

Kudos

Governor's Safety Awards

On August 25, 2000, four CDF employees were recognized for their outstanding contributions to workers' safety at the Annual Governor's Employee Safety Award (GESA) ceremony. In addition to the GESA award, two other CDF employees received the distinction of receiving the Departmental Safety Award for their contributions toward safety and the well-being of their fellow employees.

Battalion Chief Paul Vlastelica, San Benito-Monterey Unit, Battalion Chief Doug Blangsted, Siskiyou Unit, and Verne Charlton, retired, Shasta-Trinity Unit, received the GESA Group Award for the revision of CDF's Safety Inspection Reference Guide.

Fire Captain Alex Lujan, Siskiyou Unit received the GESA Individual Award for developing an effective physical fitness program that significantly reduced injuries and lost time within the unit.

Departmental Safety Awards were presented to the GESA recipients and to Battalion Chief Kim Thompson, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit for his work in providing training on firefighter safety and survival, and to Battalion Chief James Crabtree, Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit for his diligence on the unit's Injury and Illness Prevention Program, Respiratory Protection Program and Facility Inspection Program.

Congratulations to all six of the recipients.

A Special Thanks to CDF Training and a Special Hero

The first week of January 2001 our daughter Shellie and her husband Mick and their two children, Cord 4 years and Teal 14 months, had finally arrived from Texas, discharged from the Army. It had been years since we had little ones around the house and every day proved to be a new lesson in the art of child-proofing the house.

On Tuesday, January 30, in spite of our careful attention and three adults within a few feet, Cord mastered two locks on the back door and slipped out to the pool area. It was less than five minutes before I noticed that the door was open. I made a mental note that Teal was in the living room but Cord was not. I ran outside and called him – there was no answer. I immediately looked at the pool and imagined something clothlike floating near the middle. Were my eyes playing tricks? Was I just in a panic and imagining the worst, hoping to wake up from a bad dream? As I neared the pool, I recognized Cord's striped shirt and knew this was the nightmare I had hoped to wake up from – only I

wasn't dreaming. In the past, when the nest wasn't empty, there was always a contest among the kids as to whom would be first in the pool for the summer. I never entered those contests and patiently waited until mid-July when the water was nearing 80 degrees. However, this day with the water at about 40 degrees and far from my comfort level, something other than old age and wisdom took over. In one jump I was near the middle of a 24-foot width pool, I grabbed Cord's shirt pulling his head out of the water and got him to the ladder while yelling for our son who came running from the house. He said he had never heard me yell like that before. I find that hard to believe after all these years (he's 30) but I'll take it. He grabbed Cord out of my hands and I saw the face of death on that little boy, his eyes were closed, his cheeks were blue and his lips were purple; his look was eerily peaceful, as if he were sleeping. Our son knew CPR and gave him three hits on the back, flipped him over and began breathing for him and administering chest compressions.

I found myself standing beside this hero, helpless and worthless to assist, crying and moaning the word No. I could see him looking at me and his lips were moving, but I didn't hear a word he said, until he yelled at me (I have never heard him yell at me like that before) to call 911. I did and was able to relay to the dispatcher what had happened and our address. Cord was still not breathing. I ran to the front of the house to get Mick, and by the time we returned to the backyard Cord was breathing and crying, vomiting and choking. And I cried like a baby myself.

Dad, uncle and grandpa got Cord into the house, undressed him and wrapped him in a warm blanket. He still cried and it was music to our ears. The dispatcher assured me that help was on the way and let me go. In a few minutes we had a Mercy Medical Center ambulance with paramedics, and an engine from CDF/SHU Station 43 with Fire Apparatus Engineer Dennis Reginato and Firefighter Dusty Gyves. They all acknowledged that our son did a terrific job and there was nothing they could do to improve the situation. The ambulance took Cord to the hospital for a 24-hour stay just to make sure he had no complications.

I told our son that, while Cord doesn't realize it now, one day he will know that his uncle saved his life and the two of them will have a tremendous bond. And someday Cord will want to see where his uncle works. In the future we plan to take him to Tehama-Glenn's Corning Forest Fire Station where his uncle, Sean Kavanaugh, is an FAE. He was off-duty that day, and I thank God that he decided to come for a visit from his home in Chico. I can't thank him enough for what he did. He is truly my hero, and I know that everyone in our family shares my sentiment.

There is one thing that still has me puzzled – how

Continued . . .

come I didn't get my hair wet? With that secret, the possibilities in the beauty world would be endless.

Oh, and now there is a third lock on that door which grandpa installed about six feet up. By the time Cord can reach that one, we hope he will know how to swim.

**Jeannine & Barney Kavanaugh
Anderson, CA**

Tijuana Trench Class

The first international, (CDF's) California State Fire Training certified, trench rescue class was a tremendous success. Members of the Tijuana Fire Department and Baja Mexico's Civil Protection Administration attended and received the knowledge, skills and ability to properly address trench collapse situations. The students and department officials were extremely pleased and thankful for the cooperation and support of State Fire Training in receiving a validated certification.

On behalf of the Tijuana Fire Department, Baja Mexico's Civil Protection and our company, California Shores (Scott Henry and George Solano), I would like to thank everyone at State Fire Training for their understanding, patience and unrelenting assistance in making this training concept a reality. It is obvious to see the content and standards of training courses established by State Fire Training is recognized and sought out by various organizations throughout the nation and internationally.

Please keep up the good work.

**Jim Colston
Instructor/Partner
California Shores**

Kent Woodlands I-Zone Project

I believe it was about a year ago, at the Muir Woods Media Day, that we conversed about the fire problem in Marin. I would like to take a moment to apprise you of our vegetation management project located in Kentfield, Marin County (state responsibility area). With the good fortune of receiving a Forest Stewardship Grant from CDF, the work on our Kent Woodlands I-Zone Project is well underway. This project involves vegetation management along an approximate one-mile perimeter of interface between the residential subdivision of Kent Woodlands and the Marin Municipal Water District watershed. I estimated that it would take several years to complete the project, the primary work to be completed in three phases over three years. At this time, ahead of schedule and under budget, we are close to completing phase one and will begin on phase two ahead of schedule.

To date, the project has been an outstanding success due to excellent inter-agency and neighborhood cooperation. The bulk of the credit, however, must go to the Delta Conservation Camp work crews. Without these crews, there is no way we could have accomplished the amount and quality of work and also be under budget.

I wish to commend the staff at the Delta Camp; Captain Bob Coolidge for his assistance in helping organize, facilitate and supervise crew work; Captain Carla Olsen for coordinating and processing the administrative details; Captains Bob Martinez, Wayne Singley, Jon Warner, Ron Finn, and Matt Lee for their excellent crew supervision. In 39 crew days we have not had a single complaint or concern about the crews working in the project area. Many members of the public have expressed their gratitude and marveled at the accomplishments of the crews (it should be noted that most of the work has taken place on extremely difficult terrain). We have been able to create several significant strategic defensible space zones that will assist us in protecting a valuable residential neighborhood as well as Marin's watershed.

**John S. Lando
Fire Chief
Kentfield Fire Protection District**

Maintenance Assistance

On behalf of the City of Dixon we wish to thank you for the help and support from your Delta Camp crew with several maintenance projects within the city.

Over the past four years the crews from the Delta Camp have been working with the city of Dixon to help cleanup our water retention ponds around our town. By cleaning the banks, which we do not have the personnel or the resources for, it helps to make our town, as a whole, much cleaner. They have also helped with numerous rather large clean up projects with the key person being Carla Olsen and her crews.

This year, along with the crews helping with cleanup, the sign shop at the Delta Camp has been helping us to replace our street name signs. This alone saves the city of Dixon a great amount of money and time. To date we have already replaced approximately 100 signs and are planning on more in the future. This has been made possible by Bob Coolidge.

With the appreciation of what the Delta Camp has done for the city, we also would like to extend our hand in helping the camp. Any projects we can be of assistance with, from tractor work, street painting, scraping or discing, we would be willing to be of help whenever possible.

We again appreciate the time and services you have

Continued . . .

provided us and hope we can return the favor to keep our relationship strong.

**Sincerely,
Pernell Colter
Streets Maintenance Supervisor
Department of Public Works
City of Dixon**

Golden Trowel Award

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection presented The Golden Trowel Award to Sierra Pacific Forester Ted James for his outstanding achievements in the identification, documentation and protection of the California's archaeological resources.

In his 12-year tenure with SPI, Ted has developed skills including locating and documenting historical sites, site documentation and "a knack for historical mapping" according to CDF Senior State Archeologist Daniel Foster. Archaeological sites are mandated for protection in California. Sites can include Native American villages, old homesteads, wagon roads, and even old logging camps.

The Golden Trowel Award recognizes the efforts of archaeologists who most often work behind the scenes to save California history.

Archeology Talk Impresses Students

I wanted to take this opportunity to commend Linda Sandelin, Regional Archeologist for the Fresno County area, for her excellent presentation to our freshmen Introduction to Forestry class this week. The focus of her talk was a very high quality overview of archeological and historical concerns in the natural resources arena.

She handles lectures and demonstrations very well, and the students were very impressed with all aspects of her presentation. Your organization and the State of California are very fortunate to have her to represent concern about our history.

Knowing how busy she is, I very much appreciate her taking several hours out of her day to relate to young forestry students. We look forward to her continued involvement with future forestry classes.

**Sincerely,
Wayne A. Bemis
Instructor - Forestry
Reedly College**

Maidu Interpretive Center and Historic Site

Two state archaeologists, Dan Foster and Gerrit Fenenga, from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, recently provided training for a new class of docents/tour guides at the City of Roseville's Maidu Historic Site. Their presentation, the artifacts they brought, and their professionalism and enthusiasm made the training exemplary – educational and interesting.

We very much appreciate the training partnership that has developed between these talented CDF archaeologists and the City of Roseville's Maidu Historic Site.

The new Maidu Interpretive Center and Historic Site has very limited paid staff, currently just one person; however, we do have a growing team of volunteer docents. We are endeavoring to standardize the information they present to the approximately 4000 school children, teachers, and parents who visit the site each year. Your team of archaeologists has played an important role in this effort through their two training sessions for docents this year, one last spring and one this fall.

These archaeologists are helping us provide accurate and informed educational messages for the public. Thank you for working with the City of Roseville and with the community to enhance service to the citizens we all serve.

**Sincerely,
Kris Stevens, Supervisor
Maidu Interpretive Center/Historic Site**

Post Blast Investigators Seminar

The San Francisco Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sponsored a Post Blast Investigators Seminar, which was hosted by your department, October 2-6, 2000. In attendance were 22 police officers and special investigators from various local, state, and federal agencies, located throughout California and Hawaii.

Supervising Investigator/Bomb Technician Greg Smith of your department helped significantly in the preparation and training of this course. Special thanks and appreciation needs to be expressed to Greg Smith for his extra efforts in making this course so successful. As you know, Greg Smith is an outstanding bomb technician and a valued member of the bomb technician community of the Bay Area and his contributions added tremendously to the quality of this course.

**Sincerely,
Bruce J. Gebhardt
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Continued . . .

Tulare County Fire Response

First of all, I must apologize that this letter has been so long in getting to you. I know that I need not describe to you the difficulties in operating out of boxes etc., after a fire, however, I also feel that this is a rather flimsy excuse when thanks and gratefulness are at issue.

Your men who showed up in response to a fire alarm at our church administration building on the evening of August 7th are exemplary men! Their attitudes, politeness and just overall great dispositions made the circumstances that we found ourselves in so much more tolerable. They were kind and tolerant as we tried to get valuable electronic equipment out of the office. They would have had every right to tell us to just stay out of their way...but they had smiles and worked right around us.

There is absolutely nothing that your men could have done any better than what they did! They are a group that you have cause to be proud of. We are grateful that they love to do what they do! We can't say enough!

Sincerely,

Kathie J. Smee

**Projects and Events Coordinator
Calvary Chapel Visalia**

Santa Clara Unit Did a Great Job During Board Meeting

On behalf of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, I would like to again express our appreciation for the excellent job done by the Department in hosting the Board's August meeting in Concord. Steve Woodill, Santa Clara Unit Chief, and his staff provided a well planned and coordinated event.

The field trip, despite the fog, provided a good overview of the Tunnel Fire and the actions of residents and agencies to ameliorate those risks associated with development in areas with such difficult terrain and vegetation features. It was particularly gratifying to observe the close working relationship the Department has developed with the local fire agencies. The inclusion of many of the principals from such a large number of local agencies provided an excellent demonstration of interagency cooperation so critical to managing the urban interface.

The Department's representatives, in hosting the Board for field meetings throughout the State, have consistently demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism and pride in the work they do. Chief Woodill and the personnel of the Santa Clara Unit reinforced that standard of excellence. Chief Driscoll, please convey the Board's appreciation to all who worked so diligently to make the meeting a success.

Robert C. Heald

Acting Chairman

Board of Forestry & Fire Protection

Thank You CDF Oroville

I am writing to thank all the men and women at CDF who helped to put out the fire where I live in Berry Creek on September 14, 2000. We were so lucky that you were all here to control and put out the fire that burned eight acres. You saved our house from burning up. I don't know how to express how grateful I am to each and everyone of you. You all work so hard fighting fires and risking your own lives at the same time. You have such courage to battle a fire. I just hope everyone appreciates all you do and the risk you take. I know I do, in fact not only did you put out that fire, but then another one on my driveway a few days after. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You will be in my prayers always. You all should be proud of what you do. It's not an easy job, but I thank God that I had your help when I needed with the fire at my place.

I'm hoping that this letter will reach someone who can give it to the CDF in Oroville so they will know how much I just wanted to say "Thank you".

Roberta Braccia

Berry Creek, CA

Illegal Dumping

During the fall of 1999, Monterey County experienced a large amount of illegal dumping on some of the remote county roads in Northeast Monterey County. We attempted to institute additional patrols in these areas, but due to a shortage of Deputies and the volume of calls in the north part of the County, we were not able to identify the perpetrators.

I was aware that CDF had remote camera capabilities from past contact with CDF investigators on joint cases. I contacted Cliff Williams and inquired about the possibility of setting up some of these cameras and within a week, Cliff and Steve Dale had three cameras up and running.

During the month of December, one of my Sergeants and I kept a close eye on the area and contacted Cliff Williams when we found fresh dumping. He would pull the tapes and attempt to identify a suspect. Although suspects were never identified, I believe this was a very worthwhile project. Quite possibly over a long period of time we would have been able to begin to identify dumping patterns.

In March, Cliff advised me that the cameras were needed for arson cases and would have to be taken down. After utilizing the cameras and recognizing their potential, I may consider requesting the use of them again, in order to control this problem.

I would like to extend my thanks to CDF for the use of the cameras and especially to Steve Dale and Cliff

Continued . . .

Williams for setting up and maintaining them. I realize this was not an easy task on their part and want them to know how much I appreciate all their efforts.

Gordon Sonne
Sheriff
County of Monterey

CDF Employees achieve 25-Years of Service

On December 14, 2000 in Weott, five Humboldt-Del Norte Unit employees were recipients of awards commemorating 25 years of dedicated service to CDF. Those awarded were Fire Captains Bill Christen, Pat Henry, Ron McKinney, Dave Short, Dennis Scales and Brian Frerichs out of Eel River Conservation Camp.

Sacramento Headquarters has seven employees who have achieved 25 years of state service:

Staff Services Analyst Jean LaClair, Management Services Deputy Director Elaine Vann, Staff Services Analyst Bonnie Von Hoffman, Battalion Chief Jim Troehler, DC Chris Parker, Battalion Chief Marvin Hooper, and Deputy Chief Rich Green.

Congratulations to all.

Public Safety Day Success

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your agency for your assistance and support with the "Public Safety Day Event" at Sherwood Mall in Stockton on July 29, 2000.

The event was a success through your agency's involvement to interact with the community so they can better understand public safety resources available to them.

Again, thank you.
Michael J. Machado
Assemblymember, District 17

GIS Unit Recognized

The recent fires in Montana provided an opportunity to set up and operate a GIS Unit in Hamilton, Montana. The Hamilton Area Command GIS Unit was the first of its kind to be established. Our unit provided GIS support to four separate incidents, the Blodgett Fire, Valley Complex, Skalkaho Complex, and the Wilderness Complex. The challenges and workload for this incident required experience and knowledgeable personnel.

Captains Sean Griffis, Jeff Harter, and Steve Robertson as well as Mark Rosenberg of FRAP, were crucial to the success of this enormous challenge. Their expertise and positive attitudes proved to be valuable

assets to the team. Without the support of CDF, the "California GIS Unit", as labeled by Montana locals, would not have had the success and impact it did.

Thank you for your support of these personnel and the aid to the 2000 firefighting effort.

Dan Clark, Fire Chief
Kern County Fire Department

Quick Action Applauded

On Sunday, August 27, 2000, a wildland fire started at the edge of a horse trail near the bottom of the American River Canyon. This fire quickly spread up the canyon toward many homes located at the top of the canyon rim. Quick action by strike teams from our county and neighboring counties responded to the call for assistance. This timely response confined this fire to 120 acres, saving both homes and lives.

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Auburn and the citizens of our community, we commend all the firefighters for saving this community from certain destruction. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each and every firefighter involved in this effort.

George E. Williams
Mayor
City of Auburn

CDF Helicopter Program

I wish to advise you that I believe you are operating your helicopters in an exemplary manner. In my 40 years of aviation experience, I have flown with pilots and aviation groups from all over the world and based on that experience I rate every aspect of your helicopter program as first rate. Not only do you operate your helicopters in a safe manner, you stay abreast of changes in aviation and stress training and education of your staff, which indicates your concern for the future. Safety is a critical element in any successful aviation operation and you can be proud of your equipment, maintenance, the staff supporting your programs such as safety, and the pilots that operate your helicopters.

I have flown with fire fighting helicopter operations world wide and have flown with all operations in American that work as you do with the U.S. Forest Service. I can say without exception your operation is the best. I can also state that you are so successful because of the extra effort and pride of your staff to be the best and to operate in the safest manner. The mission you perform is not only important but it is extremely difficult to perform in a safe manner.

I hope you will always continue with your current philosophy.

Vance A. Duffy
Senior Flight Instructor
Bell Helicopter Textron

Continued . . .

Communicator of the Year

Mendocino Unit Dispatch Fire Captain Brian Kornegay was honored for his excellence with a Communicator of the Year award from the National Association of Air Medical Services. Brian was given an all expense paid trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to receive this award in person. Each year the National Association of Air Medical Services chooses one person to receive this national award for their overall professional conduct as an Air Medical Dispatcher. The air ambulance Cal Star 4, based in Ukiah, nominated Brian for his award. All sixteen members of Cal Stars wrote letters to the National Association expressing their high regard for Brian's professionalism and his personal ability to perceive and anticipate their needs and most importantly the needs of the patient. Brian monitors the radio in other areas outside the unit and gets the wheels in motion before others even know what their needs may be. Brian has a special kindness that is projected over the waves and exudes a certain calm. We are proud of Brian and his much deserved award.

Congratulations Brian!

plex. The challenges and workload for this incident required experienced and knowledgeable personnel.

Captains Sean Griffis, Jeff Harter, and Steve Robertson as well as Mark Rosenberg of FRAP, were crucial to the success of this enormous challenge. Their expertise and positive attitudes proved to be valuable assets to the team. Without the support of CDF, the "California GIS Unit", as labeled by Montana locals, would not have had the success and impact it did.

Thank you for your support of these personnel and the aid to the 2000 firefighting effort.

**Dan Clark, Fire Chief,
Kern County Fire Department
Joe Appleton, Firefighter,
Hamilton Area Command, GIS Coordinator**

Viejas Fire

"I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and your department for the extraordinary level of dedication and competency of your commanders and firefighters during the recent Viejas fire.

While firefighters heroic deeds receive appropriate attention during times of great crisis, we must be reminded that they put their lives on the line daily to protect their fellow citizens. It is this heroic spirit and dedication that is in need of recognition.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the citizens of San Diego's East County for your faithful service and commitment. The courageous efforts of your department, led not only to the saving millions of dollars of property, but the protection of human lives.

Again, with a deep sense of pride, I thank and commend you on a job well done!"

**Jay La Suer
Assemblyman
77th District**

Montana Fires

The recent fire in Montana provided an opportunity to set up and operate a GIS Unit in Hamilton, Montana. The Hamilton Area Command GIS Unit was the first of its kind to be established. Our unit provided GIS support to four separate incidents, the Blodgett Fire, Valley Complex, Skalkaho Complex, and the Wilderness Com-