

COMMUNIQUE

JUNE 1985



**ONLY
YOU**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Fire Season 1985

by: Bruce Turbeville

Every year we make a prediction on how bad the coming fire season will be. Sometimes we are close and sometimes we are out in left field. Let's face it, every fire season California has the potential to be disastrous if all of the conditions for a severe fire season occur at the same time. We must all be prepared for the worst and do our best to keep small fires from becoming major fires.

This year, as we go to press with this article, we find that most of southern California is two to three weeks behind their average opening date for fire season, and that the northern part of the state is two or three weeks ahead of schedule, and the rest of the state is running just about on schedule.

These trends can change as fast as the weather changes so its difficult to say the north state will be more active than the south. However, if things remain the same it's safe to say that the North Coast could be in for a little more severe fire activity than normal.

We have been very fortunate during the last three fire seasons due to several factors; heavier than normal winter rainfall, longer periods of rainfall, lack of hot, dry, windy, burning periods at critical times, and a lack of severe Santa Ana wind conditions during the fall months in southern California.

However, our normal summer pattern may well be back this fire season so we have to be ready for the worst. We all need to be physically and mentally prepared to make quick, hard hitting initial attacks.

We must also remember that during the last three years of relatively light fire seasons, the public has continued to move into the foothills and rural areas in ever increasing numbers. More people mean more fires and a more difficult task in protecting their homes from wildfire.

Let's face it; we have our work cut out for us. We must meet the challenge because no one else will do it for us. We know our business, wildland fire fighting, better than any other fire department in the world and this may be the year that we will have to display our professionalism a great number of times.



Scenes like this will be more common as we get further into fire season.

REMEMBER 1984

Here's a reminder of what CDF had to deal with during the 1984 fire season.

NUMBER OF FIRES BY REGION

Region I	1281
Region II	1809
Region IV	1509
Region V	1434
Region VI	1797
STATE TOTAL	7830

NUMBER OF ACRES BURNED: 103,670

TOTAL \$ DAMAGE: \$23,656,700

TOP FIVE CAUSES OF FIRE LAST SEASON:

Equipment use	1959
Arson	1260
Misc.	1162
Debris	1108
Playing with fire	858

Safety Week : June 16 - 22

The theme of this year's Safety Week is "Safety Through Education". Each employee is urged to participate in the event by doing the following:

Learn or review safety rules governing your operations.

Be on the alert for both obvious and insidious hazards associated with your workplace.

Look out for your fellow employees and have them look out for you.

Wear the protective equipment provided for your job.

Correct or report unsafe conditions to your supervisor.

Comply with the safety rules pertaining to your job.

Never remove guards or other protective devices from machinery or equipment.

Make off-the-job safety as important as on-the-job safety.

Participate in and contribute to your safety program.

Health and Safety Column

LIVING THROUGH HEAT STRESS

With fire season fast approaching, we should learn, or review, a few things about firefighter heat stress.

The following information is based on studies conducted by Professor Grahame Budd, head of the Environmental Health Section, Commonwealth Institute of Health. These studies include extensive work with front line firefighters of the West Australian Forests Commission.

The long-term aim of this research is to build up a more accurate picture of both the physics and psychological responses to heat stress as a pre-requisite to developing ways of overcoming any problems associated with these responses.

The effects of heat stress can be modified by appropriate behavior based on a better understanding of all the factors which contribute to that stress in the first place.

The following guidelines represent the current state of the art. It is hoped that the store of knowledge on the effects of heat stress and ways to prevent them will soon be widened by the work of the Institute's research team.

Some Basic Precautions - Everyone has a certain capacity to handle heat through the in-built cooling system known as sweating.

Avoiding or minimizing heat stress problems basically amounts to not overloading the body's cooling system.

The efficiency of this cooling system depends on a number of factors - most of which can be modified by a person's behaviour; resting from heavy work; wearing the most appropriate clothing for the job; drinking regularly to avoid dehydration, and avoiding work for which a person is not physically fit.

Firefighters of course are exposed to particularly severe heat and must take special precautions to avoid being adversely affected.

Wearing Appropriate Clothing - On a very hot day, most people try to wear clothing that is scant and as tight as their particular environment will allow. While it is important too for firefighters not to be overloaded with heavy clothing, it is equally important that they be wearing enough clothing to cover exposed skin and protect them from radiant heat.

In the fire fighting context, appropriate clothing means striking a balance between the need to allow sweat to evaporate and air to circulate, and the need to provide adequate protection for the wearer. This is why loose-fitting clothing is necessary for wildland firefighters.

Avoiding Dehydration - The relationship between work and evaporative cooling (i.e., sweating) is obviously very important. The person sitting in the sun on a beach will be evaporating less fluid than one stoking a furnace or fighting a bush fire.

A firefighter can easily evaporate a quart of water in an hour under hot conditions, and it is vital that this water be replaced. When conditions are very hot, a drink of water every ten minutes may be essential for a firefighter. To quote Budd: "In theory, dehydration is easy to prevent; all you have to do is to drink. In practice it is less easy.

"A person's thirst is quenched *before his fluid losses have been made good*; water is

often not accessible enough or palatable enough; and folklore wrongly warns us that drinking on the job will cause stomach cramps. These deterrents can be overcome, but it requires a determined effort.... The effort is worthwhile because it has been convincingly demonstrated on many occasions that both performance and heat tolerance are improved when people drink enough to prevent dehydration."

For firefighters, the important part of the message is; if you are working at a fire front under hot conditions, take a drink of water every ten minutes or so - **EVEN IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.**

Acclimatization is a very significant factor in coping with heat stress. In his paper on heat stress Budd says:

"Acclimatization is a striking physiological adjustment that develops during the first week or two of work in a hot environment.

"It improves the ability to work in heat, reduces the strain felt, and lessens the risk of heat disorders.

"It declines in a few weeks when exposure to heat ceases, so workers returning from sick leave or holidays are likely to have temporarily lost their tolerance to heat and should be treated accordingly."

The message which wildland firefighters can draw from this quote is that, since by its very nature bush fire fighting is an occasional activity, few wildland firefighters are likely to be particularly well acclimatized to intensive heat. The need for caution in fire fighting is therefore even more pressing.

Fitness is a significant factor in a person's resistance or susceptibility to heat stress and firefighters should be aware that persons in the following categories could be at risk:

- . overweight;
- . physically unfit;
- . unhealthy, particularly if suffering from disease of the heart, circulation, or skin.

One final word of caution: People have different levels of tolerance to heat stress. It is an unavoidable fact that hot jobs disagree with some people. If you are one of these people, opt for something other than a front line fire fighting role.

Budd says most people leave hot jobs which disagree with them but casualties are likely among the few who, because they are either "too highly motivated" or "through a desire to be accepted by their colleagues," keep working.

How Adverse Heat Effects Arise
Most adverse effects of heat arise either from overloading the body's cooling system or from not giving it the support it requires.

To maintain the correct body temperature three things are essential:

1. The circulation must be able to carry to the skin all the heat produced in the body.
2. The skin must be able to produce the necessary amount of sweat; and
3. The sweat must be able to evaporate.

The failure of any link in this chain of heat transfer will cause body temperature and heart rate to rise. But the successful opera-

tion of the system will also lead to its eventual failure, unless the progressive dehydration caused by sweating is corrected by drinking sufficient water.

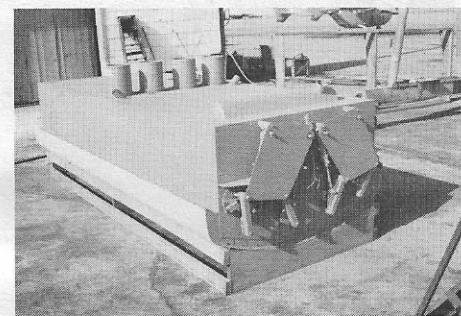
These are some common reasons why each link in the chain may fail:

1. The circulation is overloaded by trying to handle a heat load that is beyond its capacity - a capacity which may already be limited by poor physical condition or heart disease, and which will be progressively reduced if dehydration occurs.
2. Too little sweat is produced, common causes being dehydration, lack of acclimatization, old age, and certain medical conditions.
3. The sweat cannot evaporate freely enough to do its job of cooling properly, because of too much clothing, too little air movement or high humidity.

GO EASY ON THE SALT

Unless a person is fire fighting for very extended periods - i.e., days on the fire front - salt loss is not likely to be severe enough to warrant the use of salt additives. Most people absorb enough salt in their normal diet to make these additives unnecessary except in very extreme circumstances. Budd says if salt loss is prolonged and excessive, replacement is best done through using extra salt in meals, or, if sweating is very heavy, by adding one teaspoonful of salt to each gallon of drinking water to make a 0.1 percent solution which is quite palatable. Any higher salt concentration would only tend to aggravate dehydration.

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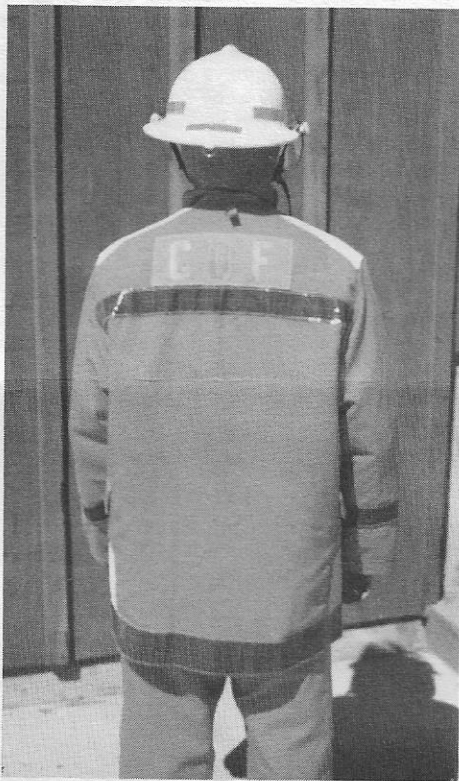
**How many of you CDFer's know what this is?
Check with us next month for the answer.**

COMMUNIQUÉ

Published by the Office of Public Affairs, Department of Forestry, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (916) 445-9920; 485-9920 (ATSS); (Green) 47. Lisa Boyd, editor. Composition: Word Processing, Lury Kaminaka; Graphics: Dave Rodriguez; Personnel Transactions: Vera Fava.

SAFETY CLOTHING ARRIVES

by Mike Hamilton

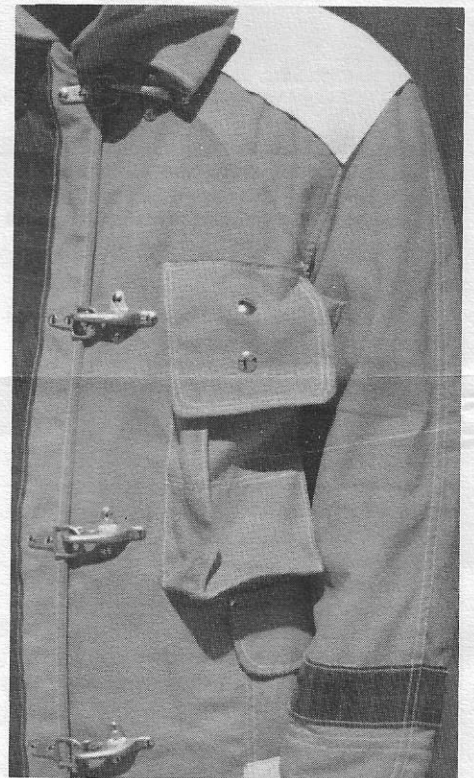


The CDF Fire Academy recently received the first shipment of Structural Safety Clothing purchased by the department to meet Cal/OSHA requirements.

Funding was approved in the 1984-85 fiscal year budget to purchase 600 sets for "B" engines in all regions. Procurement Officer Mike Hamilton said that specifications were developed by reviewing the fire academy and ranger unit needs before awarding a purchase order to the Janesville Company of Ohio.

The clothing design includes a radio pocket on the left front; leather pads on the shoulders, knees and pockets; leather coat and pants cuffs, and CDF identification on the rear of the coat. Structural helmets, gloves, boots and suspenders will be provided by Halprin Fire Equipment Company.

Anticipated delivery to all regional offices is July 1, 1985.



Taking the guess work out of fire season : **NFDRS**

Introduction

How bad is California's fire season going to be this year? How much equipment and personnel will the state's wildland fire agencies need to effectively and efficiently fight those fires? And how much money and time will be lost by those agencies if they have no way to plan for, and therefore no way to prepare for, what fire season will bring? Fortunately, California's wildland fire agencies, including the California Department of Forestry, have the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) to take the guess work out of planning for fire season.

With this system, CDF personnel in any ranger unit can get predictions for the worst fire conditions possible in their area within the next 24 hours. The system takes into account vegetation, terrain, and most important, weather conditions. The NFDRS is based on the effects weather has on fire because rain, wind, temperature, humidity, lightning, etc., dictate the possibility and magnitude of a fire.

A brief history

The National Fire Danger Rating System is the result of a need for a uniform fire danger rating system across the nation. In the early 1950's there were several different systems in use across the country. In order for fire control agencies to work together it was necessary to develop one system. In 1959 Forest Service fire research and wildfire control personnel began working on a system that would meet this need; the NFDRS.

The system and its uses

In using the system, personnel in each ranger unit gather information such as the daily maximum and minimum temperatures, humidities and amount of rain over the past 24 hours, and the humidity, tempera-

ture, amount of cloudiness, and wind speed at the present time, (usually 1:00 p.m. to measure "worst case" weather). This information is taken from a representative weather station in the ranger unit. The average amount of slope (steepness of terrain) and the fuel model (kind of vegetation) in the area are also noted. This information is fed into the NFDRS computer system which produces the information needed.

This information includes the likelihood of a fire starting, how fast a fire will spread, and how much heat a fire will generate given the predicted weather conditions and the above information. By combining the calculations for how fast a fire will spread and how hot it will burn the NFDRS comes up with a Burning Index (BI) for the area. The BI, a number, is a measure of fire behavior. Its uses include telling fire personnel how high to rate the fire danger on the Smokey signs we see along the highways and when divided by 10, will estimate the height of the flames at the head of a fire.

The system is used to set dispatch levels in the ranger units for the next 24-hour period, therefore allowing each unit to plan for how much and what equipment or crews might be needed. "They can be ready for the worst conditions," according to SFR II Stan Lake, emergency command chief in Sacramento, "even though (fortunately) they don't occur every day." The time, money and even lives that can be saved by knowing what to expect before it happens are the most important aspects of the NFDRS.

"One of the best advantages of the NFDRS is that it is a relative system," said Forester II Wayne Mitchell of the Sonoma Ranger Unit. That is, even though there is just one NFDRS, each ranger unit can tailor it to the needs of their area. "We can make it our own," said Mitchell.

For example the Riverside Ranger Unit may use the system to determine whether it would be safe for a controlled burn to take place, while at the same time the Fresno-Kings Ranger Unit has decided to hold training classes because they have low fire danger.

Use of NFDRS predictive and historical data will support budget requests from the ranger units and from the department's Fire Protection Program. Predictive and historical data, combined with actual fire history, will support ordinances, zoning, building code requirements and other legislation as well.

The future

Measuring the weather in the wrong area, using the wrong fuel model, and general misinterpretation of the NFDRS has hindered its use in the past. To fully implement the system two kinds of training packages are being developed for different target audiences.

The first is aimed at CDF ranger and forester II's and III's, and fire prevention officer I's and II's, National Weather Service Fire Weather Forecasters and specific USFS and BLM personnel. The second package is aimed at initial attack fire personnel in all three agencies.

These packages should be completed and training started early in 1986.

Fire season means busy phones

With fire season already here in some areas and approaching in others, the number of telephone calls that will be made to the CDF Fire Protection section in Sacramento will be on the increase.

Taking those calls is Cheryl Masek, our fire protection receptionist. She has been with CDF for over a year now and is a graduate from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration.

Cheryl is the one attempting to keep track of the comings and goings of the almost 50 CDF employees on the 16th floor. So when you call, asking for certain person she can give you the latest on their whereabouts.

(cont. on pg. 6)

(cont. from pg. 5)



It is Cheryl's voice we on the 16th floor hear all day long, because when you call she doesn't just transfer you, she picks up her microphone and asks for the person you are calling over the loudspeaker system. If that person is in the vicinity they will know to get to a phone. Cheryl said that using the microphone was a little embarrassing at first; hearing your own voice up and down the halls, but it's no problem now.

On top of answering an average 150 calls a day for fire protection, Cheryl also fills in for forestry's 15th floor receptionist when she's away from her desk. Typing, filing, directing visitors to the right offices, and always having a smile on her face are a few more things that we count on Cheryl for. And while some of you may think that answering all those phones would be tedious work, Cheryl doesn't. She says that the "people make it a nice job."

SILVER STAR

by Tim Huff

Fire Captain Specialist Oscar Burrell was awarded the National Police Chiefs' Association, Silver Star for Bravery, in the San Benito-Monterey Ranger Unit on March 4, 1985.

Captain Burrell was presented the award by Chief Lawrence Hurlbut of the San Juan Bautista Police Department. Chief Hurlbut commended Burrell for his assistance in subduing a distraught citizen who was brandishing a .44 magnum revolver.

The incident occurred on February 28, 1985. Burrell was asked to assist

Medal of Valor



Director Partain, FC Dave Harden, Governor Deukmejian, FC John Robbins and FC Dan Ward.

On April 11, 1985 CDF Fire Captain's Dave Harden, John Robbins, and Dan Ward were presented the Medal of Valor by Governor Deukmejian.

The Medal of Valor is given to those whose actions are made at great risk to their own safety and lives.

Hardin, Robbins and Ward certainly qualify. On July 18, 1984 they rescued a volunteer fireman who had fallen down a 35-foot embankment into an uncovered mine shaft while fighting a wildland fire on Carson Hill in Calaveras County.

Despite burning debris and falling rock Harden went down into the mine shaft, working his way in total darkness to the firefighter 50 feet below. Harden got a line around the victim but the firefighter continued to slip down. Harden grabbed his hand and yelled for help. At that time Robbins worked his way down to them while Ward acted as communication and equipment relay some 20 feet up in the shaft. After three hours the severely injured fireman was brought up.

All three fire captains suffered from smoke inhalation, stress, and hypothermia, requiring medical treatment.

the police department after they received report of a drunk, waving a gun.

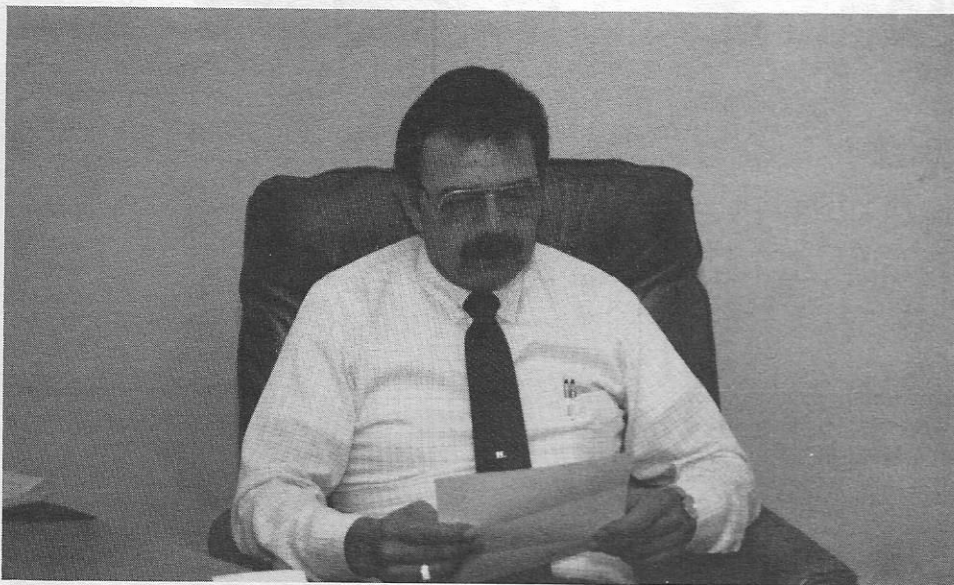
The suspect, a man by the name of Shockey, was seen leaving the rear of the property at the San Juan Bautista address. The officers pursued him. As he entered a small shed the officers called for him to come out and after repeated calling Shockey finally walked out with the gun pointed to the ground. He was told to drop the gun, but refused. He began yelling, "Shoot me, go ahead, shoot." At that moment Chief Hurlbut, who was behind Shockey, lunged and grabbed the gun. Shockey attempted to level his gun at Burrell. Burrell stepped forward and grabbed the 6-inch barrel of Shockey's gun, lifting the barrel upward and at the same time pinning Shock-

ey against a tall fence. Another officer came forward and temporarily immobilized Shockey with a stun gun. This gave Burrell and Hurlbut the opportunity to take Shockey's gun and handcuff him.

While being searched, Shockey continued to yell at the officers to shoot him. On the way to the jail, Shockey stated he was fed up, couldn't cope with life anymore, and wanted to die. He said he didn't have the guts to shoot himself and he wanted someone else to shoot him. He was booked on several felony and misdemeanor charges.

Captain Burrell is the first CDF Peace Officer to receive the Silver Star. The National Police Chiefs' Association gives the award for services of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

A "challenging" position



"Everything is coming together pretty well," according to Jim Hunter after two months as CDF's new legislative coordinator.

In talking with him you can see that he is going to thoroughly enjoy this job. Jim describes the legislative coordinator position as "challenging" and stresses how interesting it will be for him to work with the Legislature. He's also enjoying northern California, having spent his entire career in Region VI in southern California.

That career began in 1957 at the Riverside Ranger Unit as a seasonal firefighter like so many CDFer's. Since then he has worked in both Schedule "A" and "B" fire control positions, in fire prevention, and most recently as a fire captain in the Riverside Ranger Unit Emergency Command Center. Also within that time frame are two years with the California Highway Patrol in southern

California.

Being familiar with CDF is a big plus in Jim's new position, and the fact that he has experience working with local government in southern California has helped him settle right in as legislative coordinator.

As head of the department's legislative program Jim will be responsible for legislation affecting forestry in all phases of the legislative process. That very big task will include devoting a lot of time maintaining communication with the legislators and their staff on issues of concern to CDF; keeping the CDF regional offices and ranger units up to date on legislative activities; and consulting with and making recommendations to the director and his staff. Jim says that he is "encouraged by the enthusiasm the department (director's office) has shown for legislation" making his program run even smoother.

Board of Forestry appts.

Governor Deukmejian recently announced the appointments of Clarence Rose of Weaverville and Theodore Waddell of San Luis Obispo to the California State Board of Forestry.

Rose has been president of R & R Timber Company of Weaverville since 1979. He was forester for Trinity Pacific Wood Products of Hayfork from 1975-78, and held a similar position with Southern Pacific Land Company of Weaverville from 1974-75. Rose replaces Virginia Harwood whose term expired. His term expires January 15, 1989.

Waddell is a former state forest ranger who retired in 1983. He was ranger-in-charge of the San Luis Obispo Ranger Unit from 1973-83. He previously was ranger-in-charge of the Placerville and Nevada City stations. Waddell began his forestry career as an assistant ranger in 1952. He replaces George Duscheck whose term expired. Waddell's term will expire January 15, 1989.

1984/85 mobile equipment budget

The total mobile equipment replacement budget for the 1984/85 fiscal year is \$6.5 million. Of this, \$3.4 million is the approved base budget for normal replacement and \$3.1 million has been approved for the Conservation Camp Expansion Program and for replacing Dutch Elm Disease Program vehicles.

The vehicle replacement criteria will be based upon age and vehicle mileage. Therefore, field units can expect some of the oldest and highest mileage vehicles to be replaced during the 1985/85 vehicle purchases.

One significant change in vehicles and equipment on order are the 18 four-wheel drive station wagons (Blazer, Ramcharger types) that have been ordered in replacement of some sedans. This will result in a total of 29 green/white "emergency" vehicle replacements. The Camp Program will receive 54 new crew carrying vehicles. Of this number only seven are replacements. This demonstrates the volume of mobile equipment management activity and the effect of the Camp Program changes on the 1984/85 fiscal year vehicle purchases.

The good news is that we have on order \$6.5 million dollars in mobile equipment; the bad news is that except for the specific types of equipment noted, our replacements will be about the average that they have been over the past three years, which does not permit a catch up of prior years' shortfalls.

For the 1985/86 budget year, the projection is brighter. The Governor's budget includes \$1.4 million dollars of increased funding for replacement vehicles. If the increase remains in the budget, we can expect to relieve some of the difficulties now being caused by high mileage and old equipment. We will provide new information as the facts become available.

POST graduation

On January 7, 1985, the CDF Fire Academy started training a new law enforcement class, also known as POST Basic 30. Three months later, 199 pounds lighter, with over 1900 miles run, 19 new peace officers are on the job enforcing the forest and fire laws.

GRADUATION

The keynote speaker at the April 5 graduation was Resources Agency Secretary Gordon Van Vleck. Before swearing in CDF's newest peace officers, Van Vleck spoke some encouraging words to the graduates. The following are excerpts from that speech:

"Of the many tasks I am called upon to perform as Secretary of the Resources Agency, the one I am about to perform is among my most pleasant. That task, the swearing-in of the newest peace officers in the Department of Forestry, is a ceremony with much more meaning than it might first appear. While the swearing-in takes but a few moments, what it represents is enormous.

First, I am aware of the commitment you made to get through the grueling 11 weeks to reach this point. It takes commitment to meet the high academic and physical standards to successfully complete this academy's peace officer training. That is as it should be. I would not like to see less than fully committed peace officers enforcing the forest and fire laws of this state. Enforcement is an indispensable element to the protection of California's natural resources. Those resources must be properly managed and preserved for future generations. For that to become a reality, the laws the people have enacted through the Legislature must be enforced. You are the ones who soon will be enforcing those laws. I expect you to do your sworn duty as do the rest of the citizens of the state.

There are thoughtless people in our society who would, if not cited, let their carelessness result in fires burning valuable timber and range land. Every fire you prevent may save a life, valuable property, and certainly tax dollars, used to sup-



Top honors to: Wayne Murray, Mike Martin and Anthony Clarabut

press that fire. While it is difficult to measure fires prevented, we know enforcement is a valuable tool.

Other persons set fires to wildlands willfully and with malice. These arsonists must be caught as quickly as possible and brought to justice. The California Department of Forestry is quite effective in this and achieves widespread recognition.

Some of you will be enforcing the Forest Practice Act. You shall be helping to see our forest resources managed to ensure proper conservation principles are applied.

You are all about to join the ranks of other Resources Agency Peace Officers represented by Fish and Game, and Parks and Recreation, as well as Forestry. Together they form the best resource enforcement officers anywhere.

I am pleased to see other agen-

cies send their peace officer candidates here. Again this year we have officers from Lindsay Police Department and Santa Barbara County Fire Department. This high caliber of instruction offered by the staff at this POST certified academy is among the highest rated of 33 such academies in the state. Academy Administrator Jim McFadden and his staff are to be commended.

TOP HONORS

Top academic honors went to Mike Martin, San Mateo-Santa Cruz Ranger Unit, Wayne Murray, Riverside Ranger Unit, and Anthony Clarabut, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Ranger Unit.

Mike Martin received a one-year paid membership in the California Peace Officers Association for his academic achievement.

SUPERVISION TRAINING MEETS SB 409 REQUIREMENTS

CDF's first Supervision Course was held March 18-22 at the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo where students stayed in campers for the week.

Twenty-two CDF'ers attend five days of training that included management and supervision principles, affirmative action disciplinary procedures, grievance handling, and labor relations. Both outside consultants and CDF staff cooperated to make the course both informative and enjoyable, with students participating extensively in group exercises, and discussion.

Lead consultant, John Ebersole, associate dean of management at JFK University, shared experiences from his background in the Coast Guard to illustrate management and supervision principles (appropriate to the Maritime setting).

The course was coordinated by Faith Sorenson of the CDF Fire Academy and will be conducted annually to meet the SB 409 requirement that all new designated supervisors be given 80 hours of training within one year of appointment. An additional 40 hours will be given to employees on the job site.

Physical Ability Validation Testing Program

by Manuel Román, Jr.

The Physical Ability Testing Program (PATP) is alive and well. Its purpose is to develop and validate physical ability "standards" for the entry level fire fighting classifications of firefighter I, II, and fire apparatus engineer. The program utilizes two committees, the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) which is comprised of top level CDF management, and the Field Advisory Panel (FAP) which is comprised of experienced CDF field personnel (fire apparatus engineer through ranger I level), a personnel selection consultant, an exercise physiologist, and the CDF Health and Safety Officer.

The FAP has been developing a Work Sample Rating Questionnaire. The questionnaire will be sent to approximately 400 selected CDF employees in June to determine the primary physical tasks involved in entry level fire fighting.

In August, physical abilities testing of approximately 200 CDF personnel will begin at the CDF Fire Academy. Testing will be conducted in small groups utilizing the questionnaire data to develop valid tests. Upon determination of validity, "standards" will be developed. Implementation of "standards" is scheduled for the 1986 fire season.

2nd NOTICE

TO ALL *Communiqué* RECIPIENTS ON THE MAILING LISTS:

In order to remain on the *Communiqué* mailing list, please inform this office by June 30, 1985 or your name will be deleted.

CDF Information Office
1416 Ninth Street, Rm. 1516
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ribbon cutting



Bill Weaver, operations officer Santa Clara Ranger Unit and Region V Chief John Hastings are shown cutting the ribbon to formally dedicate the new hangar for Copter 504 at Alma Helitack Base.

The new hangar, built for \$8,000, was designed by Region V Engineer John Suwada, and built by Region V Supervisor Tom Bowie and the Alma Helitack crew.

The 60' x 20' building will protect Copter 504 from the elements, insuring greater safety for our personnel and helicopter program.

Workers' Comp and Safety Task Force

Director Jerry Partain has appointed the Workers' Compensation and Safety Task Force to study the CDF Workers' Compensation Program and related safety issues.

The task force is chaired by Roy Grimes, assistant director for special projects. Task force members include the chief of support services; chief of personnel services; chief departmental planner; labor relations officer; regional administrative officer; and the State Insurance Officer.

The task force will examine all areas of CDF operations that impact workers' compensation and safety. These areas will include Schedule "A" workers' compensation funding, inmate workers' compensation, safety issues and policy compliance, related training, systems development, policy development, etc.

Health and Safety Officer Manuel Román, Jr., and his staff will be on special assignment to the task force while the State Office of Insurance and Risk Management will serve as project consultant and field investigative personnel.

The task force will report to the director by August 15, 1985, with a detailed action plan for reducing CDF's Workers' Compensation costs and improving the department's safety program.

THE GOLD STAR GOES TO REGION IV

That is, if we had a contest for the region office who has the most people register at the Information Office when they come to Sacramento Headquarters for meetings, Region IV personnel would get the gold star. Even Region IV Chief Roy Killion always signs in. (This information, courtesy of Vera Fava, Information Office Receptionist, Sacramento.)

Training: 1942

The following article and photo appeared in the April 1942 issue of the Division of Forestry News-letter:



Members of the training school.

More than a score of assistant rangers and truck drivers in the Division of Forestry attended the instructors' training course at Davis, February 16-27. Classes were held in care and handling of automotive equipment, pump truck operation and care, and civil defense fire training pertaining to gases and incendiaries.

Answering a long-felt need for expert information on proper care of the division's motorized units, the school was enthusiastically received by those attending. These men will act as instructors for the crews in their counties, training them in the various phases of their jobs.

Plans for the school were made as a result of recommendations from discussion panels held during the annual state forest rangers' meeting in Sacramento, March 1941.

A committee consisting of Luther C. Gordon, equipment engineer, chairman; Charles P. Campbell, state forest ranger; Earl T. Barron, assistant state fire chief, and Joseph A. Scherman, state forest ranger, was appointed by State Forester M. B. Pratt to work out a program for

the training school. Supervisor of Fire Training David F. Glines was assigned by J. C. Beswick, chief of the Bureau of Trade and Industrial Education, to lead the various conferences necessary to work out a program.

Manuals of instruction were prepared from the training analysis for rural and forest fire organizations set up by the Educational Committee of the Central California Rural Fire Association. Block IV of this analysis was used to develop an "Operator's Manual on Motor Vehicle and Pump Care and Operation," published by the Bureau of Trade and Industrial Education. Block II of the analysis covered use and care of tool and apparatus.

It is hoped that a schedule and program can be worked out assuring everyone in the field an opportunity to receive training pertinent to work in the various counties.

For those in the southern part of the state who were unable to attend the Davis session, a second school was held in that section, beginning March 16.

CDF helps out in Mexico City

At the request of the Mexico City Agricultural Commission, CDF Assistant Chief Jim Dykes recently, (March 23-April 3), travelled to Mexico City to study and make recommendations on their fire program.

Dykes toured the Federal District, an area in and around Mexico City encompassing 1,800 sq. kilometers (695 sq. miles). The mountains in this area were once densely forested but due to extreme population pressures over the years the lower hills have become mostly grassland.

The Mexican Government has mounted a monumental effort to re-forest and has developed a system, beginning with a large nursery that has a very high production rate, to tree planting and protection programs.

The major problem at this time is the loss of over 40 percent of newly planted trees to wildfire. The greatest fear is that a disastrous fire season will result in near total loss of not only the re-forested areas, but the beautiful stands of mature conifers in the higher elevations. Disastrous fire seasons have occurred three times during the past 30 years.

One of the most significant steps being taken is construction of an academy patterned after the CDF Fire Academy. The facility is about 40 percent complete and will be dedicated in July.

Prescribed fire promises to be one of the most effective tools for the protection of the area in the long run and Chief Dykes suggested several enhancements to an already active program.

PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS

NORTH COAST REGION

Transfer - FAE Kenneth L. Hale to Lake-Napa.

Promotions - Kimberly P. Peters to Sec., Hqs.; Robert D. Day to SFR IV, Mendocino; Thomas W. Sutfin to For. II, Jackson St. For.; Susan L. Miller to LT Ofc. Tech. (T), L. A. Moran Refor. Ctr.; Carlos E. Farre and Marc J. Romero to FC (B), Chamberlain Creek CC, Walter L. Masters and David W. Peebles to FC (B), Eel River CC; Kurt P. Schieber to FC (B), Konocti CC, Dennis J. Weisgerber to FC (B), Parlin Fork CC.

Appointments - Frank W. Quadro to FC (A), Hqs.; Bryan W. Schieber to LT FAE, Hqs.; Jeanne E. Heller to Acct. Clk. II; Carmen C. Lofstrom to OA II (T); Jose M. Lopez, Javier Pena, and Kendal M. Zigler all to JAC FAE, Lake-Napa; A. John Teie to SFR II, Mendocino; Nancy V. Kramer and Chris J. Ruggle to JAC FAE, Mendocino, Mark L. Megazzi, Michael R. Mickelson and Debra L. Sanford to JAC FAE, Sonoma.

Retirements - FC (B) Gordon Estey, Jr., Black Mtn. CC, and FC (B) David L. Brians, Parlin Fork CC.

25-Year Awards - FC's Robert W. Parrott and William J. Smith.

SIERRA CASCADE REGION

Transfers - FC (A) Terry W. Mackey and HFEO Robert W. Harvey to Tehama-Glenn; FC (B) Mervin Powell and OA II (T) Sylvia G. Milligan to Washington Ridge YCC, FC (B) Samuel S. Ortiz and OA II (T) Kimberly A. Binnie to Ishi CC; FC (A) Jennifer J. Middleton to Hqs. ECC; FC (B) Fred L. Clements to Crystal Creek CC; FAE Wesley G. Matson to Butte; For. I Danny R. Walters and FAE Alan L. Merryman to Shasta-Trinity; SFR I Ira A. Townsend to Nevada-Yuba-Placer.

Promotions - Steven F. Woodill to SFR I; Richard E. Hayes and James E. Allen to FC (A),

all to Tehama-Glenn; Roy E. Brown, Jr., to FC (B), Intermountain CC, Fred W. Fortes to FC (B), Ishi CC.

Appointment - Jerry R. Lawrimore to HEM, Tehama-Glenn.

Retirements - Asst. Civ. Eng. Louis F. Simeroth, Hqs.; FC (B) John M. Hill, Washington Ridge YCC; and FC (A) Billy R. Laws, Shasta-Trinity.

SOUTH SIERRA REGION

Transfers - SFR I Pete Miller to Fresno-Kings; FAE Matthew Silva to Amador-El Dorado; Sr. Acct. Clk. Sandy Chase to Mader-Mariposa; SFR I John Machado to Tulare; SFR II Gene Hickman to Mtn. Home CC; FC's Lloyd Parks to Tulare; and Larry Blow to Fresno-Kings; FC (B)'s Robert Lehmann to Baseline CC and Fay Bierschmitt to Miramonte CC; Acctg. Tech. Judy Woods to Hqs.

Promotions - Duane Pierce and Robert J. Signor to SFR I, Madera-Mariposa; David Cutter and Richard Maldonado to FC (B), Mt. Bullion YCC; Raymond Holm to FC, Tulare; John Lewis, Jr. to SFR I Hqs., and Gary Marshall to SFR I, Tulare.

Appointments - Deanna Baxman, Leisha Jackson, Kevin Martin and Tony Moran to FAE, Tulare, Kevin White and Ronald McKinney to FAE, Fresno-Kings.

Reinstatements - FC Joseph Jones, Tuolumne-Calaveras; and FF II Danny Davis, Fresno-Kings; FC Robert Fries, Sierra Training Ctr.; Ofc. Tech (T) Juanita DeLucia, Madera-Mariposa.

Separation - Sr. Steno. Kristin Skeels, Fresno-Kings.

Retirements - FC Ernest Leedy, Fresno-Kings; Sr. Acct. Clk. E. Marie Mattis, Madera-Mariposa; PA II Mary Lou Uyemura, Hqs.; FC Cloys Matthews, Tulare.

Correction - HFEO Richard Fischer to Amador-El Dorado.

CENTRAL COAST REGION

Transfers - FC Charles Pennell and OA II (T)

Denise Belling to Ben Lomond CC; FC Ronald Miller to San Benito-Monterey.

Promotions - Michael Marlow and Charles Stein to FC, San Benito-Monterey, James Herrman to FC (B), Ben Lomond YCC.

Appointments - Douglas McKain and Magnus Jonsson to FF II, San Benito-Monterey, and David Allen, IV and Dennis Ray to Santa Clara.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

Transfers - FF II Kathleen Riley, FC's (A) William Buchko and Conwell Sheppard to Riverside; FC's (A) Carl Schwettmann, Robert L. Mathews, and Howard Maxey to San Diego; HFEO John Livermore to San Bernardino, HFEO Clark Somers to Owens Valley, HFEO James R. Snodgrass to Bautista CC; FC's (B) James Miller and James W. Wright to Bautista; and Anthony Borbon to Pilot Rock.

Promotions - David R. Neff to For. III; Gordon Gholson to FEM II, Hqs.; Thomas C. Reeves to FC (A) and Roy Hutslar to FC (A), San Diego. John S. Hansler to FC, San Bernardino.

Appointments - Jill Kremensky to Dispatch. Clk., and Mark W. Ostrander to HFEO, both San Diego; Dana Jones to FPA, and James H. Davis to HFEO, both Riverside; Scott Wyckoff to HFEO, Hqs., and Charles F. Johnson to HFEO, Morena CC.

25-Year Awards - SFR II Morris E. Engel; FAE George W. Jones, and FC Eugene H. Ostrander.

SACRAMENTO HEADQUARTERS

Promotion - Loren Poore to SFR III; Yvonne Johnson to Ofc. Tech. (T).

Appointments - Janet Huttula to SS Mgr. I, AA Ofcr.; Margaret Schultz to Sec.; and Sharon Franco to OA II (T).

Separations - Acctg. Tech. Tech. Judy Woods; OA II (T) Toshi Akiyama; Sec. Jan Delaney; Data Process. Ann Carroll; and Sr. Data Tech. Fern Madrigal.

25-Year Award - For. III Clifford E. Fago.

EXAMINATION CALENDAR

Examinations in Progress

Title	Status
Associate Analyst	Interviews anticipated in July
Associate Accounting Analyst	Interviews anticipated in July
Operations Research Specialist	Written test date: June 14
Personnel Assistant I	Interviews anticipated in July
Research Program Specialist I/II (Economics)	Interviews anticipated in July

Final filing dates are tentative. Do **Not** submit applications for examinations until the Bulletin has been released.

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THE FIRE by Rod Musgrove, Region V

Its wild and free, reborn again
spawned in summer, driven by wind.
Feeding on fuel and soaring with rage,
its a monster set loose from an open cage.

A fire is loose upon the land
rushing through brush and timber stand,
assaulting the earth and burning years
consuming life and making tears.

All in its path turn black and gray
as it burns and smokes and darkens the day.
Pursuing destruction, threatening all
growing in strength, refusing to stall.

Firemen will challenge this ancient foe,
with tools and courage to battle they go.
Into the smoke and searing heat,
fighting the flames they hope to beat.

Too few in number they summon reserves
each one responding with unshakeable nerve.
To remove the fuel, the fire's ally,
remove it quick so the fire will die.

But the wind and slope fan the flame
and day after day the fire's the same.
Exhausted and bent they continue to try
to remove the fuel so the fire will die.

They continue their work on through the night
diligent and bent in the fire's light.
They must get control while the fire lays
before it awakes to a warming day.

The wind is calm and the fire slow
the line advances and encircles the foe.
Men and machine widen the line
and pray it holds, its holding fine.

The fire contained mills about
looking for ways it might get out,
but too little fuel and an absent wind,
has made it weak and small again.

Back in its cage the fire waits
to be set loose on future dates
and then as now, it'll be the same
for firemen fighting the ancient flame.

From:

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1416 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**



To:

