

Office of the State Fire Marshal

**Monthly Report
May 2009**



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

**OSFM
Headquarters**

**1131 S Street
Sacramento,
California
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In this issue:

**Chief Dargan
announces her
retirement**

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explosions in San
Francisco for The
Motion Picture and
Entertainment
Division**

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fires**



Kate Dargan State Fire Marshal

Friends, Partners, and Colleagues.....heck, just Friends,

This month's message is about preparing for yet another transition - mine. I have recently advised both the Governor and CAL FIRE Chief Walters of my fire service retirement as of June 30th this year. This is a difficult decision as I love this work we do and love sharing it with all of you but it is the right decision. I choose this time now primarily because of family and personal goals - as many of you know, my mother has had Alzheimer's for several years and only this last week began a hospice program. While we don't know exactly how much time she may be left, I have a choice of how to spend it and I plan to support her on a daily basis.

CAL FIRE, along with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, is an extraordinary place and gathers an extraordinary group of people. It has been my professional fire family home and a large part of my life for the past 32 years and I will miss it dearly. But the beauty of life is that we never know what lies around the next corner. We have worked hard here at the OSFM to prepare leaders and I know that the transition will be a smooth one. The

**Retirement is
when you stop
living at work
and begin
working at living.**

**Author
Unknown**

business of fire prevention and training will continue uninterrupted and people will continue to be our focus.

Chief Walters is very supportive of what we do and has made it clear that the OSFM will receive all it needs to accomplish its mission. Chief Tonya Hoover, the Assistant State Fire Marshal, is a talented, prepared, and respected fire prevention voice in California and will lead in every capacity asked of her.

I will be working for the next two months preparing for a seamless executive change and hope I have the chance to visit, call, or connect with you personally before my last day. I am not planning on going far or saying goodbye - just so long for now. Opportunity is always around us and I feel very, very appreciative of all the support, welcome, words of encouragement, confidence and appreciation that have been expressed. You are my heroes.

Prevent, plan, prepare.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. D. Page". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

In 2008 the OSFM reviewed more than 600 filming permits from the California Film Commission for safety.

Fire Engineering Division

- On April 29, 2009, Division Chief Ben Ho and Building Materials Listing (BML) Program Coordinator Francis Mateo attended the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) Spring Annual Meeting in San Diego. Chief Ho gave a presentation regarding the outcome of Assembly Bill 2177 and the listing program update.
- The Fire Engineering Division is conducting re-testing of 425 Fire Extinguishers Certificate of Registrations (C of R) this year as authorized by Title 19, California Code of Regulations. The testing will be completed in May.
- Fire Engineering Division and Fire & Life Safety Division have been assisting CalEPA with alternative fuel issues. An Information Bulletin regarding the E85 fuel dispensing equipment has been posted on our Website at:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/informationbulletin/pdf/2009/fuelplacemente85.pdf>

Fire Prevention Division

Motion Picture and Entertainment

Hollywood comes to San Francisco

Flames and explosions were seen in San Francisco on Sunday, March 29, 2009, as NBC filmed a television pilot called **“Trauma.”** The television show is based on the life and times of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). One of the scenes called for filming an explosion of a gasoline tanker truck on the King Street off ramp of the northbound 280 Freeway.



Because the freeway is State property, the Office of the State Fire Marshal was the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Senior Deputy State Fire Marshals Al Adams, Ramiro Rodriguez, and Tony Guevara were on hand to oversee the safety of the explosions and fire. The explosion was at least five stories tall and could be seen from miles around. This was a major coordination effort between agencies as Northbound 280 was closed on and off for five consecutive days. Other agencies involved included Caltrans, California Highway Patrol and The San Francisco Police and Fire Departments.

Pipeline Safety Division.

On April 14, 2009, Pipeline Safety Engineer Dan Le responded to a Notice of Pipeline Failure in La Habra Heights, California. Approximately 420 gallons of crude oil was released from a Vintage Oil Company pipeline spilling into a nearby creek fouling approximately 1500 feet of soil and water. The California Department

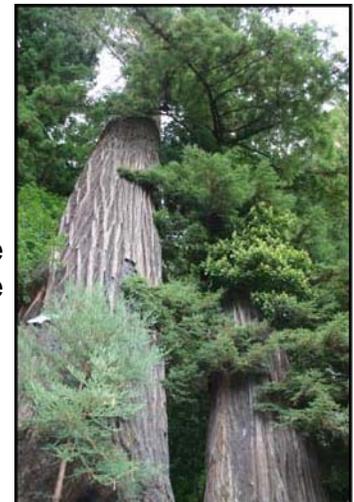


of Fish & Game oversaw the cleanup activities. The cause of leak was determined to be from external corrosion.

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

In collaboration with FRAP, CAL FIRE has identified five forestry strategies for reducing or mitigating greenhouse gas emissions:

- Reforestation to sequester more carbon
- Forestland conservation to avoid forest loss to development
- Fuels reduction to reduce wildfire emissions and utilization of those materials for renewable energy



- Urban forestry to reduce energy demand through shading, increase sequestration, and contribute biomass for energy generation
- Improved management to increase carbon sequestration benefits and protect forest health

See the CAL FIRE website for more information:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_EPRP_Climate/climate_change.php

Code Development and Analysis Division

Code Development and Analysis (CDA) Division rulemaking activities have started to adopt and amend the 2009 editions of the base model codes to be included in the 2010 California Building Standards Codes.

CDA held several stakeholder meetings in the month of April;

- April 9 - 2008 National Electrical Code, 2009 Uniform Mechanical, and 2009 Uniform Plumbing Codes
- April 23 - 2009 International Residential Code
- April 30 - 2009 International Building and 2009 International Fire Code

Additional stakeholder meetings and comment periods will be held July through September. Contact Kevin Reinertson at kevin.reinertson@fire.ca.gov to be included in the CDA stakeholder email distribution list.

Fire and Life Safety Division

The Fire and Life Safety Division isn't always just about conducting inspections of state owned and state leased facilities or new construction. The job entails speaking to large groups of State and local agencies and/or private organizations on Fire and Life Safety issues.



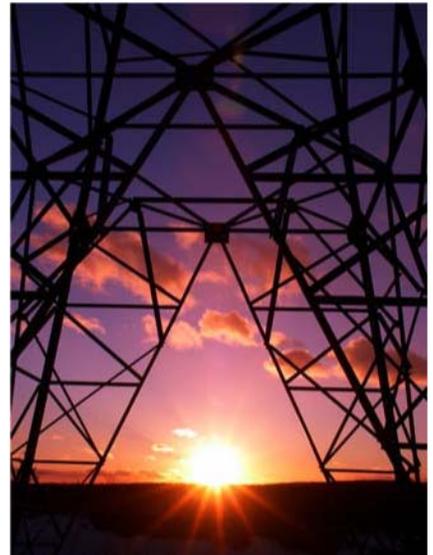
Recently, Deputies Kim Kirkpatrick, Rick Perry, Francis "Sonny" Solich and Richard Benton (RA) each provided fire and life safety training to various state agencies ranging from 30 employees to 1000 employees. Chief Ernie Paez and Supervising Deputy Steve Guarino often conduct seminars on the Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) for state and local agencies as well as private groups. Supervising Deputies Cindy Moore and Michelle Nachtmann recently provided an overview of our inspection process at the State Fairs Conference in Ventura.

Anyone interested in having one of our staff speak to a group or agency may contact the Fire and Life Safety office in Sacramento at (916) 445-8550 or the Monrovia office at (626) 305-1908.

Wildland Fire Engineering

California Public Utilities Commission R.08-11-005 Wildland Fire Safety Ruling

The Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) Phase I recommendations have been made to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for decision. The areas that the new regulations will affect are those designated as Extreme and Very High areas on CAL FIRE's Fire Threat Map in six counties in Southern California, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino.



The Commission is treating this as an emergency action. Please visit the website to review the new Phase I requirements plan anticipated to be in place by Fall of 2009; and for up-to-date information on the rule making process:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/Published/proceedings/R0811005.htm#documents>

The recommendations identify three priority levels of hazard abatement. Hazards found in the Extreme and Very High Fire Threat Zones would be a priority and the utility would be allowed 30 days to correct a violation or safety hazard in those areas. Each utility company would have a documented maintenance program, documenting hazards and current status of each that would be available for audit by CPUC staff.



In 2008
20 wildfires in
California
were caused
by power
lines.

The Rule's new vegetation clearance requirements are more stringent than the Public Resource Code standards. Again, these requirements would only be for areas within the Extreme and Very High Areas designated on the Threat Map, and only for the six counties in Southern California as designated. The new clearance requirements would include:

- Radial clearances for any conductor of a line operating at 2,400 or more volts, but less than 72,000 volts - Changed from 4 feet to 6.5 feet
- Radial clearances for any conductor of a line operating at 72,000 or more volts, but less than 110,000 volts - Changed from 6 feet to 10 feet
- Radial clearances for any conductor of a line operating at 110,000 or more volts, but less than 300,000 volts - Changed from 10 feet 15 feet
- Radial clearances for any conductor of a line operating at 300,000 or more volts - Change from 15 feet 20 feet
- 18" clearance from trolley contact, feeders and span wires 0-5,000 volts
- 48' clearance from supply conductors, and cables 750-22,500 volts
- 48" clearance from supply conductors and cables 22.5-300 kV
- 120" clearance from supply conductors and cables 300-550 kV



THE FIRELINE

State Fire Training Division

Fire Dynamics Training

Learn how convection, radiation, and ventilation including wind, affect fire behavior by attending “**Fire Dynamics**”.

On June 18, 2009, The National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), The Los Angeles Firemen’s Credit Union & The “Nobody Gets Left Behind” Training Group are offering this one day course presented by Daniel Madrzykowski of NIST.

Other topics will include building geometry, materials, furnishings and firefighting tactics.

To register for this class: www.leerescue.com/NGLB
Program Fee \$25.00 (Includes Lunch)

For information please [email: nglbtraining@rescuenet.com](mailto:nglbtraining@rescuenet.com)



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