

Message from the Chief

Chief's Memo – May 1, 2006

Governor Provides 3%-at-50 to Supervisors and Managers in CDF



As you may know by now, the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) issued a memorandum last week that made effective the 3%-at-50 retirement formula to supervisors and managers affiliated with Unit 8. The 3%-at-50 formula will also apply to past supervisor or manager service for individuals in exempt or other excluded positions that are currently affiliated with Unit 8. Past supervisor or manager service with Unit 8 will **not** be covered if the supervisor or manager is no longer in a position affiliated with Unit 8 on or after January 1, 2006. The decision to extend the formula to other excluded positions remains under consideration. No action is required by the employee for this formula change to take effect.

In other good news, the Department of Finance has signed off on our deficiency request for the current year (\$8 Million) and has forwarded it to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The funding will be pursued through a Supplemental Appropriations Bill. Management Services staff will be working with legislative staff to answer any questions that may crop up. We'll keep you informed as things proceed.

Discussions do continue with the control agencies (DPA and Finance) regarding solutions to inversion issues in CDF that remain outstanding. It should be noted that the urgency is to address "inverted" positions. However, Finance and DPA are also continuing to look at "compacted" positions on a statewide basis.

We continue to make progress on a number of important issues in CDF. And while I cannot report on all of them, I continue to remain optimistic about our future. I am appreciative of the hard work and dedication of the many employees working together to find solutions. Next week I hope to release the first draft of two-year work plans for department-wide review. I will be interested to hear your feedback and I look forward to your participation and leadership.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grijalva'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Director / State Fire Marshal (acting)

Urban Forestry Program

The mission of CDF's Urban Forestry Program is to develop a regional and statewide cooperative effort to advance the development of sustainable urban and community forests. Trees provide energy conservation, reduce storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil, and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, provide wildlife habitat, and increase property values. They give us shady sidewalks and parks, and improve the quality of life in our urban environments.

The CDF Urban Forestry Program offers grants of over \$1 million dollars a year to plant trees in urban communities throughout California.

Yesterday, I attended one of our most exciting urban forestry events concerning this years "Green Trees for The Golden State" tree planting grant awards along with Russ Henley and Glenn Flamik. The Palo Alto based non-profit organization, Canopy, at the suggestion of CDF-Urban Forestry, is working to improve the urban forest of neighboring East Palo Alto. CDF-Urban Forestry has awarded a grant of \$142,333 that will be used to plant and maintain trees in East Palo Alto. Canopy is working with East Palo Alto to develop a suitable tree ordinance and the framework of a sustainable urban forestry program as part of the project.



The multiple benefits of CDF-Urban Forestry were showcased at the Sunday, April 30, 2006 Ceremonial Tree Planting to launch the East Palo Alto Trees Initiative. The events of the day were capped with fundraising dinner with Dr. Wangari Maathai, founder of the Greenbelt Movement and 2004 Nobel Prize Laureate, at Crowne Plaza Cabaña in Palo Alto. Dr. Wangari Maathai received the 2004 Nobel Peace

Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. Her achievements as a leading international environmentalist and stateswoman started with the simple act of planting a tree, which led to the planting of more than 30 million trees in Africa. Dr. Maathai believes that "the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today." Dr. Maathai also advocates that every human being needs to plant 10 trees just to absorb the carbon dioxide they produce. "Do not count on others planting your 10 trees," she said.

New Chief Deputy Crawford Tuttle

Last week we had a brief ceremony to swear-in Crawford Tuttle as our new



Chief Deputy Director. Governor Schwarzenegger appointed him as the CDF Chief Deputy on April 21, 2006. Many department staff, as well as Chief Tuttle's family joined him at the brief ceremony in the Director's Conference Room. The most commonly asked question asked about Chief Deputy Tuttle is if he is related to former Director Andrea Tuttle. He is not.

Chief Deputy Tuttle most recently has served as deputy secretary for external affairs at the Resources Agency. He formerly was the deputy secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency from 1996 to 1999 and served as California's Washington representative, acting as the state's chief liaison to Congress and the Clinton Administration from 1994 to 1996. He was also a policy and budget analyst for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Company Officer Training

We have made the determination, in consultation with Unit Chiefs, to raise standards in this organization. Although the timing of the transition is difficult, I ask for your support in implementing the change to the best of your ability. There will never be an easy time to do this. Together with Academy staff, we have decided that our Department will train LT-FAE personnel to the Company Officer Academy (COA) level. I support the COA training for LT-FAE because it is the appropriate level of training for the type of work our Department asks them to perform.

In considering the option of offering 2A training to LT-FAE, it is recognized that there would be critical training deficiencies and that the number of trained employees would not significantly increase. Training some LT-FAE at the 2A level and others at the COA level is not appropriate. It is realized that there is a need for more LT-FAE in the 2006 fire season than our Department will be able to train. Employee fatigue will be a factor as we operate in the later months of fire season and it is an important safety concern. Supervisors and managers should closely monitor our employees throughout fire season. All personnel must observe appropriate work-rest cycles and make operational adjustments when employee safety becomes a concern.

To meet the training needs for the 2006 Fire Season, I have directed the Academy to present three (3) additional COA. The additional COA (#101-#103) are scheduled on the 05/06 and 06/07 Academic Calendars and are posted on the Academy web-site. Field support of five (5) adjuncts and several technical subject specialists (TSS) will be needed for each of the COA. Units will need to work closely with the Region Hiring Coordinators in order to meet the starting dates for the new COA.

To better address the training demands of our Department during the 06/07 Academic calendar, the Academy is currently working to expand our training infrastructure at Ben Clark Training Center (CTC). This expansion will include new classrooms, dining, and fire ground facilities that will serve as a satellite training center to our Academy in Lone. The goal with this expansion is to offer Firefighter Academies (FFA) and other department training courses at CTC thereby allowing the Academy to focus on presenting additional COA. This will allow the Academy to better meet the LT-FAE training needs for the 2007 Fire Season and provide another training facility that can offer the ICS, Incident Management, and Supervision courses our department will also need.

Additionally, during the 06/07 Academic year the Department will be focusing on filling vacancies in our Fire Protection positions. To best accomplish this, Fire Fighter 2 and Fire Apparatus Engineer candidates will have priority in all FFA and COA. Heavy Fire Equipment Operators and Resource Management staff will only be considered after the FF-2 and FAE needs of all four regions have been met.

The following are additional considerations in arriving at the decision to train LT-FAE at the COA level.

- LT-FAE are trained to the base level response for the position they hold. Compliance with the Injury, Illness, and Prevention Program (IIPP) Title 8, Section 3203
- LT-FAE are given additional fire apparatus driving time which includes time in a Type 1 Engine. Vehicle accident and damage rates for LT-FAE drivers have risen over the last 3 years and this will assist in reducing those numbers.
- LT-FAE are given S-290, Preliminary Fire Investigation, Wildland Strategy and Tactics. I-Zone, Firing Operations, Firefighter Survival, Structure Fire Command, Company Officer - Fire Ground Command. This training meets the base level response for an LT-FAE. S-290 is required for Single Resource Boss – Engine under NWCG-310-1.
- LT-FAE will be eligible to start their JAC Apprenticeship Program. Work is underway to develop the JAC Program for LT-FAE and this will create significant progress in meeting our Succession Plan.

- The plans currently in place to develop training facilities for FFA and other ICS/management courses at CTC will allow the Academy to provide the additional COA classes needed for LT-FAE in 06/07.

Office of State Fire Marshal

Fire and Life Safety staff is meeting with Porterville Fire Department and the Porterville Developmental Center to discuss the provisions of a MOU between the two entities. The issue is regarding the Fire Department's response to the center as well as issues arising due to the rapid growth of the forensic program at the Developmental Center.

Fire Engineering Staff is working on dates and locations for this year's fireworks training classes. Currently classes are scheduled for:

May 10 in Concord. Hosted by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

May 12 at Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside. Hosted by CDF- Riverside Unit

May 18 at Davis. Hosted by the Davis Fire Department

May 19 At Ventura. Hosted by the Ventura Fire Department

The training will be conducted by CDF/OSFM personnel experienced in the field of Public Display Fireworks and industry personnel with extensive experience in the conduct of Public Display Fireworks. To register, or for further information contact Supervising ABI Greg Smith greg.smith@fire.ca.gov

The OSFM Pipeline Safety Program, National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), and the Dept. of Transportation hosted a pipeline conference in Monterey on April 18th. There were about 80 attendees, 30 of which were from the fire service.

A series of pipeline safety train-the-trainer one-day courses are scheduled for San Diego, LA, Contra Costa County and Sacramento in May and June.

The Department of Transportation notified the OSFM Pipeline Safety Program that we would be receiving \$1,068,980 in federal grant money this year to carry out our responsibilities in California for interstate pipelines.

Mobile Equipment Management

After many long hours of compiling additional information for the Fire Engine and ECT bid package the bid package addendum was issued by DGS Procurement to all vendors electronically late Friday. The bid opening date for the 42 engines, 24 ECT's and the 15 OES engines has been rescheduled to May 17. I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work and dedication to the staff that provided written answers to the 78 pages of questions that were received from the 28 apparatus and component manufacturers who attended the pre-bid conference at Davis.

A Placer Fire Model # 35 was released to the Tehama/Glen Unit, three sedans to Southern Region Headquarters and one pick-up to San Bernardino.

Davis received the last two International Model # 34 cab and chassis that are part of the order of eight Model # 34's that are currently just starting construction at Placer Fire. Additionally, DGS Procurement has released an invitation to bid for one Transport and the invitation to bid for 16 ECT cab & chassis is to be released for bid later this week.

ROSS Implementation

The statewide use of Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) began on Saturday April 15, 2006. On that day CDF, OES, and the contract counties began entering all new resource orders into ROSS. All federal agencies in California began using ROSS exclusively on January 1, 2006. ROSS replaces the Multi-Agency Incident Resource Processing System MIRPS.

During its eleven-year life span, over 56,000 incidents were logged in MIRPS. ROSS is sponsored by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group NWCG and has been active nationally since 2003. Now that all federal, state, and local wildland agencies statewide are active ROSS users, it is anticipated that over 60% of all ROSS transactions in the nation will occur within California.

California All Incident Reporting System

CAIRS will begin field pilot testing the last weeks in June. The organizing of data in National Fire Information Reporting System (NFIRS) standard is based on the Fire Department Identification Number (FDID). All fire departments in California have their own FDID issued by the State Fire Marshal Office, this includes all fire departments that contract with CDF have their own.

CDF CAIRS will be accepting data under 137 different FDIDs at this time. The FDID must come from CAD. The next CAD build that is to be installed around June 1 will have the necessary improvements in it to allow CAD to push the correct FDID and have it populate in CAIRS. This information is important in many ways: filtering out incidents that do not require CAIRS input, searching for the incident a person is responsible for inputting, unique incident identification, and more. This feature greatly improves the 'user friendliness' of the CAIRS program. All 21 CDF Units will be live on Alturas CAD by May 10, 2006.

Resource Management/Legal

The Department recently received news of a decision by the Fifth Appellate District Court regarding CDF's previous approval of three SPI plans in Tuolumne County. The court's ruling, which centered on unacceptable cumulative impact evaluation for wildlife and herbicide use, is contrary to an earlier ruling by the Third Appellate District Court over a year ago. The Department is considering various options on this matter.