

# Office of the State Fire Marshal

Monthly Report  
September 2009



## STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S

Monthly  
Report  
&

## THE FIRELINE

From  
State Fire  
Training

OSFM  
Headquarters  
1131 S Street  
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2010



Acting State Fire Marshal  
Tonya L. Hoover

California has been a front runner in fire safety and will continue to strengthen the fire safety message by joining fourteen other states that have issued proclamations declaring September **National Campus Fire Safety Month**. We maintain our “front runner” status with our proactive approach to fire and panic safety code adoption on the subjects of smoke and fire alarm installation, evacuation procedures, building construction techniques, and our current code adoption that includes a state wide adoption of residential fire sprinklers for new construction. All of these important fire safety efforts would not be possible without the continued collaboration of the fire service, building officials, industry and building representatives. And it is these fire safety efforts that keep our students, faculty, and visitors “fire safe” on campuses statewide.

According to data collected by Campus Firewatch (a non-profit organization that promotes campus fire safety), an estimated 18 million students are currently attending colleges and universities nationwide. On the California Postsecondary Education Commission website (2009), there are approximately 2.4 million people enrolled in a university, state college or community college. As members of the fire service, fire safety is always on our minds. We instill it in our primary school children, we take it home to our own children and we

stress the importance of fire safety to our community organizations and campuses.

The nationwide statistics collected by Campus Firewatch shares that 134 students have lost their lives in campus related fires since 2000. Over 80 percent of the deaths were in off campus housing where most students live. Research and statistical information indicate that a lack of automatic fire sprinklers and missing or disabled smoke alarms were among the common factors in many of these fires. In California, since January 2003, there have been at least 88 fires in campus housing resulting in 6 injuries, no deaths and over \$2 million in losses.

We, here in California, are joined together to encourage, educate and enforce fire safety. Whether it is a private or public school, on campus or off campus housing, we fire safety professionals on and off campus are working together to get the fire safety message out loudly and clearly; and for September this message is to highlight **National Campus Fire Safety Month**. New college students have many things to think about as they pack up and move on to experience new places and people. Let us help make the fire safety message part of the educational experience.

Be safe!



**TONYA L. HOOVER**  
Acting State Fire Marshal

## Fire and Life Safety

### Dorm Fire at Chino Institute

**Chief Ernie Paez**, Chief Cindy Moore and Deputy State Fire Marshal Fred Paesano from the Fire & Life Safety Division South responded to a dormitory fire which sustained major damage due to a riot that erupted at 8:20 p.m. on Saturday August 8, 2009 in the medium-security dormitory-style



barracks of the Reception Center West at Chino Institute for Men. CAL FIRE Captain Marc DeRosier from the San Bernardino Unit was the lead Fire Investigator.

The Reception Center West Yard sustained extensive damage due to the rioting which has rendered the facility uninhabitable. More than 1,300 Inmates will or have been relocated to other facilities throughout the state. The Fire & Life Safety Division is working diligently with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to insure the facility is reactivated as quickly as possible. Preliminary damage estimates could exceed \$3.5 million.



## New Faces



Meet the newest team member, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist **Jim Tringham**. Jim started his long and successful career with CAL FIRE in 1975 as a firefighter in Orange County. He became Fire Apparatus Engineer with CAL FIRE's Tulare Unit, then Deputy State Fire Marshal I with the Fresno Office of the State Fire Marshal. During the 1980s and 90s he was a Deputy State Fire Marshal in San Leandro and San Luis Obispo. In 2001 he retired, but that didn't last long. Soon, he was back in the Fire Marshal business at UC Santa Barbara, then the city of San Luis Obispo and Santa Clara County Fire Department. Now Jim is applying his vast knowledge and experience to the SFM's Fire and Life Safety Division. Welcome aboard and welcome back Jim!



Deputy State Fire Marshal **Jason DeWitt** has also joined the Fire and Life Safety Team. Jason has been in the fire service for eighteen years. He started out as a volunteer firefighter with The Valley of The Moon Fire Department in Sonoma, eventually joining the CAL FIRE Sonoma Lake Napa Unit. Jason then transferred to the Sonoma Developmental Center / Eldridge Fire Department where he worked as a Firefighter for five-and-a-half years. His extensive fire service background is already serving him well in this very busy position. We are glad you are on the team Jason!

# Fire Engineering Division

## Ben Ho to Serve on Film Commission



Chief Hoover has appointed Ben Ho as the OSFM Designee to the California Film Commission. The California Film Commission works to enhance the economic climate in California by keeping film industry jobs and projects in the state. The Commission has an advisory board of 21 members appointed by the Governor, Senate Pro Tem and Speaker of the Assembly. There are several ex-officio commissioners. Chief Hoover is one of the ex-officio commissioners and her designee is Chief Ho. As the Chief of Fire Engineering Division, Chief Ho oversees the SFM Motion Picture & Entertainment Unit.

## Flame Retardant Advisory Committee is Formed

The Flame Retardant Advisory Committee has been established and the members have been appointed by Chief Hoover. The first Committee meeting will be on September 8th, 2009 in Sacramento. Chief Ben Ho is the Chairperson and the co-chair is Deputy SFM Francis Mateo.

## Fire Alarm Association Meeting

Staff from Fire Engineering Division, Code Development & Analysis Division and Fire and Life Safety Division attended the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA) Annual State Agencies Meeting in Sacramento to discuss any issues/concerns from the fire alarm industry.

## Assessing the Damage of the 49 Fire



Ethan Foote, Assistant Chief, Fire Engineering Division, Kevin Reinertson, Acting Division Chief, Code Development & Analysis Division, and Jana Luis, Battalion Chief, Pre-Fire Coordinator, went to the site of the 49 Fire in Auburn, for a post-fire data collection/damage assessment on September 1, 2009. They collected information/data related to the Chapter 7A California Building Code (Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure).

## Code Development and Analysis Division

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)
- Part 4 2010 California Mechanical Code (2009 UMC)
- Part 5 2010 California Plumbing Code (2009 UPC)
- Part 9 2010 California Building 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.

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

[http://www.bsc.ca.gov/prpsd\\_chngs/pc\\_09\\_annual\\_cycle.htm](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\\_2010codeadoptioncycle.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_2010codeadoptioncycle.php)

## Law Enforcement Division



Office Technician, Anna Tigranyan has joined the LE Division in Sacramento. Anna served as a Student Assistant with two other State departments and is soon to graduate from Sacramento State University. She will be working with another newcomer, JP Barron who recently obtained a Masters Degree in Computer Sciences. J.P. will be working as a Staff Services Analyst. They are both already proving to be invaluable members of our team.

While we gained two, we lost one. Battalion Chief Scott Henry accepted a permanent position as the new Emergency Command Center Battalion Chief for the Lassen Modoc Unit. Congratulations are in order, but we will miss his expertise and good humor.



# THE FIRELINE

## State Fire Training Division

### The Unveiling of Rescue Systems (RS) 1 & 2

The update for RS-1 and RS-2 has literally been years in the making. With funding from the Office of Homeland Security (now CAL EMA) and support from the Office of Emergency Services (also CAL EMA), the workgroups of subject matter experts have endured several critical budget cycles along with stops and starts in their funding. But now, they have finally prevailed!

The updated CFSTES courses will provide the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform and teach RS-1 and/or RS-2. These Instructor Update offerings are intended for currently registered RS-1 and/or RS-2 instructors. Registered instructors in these disciplines must attend the roll-out classes to maintain their instructor registration. The hands-on, in-the-field class will be taught in the approved eight (8) hour format using the student task book as the evaluation tool for all participants.

Only currently registered State Fire Training Rescue Systems 1 and Rescue Systems 2 instructors are eligible to attend the rollout classes. The fee of \$290.00 for RS-1 and \$230.00 for RS-2 instructor update classes pays for the instructor cadre, student materials, SFT certification and consumable materials necessary for these classes. Maximum enrollment is limited to thirty-six (36) students per class.

North Net (back-to-back rollout)

Oct. 6 RS1

Oct. 7 RS2

San Bernardino

Oct. 9 RS1

McClellan/Sacramento (back-to-back rollout)

Nov. 10 RS1

Nov. 11 RS2

Menlo Park

Nov. 13 RS1

Ventura

Dec. 9 RS1

Online registration and payment is available at

[www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov) or contact Mollie Povey, CA Fire and Rescue Training Authority, 916-640-1420 (business line), or visit [www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov).

## **FEMA FUNDING APPROVED FOR CAL FIRE**

On August 8, 2009 State Fire Training was notified that the CAL FIRE Assistance for Firefighter Grant (AFG), Fire Prevention application had

been approved. The \$527,560 application will provide funding for CAL FIRE's Public Information Office and State Fire Training.

The Public Information project will allow CAL FIRE to develop educational information and Public Service Announcements regarding safety and prevention in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).



# FEMA

National Preparedness Directorate

State Fire Training with the aid of a volunteer workgroup of subject matter experts, will be reviewing the educational requirements (courses) for the Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, Plans Examiner, and Fire Marshal certification levels. The goal of the AFG grant is to incorporate WUI information throughout the fire prevention certification track. The process includes comparing the newly adopted Fire Marshal Certification Training Standards (CTS) to the existing course outlines within the Fire Prevention Officer Certification tracks. The workgroup will develop course syllabi, for the number of classes that shall be completed for each level of certification, including course outlines, behavioral objectives, and identify required student materials.

State Fire Training is expected to finish gathering applications for the Fire Prevention Certification track in the next couple of months with a kick-off meeting planned for January 2010. If you are teaching Fire Prevention courses and would like to help drive this major initiative please send your resume to [Ken.Vollenweider@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Ken.Vollenweider@fire.ca.gov). Travel expenses will be paid for all volunteer workgroup members. The timeline to complete this project with available FEMA, AFG funds ends June 30, 2010.



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL