

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CDF Has 13 Medal of Valor Winners **Governor to Present Awards at Special Ceremony**

Sacramento – For heroism in the line of duty, 13 fire fighters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will be presented with the Governor’s Medal of Valor in a ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento on Thursday, September 11, 2003 at 12:30 p.m.

“We are so very proud of all our CDF personnel who work hard and take risks every day to protect California’s people and the environment. They are all heroes”, said CDF Director Andrea Tuttle. “The individuals honored here have demonstrated selfless actions to save others from tragedy – from battling flames and smoke to bring residents trapped by fire to safety, to using swift water skills to rescue homeowners from rapidly rising floodwaters, to extracting a badly injured school bus victim from the smoke and debris of a horrendous crash. These acts exemplify the best of our extraordinary department, and we are proud to have them recognized with the Medal of Valor.”

All of the CDF award winners will be present at the ceremony, along with their families and those that they rescued.

CDF recipients of the Governor’s Medal of Valor for 2003:

Captain Felipe Gomez – Fresno-Kings Unit
Captain Darryl Sanford – Butte Unit
Firefighter Joe Saunders – Folsom City
Firefighter Will Krings – Fremont City
Captain Jeff Hawkins – Butte Unit
Firefighter Paul Carlos – Butte Unit
Captain James F. Mathias – Amador-El Dorado Unit
Battalion Chief Mike Boren – Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit
Captain Sean P. Norman – Butte Unit
Captain Branson K. “Skip” Ratsep – San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit
Captain Tom Oldag – Amador-El Dorado Unit
Captain Mike Carr – Butte Unit
Captain Mike Brunson – San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit

