## Past and Present Staff, Partners, and State Fire Marshals Gather to Celebrate Office of the State Fire Marshal Centennial

To mark the 100-year anniversary of California's State legislature passing "An Act to create the Office of the State Fire Marshal", (Assembly Bill No. 409), Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) staff and partners past and present, as well as previous serving State Fire Marshals gathered in Sacramento. The Centennial Celebration focused on a century of accomplishments, the current state of OSFM, and the continued role the Office plays in protecting Californians.



*Acting State Fire Marshal Chief Daniel Berlant addressing guests during the celebration ceremony.*

Speakers included current Acting State Fire Marshal, Chief Daniel Berlant, who reflected on the current and future challenges and successes. Chief Berlant also celebrated that Governor Gavin Newsom recognized May 23, 2023 as Office of the State Fire Marshal Day, aknowledging 100 years of safety and service. Assistant State Fire Marshal Wendy Collins spoke about OSFM's storied and diverse past accomplishments in safeguarding Californians.



*There were six previous State Fire Marshals in attendance Michael Richwine 2020-2022, Current Acting SFM, Daniel Berlant 2023-Present, Philip Favro 1975-1983, Ronny J. Coleman 1990-1999, Ruben Grijalva 2004-2007, Dennis Mathisen 2017-2018, and James McMullen 1985-1990.*

We also heard speeches form six former State Fire Marshals, including Chief Philip Favro, who started his eight-year tenure as State Fire Marshal almost 50 years ago in 1975. Previous State Fire Marshals reflected on the accomplishments and challenges of their tenures while also celebrating the amazing work the Department has done since.

OSFM and its staff are proud to continue a legacy of protection, service, and training in fire safety. Since its inception 100 years ago, OSFM has been responsible for protecting life and property through the development and application of fire prevention, engineering, training and education, and enforcement.

The department continues to grow across all divisions. For example, the Fire and Life Safety Division will soon have over 100 deputies and support staff while Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation has expanded from one member of staff in 2007 to 63 today. OSFM continues to oversee 5,800 miles of hazardous liquid pipeline, provide 17,000 fire protection licences and certifications, manage of $300 million on Wildfire Prevention Grants and provide 1.4 million student hours for over 13,000 fire service training certifications.

Countless lives have been saved thanks to this hard work and OSFM is proud to continue this legacy into the future while also building on a vision to make California a safer place to live, work, and recreate. Here's to another 100 years of service.

**Learn more about the history of OSFM HERE.**

**View photos from the Centennial Celebration HERE.**