

Communiqué

Why 100 feet?...

...Because Defensible Space is YOUR responsibility.



From the Director

The Challenge Ahead

The next four years of the Governor's administration will provide CAL FIRE with a number of key opportunities and challenges. The primary responsibilities of the department remain the protection of life, property, and the environment within State Responsibility Areas (SRA), within contracted local government areas, in response to mutual aid requests, and responding to mission tasking from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. These responsibilities are carried out through CAL FIRES's Fire Protection, Office of the State Fire Marshal, and Resource Management programs with support from other administrative programs (Management Services, Legal, Legislative, and Communications).

The following are some of the key objectives for the department over the next four years:

The department will complete a reorganization that better integrates Fire Protection, Resource Management, and State Fire Marshal responsibilities. The department will clarify the mission of the organization by reviewing legislative mandates, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policies, historical mission tasking by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Governor's Executive Orders, and other legal findings.

The department will continue to focus on the maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure and equipment to meet our

public safety mission and to coordinate with other state agencies on interoperability.

- **Succession** - The department will continue to prepare the next generation of leaders to handle the broad mission of the department. We will recruit, train, and retain our talented workforce. We will finalize and implement a succession plan and an employee development program that ensures that personnel selected for any position are qualified by training and experience.

- **Fire Suppression** - We will actively and aggressively control structure fires and wildfires to safeguard lives, property, and the environment, while protecting watersheds and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

- **Aviation** - We will evaluate and maintain aviation capabilities to ensure that CAL FIRE fixed-wing and helicopter fleet is able to meet all necessary response mission needs. We will pursue partnership opportunities and funding to maintain access to "Supertanker" aircraft.

- **Troop Strength** - We will strengthen staffing levels to meet a minimum goal of 3-person staffing for state engines, and staffing of Schedule A and Amador Plan Contracts at 3-persons, where possible, but not less than 2-person



at a minimum. Where and when appropriate, we will increase staffing levels to 4-person staffing.

- **Cooperative Agreements** - The department will continue to pursue cooperative agreements with local government when it is financially and operationally in the interest of the state, as well as the local government entity.

- **Strengthen Fire Prevention and Planning** - A key planning element of CAL FIRE's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Prevention is the development and rollout of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps initially for State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) next year. This will include working with local government to implement newly adopted Building Standards with the fire hazard severity zone maps.

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Communiqué

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From the Cover...

This year CAL FIRE will expand the "Why 100 feet?" campaign with an emphasis on homeowner's responsibility with an education tour of California during Wildfire Awareness Week. Read more about the tour on page 12.

A Final Salute to a Hero

CAL FIRE pays tribute to Chief Bryan Zollner

On April 19, thousands of firefighters from across the state gathered in Redding to honor the life of Bryan Zollner, Northern Region Staff Chief of Operations.

With tears and laughter, family, friends and colleagues came together to remember Zollner.

An April 12 single vehicle traffic accident claimed the life of Chief Zollner, 44, of Redding. He was killed when his vehicle left State Route 44 near Bogard Rest Area, 60 miles East of Redding in Lassen County.

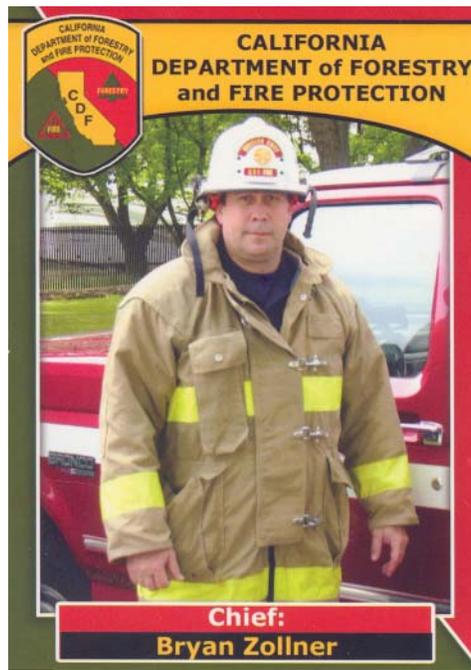
“Each day California firefighters put their lives on the line assisting and protecting our citizens. Chief Zollner gallantly served our state with courage and skill,” said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

“CAL FIRE lost one of its best and brightest leaders,” Chief Ruben Grijalva said. “His passing will affect our organization for a long time to come.”

Chief Zollner was a committed, unselfish and knowledgeable member of the fire community who gave everything he had to make the world safe for others. Zollner donated his home for use as a model in fire prevention materials distributed in the department’s statewide campaign for defensible space. He was greatly respected among firefighters and all who were lucky enough to have known him.

Zollner came from a family with a legacy of firefighting. His father was a fire chief for the city of Oroville; his great grandfather was a firefighter in Detroit. In

1981 Zollner was hired as a seasonal firefighter by the Butte Unit. He worked a year for the Oroville Fire Department before returning to CAL FIRE as a limited term Firefighter II in the Fresno-Kings Unit. In 1985, he returned to the Butte Unit as a limited term



Fire Apparatus Engineer with the Chico Battalion. For one year he worked for the Yuba City Fire Department.

Zollner returned to CAL FIRE in 1986 as a permanent Firefighter II in Santa Clara Unit, received a quick promotion to Fire Apparatus Engineer and went to work at the Ramona Air Attack Base in San Diego. He was promoted three years later to Fire Captain at Bautista Conservation Camp in the Riverside Unit. Zollner worked in the Riverside Unit in various

locations and positions including Battalion Chief and Chief of the Norco Conservation Camp.

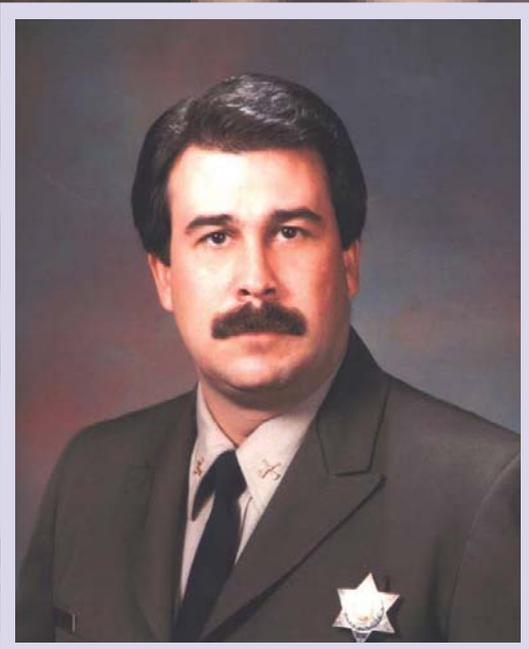
In 2001, Zollner accepted the position of Deputy Chief with the public education office for CAL FIRE in Sacramento. In 2002 he went to Northern Region as Deputy Chief for Conservation Camp coordination and North Ops Operations. In 2005 he was named Assistant Chief Operations in Tehama Glenn Unit. In 2006 he returned to Northern Region as Staff Chief for operations.

Zollner was very active on numerous Incident Command Teams. He was the Incident Commander on Team 3, as well as an Operations Section Chief, and Plans Section Chief.

In 1998 Chief Zollner received the Medal of Valor for an off-duty rescue of a child from a burning structure in Riverside.

Bryan Zollner is survived by his wife Pam; son Ty; daughter Alexia Moore; son-in-law Charles Moore; two grandchildren; sister Tracy Zollner; and parents Bob and Brenda Zollner.





Photos from the April 19 memorial for Bryan Zollner in Redding.
Photos by Wes Scultz.

Arson & Bomb Investigators Take the Risk

ABI responds to emergencies with brand new robots

By Mallory Fites, communications assistant, Communications, Sacramento Headquarters

When a condensed milk truck ran into the South Side of the Capitol Building in Sacramento, the accident was splattered across every television on January 16, 2001. Anthony Guevara, a CAL FIRE investigator and bomb technician, recalls the anticipation of watching the scene on television and knowing he would be called to work that night.

Guevara joined the scene with at least 40 other agencies from A to Z and worked 36 hours straight.

“That was a long, long day,” he said.

CAL FIRE arson and bomb investigators are located within the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and provide assistance to local government in investigations of arsons and bombings. They also provide bomb squad services to local governments who don't have their own bomb squads.

The OSFM received two Vanguard Remotely Operated Vehicles, or robots this April to assist in their services to both the state and local governments.

Funds for the robots were provided by a Homeland Security grant. Four more robots will be purchased with the grant and utilized

by arson and bomb investigators this year.

The cost of each robot ranges from the low-cost model of \$55,000 each to the most expensive at \$250,000 each.

“We've never owned them, just used them before,” Guevara said.

Each robot is equipped with three color cameras, including one infra-red camera for night operations, a claw camera and a drive camera. Each camera transmits video to a single command console to view objects at the scene.

The claw camera featured on the telescopic arm assists investigators in determining if a suspicious device is a real threat. The arm's claw hand can lift objects weighing up to 40 pounds and reaches objects up to 2.2 meters away.



Above, an Arson and Bomb investigator practices in one of ABI's new bomb suits.

Right, one of CAL FIRE's newest bomb robots.

Photos by Mallory Fites



Lights, a laser, and two firing circuits are also mounted on the robots.

These robots have a low profile in order to reach under vehicles and can go up and down stairs at a 45 degree angle.

According to the manufacturer, the Vanguard robots are faster, more durable, can fit into the trunk of a car and have an advanced modular design for easy field repair.

According to Guevara, in 2009 the FBI will be mandating each bomb squad to have at least one robot.

Arson and bomb investigators are responsible for investigating all fires and explosions that occur in any state facility as well as any accident on site of a licensed company or industry.

CAL FIRE arson and bomb investigators recently responded to investigations involving a fatal fire in San Joaquin County, and an explosion in a residential area due to an attempted suicide in which a house was filled with natural gas in Tracy, California.

Bomb technicians go through a training process to ensure they are fit to deal with all types of emergency situations.

To do the job, "it takes a certain kind of person," Guevara said.

Bomb technicians train at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hazardous Devices School at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, the only school in the U.S. where 2,600 bomb technicians are trained and certified, according to the FBI website.

The school is known for teaching bomb technicians from the ground up, Guevara said.

The six-week training includes working with basic explosives, disposal techniques, advanced render safe procedures for post blast explosions and specialty courses on state-of-the-art robots. Trainees also learn to respond to suicide attacks, large vehicle bombs, weapons of mass destruction, and mortar attacks.

The campus includes mock environments such as, a church, bus and airline terminals, a bank,



strip mall, apartments and practical challenges like, curbs, steps, windows, and tight places that bomb techs—and their robots—might run into.

Trainees attend post-blast schools for up to two weeks, and then attend an advanced training school for large vehi-

cles, learning to read and process a scene.

Additional training includes learning about proper disposal techniques and explosive chemicals.

"If you do something at school you'll go home at night, if something happens in the real world you might not," said Guevara.

Every three years, certified bomb technicians must return to Redstone Arsenal to be re-certified, which is a time when bomb technicians consult with other experienced technicians, transfer information and get the latest FBI updates.

Being a bomb technician requires at least a five year commitment. To be an arson investigator, one must go through seven special training classes that meet state fire training curriculum and approved courses in fire investigation provided by OSFM.

It requires 120 hours of training and practicing on-scene investigation techniques, such as, training burns where one looks for burn patterns. Current training focuses on structure fires, but in another two years OSFM is hoping to expand its courses to include wild land investigation courses, OSFM Chief of Law Enforcement, Tom Hoffman said.

Depending on the circumstances there are at least two bomb technicians to a scene because the 85-pound suit they wear is difficult to put on alone.

Arson and bomb investigators also recieved three new bomb suit with the latest technology.

Award Winning Airport Station

San Luis Obispo Station honored for its innovative construction and design

By Dale Rodriguez, fire captain, San Luis Obispo Unit

On March 24, 2006, CAL FIRE's San Luis Obispo Unit dedicated its new Fire Station 21 located at the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport.

Station 21 received the "Obispo Beautification Award" for new construction and the Honor Award for design excellence from the Concrete Masonry Association,

America Institute of Architects, California Council.

Fire Station 21 was designed by LEA Architects, LLC of Phoenix, Arizona who have designed over 50 fire stations nationwide, including several Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) stations.

Station 21 is unique to CAL FIRE as it is the only fire station in the state that provides ARFF

protection to an airport with commercial airline operations.

The completed station includes six bedrooms, three bathrooms, one public restroom, training/emergency operation room, work-out room, large kitchen and day room, pantry, two offices, laundry facilities, turnout room, and six apparatus bays. The entire station is designed with rapid response in mind.

The cost of the completed fire station with furnishings came in just over \$3.2 million with approximately 50 percent of the funds coming from FAA grants.

San Luis Obispo Regional Airport was built in the 1930s and served as an air defense facility during World War II. In 1980, it had 212 based aircraft with annual aircraft flights of 151,000.

Currently, the airport serves three major airline commuters-Delta, United and American-with direct

connections to Los Angeles and San Francisco. It hosts two fixed-wing flight schools, one helicopter flight school, and a variety of privately owned and operated general aviation aircraft.

The airlines operate approximately 42 flights



Above, Crash 21, an aircraft rescue engine, runs through a crash drill.

Right, Airport Station 21 at dusk.

Photos provided courtesy of San Luis Obispo Airport Station Staff



a day with the airport supporting 92,000 flights annually.

Station 21 personnel staffs one T-1500 Oshkosh ARFF vehicle 24-7 and has the ability to staff a reserve Oshkosh P-4 if needed. The P-4 is expected to be replaced when a new Oshkosh

Striker crash truck arrives in a few months.

Other equipment at the station which respond to emergencies in the surrounding Edna Valley include a staffed type I fire engine, a type II medium rescue with mass casualty capabilities,

an inflatable boat with motor for swift water and surf rescue responses, and a 3,000-gallon water tender. The ARFF vehicle and the type I engine are staffed by permanent personnel with the rescue and water tender served by a very active and dedicated 25 person Paid Call Fire Company.

DIRECTOR: continued from page 9

We will be conducting training for California Building Officials on the Wildland Urban Interface Building Standards set to go into effect in January 2008.

We will increase defensible space inspections, enforcement, and monitoring of overall compliance.

• **Arson Prevention and Fireworks Enforcement** - We will improve and expand arson prevention measures with federal, state and local enforcement agencies. We will create penalty-based funding mechanisms for fireworks enforcement to reduce the use of dangerous fireworks.

• **“Green Construction” - Fire & Life Safety** - The department will work with the Governor’s Office, public agencies and private businesses to promote “Green Construction” and ensure that this promotion does not reduce the fire and life safety values in residential, commercial or industrial construction.

As the Governor has correctly noted, the effects of climate change represent the greatest environmental challenges we face today. CAL FIRE’s Fire Protection, Fire Prevention and Resource Management mission directly contribute to meeting the

Governor’s green house gas reduction goals now and in the future. Similarly, the consequences of climate change are influencing the severity, length and diversity of incidents that CAL FIRE must be prepared to successfully respond to in order to protect both the people and the economic and environmental assets of California. CAL FIRE is pursuing a comprehensive action plan to meet the Governor’s Climate Action Goals:

1. **Increase Tree Planting Statewide to Capture Carbon Dioxide** - We plan to maximize the use of bond funds (Propositions 12, 50 and 84) to expand and increase urban and rural tree planting. We will also partner with local government, non-profit, and private sector entities to accomplish our objective of supporting efforts that result in an additional five million trees in urban areas by 2020.

2. **Conserve Forest Landscapes to Optimize Carbon Storage** - We will work with local government to support improved land use planning to conserve forested lands (e.g. Timber Production Zones) and minimize the impact of conversion to other uses.

We will continue to work closely with local government to obtain

maximum consideration of wild-fire safety adaptation and mitigation during revision of the fire safety element of individual county general plans.

3. **Grow Trees Faster to Store More Carbon** - The department will enhance the research and demonstration capabilities of the entire state demonstration forest system to become known for conducting “World Class” interdisciplinary research. We will support ongoing research in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and University of California (e.g. Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management). We are near completion of a new management plan for Jackson Demonstration State Forest and we will update other state forest plans in accordance with Board of Forestry policy and with stakeholder support.

These are just a few of the many priorities for the years ahead. As we move into fire season we must keep focused and always remember **Safety First**.

Regards,



For the entire message from the Chief visit : www.fire.ca.gov

Mapping California's Wildland

2007 fire hazard zones target structure survivability

By Dean Cromwell, manager, Fire and Resource Assessment Program, Sacramento Headquarters

Buildings in many parts of California can be lost in a wild-fire. Years of experience by fire agencies and others have led to a statutory strategy for reducing the chance of building loss or damage. It is a two-pronged approach: 1) defensible space - reduce vegetation around homes to keep direct flames and heat away from the sides of buildings; and 2) ignition resistant buildings - construct buildings so that they have less chance of catching fire from burning embers.

Kate Dargan, State Fire Marshal, explained: "Most of the highest wildfire losses take place during hot, windy days or nights when flames spread so fast that many buildings catch fire and overwhelm available firefighting forces." Buildings catch fire when burning embers enter the building. Examples are embers falling on wood roofs, blowing in through vents, piling up in cracks, and being lodged under boards. By constructing buildings in a way that cuts down the ability of embers to intrude, a major cause of fire spread is reduced.

Dargan pointed out that recently adopted building code standards do exactly that: reduce the risk

of burning embers igniting buildings. She indicated that standards already in effect place provisions on roofing and attic venting. Dargan added: "New building code standards for California, which take effect January 2008 require ignition-resistant siding and decking, double-paned windows,

vivability during conflagrations," said Dargan. "Requiring that homes in hazard areas are built using ignition-resistant methods and materials will affect how we fight fires, the number of structures lost and the cost of suppression."

In some instances, these new standards tie requirements to the fire hazard severity zone rating of a building site. Roofing standards vary by the hazard zone rating of the site. Other standards apply throughout areas where the State has financial responsibility for fire protection and areas in local jurisdiction designated as having a very high fire hazard zone ranking.

As part of implementing the new regulation, the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) is redoing the maps for fire hazard severity zones.

"We realized that if the building standards were going to be based on these maps, they needed to be accurate because they are going to undergo a lot of scrutiny," Dargan said. The existing state responsibility area fire hazard maps were developed in the mid-1980s, using mapping techniques and information available then.



Above, a look at the draft updated Fire Hazard Severity Zoning Map.

enclosed overhanging decks, and eave and wall vents that reduce ember penetration.

"This project is taking a bite out of one of the important wildland-urban interface issues facing California - that is structure sur-

Local responsibility area maps were developed in the mid-1990s. It was clearly time to update the maps to ensure that they identify the hazard correctly.

Over a two-year process, FRAP's mapping experts, led by Dave Sapsis, developed a new model that would serve as the basis of zone assignments. The model evaluates each property

techniques, and data," explained Sapsis. "It is important to note that the fire hazard severity zone maps evaluate 'hazard,' not 'risk,'" Sapsis added. Hazard is based on the physical conditions that give us a likelihood that an area will burn over a 30- to 50-year period without considering modifications such as fuel reduction efforts. Risk is the potential damage a fire can do to the area under existing conditions, including any modifications such as defensible space, irrigation and sprinklers. In this way, fire hazard maps are like local flood zone maps.

The minimum zone size varies from 20 acres in urbanized areas to 200 acres in wildland areas. "Urban areas have different fire hazards because they have different

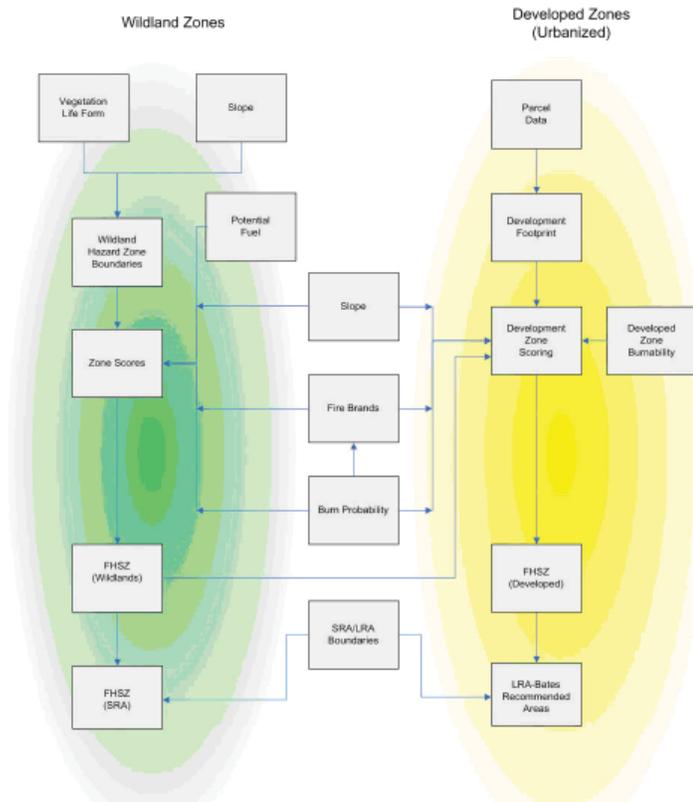
types of fuels in varying amounts as well as increased fire detection and response," according to Sapsis. Urban/developed zones are determined by a combination of parcel data, census data, and FRAP's statewide vegetation map data. Urban zones are classified by the wildland hazard near the developed area, the vegetation density in the developed

area, and the likely influence of embers.

Draft maps have been reviewed by the 21 CAL FIRE units statewide and six contract counties; their recommendations for changes are now being reviewed. Maps for areas where the State has financial responsibility for fire protection, called state responsibility areas, are set for public release in May. A comprehensive public hearing process will take place in June and July 2007. Recommendations for very high fire hazard severity zones in areas of local responsibility will be made early next year.

As part of the regulatory process to adopt maps, CAL FIRE will host public hearings in each of the 56 counties that have state responsibility area lands. Prior to the public hearings, local officials in each affected community will receive a package containing background information and a link to online maps for review. At the hearings, CAL FIRE staff experts will explain the science-based model used to develop the 2007 version of the fire hazard severity zone maps and take public comment. A media and public outreach effort will coincide with each hearing.

The adoption process for the local responsibility area maps will be conducted by the local government agencies. Local governments will conduct public hearings and adopt local ordinances. CAL FIRE will provide technical assistance throughout this process.



The above model shows the different factors used to determine the fire severity zones.

using characteristics that affect the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area based on elements such as fire history, potential fuel over a 30- to 50-year period, flame length, blowing embers, terrain, weather and the likelihood of buildings igniting.

"The updated maps reflect improved fire science, mapping

Updated information and support documents for FHSZ are available on FRAP's website at <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/fhsz/review.html>

Trees are Part of the Solution to Global Climate Change

CAL FIRE is a major player on the Governor's Climate Action Team

By June Iljana, print/electronic information manager, Communications, Sacramento Headquarters

The challenge created by global climate change is daunting. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that affects changes in the earth's climate. Trees collect carbon dioxide from the air, store carbon in wood, and release carbon dioxide when burned. To make a major difference in global climate change, Californians must think trees.

"Because trees collect and store carbon, our efforts in forest man-

agement and fire protection are key elements in reducing greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere," said CAL FIRE Director Ruben Grijalva. "CAL FIRE oversees areas of the state's economy and environment that can contribute

as much as 20 percent of the targeted reduction in greenhouse gasses." Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced on June 1, 2005, his goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in California. Through an executive order, the Governor called for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by 2010; to 1990 levels by 2020; and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. On Sept. 27, 2006, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 32 (Nunez/Pavley), putting those targets into law.

"Forestry is a net benefit in terms of greenhouse gasses, not a net source," explained Crawford Tuttle, Chief Deputy Director of CAL FIRE. "By capturing carbon in our forests and using the right forest management practices in the right place, we are one-fifth of the solution."

Tuttle represents CAL FIRE on the Climate Action Team, a consortium of state departments charged with implementing what is considered the world's most comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction strategy. CAL FIRE's piece of the state carbon reduction strategy is based on a five point plan for greater efficiency in "carbon sequestration" or storing carbon in wood.

Grow trees faster and smarter to store more carbon. Forest management can improve carbon storage substantially. The California Forest Improvement Program provides grants and technical assistance to help small forestland owners improve their management.

Control wildfires to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in smoke. Aggressive firefighting to control 95 percent of fires at 10 acres or less combined with good forest management can reduce the number of large fires that can release 35 to 75 tons of carbon per fire and destroy forests.

Conserve forest landscapes to retain trees and optimize carbon storage. CAL FIRE is working with the Forest Legacy Program and the Wildlife Conservation Board to acquire forest lands or easements from willing sellers for conservation purposes.

Increase urban and rural tree planting statewide for urban cooling and to capture carbon dioxide. The goal is to plant five million trees between now and 2020 using bond funds to support projects such as "One Million Trees L.A." and "Sacramento Green Print." Trees cool the urban environment and reduce the energy used for air conditioning.

Promote the use of wood from forests to diversify our energy supply. CAL FIRE is working with the California Energy Commission and the Public



Utilities Commission to increase the amount of energy produced from woody forest residue (biomass) as an alternative to fossil fuels.

“Climate change affects temperature, precipitation and localized weather patterns. These

changes will affect the frequency and intensity of wildfires; forest growth, composition, and distribution; and forest health,” explained Tuttle. “At this point, California’s forests can be part of the solution to global climate change. If we aren’t successful,

the nature of the fire threat will certainly increase.”

For more information on the Climate Action Team’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California or the Governor’s other environmental action initiatives, visit www.climatechange.ca.gov.

Communications Corner

Wildfire Awareness Week 2007

By Alisha Herring, staff services analyst, Communications, Sacramento Headquarters

Wildfire Awareness Week 2007, May 6-12, offers CAL FIRE an annual opportunity to get the word out about wildland fire prevention and preparedness for all who live in wildfire areas of California.

This year’s theme, “**Why 100 feet?... Because defensible space is YOUR responsibility,**” promotes the idea that protecting a home starts with the homeowner. The CAL FIRE Communications Office is working with units statewide to reach as many property owners as possible with this message by hosting a week’s worth of public events statewide.

CAL FIRE Headquarters will kick off Wildfire Awareness Week with a ceremony at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Monday, May 7. A number of distinguished guests will be on-hand to promote safety as well as to officially introduce the term CAL FIRE. Vehicles freshly striped with the CAL FIRE markings will debut at the Capitol and will travel to each event throughout the week. We have also prepared displays featuring defensible space, CAL FIRE, and a demonstration of the

vast responsibilities our department has and responds to.

The Capitol event will be followed by events in El Dorado, Shasta, Fresno, San Diego and Riverside Counties. During each event, CAL FIRE will focus public and media attention on the how and why of defensible space. CAL FIRE has arranged to run a week of pre-event radio promotion in each area leading up to the event followed by a live radio broadcast at each event location.

The day of the event, the host unit will provide media tours that showcase homes with good defensible space and crews assigned to fire prevention projects. In the afternoon, the public is invited to come out and participate in defensible space and fire safety demonstrations, see equipment displays, pick up fire safety educational materials, and talk with fire fighters and fire prevention specialists.

In addition, CAL FIRE has partnered with local hardware stores to raffle a limited number of yard tools such as saws, rakes, trimmers and gloves at each event to encourage residents to create their own defensible space.

Event Schedule

Monday, May 7

City: Sacramento

Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: State Capitol - Kick-off with the presentation of the Governor’s Proclamation.

County: El Dorado County

Time: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Cameron Park Station, 3200 Country Club Dr, Cameron Park

Tuesday, May 8

County: Shasta County

Time: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Sunset Marketplace, 3685 Eureka Way, Redding

Wednesday, May 9

County: Fresno County

Time: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: Millerton State Park, 5290 Millerton Road, Friant

Friday, May 11

City: San Diego County

Time: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: San Diego Headquarters, 2249 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon

Saturday, May 12

City: Riverside County

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: Hemet Air Attack Base, 4710 West Stetson Ave, Hemet

New State Fire Marshal Appointed

Kate Dargan becomes first woman state fire marshal

On March 26, 2007 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Katherine “Kate” Dargan as California’s state fire marshal. Dargan’s appointment comes after former State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva was appointed CAL FIRE director.

“Kate’s expertise in the public safety field as a hands-on firefighter and in high level management positions within the department greatly qualifies her to fill this position,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “I look forward to working with her in this leadership role. I also want to thank Ruben Grijalva for all his tremendous work as state fire marshal and am excited to continue working with him in his new capacity as

director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.”

Dargan has over 30 years of

ter response including the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

Prior to joining the Cooperative Fire Protection, Dargan served as battalion chief for the air attack base and conservation camp in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer unit from 1997 to 2000, where she founded the Nevada County Fire Safe Council. Dargan began her career with CAL FIRE as a firefighter in Santa Cruz County in 1977, before being promoted to fire captain and fire apparatus engineer in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties from 1980 to 1994.

She serves as co-chair of the Wildland-Urban Interface Committee and is an appointed member to the Napa County Watershed

Board. Additionally, Dargan is a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, National Fire Protection Association and the American Planning Association.

Chief Dargan’s appointment is historical, as she becomes the first woman state fire marshal. “I am honored Governor Schwarzenegger has chosen me as the first woman to become California’s state fire marshal,” said Dargan. “I look forward to utilizing my extensive and unique background with CAL FIRE in this new position.”

Dargan lives in Napa and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources management from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.



Director Ruben Grijalva swears in new State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan.

Photos by Daniel Berlant

experience with CAL FIRE. Since 2005, she has served as the assistant state fire marshal. From 2002 to 2005, Dargan served as the Napa County Fire Marshal in the Sonoma-Lake-Napa unit and before that was the division chief for Sacramento Headquarters’ Cooperative Fire Protection in

2001, where she was the CAL FIRE liaison to state agencies involved in disas-

Conversation...

Chief Scott Holmquist

By Mallory Fites, communications assistant, Sacramento Headquarters



Chief Scott Holmquist has worked for CAL FIRE for 27 years. He was recently appointed Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection on December 18, 2006. We stopped by his office to learn more about his career and new position with CAL FIRE:

Can you give us an overview of your career with CAL FIRE?

In October 1980 I was a firefighter with the Shasta County Fire Department which contracted with CAL FIRE. I later became a fire apparatus engineer. In August 1985 I promoted to Fire Captain B at the now closed Black Mountain Conservation Camp in Sonoma. In February of 1988 I transferred to the Emergency Command Center in Shasta.

In 1992 I transferred to the schedule B station and later that year promoted to a Battalion Chief. In 1993 I transferred to the Sierra Cascade Region as an Emergency Command Chief.

In July 1995 I transferred to the Shasta Trinity unit as the ECC Chief. In April 1999 I took a field battalion position. In July 2000 I promoted to Assistant Chief of Operations in the Shasta Trinity unit and in May 2006 I promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations. Then in December of 2006 I accepted this position.

How have you spent your first few months as Assistant Deputy Director?

Getting to know the programs I oversee and getting a better understanding of the business processes for the different functions within the department.

How do you define your new role as Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection?

I support the department's regions and units with their needs.

What has been your biggest accomplishment during your career?

When I oversaw the Shasta County Fire Department and I secured several millions of dollars for apparatus. As far as the State goes, working in a lot of the program areas at different levels.

What are some of your initial impressions regarding the changes over the last year and changes to come?

The big ones are year-round immediate response assignments (IRAs) for employees and changing the firefighter work week to 72 hours. As for the future, training folks for the upcoming years to fill up the retirements that have occurred over the last few years.

What do you enjoy doing while not at work?

A lot of things, the first being with my family and the second skiing-both snow skiing and waterskiing.

Can you tell us more about your family?

My wife of 19 years is a personal trainer, which hasn't done much for me. I have a daughter who is a senior in high school; she just competed in the statewide Snowboard Championship.

When Director Ruben Grijalva presented Dee Tokimitsu with a certificate acknowledging her appointment to the assistant deputy director, OSFM Programs & Administration position he said, "Dee has been looking out for me even before I knew her." He was referring to the endless dedication that he has come to value so much from his loyal assistant.

By appointing Tokimitsu to this position, then Acting State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan was also acknowledging and rewarding her long hours and hard work in support of the department's recent evolution.

"I see my job as supporting project management and assisting in any way, Chiefs Grijalva and Dargan to implement their vision of where the department and its programs are going."

Tokimitsu has been in state service for 28 years, primarily in Human Resources/Personnel and Equal Employment Opportunity/Recruitment. She started with CAL FIRE in 1989 as an Associate Personnel Analyst and worked her way up through the ranks. She came to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in 2002 where she served as Chief of Administrative Services.

In her current position, the hours can be long but she says they are worth it. She is usually the last one to leave the Sacramento office, but she says she is not the only

one working late. "The OSFM staff is very dedicated and truly enjoy their jobs." She is happy to be available to guide staff as they carry out their duties within the structure of CAL FIRE and the OSFM.

Assistant Deputy Director, State Fire Marshal Administrative Programs and Support

Dee Tokimitsu

*By Karen Terrill, communications officer,
Office of the State Fire Marshal*



"Having been with CAL FIRE for most of my career, and having served as the Ombudsperson to the State Fire Marshal's Office staff in the 1995 consolidation, I find it gratifying to watch the State Fire Marshal's office coming together with CAL FIRE in a fully integrated work force."

Most people make resolutions one

year at a time. Tokimitsu, however looks at her life one decade at a time. For the upcoming decade, Dee plans to focus on how she can contribute to her community. She says she is impressed with many of the social programs she has observed in San Francisco where she visits her son, and would like to see Sacramento, "emulate their passion and commitment."

Tokimitsu has been mentoring others for years. Many of those she assisted are now in positions of authority and are mentoring others. She is especially cogni-

zant of cultural differences and served and consulted on recruitment and hiring teams to provide sensitivity and diversity training from the early 1980s through the 1990s. "Having been raised in an extended family with my grandfather being the authority figure, I am thankful for all the values and character building he instilled. The two most important were loyalty to family and friends and to demonstrate the utmost respect for elders and persons of authority."

Dee has two adult children; a son Joel and daughter Marni. She has been married to her husband Doug for 42 years who retired from the Department of Justice in 1998. They live in the foothills outside of Sacramento with their 17-year-old cockatiel, Larry Bird.

Transitions... *A look at CAL FIRE's newest unit & staff chiefs*

Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU)

Chief Keith Larkin

By Meredith Fleener, office technician, Communications, Sacramento Headquarters



On April 2, 2007 Chief Keith Larkin was appointed Unit Chief of the Fresno-Kings Unit. Larkin brings with him 33 years of fire-fighting experience. Raised in the small town of Weaverville, CA, he began his CAL FIRE career as a seasonal firefighter in 1974 in the Shasta-Trinity Unit.

He promoted to Assistant Chief in 1997, at the CAL FIRE Academy as Director of Curriculum. In 2000, he transferred to the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU) as the North Division/Camp Division Chief. In 2004, he became the TCU Administration Officer. In 2005, he promoted

to Forestry and Fire Protection Administrator/Staff Chief as the Department Training Chief.

Now he strives to provide leadership, support, and direction for the entire unit. "Our unit has developed excellent relationships with the public and the media – I hope to keep us well recognized for our service and providing the highest quality of people."

Larkin believes the greatest aspect of CAL FIRE lies within its employee's tremendous work ethic, "That's a common thread in our department - we take pride in our service."

Fire Protection Operations Unit (SAC)

Chief Andy McMurry

By Mary Beth Kihlthau, student assistant, Fire Protection, Sacramento Headquarters



On January 1, 2007, Chief Andy McMurry was selected as the new staff chief of operations at Fire Protection Headquarters. Chief McMurry started his career with CAL FIRE in 1982 as Fire Fighter I in the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit. Throughout the past twenty-five years with CAL FIRE, Chief McMurry has worked in Mendocino, Fresno-Kings, Sonoma and Tuolumne-Calaveras units.

Chief McMurry said he had many career opportunities with CAL FIRE; the most rewarding of them was being able to be the firefighter causality family

liaison for the Schicke family in 2004. He is looking forward to assisting CAL FIRE in making the jump from the traditional mission to the new all-risk mission. Chief McMurry sees his role as making sure systems are in place and work properly so that resources get to where they need to go.

Chief McMurry's father and older brother are retired CAL FIRE employees and his other brother and sister-in-law are currently fire captains. Chief McMurry and his wife Sue, will be celebrating their nineteenth wedding anniversary in May.

Arbor Day Poster Contest



*Arbor Day Poster Winner
Joann Lee, a fifth grader from
Riverside, beat out 1,200 en-
tries to be this year's winner.*