

Communique

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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December/January 2003

From The Director

CDF Mission and Response Based In Law

Our guest columnists this month, Northern Region Chief Dave Driscoll and Acting Chief Deputy Director Jim Wright



As CDF entered the New Year we found ourselves tasked by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to assist in three non-wild-land fire related emergencies. Specifically, the Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) incident in Southern California, the Glamis law enforcement incident in the desert of Southern California, and the major debris fire in the City of Fresno. Once again the long-recognized, outstanding emergency management skills of our CDF personnel were called upon to assist outside agencies. It is a testament to the dedication and expertise of the men and women of this Department, and to the laws and codes of California that allow us to do the job we do.

In the case of the END incident, in mid November OES requested that CDF acting Chief Deputy Director Jim Wright go to Southern California to evaluate the command situation that had been established by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and OES at Los Alamitos. That evaluation resulted in the determination that there were some deficiencies in the logistical and planning functions of the operation and that there was a need to initiate the Incident Command System (ICS) and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). After meeting with both OES and Food & Ag management it was determined that CDF assistance with these functions was necessary. The excellent working relationship established between CDF and OES allowed the request for CDF assistance to come straight through Chief Wright who immediately contacted CDF Southern

Our Mission: The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection protects the people of California from fires, responds to emergencies, and protects and enhances forest, range, and watershed values providing social, economic, and environmental benefits to rural and urban citizens.

Region Chief Tim Turner to get Department resources assigned. That incident is ongoing at this time.

With the debris fire in Fresno, the City of Fresno Fire Department initially responded to the incident. The magnitude of the incident, both in size and in related issues such as air quality, health, and hazardous materials resulted in the need for additional assistance. OES, along with local, state and federal regulatory agencies became involved and OES quickly contacted Chief Wright for CDF assistance in support of the incident.

In the final situation, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) contacted CDF directly for the law enforcement officers that participated in the Glamis Incident in Southern California, while OES tasked us for all the CDF medical and support staff assigned over the New Year's weekend. You can read more about each incident in separate articles in this issue of the Communique'.

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While it is CDF's outstanding ability to meet its wildfire and emergency response mission that finds this Department's personnel so often tasked to assist other agencies with their incidents, it is a multitude of codes and laws that have given us our mission, and our mandate to respond whenever needed. Let's take this opportunity to review some of those laws and the complex nature of emergency response in California.

Our responses to the three emergencies discussed above are based on the **California Emergency Services Act** (Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code) which requires the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to put together and maintain the **California Emergency Plan**. The State Emergency Plan authorizes OES to task CDF, or any other state agency with an emergency response capability, to respond when a general state of emergency is declared on such incidents as floods, earthquakes, hazardous material releases, riots, and acts of terrorism. Other agencies may also request assistance from CDF via OES. The specific law enforcement response requested directly by BLM on the Glamis Incident is based in **Public Resources Code 4119** which states in part, "The department, or its duly authorized agent, shall enforce the state forest and fire laws."

Government Code Section 8595 concerning assignment of emergency activities to a state agency states, "The Governor may assign a state agency any activity concerned with the mitigation of the effects of an emergency of a nature related to the existing powers and duties of such agency, including interstate activities, and it shall thereupon become the duty of such agency to undertake and carry out such activity on behalf of the state." This code relates specifically to our role in the END and Fresno incidents.

So we now know why CDF can be tasked by OES, but what about CDF's basic mission and responsibilities: Our basic **mission** can be found in **Public Resources Code 713** which states in part, "The department is responsible for the fire protection, fire prevention, maintenance, and enhance-

ment of the state's forest, range, and brush land resources, contract fire protection, associated emergency services, and assistance in civil and other nonfire emergencies."

Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4102 defines "**State Responsibility Areas**" as "... areas of the state in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires has been determined by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to **Section 4125**, to be primarily the responsibility of the state."

Public Resource Code 4170, defines our **wildland and fire protection responsibility** as "Any uncontrolled fire burning on any lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, grass, grain or any other flammable material, without proper precaution being taken to prevent its spread notwithstanding the origin of such fire, is a public nuisance by reason of its menace to life and property."

Beyond our mission, SRA, and the California Emergency Plan, perhaps the most important aspect of emergency response here in California is the extensive mutual aid system that exists between state and local government agencies on a daily basis. We also participate in a separate mutual aid arrangement which includes our Federal partners, as each fire season we work side by side with the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.

The basis for all **mutual aid** in California lies in **Section 51175 of the Government Code** which states, "The Legislature hereby finds and declares as follows: Fires are extremely costly, not only to property owners and residents, but also to local agencies. Fire poses a serious threat to the preservation of the public peace, health, or safety. Since fires ignore civil boundaries, it is necessary that cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, and federal agencies work together to bring raging fires under control."

Through numerous and intermingling agree-

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ments, the mutual aid system here in California in general, ensures that the nearest resource provides initial attack on a fire regardless of jurisdiction in the best interest of public safety. These agreements also provide for what types of services will be provided, for how long, and how and when reimbursements will begin.

Two other codes we should note are **Public Resources Code 4142** which covers our **Schedule A** agreements and states in part “ (a) The depart-

Schedule A is the term used when a local government contracts with, and pays CDF, to provide services such as fire protection, dispatching, medical aid, hazardous material response, etc.

ment may, with the approval of the Department of General Services, enter into a cooperative agreement upon the terms and under the conditions as it deems wise, for the purpose of preventing and suppressing forest fires or other fires in any lands within any county, city, or district which makes an appropriation for that purpose.” and **Public Resources Code 4144** which in similar language covers our **Amador** agreements.

Amador Agreement is the term used when local agencies contract with CDF for fire protection services during the “winter/non-fire season” period.

The local agency must reimburse CDF for any added costs associated with this service.

The fact that CDF now participates in over 200 cooperative agreements is a testament to the efforts of our Cooperative Fire Protection Program.

The state’s budget crisis and ensuing hiring issues leads us to our last law-based issue. The CDF Firefighters recently assisted the Department in finding a law that was passed in the 1980’s that excludes local government contract employees from the departmental person-year calculation and hiring freezes. This law allows our Department to continue the vital services that we are being reimbursed to provide. The law is **Government Code Section 18004**. “(a) Any report, study, audit,

evaluation, survey, or similar document prepared by any state officer or state agency, which discloses any change in the numbers of state employees or personnel years over any period of time, shall also segregate the numbers of counted state employees or personnel-years which are attributable to positions which are fully reimbursed by a local government agency pursuant to a contract with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

(b) Those positions attributed to local government contracts with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall not be subject to state personnel ceilings and hiring freezes.” We thank the CDF Firefighters for their efforts in locating this section of law.

The laws and codes included in this article are just a few of the hundreds that affect CDF. The legislative language is rarely the most interesting to sit down and read, and yet when you are tasked by OES, dispatched to an SRA fire, or responding to a local government medical aid, the reason behind it is all based in laws and codes that guide the Department you have chosen to be a part of.



From L to R: Region II Director Scott McDonald, CDF Firefighters Vice President Steve Hartman, CDF Firefighters President Bob Wolf, CDF Director Andrea Tuttle, CDF Deputy Director for Management Services Cindy Shamrock, CDF Acting Chief Deputy Director Jim Wright, and Rank and File Representative Tim O’Donoghue. The group met in January following Bob Wolf’s election as president of CDF Firefighters. All agreed it was a positive step, that established an open line of communications between the Union and the Department.

Executive Officer, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Dan Sendek

by Josh Hubbard, staff writer, Communique'

Having an organizer who can demonstrate a vast array of knowledge is a key ingredient to any organization's success. It helps to set the tone for the organization allowing the group to function as a unit. If this is the measure of success, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has found a great leader in Executive Officer Daniel Sendek. With experience, knowledge, and the right attitude, the Board has a solid foundation to lead them in the upcoming years.

Dan began his career in 1980 when he was awarded a graduate research assistant position for Humboldt State University's School of Natural Resources. Here Dan specialized in forest soils and served as a teaching assistant in soil science while working on his masters degree. In 1982 Dan received his first exposure to CDF when he was hired as a forestry aide at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Dan spent two years with CDF before moving on to the position of forester with the Louisiana-Pacific Corporation in Calpella, CA. Here Dan was responsible for the preparation and evaluation of Timber Harvesting Plans and he also supervised logging contracts to ensure compliance with California's Forest Practice Rules. Dan remained in this position until February of 1992 when he moved on to Hi-Ridge Lumber Company as a forester. During his six years with Hi-Ridge he also received valuable experience

when he served as the assistant chief of the South Yreka Fire Department. He also served on the special assessment district board that was involved in fiscal planning functions.

Most recently Dan spent three years from 1998-2001 as the Board's Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing before moving on to his current position as the Executive Officer of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is a Governor-appointed body within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection that is responsible for many tasks, including developing the forest policy of the state, determining the guidance policies of CDF, and representing the state's interests in federal lands in California. As the executive officer, Dan serves a group of nine members who meet monthly to determine forest policy and regulations which apply to non-federal forest lands in the state. "Sitting in graduate school years ago, I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity to serve in a position like the one I am in". As the executive officer, Dan is directly involved in assisting the Board in setting policy for the state's resource management and fire protection, changing the forest practice rules, reviewing state responsibility area (SRA), and maintaining the Board's presence in an array of issues, from research and projects to being involved with the Legislature



and other federal agencies. "It's interesting to be involved with the operations side of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. There are many aspects to the job and you have to know a little bit about everything". Executive Officer Daniel Sendek is a good example of a well-rounded leader ready to help the board in whatever ways he can.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing **George Gentry (YG)**

by Josh Hubbard, staff writer, *Communique*'

Last March, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection appointed George "YG" Gentry to serve in the position of Executive Officer for Foresters Licensing. YG replaced Dan Sendek, who had been in charge of Foresters Licensing since 1998, and was appointed to the position of Executive Officer of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection last year.

YG's distinctive nickname stems from the fact that his business partner for 25 years was his father, who was also named George. It was suggested long ago, that in order to distinguish between them they be known as "Young Growth" and "Old Growth", and that label has remained to this day. YG was a partner in Gentry and Gilliam Forest Consultants until 1977. He was involved in many aspects of forestry, including inventory, appraisal, harvesting plan layouts, and logging supervision. "My father served as a mentor to me, and I was able to work in a field that really interested me. Sometimes it seems like I was predestined to work in this job."



YG received his bachelor's degree in forest production management in 1983 from Humboldt State University. He is a member of the California Licensed Forester Association (CLFA), the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF).

Having been appointed to his new position, George is now responsible for enforcing the foresters licensing laws, developing and overseeing the foresters licensing exam, and reviewing and investigating complaints

against professional foresters, such as foresters not in compliance with state laws and complaints against persons practicing forestry without a license.

California law requires a forester to be licensed as a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in order to provide professional forestry services, such as timber harvesting plans or advising landowners of forest management options or practices. Foresters Licensing reports to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and both divisions work closely together.

"Spending the last 25 years in this profession has provided me with a valuable background and has given me a good perspective of the system from the outside in. The diversity of a forester's experiences and knowledge has always been appealing and I am grateful to be part of this job."

With a wealth of knowledge and a solid background, George Gentry began contributing to the CDF team as soon as he was appointed.

100 Years of History



*In the year 2005, CDF will celebrate its 100-year anniversary. As part of that momentous event, the Public Education Office, in collaboration with the CDF Historical Society and Museum, will work together to produce a commemorative history book. The Museum has contracted with Turner Publishing Company to produce the book, and all CDFers can be involved in providing relevant photographs and historical information. Please watch for the announcement/order form on the CDF website and notices in upcoming *Communique*'s.*

www.fire.ca.gov

CDF Assists *Exotic Newcastle Disease*

by Josh Hubbard, staff writer, *Communique*'

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) is a highly contagious and fatal viral disease that affects all species of birds. It is one of the most infectious diseases affecting poultry in the world; and is so deadly that many birds die without showing any clinical signs of sickness. Outbreaks of exotic Newcastle Disease have catastrophically affected the poultry industry. In 1971, a major outbreak occurred in commercial poultry flocks in Southern California. The disease not only threatened the California poultry industry but the entire United States poultry and egg supply. In all, 1,341 infected flocks were discovered, and 12 million birds were destroyed. The eradication program cost taxpayers \$56 million and severely disrupted the operations of many producers, which increased prices of poultry to the consumers.

END was diagnosed in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California on October 1, 2001. Birds that have contracted this disease often have respiratory, nervous, and gastrointestinal illnesses, but many also die without displaying any signs and symptoms. To date, state officials have destroyed more than 1.8 million infected chickens and quarantined poultry in all of Southern California, with positive disease identification in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, San Bernardino, Ventura, and San Diego counties. This disease cannot be contracted by humans

and is not a public health threat; however, it has the potential to significantly weaken California's poultry industry.

This disease has now spread beyond backyard poultry and is affecting commercial flocks in California, with traces of the disease discovered in Nevada. Officials are now involved in a fight to keep the disease from its continuous spread in hopes of stopping it before it reaches catastrophic proportions.

In December, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) tasked CDF to provide logistical and planning assistance for the incident which is being handled by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Local government, the U.S. Forest Service and additional agencies are also involved as the magnitude and potential of this incident grows. Three

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Battalion Chief Craig Konklin of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit, and Fire Captain Specialist Dave Drum of the Tulare Unit, work the Plans section at the Inland Desert Command Post.



Above, the South Coast Incident Command Post at Los Alamitos. Below, a logistics unit meeting at the post.



Battalion Chief Pete Scully from the San Diego Unit conducts a meeting as the Plans Chief.



Above, L to R: (Base Manager) Fire Captain Roy Geer, Tehama-Glenn, ("Supply Guy Extraordinaire") Fire Captain Tim Ricker, and (Safety Officer) Fire Captain Lyle Drenth of the San Bernardino Unit, discuss issues at the Supply branch of the Inland Desert Command Post.

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incident bases have been established. One in the Inland Desert area and one in the South Coast area of Southern California, and one in the Modesto area of Central California.

At this writing more than 100 CDF personnel are assigned with duties ranging from agency representatives, to incident commander, logistics, planning, and finance, to supply, ground

support, information, safety, dispatch, and Incinet. CDF personnel are not involved in handling "chickens". In fact, the incident bases provide limited access by those individuals who have contact with the fowl and those that do not. The bases will be separating those two functions, which will help with the prevention of disease spread.

"CDF's ongoing level of participation in this incident will be

evaluated as fire season approaches," said Jim Wright, acting Chief Deputy Director. In the meantime, this is another prime example of CDF's versatility in helping the State of California. "They are simply doing one of the things that CDF does best, and what other agencies are not equipped to handle- logistical support and planning in response to a serious and spreading emergency."

Operation Imperial Dunes

by Alisha Herring, Operations Support, Fire Protection

Ten CDF peace officers and 32 additional support personnel were called into action over the New Year holiday to help in a cooperative law enforcement effort for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The assisting agencies included officers from Imperial County Sheriff's Office, US Forest Service, California Highway Patrol, San Diego County Sheriff's Office, National Park Service and of course CDF. An estimated 60,000 visitors showed up at the "Glamis Dunes" in Southern California. "Glamis" is a small area of the Imperial Sand Dunes which are the largest dunes in California. The dunes extend for more than 40 miles along the eastern edge of Imperial Valley. The southern end of the dunes is only one mile from the international border with Mexico. This area provides over 118,000 acres of playground for off-road and ATV enthusiasts.

During the winter months on holiday weekends the crowds typically get rowdy and out of control. With the warm weather the BLM expected larger than



Impromptu "Sand Drags" took place every afternoon. Sand Drags are designated areas where people would gather to race their dirt bikes, quads, off-road vehicles, etc.

usual crowds and made the requests for additional agency assistance. The objective was to enforce Federal Regulations, California Vehicle Code, Business & Professional Code and the Penal Code for off-road vehicles, underage drinking or any other crimes that may be committed. CDF provided assistance with the peace officers as well as medical personnel, dispatchers and the communications unit from CDF / Riverside Co. Fire.

This large cooperative agency



Four of the 10 CDF Officers that participated from L to R: Fire Captain Gary Eidsmoe, San Diego; Battalion Chief Steve Dale, Sacramento; Battalion Chief Deanna Baxman, Sonoma-Lake-Napa; and Fire Captain Dave Cabral, Riverside.

effort ensured that officers were always available to respond, provide cover to other officers, or help wherever help was needed. Officers spent most of their time issuing infraction and misdemeanors citations for Minors-in-Possession, Driving Under the Influence (DUI), and other related violations. CDF peace officers issued or assisted in the issuance of 41 citations, made or assisted in 17 arrests and made

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over 1,000 public law enforcement contacts. As you can imagine most of the arrests were alcohol related. The total number of law enforcement incidents during the holidays reached nearly 300. There were also 93 emergency medical aids, and unfortunately one fatality when a dune buggy overturned.

“One tradition that was particularly un-nerving to the CDF officers was that many of the campers brought their old Christmas trees that they burned at midnight on New Years eve. One group even brought out a 40 foot palm tree that was torched, with the assistance of some gasoline, to celebrate the new year. It also seemed that every camp had a well equipped stock

of fireworks that were used for the celebration.”

“This was the first time CDF peace officers have participated in Operation “Imperial Dunes” at Glamis. However this is representative of the law enforcement operations and activities that CDF assists with”, said Steve Dale, Battalion Chief.

Marks-Nielsen Incident

Fresno Debris Fire

By Janet Marshall, fire prevention specialist II, Butte Unit

On January 11, the City of Fresno Fire Department responded to what was thought to be a small fire in a large pile of construction and demolition debris at Archie Crippen Excavation in south-west Fresno. After extinguishing what at the time appeared to be a relatively small blaze, the incident was turned over to the landowner to work the pile and separate the hot material with his heavy equipment. The property owner was unable to complete the task and the City of Fresno Fire Department was again called to the scene. County health officials were notified which started a chain of notifications that included the state’s Integrated Waste Management Board, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of Emergency Services (OES).

A unified command system was set up, a command team was put in place, and OES tasked CDF to be part of that system. Key players from CDF included



CDF Division Chief Doug Hicks gives an early morning operational briefing as part of his duties as the Operations Section Chief assigned to the incident.”

Operations Section Chief Doug Hicks of the Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU), Plans Section Chiefs Jim Smith of (FKU) and Ben Parker of the San Luis Obispo Unit, Logistics Section Chief Gary Kerle of FKU, Finance Section Chiefs Mike Green of the Tulare Unit and Walt Chacon of FKU, and Agency Rep Larry German of FKU along with a host of other CDFers in crucial roles helped the unified command in their efforts to suppress the 4.8 acre



Two excavators work in tandem with firefighters to cool materials burning in a pile of construction and demolition debris.

debris fire that rose to nearly 50’ in places. The blaze was expected to be contained by February 10.

Many agencies came together to deal with this extremely complex incident. A host of challenges presented themselves daily but the professionalism and cooperation of the team overcame these challenges and helped to safely mitigate the emergency.

(Janet Marshall was assigned as an information officer on the Marks-Nielson Incident.)

On The Cover

Fire Prevention Specialist II Janet Marshall of the CDF Butte Unit provided this issue's cover photo and the following information.

On January 7 just after 10a.m., CDF/Butte County Fire Department responded to a report of cyanide in the parking lot of the administration building near the Butte County Courthouse. Quick action on the part of the District Attorney's Office prevented a mass evacuation of the administration building when officers intercepted an individual in possession of the substance and kept her from removing it from her vehicle. "She had no criminal intent," stated Incident Commander George Morris. "She was involved in a domestic violence case and had come to the office for a



CDF Fire Captain Mike Lopez gets decontaminated after retrieving a sample of a substance reported to be cyanide.

scheduled interview. She brought the substance with her because she didn't know what else to do with it."

The Butte County Interagency Hazardous Materials Response Team (Haz Mat) took control of the scene and established a perimeter around the vehicle. "Cyanide is a lethal poison that can enter the body by inhalation, ingestion or absorption," stated CDF Battalion Chief Mike Brown

(Haz Mat Team Leader). "Basically, the treatment for exposure to cyanide is CPR."

After the substance was safely retrieved from the vehicle, a chemical test was run to determine if it was indeed cyanide and the test came back negative. Additional tests were run to see if the substance had hazardous characteristics and those tests showed the substance to be non-hazardous.

The response included 17 firefighters and hazardous materials specialists from the Oroville Fire Department, CDF/Butte County Fire, and the City of Chico Fire Department. The incident was run under unified command between CDF/Butte County Fire and the Oroville City Fire Department whose jurisdiction the location falls under.

Holiday Safety Event

by Linda Cano, secretary, Public Affairs

On December 4, 2002 several agencies gathered at Sacramento Metro Fire Station #106 for a Holiday Safety Media Event. Represented were Sacramento Metro Fire District; Sacramento Fire Department, Roseville Fire Department, Elk Grove Community Services District, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and CDF. Each agency was on hand for fire safety demonstrations meant to get holiday safety messages out concerning holiday tree safety, how to check lights for any electrical fire hazards, candle safety and the dangers of improper use of turkey fryers which have become so popular these days. A demon-

stration was also given on how to safely exit a burning building.

CDF State Fire Marshal John Tennant spoke to a large group of media representatives about the importance of being mindful of hidden holiday dangers, "too often during the holiday season the unanticipated occurs because people haven't thought of what could happen," said Tennant. For example, holiday tree fires could be avoided just by taking simple precautionary measures like checking lights for frayed wires and reading instructions for their proper usage, making sure electrical outlets aren't overloaded,



From L to R: Director of Community Services, Tom Perkins, Sac Metro Fire, Fire Marshal Dennis Mathisen, Roseville Fire Dept, State Fire Marshal John Tennant, CDF, Fire Marshal Steve Foster, Elk Grove Community Services Fire Dept., and Regional Director Frank Nava, US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

and placing the tree away from any heat source like fireplaces and heaters.

CDF's Occupational Safety and Health Programs (OSHPros) was created to combine the Workers' Compensation,

Safety, and Health and Fitness programs. OSHPros' mission is to create and manage a comprehensive statewide Occupational Safety and Health Program that contributes towards CDF employees developing safe and healthy work practices, thereby, increasing their potential, maximizing productivity, and minimizing the number and severity of occupational injuries, illnesses, accidents, lost work days, and associated cost.

OSHPros' key goals are to ensure that:

The CDF work force is able to perform their essential job functions efficiently and effectively with minimal risk of injury to themselves, their co-workers, or the public.

The CDF costs associated with injuries and illnesses are minimized and every effort is made to ensure employees are returned to work as soon as possible.

The CDF becomes a leader within the fire service community in the area of occupational safety and health.

Workers' Compensation

Return-to-Work - The Return-to-Work (RTW) Coordinators consult with management to effectively administer workers' compensation benefits. This includes developing policy, partnering with state fund adjusters to effectively manage

CDF Occupational Safety and Health Programs (OSHPros)

claims, and provide training to CDF employees. Each Region Office and Sacramento Headquarters has a designated RTW Coordinator. Many units also have a designated RTW Coordinator to work more directly with the injured employee and his or her supervisor. The coordinators ensure benefits are administered timely according to California laws and regulations.

Reasonable Accommodation - The Reasonable Accommodation (RA) Coordinator consults with management on RA issues, assists employees and supervisors with RA requests, and coordinates the implementation of approved accommodations. This includes developing policy and providing management briefings and training. The RA Coordinator ensures CDF is in compliance with applicable RA laws and regulations.

Safety

The CDF Departmental Safety Officer (SO) consults with management on safety issues, directly and through membership in the Operations, Safety, Health, and Training Advisory Committee (OSHTAC). The SO updates safety policies and procedures to ensure CDF compliance with the applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations governing safety. The SO also facilitates safety studies on new

firefighter equipment and gear. Although OSHPros provides administrative support to Safety, the SO

reports to the Deputy Director of Fire Protection.

Health and Fitness Program

Medical Services - The CDF Medical Services Program staff and medical professionals provide essential medical expertise and clinical service for selecting and maintaining a healthy work force, provide consultation and guidance to reduce the cost and/or lost time associated with work-related injuries and illnesses, and provide services that will protect and enhance the health and safety within the employee population of CDF. This includes developing policies and procedures, being a liaison between CDF staff and medical professionals, and providing training.

Respiratory Protection Program (RPP) - RPP is part of the Medical Services Program. RPP staff consults with management and provides services to ensure CDF complies with the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (Cal/OSHA) regulations. RPP staff work with medical professionals to review and medically clear employees as being physically fit and able to endure the physical stress of wearing a tight-fitting respirator.

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Physical Ability Testing - The Physical Ability Testing (PAT) Coordinator tests candidates for permanent fire suppression jobs to ensure they have the strength, power, and endurance to perform the critical physically demanding tasks without injury to themselves, their coworkers, or the public.

Physical Fitness - The Physical Fitness Coordinator provides technical support to management and unit physical fitness coordinators to ensure full participation in unit, division, and battalion daily exercise and nutrition programs.

Ergonomics - The Ergonomics Coordinator consults with CDF management on ergonomic



From left to right: Dolores Gilbert, Dan Diroll, Mike Watkins, Luanne Heuer, Jo Harlow, Kevin Reddington, Sharon Adamson, Gerry Agerbek, Espie Cervantes, Kathy Sickels, Vilma Layus, Carol King, Denise Masuhara, Susan Magnuson, Sharon McCalister.

issues in order to minimize ergonomic risk factors and prevent repetitive motion injuries. This includes providing management briefings, awareness training, ergonomic evaluations,

recommendations, and developing policies.

Look for highlights of OSHPros safety, health, and fitness news in future editions.

Dr. Tom Ferguson ***Meet the CDF Physician***

by the OSHPros staff

A key person in CDF's medical services program is Dr. Tom Ferguson, the CDF Physician. Our relationship with Dr. Ferguson began in 1991 when he was chosen due to his training and expertise. Dr. Ferguson oversees this program as outlined in State Personnel Board policy and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal OSHA) mandated programs.

As an employer of emergency response personnel that includes firefighters who wear self contained breathing apparatus, air

craft pilots, hazardous material responders, and other unique job classifications. CDF is responsible for maintaining compliance with a variety of medical evaluation mandates in relation to those activities. Dr. Ferguson is involved in all aspects of those required medical evaluations as well as reviewing the results for pre-placement of new hires and employees seeking clearance in the Respiratory Protection Program (RPP).

Doctor Ferguson's other duties



include supervising the medical practice of nurse practitioners within CDF as required by the California Board of Nursing and the Medical Board of California; assisting with the review of

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medical records in Cal OSHA mandated injury and illness plans; working closely with the State Personnel Board medical Consultant, Doctor Stephen Weyers, regarding medical qualification standards and fitness for duty concerns.

When CDF set up a central location in OSHPros for all medical records and the establishment of the RPP program, Dr. Ferguson was an instrumental person in setting up policy and procedure with regard to the confidentiality of those medical records. When asked about this he said, "Remarkable changes have occurred over the past three years with the integration of the medical charts due to the newest of mandates. The OSHPros staff has handled it incredibly. They have done an outstanding job with regard to quality of work and the implementation of the RPP Program. The security surrounding the medical charts is impressive. I'm very pleased to be a part of it."

Dr. Ferguson's education and training is as extensive as it is impressive. He earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from

California State University, Humboldt, then completed his Ph.D. in Public Health at the University of California Los Angeles. In 1987, he received his medical doctorate from the University of California, Davis. He completed residency training in internal medicine in 1990, followed by subspecialty training in occupational medicine in 1992, and medical toxicology in 1994. Dr. Ferguson is board certified in all three of these specialties. Nationally, he is one of only 17 medical doctors to hold certification in the specialty area of toxicology and only one of six in California. Field personnel value his expertise and knowledge in the evaluation of blood-borne pathogen exposures.

Dr. Ferguson worked for five years as an attending physician in the UC Davis Medical Center, Emergency Medicine Department. He maintains a clinical faculty appointment at the UC Davis School of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care. In addition to consulting with CDF, he is medical director of the UC Davis Student Health Center, as

well as the toxicology consultant for the Statewide Poison Control Center in Sacramento. Dr. Ferguson has completed training as a qualified medical examiner and as an aviation medical examiner for the Federal Aviation Administration. He attended specialized training in biological/chemical hazards evaluation and has participated in disaster response training at the National Fire Academy.

"I sincerely enjoy working with CDF. It's a great organization to be a part of. It's a difficult mission the employees undertake; providing emergency assistance to a very diverse state. But, they continue to do it and do it well."

Happily, there is life outside of work for Dr. Ferguson. In addition to his professional interests, Dr. Ferguson enjoys traveling to the north coast with his wife and three children in their spare time. The balance of labor and family work well for Dr. Ferguson, keeping life on an even keel.

CDF takes pride in having Dr. Ferguson as a member of its team. He is dedicated to our critical mission and the safety of all those reaching for that goal.

Featured Facilities This Issue

Southern Region

Station #84 - Sanger

by Josh Hubbard, staff writer, Communique'

Station 84, on the grounds of the CDF Fresno-Kings Unit (FKU) Headquarters in Sanger was built in late 1949, early

1950 on five acres of purchased land. The station was constructed with brick that was manufactured at a state of the

art facility near Millerton Lake. The fire prevention office, training office, fire station, and kitchen have remained housed in their original brick buildings. Originally the headquarters

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station was located at the Fresno County Fairgrounds before being moved to its current location.

The first fire engine on record at Station 84 was a mid 1940's MAC fire truck with a mid-ship pump. This engine was then replaced by a 1951 Dodge. The new Dodge had a hard suction that was referred to as the "squirrel tail" because of the drafting pre-connect that was wrapped around the engine. Also housed at Station 84 were two 1948 Dodge crew cab trucks, a 1948 GMC with a 400 gallon tank, a transport and dozer, and a late 1940's MAC engine to serve as the minimal Schedule A program. On-duty personnel back then consisted of six firefighters, a forest fire truck driver, and a forestry foreman.

The original headquarters office that housed the dispatch, clerical, training, and chief's offices are now the fire prevention bureau for the Fresno-Kings Unit. The residence for the assistant ranger in charge is now the training office, and the residence for the ranger in charge was torn down in the mid 70's and is the current location for the new administration building.

William Pennington was the



ranger in charge of fire service in FKU from 1950-1978. He initiated the CDF mutual aid system in the area and fought to have instant aid with all of the fire departments in Fresno County. He was a leader in range improvement burns and developed a wonderful working relationship with the surrounding community. Chief Pennington also developed one of the first contract hired helicopter programs through Rogers Helicopters and had a heli-pad constructed toward the rear of the station. The station has always had a bond with the community they serve; the term used at the time was CDF's "good neighbor" policy.

Station 84 responds to calls within a five mile radius and averages around 750 calls per year. Because of the station's central location, they are included on every state responsibility area (SRA) wildland dispatch, all rural motor vehicle accidents,

and are also included on first alarms to the metro area. Sanger Station 84 is the main hub of the Fresno County Fire Protection District and has provided valuable emergency service protection to the community.

The station houses one Schedule A engine and one Office of Emergency Services engine, along with a dozer and transport, and a water tender. This past year the station received a new fire engine, a 2002 Freightliner crew cab with a 1500 GPM pump, 700 gallon tank with an auxiliary pump, and it is equipped with new rescue gear and the jaws of life.

Northern Region

Station #10 - Auburn

***by Josh Hubbard, staff writer,
Communique'***

Located East of Auburn off Interstate 80, CDF's Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Headquarters is proudly displayed on a hillside making it and Station 10 visible to the surrounding area. The current station and headquarters facilities were built in 1966-1967 when the proposed Auburn Dam project was supposed to flood the American River Canyon, the exact location of the original

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station. The dam ended up never being built, so the original station, located off of Highway 49 toward Georgetown at the bottom of the canyon, now houses offices and staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Today's NEU Headquarters compound is located just two air miles from the original station and has a perfect view of the canyon and the Foresthill Bridge which soars 730 feet above the North Fork of the American River and is the highest bridge in California and the third highest bridge in the United States.

The bridge is a source of activity for NEU. It has become an attraction for Hollywood, most recently when the movie Triple XXX used it for a dramatic "vehicle shot over the bridge scene". For safety reasons a CDF Auburn crew was on hand, just in case something went wrong.

Prior to the 4th of July each year NEU crews burn off the vegetation along the bottom of the bridge. Prevention staff and VIPs then patrol over the Fourth to watch for folks throwing fireworks from the bridge, and for illegal use of fireworks in the American River Canyon that is jam packed with campers.

The Auburn Headquarters consists of the clerical and training staff, as well as the administration building, fire prevention bureau, a busy maintenance and repair shop, and Fire Station 10. The station operates as a two engine station with a Model 5 and Model 25 engine. It also staffs and operates a dozer and transport, a new CDF/ Placer County Fire Hazmat Unit that was purchased by the Office of

Emergency Services (OES), and a mobile communications unit (MCC). A CalStar Air Ambulance Helicopter has been based at the facility since 1995.

There are a total of 33 personnel assigned to Headquarters/ Station 10 and they serve and cover an initial response area that includes highly populated areas as well as rural areas. With this coverage responsibility, Station 10 averages over 1,000 calls per year. NEU has seen its share of large fires in recent years, but 2001 stands out. That year they were hit with the Martis Fire in June which burned more than 14,000 acres of CDF and USFS jurisdiction and destroyed five structures, and the Ponderosa Fire in August which burned more than 2,700 acres.

Through the significant disasters and the daily responses the working relationship that NEU Headquarters and Station 10 have established with the community has been a valuable and true representation of the mission and goals of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.



Defensible Space is YOUR Responsibility!

is the theme for
Wildfire Awareness Week 2003,
May 5 - 11
but fire prevention and safety is a year-round responsibility we all share.

CDF's 2002 Fire Season Summary

Largest Fires CDF Jurisdiction

Fire Name County	Start Date	Containment Date	Acres Burned	Structures Destroyed	Cause
Pines San Diego	7/29/02	8/16/02	61,690	160	Powerlines
Gavilan San Diego	2/10/02	2/15/02	5,763	43	VMP Burn
Mussolini Siskiyou	7/13/02	7/16/02	3,260	0	Equip. Use
Croy Santa Cruz	9/23/02	9/28/02	3,127	34	Elec. Power
Davis San Luis Obispo	6/9/02	6/9/02	2,118	0	Rekindle

All Numbers for CDF Jurisdiction Only

Fires 5,757
Acres 112,810
Structures Destroyed 327
Dollar Damage \$173,976,861
Suppression Estimate
for Summer 2002/Spring 2003 \$135 million

COMMUNIQUE'

Gray Davis
Governor
State of California

Mary D. Nichols
Resources Secretary
The Resources Agency

Andrea E. Tuttle
Director
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Communique' Schedule

February/March
(Deadline March 5)

April/May
(Deadline May 5)

June/July
(Deadline July 5)

August/September
(Deadline September 5)

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