A Message from the State Fire Marshal
Chief Daniel Berlant
August 2026



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

As we wrap up August, it offers a chance to spotlight the important work happening this Summer across California.

This month, we're highlighting key initiatives, upcoming campaigns, major events, and new resources that support our shared mission of protecting people, property, and natural resources through education, innovation, and strong partnerships. In this edition, you'll find updates on the following:

National Association of State Fire Marshal Symposium (NASFM)
Leaders from across the nation gathered in Orange County for this year's NASFM Symposium, focusing on emerging fire prevention technologies, wildfire preparedness, and strengthening nationwide fire and life safety standards.

Fire Prevention Week: Lithium-Ion Battery Safety
With Fire Prevention Week taking place in October, this year's theme centers on Lithium-Ion Battery Safety and Safe Charging. We will share public safety messaging, tools, and educational resources to help Californians safely use, store, and charge common battery-powered devices.

FIRESCOPE: Strengthening Behavioral Health Support
FIRESCOPE has approved ICS 180 and a new California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS) Position Task Book for behavioral health roles, including Peer Supporter, Peer Lead, Clinician, Chaplain, and K9. These additions reinforce the importance of mental wellness and peer support across incident operations.

Renewal Reminder: Licensing Season Is Here!
It's time to renew your Automatic Fire Extinguishing Systems, Portable Fire Extinguisher Business & Technician, and Limited Applicator – Christmas Tree Flocking licenses. Keeping credentials current ensures compliance and supports California's high standard of fire protection oversight.

Check out the next page for some photos of the most recent hires and promotions within our Office.

On August 27, 2026, we proudly hosted a promotional and badge pinning ceremony to honor our incredible CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal members! We were joined by CAL FIRE Director Chief Joe Tyler, leadership, co-workers, and the families and friends who make these moments so special. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding individuals for their promotions, new roles, and career milestones:



Code Development & Analysis

- Adrienne Janowiak | Office Technician

Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

- Bryan Carter | Assistant Chief
- Jennifer Renner | Assistant Chief
- Jacob Gilliam | Battalion Chief
- Adrian Bracewell | Research Data Analyst II



Fire & Life Safety

- Cliff DuGranrut | Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Supervisor)

Fire Engineering & Investigations

- Bryan Gouge | Division Chief
- Jennifer Mecham | Arson & Bomb Investigator

Pipeline Safety & CUPA

- Tuan Tran | Assistant Deputy Director

State Fire Training

- Madison Cannon | Office Technician



25-Year Recognition

- Malcom Kennedy

Retirement

- Brian Barkley
- Lisa Dowdy
- Kirsten Fonesca
- Diane Radford

These highlights represent just a portion of what's included in this month's newsletter. Be sure to explore the full edition for additional updates, resources, and announcements. Thank you for your continued dedication to building a more fire-resilient California.

Daniel Berlant
California State Fire Marshal