

OFFICE of the STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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*Acting State Fire Marshal
Tonya L. Hoover*

November Message from the Chief:

As I sat on an airplane making my way to the International Code Council Code Development Hearings in Baltimore, M.D., and reading the latest airline magazine, I came across a quote that seemed to resonate with me. The quote was from William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan says "Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved". I thought about destiny, what it means and the destiny we in the California fire service have written for ourselves...what we have achieved.

November may seem a bit early for an end of the year summary but I think we can start by sharing in our most recent achievements. The Baltimore code development hearings brought about an important achievement. That achievement was a disapproval vote by the International Residential Code Development Committee for removing the residential fire sprinkler provisions from the ICC Residential Code. The fire service stood strong together to set the destiny for fire safety in the country; but the committee spoke of leaving the decision to adopt the provisions up to individual states and communities. What does this mean for California? We in California continue to stand together and move forward with our adoption of the model codes that include the International Residential Code. Included are the provisions for residential fire sprinklers in all new residential construction. We continue to work in partnership with our state agencies, building industry, building officials, water purveyors, and many other stakeholders. The Office of the State Fire Marshal's code adoption package (Building, Fire, and Residential Code) is currently in the 45-day comment period with a closing date for comments of November 16, 2009. We believe that our package for adoption is sound and we continue to move forward. We also believe that our model for task force groups and findings can serve to assist other states in their challenges to move the residential fire sprinkler requirements forward.

Whether it is residential fire sprinklers, firefighter safety or providing the best trained and prepared fire service in the country we have shown that together



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our destiny is a thing to achieve. As we look at our own destinies and make our choices, let us remember what we want to achieve and not wait for the chance to achieve...lets choose to achieve!

Be safe!



Tonya L. Hoover
Acting State Fire Marshal

Our Congratulations to Our OSFM Family Members...

The month of October brought about the joyous occasion of retirement for two OSFM members. Karen Terrill and Ernylee Chamlee retired from CAL FIRE. We wish both of them much happiness in their new adventures and it was a pleasure to have shared in their commitment to the California fire service.

The monthly newsletter from Office of the State Fire Marshal has a new look and feel. We at OSFM are happy to welcome our new editor Mary Welna and layout designer Stephanie Kuidis.



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Pipeline Safety Division

Pipeline Law Gives A "Head's Up" to Local Fire Departments

There are over 6,000 miles of pipelines in California transporting petroleum products up and down the state. While many of these lines were originally built in rural areas, suburban sprawl has gradually encroached on these pipeline rights-of-way. Some of these pipelines may now run through the jurisdictions of many local fire departments.

Thanks in part to the preventative measures found in Federal and State laws, pipelines are in fact the safest way to transport petroleum products. One such law found in the California Government Code requires each pipeline system to be hydrostatically tested at least every five years by an independent third-party approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM). This mandated integrity test is designed to detect leaks on a pipeline under controlled conditions. In most hydrostatic tests, the hazardous liquid is removed from the pipeline and

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replaced with water. The pipe is then pressurized to 125% of the maximum pipeline operating pressure and held for eight hours. At least 3 working days prior to conducting a hydrostatic test, each pipeline operator must notify the State Fire Marshal and the local fire department having fire suppression responsibilities. Although the hydrostatic tests are randomly witnessed by SFM Pipeline Safety Engineers, it is not necessary for the local fire department to attend these tests. The required notification makes the local fire department aware that the tests are being conducted in their jurisdiction allowing them to better prepare and react to any failure that may occur.

Hydrostatic tests are just one example of how Pipeline Safety Laws in cooperation with the pipeline industry continue to make pipelines the safest way to transport petroleum products in California.



During this hydrostatic test, a flange gasket in the pipeline valve vault failed spraying a mixture of crude oil and water into the vault and onto an adjacent street. The pressure recording chart indicated the pipeline was under 1,600 psi of pressure when the flange gasket failed. No injuries occurred due to the failed test. The Police Department closed the adjacent street to thru traffic while cleanup activities were conducted.



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Code Development and Analysis Division

National Code Development:

Update on the ICC Code Development Hearings in Baltimore, MD.

Members of the International Code Council's (ICC) Residential Building Code Committee have made it clear that residential fire sprinkler protection provisions contained in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) are a standard for construction of all new homes. The fire sprinkler requirement was added to the IRC last year.

At a hearing held earlier this month, the opponents had petitioned the ICC, which publishes the IRC, to repeal the fire sprinkler requirement, but the ICC Residential Building Code Committee rejected that request by a vote of 7 to 4. Following the committee vote, opponents requested a floor motion that allows members assembled at the hearing to overrule the committee decision, but the members made it clear that they were standing firm on protecting residents from fire. More than 1,000 ICC members in attendance voted overwhelmingly to affirm the committee's decision.

Over 2500 code change proposals are being heard over several weeks that will modify the 2009 editions of the International Building, Fire and Residential Codes for the 2012 editions that will eventually be proposed for adoption in California.

For additional information visit ICC Code Development webpage at:
<http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/Pages/default.aspx>

California Code Development:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM), along with other state agencies, is in the process of developing and proposing Building Standards for the 2010 California Building Standards Codes. The general purpose is to update and codify a new edition of the California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) that adopt by reference more current editions of the model codes.

- Part 2 2010 California Building Code (2009 IBC)
- Part 2.5 2010 California Residential Code (2009 IRC)
- Part 3 2010 California Electrical Code (2009 NEC)

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- Part 4 2010 California Mechanical Code (2009 UMC)
- Part 5 2010 California Plumbing Code (2009 UPC)
- Part 9 2010 California Fire Code (2009 IFC)
- Part 12 2010 California Referenced Standards Code

The objective is to develop an adoption package that includes model code language and current applicable California amendments. The intent is that the final adoption package will include amendments necessary to reasonably maintain a substantially equivalent level of fire and life safety in California. This proposed action will:

- Repeal the adoption by reference of the model code and incorporate and adopt by reference in its place more recent model codes for application and effectiveness in the 2010 California Building Standards Code pursuant to Health and Safety Code 18928. Health and Safety Code 18928 requires any state agency adopting model codes to adopt the most recent edition.
- Repeal certain amendments to the model codes and/or California building standards not addressed by the model code that are no longer necessary pursuant with Health and Safety Code 18930(a)(7).
- Adopt new building standards or necessary amendments to the model code that address inadequacies of the model codes as they pertain to California laws
- Bring forward previously existing California building standards or amendments, which represent no change in their effect from the 2007 California Building Standards Code.
- Codify non-substantive editorial and formatting amendments for the format based upon the more recent edition of the model codes.

The rulemaking packages will be in 45-day public comment periods September through November.

Parts 3, 4 and 5 will be heard by the California Building Standards Commission for adoption and approval November 18, 2009. Parts 2, 2.5, 9 and 12 are tentatively scheduled to be heard January 12 & 13, 2010.

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For updates, please visit the California Building Standards Commissions website for complete details and additional information regarding the 2009 annual rule-making cycle for the 2010 California Codes at:

http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd_chngs/pc_09_annual_cycle.htm

For additional information, please visit our website at:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_2010codeadoptio cycle.php

Fire Engineering Division



Deputy State Fire Marshal Jeannie Smith

We are welcoming returning Deputy State Fire Marshal Jeannie Smith to the Fire Engineering Division. She joined the State Fire Marshal's Office in Sacramento in 1986 and worked in several positions throughout the office, leaving in 2001 for job in the private sector. She is rejoining the office, Fire Engineering Division, effective November 2, 2009.



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Fire and Life Safety Division

A Bit of History...

In May 1923 Assembly Bill 409 introduced by Assemblyman Harry Morrison, San Francisco, established the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

In 1931 statute authorized the State Fire Marshal to appoint fire chiefs from around the state as assistants and deputies. Deputy State Fire Marshal's are charged through our mission statement to protect life and property through the development and application of Fire Prevention, Fire Engineering, Fire Education and Enforcement. Health & Safety Code 13104 states the State Fire Marshal shall aid in the enforcement of all laws and ordinances, any rules and regulations

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adopted by the State Fire Marshal and published in the State Building Standards Code relating to fires or to fire prevention and protection. Health and Safety Code 13103 designates that the State Fire Marshal and the assistant or deputy state fire marshals shall exercise the functions of peace officers.

Solar PV Task Force Update:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal Solar Photovoltaic Task Force group met on November 3, 2009 at the State Fire Marshal's Office. The task group discussed the direction of the guidelines and fire service training. Also discussed was the recent code change proposal introduced by the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) for the next adoption of the International Fire Code. NASFM created section 511 Solar Photovoltaic Installations which is almost the exact same language that is in the "Final Draft Solar Photovoltaic Installation Guideline". The proposal was heard at the ICC hearings in Baltimore and the committee disapproved the proposal due to format and content. The Solar Photovoltaic Task Force Group agreed that contact should be made to NASFM to see if the two groups can work together to finalize the proposal. The proposal will be heard again at the final action hearing in October 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Division Chief Vickie Sakamoto at (916) 445-8337 or vickie.sakamoto@fire.ca.gov



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State Fire Training Division Rescue Systems Transition

State Fire Training is beginning the transition of the current Rescue Systems 1 (RS-1 2010) and Rescue Systems 2 (RS-2 2010) training programs to an updated version of both programs. The update to these training programs has been funded and supported by CAL EMA (both OHS and OES prior to their merger). The curriculum workgroups have spent several years in writing, piloting and re-designing these training programs to meet the requirements for both FEMA and NFPA. The updated Rescue Systems-1 and Rescue Systems-2 student manuals will be available for classes scheduled after January 1, 2010.

In Rescue Systems 1 (2010), the Low Angle Rescue (LAR) module has been removed and made as a stand alone training program. Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO) is a requirement for students enrolling in the new RS-1 (2010) training program. This move provides additional time in RS-1 (2010) for skills development in lifting and moving, heavy objects, ladder rescue, and shoring. Taking LARRO first, gives students an opportunity to hone their rope skills before enrolling in RS-1 (2010).



*Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City April 19, 1995
Image source: FEMA News Photo*

In Rescue Systems 2 (2010), the program has taken FEMA's 80-hour FEMA Structural Collapse Technician (SCT) program and modified it to a 40-hour course to meet the needs of California Rescue Teams. This class can be taught concurrently with the FEMA SCT training program provided that the RS-2 (2010) class is scheduled in advance through State Fire Training, and uses registered SFT instructors. Structural Collapse Technician classes will not be retroactively given certificates for RS-2 (2010) under any circumstances. The transition between the current program and the new will occur with the registration of instructors following the transition information below.

Rescue Systems 1 (2010)

State Fire Training will continue to accept instructor applications for Rescue Systems-1 up to December 1, 2009. Only registered Rescue Systems 1 Instructors will be allowed to enroll in the Rescue Systems (2010) up-date classes.

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Rescue Systems 1 Instructor applications, for the updated RS-1 (2010) training program, will be accepted and reviewed after January 1, 2010. All the educational, course work and experience criteria will have to be met along with a certificate from attending a RS-1 (2010) training course.

Instructor tasks books that have already been started, before the transition update classes have taken place, will be accepted as long as they meet these criteria:

1. The task book had been started in the last two years.
2. The primary instructor who signs-off the task book validates the skills necessary to teach the updated training program by completing the RS-1 (2010) have been met. Task Book Addendum (available soon on the SFT web-site). This task book addendum will expire June 30, 2010.
3. A certificate for successfully completing the RS-1 (2010) class is included in the instructor application.
4. Task books will no longer require completion within two years of attending an RS-1 class. Instead, task books will need to be completed within two years of their initiation date. Instructor applications that have been denied, in the past, because they did not meet the two year requirement, may be submitted for re-consideration.
5. Only registered RS-1 Instructors will be allowed to attend the RS-1 (2010) Instructor Update class. After the update classes have been completed, personnel who wish to become registered as a RS-1 (2010) Instructor will have to complete the training program and instructor task books before submitting an application and must include a copy of the course completion certificate with the applications.

Rescue Systems 2

State Fire Training and CAL EMA (formerly OES) has had a moratorium on accepting new Rescue Systems 2 instructors along with accrediting new RS-2 sites until the new RS-2 curriculum has been approved. This moratorium is still in effect until January 1, 2010.

State Fire Training will begin to review new RS-2 (2010) instructor applications after January 1, 2010. RS-2 Instructor candidates will have to take the new RS-2

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(2010) class and submit their course completion certificate and instructor training task book along with their applications.

State Fire Training is now taking into consideration new RS-2 training site visit requests. Contact Rodney.Slaughter@fire.ca.gov for a draft of the site requirements. Site requests must be mailed to Chief Mike Richwine, State Fire Training, for consideration and scheduling.



Freeway Collapse, Loma Prieta Earthquake, October 17, 1989

Course Processing

State Fire Training, will no longer process course requests for the current Rescue Systems 1 or RS-2 training programs for delivery beginning after January 1, 2010. After January 1, 2010, State Fire Training will complete the transition from the current Rescue Systems curriculum to the new Rescue Systems-1 (2010) and Rescue Systems-2 (2010) curriculum.

Rescue Systems Instructors who have completed the update class, will be required to complete an Instructor Update form (in class) to be updated in the instructor database. They must first be registered in the database before they can schedule and teach RS-1 (2010) and RS-2 (2010) programs beginning after January 1, 2010. Instructors can check the Instructor Database on-line to see that they have been updated.

Rescue Systems Instructors who have completed the update class and who would like to teach the new course material for an already approved Rescue Systems 1 or Rescue Systems 2 class beginning after January 1, 2010, must contact the SFT course scheduling desk (Brandon.Erickson@fire.ca.gov). to update their course scheduling form.

Any questions regarding the transition can be e-mailed to Rodney.Slaughter@fire.ca.gov

Any questions regarding instructor qualifications can be e-mailed to Linda.Menchaca@fire.ca.gov

Any questions regarding scheduling a class, or updating an approved class, can e-mail Brandon.Erickson@fire.ca.gov