

# Office of the State Fire Marshal

Monthly Report  
March 2009



State Fire Marshal's  
Monthly Report  
&  
**THE FIRELINE**  
From  
State Fire Training

OSFM  
Headquarters

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and meetings

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**Kate Dargan**  
State Fire Marshal

California has an outstanding fire service that so often leads the country in the full range of fire protection and rescue services. Whether it is fire prevention, suppression and EMS capability, training standards, innovative concepts or collaborative leadership, we have national leaders up and down the state. I spent time with several of you at Firehouse World in San Diego this past month and shared the opening ceremony with both Chief Tracy Jarman (San Diego FD) and the keynote speaker, Chief Freeman from LA County FD. Both represent the national standard-setting that the California fire service strives for and is reflected in the recent appointments of fire service leaders to the **State Board of Fire Services (SBFS)**.

The SBFS, recently re-convened by Governor Schwarzenegger, sits as the advisory body to Governor's Office and the Legislature as outlined in our state Health and Safety Code. The Board did not meet from 2003 until fall of 2006, but now meets quarterly at the Office of the SFM in Sacramento. The Board is comprised of the leaders of fire service labor, fire chiefs, fire districts, volunteer firefighters, city and county government, California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA), and the insurance industry. Each member is either statutorily defined or appointed by the Governor for a four-year term.

State  
Board of  
Fire  
Services

Next  
Meeting

May 2009

Fire Prevention  
Workshop  
Jackson, CA.  
March 17-19

The Board provides a forum for addressing fire protection and prevention issues of statewide concern; develops technical and performance standards for training of fire service personnel; accredits curriculum; establishes policy for the certification system for the California Fire Service; advises the State Fire Marshal on dissemination of fire prevention and code regulations; and sits as an appeals board on the application of California State Fire Marshal regulations. The Board is also tasked with making reports, recommendations, and studies with respect to these subjects from time to time. You can find the membership roster and the meeting information on the SFM website under "Boards/Committees".

Please know you have an **open invitation** to request that the SBFS consider a particular issue and that you are more than welcome to drop by any meeting and listen to the strategic-level discussions about how we train and equip our fire protection personnel, develop relationships with the insurance industry, discuss issues with city/county government representatives, address both paid and volunteer fire service needs and bring management and labor leaders together to pursue common goals.

Serving safety,



## Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

### Fire Prevention Conference

The 2009 **California Interagency Fire Prevention Mitigation Education Conference** will be held March 17-19, 2009, at Jackson Rancheria, Jackson, California. Registration begins Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The conference is open to all agencies, departments and organizations with fire and public safety responsibilities. Persons with prevention/mitigation, all risk duties and involvement with Fire Safe Councils are strongly encouraged to attend. [http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/management/prev\\_conf/agenda.php](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/management/prev_conf/agenda.php)

**"We could reduce home loss by 90% with three things:**

- 1) Class B or better roofs**
- 2) Fire resistant eaves**
- 3) Defensible space"**

**State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan  
To the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
March 2009**

**Kevin  
Reinertson  
Fire Official  
of the Year**

**California  
Building  
Standards  
Commission**

**March 18, 2009**

[http://www.bsc.ca.gov/  
cal\\_evnt/default.htm](http://www.bsc.ca.gov/cal_evnt/default.htm)

## **CALBO Fire Official of the Year The SFM's Kevin Reinertson**

The California Building Officials' (CALBO) Fire Official of the Year Award is presented annually, to the individual who contributes to, and exemplifies the cohesive nature of the Building-Fire role in government, and who has contributed greatly to the profession. We are proud to announce that this year's winner is our very own **Kevin Reinertson** (right) with CALBO President-elect **Stephan Kiefer**, who says "Kevin



has worked tirelessly to grow the building department/fire department relationship through his active participation in several joint efforts including the Building & Fire Advisory Committee. Although he works for a State Agency, he always considers the local government perspective. Kevin has contributed so much to the strong collaboration and partnership we enjoy with the State Fire Marshal's office...and he has taken a lesson from his boss: Professional relationships are established two people at a time." Kevin's response to all of this was simple and to the point: "I was surprised and honored to be recognized by my peers like that."

Congratulations Kevin, we are all proud of you.

## **Code Development and Analysis**

Code Development and Analysis (CDA) Division began pre-rulemaking activities to adopt and amend the 2009 editions of the base model codes to be included in the 2010 California Building Standards Codes. Over the next several months, CDA will hold **focus group and stakeholder meetings** requesting input and vetting OSFM proposals. Contact Kevin Reinertson at [Kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov) to be included in the CDA stakeholder email distribution list.

The California Building Standards Commission issued a bulletin regarding effective dates for annual supplements and emergency supplements to the 2007 California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24). Click here to view: [http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/cd\\_gustns/documents/2009/BSB\\_09-01.pdf](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/cd_gustns/documents/2009/BSB_09-01.pdf)

## Law Enforcement



The final draft of the “Accelerant Detection Canine Team Standards” is now available for public comment. This standard is purely voluntary and is intended to promote consistency in the use of accelerant detection canines, promote professionalism, and increase courtroom success. To review this document and provide comments, please visit the OSFM website. Comments will be accepted until April 16, 2009.

## Fire Engineering

Staff Environmental Scientist **Jennifer Lorenzo** joined the Fire Engineering Division in February. She is a staff environmental scientist and CUPA (Certified Unified Program Agency) Program Coordinator. She will work in coordination with Cal/EPA. Prior to joining the State of California, she worked in the private consulting industry since 1995. She conducted or was involved in various projects such as: Phase I and II environmental site assessments, geotechnical investigations, groundwater and soils remediation, environmental compliance and audits, biological site assessments, wetland delineations, and/or environmental health and safety. She served for two years with the Peace Corps as a Parks and Wildlife Officer in a national park in Malawi, Africa.



She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology and Management from the University of California in Davis (1995) and a Master of Environmental Management in Resource Ecology from Duke University (2003).

Welcome aboard Jennifer.

# Pipeline Safety Division

## Training for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

The OSFM Pipeline Safety Division will no longer have staff available to provide hazardous liquid pipeline training to local fire departments. However, you may request the training from the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

Contact 202-737-1226 or <http://www.firemarshals.org/>

## Job Opportunities in Pipeline Safety

A Notice of Exam for Pipeline Safety Engineers is expected to be issued in early March. If you have a degree in Engineering or 4 years experience in the hazardous liquid or natural gas pipeline industry or just want more information on what the job entails, contact: Division Chief Bob Gorham at (562) 497-9102. Successful applicants will be interviewed for positions in Lakewood and Bakersfield, or Sacramento.

## Fire and Life Safety

Fire & Life Safety Division will be annually inspecting the 26 Aqueduct Pumping Plants and Electrical Generating Stations operated by the California Department of Water Resources. Some unique areas of concern are the massive CO<sup>2</sup> fire extinguishing systems and the high voltage electrical areas throughout the plants. The Aqueducts' massive facilities include about 760 miles of canals and pipelines, the tallest dam in the United States, and the highest pumping lift in the United States. These plants store and distribute water, generate power, facilitate flood control, provide recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and water quality improvement in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



# Fire and Resource Assessment Program

## OSFM Helps Support California Biodiversity Council

The Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) of the Office of the State Fire Marshal provides support for the California Biodiversity Council (CBC) with CAL FIRE's annual membership to the Council, and by providing workspace for its Communications Coordinator, Lauren McNees. For over 15 years the CBC has improved cooperation among resource management agencies at federal, state, and local levels. Its purpose is to exchange information, resolve conflicts, and assist in developing strategies for biodiversity conservation.

The Council has 42 members, including 20 state agencies, 12 federal agencies, and 10 local governments. It is chaired by California Secretary for Natural Resources Mike Chrisman and Bureau of Land Management California State Director Mike Pool. The Council meets 2-3 times a year on issues relating to natural resource conservation in California. Each bioregion has hosted several meetings on topics ranging from invasive species to off-highway vehicle management. For more information, please contact Lauren McNees at [lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov](mailto:lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov) or visit the Council's website: <http://biodiversity.ca.gov>.

## California Biodiversity Council Meeting in San Diego

The California Biodiversity Council's upcoming meeting will focus on California's Renewable Energy Future. A field tour by bus will include stops at a wind farm, solar site, geothermal power plant and a visit to the Salton Sea. The meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> will address California's current energy supply picture and directives for renewable energy development and greenhouse gas reductions. For more information: <http://biodiversity.ca.gov/Meetings/elcentro09.html>

## Fire Hazard Designations on the Map

A new natural hazards web site is up and running. This site includes the ability to **enter a street address** and determine the fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) at that location. The State Responsibility Area (SRA) and federal land are currently shown on the map. FHSZ in cities is not mapped at this time.

Follow the link to the launch page for the Cal-Atlas Natural Hazards map: <http://atlas.resources.ca.gov/naturalhazards/>



## Wishing Them Well in Retirement

### Tin Tran



After 21 years of service, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Tin Tran is retiring. Tin (on right with Pipeline Chief Bob Gorham) began his career with the Department of Water Resources as a Delineator in 1987. He joined the Office of the State Fire Marshal in 1989 as a Computer Programmer. He quickly promoted to Pipeline Safety Engineer and eventually to Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist. We thank DSFM Tin Tran for his dedication to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

### Marge Yarborough

Arson-Bomb investigator Marge Yarbrough is retiring after 30 years of extraordinary service to California. Marge worked in the Monrovia office of the SFM. Among her many accomplishments, she founded the Arson Canine Program and last year she earned the gratitude of hundreds of students and their families when she captured an arsonist who was trying to disrupt the graduation ceremonies at UC Riverside. We wish her much happiness in her new life.



### Dorothy Williams



Dorothy Williams was joined by her parents (Frank and Bertha Jimenez) as well as many friends and family members as she said goodbye to the OSFM after a career that spanned three decades. Dorothy managed the budget office under 7 State Fire Marshals. And she kept our books balanced! Thank you for your years of dedication Dorothy!

# THE FIRELINE

## State Fire Training

### New and Improved Fire Control 3

The updated Fire Control 3: Structural Fire Fighting curriculum was approved by Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) at the January 2009 meeting. Instructor Update classes are now being organized for delivery this spring. Only currently registered Fire Control 3 instructors in good standing will be allowed to enroll. By attending the roll out class, an instructor will be approved to teach the new curriculum and we anticipate delivery of the new format starting in June. This was a long-awaited



update. Kudos to the work group members involved: Ken Vollenweider, CAL FIRE-SFT (Project Lead); Tony Roberts, CAL FIRE, Chris Gerking, Kings County Fire Department; Ray Russell, retired - SFT; Carl Magann, Little Lake Fire Protection District; Craig Freeman, City of Oxnard Fire Department; Joe Pidgeon, CAL FIRE, and Tony Brownell, CAL FIRE. We would also like to pass on our thanks to all of the registered Fire Control 3 instructors who participated in the informational survey, providing us with valuable insight used in the update process.

In 2008, SFT issued 55 initial EMT certifications and re-certified 1,256 fire service personnel.

Next  
STEAC  
Meeting

April 10, 2009  
Sacramento  
SFM HQ



## Learning On-Line

State Fire Training is continuing to move forward with on-line hybrid deliveries. After successfully completing a one-year beta test of Level I Fire Officer courses delivered in this format at Allan Hancock College, the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) work group will gather again this spring to develop the implementation plan with the goal of having hybrid courses offered by interested and qualified Accredited Regional Training Programs this fall (ARTPs).

## Community Risk Officer Certification

Good news! The new Community Risk Officer Certification Training Standards (CTS) and course outlines were recently approved by STEAC and the State Board of Fire Services. Community Risk Officer will replace the existing Public Education Officer. To keep the program current to the trend of “All Risk, All Hazard and Community Risk” and to ensure future marketability among regional academies and community college partners, the work group proposed a name change to this certification track. The CTS was divided into the three levels associated with the function and task. The three levels of certification will be: Community Risk Educator (Teach), Community Risk Specialist (Supervise), and Community Risk Officer (Manage). The next step will be identifying appropriate curriculum for adoption. Keep an eye on our website for future updates.

We would like to thank the dedicated staff and volunteers who assisted with this effort: Brenda Briggs, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District; Brenda Emrick, Costa Mesa Fire Department; Steve Knuckles, Morro Bay Fire Department; Penni Overstreet-Murphy, San Bernardino County Fire Department; Ken Shockley, Team Leader, Fresno Fire Department; Alicia Hamilton, SFT; Ramiro Rodriquez, SFT.

## Hands On Technical Training

Sign up now for the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Fire Mechanics Academy Program. Several classes are designed specifically for firefighters, engineers and officers with a focus on maintenance, service and repair activities related to fire apparatus and equipment.

Location: McClellan Business Park in Sacramento.

Date: April 6-10, 2009.

<http://www.cafiremech.com/>



## SBFS Approves New Fire Training Academies

On February 25, 2009 the State Board of Fire Services approved several new academies and reaccredited several others. New academies include Monterey Peninsula College, the flagship of the State Fire Training system and Lake Tahoe Community College as Accredited Regional Training Programs. Mt San Antonio College was also re-accredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program. Local Academies include the re-accreditation of San José Fire Department, and the addition of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and San Pasqual Reservation Fire Departments into the system. Congratulations to all six facilities for completing their accreditation processes successfully.



## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Training Instructor Transition

We have been receiving a number of telephone inquiries regarding the transition from Fire Instructor to Training Instructor. In order to better assist you we've put together a list of frequently asked questions. If you have additional questions regarding certification, please contact [kirsten.fonseca@fire.ca.gov](mailto:kirsten.fonseca@fire.ca.gov) or regarding instructor registration, contact [sandy.margullis@fire.ca.gov](mailto:sandy.margullis@fire.ca.gov).

**Q:** I want to teach State Fire Training Courses. Do I need to obtain Fire Instructor I or Training Instructor Certification in order to apply to teach?

**A:** No. Certification is not required to become a registered instructor. Registered instructors go through an application and review process that is separate from certification. Certification is a professional recognition of training, education, and experience. Many fire departments use certification as a benchmark for application, promotion and pay incentives.

186 new  
instructors were  
registered in  
2008 to teach  
State Fire  
Training  
courses

**Q:** I'm currently a registered instructor. How does this impact my instructor status?

**A:** If you are already registered to teach classes with SFT, this implementation has no impact on you as long as your instructor registration remains in good standing. The one exception is if you are planning to become a registered Master Instructor. More detailed information, including a timeline is available on our website.

**Q:** I'm currently attending Level 2 Instructor classes with the intention of eventually becoming a registered Master Instructor. How does this affect me?

**A:** You will need to finish your classes and become registered before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and take an instructor update class. If you are not able to meet the deadline and attend the update class, you will have to go back and take Training Instructor 1A, 1B, and 1C before you can become registered to teach instructor courses. You will not be allowed to enroll in an instructor update class until you have become a registered Master Instructor.

**Q:** I am in the process of taking the courses required for my Fire Officer Certification. I am taking Fire Instructor 1A this spring and was not planning to take Fire Instructor 1B until next spring. Now what do I do?

**A:** Because of a format change in the updated Instructor curriculum, the content previously taught in Fire Instructor 1A will now be taught in Training Instructor 1B and vice versa. The Training Instructor Transition Timeline provides you not only with implementation dates, but also with a list of the combination of classes that will be accepted for Fire Officer Certification. It is important to note that Training Instructor 1C will not be required for Fire Officer Certification. In this particular instance, you would take **Fire** Instructor 1A this spring and **Training** Instructor 1A (new format) next spring in order to meet the course work for Fire Officer.



**Note!**

**New web  
address for  
State Fire  
Training**

## **New Address - New Information**

State Fire Training now has a new and more direct web address. To visit our page, you can now go to <http://sft.fire.ca.gov>. We encourage you to check our website frequently. Not only are forms occasionally updated, but we also post important news and information on the main page. Remember, if you've added State Fire Training's site to your Favorites periodically update the URL to ensure you're not viewing an older, cached version of our site.

**###**



***OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL***

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