

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.

DIRECTOR: continued on page 9

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