

## California Fire Prevention Officers CFCA Section Status Update

As a follow up to the recent vote, the California Fire Prevention Officers (CAFPO) would like to provide you with an update regarding Cal Chiefs' section reorganization process and its impact on our section. We have long been established as a section of Cal Chiefs with our own Constitution and Bylaws, consisting of a Northern and Southern division which are each an unincorporated nonprofit association.

To recap the past six months, in October 2023, the California Fire Chiefs Association approved changes to their Bylaws and operational procedures. This action necessitated that all Sections consider the terms of Cal Chiefs' published Final Agreements which obligated each section to modify their own bylaws and procedures to align with Cal Chiefs and avoid conflicts. In response, at the CAFPO Annual Business Meeting held during CFPI in March 2024, a motion was made by an FPO member to reject these Final Agreements and to separate from CFCA.

In accordance with the CAFPO Constitution, this motion was taken to the CAFPO membership for a vote. To allow all CAFPO members the opportunity to cast a vote in this critical and groundbreaking decision, electronic voting was made available to current members of both the Northern and Southern divisions. We want to extend our gratitude to everyone who took the time to educate themselves on this important issue and cast your vote. A majority of the members who responded voted YES on the motion, signifying that the CAFPO membership rejects Cal Chiefs' Final Agreements and will formally separate from CFCA, resulting in a completely autonomous and independent association. The vote tally is: 188 Yes votes, 24 No Votes, 8 Abstained.

The CAFPOs find it essential to maintain a strong relationship with Cal Chiefs and encourage a continued partnership where we can collaboratively work together confronting complex challenges within our industry, while representing California fire service organizations as the subject matter experts in community risk reduction and building safety. The numerous benefits stemming from working together are vital to each Association and their members, but more importantly to the California fire service as a whole and the communities in which we serve. We hope the CAFPO future will include an alliance partnership with Cal Chiefs leveraging shared resources, complementary strengths, collaborative networks, and creating a long-term success

Despite this change, we will continue to be the same CAFPO Association, serving the same mission and goals, providing the same leadership, and serving our members as we always have. We will look different on the exterior with a new logo and updated branding, but our

function and purpose will not be altered.

While our mission and core functions will remain the same, we do recognize that we can serve our members better with improved communication and providing more regular and timely updates that include information for all of California. Look forward to these changes coming July 1, 2024:

- Introduction of a new logo and updated website
- Regular email updates sharing what the CAFPO Boards of Directors are doing, hot topics, important legislation, what's coming up, trainings, etc.
- New social media accounts to serve the CAFPO versus separate accounts for the Northern and Southern divisions.
- Communications from the CAFPO will be shared with all CAFPO members, and not sent to only the north or south division. The Northern and Southern Division will work closely together to enhance our communication and delivery.

Please note, this change will not have any impact on our status as Chapters of the International Code Council (ICC) and International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA), nor our relationship with the California Fire Prevention Institute (CFPI).

**We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone who the CAFPOs are and what we do.**

Jointly, we have a combined membership of over 600 professionals with vast technical expertise. We are sworn personnel and career civilian inspectors, and fire protection engineers and industry leaders. Our members work for not only fire departments but also state agencies, colleges and universities, building departments, fire sprinkler and fire alarm trade organizations, engineering and consulting firms, nonprofit standards development organizations such as ICC, NFPA, UL, and Fire Safe Councils. Our diverse membership affords us the ability to leverage the broad array of experience and knowledge of our private and public sector members as we pursue our common mission. Together, united in our mission as the CAFPOs, we equip our members to better serve within their organizations and communities - we can do far more together for the California fire service and the communities we serve, than any of us can do on our own.

Thank you for your engagement in the Association and continued support in this process. Looking ahead to the future of the CAFPOs, we see exciting opportunities for growth, innovation, and positive impacts. By continuing to adapt to evolving needs and trends, we can position ourselves throughout the state and nation as a leading force and

trusted resource for our members.

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