
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary

Sacramento – The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will celebrate its 100 year anniversary on March 18. The theme for this historic year is *“100 Years of CDF – Preserving Our Legacy, Protecting Our Future.”*

“Beginning on March 18, 1905 when the Legislature approved the establishment of a Board of Forestry and the creation of the position of State Forester, our department began its rich heritage of protecting our state’s citizens and natural resources,” said CDF Director Dale Geldert. “CDF’s role as a fire and emergency response agency has evolved over the last century as our state’s urban and rural populations have grown. We are experienced in the command of large and complex emergencies of all types, but the real achievements have occurred at the ground level where the men and women of this department deliver service to all Californian’s.”

The highlight of CDF’s year-long anniversary celebration will be the 100 year celebration in conjunction with Wildfire Awareness Week on Monday, May 9. Celebration activities will take place on the west side of the State Capitol from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The event will kick-off with speakers from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and feature a large exhibit of historic CDF equipment and displays emphasizing the past thru the present until 3 p.m. Each year for the last 16 years one week out of the year is designated Wildfire Awareness Week. This time provides California homeowners an opportunity to prepare for the upcoming fire season. On Jan. 1, 2005 the laws pertaining to defensible space changed the requirement from 30’ to 100’. “Following the disastrous loss of property and lives in 2003, and a wet 2004 winter that resulted in a heavy grass crop across the state, it is imperative that Californian’s take the initiative to be fire safe; work with their local CDF officials, fire departments, and Fire Safe Councils; and prepare this season,” said Deputy Director Jim Wright.

A century of CDF history, **“100 Years of CDF – Preserving Our Legacy, Protecting Our Future.”** is available on the CDF Web site: www.fire.ca.gov.

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