



State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers

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Fire Prevention and Code Officials: Over the past month, the SFM Adoption package has moved forward to the Building Standards Commission. As we enter the last phase of consideration, I have to say I am uncertain about whether there will be sufficient support at the Commission to adopt all of our proposals. We have laid out all the reasoning, justifications, process, and amendments identified over the past year and feel strongly that we have delivered a reasonable, justified,

professional and articulated set of Building and Fire Code amendments. Unfortunately, the ever-controversial height and area amendments continue to dominate the discussion and polarize people.

The entire SFM package will most likely be heard over a few days (See the schedule below in the Codes Update section) with January 29th as the date the Building Code will come up on the agenda. It is imperative that every fire service member attend and express both their support for the entire set of amendments and their support for the three Height and Area sections. Any and all positive input will make a difference as these controversial sections are deliberated by the Commission. Please take the time to read the Introduction to the Final Statement of Reasons available on the SFM website at osfm.fire.ca.gov. Click on "IBC IFC Adoption Process" and follow the link to the "Statement of Reasons". This document provides an overview of our reasoning as well as the issues of risk, occupant life safety, firefighter safety, sprinkler reliability and California's unique conditions that are the foundation of this set of amendments.

Both the NorCal and SoCal Fire Prevention Officers have brought us so far with this adoption and our efforts must be sustained all the way to the finish line. I hope to see you in January.

Update on the Codes

Progress continues and we are nearing completion of the very time consuming and labor intensive process of adopting the 2006 International Building and 2006 International Fire Code, 2006 Uniform Plumbing and Mechanical Code and 2005 National Electrical Code. On November 15, 2006 the California Building Standards Commissions (BSC) took action to adopt the Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes for OSFM. At their next meeting in January the BSC will hear our presentation of the Building and Fire codes (tentatively scheduled for the 16th and 29th).

Title 19 rulemaking packages for the adoption by reference of NFPA 25 have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law with an effective date of April 7, 2007. Several other rulemaking packages to amend Title 19 are in the works as well as other non-substantive changes to Title 19.

The 2004 annual rulemaking supplements have been published for Parts 2, 9 and 12 as well which become effective 180 days after publication (April 11, 2007). Included in the 2004 annual supplements are updates to the standards (ASTM, NFPA, UL, etc.). Supplements to Parts 2, 9 and 12 relating to Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards have been published and should be arriving soon. These supplements bring in Phase II of the building standards, which were adopted having an effective date of January 1, 2008.

Pipeline

Oil Spill

Pipeline Safety Engineers Adriana Crasnean and Emmett Cooper are investigating another BP pipeline crude oil spill in the city of Long Beach. Current estimates are that the spill amount is less than 50 barrels. No waterways were affected. Spill occurred on 12/5/06 in the Long Beach Harbor area in a casing underneath the I-710 Freeway.

A New Face in Mapping

Lian Duan started work on Dec 1 as Pipeline Safety's new Research Analyst II She is assigned to work in our Sacramento Office in the GIS Mapping Program. Lian has a B.S. and a M.S. in Geography and Ecology with specialty in vegetation mapping using GIS. Over the last 5 years she has worked for the California Energy Commission PIER renewable energy project as the primary GIS Analyst through the University of California, Davis and FRAP. The map of California Biomass Resources and facilities that she compiled won first place in Best Data Integration at the Environmental Systems Research Institute 2006 user conference.

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