



SFM Report

November 2006

State Fire Marshal Monthly Report to the California Fire Prevention Officers

Ruben Grijalva, Director California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/ State Fire Marshal
Kate Dargan, Assistant State Fire Marshal



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Assistant State Fire Marshal

Chief Dargan is traveling and working with other state officials to wrap up the adoption process for the I.C.C. codes. Expect a progress report in this space next month.

Fire and Life Safety

So Cal Getting Bigger

The Southern California Region of the OSFM has acquired seven new counties and two personnel as a result of moving their northern boundary a little further north. From now on, consider the following counties part of So Cal: Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Merced, Mariposa and Tuolumne.

Special Assignment for ABI Investigator

Marge Yarbrough, Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist Arson and Bomb Investigator, has been selected as a principal member of two National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) committees: Special Effects and Pyrotechnics. The committees will be working on the following NFPA sections: 160,1122,1123,1124,1125,1126,1127. Marge has been with the SFM for 21 years. She was nominated by personnel from the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Surprise Hotel Inspections

This November, The Fire & Life Safety Division South is participating in a series of unannounced and random fire safety inspections of hotels and motels in the San Diego area per request from the United States Fire Administration and the National Association of State Fire Marshals. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that the facilities listed on the national master list of hotels and motels are complying with the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 and are safe for public occupation. Fifteen to twenty hotels were randomly selected by one of our Deputy State Fire Marshals.

Fire Engineering

Fire Engineering Staff Program Change

Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal Ken Vollenweider is the new Building Materials Listing Program Coordinator. For technical questions concerning the BML program call Ken at (916) 445-8396 or email ken.vollenweider@fire.ca.gov

CUPA Training Conference

Preparations are underway for the 9th California Unified Program Annual (CUPA) Training Conference. The CUPA conference "Continuing the Alliance" will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Garden Grove on February 12-15, 2007. For registration and more information, visit the CUPA website at: <http://calcupa.net/conference/2007/index.html>

Motion Picture Fire Safety Officer Training

Space is limited so sign up now if you are interested in taking this very specialized training offered by the SFM's Al Adams. Al will teach public safety and private sector representatives about film production fire safety including the proper use, storage, and transport of special effects on the movie set. The class is based on the premise that the motion picture industry is a safe and vital form of commerce in California and it is important to standardize their regulatory safety requirements. Contact the City of Long Beach at (562) 570-5333.

Pipeline Safety

State Senator Commemorates Accident Victims

On November 9th - Senator Tom Torlakson (Walnut Creek) scheduled a memorial/news conference honoring the five people who were killed and four others injured on Nov 9, 2004 when an excavator hit a Kinder Morgan petroleum pipeline. Senator Torlakson is calling attention to his efforts to strengthen the state's one-call law. His Senate Bill 1359 now requires a mandatory field meeting when excavating within 10 feet of a high pressure gas, sewer or hazardous liquid pipeline. It also requires all underground facility operators to receive Cal-OSHA approved training on locating underground facilities. He is thanking all those people and agencies that supported his efforts to get the law passed. Linda Zigler was selected to represent the SFM at the event.

Pipeline Conference in Arkansas

Chuck MacDonald, pipeline safety engineer and Bob Gorham, division chief, attended the National Pipeline Safety Representatives conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas this month. The purpose of this meeting was to facilitate the federal efforts to ensure that pipeline safety laws and regulations are consistently enforced throughout the country.

State Fire Training

Instructors from SFT contributed to the Training Officers Symposium this month in Fresno. The one-week conference offered a variety of classroom and hands-on training including the Ethical Leadership course which is now required for trainers within the SFT system. An estimated 300 professionals involved in fire training attended.

Hugh Council Really Did Retire



Caption: A picture for the history books. Hugh Council (center) at his retirement party with three previous state fire marshals, from left to right: Phil Favro, James McMullen, Ron Coleman and current SFM Ruben Grijalva.

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