



Communique'

October/November 2002

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www.fire.ca.gov

The first rains have fallen, and almost overnight we've moved from extreme fire alert to sudden flood response in Tulare and the Owens Valley – a vivid demonstration of our full service readiness and expertise! Looking back on the season it's hard to believe that it's already time to reflect on how this year went, and start preparing for the next. As you remember, early last spring the entire western United States was experiencing some of the driest conditions on record. The Palmer drought maps were bright red. Huge fires started early in Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and California, and we geared up for the worst. The Governor responded with augmented resources, and you all rose to the challenge. If you look only at this year's statistics, you'll find that the number of fires and acres is about the same as the five-year average. But the numbers don't tell the real story, because the potential for disaster was so high. The real story is one of tremendous success because of your fantastic initial attack and hard work on the fire line, supported by everyone in CDF that makes up our Total Force. Huge kudos to all!

CDF's most significant SRA incident was the Pines Fire in San Diego County where more than 61,000 acres burned, 160 structures were destroyed, around 1 million gallons of retardant were dropped, and the costs exceeded \$25.3 million. Crews battled the flames for 19 days before gaining the upper hand as hillsides literally exploded due to thick, bone dry vegetation. With fire fighting this aggressive, safety was everyone's priority – and here again you showed you knew your business, keeping the injury rate low on the fireline. Three CDF firefighters from the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit were seriously injured responding to a fire near Lytle Creek in San Bernardino County when their engine careened over a freeway embankment and fell 60 feet to a ravine below. All of CDF and our local government partners rallied

From The Director *Facing Our Challenges*



to send them support and get well wishes during their convalescence. Another firefighter suf-

fered severe burns when he fell into a burning stump hole while mopping up on the Croy Fire. We can all be grateful that they are each home, and on the road to recovery.

Appreciation for the work of the Department comes to my desk from all over. The communities where you live and work send enthusiastic thank you letters for the jobs you do. Many of our overhead specialists were specifically called on for help on fires throughout the western

states because CDF's expertise is so well known. At the various western and national fire committees I attend, I constantly hear compliments and respect from other state fire managers and the US Forest Service for the Department's personnel and professionalism. As the USFS evaluates their air attack program, for example, they've asked specifically for us to present our successful CDF model as they consider their options. This year we've also already had over six contingencies from China, Mexico, and Australia visiting the Department for a first hand look at our capabilities. And our webmaster regularly receives e-mail from around the world requesting responses from CDF on issues ranging from training and equipment, to employment and timber harvesting.

While you battled flames here in California, a budget was finally passed by the Legislature. The State's difficult financial situation this year will continue next year and beyond. Because of our crucial public safety mission, CDF was treated extraordinarily well considering the cuts other departments had to take, but the state's financial situation is so dire that we will all need to take some share in reductions. This year's budget requires that 6,000 vacant positions be abolished from state government, and CDF lost about 70, in

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addition to \$3.4 million in funding. None of us likes it, but we've had to take actions to control and reduce our expenditures including restrictions on hiring, travel, contracts, and purchases. We're trying to make these as fairly as we can, and you can be sure the executive office is taking our share too. As the numbers become clearer, we'll be fighting hard to keep CDF reductions to a minimum. Our bottom line is to keep you safe and able to fulfill our mission.

We have a new ally in delivering our message to the control agencies too — what better than to hire someone from the Department of Finance (DOF), who knows all the ins and outs! We welcome Cindy Shamrock as our new Deputy Director for Management Services. As you'll see in this issue, Cindy was our CDF budget person at DOF, was a Chief Deputy Director at OES and has been in different parts of state service for many years. She already knows the Department well, and is anxious to get out in the field to learn it even better.

This November we celebrated a great victory in the approval of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) Management Plan by the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. This plan was almost six years in the making by the State Forest and resource management foresters. Not only is JDSF our largest and most varied state forest, it is one of few places in the country where scientists can conduct forest research over long periods of time. This plan details how CDF will manage its streams, archaeological, botanical, and late seral forest resources, while meeting our mandate of demonstrating to landowners and the public, options for sustaining timber, vegetation, recreation, water quality and habitat through good forest management practices. In a pioneering move, JDSF and the State Department of Parks and Recreation designated a block of 13,000 acres specifically to demonstrate how to grow "new old growth forest for the future". Research on JDSF will test whether light management can accelerate the development of habitat needed by endangered species, and compare it to control plots on newly acquired state park



Flanked by Deputy Director for Resource Management Ross Johnson, and State Forest Chief Chris Rowney, Director Tuttle signed the Environmental Impact Report for the JDSF Management Plan on September 26.

land on our southern border. Great congratulations to our State Forest and FRAP (Fire and Resource Assessment Program) staff for their "extended attack" on this one. They not only worked closely

with a consultant to create the new JDSF Management Plan and EIR, but also responded to over 4,000 public comments. The Management Plan and the EIR can be found on the CDF website at: www.fire.ca.gov/resourcemanagement/jdsf_eir.asp

Wildfires and fuel management continue to be big issues on the national front, with Congressional attention and new sources of federal funds. CDF again is a leader and very active player at all levels. When we're not actively fighting fire, much of CDF is working with the public to make their communities safer. We help with community meetings, designing and organizing small and large projects, providing data and maps, coordinating the required grants and permits and helping with equipment, crews, engines, doing clearance inspections and education. I encourage you to take a look at the three new statewide maps for surface fuels, fire perimeters, and Fire Plan fuel rank produced by FRAP, in conjunction with detailed field review from many of you, that have been sent to each of your units. The maps can also be found on the CDF website at <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgismaps/select.asp>. These show the statewide history of wildfire perimeters since 1950, the surface fuels and fire behavior models, and the bright yellow, orange and red classes of potential fire behavior. In simple pictures these show the tremendous SRA resources and lives that CDF is tasked to protect, and the extreme fuel conditions you work in. In another issue we'll say more about how each of your Units take a leadership role with the Fire

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Safe Councils to implement the California Fire Plan.

The challenges for CDF, and the state as a whole, are ongoing. During times of fiscal crisis the rumor mill tends to run on overdrive. I urge you to take the rumors with a grain of salt – as we've mentioned before, there are lots of "other sides to the story",

and those who purport to know it all sometimes come out sounding pretty silly. We will keep you posted with information through memos and bulletins as often and as promptly as we can.

The winter season is our time for analysis, regrouping and training. Nature may still surprise us with fires in southern California, and our medical assistance and public safety

responses always demand your highest skills, so we stay on high alert. Take a moment to congratulate yourselves and your colleagues on and behind the lines on your tremendous job this year. We wish everyone a warm and wonderful holiday season.



Deputy Director, Management Services

Cindy Shamrock

Cindy Shamrock joined CDF as Deputy Director for Management Services in early October with a strong background in finance, and a good grasp of how emergency response works here in California. In light of the State's budget situation it is perfect timing for Cindy to become a CDFer. Her learning curve on CDF's budget will be shorter than you would expect from someone coming from the "outside".

She spent the last two years at the Department of Finance (DOF) as the Principal Program Budget Analyst for all the departments falling within Resources. With a staff of four, she oversaw the development, enactment and administration of 26 support and local assistance budgets and eight capital outlay budgets – CDF included.

Finance is one of those entities that is often referred to, usually in an unkindly way, but is not always understood. "DOF is basically staff to the Governor," said Cindy. "The Department

looks at every budget individually, looks at how much money there is to go around, factors in legal and policy issues, and most importantly direction from the Governor's Office, and then makes its recommendations on how to best use the available state funds." She stresses that DOF is not making random decisions concerning funding.

Transitioning to CDF, Cindy has been able to get around to meet with the managers and staff that she is responsible for including Information Technology, Human Resources, Accounting, and Business Services. "I have been enormously impressed with the staff I have met in each program," said Cindy. "They are good at what they do and that allows me to focus on the number one priority right now – the budget situation."

Cindy emphasized that we don't know yet just what additional cuts CDF will be asked to take. "There is so much for us to look at," said Cindy. "Our costs are increasing, our budget is

shrinking, we are evaluating our low-fire season emergency staffing needs, and we must consider the Changing Face of CDF in all decisions. CDF must have a qualified workforce year-round to meet our mission."

A budget crisis is not new to Cindy. While she was Chief Deputy Director for the Governor's Office of Emergency



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Services (OES) from 1991 to 1996 the State found itself with a similar General Fund deficit forcing budget reductions. "OES took significant cuts, and we went through a lengthy and complex process of reducing our workforce," said Cindy. "But at the end of it all, only one employee was actually laid off, by her own choice."

But it is the memory of non-stop, 18-20 hour days, with a quick trip home for a shower and nap, before getting back to the office that stands out in Cindy's memory. "During my tenure as Chief Deputy Director, the State dealt with 14 federally declared major disasters and hundreds of lesser disasters in fewer than five years," said Cindy. That included the Oakland Hills Fire and the Southern California Fire Siege. Cindy was responsible for keeping the Governor, his Cabinet, Finance, the Legislature, cooperating departments, and the Lt. Governor briefed on the status of disasters and the State's response and recovery activities. "Obviously CDF

played a major response role in each of those disasters, as did numerous other agencies," said Cindy. She is fully aware of the importance of cooperation among agencies during major incidents. "It was following the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire that OES, with considerable input from other state and local agencies, began developing the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). SEMS, taken directly from management principles of CDF's highly successful Incident Command System, is used to coordinate statewide resources during any type of emergency or disaster.

Her years at OES also included oversight of all personnel, public information, and information technology functions, including the development of the first Information System Strategic Plan, the first Equal Employment Opportunity function, and resolution of significant, organization-wide personnel issues with a broad-based classification study.

Cindy expanded her background when she left OES in 1996 to become the Deputy

Director for Legislation with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). "I worked closely with the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the Resources Agency to ensure that the Department's legislative goals were met," said Cindy. Her previous position at OES had required Legislative dealings, and she noted that she loved the chance she had while at DPR to further establish her ties with the Legislature.

"I am so excited now to be with an organization where I can use so much of my experience, and one that strives to further a mission rather than act as a control function," said Cindy. She added, "Director Tuttle has done an outstanding job of overseeing all aspects of this Department, and I think that Andrea and I are a good match. She has such an extensive programmatic background; I have the finance knowledge, as well as a fundamental understanding of CDF's emergency response role. I am looking forward to becoming an integral part of the CDF team".

Information Technology Chief

Ron Ralph

Deputy Director Cindy Shamrock appointed Ron Ralph as CDF's Chief of Information Technology in late October. Ron has been with CDF since 1995 and says he couldn't see himself working anywhere else. "I don't work at CDF for just the information technology work," said Ron. "I do it because of the pride

I feel when I see our crews on TV and read about their efforts in the newspaper. I do it because I want to support that mission."

Ron has definitely worked his way up CDF's IT ladder. He's been a support technician, e-mail administrator, and systems administrator. In 1997 he was assigned the task of managing the **Enterprise Architecture** Office where he set up technical

and policy information guiding IT's infrastructure. He supervised a team of technical staff that built and deployed mission critical systems including **Windows NT, Microsoft Exchange, UNIX, Oracle, LAN and WAN.**

In his new position Ron's responsibilities will be even broader. He's had a taste of that

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role as acting IT Chief for the past few months. "The big picture for my position is developing and adapting the Department's strategic IT vision, management of overall IT operations, and IT policy oversight," said Ron. "But the challenges right now are great for all functions within the Department. While IT has already reduced 11 percent of its workforce due to budget reductions, I know that we are all waiting to see what additional cuts may come."

Ron noted that during economic downturns the Information Technology environment has to focus on working smarter to provide the same level of service. That includes looking at emerging technology opportunities, improving the management of IT by attracting and retaining qualified staff, establishing common standards for hardware and software, and ensuring that everything is tied to providing a sustained level of support.

Even with the budget and personnel challenges, there are numerous major IT projects in the works for CDF. "Currently, CDF does not have an Enterprise method for purchasing, installing, managing, or retiring its growing number computers. This has created both a financial and support burden for the Department and for IT," said Ron. "To ensure that CDF executive management is getting the best value for its technology dollar, and that our technology capabilities will continue to meet our business needs, the Department is creating an **Asset Management Plan**."



The plan will include standards for the numbers and types of computers and software needed for each job description and site location, standards for servers, printers, and local area networks, a funding policy that ensures replacement of all PCs and servers on a scheduled basis, and IT support levels for all components of the management plan. You probably participated over the Intranet in the asset management cataloging of all hardware and software this past Spring. An electronic inventory system known as **LANDESK** will provide an updated and ongoing inventory of everyone's computer equipment and software. Drafts on policy and procedures for the Asset Management Plan will be brought forward to the Executive Advisory Committee and Executive Management Advisory Committee, with proposed implementation next Spring.

"Supporting field operations is our focus," said Ron. "The majority of projects that IT maintains or is developing are in support of CDF's fire and emer-

gency response mission. "From the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, to the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS), to InciNet, to the California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS), IT's goal is to provide quality service, quality support and quality technology in meeting this Department's mission," said Ron.

As we do more and more electronically, IT has found that "security" of our systems has become a tremendous time and staff consuming issue. "Our options for providing security drives the way we deal with most issues," said Ron. "We are responsible for the security of all of CDF's electronic systems. From dispatching, to timesheets, to our Internet, there is a massive amount of information and efforts that could be disrupted without proper security planning."

In a field where technology is changing on a daily basis, personnel come and go and their skills go with them, and funding is tight, Ron is aware of the number of challenges that he will face. But to counter that he said, "I report to a new Deputy Director that I feel has a great grasp of our issues and who I look forward to working with, and IT has accomplished a great deal with the relatively small shop we have always had."

IT Terminology

Enterprise Architecture

All of the major infrastructure that provides statewide electronic communication, including computers, servers, applications,

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and LAN's and WAN. The Enterprise Architecture Plan outlines where CDF's infrastructure is, and where it is planned to go. Priorities are established and projects are initiated based on the plan, while ongoing assessment and alterations occur as business needs and technology change.

Microsoft Windows

CDF's standard operating system. An operating system is used to handle low level tasks, which allows the use of software programs such as Word, Excel, Access, and Outlook.

Microsoft Exchange

A database and messaging system. This product enables people to share calendars and schedules, tasks and notes, and send and receive e-mail. When you use Microsoft Outlook, you are interfacing with Microsoft Exchange.

UNIX

An operating system like Windows, which is used for special need systems like Oracle database systems and large GIS implementations.

Oracle

A relational database management system that is used by numerous enterprise applications, including Multi Incident Resource Processing System (MIRPS), ePAy, HFD, AFAS, PACMANS, Forest Practice and many others.

Local Area Networks

Local Area Networks (LAN) connect specific groups of people together based on their specific region or geographical location.

Wide Area Networks

Wide Area Networks (WAN) connect all of CDF's main facilities together throughout the state. (Sacramento-Region Offices- Units).

LANDesk

Program that can catalogue both hardware and software on all network connected computers and provide customized reports for managing those assets.

Deputy Chief, Public Education **Dick Hayes**

*by Josh Hubbard, staff writer,
Communique'*

Recently appointed Deputy Chief of Public Education, Dick Hayes, knows the importance of public education to the fire service. "Among the many measures that can be taken to reduce fire losses; perhaps none is more important than educating people."

Dick started his career with CDF in 1975 as a firefighter in the San Diego Unit. Within two years he was promoted to the position of fire apparatus engineer (FAE) in the Laguna Hills area of Orange County. There he spent three years before transferring back to the San Diego Unit for one year as an engineer. In 1981 Dick transferred to a **Schedule A** position in Butte before being promoted to a Limited Term Fire Captain (FC) position in Tehama-Glenn(TGU). In 1985 he made the step to permanent fire captain.

From 1986-1992 he served as a fire captain specialist in fire prevention. His primary duty was that of a law enforcement officer, but he also served as an information officer on major incidents, taught fire investigation at the Ione Academy, and was involved in the production of television and radio public service announcements. It was there where he developed the goal to "tell the world about CDF and what we do." After seven years of learning this valuable skill, Dick promoted to battalion chief (BC) and took the TGU Training



Officer position. From there, he moved out to the field where he served as BC for battalion 2513.

In July of 2002, Dick accepted his position as Deputy Chief of Public Education. His main goal is to support the field with valuable information and facts that will build a strong and improving educational system. Currently he is involved with revising the Fire Safe Inside and Out program materials, Dick also oversees the Communique', print, and Internet functions of the Department, manages the education mass media contract, and oversees the fire prevention education programs ranging from Volunteers In Prevention and Camp Smokey, to Wildfire Awareness Week and the Education and Public Affairs Working Group (EPAWG).

The challenge that confronts his position is to stay on top of the technological revolution that we are confronted with, so we can get the message out to the public in an effective manner. "Technology is the driving force in the

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Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service

by Mike Padilla, senior air operations officer,
CDF Aviation Mangement Unit

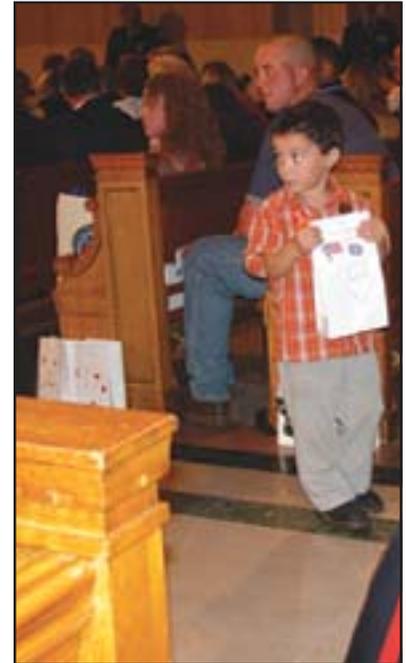
Each October, a grateful nation honors its fallen firefighters during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. Rich in fire service tradition, the Memorial Weekend celebrates how these brave men and woman lived, and honors their dedication to service and their ultimate sacrifice. The weekend memorial held this year in Washington, D.C., was a fitting tribute to the firefighter heroes who died in 2001.

Amongst the 446 firefighters honored were two CDF airtanker pilots, Larry Groff and Lars Stratte, who perished in a mid-air accident over the Buss Incident, August 2001. Attending the service were members of both families, Terri Stratte and sons Tryg and Ian; Christine Groff and son Mic along with escorts; CDF Battalion Chiefs Tom Glunt and Steve Iverson, Chaplain/Fire Captain John Bruno, Assistant Deputy Director Rich Just, and Senior Air Operations Officer Mike Padilla.

In order to accommodate the large crowds associated with the families, escorts and fellow firefighters honoring the 347 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center, the memorial services were moved from their traditional location at the National Fire Academy at Emmitsburg, Maryland to Washington, D.C. The Memorial Weekend events included Family Day activities, the annual Red Helmet Motorcycle Ride from the



Family members were driven down Constitution Avenue in buses to view the "Sea of Blue" stretched for 10 blocks.



It was a touching moment when this little guy found a bag created in memory of the parent he lost in the line of duty. Luminaria bags, filled with special messages, stickers, and photographs, were placed at the end of each pew in the National Shrine.

Pentagon to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, a candlelight service at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the Procession of Honor down Constitution Avenue. The weekend culminated with the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service at the MCI Center, where over 10,000 attended.

Most impressive to both CDF attendees and surviving family members of the Stratte and Groff families was the "Sea of Blue". This sea stretched over 10 blocks down Constitution Avenue lining the way for families, escorts and colleagues of fallen firefighters as they made their way to the memorial services at the MCI Center. Fire department personnel and equipment from every state and several foreign countries lined both sides of Constitu-



Members of the Groff and Stratte families and their CDF escorts in Washington D.C. tion Avenue making this the largest show of respect and unity in the history of the Nation's fire service.

CDF had a strong showing at the 35th annual California State Firefighter's Association Medal

of Valor awards held this past September in Fresno. Half of the 12 medals awarded were given to CDF'ers for their heroic acts of bravery and for showing "conspicuous courage" in the face of adversity.

The first CDF employee called to the dais was Battalion Chief Mike Boren of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. Chief Boren was nominated by CSFA representative Pat Johnson for his valiant rescue of three civilians during the North Fork fire in August of 2001. Chief Boren was escorting a reporter around the incident when the fire unleashed and made a destructive run. A report of trapped civilians "in a life threatening situation" came over the radio from North Fork Air Attack. Chief Boren responded towards the location of the trapped victims, stopping only to make sure his passenger could get to safety. As conditions deteriorated and fire was crossing the road, Chief Boren knew he was in a very serious situation. With the CDF air tactical plane circling above like a lofty guardian angel, Chief Boren drove through the intense flames, smoke and heat to the location of the residents. Chief Boren's commanding presence calmed the residents who were able to follow his instruction as he lead them to safety. "I was just doing my job," stated the unpretentious Chief Boren. "I think anyone in my position would have done the same thing."

Six CDF Firefighters Receive Medals of Valor

by Janet Marshall, fire prevention specialist II, Butte Unit



From L to R: Battalion Chief Mike Boren, Fire Captain Mike Carr, Fire Apparatus Engineer Matt McKenzie, Firefighter Tim Maxwell, and Firefighter Ryan Babb. Not pictured is Firefighter Amy Brown.

The second CDF honoree was Fire Captain Mike Carr from the Butte Unit. Mike was honored for his heroic efforts in rescuing a resident from the Poe fire. Captain Carr was assigned to structure protection along Yankee Hill Road during night operations. The fact that it was just after 2:30 in the morning wasn't making a bit of difference in the fire behavior. Areas of brush and grass over 100 acres in size were exploding into flame and area ignition was making for a frightening if not spectacular site. As Captain Carr was driving to a safer location, he received a report of a resident trapped in the fire area. He drove back through the fire and made contact with the resident who was inebriated and extremely distraught. The resident was not willing to leave his home, which was becoming engulfed in flames.

At great risk to his own personal safety, not only from the impending fire but from the agitated resident, Captain

Carr was able to impress upon the man the fact that his life was in imminent danger and they both needed to leave the fire area immediately. Captain Carr was able to lead the resident to safety and turn him over to prevention staff. "I was only doing what needed to be done," stated Captain Carr. "A resident needed to be gotten out and that's what I did." Captain Carr

is no stranger to heroism. He is a past recipient of the Governor's Medal of Valor for rescuing a family trapped in floodwaters in southern Butte County in 1997.

The last four CDF Medal of Valor recipients make up the crew of CDF Engine 2180. Fire Apparatus Engineer Matt McKenzie, along with firefighters Amy Brown, Ryan Babb and Tim Maxwell, responded as part of the initial attack wave to the Poe fire. Within the first half hour of the fire, while assigned to structure protection, the crew of Engine 2180 made contact with Su and Jerry Schlect at their residence on Windridge Rd. The Schlects were trying to gather their menagerie of animals into their barn. E2180 arrived just as the fire was going from bad to worse. The Schlects were conscientious and had provided 30-foot clearance around their stunning log home in the pines. However, the buffer was no match for the fire that came racing up hill towards the property. As fire

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conditions worsened, Firefighters Babb and Maxwell gathered the Schlects and took them inside the home to shelter in place while Engineer McKenzie and Firefighter Brown attempted to take a stand to protect their engine and the structure. The firestorm worsened and flames soon burned through their hoses. The two were forced to take refuge inside the engine where Engineer McKenzie maintained radio contact with the firefighters inside the house. Meanwhile, Firefighters Babb and Maxwell were lying on the floor in the superheated structure holding the Schlect's hands and calming them. As the back of

the home was exploding into flame, the fire conditions outside were still untenable. Engineer McKenzie soon gave the order for the four inside to make a run for the engine as the flames subsided for a brief time. With his entire crew and the Schlects on board, the fire was once again surrounding them and, as the home became engulfed, Engineer McKenzie maneuvered the fire engine to safety just as the hose bed was bursting into flame. "I literally thought we were going to die right there," stated Su, "and I thought these brave young firefighters were going to die with us. Thank goodness they were so calm or I don't think we would have made it." When asked about the dramatic rescue

effort, Engineer McKenzie responded with, "We were trained to do what we did and we'd do it again."

Deputy Director of Fire Protection Jim Wright is not surprised CDF had such strong showing of recipients at the valor awards ceremony. "I see a trend in the self-effacing modesty these recipients displayed by their comments," stated Chief Wright. "These firefighters weren't taking action to gain recognition, rather they were doing the job the over 4,000 men and women of this department are trained to do. I am very proud of the caliber of firefighters we have working for CDF and proud of these medal of valor recipients for their heroic actions."

Evaluating Fire Suppressant Gels

by Dan Lang, staff chief, Fleet Management

In the spring of 2001 CDF decided to conduct an operational evaluation of a group of chemicals classified by the US Forest Service Fire Chemicals Program as "Fire Suppressant Gels and Elastomers", and known in the chemical industry as superabsorbent polymers. The intent of the evaluation was to determine whether or not these gels could provide a cost-effective alternative to water, water-and-foam combinations, or to long-term aerial fire retardants in fire suppression, in the placement and holding of wet lines during indirect attack operations, or when attempting to provide protection to structures from wildland fires.

Fire suppressant gels work by holding water in suspension,

retarding evaporation, and by adhering to slopes and vertical surfaces.

2001 Evaluation Plan

In order to conduct an effectiveness evaluation in multiple wildland fuel types, CDF utilized seven engine companies located throughout the state.

Since CDF does not have its own fire chemical testing standards or testing facilities, CDF has chosen to use only those fire chemicals that have been tested and approved by the Fire Chemicals Program of the US Forest Service. At that time there was only one gel product that had been approved by the Forest Service for use in both helicopters and fire engines. That product was manufactured by BASF

Corporation, and was marketed under the names of ThermoGel 100 and FireOut ICE.

PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

FireOutICE/ThermoGel 100

Manufacturer

BASF Corporation

Chemical composition

Potassium Polyacrylate: 92 to 98%;
Water: 2 to 8%; Acrylic Acid: less than .08%

Mixing concentrations

.25% to .50% (2 to 4 lbs. of dry gel per 100 gal. of water)

Toxicity

Slight irritation to eyes and lungs when exposed for airborne powder. Not carcinogenic. No Proposition 65 listed chemicals in the product.

Biodegradation

Biodegrades with exposure to ultraviolet light.

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Other uses

Absorbent in baby diapers; soil amendment used in porous soils to hold water in the plant root zone.

2001 Operational Experience

The BASF gel was delivered from the vendors in a dry granular state. ThermoGel 100 came in plastic pails, while FireOut ICE came in water-soluble bags of varying sizes. The first problem that had to be addressed was how to uniformly mix the dry gel with the water in the engine's tank. This was attempted by setting the pump to full recirculation and then adding the dry gel to the tank by either pouring the gel down the overhead tank fill tube or by dropping a water-soluble pouch containing the dry gel down the fill tube. Once thoroughly mixed, the gel is then pumped through hoses in the normal way.

The experience of the engine companies with trying to store, transport, mix, and apply the BASF product on a CDF engine was not positive. There were too many problems in trying to use it in an apparatus that was not designed to use it. The pump-to-tank circulation line did not circulate the water sufficiently enough to thoroughly mix the chemical. The water soluble bags partially dissolved in the wet gloved hands of firefighters and spilled. The product gummed up in the tank filler opening making a gooey mess and making it difficult to get the product into the tank. However, when the gel was finally completely mixed, it came out of the nozzle just fine, with the consistency of a thin syrup. The slipperiness of the gel

caused firefighters to slip on wet apparatus surfaces and made it difficult to handle fire hoses, especially in progressive hoselay operations. There was a feeling that the product would work well if it could be mixed with water before it was put into the engine, and that this could be accomplished with the use of a portable bulk mixing tank similar to those used in large helicopter operations. However, this would require the engines to reload at the bulk mixing tank.

FireOut is working on a hopper storage/injection retrofit system for engines, but it is not yet available. Also, with storage space being at a premium on all fire engines, finding the space to carry 10 lbs. of dry gel for every 500 gallons of water to be treated was a problem.

While the gel was compatible with Class A foams and wetting agents, those chemicals worked in opposition to the properties of the gel. The gel works by holding the water in suspension and making it available for extinguishment when the fire reaches it, whereas foams and wetting agents work by reducing the surface tension of the water and causing it to flow and soak into the areas where the fire is.

Another interesting finding was that the mixed gel was lighter than water and had a lower friction loss coefficient than water or the water-and-foam combination.

2002 Evaluation Plan

Due to relatively few opportunities to evaluate the fire suppressant gel during the 2001 fire season, CDF decided to extend the evaluation for another fire

season. However, over the winter months, things had changed in the fire suppressant gel industry.

First, Fire Out Enterprises had obtained the exclusive marketing license for the BASF dry gel, leaving Thermo Technologies without a gel product to sell.

Second, an additional gel product had completed testing and evaluation by the US Forest Service and had been granted for use in helicopter bucket and ground engine operations. That product is manufactured by Stockhausen Corporation, and was being marketed as Firecape FP-47 and also as ThermoGel 200L.

In an effort to maintain an even-handed and impartial evaluation of USFS-approved fire suppressant gel products, CDF decided to conduct an operational evaluation of both BASF FireOut Ice and Stockhausen Firecape FP-47 fire suppressant gel during the 2002 fire season.

PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

FireOut ICE: same as 2001

Firecape FP-47

ThermoGel 200L

Manufacturer

Stockhausen, Inc.

Chemical composition

Sodium acrylate/acrylamid-copolymer, fatty acid ester (as a water/oil emulsion.)

Mixing concentrations

1% to 2% (1 to 2 gal of gel concentrate per 100 gal. of water)

Toxicity

Harmful to aquatic organisms, and may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment. No harmful effects on human health have been found.

Biodegradation

See GEL, page 12

GEL: from page 11

[Unknown
Other uses](#)
[Absorbent in baby diapers](#)

Firecape FP-47 was to be evaluated utilizing five CDF engine companies in southern California. Firecape is a liquid concentrate elastic polymer gel. It is applied at the rate of 2 percent for structure protection (adhesion to vertical surfaces), and at 1 percent for wet holding lines and pre-treatment. The product comes in one gallon and 2.5 gallon containers, and is mixed into the firestream by use of an eductor placed directly behind the nozzle. This means it is easily stored on the engine, and there are no mixing problems such as those encountered in 2001 during evaluation of the dry FireOut Ice gel product. At a 2 percent mixture, 1 gallon of FP-47 will treat 50 gallons of water, which will cover approximately 1,000 sq. ft. of vertical structure surface area. At 1 percent concentration used for laying down a wet holding line in dry grass, 1 gallon of FP-47 will treat 100 gallons of water.

2002 Operational Experience

FireOut ICE: Following the less than successful test of FireOut ICE during the 2001 season, FireOut Enterprises developed a specialized fire apparatus that could mix the dry gel product with water, and then either 1) supply mixed gel to fire apparatus or to helicopter dip tanks, in the same manner as a water tender, or 2) apply the mixed gel directly to structures or vegetation.

The first test of this appara-

tus came on the Pines Fire this August in San Diego County. The apparatus was used to apply mixed gel to structures in advance of the wildfire, and to supply CDF engine strike teams with gel, which they then applied to both structures and vegetation. The incident staff also experimented with dropping the gel from helicopters, and this immediately proved to be very effective. Thereafter the majority of the time the FireOut staff spent mixing gel in their apparatus and pumping it into helicopter dip tanks. Over 200,000 gallons of FireOut ICE was dropped from helicopters with great success. All of the helicopter and operations staff interviewed stated that they felt the gel was more effective than water or water and Class A foam in pre-treating structures and vegetation and in suppression and mop-up work. A follow-up examination of several sites at the fire approximately 60 days after the fire was controlled showed that the gel had completely disappeared from sites where it was applied to wildland vegetation. Even sites where extremely heavy concentrations of the gel had been applied, such as where buckets and dip tanks had been rinsed out, showed only minimal presence of the gel when water was re-applied. At sites where the gel had been applied to structures, the owners of the structures said that the gel washed off easily with a garden hose, even up to 30 days after it had been applied. Two structures that had not had the gel washed off were examined, and the gel was found to be in the process of cracking and falling off.

The second opportunity to evaluate FireOut came in September at the Croy fire in Santa Clara County. This time the gel was used exclusively in helicopter operations, and while the fire did not last as long as the Pines fire, the comments received from helicopter and operations personnel about the effectiveness of FireOut ICE in helicopter bucket operations were again very favorable.

Firecape FP-47: Evaluation of Firecape FP-47 began in late August in the CDF San Diego Unit. Several local government strike teams assisting CDF on the Pines fire brought Firecape with them and used it to pre-treat several structures. CDF staff were favorably impressed with the simplicity of the application system and with the effectiveness of the product. This led CDF to expand its evaluation of Firecape by providing it to five CDF engine companies for further evaluation during the remainder of the 2002 fire season. The five engine companies received training from Firecape representatives on September 19, after which each engine was outfitted with two 2 ½ gallon containers of Firecape FP-47 and the special eductor that introduces the gel concentrate into the firestream immediately behind the nozzle.

A few weeks later three engines in the CDF San Bernardino Unit were also trained and equipped with Firecape, but fire activity since that time has been minimal, and it may be necessary to extend the Firecape evaluation into the 2003 fire season.

See GEL, page 13

GEL: from page 12

Current Project Status

While evaluation results to date have been favorable for both products, opportunities for evaluation have not been as numerous as desired. What has been learned thus far, however, is that FireOut ICE seems to be quite effective in helicopter bucket operations, more so than water alone or water with Class A foams. The problems associated with mixing the dry gel powder in an apparatus not designed with an in-tank mixing capability make it less desirable for use in fire apparatus.

Regarding Firecape, it has been shown to be effective in protecting structures from the effects of radiant heat, and the application system makes it easy to use. Because of the lack of evaluation opportunities CDF staff have not been able to observe how well the product biodegrades after use, and whether or not there are any problems with post-incident cleanup of the product.

This fall and winter CDF plans to evaluate the performance characteristics of both products in test-grid drops from both helicopters and airtankers. This will tell us whether or not

these products can hold together and produce drop patterns similar to those found in long-term aerial fire retardant drops. If so, they may prove to be a cost-effective alternative to the current aerial fire retardants.

The cost-effectiveness evaluation will begin this winter once the review of evaluations of operational effectiveness have been completed. Product cost will then be compared to product effectiveness, and decisions will be made regarding which products should be used to achieve the maximum cost-effectiveness in each fire fighting tactical situation.

Making Firefighter Clothing *Prison Industry Authority*

by Karen Terrill, CDF Public Information Officer

When our firefighters suit up to face a wildfire, they are wearing Nomex that was made by P.I.A. That stands for Prison Industry Authority, and yes, that means inmates cut and stitch those garments. You may not have known that. Here's something else you might not know; today's Nomex is better than it ever has been. It is stronger, tougher and better constructed. And it is being produced by people who spend their days and nights behind bars. For many years the California Institution for Women produced Nomex for CDF. But today, the California Men's Colony and the Mule Creek State Prison are also producing the pants, jackets and

gloves that protect our firefighters. I took a tour of the PIA facility recently at Mule Creek Prison in Ione and I learned a lot about this all-important fire resistant clothing. And about the 85 men who make it.

A quick overview of the shop is impressive. You see row after row of men wearing their prison blues and operating sewing machines. Each leans over his work and seems intent on what he is doing. Each has a particular portion of the garment that he is responsible for. After he finishes the piece, he holds the stitching up to the light and tests it before passing it on to the next station. You get the impression that each



one of these guys is careful to do it right. But they also work fast, with an almost rhythmic pace. Their supervisors walk around the room and watch as the patches of fabric become a sturdy work garment. At each site the supervisors show the visitor the quality and attention to detail that they expect and get.

Each Nomex garment begins with a computer. At the top of the screen a little sign indicates

See PIA, page 14

PIA: from page 13

“Inmate Access Allowed”. The operator enters information about the size and shape of the garment to be made and the amount of fabric needed. He then “cuts and pastes” the pattern pieces on the screen to make the most of every inch of material. The computer then creates the pattern pieces on a large sheet of construction paper next to the monitor. This is the first of 37 different steps to create one pair of Nomex pants.

During a previous incarceration, inmate William Metzler fought fire on a conservation camp crew. He says he thinks about the firefighters who will be wearing the garment he is making today. “I feel good about the work I’m doing here. It’s important. I make it strong, and all the seams tight. I want to make sure no bugs can get in there. I enjoy the work.” Although he added with a smile “I just wish I wasn’t doing it in here.”

Before our firefighters ever see it, each Nomex garment must pass three quality inspections. “If we find one stitch wrong, we take it apart,” said Superintendent II Curtiss Phillips. He is in charge of this operation and he takes that responsibility very seriously. “This is safety gear. It is there to save someone’s life and we stress that to everybody every day.”

The sewing machines they use here are not your grandmother’s Singer. The one that sews the elastic waist bands has four needles working at once. The machine that stitches the belt loops is also specially adapted to make an extra strong double stitch. The machine that

Interesting Facts About Nomex:

Firefighters know that Nomex is not fire-proof. But it is fire resistant and self extinguishing. It provides critical protection, especially when coupled with a second layer of cotton clothing underneath.

Nomex thread costs approximately \$7 per cone.

In the past year PIA purchased approximately \$2.5 million worth of Nomex fabric for CDF garments. Going price is \$13 - \$15 per yard.

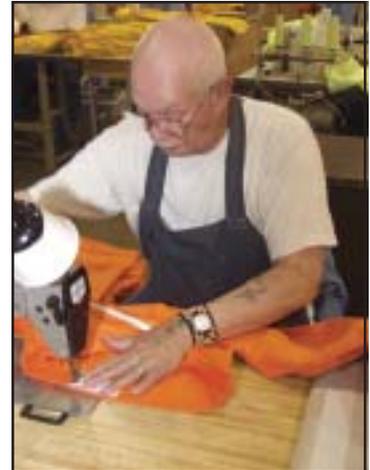
It takes two and three-quarters yards of fabric for each pair of pants.

One of the PIA supervisors, Ernesto Alfaro, has 27 years of experience in the garment industry including working with Calvin Klein.

The Mule Creek shop produces orange Nomex (for inmate firefighters) and yellow Nomex for free firefighters.

The Mule Creek site produces 150 – 200 Nomex garments per day.

stitches the side seams has a special guide which allows the operator to quickly role the material for a double-strength seam. The machines are designed and adapted for the most efficient production possible. Ernesto Alfaro, one of the supervisors, personally welded an attachment to adapt one machine for a left hander. It takes about two months for an operator to get really good on one of these specialized machines.



Gloria DeRoo is Chief of Business Services for CDF. She’s impressed with the production quality coming out of PIA. “We are very pleased to be in partnership with PIA. We share the same goals and in working as a team have been able to provide our firefighters with first rate safety clothing in the most expeditious manner possible. We look forward to continuing this successful partnership for many years to come.”

Corrections

In the last issue of the Communicative (Summer 2002) we would like to correct the following errors:

On page 30, the title on the Law Enforcement article should be: Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement, Chris Parker not Staff Chief, Law Enforcement, Chris Parker.

On page 50, in the article “Gods and Generals”, the caption should read “Becki and actor Stephen Lang pose in period attire.” Becki’s husband is actually Tom Buchmann as referenced in the article. Also, the URL at the end of the article is: <http://Hometown.aol.com/redwinebl/GnGfilm.html>

Beginning with this issue of the Communiqué we will feature two “randomly” selected CDF facilities including fire stations, air bases, camps, units, etc.. One will be from the Northern Region and one from the Southern Region. All of the facilities that CDF operates have something unique about them, and they are all equally important to those whose emergencies they respond to and assist with. It is through the teamwork and effort that occurs in these field facilities that CDF is able to accomplish its mission of protecting the people of California from fires and other emergencies.

In this issue we start with the Fawn Lodge Station in the Shasta-Trinity Unit, and Station #39 in the Riverside Unit.

Fawn Lodge Station

by Josh Hubbard, staff writer, Communiqué'

Located 22 miles west of Redding in the heart of Trinity County, Fawn Lodge offers a unique blend of history to the CDF Shasta-Trinity Unit. The station is operated as a two engine station and remains open only during fire season. On a four year average, Fawn Lodge responds to around 110 calls a season. These calls range from vegetation fires, vehicle fires, and structure fires to traffic accidents, cover assignments, out of county assignments, and smoke checks. In 2001 their numbers were elevated due to the activity of an arsonist in nearby Hayfork but this years numbers reflect more around the average for the station.

The station consists of four separate buildings: the mess hall, barracks, engine bay, and “Captains shack”. The Captains shack is the oldest of the buildings having been built in 1937. It formerly served as the pay shack for the old Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp that used to be run and operated a short distance from the station. The remaining buildings were built in 1954-55 when the station was established.

While the station itself sits on three acres of CDF property, there are two separate 40 acre parcels behind the station giving Fawn Lodge the distinction of having the most state owned CDF land in California. With Grass Valley Creek running by the station and the shade provided by four Redwood trees planted in the mid 50's, there is definitely an atmosphere far different from most stations.



The pretty forest setting belies the seriousness of the job the CDFers at the station do while Fawn Lodge is open each year. This is one of many CDF stations that close during the winter months. Built in 1937, the Captain's shack in the lower left is the oldest of the station's buildings.



Station #39

by Rebekah Luther, fire prevention specialist I, Riverside Unit

Another station known for its unique history is Station #39 in Thermal in Riverside County. Located five miles east of Coachella, Thermal operates as a one engine and one water tender **Schedule A** station that is open year around. It also operated in an area where temperatures can reach into the 120s. Station 39 provides emergency protection to an agricultural, residential, and commercial area that includes an airport. On average the station responds to 330 calls a year,

*See **STATIONS**, page 16*

STATIONS: from page 8

ranging from vegetation, structure and vehicle fires, to medical aids, fire menace standbys, and public safety responses.

The old thermal station was originally established during World War II on a U.S. Army airbase. The building the station occupied was formerly used by the army to process their parachutes and supplies. The station also had a symbol that it came to be known for, an old Army Jeep that had a huge ansal fire extinguisher in the back seat, leading to the nickname crash-39. Later in 1949 a volunteer fire company was established.

In 1974 Thermal received a new station that was built a short distance from the original



Army airbase under the direction of County Fire Warden J. Elmer Chambers. Although

The palm trees and desert of southern California provide the backdrop for Station #39.

today's station no longer sits on the airbase it is still in close proximity to the airport and is an important and vital asset to the community. Thermal, while definitely not one of the larger stations in southern California, is no less as important. The differences among all CDF stations are united in a common mission.

Schedule A is the term used when a local government contracts with, and pays CDF, to provide services such as fire protection, dispatching, medical aid, hazardous material response, etc.

HAYES: from page 8

expansion of public education, it provides us with the opportunity to relay valuable learning lessons and support the field with a product that informs and raises an awareness level.”

With Dick Hayes in charge, the Public Education Program has a solid future of experience. “To have the opportunity to promote to a position that I am interested in, and have a background in, is an exciting thing. I am fortunate to be part of a wonderful job in a great organization”.

Josh Hubbard recently joined the CDF Public Education/ Public Affairs staff as a part-time student assistant. Josh spent the last three summers as a seasonal firefighter at the Fawn Lodge Station, and is now going to school at CSU Sacramento.

On the Cover

On the cover, CDF S-2T Tanker 71 makes a drop on the Pines Fire in San Diego during August. Here tanker 81 does the same.

Airtankers made over 1,000 drops and used a whopping 1.3 million gallons of retardant on this fire. As rain falls and fire season ends in Northern California, the Pines Fire stands as CDF's largest fire for the season at 61,690 acres with 160 structures destroyed.

Both photos were taken, and are used courtesy of, photojournalist Fred Greaves.



Since its discovery in July of 2000 as a previously unknown forest disease, *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen known to cause Sudden Oak Death, is found in six CDF Units and one contract county and has spread to 12 California counties, state and federal parks, and now has 17 known hosts. The growing problem Sudden Oak Death poses to California's economy, landscape, public safety, water quality, and wild-land fires has given this disease a high level of visibility and placed urgent demands on California to understand and attempt to contain this aggressive disease. In our role as land managers, regulators, and forest advisors in California, CDF has become increasingly involved in efforts to suppress this disease, develop regulations, gain scientific knowledge, monitor locations of the disease, provide public outreach, and assist in management efforts.

Through the California Oak Mortality Task Force, which was formed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in August, 2000, CDF has been able to take action in a coordinated and collaborative manner with experts in all pertinent fields. Access to experts in research, monitoring, biomass, regulations, pathology, and land management have facilitated shared knowledge across a large spectrum of disciplines and minimized duplication of efforts as well as misinformation. Since its beginning,

the Task Force has grown to more than 80 agencies, including federal, state, and local government, the private sector, nonprofits, and individual citizens, totaling more than 800 members. CDF currently chairs the Task Force. CDF also has staff in eight positions on the



CDF's Role in Sudden Oak Death

*by Katie Facino, information officer,
California Oak Mortality Task Force*

Executive Committee as well as representation in all of the committees.

With education being a key component to slowing the spread of the disease, CDF has worked in concert with the Task Force and its members to provide training to those in the regulatory community as well as to those whose organizations are impacted by the regulations. Media contacts, educational outreach materials, and town hall meetings are some of the venues CDF has accessed to distribute messages to the general public on Sudden Oak Death and their role in suppressing the artificial spread of this disease.

Best management practices and trailhead posters have also been developed and distributed to land managers as educational tools to use as a resource to inform visitors on cleaning techniques and the need to leave host material on site.

Needing regulations in place to halt the movement or sale of infected material, CDF has worked closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, USDA-Forest Service, local Agricultural Commissioners, and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to develop consistent state and federal regulations. In response to the adoption of statewide regulations in May, 2001, CDF immediately called for SOD mitigations to be written into all Timber Harvesting Plans. In addition, CDF has re-

stricted wood cutting to species not affected by SOD and has implemented a cleaning policy for all CDF vehicles leaving regulated areas to insure that host plant material is not being transported out of the area.

We are only beginning to understand the basic biology of this new disease. As research continues, regulations and mitigations are likely to change as well as impacts to CDF, such as regulation enforcement and equipment operations. To access the latest Sudden Oak Death information, go to the California Oak Mortality Task Force web site at <http://suddenoakdeath.org>.

The challenges of Code Enforcement

by Bill Carmack, division chief, Office of the State Fire Marshal

These are exciting times at the State Fire Marshal's office. The State Fire Marshal's Code Enforcement Program has never had a problem implementing new ideas and resurrecting old ones. It has been said that "things change so much that the circle will be complete soon and all will return to the way things were in the beginning." This has proved to be the case in Code Enforcement.

In July 2002, Code Enforcement returned to geographical assignments for deputy state fire marshals, thus making a full circle. Deputy state fire marshals are now assigned particular geographical areas by counties and workload.

Code Enforcement North starts at the northern border (Oregon) and extends to the Monterey County. Counties included in the Northern Region are Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Memdocino, Lake, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Napa, Marin, Solano, Sacramento, Amador, Alpine, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alameda, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, and Monterey.

Code Enforcement South starts at Monterey County and extends to the Southern border (Mexico). Counties included in the Southern Region are Mono, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Inyo, San Luis Obispo, Santa

Barbara, Kern Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial.

Code Enforcement Plan Review is a new section dedicated to reviewing plans for all new state construction projects, remodeling projects, (both major and minor) and any other type of construction project involving State owned buildings or State occupied buildings. Examples of types of State projects are California State Colleges, University of California campuses, prisons, jails, high-rises, fairs, parks, camps, office buildings that house state employees and other places of assembly that are located on state owned property.

Soon the State Fire Marshal's web site will post the names and contact numbers for the assigned deputy state fire marshal in your area.

Our Southern Code Enforcement office has moved from West Covina to the city of Monrovia. Exact location and directions can be found on the State Fire Marshal's web site. The location of this up-to-date facility is freeway friendly and an easy commute for the Southern California fire service.

Deputy state fire marshals are responsible for every type of fire prevention activity that happens within their assigned areas. These responsibilities are mandated by statute found in the Health and Safety Code. Deputy state fire marshals must also provide assistance to local fire departments.



Currently within the State of California there are approximately 33,000 buildings that need to be inspected. There are over \$3 billion worth of construction projects presently being plan reviewed. These construction projects, along with current statutory mandates, must be handled by only 21 deputy state fire marshals and three plan reviewers.

The deputy state fire marshals assigned to Code Enforcement must be commended for providing an excellent level of service with minimal staffing. To become a deputy state fire marshal, you must have an understanding of the current editions of the building code, fire code, plumbing code, electrical code, mechanical code, and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Deputy state fire marshals must also understand and apply older editions of the codes dating back to the 1950's. A retired state fire marshal once stated that "It takes an understanding of approximately 17,000 pages of code to be a field deputy state fire marshal, more pages than it takes to understand how to fly a 747."

Food Dispensing Unit at Devil's Garden

by Leah Sandberg, office assistant, Devil's Garden Conservation Camp

Devil's Garden Camp got geared up and ready to go with their Food Dispensing Unit (FDU) this season. The FDU is similar to a "Meals on Wheels" program. Food is prepared in the camp's kitchen and then transported to an incident in insulated food containers called Cambro Camcarriers. It's an efficient way to deliver hot, nutritious meals to firefighters on the fire line. Using the FDU, staff can prepare, transport and feed up to 300 fire fighting personnel at a fire scene.

On September 11, 2002 Devil's Garden Camp had the opportunity to try out their new FDU at the Taylor Incident. The Taylor Fire started near the town of Lookout in the Big Valley Estates area. CDF and volunteer engines responded to the incident and began putting in hose lays and providing structure protection. Copter 202 and an airtanker began making water and retardant drops on both flanks of the fire. CDF dozers and hand crews quickly put a line around the fire and began to mop up. Soon the afternoon turned to dusk and thoughts turned to food. The Incident Commander (IC) called the emergency command center and put in an order for the Devil's Garden Camp Food Dispensing Unit.

Devil's Garden staff were thrilled to be able to strut their stuff. They had set up and dismantled the FDU several times and were eager to put it to the test. The call came in at 3 p.m. and by 7 p.m. they were on the

road. The FDU crew consisted of Correctional Sergeant Lindsay Shaver, Correctional Officer Rick Davis, CDF Water Sewer Plant Operator Byron Gibbons and seven inmate workers. They arrived at the incident, set up, and were serving dinner by 8:30. Soon word had spread that dinner was being served. Groups of headlamps could be seen ambling through the darkness to the serving line. Firefighters were served steak, mashed potatoes, steamed broccoli, chili, fruit, dinner rolls, juice and milk

with cake, ice cream and candy bars for dessert. All totaled, 165 meals were served and the FDU's maiden run was deemed a success.

The CDF and CDC staff at Devil's Garden Camp wishes to thank IC Aaron Burroughs for giving them the chance to work out the kinks of the FDU and for all of the staff at the Taylor Incident for the positive comments and support. With their first experience out of the way, staff are geared up and ready to go again.

Speaking of food

Knowing that hard work leads to hunger, the crew of Bear Valley Helitack, Copter 406, in the San Benito-Monterey Unit, has found a unique way to improve upon the situation in the evenings when they are grounded due to darkness. They have found a way to cook healthy, complete meals that have dramatically expanded their kitchen's menu. On any given shift the crew of copter 406 will need to feed two engine crews, the Helitack crew and pilot, and their battalion chief. This means feeding about 20 CDF personnel three meals a day, and requires the efforts of two cooks, all day, in the kitchen.

"With a little bit of research on our part, we found a local resource called Dorothy McNett's Place", said Helitack Fire Captain Gary Kampf. "It is a retail gourmet cookware store in the city of Paicines, that includes a kitchen area for teaching the art of cooking".

On Tuesday evenings, the gracious Dorothy McNett, has been hosting one hour cooking courses,

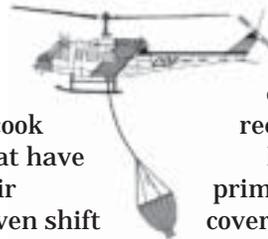
which are now attended by the crew members of Helitack 406 at the low cost of \$5 dollars a session - which they pay for out of their own pockets.

In each class Dorothy demonstrates step by step how to shop, prepare, and cook some outstanding recipes.

How does a meal of pasta primavera and spinach salad covered with a light raspberry vinaigrette sound? Don't forget to add a chunk of parmesan cheese in your boiling water to add that special flavor to your pasta. And of course no meal would be complete without the dessert, a gooey brownie smothered in fat free whip cream and chocolate sauce.

"We have found that the cooking class has sparked a renewed interest in meal preparation and has given us the opportunity to hone the skills that Dorothy is teaching us".

Bear Valley Helitack responds to an average of 150 calls each year. This year they were the first copter on scene of the Croy fire in the Santa Clara Unit.



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Communique'

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CDFers in attendance at the Capital memorial pose as a group in front of the Firefighter Memorial.

September 11, 2002 brought memorials, tributes and moments of silence across the nation and the world. In Sacramento, Governor Davis led a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center. A contingent of CDFers in full dress uniforms, with shrouded badges, joined other fire, law enforcement, and military personnel for memorial services on the east steps of the State Capital.

The memorial activities included a flyover by the California National Guard, presentation of a World Trade Center Steel Memorial, remarks from a 9/11 survivor, and a rose planting with Governor and Mrs. Davis.

CDFers then convened to the California Firefighters' Memorial on the Capital grounds. For many it was the first time they had been up close to see the names of all those who have died in the line of duty, including the names of 119 CDFers.

COMMUNIQUE'

***Gray Davis
Governor
State of California***

***Mary D. Nichols
Resources Secretary
The Resources Agency***

***Andrea E. Tuttle
Director
Department of Forestry and Fire
Protection***

***Lisa Boyd
Editor
CDF Public Education Office***

Communique' Schedule

December/January

(Deadline January 5)

February/March

(Deadline March 5)

April/May

(Deadline May 5)

June/July

(Deadline July 5)

August/September

(Deadline September 5)

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