

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

CALIF**ORNIA**
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS

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CALIFORNIA FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS



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As we reflect on 2024, we're proud to share this message on behalf of the California Fire Prevention Officers Association. This past year has been one of transformation, collaboration, and progress, reinforcing our shared commitment to fire prevention and community risk reduction across the state.

COMMITTEES: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION

Our standing committees have played a pivotal role in advancing key initiatives. In 2024, many committees continued to leverage virtual meetings to collaborate more effectively, allowing engagement from fire prevention officers statewide. This approach has strengthened partnerships and streamlined communication, allowing us to work more effectively.

The work of our committees continues to drive meaningful change. Co-chairs remain dedicated to legislative advocacy, code development, and public education efforts that shape the future of fire safety. A major milestone was the unification of the Wildland-Urban Interface, Building and Fire Code, and Fire Equipment and Devices Committees into unified committees. This consolidation enhances our ability to address complex challenges with a unified voice, strengthening our impact.

MEMBERSHIP: A NEW CHAPTER

One of the most significant decisions of the year was the membership vote to separate from the California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs/CFCA), reestablishing ourselves as a standalone organization. This decision followed months of discussions with CFCA, other sections, and our membership. Our goal remains to be the unified voice of public and private fire prevention officers across California. Even as we go on our own path, we are committed to fostering collaborative relationships with CFCA and our allied organizations. Together, we aim to advocate for fire prevention and community risk reduction, recognizing that our combined efforts are important to the safety of Californians.

Our members have also been engaged in shaping the future of fire safety. Many participated in California State Fire Marshal work groups, particularly in the development of the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code. This effort demonstrates the importance of tailoring national standards to California's unique fire risks, reinforcing our commitment to enhancing fire prevention, improving life safety measures, and developing codes that protect our communities.

Additionally, an Ad Hoc Committee was established to explore a proposal for a united California Fire Prevention Officers

continued...



Joseph Morelli
Southern California
2024 Fire
Prevention Officers
Board President



Timothy Spears
Northern California
2024 Fire
Prevention Officers
Board President

Association. As this work continues, we look forward to the final recommendations and the opportunities they may present for a stronger, more cohesive organization.

This year also marked a new era in our identity, as we proudly introduced a new logo for the association.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: REPRESENTING OUR MISSION

Leadership from both the Northern and Southern divisions actively represented the association at numerous key events and conferences, ensuring our collective voice was heard at the local, state, and national levels. Presidents Davidson and Leda were jointly awarded the 2023 Fire Official of the Year at the California Building Officials (CALBO) Annual Business Meeting, a recognition of their leadership and contributions to fire prevention. Our association also participated in the Congressional Fire Services Institute Symposium and Dinner, where we witnessed the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Fire and Life Safety Section advocating important safety measures, such as improved home oxygen safety standards.

Furthering our engagement at the national level, we attended the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Annual Conference and Expo, taking part in the International Association of Fire Marshals Annual Meeting. Additionally, we contributed to the endorsement process for the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors at the Western Pacific League of Building Officials (WPLBO) ICC Candidate Forum, working in collaboration with regional building official associations.

At the International Code Council's Annual Conference in Long Beach, which the California Fire Prevention Officers co-hosted jointly with the California Building Officials, had the honor of recognizing Stuart Tom's contributions by renaming our Building Official of the Year Award in his name for his work in bridging the gap between building and fire code officials. These events and engagements highlight the association's commitment to leadership, advocacy, and collaboration in advancing fire prevention efforts.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we step into 2025, we're excited about what's ahead. We'll continue to build on the progress we've made, advocate for sound fire and life safety policies, and strengthen our partnerships to protect communities across California.

To our members, committee chairs, and board members, thank you. Your dedication and hard work are what drive this organization forward. Together, we'll keep advancing the mission of the California Fire Prevention Officers Association and working toward a safer, more resilient future for all.

NORTHERN DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
Tim Spears
Fire Marshal
South San Joaquin County
Fire Authority



First Vice President
Lori Jessell
Deputy Fire Marshal
UC San Francisco



Second Vice President
Nick Otis
Lead Designated Campus
Fire Marshal
UC Santa Cruz



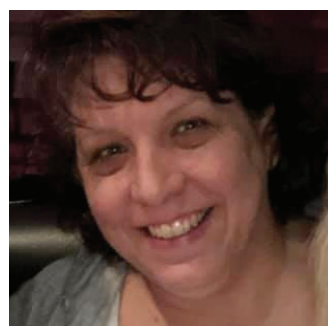
Treasurer
Megan Hall
Director - UC Chemical
Management Safety
Center of Excellence
Deputy Fire Marshal -
Hazardous Materials



Secretary
Carisa Workman
Fire Marshal
San Mateo Consolidated Fire
Department



Judge Advocate
Rebecca Leda
Fire Inspector II
Sacramento Metropolitan
Fire Department



Director of Operations
Mary Sanchez
Operations & Program Manager
UC Davis Fire

SOUTHERN DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President
Joe Morelli
Fire Marshal
Ventura County Fire
Department



First Vice President
Nicole Pesqueira
Fire Marshal
Brea Fire Department



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



Treasurer
Astrid Starcher
Deputy Fire Marshal
San Marcos Fire Department



Secretary
Frankie Rodriquez
Deputy Fire Marshal
Heartland Fire & Rescue



Judge Advocate
Darcy Davidson
Division Chief/Fire Marshal
Carlsbad Fire Department

In early 2024, the Northern and Southern Fire and Building Code Committees merged to function as one statewide committee.

It was a busy year for the code committee as we prepared for the International Fire, Wildland-Urban Interface, and Building Code hearings for the development of the 2027 ICC codes. We worked with many stakeholders across the country, including the Fire Code Action Committee, to move proposals forward. The committee, in coordination with the Fire Protection Equipment & Devices committee submitted proposals for buildings under construction, electrified fences, the reorganization and minor technical changes to IFC Chapter 57, and relocating all fueling provisions to Chapter 23. Several proposals to the Wildland-Urban Interface Code were drafted and submitted jointly by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the California FPO.

The first ICC Committee Action Hearings were held in April 2024 in Orlando with committee members in attendance. The second Committee Action Hearings were held in Long Beach in October 2024 with committee members and many FPO board members in attendance. We had success on several proposals heard by the committee. The committees and the Office of the State Fire Marshal are currently working on the final comments for the proposals that were not successful. The final hearings will be held in spring of 2026.

Many committee members were heavily involved in the ICC Fire Code Action Committee workgroups to include 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.

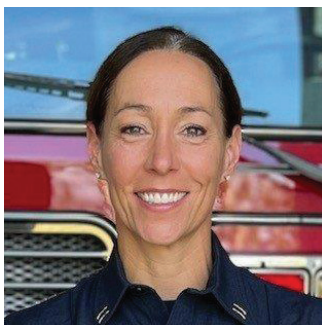
We would like to thank all the committee members for their participation and dedication over the past year.

The Code Development Committee meets virtually via Teams 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 Fire Marshal



Cary Yballa
Central County Fire
Department

This year the Fire Equipment & Devices Committee joined together. The Northern committee was gladly welcomed into the Southern committee's monthly meeting. The committee is currently under the direction of Medi Maldonado, Jessica Walton and Rik Drury. Having fire department personnel and industry professionals makes this committee work. 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.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completion of a fire Protection System Acceptance Testing Checklist: Finalized a comprehensive checklist for the acceptance testing of fire protection 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 Acceptance Testing Checklists: Developed two comprehensive checklists to assist new inspectors in evaluating fire alarm systems, two-way communication systems, and fire sprinkler systems.
 - Worked closely with the Fire Service Education Committee to deliver specialized training on fire alarm acceptance testing, two-way communication requirements, and fire sprinkler system evaluation.
- 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.
- Specialized Training on Emerging Technologies: Provided in-depth training on cutting-edge fire protection systems and devices, equipping inspectors with the knowledge to assess innovative technologies effectively.
- Security Fog Systems Awareness: Developed an educational bulletin on the rising use of Security Fog Systems and their implications for fire protection. Presented findings at regional Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) meetings, increasing awareness among industry professionals and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs).

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CO-CHAIRS



Jessica Walton
West Sacramento Fire
Department



Rik Drury
Sprinkler Fitters, U.A. Local
483



Medi Maldonado
Carlsbad Fire Department

2025 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.
- Development of Visual Aids for Fire Protection Equipment: Collaborate with manufacturers to create high-quality visual aids that improve comprehension of fire protection devices, enhancing training resources for inspectors and industry professionals.

Fire Service Education Committee Co-Chairs Tonya Talavera & Eric Govan collaborated with Rob Neale of Integra Code Consultants and successfully facilitated the following seven virtual training classes in 2024:

- Medical Gases
- Fire Protection During Construction
- Commercial Cooking: Ventilation and Fire Control
- Why Codes Matter
- IBC Approach to Hazardous Materials: Parts 1& 2 (Real World Storage Rules)
- IBC Approach to Hazardous Materials: Part 3 (Use and Handling)

The NorCal Fire Service Education Committee continues to seek training opportunities to provide updates on the newly adopted California Codes and Regulations as well as revisions to the newly adopted standards. The committee monitors trends and innovations in new technology and seeks to provide training and education opportunities to meet the needs of its membership.

The committee also continuously seek partnerships in education to assist in providing high quality training and education. We seek to evaluate the effectiveness of training classes and explore new training programs to increase accessibility for membership. In addition, the committee strives to provide training that will enable its members to expand the diversity of subject matter covered in training classes.

CO-CHAIRS



Tonya Talavera
Milpitas Fire Department



Eric Govan
City of Fremont

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 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES/CLASSES PLANNED FOR 2025 INCLUDE:

- Residential Care Facilities
- Statutes and Regulations (3 classes)
- NFSA High Pile Storage Plan Review
- Fire Alarm Plan Review

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Below is a list of the topics presented and hosted by the Fire Service Education Committee in 2024:

- Introduction to Victaulic Vortex System
- Residential Sprinklers 101
- Statutes & Regulations in Brea
- CFC/CBC Hazmat Provisions
- Statutes & Regulations in San Marcos
- Fire Sprinkler Plan Review

CO-CHAIRS



Jason Nailon
San Marcos Fire
Department



Nicole Pesqueira
Brea Fire Department



Frankie Rodriquez
Heartland Fire and Rescue

In 2024, the Hazardous Materials Committee hosted monthly meetings to discuss hazardous materials and code enforcement topics. Todd LaBerge stepped down as co-chair after many years of service on the Hazardous Materials Committee. Chad Anderson from Fremont Fire Department joined the Committee as Co-Chair to continue the group's crucial work as a technical resource.

Chad has been with Fremont Fire Department since January 2017. Serving first as a Fire Inspector, he moved to a permanent Hazardous Materials Inspector role in 2022 after a couple of "acting" stints in the position. As a Hazmat Inspector serving in a Fire-CUPA, he regulates Fire Code as well as administering EPA Programs including Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP), Hazardous Waste, Underground Storage Tank (UST), CA Accidental Release Program (CalARP), Hazardous Waste Treatment (Tiered Permitting), and the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA). Prior to FFD, he was a Fire Inspector at UC Berkeley, serving with the Fire Marshal's office for four years.

Audrey Sulkanen and Todd LaBerge surveyed both the North and South Fire Prevention Officers members to determine which topics were of highest interest and use to the membership. We have begun a quarterly Hazardous Materials newsletter to provide information on hazardous materials topics of interest.

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.

CO-CHAIRS



Audrey Sulkanen
UC Davis



Chad Anderson
Fremont Fire Department

Following the California Legislative process, the annual legislative year generally begins in December and continues through September after the Governor decides to sign or veto various bills and finishes with reviews of the legislative year outcomes.

We began the year with three co-chairs: Randy Metz, Rocque Yballa, and Jessica Power, who served as our lead legislative co-chair. Fire Prevention Officers both North and South continued to represent a united force on the Cal Chiefs' Legislative Task Force through the 2024 legislative calendar which ended in September of 2024. To support succession planning, we added Fire Marshals Janice Cheung and Kimberly Giuliacci to the committee, noting that Rocque has retired from the fire service and needs a replacement. The South is still looking for a potential representative to replace retiring Randy Metz.

Typical of most years, the committee rallied and provided recommendations for several bills. Consistent with past years under this current gubernatorial platform – legislative efforts focused heavily on housing, environmental policies, and Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) regulations. The Task Force utilized FPO's to assist with:

AB 1993 (Kaira), Expansion of residents within six or less residential care facilities working with EMS on several fire service concerns. We worked with the author but eventually the bill died in the committee.

AB 2968 (Connelly), To support a bill before the Senate Education Committee which would have provided made changes to public school evacuation procedures. This bill also died in committee.

SB 610 (Wiener), This bill to discuss real property disclosures which we worked with CALBO on. For this bill, the committee received a multitude of opinions throughout the state from fire prevention personnel on the impacts of this bill.

The committee continued to have significant issues with SB610 (Weiner) and requested that the Task Force recommend Opposition of this bill for the following reasons:

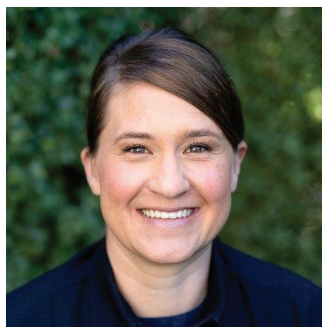
- Generally, local jurisdictions should resist any effort in which the State can approve local ordinances by the SFM, or any other State agency. The local AHJ is the local fire expert, changes that are made based upon SFM recommendations in a local ordinance would be based on local conditions that the SFM would not be familiar with.

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CO-CHAIRS



Randy Metz
City of Carlsbad



Jessica Power
Petaluma Fire Department



Rocque Yballa
University of California,
San Francisco, EH&S

- Regarding SB 610, the provision that the SFM approve the ordinance prior to implementation would drastically slow the implementation of WUI regulations at the local level, counteracting the intended goal of improving fire safety effectively. It's not clear what kind of changes the SFM would refute and there should be a provision for ordinance changes that exempts the SFM approval if the changes to the ordinance provide equal or greater protection.
- Many local AHJ's combine our ordinances with our normal code adoptions include all the Wildland stuff for the ongoing maintenance of our ordinances. So, every three years AHJ's would have to resubmit our ordinances, and we'd either must separate it, or risk our whole ordinance being delayed pending approval of the SFM. This creates a much larger burden on already understaffed AHJ's.
 - a. If the provision remains, then there should be time limits imposed on the SFM for how long they must approve the ordinance, perhaps 30 days. It is not clear what the purpose of the public comment period is and whether the local agency would need to allow the public comment period to end before submitting to the SFM.
 - b. There needs to be specific criteria as to what the SFM will approve vs. deny
 - c. Alternately, change the requirement of the SFM to approve to a registration like how we do ordinances to the BSC and HCD.
- FPO's oppose the language surrounding exclusion of zones. Consider the need for "a study that meets criteria as set forth by the SFM" rather than stating "there needs to be ample evidence." In general, exclusion should be allowed if it is done using scientific evidence and an approved methodology. The local jurisdiction cannot reduce a zone's designation currently, despite having evidence to the contrary. Given the insurance climate in the State, this should be taken as a priority.
- There should also be a link to planning requirements and explicitly stating that if the studies/assessments are done, that the new hazard zones are the ones used for the Planning requirements in the safety elements of general plans, and not the State zones.

SB 610 (Wiener) is a two-year bill that failed to meet deadline, so we'll see the bill in the 2024 Legislative Calendar year. Ultimately, Cal Chiefs' Legislative Task Force did not take an official position on this bill despite our strong opposition and request for rewrite. We are happy to say that the bill died in late July of 2024.

For the 2024 Legislative Calendar year, the Cal Chiefs' Legislative Task Force had changed the format of operation and representation at the Legislative Task Force meetings. We were only allowed to have one representative participate in the meetings and all communications to the Task Force or Cal Chiefs' Legislative Advocate must be through our senior chair who we have recognized Jessica Power as the FPO representative. At the end of the legislative calendar year, the FPO's were dismissed from further Task Force meetings. We continue to maintain excellent rapports with other fire and life safety code advocates such as CALBO.

The 2024 legislative cycle highlighted both challenges and opportunities in advancing fire prevention initiatives. With changes in representation and evolving state policies, the FPOs will need to adapt and refine our approach to legislative advocacy. As we prepare for the next cycle, we will focus on ensuring that fire prevention priorities remain at the forefront while navigating the constraints of the new Task Force structure.

With ongoing challenges in housing, environmental policies, and WUI regulations, we anticipate continued engagement with policymakers, industry experts, and advocacy groups. Our focus will be on proactive collaboration, ensuring that future legislative changes are both practical and effective in protecting our communities. Despite shifts in the legislative landscape, our commitment to public safety remains steadfast, and we will continue working with key stakeholders to ensure that fire and life safety codes remain effective and enforceable.

MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP NORTHERN COMMITTEE

Over the past year, the Marketing and Membership Committee has focused on maintaining our loyal membership base and strengthening our connection with members through exclusive benefits and personalized experiences. We remain more committed than ever to fostering a sense of belonging for ALL of our members.

Although the California Fire Prevention Officers Association is primarily made up of Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs), our membership extends to supporting vendors, public officials, business partners, community leaders, industry stakeholders, and other members of the Building and Fire Service community. To ensure continued engagement and better information sharing, we made all general meetings available via a hybrid option, allowing members to attend either in person or virtually. The tremendous amount of information shared among our members—including valuable resources, access to unique training opportunities, and FPO-specific contacts—has been highly beneficial.

The Committee has also explored new ways to re-engage members via social media. In line with our goal of fostering connections and offering various benefits, the California FPOs launched a unified Instagram and LinkedIn page. These platforms have been a great success, enabling information sharing and collaboration within our community. Additionally, they serve as powerful tools for reaching a broader audience.

With the support of both the Northern and Southern Boards, the Association introduced a new logo, which not only helps to reinforce our brand identity but also effectively communicates the values and mission of our membership.

Lastly, with the assistance of Northern Second Vice President Nick Otis, Fire Marshal for UC Santa Cruz, the FPOs have launched an online store through our website. This store allows individuals to purchase products featuring our newly designed logo—an exciting opportunity for members to promote team unity and demonstrate the Association's autonomy. The co-chairs would like to thank you for your continued support and engagement!

CO-CHAIRS



Tim Spears
South San Joaquin County
Fire Authority



Rebecca Leda
Sacramento Metropolitan
Fire District

The Public Education Committee aims to educate the public on preventing fires and injuries before they occur. Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month to introduce our members to the most current fire and injury prevention programs and information, while also allowing our members to collaborate with other agencies in Northern California by sharing their success stories, resources, and any challenges they may be facing. Each meeting features a new guest speaker with pertinent educational topics while also allowing further networking opportunities for our organizations.

COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Increase committee membership and meeting attendance.
- Continue to provide monthly meetings via zoom with training presentations to support our overall mission.
- Continue to provide a monthly newsletter for our committee members that includes but is not limited to a list of classes, training and conferences coming up, monthly safety topics to focus on with supporting links/pictures, and other related information.
- Provide members with prompt notification of immediate safety threats in Northern CA and career announcements.
- Create a roster of Northern California Public Education members that includes rank/title, department/agency, education programs used and contact information.
- Identify specific hazards within our communities and provide peer support and ideas during meeting roundtables.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Training on resources for the public after a fire and other resources from American Red Cross
- Opioid overdose prevention and education
- Kids general home safety and injury prevention
- California specific updates by NFPA CA Representative, Robert Sullivan.
- OSFM Community Risk Reduction presentation.

We will continue our monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month starting in January 2025. We welcome all that are interested in attending our 2025 meetings.

CO-CHAIRS



Rebecca Alessandri
Firefighters Burn Institute
(FFBI)



Dante Wiley
City of Richmond
Fire Department

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SOUTHERN COMMITTEE

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Committee convenes monthly to address emerging issues within the CRR community. These meetings provide a platform to share innovative ideas and strategies aimed at enhancing public safety. The CRR Committee scope includes supporting members in implementing community risk reduction, utilizing and contributing to the development of industry best practice CRR standards and strategic CRR methods, connecting members with broader statewide and national CRR resources and initiatives, and creation and dissemination of CRR fire service and public messaging and education.

2025 COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue expansion of scope of the committee (which began mid-2024) to be a broader Community Risk Reduction Committee focused on supporting members in implementing industry best programs and contributing to the development of NFPA Standards related to CRR and Public Education. Continue engagement with Cal Fire, NFPA and hosts of NFPA CRR Kitchen Table, and other partners on CRR initiatives.
- Engage with Vision 2020 and evaluate or pursue involvement with their Statewide Collaborative Engagement Framework. Engage with the U.S. Fire Administration.
- Create and disseminate CRR messaging via multiple media platforms.
- Coordination with Nor Cal Public Education Committee
- Create task groups within the committee and accomplish the following:
 - CRR messaging creation to be provided through social media platforms

- Contribute to marketing the California FPO organization
- Advocate for and engage in development of CRR initiatives and development of CRR Standards.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Broadened the scope and rebranded the Public Education Committee to be the Community Risk Reduction Committee, with a broader focus on overall CRR.
- Increased attendance at regular committee meetings and changed the format of meetings to increase engagement. Meetings now begin with a 30-minute thought-provoking presentation on CRR topics, followed by 20 minutes of discussion around the topic, and then regular business.
- Increased engagement and connection with CRR partners with outreach to NFPA and regular attendance at meetings by some industry partners, NFPA, Cal Fire. Committee connected with CRR industry leaders at the NFPA Annual conference in June
- Broadened presentations scope to be overall CRR and Public Education centric, including:
 - Kara Garrett- Cal Fire New CRR Division and Statewide CRR Strategy
 - Kurt Bell – AI use for CRR, data gathering and analysis
 - Janice Van Mullen – Huntington Beach CRR Campaign
 - NFPA Regional Directors Bob Sullivan and Greg Rogers overview of NFPA Standards development process
 - Baylie Scott, ESRI: ESRI use for CRR, data-driven and strategic approach to CRR.

CO-CHAIRS



Alexandra Solana
Anaheim Fire Department



Joseph Morelli
Ventura County Fire
Department

The FPO WUI Committee in 2024 was a joint effort between NorCal and SoCal FPO members. Jeremy Cawn and Raymi Wun co-chaired the SoCal FPO WUI committee, while David Shew chaired the NorCal FPO WUI Committee. The FPO WUI Committee's primary goal is to serve as a comprehensive and reliable source for wildfire prevention-related information. We accomplish this by providing members with current information about WUI and wildfire-related legislation, post-fire analysis, and wildfire prevention programs. The committee also serves as a shared space where wildfire prevention professionals can discuss current challenges within their jurisdictions and get information from committee members about shared experiences and potential solutions. The FPO WUI Committee continues to host its monthly meetings online to provide statewide access to wildfire prevention professionals.

In 2024, the FPO WUI committee followed the development of the updated LRA maps from CAL FIRE/OSFM, the development of the zone 0 requirements (0 to 5 feet from the structure), the updates to the IWUIC, and California's adoption of the IWUIC. The WUI committee had presentations from representatives from CAL FIRE's Qualified Entities Program, CAL OES' Wildfire Mitigation Program, and the California Department of Insurance on the Safer From Wildfire Program. The WUI committee tracked the pending release of the updated LRA maps at the end of 2024 and will be hosting several map release and adoption meetings in early 2025.

CO-CHAIRS



Dave Shew
Napa County



Noah Brownlow
Richmond Fire
Department



Jeremy Cawn
Dudek



Raymi Wun
Newport Beach

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	Lynn 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		
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



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2023
CHARLES H. GRAY
SERVICE AWARD
RECIPIENT,
ROBERT MARSHALL.

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



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2023 GALE
BATE LEADERSHIP
AWARD RECIPIENT,
STEVE HART.



From left to right: Randy Metz: 2023 Mary Eriksen-Rattan Award,
Steve Hart: 2023 Gale Bate Leadership Award, and
Robert Marshal: 2023 Charlie Gray Memorial Award

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

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



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2023 MARY
ERIKSEN-RATTAN
AWARD RECIPIENT,
RANDY METZ.

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:

- 2021 Raj Patel
- 2022 Shane Diller

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

- 2024 Stuart Tom



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 STUART TOM AWARD RECIPIENT, STUART TOM.

CALIFORNIA
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS

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