all of our partners assisting with this daunting task, we greatly appreciate your continued support.

Another area of concern for the Division is fraud. Many towns, cities and counties have seen an increase in fire equipment servicing related fraud. The Fire Engineering Division will be posting on the OSFM website a presentation that explains the processes needed to combat these types of fraud. The cooperative efforts of fire and law enforcement in southern California are an example of success to stop these activities. With an understanding of the law that governs the role of the SFM and the California Contractors Licensing Board, together we can reduce fire equipment servicing fraud activities. To view and download the PDF version of the fraud presentation, please go to our website at http://osfm.fire.ca.gov.

STATE FIRE TRAINING

One of the most visual programs to the California Fire Service within the OSFM is State Fire Training (SFT). As with many of the programs within the OSFM, it is challenged with limited field and office staff, but continues to work through important subjects and
initiatives with the assistance of many stakeholders. Just like the rest of the fire service, SFT recognizes the need to adapt. The need to adapt is magnified by a changing workforce and training model. This was highlighted in Blue Print 2020 (the SFT Strategic Training and Education Plan) and drove the change initiative that is now labeled “Mission Alignment”. Mission Alignment is the detailed look at the current SFT system, the processes and implementation needed to ensure the system is sustainable into the future, which continues to serve the California Fire Service in the best way no matter what the external circumstances may be.

It is important that all those that use the SFT system be tuned-in to the changes, re-working, and adaption of the system. Training and education is paramount to firefighter safety and helps provide a workforce that is capable of meeting the demands of the profession.

I hope you take a moment to read this month’s articles and become familiar with the programs within the OSFM that strive to better our profession and our great state through education, engineering, and enforcement.

As always, be safe!

TONYA L. HOOVER
State Fire Marshal

IMPORTANT

Announcement from State Fire Training

To update all our Registered Instructors, mandatory Instructor Update classes will be provided throughout the state at no charge. These are intended to be five to six hour classes designed to cover all changes and to provide instructors with assistance in dealing with these changes.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

June 21  State Board of Fire Services (SBFS), CANCELLED
Next meeting is September 20, 2012
June 28  OSFM Code Development Stakeholders Meeting
July 20  Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
CODE DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), in conjunction with other State agencies, is in the process of developing and proposing Building Standards for the **2013 California Building Standards Codes**. The general purpose is intended to update and codify a new edition of the California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) that adopts by reference more current editions of the model codes as follows:

- **Part 2.5 – 2013 California Residential Code** – 2012 International Residential Code (IRC)
- **Part 4 – 2013 California Mechanical Code** – 2012 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC)

The intent is that the final adoption package would include amendments necessary to reasonably maintain a substantially equivalent level of fire and life safety in California. This adoption proposes to:

- Repeal the adoption by reference of the model codes and incorporate and adopt by reference in its place more recent addition of model codes for application and effectiveness in the 2013 California Building Standards Code pursuant to Health and Safety (H&S) Code 18928. H&S Code 18928 requires any State agency adopting model codes to adopt the most recent edition,
- Repeal certain amendments to the model codes and/or California building standards not addressed by the model code that are no longer necessary pursuant to H&S Code 18930(a)(7),
- Adopt new California building standards or necessary California amendments to the model codes that address inadequacies of the model codes as they pertain to California laws,
- Bring forward previously existing California building standards or amendments, which represent no change in their effect from the 2010 California Building Standards Code,
- Codify non-substantive editorial and formatting amendments for the format based upon the more recent edition of the model codes.

Stakeholder input and participation is necessary to assist the OSFM in developing building standards. The OSFM is promulgating this rulemaking package in the continuing effort to foster additional ways and means of protecting life and property against fire and panic while minimizing the economic impact. The OSFM has scheduled a stakeholder meeting for June 28, 2012, to discuss the adoption of new model codes and amendments.

The State Fire Marshal is responsible for the coordination of the State's fire and life safety codes and must review proposed regulations of other State agencies that promote fire and panic safety before the regulations are submitted for approval. According to a timetable being considered by the State agencies, this rulemaking package is proposed for submission to the California State Building Standards Commission (CBSC) June 2012. The CBSC rulemaking process takes approximately one year to complete. The expected publication of the 2013 California Building Standards Code is July 2013 with an effective date of January 1, 2014.

Tentative the CBSC has scheduled the following Code Advisory Committee meetings:

- **Health Facilities** – August 1st
- **Structural Design Lateral Forces** – July 17th
- **Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical & Energy Green Building** – July 24th and July 25th
- **Green Building** – August 8th
- **Building Fire & Other** – August 14th
- **Accessibility** – September 25th through September 27th

Comment periods for the rulemaking packages will be noticed follow the Code Advisory meetings.
The following timeline has been developed to provide an overview of the actions and timeframes for the 2012 Triennial Code Adoption Cycle.

For additional information, please visit the OSFM Code Development and Analysis website: [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment.php) or Visit the CBSC website: [http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes/adoptcycle/2012Cycle.aspx](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes/adoptcycle/2012Cycle.aspx)

To be included on the OSFM Code Development and Analysis Division stakeholder email distribution list for regulation development or for additional information please email Kevin Reinertson at kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov
California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS)

The CAIRS program has reached an exciting milestone. CAL FIRE incident reporting has completed the contract process that began in 2009 to update the CAL FIRE incident reporting system. This update included additional reporting fields for wildland fire cause. The CAIRS program staff worked closely with Information Technology staff and the software vendor with the goal to enhance data quality and improve the ease of data entry by the field. To assist the field in reaching these goals, staff presented a webinar to demonstrate the incident reporting software updates. A webinar was presented that gave CAL FIRE statewide staff the opportunity to review the new fields and features, receive instruction on incident reporting, and have their specific reporting questions answered. Approximately 150 CAL FIRE field staff registered to participate in the statewide webinar. A link to the webinar and the new CAIRS Reference Guide is posted on the intranet at http://calfireweb/applications/cairs/.

This quarter also included the completion of the 2011 annual report of Wildfire Activity Statistics (Redbook). The Redbook provides information, maps, and statistic reports about the fire season for CAL FIRE. The Redbook also includes a statewide summary of statistics for other wildland fire agencies who provide their summary information to our program. The Redbook has been delivered to CAL FIRE Communications Office to publish on the CAL FIRE website at http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_fire_info_redbooks.php. Printed copies of the Redbook are expected to be available in July.
When we think of American Fire Service leaders, one of the first names that comes up is Edward Bent. The Annual "Instructor of the Year" Training Officer Award, sponsored by the California Fire Training Officer Association, is named after Ed. Individuals honored by receiving this award should also be humbled by being named a modern version of Ed Bent's life. He was admired and respected more than any other individual that emerged from the California Fire Service. Keeping his memory alive is an important part of our professional legacy.

Edward Wallace Bent was born on October 29, 1917 in Boston Massachusetts. Ed came to California to work as a laborer with his father. In 1943, he began his firefighting career with the Los Angeles Fire Department and received his vocational education degree in 1951 from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

In 1948, while working as a Firefighter, Ed Bent's draft number came up and he transitioned from firefighter to Private Bent, United States Army. He was sent to Fort Ord in Monterey to begin his basic training. While others were shipped off to assignments abroad, Ed's assignment remained at Fort Ord where he learned to become an instructor.

Ironically, Ed would return to the Monterey area decades later to create the California Fire Chiefs Fire Academy at Asilomar in the 1970s. In the late 1990's, Monterey Peninsula College, who had managed the program Ed helped create, moved to the decommissioned Ford Ord and continues to offer the State Fire Training classes to this day.

In 1952, he started working for the State of California as a regional fire instructor. During the next several years, he was a "traveling instructor" teaching firefighting classes in 13 Northern California counties. He helped organize over 50 new fire departments as well as providing training for other the already established departments. When Ed started in the northern counties there were only 75 fire departments; by the time he left, there were more than 160. For 14 years, Ed served as the face and voice of State Fire Training in Northern California.

In September of 1965, Ed was appointed Supervisor of Fire Service Training, which required him to move to Sacramento. At that time State Fire Training was under the State Department of Education.

In 1966, Ed was instrumental in creating the first Oil Fire Control School in Turlock. He brought 75 firefighters from Mexico up to the school arranging transportation, meals, and housing; this began the annual Bombero Program. In 1969, the responsibility for the Bombero Program moved to the California Fire Chiefs' Association.

In 1967, working in cooperation with the State Department of Education and UCLA, Ed proposed conducting an in-depth study of "A Fireman's Occupation". The study had its origin in an earlier document produced by Fire Chief Ralph J. Scott called "Trade Analysis of Fire Engineering", produced in 1932. One of its author’s, John Baker, had worked with Ed during his early years. This document was updated by the UCLA study and became the basis for both the first master plan of training and education, and for the curriculum and certification development ever since. Ed initiated the "Area Instructor Program" in 1967, helping with the backlog of training requests. The

Continues on next page
Ed Bent (Continued)

California State Fire Training System is based on this model program. Also in 1967, Ed became a member of the California State Fireman’s Association (CSFA) Board of Directors as Northern Director. He served one year in that capacity and was re-elected as President during CSFA’s 50th Anniversary in 1972.

From 1971 through 1972 Ed supervised the creation of a statewide committee that developed the first Master Plan for the California Fire Service Training and Education System. The plan identified the need for an oversight board, resulting in legislation and the creation of the State Board of Fire Services in 1973. Appointments were made and the first Board meeting was held early in 1974. In that same year, under the supervision of the State Board of Fire Services, Ed started the development of the present certification system. Working with the California fire service they began the process of getting legislation passed transferring the training program from the Department of Education to the State Fire Marshal’s Office on January 1, 1978.

In the span of his career Ed served on many national and statewide committees and as an officer in many organizations that helped move the fire service training agenda forward. He worked tirelessly with the California fire service on a number of curriculum projects that covered topics such as Hazardous Materials, Emergency Medical Training, and Heavy Rescue. Ed retired on May 1, 1983 as a Supervisor of State Fire Training, having completed 42 years of service.

But even in retirement, Ed did not rest on his laurels. He was involved in Pioneer Hook and Ladder and following his devotion to God was also heavily involved with the Fire Chaplains, as well as a regular participant in fire related activities in and around the Sacramento area.

Ed’s contribution and life long devotion to his chosen profession has spread across the country impacting nearly every firefighter working today. The Mission Alignment initiative, will continue Ed’s impact well into the future.

For more information about Ed Bent and his contributions to the fire service contact Chief Ronny J. Coleman at ron@firefireone.com.

Mission Alignment

Recognizing that the California State Fire Training System needed input on its future direction, the California Fire Chiefs Association in collaboration with the State Fire Marshal commissioned a strategic planning process known as Blueprint 2020. This document was adopted by State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) and continues to act as a compass, guiding the agency through a period of considerable change internally and externally as our 60,000+ customers experience changes in their work and response environments.

The Vision for Blueprint 2020 is . . .
To provide a training system that will serve the needs of fire fighters from entry level then continue to serve them for the span of their careers, 30 years later.

With many of the short range and mid-range goals of Blueprint 2020 already accomplished, State Fire Training (SFT) held a series of Mission Alignment and Tactical Planning Focus Group meetings.

These meetings identified obstacles and developed a shared set of strategic directions that were consistent with Blueprint 2020. The report produced by that group provides a high level overview of the group discussion as well as the results of the underlying contradictions and strategic directions discussions.
Mission Alignment (Continued)

The problem with the current State Fire Training system is that it is too complex and cannot, as it exists today, be sustained into the future. A new model is needed and will feature:

- Changing instructor certification (versus registration)
- Updating career ladder (minimum standards)
- Testing competencies
- Streamlining courses and certification tracks
- Engaging national publishers (standards based curriculum)
- Alignment with National Standards (certification & testing)
- Reducing number of courses delivered by State Fire Training
- Reciprocity with other recognized training organizations and standards

State Fire Training intends on maintaining its’ core business of:

- Certification training standards
- Testing competencies
- Certification
- Quality Assurance

Partnerships with institutions such as CSU Sacramento, National Fire Academy, International Fire Service Accreditation (IFSAC), the National Fire Protection Agency - PRO BOARD will offer the California Fire Service potential opportunities with a streamlined system, easy access to information, and the portability of Certification/Equivalencies.

To investigate and make recommendations to these areas of interest, several focus groups were commissioned to develop action plans to implement many of these ideas. These focus groups include Curriculum Development, National Recognition, Reconfiguration of State Fire Training, and Cross-generational Communications. The following articles outline the findings and progress of each of these focus groups.

Curriculum Development Changes

There have been a number of changes involving our curriculum development process. Valid concerns have been raised, pointing out that many of our training materials are outdated due in part to the process and procedures utilized have been using to create and maintain these course standards and curricula. To address this issue, State Fire Training is revising its curriculum development process.

Key changes include:

- Revise document formats and the word processing procedures in order to simplify and speed up the development and maintenance of the documents.
- Eliminate course certification examinations in lieu of utilizing the “task book” concept as a component of Capstone Testing.
- Revise/reduce Instructor resources (lesson plans, A/V masters, student activities, formative tests) to allow instructors the ability to develop their own instructor guides relevant to the course being taught.

Times have changed since State Fire Training first began...

Continues on next page
Curriculum Development Changes (Continued)

In the future SFT will provide detailed Course Plans for each course, which will include:

- Course outlines identifying the material to be covered based on NFPA standards and not textbooks
- Terminal and enabling learning objectives for each topic
- Recommended time frames for each topic
- Suggested discussion questions
- Instructor developed, recommended student activities

Two-person curriculum development teams will do much of the preliminary work on future projects. A cadre of subject matter experts will be convened for input and validation of the work already completed. The development teams will create final drafts for review and approval by STEAC. The goal of the new process is to align the update of certification standards, course plans, and task books with NFPA timeframes and national publisher revision schedules.

Times have changed since SFT first began providing these materials for instructors, and lately national book publishers are providing many of the same instructional materials and more. SFT is now directing our Registered Instructors to make contact with these publishers to obtain topical outlines for their textbooks, audio-visual materials, tests, and student activities.

Important Announcement

To update all our Registered Instructors, mandatory Instructor Update classes will be provided throughout the state at no charge. These are intended to be five to six hour classes designed to cover all changes and to provide instructors with assistance in dealing with these changes.

Class dates and locations are available at http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/calFire/stateFireTrain12.cfm?pid=14

National Recognition for the California Fire Service

For over 30 years, California has provided a venue for the fire service to achieve professional recognition for their training, education and experience through position level certifications. The State was one of the first states to enact professional certification designed specifically for fire service personnel. This certification system is known as the California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES). This State system was created as a result of the 1971 Master Plan of Training and Education; its implementation brought order to the ever growing number of training opportunities available to fire service personnel. CFSTES has grown over the years to include more than 20 levels of certification, with over 3,000 individual certifications earned annually. California’s system is a success because of the strong partnerships with our fire service stakeholders that include individuals, departments, labor organizations, professional organizations, and community colleges just to name a few.

In order for the CFSTES to remain strong, we need to keep pace with the broader fire service trend. One important fire service trend is national recognition. This embraces reciprocal professional certification based on pre-established compatibility between other state and national fire service certification entities. By participating in national recognition our stakeholders would reap the benefits of the expanded nationally based fire service...
National Recognition for the California Fire Service (Continued)

professional qualification systems and allow the CFSTES to demonstrate its effectiveness in the application process. Our participation would also result in the California system being recognized for its accomplishments and increased influence over national fire service training initiatives.

Should CFTES become accredited, participants would have the option to obtain national certification in conjunction with their California certification. This allows them to demonstrate performance excellence with peers at the national level and have their certifications recognized in recruitment opportunities in numerous states across the country. Conversely, nationally certified participants from outside California, including individuals certified via DOD fire training programs would have the ability to seek CFSTES certification via a structured process, allowing them clearer access to employment opportunities within California. Fire service entities within California could expand their search for talent nationally and trust that candidates meet CFSTES standards.

Another important benefit to a national recognition is interoperability. In the last thirty years, catastrophic events have resulted in the fire services not only crossing state lines, but international borders in order to provide assistance. This raises the issue of interoperability of personnel being required to operate under the most stressful circumstances. Engaging in the accreditation process provides a basis for professional competency that is reflected in our ability to assist each other under emergency conditions, no matter where the emergency may be.

There are two organizations administering national recognition for fire service training entities: the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System (Pro Board). Both organizations have well defined processes to evaluate the professionalism and capabilities of applicant agencies. These processes are based on the demonstrated model of applicant self-assessment which is then evaluated through study of application materials and on-site independent review by an unbiased peer team outside the applicant’s jurisdiction. At the conclusion of the peer team review, the organizations' respective governance hierarchy reviews conclusions.

There are no disadvantages to participating in national recognition programs. It is time for the California Fire Service Training and Education System, through national recognition, to step forward and participate at the national level.

Reconfiguring State Fire Training

The importance of the inter-operability of the fire service to function effectively and efficiently is matched by the need for training, education and certification entities to do the same. Currently the Reconfiguration Focus Group has gathered courses provided by colleges, state, and federal entities to develop a crosswalk to the current courses associated with SFT professional certifications. Once associated courses have been evaluated as meeting the Certification Training Standards, as outlined by the Curriculum Development and Delivery focus group, then equivalencies can be determined that may eliminate the duplication of effort for fire service personnel during their career development.

Mission Alignment will move SFT toward a streamlined certification track, featuring continuing education as part of the statewide delivery system and will seek to follow the National Professional Development Model (NPDM) for the Fire and Emergency Services for Higher Education (FESHE) in California. The goals of the NPDM include:

- National model for an integrated, competency-based system of fire and emergency services professional development.
- National model for an integrated system of higher education from associates' to doctoral degrees.
- Well trained and academically educated fire and emergency services preparing the nation for all hazards.
Cross Generational Communications

The Cross Generational Communications Focus Group, is developing a communication plan to address the evolution of the State Fire Training system as it is envisioned by the Curriculum Development, National Recognition, and the Reconfiguration of State Fire Training Focus Groups.

The Mission Alignment focus groups have identified the need for significant improvements to the current State Fire Training system in order for it to sustain itself and meet the needs of its clients. The Communication Plan will address and communicate the upcoming changes to our target audience of firefighters, instructors, fire departments, colleges, and trade organizations.

With the adoption of the Communication Plan, State Fire Training will be able to build a community of fire service students, instructors, and academies. The communication plan will include the traditional word-of-mouth technique that is currently employed along with a reliance on the available technology such as e-mail, web-based applications, and the use of social media like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. An on-line survey is under development and will provide a baseline on customer satisfaction to follow-up surveys that will be posted as each new change in the system takes place.

Using the foundation of the training system SFT can leverage these technologies to improve upon the delivery and quality of the Fire Training System. The Communication Plan will assist in providing participants an education as well as the opportunity to stay connected to OSFM/SFT.

New Course Announcement:
Fire Prevention 1- Fire and Life Safety Inspection for the Company Officer

State Fire Training (SFT) is proud to announce a new California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) Course titled Fire Prevention 1 – Fire and Life Safety Inspection for the Company Officer.

The new course is designed from the perspective of a company officer performing typical company level fire prevention duties. Fire Prevention 1A and 1B, while both solid courses for fire prevention, focus on many areas of fire prevention that are more suited to fire prevention personnel assigned to typical fire prevention bureaus. This new course vastly improves the quality of first line officers to perform fire prevention at their level and reduces the requirement for structured training by over forty (40) hours.

With the expectation that a number of individuals will remain in the track for Fire Officer Certification, the requirement for completion of Fire Prevention 1A & 1B will continue. It is the intent of SFT to support the existing Fire Prevention 1A and 1B course for Fire Officer until December 30, 2013. SFT will recognize either completion of the new Fire Prevention 1 or completion of existing Fire Prevention 1A & 1B courses as meeting the educational requirements for Fire Officer Certification. Please see SFT Policies and Procedures Manual for changes and specific requirements as amended.

NOTE – Many job specifications or descriptions for local fire departments include Fire Officer Certification or completion of Fire Officer Certification Educational courses as a minimum requirement for entrance into Fire Officer, Lieutenant, or Captain exams. To ensure each department’s opportunity to have the most qualified candidates apply, please take the time to review your department’s job specifications or descriptions and amend or adjust accordingly to meet your department’s needs.
Fire Marshal Certification Track

California State Fire Training (SFT) is proud to announce the new Fire Marshal Certification Track. This new track uses the NFPA standards 1031 and 1037 and has four established certification levels:

- Fire Inspector 1 - replacing Fire Prevention Officer
- Fire Inspector 2 - replacing Fire Prevention Specialist
- Plans Examiner - no change in name
- Fire Marshal - no change in name

The first two certification levels, Fire Inspector 1 and 2, are scheduled to start **January 1, 2013**. Each of the courses within these certification tracks has also been updated to meet the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, fire codes, and the new course instructional plan format. All Registered Instructors who have been teaching within the Fire Prevention series must attend the instructor update training prior to teaching these new courses. Dates and locations of the Registered Instructor Update Courses can be found at [http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/calFire/stateFireTrain12.cfm?pid=14](http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/calFire/stateFireTrain12.cfm?pid=14)

With the expectation that a number of individuals will remain within the current tracks (Fire Prevention Officer and Fire Prevention Specialist), the requirements for completion of these certification track will continue. It is the intent of SFT to recognize these existing certifications tracks requirements until **December 30, 2013**.

The following are the new courses and educational requirements for each level:

**FIRE INSPECTOR 1**

A. **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Fire Inspector 1A: The Role of the Fire Inspector
- Fire Inspector 1B: Introduction to Fire and Life Safety
- Fire Inspector 1C: Systems and Equipment, Hazards and Emergency Planning
- Fire Inspector 1D: Fireworks and Explosives
- First Responder Awareness / Awareness Terrorism
- PC 832: Arrest, search and seizure

**FIRE INSPECTOR 2**

A. **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Fire Inspector 2A: Fire Prevention Administration
- Fire Inspector 2B: Fire and Life Safety Requirements
- Fire Inspector 2C: Inspecting new and Existing Fire and Life Safety Systems

For course information, please reference the [SFT Course Information and Required Materials Manual](#).