

# OFFICE of the STATE FIRE MARSHAL

March 2010 Report

## OSFM Monthly Report

- Message from Tonya L. Hoover
- Code Development and Analysis Division
- Fire and Life Safety Division
- Pipeline and Safety Division
- Civil Cost Recovery (CivCORE)

## The Fireline

- State Fire Training Division



OSFM Headquarters:  
1131 S. Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>



Acting State Fire Marshal  
Tonya L. Hoover

## March Message from the Chief:

I recently had the opportunity to attend two very informative conferences where the participants were from different areas; however each opening speaker and key presenter's topics focused on the same theme which was "the need to be prepared for whatever our jobs require." Our ability to be prepared means we must stay on top of the challenges associated with keeping our communities safe by staying connected through training and education. The benefits are for our own professional development and professionalism; and to our communities by providing them the important information that will keep them safe and provide value to their day-to-day life.

The fire service is known for its ability to "adapt and overcome" and continues to prove their ability to do so as

California faces another budget cycle and its possible affects on the California fire service. When I think of budgeting, and finances, I think about the value of what those dollars will provide. The State of California is said to be approximately the 8th largest economy and the 35th most populated area in the world. With a projected budget gap of approximately 19.9 billion dollars this means that state and local governments must determine the value of each program and service within their scope and continually adjust priorities.

What this means to the California fire service is that we will be called upon to clearly articulate our mission. We will, more than ever before, need to call on each other for support through the sharing of information, technology, and skill-sets to overcome potential obstacles that challenge our abilities to meet our mission. We will, as always, adapt our program and services in order to accomplish goals and provide excellent service levels, whatever the call.

During challenging economic times, we need to guard against becoming negative; and believe that challenging times provide opportunity to transform and reshape... we must stay connected with our communities and consider their values and needs. Transforming and reshaping is what we do... adapt and overcome in order to take on whatever the incident may be. Our job is to protect our citizens... before, during and after an emergency. Let us invest time and energy into sharing our mission with each other and our values with those we serve.

Be Safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tonya L. Hoover'.

Tonya L. Hoover  
Acting State Fire Marshal

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## Code Development and Analysis Division

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) submitted to the International Code Council (ICC) a public comment proposal in support with modification to the F30 09/10 Solar Photovoltaic Installations on February 8, 2010. The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) had submitted the F30 proposal last year and it was heard at the ICC hearings in Baltimore. This proposal is almost identical to the "April 22, 2008 Draft Solar Photovoltaic Installation Guideline". The SFM formed a small working group to work with Robert Davidson (code consultant) to clean up the language in the proposal and address the ICC's Fire Code committee comments, however, we could not make additional/new requirements in this proposal. The F30 proposal will be heard and voted on at the May 2010 ICC final action hearings in Dallas. If you have any questions, please contact Division Chief Vickie Sakamoto at (916) 324-4770 or [vickie.sakamoto@fire.ca.gov](mailto:vickie.sakamoto@fire.ca.gov).

## Fire and Life Safety Division

### Requirements for "Artwork" in Group E Occupancies

Over the years, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has received questions for interpretation of California Fire Code, Section 807.4.3.2 regarding "artwork" in Group E Occupancies. This section gives specific requirements as to the requirements for "corridors"; however, the code is silent concerning artwork in "classrooms". The purpose of this article is to provide artwork guidelines for both corridors and classrooms of Group E Occupancies.

### Corridors

Section 807.4.3.2 of the 2007 California Fire Code (CFC) was adopted by the State Fire Marshal and states: "Artwork and teaching materials shall be limited on the wall of "corridors" to not more than 20 percent of the wall area."

Educational occupancies tend to display various artwork and related educational materials on the wall of classrooms and corridors. This section limits the potential combustibility levels of artwork in critical areas of the means of egress system; therefore, decorations or artwork can cover no more than 20 percent of the "corridor" walls. The requirement applies only to corridors and not artwork within classrooms. (Ref. 2006 International Code Commentary)

### Classrooms

Although the above section is silent concerning "artwork" such as paper, teaching

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materials, learning points and the like mounted to the wall in classrooms, the following sections may be used:

Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Section 1.09 states, when regulations do not specifically cover any matter pertaining to fire and life safety, recognized fire prevention engineering practices shall be employed including but not limited to the National Fire Codes and the Fire Protection Handbook published by the National Fire Protection Association.

Therefore, NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, 2006 Edition Chapter 14 New Educational Occupancies, Section 14.7.4.3 and Chapter 15 Existing Educational Occupancies, Section 15.7.4.3 may be utilized as follows:

Artwork and teaching materials shall be permitted to be attached directly to the walls in accordance with the following:

1. *The artwork and teaching materials shall not exceed 20 percent of the wall area in a building that is not protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system.*
2. *The artwork and teaching materials shall not exceed 50 percent of the wall area in a building that is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system.*

## Combustible Decorative Materials

Additionally, when classrooms contain combustible "decorative" materials, the provisions contained in Title 19, Division 1, Section 3.08 are to be utilized. Decorative materials are all drapes, hangings, curtains, drops and all other decorative material, including Christmas trees that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard. These materials may also include natural and artificial decorative vegetation. These materials shall be made from a nonflammable material, or shall be treated and maintained in a flame-retardant condition by means of a flame-retardant solution or process approved by the State Fire Marshal.

Title 19 does not limit the amount of "decorative" materials; however CFC, Section 807.1.2 is specific and shall be utilized to limit the percentage of combustible decorative materials to 10 percent of the aggregate area of walls and ceilings.

For more information regarding the California State Fire Marshal's Office please visit our website <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov> or contact the applicable Fire and Life Safety North or South Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

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## Pipeline and Safety Division

### Corrosion Control: An Important Aspect of Pipeline Safety

Many of California's "hazardous liquid" pipelines (those transporting gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, crude oil, etc) were built in the early 1950's during the transportation construction boom. This infrastructure is now aging and corrosion issues continue to be a challenge.

The State Fire Marshal's Pipeline Safety Division has full authority over regulating these hazardous liquid pipelines; therefore, our Pipeline Safety Engineers are tasked with conducting various pipeline safety inspections throughout California to keep our communities and the environment safe.

One of the most important pipeline inspections conducted is the "Standard Inspection" – a very detailed safety audit on a "pipeline operator's" hazardous liquid pipeline system. This type of inspection can take as long as a week to conduct and allows our PSE's to review the operator's maintenance procedures, maps and records, pipeline operations, damage prevention measures, accident reporting, and employee training. This inspection also allows for a thorough review of the operator's Corrosion Control program.

The Pipeline Safety Division has documented 50 corrosion control violations while conducting Standard Pipeline Safety Audits from 2002 to 2009. Some of the corrosion control violations stem from incorrect surface preparation and atmospheric pipeline coatings on above ground pipelines, ineffective corrosion control monitoring methods, not testing protected pipeline within the required criteria and timeline, lack of corrosion control records, and not following their own Operations and Maintenance Manual.

The Pipeline Safety Division has investigated 38 "reportable" liquid pipeline releases due to general corrosion and corrosion pitting from 2002 to 2009 where a "reportable leak" is five or more gallons. As a result of these corrosion related petroleum product releases, 6,256 barrels or 262,752 gallons of petroleum products were released into the environment. Furthermore, the pipeline operators responsible for the petroleum product releases have reported that they have spent nearly \$23 million in damage costs.

The downward trend from 2003 to present indicates that the industry has made great progress in controlling corrosion related accidents.

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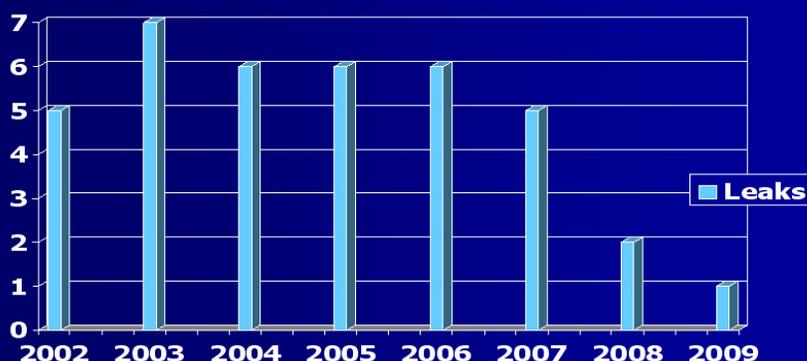
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## Corrosion related accident report findings.



We believe this large reduction in corrosion related leaks is due to the implementation of the Integrity Management Program, five year hydrostatic pressure test requirement, and the use of Internal Line Inspection (ILI) tools otherwise known as "Smart Pigs". The use of this ILI tool allows the pipeline operator to get an internal snapshot of the underground pipelines' wall thickness thus allowing them to make repairs to that section of pipeline before a hazardous liquid pipeline release can occur.

Corrosion control is a very important aspect of operating a hazardous liquid pipeline successfully and safely. Not only is corrosion control required by law, it is also important to public safety, our economy, and aids in the preservation of our California natural resources for generations to come.

## Civil Cost Recovery (CivCORE)

The program's purpose is to recover fire suppression costs by pursuing civil actions against parties who cause fires through negligence or a violation of law. This serves the Department and the State in two ways: it assigns fire suppression costs to culpable parties rather than the taxpayers at large, and it serves as a deterrent to carelessness that can result in destructive fires. In its first fully staffed year, the Program resolved 16 major cases and recovered \$12,363,192. There are 14 positions statewide, which includes one Deputy Chief, five Battalion Chiefs, five Staff Services Analysts, one

Accounting Officer, and two Office Technicians. The Program utilizes

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Retired Annuitants who lend their expertise on assigned cases. The Program utilizes Retired Annuitants who lend their expertise on assigned cases. The Program has been a success because of the reliable investigation work performed by field personnel throughout the state, and the litigation skills offered by the California State Attorney General's Office.

Prior to fully implementing the Program, the average number of cases resolved over the preceding six year period was 5.6 per year, with an average annual recovery of \$2,809,208.

Future year projections forecast similar results with an average of approximately \$12.5 million per year in recovery for the next several years. Program refinements continue and significant strides were made towards adopting uniform policies and procedures. This will be a focus for year 2010 so that the program can be utilized for local government use.

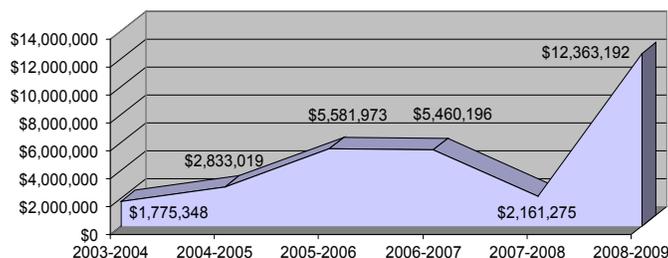


**Sacramento Civil Cost Recovery Staff**

From left to right: Chris Parker, Anna Tigranyan, Josh White, Clare Frank, Jacalyn Dunkle, JP Barron

Not pictured: Bob McAlpine

## Report of Collections Report Recovery



This illustrates the spike in cases and recovery amounts since the Program was formally put in place. (The 2006-2007 average largely reflects settlement of a single case – The Poe Fire)

1. A total of \$2.5 million of the \$12.3 million collected will be reimbursed to the Federal Government for recoveries for fires, which have been declared eligible for Fire Management Assistance Grant funding.
2. This is based on \$139 million in 52 active cases with Attorney General representation, multiplied by a 72% recovery rate, for a projected value of \$100,524,363 within a conservative 8-year settlement time.

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

## State Fire Training Division

### Assistance to Firefighting Grant Workshops!

With all the bad news about the state of California's economy and the impact it has had on local government, public safety and the fire service, it is nice to know that there is some good news! Financial aid is available to fire departments across the state. The Assistance to Firefighting Grant program (AFG) is designed to help local fire departments secure the apparatus, tools, equipment, and the training we need.

Beginning in the middle of March and continuing through the beginning of April 2010, AFG Grant workshops will be held around the country, and here in California, to provide information about the submission of competitive applications under the 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. Interested representatives from fire department as well as representatives from non-affiliated EMS organizations are invited to attend the workshops. Information will be presented on program changes, program priorities, eligibility requirements, and on the application process. Also, general assistance in the writing of a competitive narrative for a department's grant application will be discussed.

The workshop is a must-attend event for anyone contemplating an application for this year's round of grant opportunities. AFG staff, who work close to the program, provide the training and can update you on any changes in the program.



California, especially rural California, is underrepresented in the number and amount of grants we receive. State Fire Training encourages fire departments that have never applied for a grant, or those that have applied and were unsuccessful, to attend one of these free and informative grant training seminars. Of course, all fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations that have been successful in the past are also encouraged to

attend to get the latest news on this funding opportunity.

### General Workshop Information:

- Registration is NOT necessary.
- Each workshop is approximately 2 hours in length.
- AFG Regional Representatives should be contacted with any questions regarding workshops in their region. Regional contacts and telephone numbers are available here <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/content/html/program/ContactUs.aspx>.

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- Workshops will be conducted by either State representatives or AFG regional representatives. All workshops utilize the same PowerPoint presentation material. The PowerPoint material that will be used for the workshops will be posted at this website by mid-March.
- If new/additional workshops are scheduled and confirmed, they will be added to the posted schedule.
- All workshops are conducted free of charge.



# FEMA



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

The current course schedule for California includes:

3/16/2010	Dublin	CA	Dublin Civic Center Regional Room 100 Civic Plaza	9:30 am
3/17/2010	Salinas	CA	Monterey County Regional Fire District Administration Building 19900 Portola Dr Salinas, Ca 93908	1:00 pm
3/18/2010	Fair Oaks	CA	Sacramento workshop Fire Station #32 – Community Room 8890 Roediger Lane, Fair Oaks, CA 95628	10:00 am
3/19/2010	Healdsburg	CA	Healdsburg Fire Department 601 Healdsburg Ave Healdsburg, Ca 95448	1:00 pm
3/24/2010	San Carlos	CA	Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department. 600 Elm Street Room 207	9:30 am
3/29/2010	Ontario	CA	Ontario Police Department Community Room #1 2500 S. Archibald Ave. Ontario, CA 91761	1:00 pm
3/30/2010	Los Angeles	CA	Los Angeles County Fire Department 1320 North Eastern Avenue LAO Training Center – Training Room 26 Los Angeles, CA 90063	9:00 am
3/30/2010	Irvine	CA	Orange County Fire Authority Board Room 1 Fire Authority Road Irvine, CA 92602	1:30 pm
3/31/2010	Escondido	CA	Escondido Fire 310 North Quince Street, Escondido, CA 92025	9:30 am
4/05/2010	Williams	CA	Williams Fire Protection Authority 810 E. Street Williams, CA	1:00 pm

This web-site, <http://firegrantsupport.com/content/html/afg/Workshops/Workshops.aspx> should be checked periodically to see if additional classes have been added to the scheduled.

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## State Fire Training Chief Mike Richwine Recognized

On March 2 in San Diego at the 88th Annual California State Firefighters Association joint conference with Firehouse World 2010 , Chief Mike Richwine was honored by receiving the 8th Annual CSFA Training Officer of the Year. Chief Richwine was recognized for his leadership in California's fire service training in addressing the challenges of such issues as training reciprocity, certified training, company and chief officer requirements, CICC and PACE standards, and the implementation of Blueprint 2020. Under his leadership, the training division has and continues to make significant progress in the modernization of the state fire curriculum and new program development.

We at the OSFM are very proud of Chief Richwine and congratulate him on this prestigious award!



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