



SFM Report

February 2007

State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers



Ruben Grijalva
State Fire Marshal



Kate Dargan
Assistant State Fire Marshal

In this month's report we tell you about the successful completion of a very long process. Yes, the building and fire codes were approved by the Building Standards Commission at their January meeting. Many of you have been following this process because it directly affects what you do. So, we are glad to tell you that a finished product is on the way. But the approval of the proposed amendments is only Phase One. There is still more work ahead...In other news, we have some upcoming workshops that you might want to add to your calendar...some job opportunities...and an incident or two you might find interesting.

Approval of the 2007 California Building and California Fire Codes

The **Building Standards Commission** approved the SFM's Building and Fire Code adoption packages at their hearing on January 29, 2007. All of those months of hard work and consensus building were rewarded with a resounding vote of confidence from the commission. Early in 2006, SFM Ruben Grijalva asked Assistant SFM Kate Dargan to guide the package through the vetting process with dozens of regulators and stakeholders. She formed the Core Committee and 14 work groups of hard working staffers. They sat down with stakeholders in the building and fire service around the state. During those meetings consensus was achieved, alliances were formed and friendships were forged. California's buildings will be safer for occupants and firefighters as a result of these improved standards.

After the vote, commissioners, SFM personnel and industry stakeholders celebrated their collaboration at the Firehouse Restaurant in Old Sacramento.

Chief Dargan addressed the group. The largest part of her speech was a thank you to those who made it happen. She thanked many staff members for their long hours and hard work and several fire service and industry colleagues who thoughtfully considered all of those codes and in the end, supported the amendments.

She also commended the Commission members who appreciated that the final product represented a challenge that had evolved into a partnership.



Kate Dargan addresses staff and commissioners after the vote



State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva praises the work of his staff



**Building Standards Commission with Chair Rosario Marin in center
Kate Dargan and Ruben Grijalva on either side of her**

This successful effort is to the credit of dedicated professionals from State agencies including SFM, Department of State Architects, Housing and Community Development, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and BSC; local government fire and building officials; and the industry stakeholders who contributed their expertise all along the way. California has been using the 1997 UBC since 1998 and 2000 UFC since 2001. With the adoption of the new California Building and California Fire Codes the State will be working with model codes that reflect the new technologies, new terms, and new direction for construction --- all while maintaining the highest levels of Fire and Life Safety.

The Code Work Is Not Over Yet

The new California Building Code and California Fire Code will be published on July 1, 2007 and will become effective on January 1, 2008. Click here for the news release [*California Building Standards Commission Press Release*](#) or visit the website at www.bsc.ca.gov and click on Press Releases.

Now that the code amendments have been approved, the next step begins. SFM staff is already hard at work creating workshops to train inspectors who will be implementing the new rules. We will have details on those workshops in upcoming editions.

Fire and Life Safety

Statutes and Regulations Training

A State Fire Marshal **Statutes and Regulations Class** is scheduled for **February 20-22** in San Diego. This class is for Fire Prevention professionals to learn more about fire and life safety code enforcement and the SFM regulations. The fee for this three day course is \$175 and must be paid by check or money order to San Diego County FPO Association, c/o Vista Fire Department, 175 North Melrose Drive, Vista, CA, 92083. Registration is on a first come-first served basis. So, you might want to get that check in the mail soon. For more information regarding this class please contact Steve Guarino at (916) 341-6641 or Steve.guarino@fire.ca.gov

Now Accepting Applications

There are six **Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM)** positions open, two in Southern California and four in the North. If you are interested in one of these positions, you may contact:

Northern Calif. - Chief Ben Ho at (916) 445-8337 or ben.ho@fire.ca.gov

Southern Calif. - Chief Ernie Paez at (626) 305-1908 or ernie.paez@fire.ca.gov

Residential Care Facilities Committee

The Residential Care Facilities Committee met February 6th, 2007 in the Sacramento headquarters of the SFM. For more information about the on-going work of this group contact Chief Ernie Paez at (626) 305-1908. The minutes of this meeting will be posted on the SFM webpage.

Are you Waiting for an Interpretation?

The SFM Code Interpretation Committee sends an apology. They know they are behind schedule due to an extraordinary work load. However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and they believe they will be completely caught up no later than the first week of April. They thank you for your patience.

Fire Engineering

Movie Stunt Accident

Deputy State Fire Marshal Al Adams is investigating an accident in Los Angeles on the set of the movie "Invasion" with Nicole Kidman. Ms. Kidman was not involved in this particular scene, but three stuntmen were injured. The accident occurred on January 29, 2007 around 4:00 a.m. Three stuntmen were on a pulley system to be pulled through a large glass window. Special effects operators were to blow the window as the stuntmen went through. One of the stuntman hit his head causing a laceration. The other two had minor cuts. An auto accident occurred the week before on this same movie set. Ms Kidman and seven stuntmen had minor injuries when their car hit a light pole.

Fireworks Training

The SFM is planning several workshops again this year for those of you who may be inspecting public displays of fireworks. If you are interested in such training for yourself or your staff, contact Deputy Tony Guevara at (916) 327-8278 or tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov Also, let him know if you would be interested in hosting such a class. We will be bringing you further details about times and locations of these classes in later editions.

Pipeline Safety

Operator Training

Pipeline inspection staff will be in Denver, Colorado in February. Each engineer will receive training on Operator Qualification rules for pipeline operators, Hazwoper certification renewal and technical toolbox instruction.

Mark Your Calendars

Planning has begun on the agenda, booking the speakers and deciding the topics of discussion for the **Pipeline Industry Workshop** to be held in Bakersfield on **May 31**. We will have more to come on this as it gets closer.
