

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Inside this month's
OSFM Newsletter:

- Message from the State Fire Marshal
- Important Meetings, Classes, & Events



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MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

I have always been fascinated by history; typically that fascination has been centered on early American history and the formation of our country. My passion for the fire service and our work in prevention has a deep connection to American history, which started with writings and the establishment of the American fire service by Benjamin Franklin. So, when the opportunity presented itself to take a look into the history of the California fire service, I decided to check the internet. The California fire service history may not go back as far as those of Boston or New York, but we have fire departments who have been dedicated to protecting communities for over a hundred years. The San Francisco Fire Department was established in 1866, Oakland Fire Department in 1868, Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1886, and Pasadena Fire Department in 1888 just to name a few. As we transitioned into the 19th century, many more fire departments were added to the California fire service, including CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry (CDF)) in 1905.



State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover

The 1900s have special meaning to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The OSFM was originally established by legislative action in 1923 by Assembly Bill No. 409. This bill was introduced by Assemblyman Harry Morrison (29th District, San Francisco) with Fire Chief Thomas R. Murphy of the San Francisco Fire Department being responsible for the legislation that created the Office. The bill was introduced on January 26, 1923 and signed by Governor Friend William Richardson on May 23, 1923. That same year, following the enactment of this bill, Fire Chief Jay Stevens (an Official of the Board of Fire Insurance Underwriters) was appointed as the first State Fire Marshal. This important bill was Chapter 188 of the Statutes of 1923 and contained only six (6) sections.

The OSFM has been through many changes and has been part of several other agencies. On June 20, 1995, as part of the Governor Pete Wilson's Reorganization Plan No.3 of 1995, the OSFM was merged with CAL FIRE, where it proudly sits today. Since the creation of the OSFM, the original six sections have grown to several hundred statutes with fourteen individuals appointed as the State Fire Marshal, two of them women. The increased statutes brought about the evolution of the OSFM to include pipeline safety, fire engineering, state fire training, regulations development, planning and risk

Continued on Next Page

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL (CONTINUED)

analysis, wildland-urban interface risk reduction, and fire-life safety oversight for state owned and leased buildings. The staff continues their strong connection to local fire and building agencies, industry stakeholders, and fire safety advocacy groups. The impact of the OSFM is far reaching as it touches every person who visits, lives, and works in our great state. We do not take our responsibility to serve our state lightly and will continue to strive for sound fire prevention, working collaboratively with our partners. To anyone that has ever served within the OSFM, I want to personally thank you for all you contributed to make the OSFM a success. To anyone striving to join the OSFM, I just say that you will find something new at every turn. To our partners and stakeholders, thank you for all that you do to help us make California a fire safe model for the country and world. I feel honored to be one of those fourteen State Fire Marshals, and I hope you will join me in congratulating the CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal on 90 years of service to the State of California!

As always, be safe!



TONYA L. HOOVER
State Fire Marshal

IMPORTANT***Information, Meetings, and Events*****Meetings**

May 23 – [State Board of Fire Services](#), OSFM HQ, Sacramento

Training / Classes

June 22 - Pipeline Safety Training for first responders, Dublin (Alameda Co)

OSFM Statutes and Regulations Class

May 15 & 16, Los Angeles

May 29 & 30, Los Angeles

June 12 & 13, Los Angeles

June 26 & 27, Corona