

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

CALIF**ORNIA**
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS

Significant Changes and Inspector Guide publications with kudos to members who helped with content, ICC, and OSFM; include QRC to order both publications, attached are QR codes and images of the publications

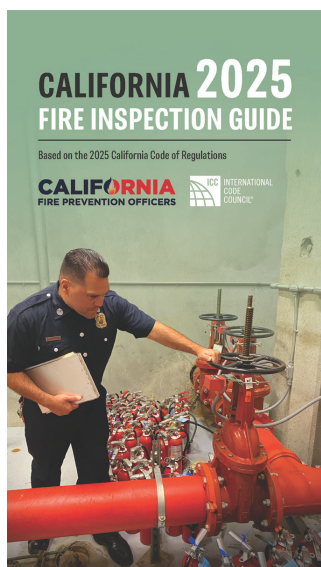
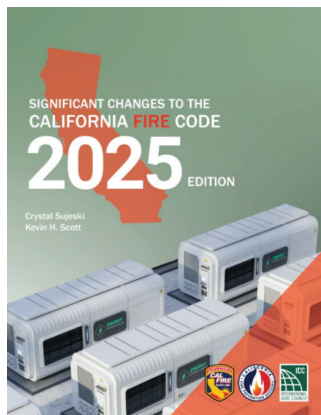


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NORTHERN & SOUTHERN PRESIDENTS' REPORT

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to report that this has been a period of exceptional engagement, advocacy, and national recognition for the California Fire Prevention Officers Association (CA FPO). Our collective efforts have strengthened fire prevention, advanced policy discussions, and elevated the voice of fire prevention officers at every level of government.

This year reaffirmed our role as leaders in community risk reduction, code development, and legislative advocacy—both within California and on the national stage. As we continue moving forward together, we remain confident that we are stepping in the right direction—because when it comes to protecting our communities, we know the importance of putting our best foot forward.

ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENTS: A YEAR OF RECOGNITION AND IMPACT

One of the most significant honors this year was the Southern Division of the California Fire Prevention Officers Association (Chapter 27), being awarded the NFPA International Fire Marshal's Association Chapter of the Year for 2025. This prestigious recognition reflects the dedication, professionalism, and influence of our membership and leadership.

In addition to this achievement, the CA FPOs continued its strong commitment to professional development through the publication of the Significant Changes to the California Fire Code, 2025 Edition and 2025 California Fire Inspection Guide Based on the 2025 California Code of Regulations. Special kudos to the Chapter members who dedicated significant time and expertise to developing the content, ensuring it is practical, code-accurate, and field-ready. We also extend our appreciation to partners at the International Code Council (ICC) and the California Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for their collaboration and technical insight, which strengthened the quality and credibility of these publications.

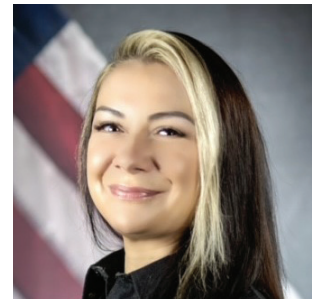
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Legislative engagement was a major focus this year. Collaboration at the California Building Officials Leadership & Advocacy Day in Sacramento, meeting directly with legislators to discuss AB 306/130, AB 6, and AB 253. These discussions reinforced the importance of fire prevention voices in shaping public policy and building safety regulations. CA FPO formally authored and submitted a letter opposing AB 306/130, a bill that would significantly limit state and local building and fire code updates. Given the bill's fast-tracked status and sponsorship, CA FPO mobilized its membership to engage in advocacy efforts to protect life-safety standards and local authorities.

The CA FPOs engaged with Congressman Darrell Issa in support of the Pro Codes Act, state legislation designed to protect the integrity of California's building and fire code adoption process by reinforcing the established consensus-based development framework. The bill seeks to ensure that amendments to the International Code Council model codes continue to follow a transparent, technical, and stakeholder-driven process before being incorporated into state regulations. Fire prevention professionals, including members of the California Fire Prevention Officers Association, have supported the measure as a way to maintain public safety standards and prevent circumvention of the formal code development system.

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PRESIDENTS'



Nicole Pesqueira
Southern California
2025 Fire
Prevention Officers
Board President



Nick Otis
Northern California
2025 Fire
Prevention Officers
Board President

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

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CODE DEVELOPMENT & STATEWIDE PROGRESS

History was made this year with the California Building Standards Commission's adoption of the California Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code, based on the ICC IWUI Code. This marks the first statewide adoption of the IWUI Code in the nation, reinforcing California's leadership in wildfire resilience. The CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal formally recognized the California Fire Prevention Officers Association for its assistance and collaboration in advancing this landmark code adoption—an achievement that will have lasting impacts on community safety statewide. CA FPO leadership also met with CAL FIRE and key stakeholders regarding the rollout of Local Responsibility Area (LRA) mapping, continuing our involvement in implementation discussions and stakeholder coordination.

PARTNERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Leadership from both the Northern and Southern Divisions proudly represented the Association at numerous key meetings and conferences throughout the year, ensuring that the voice of California fire prevention professionals was heard at the local, state, and national levels. Through active participation, collaboration, and advocacy, CA FPO strengthened relationships with allied partners and reinforced its leadership role within the fire service and code development communities.

CA FPO leadership and members were represented at the ICC Annual Conference, Expo & Committee Action Hearings (Group B Codes #2) in Cleveland, Ohio, where critical code proposals were debated and shaped. We also attended the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, participating in the International Association of Fire Marshals Annual Meeting to engage in national policy and safety discussions. While attending the conference, also presented on Wildfires in California, highlighting California's challenges, lessons learned, and leadership in wildfire mitigation. Additionally, we worked alongside regional building official associations during the Western Pacific League of Building Officials (WPLBO) ICC Candidate Forum, contributing to the endorsement process for the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors.

At the state level, the Association was present at the California Building Officials Annual Business Meeting & Conference in Hollywood, California, further strengthening the partnership between building and fire officials. Members also participated in the California Fire Prevention Institute in Santa Barbara, California, supporting professional development and education within our ranks. National advocacy efforts continued at the Congressional Fire Services Institute in Washington, D.C., where fire service leaders engaged federal lawmakers on life-safety priorities. Additionally, CA FPO attended the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association Annual Conference in Palm Springs, California, fostering collaboration with industry partners and technical experts.

Collectively, these engagements demonstrate CA FPO's ongoing commitment to leadership, advocacy, professional development, and collaboration in advancing fire prevention and life-safety efforts across California and throughout the nation.



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PRESIDENTS' REPORT

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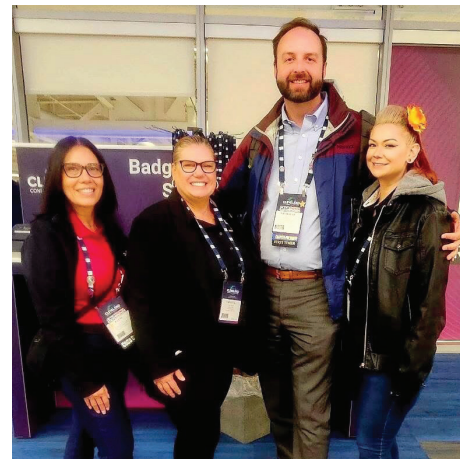
MEETINGS & MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the year, CA FPO remained actively engaged in a variety of key meetings and events that strengthened collaboration and professional connection across the state. Association leadership participated in the Quarterly Building and Fire Advisory Committee Meetings in Sacramento alongside CALBO, ICC, California State Agencies, and other stakeholders, with particular focus on lessons learned from the Los Angeles County fires and support for impacted communities. We also contributed to national dialogue through participation in the NFPA Outthink Wildfire Policy Collaborative. In Northern California, members hosted the 15th Annual Step and Drive for Prevention Golf Tournament and Banquet, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (AARBF) and the Firefighters Burn Institute (FFBI), reinforcing our commitment to burn prevention and recovery efforts. Additionally, monthly General Membership Meetings were held in both Northern and Southern California, including signature events such as the Annual Agency Update Meeting, Past Presidents Meeting, and December Holiday Party. Collectively, these gatherings fostered transparency, strengthened partnerships, and reinforced the professional bonds that unite our Association.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move forward, the California Fire Prevention Officers Association remains committed to advancing strong fire and life-safety policies, supporting our members, and fostering collaboration across agencies and disciplines. The accomplishments of this year reflect the power of unified advocacy, professional excellence, and shared purpose.

On behalf of your Chapter Presidents, thank you to our members, committee chairs, and allied partners. Your dedication continues to drive meaningful progress and ensures a safer, more resilient California.



NORTHERN DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
Nick Otis
Fire Marshal, UC Santa Cruz



First Vice President
Megan Hall
Director - UC Chemical Management
Safety Center of Excellence
Deputy Fire Marshal



Second Vice President
Jessica Walton
Sr. Plans Examiner
West Sacramento Fire Department



Treasurer
Tonya Talavera
Fire Prevention Inspector
Milpitas Fire Department



Secretary
Dante Wiley
Fire Marshal
Richmond Fire Prevention Services
Division



Director of Operations
Adeline Wright
Senior Fire Inspector
West Sacramento Fire Department



Judge Advocate
Tim Spears
Assistant Deputy Director: Code
Development & Analysis, Fire
& Life Safety, and State Fire
Training, Office of the State Fire
Marshal

SOUTHERN DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
Nicole Pesqueira
Fire Marshal
Brea Fire Department



First Vice President
Patti Daul
Division Chief/Fire Marshal
Pechanga Fire Department



Second Vice President
Astrid Starcher
Deputy Fire Marshal
San Marcos Fire Department



Treasurer
Frankie Rodriguez
Deputy Fire Marshal
Heartland Fire & Rescue



Secretary
Traci Williams
Riverside County Fire
Office of the Fire Marshal



Director of Operations
Joe Cavin
Fire Marshal
Santa Monica Fire Department



Judge Advocate
Joe Morelli
Fire Marshal
Ventura County Fire Department

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN FIRE & BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE

2025 was a busy year for the code development committee. We started the year by convening a sub-group to write a draft for the *Significant Changes to the California Fire Code 2025 edition*.

We then prepared for the ICC Group B Code Action Hearings for the development of the 2027 ICC codes, including administrative provisions for all the codes, International Building Code, International Existing Building Code and International Residential Code. We attended the first Committee Action Hearings in Orlando in April and then the second Committee Action Hearings in Cleveland in October. During this process, we worked with many stakeholders across the country, including the Fire Code Action Committee, to vet and prepare comments for code change proposals.

Many committee members were heavily involved in the ICC Fire Code Action Committee workgroups, including energy issues, passive fire protection, active fire protection, hazardous materials, special processes, and the Wildland urban interface code. Members also worked with the CA Office of the State Fire Marshal on statewide committees, including the adoption of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code and involvement in nationwide groups regarding energy storage systems.

We would like to thank all the committee members for their participation and dedication over the past year.

The Code Development Committee meets virtually via Zoom on the fourth Thursday of every month unless otherwise noted and invites everyone to attend.

CO-CHAIRS



Adria Smith
CSG Consultants



Darcy Davidson
Carlsbad Fire Department



Crystal Sujeski
Office of the State Fire Marshal



Cary Yballa
Central County Fire
Department

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN FIRE EQUIPMENT & DEVICES COMMITTEE

The Fire Equipment & Devices Committee is currently under the direction of Matthew Shealy, Jessica Walton and Rik Drury. This committee works due to our hard-working fire department personnel and industry professionals. The objective is to strengthen all our members through the work being provided. This committee will continue to collaborate and bring more to the organization.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Specialized Training Presentations given at meetings this year: 3IR+UV Optical Flame Detection by Detection Group Inc., Spot the Dot-The Dichotomy of Obstructions by SDG LLC, Smoke and Fire Dampers by Sheet Metals Workers Local 104, Key Updates for New Backflow and Check Valve Requirements by Riverside County DFM Sonya Rivera-Bu, System Manufactured in UK by Plumis Automist Systems, and ESS and BESS Systems by Sevo systems
- Completion of a Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing Checklist: Finalized a comprehensive checklist for the acceptance testing of dry fire sprinkler systems, specifically tailored to assist new inspectors.
- Industry Collaboration with CAFAA and AFSA: Partnered with members of the California Automatic Fire Alarm Association (CAFAA) and the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) to exchange insights, enhance best practices, and strengthen industry relationships.
- Fire Protection System information sheets: Developed for smoke and fire damper control systems
 - Worked closely with the Sheet Metals Workers Local 104
- State Fire Marshal Engagement: Advocated for critical fire protection concerns by engaging with the State Fire Marshal's Office, increasing awareness of emerging fire safety challenges and influencing proactive regulatory improvements.
 - Asked for interpretation from OSFM on if 24-hour shut down and 5-minute ring down was required for fire alarm systems per NFPA 72, answer was no.

2026 INITIATIVES

- Enhancing Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing Checklists: Continue refining and expanding checklists to standardize evaluation processes, offering clear, step-by-step guidance for new inspectors.
- Offer training on new equipment and devices coming to the market for the benefit of the committee.

CO-CHAIRS



Jessica Walton
West Sacramento Fire
Department



Rik Drury
Sprinkler Fitters,
U.A. Local 483



Matthew Shealy
Rancho Cucamonga Fire
Protection District

NORTHERN FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Fire Service Education Section continues to support California Fire Prevention Officers (CA FPO) through relevant, practical, and regulation-aligned training opportunities. In 2025, the program emphasized professional development, code consistency, public education strategies, and emerging fire risk challenges affecting urban, suburban, and wildland interface communities.

Training efforts focused on maintaining foundational competencies while expanding knowledge in evolving areas such as wildfire mitigation, community risk reduction (CRR), and interagency coordination.

EDUCATION & TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Key accomplishments and focus areas during the reporting period included: Los Angeles County Fire Department and CA FPO collaborated training, spear headed by Rob Neale, providing membership free monthly online training throughout the 2025 calendar year.

For 2026, the Fire Service Education Section proposes offering a balanced slate of training opportunities, including foundational, intermediate, and advanced-level courses.

2026 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES/CLASSES

- Provide relevant, high-quality training aligned with current and emerging fire risks
- Support regional consistency in fire prevention practices and messaging
- Strengthen the role of fire prevention officers as educators, inspectors, and community partners
- Expand access to training through flexible delivery formats
- Continue adapting education offerings based on feedback and operational needs

Fire Service Education remains a critical component of effective fire prevention and community safety throughout California. By building on current successes and proactively addressing identified training needs, the 2026 education plan will continue to support prevention officers in meeting the evolving challenges of the fire service.

CO-CHAIRS



Tonya Talavera
Milpitas Fire Department



Eric Govan
City of Fremont Department

SOUTHERN FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Fire Service Education Committee strategically plans, promotes, and manages classes and seminars with the goal of improving the skills, knowledge, and technical understanding in a wide diversity of subject matter. We continue to seek partnerships in education that will assist in providing high quality training and education while meeting the economic challenges and needs of our members. Classes continue to be offered in a variety of formats to meet the dynamic needs of our members. Classes were held in-person, virtually, and in hybrid format. We are grateful for the time our instructors committed to educating our members.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below is a list of the topics presented and hosted by the Fire Service Education Committee in 2025:

- 2 Significant Code Fire Code Changes Courses
- 3 Statutes and Regulations Courses
- Fire Alarm System Plan Review
- Wet Sprinkler Inspection Course
- Residential Care Facilities
- Fire Sprinkler Plan Review
- IFC/IBC Hazardous Materials Provisions

2026 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES/CLASSES

- Host a Sprinkler 2-day Training in Conjunction with NFSA
- High Piled Storage Course
- Residential Care Facilities
- Statutes and Regulations x 3
- Exiting & Egress Course
- WUI Course

CO-CHAIRS



Nicole Pesqueira
Brea Fire Department



Frankie Rodriguez
Heartland Fire and Rescue

NORTHERN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE

In 2025, the Hazardous Materials Committee hosted monthly meetings to discuss hazardous materials and code enforcement topics. Chad Anderson from Fremont Fire Department and Audrey Sulkanen from UC Davis Fire Prevention served as the Committee as Co-Chairs to continue the group's crucial work as a technical resource.

The co-chairs surveyed both the North and South Fire Prevention Officers members to determine which topics were of highest interest and use to the membership. In addition to gathering training topics, the co-chairs assisted in code proposal review for the ICC Code hearings held this year.

The Committee continued its efforts and ongoing goal to increase member participation and recruit new members. We are committed to encouraging and inspiring new fire service members to participate in this important Technical Committee. In addition to membership recruitment, our future goals include building a forum or message board that can serve as a resource for members who have questions about hazardous material issues.

CO-CHAIRS



Audrey Sulkanen
UC Davis



Chad Anderson
Fremont Fire Department

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee was less active this year—they monitored several bills in 2025 that directly impact fire prevention, plan review authority, and the integrity of the code adoption process.

Consistent with prior years, many proposals were introduced under the broader policy goals of housing production, economic recovery, and streamlining development. While these objectives are understood, several measures raised significant concerns regarding the potential circumvention of established code processes and the authority of the local AHJ.

AB 306 / AB 130 – CODE PROCESS AND STATE-LEVEL INTERVENTION

Bill Summary:

AB 306 and AB 130 introduced mechanisms that would expand state oversight and potentially limit local amendments or procedural requirements related to building and fire code enforcement. The measures were framed as efforts to promote consistency and reduce delays in housing development.

Committee Concerns:

The Legislative Committee remains concerned about proposals that shift authority away from local fire code officials or introduce state-level approval mechanisms that could override local conditions. Similar to concerns raised in 2024 regarding state pre-approval of local ordinances, these bills reflect a broader trend toward centralization of authority.

Circumventing the established code adoption and amendment process risks:

- Reducing the ability of AHJs to address local fire hazards and geographic conditions
- Creating ambiguity in enforcement authority
- Undermining the collaborative model between building and fire officials
- Weakening the technical review process that ensures life safety equivalency or greater protection

Fire and life safety codes are developed through consensus-based processes with stakeholder engagement. Legislative shortcuts that bypass these systems risk unintended consequences and reduced public safety protections.

CO-CHAIRS



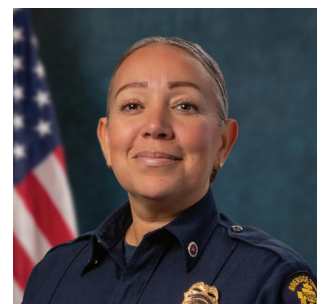
Randy Metz
Carlsbad Fire Department
(Retired)



Jessica Power
San Bruno Fire Department



Rocque Yballe
Central County Fire
Department and UCSF
(Retired)



Sonya Bu
Riverside County Fire
Department

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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AB 671 – EXPEDITED RESTAURANT PLAN REVIEW

Bill Summary:

AB 671 proposes fast-tracking review timelines for restaurant and small commercial tenant improvement projects, with the intent of supporting small businesses and accelerating economic activity.

Committee Concerns:

While the Committee supports efficiency and customer service improvements, mandated acceleration of review timelines without proportional staffing resources presents risks.

Key concerns include:

- Insufficient time for comprehensive life safety review of hood suppression systems, fire alarm modifications, occupant load calculations, and hazardous materials storage
- Increased reliance on incomplete submittals or deferred approvals
- Pressure on inspectors and plan reviewers that may compromise thoroughness

Restaurant occupancies frequently involve commercial cooking systems, fuel sources, and high occupant loads—areas historically associated with elevated fire risk. Speed must not replace scrutiny. The Committee emphasizes that meaningful streamlining should focus on process improvement, digital tools, and complete submittals—not reduced technical review.

AB 253 – THIRD-PARTY REVIEW AND “SHOT CLOCK” PROVISIONS

Bill Summary:

AB 253 expands the use of third-party plan review and introduces “shot clock” provisions that impose statutory deadlines on agencies for review completion.

Committee Concerns:

The Committee recognizes the role third-party reviewers can play when properly integrated and overseen. However, concerns arise when statutory deadlines are paired with automatic approvals or penalties for exceeding review timelines.

Risks include:

- Diminished oversight of third-party reviewers
- Inconsistent application of fire and life safety standards
- Approval of complex projects without full code compliance verification
- Liability exposure for jurisdictions despite limited review authority

The imposition of rigid timelines does not account for incomplete applications, complex hazard classifications, or evolving code interpretations. Fire code review is not purely administrative—it is a technical life safety function. “Shot clock” provisions may inadvertently incentivize speed over compliance.

AB 6 – STREAMLINED REVIEW PERIODS

Bill Summary:

AB 6 seeks to reduce overall review periods for development projects and limit the ability of agencies to extend review cycles.

Committee Concerns:

As with other streamlining measures, AB 6 reflects growing legislative pressure to accelerate housing and infrastructure projects. However, reducing review periods without addressing staffing, training, or submission quality may compromise the technical depth of plan review.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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Concerns include:

- Reduced opportunity for interdepartmental coordination
- Increased reliance on conditions of approval rather than verified compliance
- Potential erosion of public trust if deficiencies surface post-construction

Streamlining must be balanced with enforceable compliance. Fire prevention is most effective before construction—not after occupancy.

OVERARCHING THEMES AND RISKS

Across these bills, the Committee observed a consistent theme: policy-driven acceleration of development timelines that may unintentionally weaken established code processes.

Fire and life safety codes are:

- Developed through nationally recognized consensus processes
- Adopted and amended through structured state and local procedures
- Enforced by trained professionals accountable to their jurisdictions

Circumventing these systems through legislative mandates risks long-term consequences that may not be immediately visible but can impact life safety for decades.

LOOKING AHEAD

As legislative activity continues to accelerate around housing, economic development, and regulatory reform, it is critical that the Association take a more structured and proactive approach to advocacy. In addition, the South FPOs have enlisted Sonya Bu with Riverside County as the new co-chair for the representing south, announced in December.

For 2026 and beyond, the goals of the Legislative Committee include:

- Defining clear legislative priorities at the beginning of each session that align with the mission of the Association and the practical needs of Fire Prevention Officers statewide. A focused platform will allow the Committee to evaluate bills consistently and respond strategically rather than reactively.
- Establishing a dedicated and engaged core group of committee members responsible for tracking assigned bills throughout the legislative cycle. This includes monitoring amendments, attending hearings when appropriate, and providing concise monthly updates to the membership and Board. Consistent tracking ensures early identification of concerns before measures advance too far in the process.
- Providing structured monthly legislative updates to the membership to ensure transparency and keep members informed of emerging trends that may impact code enforcement, plan review authority, and fire and life safety standards.
- Ensuring consistent communication with the Executive Board. Providing timely updates to the Executive board and seeking direction will enable the legislative committee to engage on priority issues are essential for effective representation. Regular coordination will strengthen messaging, improve response times, and ensure alignment with the Association's strategic objectives.

With defined priorities, engaged participation, and reliable communication channels, the Legislative Committee can move from a reactive posture to a proactive leadership role—protecting the integrity of the code process while constructively engaging in California's evolving legislative landscape.

NORTHERN MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Marketing and Membership Committee is responsible for promoting the Fire Prevention Officers organization and increasing its visibility among both internal and external audiences. Our goal is to keep the FPOs active, relevant, and steadily growing. Key audiences include current and prospective members, partner vendors, community and public officials, business partners, industry stakeholders, and other fire service groups. With that, some of our strategic goals for 2026 are to increase the awareness of our FPO Association, support the organization's growth, expand to new audiences, and improve our current member engagement. Some of the long term goals would include reviewing new tools and platforms to increase our efficiency with information sharing.

The committee collaborated with outside organizations to coordinate events and encourage stronger engagement through the promotion of training opportunities and timely sharing of pertinent information directly impacting the FPO membership and their respective positions.

Consistent to previous years, we saw many new faces from both public agencies and private industry appear at our monthly meetings. This always provide ample opportunities for outreach and allowed the Committee to connect with a wide range of subject-matter experts. The wealth of information shared with the Committee --through speakers, partners, and various communication channels--was passed along to the membership, offering valuable resources, specialized training opportunities, and contacts who support many aspects of fire prevention work.

We recognize that the role and direction of Fire Prevention Officers are evolving rapidly, making active member participation more important than ever. As the Marketing Committee, we fully support the Board's decision to merge the Northern and Southern Committees, viewing it as a critical step toward strengthening our collective impact, reducing duplication, streamlining communication, and establishing a more unified and consistent voice for fire prevention efforts. In promoting Fire Prevention Officers, this unified approach is especially vital in the marketing our Association, as our growing and engaged membership strengthens our collective influence—enabling us to be more effective, more impactful, and better prepared to meet the evolving needs of our goals statewide.

CO-CHAIRS



Tim Spears
Assistant Deputy Director:
Code Development &
Analysis, Fire & Life Safety,
and State Fire Training,
Office of the State Fire
Marshal



Rebecca Leda
Sacramento Metropolitan
Fire District

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN Public Education and Community Risk Reduction COMMITTEE

The California Fire Prevention Officers Public Education and Community Risk Reduction Committee is dedicated to protecting lives, property, and the environment through proactive fire and life safety education, community engagement, and evidence-based risk reduction strategies. We strive to empower individuals and communities across California with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent emergencies, reduce hazards, and build a culture of safety and resilience.

MEETING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning January 2026, committee meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM.

- **Odd months** will feature a presentation focused on Community Risk Reduction (CRR).
- **Even months** will highlight topics related to Fire and Life Safety Education.

Each meeting will begin with a 30-minute, thought-provoking presentation, followed by an open question and discussion on the topic, and conclude with a roundtable session for committee members to network, share upcoming classes, and exchange insights or advice.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Formally united Northern CA Public Education Committee with Southern CA Community Risk Reduction Committee
- Presentation/trainings included: OSFM CRR updates, public education programs in the modern fire prevention division, emergency preparedness and fire safety for individuals with disabilities, lithium-ion batteries and FPW theme, home insurance rights in CA,

2026 VISION & GOALS

- Expand roster to include any missed agencies in California.
- Continue to provide monthly meetings with current and relevant presentations
- Identify specific hazards within our communities and provide peer support and ideas during meeting roundtables
- Bring awareness on home oxygen fire prevention statewide and the use of firebreaks
- Contribute to development of industry best practices standards (i.e. NFPA 1300 and 1730)
- Further develop California Fire Prevention Officers collaboration with NFPA, Vision 2020, Firescope, and other organizations focused on public education and community risk reduction. Current representation includes:
 - o Dante Wiley, Cal FPO NFPA Liaison
 - o Alexandra Solano, Cal FPO NFPA Liaison
 - o Rebecca Alessandri, Vision 2020 Champions and Emerging Leader
 - o Joe Morelli, Cal FPO representative - Principal NFPA Fire Prevention Organization and Deployment Technical Committee (NFPA 1750, 1300, 1452)
- Cover topics spanning the 5 E strategies of CRR (Education, Engineering, Economic incentives, Enforcement, Emergency Response)

CO-CHAIRS



Rebecca Alessandri
Firefighters Burn Institute



Dante Wiley
Richmond Fire Department



Alexandra Solana
Anaheim Fire Department



Joseph Morelli
Ventura County Fire
Department

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE COMMITTEE

The FPO WUI committee met monthly throughout 2025, except for November and December, which were consolidated into a single meeting. Meetings were consistently well attended (30+ participants) due to the release of the updated FHSZ maps and the pending adoption of the Zone 0 regulations and the CWUIC. Additionally, WUI committee meetings have seen strong attendance from CAL FIRE administrators, NFPA, and IBHS representatives, who have been generally supportive of our work and view our meetings as an opportunity to inform and communicate with local fire agencies and other wildfire professionals.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hosted several open forum discussions on the updated FHSZ maps
- Drafted a position statement providing the WUI committees support for the more restrictive Zone 0 regulation options.
- Presentation of the Hazard Mitigation Methodology from NIST.

2026 GOALS

- Provide a forum for fire prevention professionals to discuss current and pending codes, regulations, and standards.
- Helping members interpret and enforce new wildfire codes and regulations.
- Provide wildfire prevention training opportunities to wildfire prevention professionals.

CO-CHAIRS



Noah Brownlow
Richmond Fire Department



Jeremy Cawn
Dudek



Raymi Wun
Newport Beach Fire
Department

THE CHARLES H. GRAY MEMORIAL FUND SERVICE AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP GRANT



Charles H. Gray

Charles H. Gray served as fire marshal for the City of Santa Rosa Fire Department located in Sonoma County, California. He was a long-time member of the California Fire Prevention Officers' – Northern Division and rose up through the chairs to hold the office of president in 1977. Chief Gray contributed his time and talents to the betterment of the Association by promoting fire and life safety through code development processes and throughout the community.

As a tribute to his dedicated service, the Charles H. Gray Memorial Fund Service Award and Scholarship program was established. The goal of the fund is to promote, recognize, and foster dedicated service in the field of fire prevention. An annual award is given to recognize one member of the Association who has exemplified the aforementioned goals. Additional awards and scholarships may be made as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. Scholarships and grants are available through an application process. Successful proposals are ones that best meet the intent and guidelines of the foundation.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE CHARLES H. GRAY MEMORIAL FUND SERVICE AWARD:

1985	Charles H. Gray	2000	Steve Hart	2016	Rocque Yballa
1986	James H, McLaughlin	2001	Vernon Brown	2017	Lynne Kilpatrick
1987	James Luce	2002	Fort Hartsfield	2018	Dennis Mathisen
1988	Lawrence Toellner	2003	Tonya Hoover	2019	Bruce Lecair
1989	William Greene	2004	Doug Williams	2020	Ronnie Coleman
1990	Darrell W. Harguth	2005	Gene Gantt	2021	Susan Dowty
1991	Kenneth J. Slamon, Jr.	2006	Rick Terry	2022	Christine Reed
1991	Gale Bate	2007	Forrest Craig	2023	Robert Marshall
1992	Robert Burns	2008	Rick Rodewald	2024	Jessica Power
1993	John Gillilan	2009	Lorin Neyer		
1994	Robert Kinney	2010	Ken Wagner		
1995	Joan Jennings	2011	Kevin Reinertson		
1996	Mary Cornelison	2012	Wes Arvin		
1997	Howard Hopper	2013	Morgana Yahnke		
1998	Dave Milanese	2014	Ray Bizal		
1999	Joe Perry	2015	Gini Krippner		

MOST RECENT SCHOLARSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS:

2012	Isaac Mendel
2017	Cary Yballa

APPLICANTS

Applications for scholarships/program grants are accepted annually from June 1 – December 31. Scholarships and grants are awarded in March of the following year. For applications or information, write, call or email:

CHARLES H. GRAY MEMORIAL FUND

3620 American River Drive, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95864

info@firepreventionofficers.org
(916) 442-0307

GALE BATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The newly established Gale Bate Leadership Award is presented annually by the California Fire Prevention Officers Northern Division Board of Directors to recognize career achievements by an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and longstanding dedication in support of the association mission.

This prestigious award honors the over 50 years and continued commitment Gale Bate has provided in his unwavering leadership to the California Fire Prevention Officers Association. Gale did not have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors or President of the association, but has proven leaders are present, accountable, and trustworthy, but more so, leaders can come from, and lead from, anywhere.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF GALE BATE LEADERSHIP AWARD:

2021	Gale Bate
2022	William Greene
2023	Steve Hart
2024	George Apple

THE WILLIAM E. FOX AWARD

William E. Fox joined Inglewood Fire Department on September 1, 1939. He spent 29 years, from September 1, 1940, to January 1, 1969, as an officer in the Fire Prevention Office. He was promoted to Battalion Chief, serving to July 17, 1971, when he retired. His commitment to teaching the public to be safe from fire, earned him the affectionate titles of “Mr. Inglewood” and “Mr. Fire Prevention” among the young people and citizens of the community.

Captain Fox was president in 1948-1950 of the Harbor District Fireman’s Association and was president in 1949-1950 of the Southern California Conference of Fire Prevention Inspectors. He helped organize the California Conference of Arson Investigators and was President from 1957-1958. He also assisted organizing the California Fire Prevention Officers’ Association.

Aside from his fire service involvement, Captain Fox served 29 years on the Inglewood Employees Credit Union, serving six years as president. He was an active member of the Optimists, Elks, and Junior Chamber of Commerce; served on committees for the YMCA; assisted in awarding scholarships and serving as president for the American Field Service Organization (AFS); member and president of his local Red Cross Chapter; and served on the Board of Directors of the Centinela Valley Historical Society.

The Award was created to exemplify outstanding efforts and development in the field of fire prevention.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE WILLIAM E. FOX AWARD:

1995	Sam Husoe	2013	Tommy Thompson	2018	Randy Metz
1997	Bill Hopple	2014	Tonya Hoover	2019	Stuart Tom
2009	Rick Terry	2015	Robert Espinosa	2020	Ray Bizal
2010	Ken Kraus	2016	James Carver	2021	Kevin Reinertson
2012	Laura Blaul	2017	Bruce Lecair	2024	Dr. Matthew Wheeler

THE AWARD STATES:

In recognition of outstanding leadership, vision and continued dedication to the fire service and the causes of life safety and fire protection.

THE MARY ERIKSEN-RATTAN AWARD

Mary Eriksen-Rattan started her professional life by earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1966 from Fort Hayes State College and becoming a certified medical technician.

Not satisfied with that profession, Mrs. Eriksen-Rattan went on to obtain various credentials in fire protection, including certification in fire protection engineering and a lifetime teaching credential in fire science from UCLA. She taught fire science at El Camino College in Torrance, California, and taught courses on building construction for hazardous materials at University California Irvine, San Diego State University, and Oregon State University.

She was working for an El Segundo fire alarm company when the city of El Segundo hired her as a fire plan reviewer, which eventually led to her appointment as fire marshal – one of the first females to hold that title in the country. After marrying, Mrs. Eriksen-Rattan moved to La Mesa, California, where she opened a fire prevention consulting business in 1984, specializing in provisions of the Uniform Fire and Building Codes. She maintained that business until five days before her passing on March 7, 2006.

Mrs. Eriksen-Rattan distinguished herself throughout her varied career. Among her many accomplishments, she chaired the Uniform Fire Code Article 80 (hazardous materials) Rewrite Committee and co-wrote A User’s Guide to Article 80 in 1991. More noteworthy than her resume, however, was her reputation as a problem-solver and perfectionist who was endlessly driven. But above all, Mrs. Eriksen-Rattan was known as an authority who always made herself available to assist her fellow fire prevention colleagues with applying the codes fairly and accurately.

The Mary Eriksen-Rattan Award was created to recognize those special fire prevention professionals who represent the technical ability, sound leadership, and endless drive that Mary possessed. This is a special recognition which is only awarded when a person meeting the criteria is identified.

PAST MARY ERIKSEN-RATTAN AWARD RECIPIENTS:

2006	Mary Eriksen-Rattan	2015	Don Oaks	2021	Kirk Greenwood
2009	Penny Overstreet-Murphy	2016	Elley Klausbruckner	2022	Rick Cortina
2012	Rolland Crawford	2017	Adria Reinertson	2023	Randy Metz
2013	Kevin Scott	2019	Mark Dossett	2024	Crystal Sujeski

STUART TOM BUILDING OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Stuart Tom Building Official of the Year is awarded to a Building Code Official who is recognized for their contributions toward leadership and code compliance in fire prevention regarding the developed environment in California, and for their partnership with the California Fire Prevention Officers.

In October 2024, the Building Official of the Year Award was renamed the Stuart Tom Building Official of the Year Award in honor of his enduring impact on our profession. This recognition reflects his involvement with the California Fire Prevention Officers, and his vision and leadership in uniting building and fire code officials.

Stuart Tom is known as a leader of competence and character, and for a legacy of creating cohesion between building and fire code officials. He mentored fire code officials, chaired the California Fire Prevention Officers Code Committee, and served as the primary author of Chapter 7A - Materials and Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure. He was also an inaugural member of the California Building/Fire Advisory Committee and served the fire and building safety industry with distinction as President of the International Code Council from 2023 to 2024.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD:

2024 Stuart Tom

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE STUART TOM BUILDING OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD:

2021 Raj Patel

2022 Shane Diller

2024 Truong Huynh

CALIFORNIA

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS

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