

THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF TRAINING: The Office of the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Training, and CDF Academy programs provide training education and certification programs to the California Fire Service. Through practical training exercises and classroom courses, every California firefighter is exposed to training standards that have been approved by CDF and the OSFM, each among the best institutions in the nation for fire training education. Offering more than 1,000 classes annually, State Fire Training programs reach over 24,000 students each year and have issued more than 100,000 certifications to members of the more than 900 California fire departments, including CDF. Each year over 2,000 CDF personnel attend the CDF Academy in Ione, California participating in courses ranging from basic fire control and arson investigation, to leadership development and forest practice enforcement.

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH FIRE: California must do more than just suppress wildfires once they start. Reducing the risk of large wildfires, the costs of fighting wildfires, and loss of property and natural resources are the goals of CDF's fire prevention and planning programs. Driven by the California Fire Plan, developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and CDF over 10 years ago as a proactive approach to meet those goals, the department continues to be a leader in emphasizing community involvement, and developing and implementing pre-fire management solutions. Pre-fire management activities include fuel breaks, fire safe landscaping, removal of hazardous vegetation, and inspections for fire safe clearance around homes. CDF staff inspects more than 50,000 properties each year to ensure that wildland homeowners comply with fire safety regulations. Educating communities and homeowners on fire safety is a statewide effort led by the department's communications program. The program provides fire safety information via television, radio, print and the Internet. The CDF Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) Program includes over 2,600 citizen volunteers throughout the state. These VIPs donate their time, under the supervision of CDF, to teach children and adults basic fire and life safety measures. In addition, each of CDF's units initiate their own fire safety and prevention campaigns tailored to the needs of their communities. Most CDF units have established local fire safe councils to bring together citizens, local fire agencies, local governments, and other groups affected by wildfire such as insurance companies. The challenge of living in a fire prone state such as California is everyone's responsibility.

FIRE AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT: Current information on the supply, availability and condition of California's forest and rangeland resources is needed to develop appropriate policies to ensure the health and productivity of these wildlands. The FRAP unit identifies emerging resource issues on wildlands; analyzes the results of different types of land use and management on wildland conditions; and reviews and evaluates policies by federal, state and local agencies as they relate to wildland protection. FRAP also identifies and analyzes policy options for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection through demographic and other types of data, including information on vegetation, wildlife, soils, watersheds, fire behavior, and ownership.

PREVENTING FIRES TO KEEP YOU SAFE: The programs of the CDF Office of the State Fire Marshal are geared toward providing fire safety where people live, work and congregate. OSFM staff develop, interpret and enforce fire safety codes and laws covering state-owned and occupied buildings; fire extinguishers; fireworks, flame retardant chemicals; hazardous liquid pipelines; building materials; power lines; railroads; film industry activities; laboratory accreditation; and vapor recovery systems.

ENFORCING LAWS: To enforce state fire and forest laws, CDF Law Enforcement Program staff are trained and certified in accordance with California Peace Officer Standardized Training (POST). CDF investigators determine wildland fire causes, interview witnesses, issue citations and set up surveillance operations. Additionally, law enforcement staff provides assistance when requested by local fire and law enforcement agencies in arson, bomb, fireworks, and fire extinguisher investigations, as well as disposal of explosives. OSFM Arson and Bomb Specialists provide fire and bomb investigation services to state-owned facilities, and provide assistance to local government fire and law agencies. Department investigators have a very successful conviction rate.

*Learn more at the CDF web site at www.fire.ca.gov
May 2006*

