



**A Message from the State Fire Marshal
Chief Daniel Berlant
October 2026**



**Welcome to the October 2026 edition of the CAL FIRE –
Office of the State Fire Marshal Newsletter!**

As we move into October, I want to take a moment to recognize the importance of Fire Prevention Week and the role each of you plays in keeping Californians safe. This year's theme, "Good Charge vs. Bad Charge," highlights a growing area of concern for communities across the state: lithium-ion battery safety. These batteries power more of our daily lives than ever before, and with that convenience comes an increased need for awareness, education, and prevention.

Throughout Fire Prevention Week, October 4 through 10, our Office will be sharing resources, messaging, and demonstrations designed to help Californians better understand what a "good charge" looks like and how to avoid the conditions that lead to battery failures and fires. I encourage all divisions and partners to amplify these materials and continue engaging with your communities. Prevention is strongest when we work together.

This month also features a special episode of the Inside the State Fire Marshal Podcast, where we take a deeper look at lithium-ion battery risks, lessons learned, and emerging safety standards. If you have not yet subscribed, this is a great opportunity to hear directly from our experts and stay connected with current issues shaping our mission.

We are also reflecting on the effectiveness of fuels reduction efforts highlighted during the 2025 Garnett Fire. In many areas, proactive vegetation management made a measurable difference in slowing fire spread, protecting homes, and giving firefighters critical time to engage. These outcomes reinforce what so many of you work tirelessly to advance: mitigation matters. Every collaboration, every inspection, every fuel reduction project contributes to safer communities and more resilient landscapes.

As we enter the fall months, I want to thank you for your continued service, dedication, and professionalism. Whether you are conducting inspections, advancing risk reduction, building fire-adapted communities, or leading prevention efforts, your work is shaping California's fire future for the better.

Thank you for your continued dedication to building a more fire-resilient California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Berlant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Berlant
California State Fire Marshal