

Message from the Chief

Chief's Memo – June 26, 2006

A Great Week for CDF – Focus on Fire Prevention, Governor Signs Executive Order, Firefighters Return from Baja California, Mexico



This week I delivered the weekly radio address for Governor Schwarzenegger in his "California Report." The focus was on fire season and why it is vitally important that we do everything we can to make sure the people of California and their homes are protected from wildfire devastation. The radio address can be heard from the Governor's website at: <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php/radio-address/1073/>

I also contributed to the Governor's Blog. Thanks for the assistance from Mike Jarvis and CDF Communications. Again the focus was on fire season. You can view the blog at <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php/blog>

On Thursday, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order that calls for additional staffing and resources to protect local communities from wildland fires and allows the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to expand its statewide firefighting efforts. While nothing changes from previous year's augmentation, we will focus more on prevention and pre-mitigation than in previous years. You will be hearing more about this from Region and Units in the near future.

The Governor signed Executive Order S-10-06 at a ceremony at the Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base in Hemet, CA.



For more information go to: <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php/press-release/1034/>
Prior to the press conference, Chief Gregory, Chief McLean, OES staff, and I gave Governor Schwarzenegger a private briefing on our preparation for fire season. We also had the opportunity to discuss the value and the importance of the CDF/CDCR camps. I advised him that Jim Tilton, Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and I have discussed a desire to look for opportunities to expand this vital program to fill gaps in the system, and for the rehabilitative value of the program.

We also discussed the helicopter replacement study that we are conducting. OES staff and I shared our vision of replacing helicopters with ones more suited to respond to all risks in California; flood, fire, earthquake, and other human caused disasters. The Governor showed great interest in the work we are doing and praised CDF as a great organization. He thanked us for our presentation and then we proceeded to the press conference where he referred to CDF as having the "best fire crews in the world."



Our firefighters returned from Baja California, Mexico on Friday. They crossed the border back into the USA at 5pm, after a short celebration in Tijuana, Mexico put on by officials of the State of Baja California, Mexico. I met them as they crossed the border and spent a short time with Gabriel Gomez, Director of the

Office of Emergency Services, and representative of Governor Eugenio Elourduy Walter.

Chief Gomez expressed his sincere appreciation, and that of Governor Eugenio Elourduy Walter, for the assistance given by Governor Schwarzenegger and CDF and invited us back to visit anytime.

I had an opportunity to visit with the firefighters and command staff at the CDF Monte Vista headquarters. Spirits were high. It was a great learning experience for all that participated. Rather than talk about it, I think a picture is worth a thousand words.





















I would like to express my appreciation to everyone involved in completing this mission to assist our neighbors to the south. I especially appreciate how professionally you all represented CDF and our Great State of California. You can be proud of your accomplishment, your learning experience, and the friendships you developed.

Regards,

Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Director / State Fire Marshal

State Fire Marshal

Division Chief Joe Garcia made his last presentation to the Southern Cal FPO Meeting on June 14. Joe is retiring after more than three decades of state service. Joe's program included the latest information on the ICC Code adoption process. He, along with many other OSFM staff worked long hours on these codes which are now well on their way to becoming the building standards of California's future.

Communications

CDF 100-Year History Update. The CDF 100-Year Commemorative poster was honored with a 2006 Gold Award from the State Information Officers Council.

Congratulations to the Department of Water Resources graphic artists who collaborated with CDF Communications staff on that project.

You can view that poster at:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/php/about_content/downloads/CDFCommemPoster.pdf

The publisher of the CDF 100 Year Commemorative History Book, Turner Publishing, recently completely sold out of history books. Due to the ongoing demand they printed additional copies which are now available. Turner can be contacted at 1-800-788-3350 <http://www.turnerpublishing.com>

Resource Management

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) tour went well last week. Resource Management staff did an outstanding job of making the day constructive by creating an atmosphere of collaboration. The open communication and desire to seek consensus where possible with our stakeholders is having an impact and I have great optimism that we are making progress with JDSF. The discussions related to the future management plan of JDSF, not the EIR, which is the jurisdiction of the Board of Forestry. I want to acknowledge all the Resource Management staff who has born the responsibility of this issue for so long.

