



**State Fire Marshal
Monthly Report to the California
Fire Prevention Officers**



**Kate Dargan
State Fire Marshal**

Welcome to the November 2008 edition of the State Fire Marshal's Report. This month, we honor several SFM staffers for extraordinary work, bravery in the line of duty and long time service to the cause of fire prevention. We also bring you up to date on some of our projects and programs and announce our newest venture onto the Internet.

Who is that Star of Hollywood Movies?

It is our own Al Adams!



**Public Employee of the Year
Al Adams**

Office of the State Fire Marshal

**Deputy State Fire Marshal Al Adams named
“California On Location Award” Public Employee of the Year**

California Deputy State Fire Marshal Al Adams was named State Public Employee of the Year at the California On Location Awards (COLA) on October 19, 2008. The COLA are sponsored by the Film Liaisons in California, a group representing more than 50 California film commissions that work cooperatively.

DSFM Adams has been regulating fire safety on movie sets since 1995. He is involved in filming production safety, pyrotechnic licensing and testing, training, permitting, and regulatory review. Amy Lemisch, Director of the California Film Commission said, “Al is an asset to the entertainment production community but also to the State. He makes it easier for productions working in California while protecting public safety and our natural resources”.



Three-time Emmy nominated actor Fred Willard presided as master of ceremonies of the COLA Awards at the Ritz Carlton, Marina del Rey.

Assistant State Fire Marshal On You Tube

“Change the Clocks -- Change the Batteries. It just might save your life.”

ASFM Tonya Hoover takes her fire safety message to You Tube this month, encouraging viewers to change the batteries in their smoke alarms.

Public Information Officer Daniel Berlant is behind the camera.



To see the entire video go to YouTube.com

Deputy SFM Rescues Motorist from Burning Car



On October 29, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Steve Guarino was just minding his own business driving northbound on I-5 near downtown Sacramento when he saw in his rear view mirror two motorists bearing down on him at speeds of around 100 mph. “Two guys were either playing tag or chasing each other,” said Guarino who pulled his Crown Victoria over to let them pass. Suddenly one of the vehicles spun out, hit a tree and caught fire. Guarino smashed a window and pulled the driver to safety just as the vehicle and the tree it hit, became completely engulfed in flames.

Witnesses told investigating officers there was no doubt that Guarino saved the man's life. “It's what we are trained to do,” said Guarino.

Dave Hillman Retires After 4 Decades in Prevention

A potluck luncheon, sentimental gifts, letters of appreciation and lots of laughs --- That was how Dave Hillman wrapped up his 40 years with CAL FIRE on October 30. Chief Hillman thanks those of you who sent cards and emails wishing him well in his retirement. He said he is looking forward to more travel and finally getting to spend some time with the love of his life, Karen.

We wish them both all this best.



Director Ruben Grijalva (right) thanks CAL Fire Chief of Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement Dave Hillman for a life time of service.

Fire Engineering

Chapter 7A Products Compliance Update.

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products Compliance Handbook reached one year old. In an effort to provide home owners, industries, designers, local fire and building officials a list of “compliance WUI products”, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is publishing this handbook. It became very popular among building officials, building product manufacturers, contractors and consumers. Currently we have a total of 54 products published in the book and the list is continuing to grow. All products published in this handbook have been reviewed and their compliance verified in accordance with the new 2007 California Building Code (CBC) by OSFM staff. Only products submitted to the SFM and in compliance will be published. It should be noted that products that are not in this handbook may still comply with the standards. There is no requirement for any products to be listed in this handbook. This handbook is in 4 main sections:

1. Exterior Wall Siding and Sheathing (SFM Standard 12-7A-1)
2. Exterior Windows (SFM Standard 12-7A-2)
3. Under Eave (SFM Standard 12-7A-3)
4. Decking (SFM Standard 12-7A-4)

The book can be downloaded at the following link:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/bml/wuiproducts.pdf>

No vent products are published in this handbook since there is no recognized and adopted "vent test standard". The OSFM is working with our stake holders on a "vent test standard". The proposed vent test standard is being reviewed by the technical/representatives of several testing laboratories accredited by the OSFM. We are also seeking comments from our Chapter 7A Amendment Task Group. On an interim basis, we are accepting applications for vent product acceptance for use in projects under the jurisdiction of the OSFM. For further questions regarding this issue, please contact Ben Ho, Chief of Fire Engineering Division at (916) 445-8312 or ben.ho@fire.ca.gov

Building Materials Listing Program

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has been listing fire alarm control panels in two separate categories for years. Recently, we have evaluated the need for this and determined that they can be listed under a single listing category. We are working to consolidate them into one single listing and we anticipate the completion date by the end of February 2009. Effective December 1, 2008 all applications for fire alarm control panels will be processed under this new procedure. The OSFM listing category for fire alarm control panel is 7165-Fire Alarm Control Panel (Commercial). The listings for residential fire alarm control panels will remain the same. For further information regarding this issue, please contact Ben Ho, Chief of Fire Engineering Division at (916) 445-8312 or ben.ho@fire.ca.gov

Pipeline Safety

Assistant State Fire Marshal (ASFM) Tonya Hoover recently visited with the staff of the Pipeline Division's Lakewood office. The visit included a tour of the THUMS production islands located offshore of Long Beach. The Lakewood office is centrally located to the majority of the pipeline operators in the state with Los Angeles County having a full 1/3 of the total hazardous liquid pipeline mileage. Public and local agency inquiries should be directed to this office. Call 562-497-9100 or email bob.gorham@fire.ca.gov

ASFM Tonya Hoover, Division Chief Bob Gorham and THUMS Kathye Griffis discuss the unique environmental and safety challenges of operating four production islands in Long Beach Harbor





Left to Right: Pipeline Safety Engineer's Tommy Flores and Adriana Crasnean, Supervising Engineer, Chuck MacDonald, Chief Hoover & Division Chief Bob Gorham

Fire Prevention – Law Enforcement

SERIAL ARSONIST CONVICTED ON FOURTEEN COUNTS

Thanks to more than three years of hard work and collaboration, investigators from several law enforcement agencies put a dangerous serial arsonist behind bars. Eric Eason, 39, of Capay Valley was convicted in Yolo County Superior Court on 12 counts of felony arson to wildland and two felony counts of possession of an incendiary device.

“This is one of the most complex arson investigation cases CAL FIRE has undertaken,” said CAL FIRE Unit Chief Ernie Loveless. “70 officers from five agencies dedicated thousands of hours to this case. The success of this case is a testament to the tenacity and teamwork of these men and women.”

In addition to CAL FIRE, the following agencies participated in the investigation:

Yolo County District Attorney's Office
Yolo County Sheriff's Department
California Highway Patrol
Governor's Office of Emergency Services

CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal

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