

STANISLAUS COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY
FIRE PREVENTION REPORT

Adopted May 4, 2006

Background

The Stanislaus County Public Works Department recently completed an analysis of the entire building permit process. As a result of their findings, a summary of recommended changes to the permitting process was proposed. Within their report, the detail of new processes identified their needs with respect to the Fire Plan Check component. In order to achieve the goal of a one-stop shop for permitting, the report concluded that a fire plan checker would be required five days per week. This analysis provides information regarding how the Fire Prevention Bureau may help facilitate their plan as well as identify the targeted improvements to the system to address fire and life safety issues.

Public Works Expectations

After discussions with Public Works Department it was clear that as part of their plan to implement a more efficient building permit process, an objective is to have a Fire Prevention Bureau representative available at the counter eight hours per day, five days per week. This individual should have the knowledge and the authority to answer questions and to issue comments regarding plans that are presented at the counter. An additional desired qualification for this individual is to be knowledgeable in the area of hazardous materials or have access to the required information. Although there will be some flexibility in scheduling, the expectation is there should be someone there during business hours.

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau strives to reduce the possibility of personal injury or property damage in a future emergency situation by ensuring that emergency conditions have been adequately considered in the design of development projects. The programs to achieve this goal focus on controlling risk factors in the planned physical environment through Building and Site Plan Reviews, Fire Permit Reviews, Inspections, Code Compliance, and Weed Abatement Programs.

There are currently 3-1/2 personnel employed by Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District Fire Prevention Bureau and a contracted fire prevention engineer; a Fire Marshal, two plan-checker / inspectors and a part-time Vegetation Management Officer. The Less Than County Wide Fire Tax funds this staff. The Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Staff and the newly formed Stanislaus County Fire Authority have been given the responsibility of identifying levels of service, service priorities and performance measures with respect to the services being provided with the limited funds. One person from the Fire Prevention Bureau is currently assigned to be at the Building Department four days per week in the mornings. This person is also available by phone when not in the office. The balance of their time is spent in the field performing a multitude of inspection tasks along with the other inspector. A comprehensive list of the duties of this Bureau is included as a part of this report.

Brief History

The Red Tape Task Force was commissioned in 1991 to reduce the inefficiencies and resulting delays in the building permitting process. At that time there was a Stanislaus County Fire Department that participated in the study. That department employed 4-1/2 people to perform the Fire Prevention function that is currently performed by 3-1/2 personnel. That was 15 years ago. During that time period the population of the county grew from 354,000 to its current 510,000. According to the report by the Public Works Department, the total permits issued during the last 5 years has increased by 19.5% and the number of inspections has increased by 53%. These numbers directly correlate to the workload that is placed upon the Fire Prevention Bureau. Not only have the number of plan checks, and inspections increased, so has the complexity of the process as well as the state and federal requirements with respect to Fire Prevention.

Current Processes

The steps in the fire prevention process are interrelated and have an affect on all components of fire protection. None of the steps or functions in the delivery of fire prevention services are more important than the other, and by taking resources from one part of the process to bolster another, a deficiency is created throughout the system that will affect life-safety. The application and planning process must be supported by the inspection function. Once a project is approved and completed, the annual state mandated inspections and business permitting inspections must be continued for the assurance that life safety issues continue to be addressed. The Fire Prevention Bureau struggles to maintain a balance between what must be done to continue the advancement of economic development in the County, with what is State mandated, and what should be done to ensure a safe and healthy community as specified in the Stanislaus County Board Priorities. These functions have been supported with limited staffing levels for over 10 years. The Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Prevention Inspectors were extremely cooperative in providing information for this report. However, currently there is no formal system in place to electronically track and document fire prevention activities nor is there clerical staff; this limited our ability to quantify some of the practices. The following is an outline of the services currently provided.

➤ **Application Process**

The Fire Prevention Bureau is a critical component in the application and planning process. Significant projects require review for conformance to codes and regulations by the Fire Prevention Bureau in several different stages of development. The Fire Marshal is responsible for making the official interpretations of the fire and building codes relative to fire and life safety issues.

The Pre-Application meeting is initiated by the Planning Department. These meetings involve Fire Prevention, the Building Department, Department of Environmental Resources (DER), Public Works and the developer. Under the new process, more pre-application meetings will be encouraged.

The Pre-Development meeting is initiated by the Building Department it includes Fire Prevention, DER, Public Works and the developer.

The Preliminary Plan Review process involves a meeting with the owner, contractor or developer with Fire Prevention. These meetings always require extensive preparation and review by Fire Prevention prior to the meeting.

Mandatory Subdivision Meetings are initiated by the Planning Department and include Fire Prevention, DER, Public Works and the project engineer and property owner.

Environmental Review Committee meetings are held bi-weekly requiring up to 3 hours. These meetings are initiated by the CEO's office and include Fire Prevention, County Counsel, Public Works, Planning, Agricultural Department, and DER. Prior to these meetings, there is correspondence as necessary for clarification of codes and ordinances relating to fire and life safety issues.

The fire prevention staff provides coordination of numerous additional consultations. These consultations may be as simple as a phone call or as formalized as scheduled weekly meetings.

Some examples of these consultations are:

- Insurance industry inspectors request for file review
- Building Contractors in house or field consultations
- Building Officials or Inspectors may initiate an in-house project consultation or a field project consultation
- Fire systems engineers and contractors require project consultation and information exchanges; typically with designers from out of the area
- Fire Districts request project information updates or clarification
- On a continual and ongoing basis, the general public requests technical fire prevention information regarding state and local codes and laws, and may file complaints regarding possible fire hazards and code violations

The Fire Marshal and the Fire Prevention Bureau are able to enhance the partnership and assist in the facilitation of the Public Works Department's one-stop permitting process by having qualified staff with the proper authority and knowledge readily available to attend and participate in all of the pre-development meetings. Fire and life safety issues and solutions may be identified early in the process assuring no delays in projects due to the fire safety component. The Public Works Department's objective of the full use of technology interwoven throughout the various processes will assist the Fire Prevention Bureau in becoming more effective; project tracking, and record keeping will become far more efficient with Fire Prevention's needs being incorporated into the new software. The overall process enhancement will create a more effective partnership and efficient delivery of public services.

➤ **Plan Review**

The plan review process is a critical and time sensitive portion of the one stop permitting system. A Fire Plan Checker, available eight hours per day, five days per week was identified in Public Works' report as a required resource. The Fire Plan Checker is a highly technical position that must have the knowledge to interpret building plans with respect to fire safety codes and regulations. The number of permits issued in Stanislaus County has increased by 19.5% over the last 5 years according to the Public Works' report. The workload of the Fire Prevention Bureau has increased as well with no increase in staffing. The records of Stanislaus Consolidated Fire reflect that a total of 1049 plan reviews were completed in 2005, and 793 were completed in 2004. This includes initial review, and many times, multiple rechecks. According to County records, twenty years ago in 1985, Stanislaus County Fire had 4-1/2 staff positions providing Fire Prevention services and completed 253 plan reviews.

Plan reviews include calculation of water requirements and calculations of fire flows for suppression. Subdivision maps are reviewed for compliance with all codes and ordinances with respect to emergency access, road widths, turnarounds, and hydrant placement. Tenant improvements and any projects involving hazardous materials are also reviewed by Fire Prevention. The Fire Marshal is responsible for making the final determination of code compliance for all projects where methods other than those included in the code are proposed, and variance requests are either approved or denied.

The Fire Marshal and the Fire Prevention Bureau can assist in facilitating the one stop permit process by having knowledgeable staff with expertise and authority available both at the counter and within the Public Works Department for the plan review component. The increase in development in Stanislaus County and the additional demand for plan checking has created a deficiency in the field. By providing a full time fire plan checker, the system will be greatly enhanced and the goal of a decreased turn-around time for building permit issuance will be addressed. In addition, the inspector currently dedicating half time to meetings and plan checks would be back in the field doing inspections, beginning to address a deficiency in the field. The implementation of comprehensive software and the Internet, as proposed in the Public Works' report will create much greater efficiencies. Information such as fire safe standards, district boundary maps, fee schedules, project and plan guidelines, and frequently asked questions may be made available to the public to clarify issues before customers arrive at the counter. A comparison with other jurisdictions has been included at the end of this report.

➤ **Fire Protection System Plans**

Processing and tracking the fire protection system plans provided to the Fire Protection Engineer is an important component of the plan review process. In 2005, 177 projects were submitted to the Fire Protection Engineer for his review and approval. Of those projects 22% has to be submitted more than once for a

total of 54 project re-submittals. The fire engineer spent 312 hours on these projects. Currently, the use of a Fire Protection Engineer is an efficient use of resources for this process due to the technical knowledge necessary for the approval of these systems. The following system plans are currently sent out:

- Underground fire lines
- Overhead sprinkler systems
- Commercial hood systems
- Commercial Spray booths

Once the plans have been reviewed, they are either approved, or sent back for corrections. The plans must be sent back to the system designer, corrected and resubmitted to the Fire Protection Engineer. In 2005 some went back as many as four times. This process of receiving the plans from the builder, packaging the plans for shipment, shipping the plans, logging them in when they are received back and then returning them to the contractor for either corrections and re-submittal or payment is time consuming. Currently, this process is handled by a Fire Prevention Inspector from a location several miles away from the Public Works Department. It would be far more efficient for Fire Prevention clerical staff to process these plans at the 10th Street location, thereby redirecting the Inspector's time to the field. In addition to furthering the goal of a one-stop shop, it will create a greater efficiency in an area that has been identified as inadequate at current staffing levels. The addition of a full time clerical position to the Fire Prevention Bureau would bring another resource of the building permit process into the Public Works area and would further enhance efficiencies in the system.

➤ **New Construction Inspections**

The overall goal of conducting fire inspections is to gain voluntary compliance of fire and life safety code requirements and to maintain the safety of occupancies. Fire Inspectors evaluate each violation to determine why compliance has not been achieved, then contact the responsible party (owner, contractor) to find a solution. The new construction inspection component of the permitting process is extremely time intensive and complex. For every plan check there is a potential for multiple structural and facility site inspections. The large driving distances within Stanislaus County compound the time involved in the inspection process. Based on records provided by the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District, in 2005, a total of 693 new construction inspections were documented. The following is a list of required new construction inspections currently being performed by the two inspectors:

- Underground fire line systems
 - Visual inspections
 - Hydrostatic acceptance testing
 - System flushing
- Overhead sprinkler systems
 - Visual inspections
 - Hydrostatic acceptance testing

- Fire alarm acceptance test
- Fire pump acceptance test
- Subdivision Improvement inspections and acceptance
 - Verification of hydrant systems
 - Verification of street width
 - Verification of gate systems when applicable
- On site water tank acceptance inspection
- Building final inspection

Water flow testing

- Minimum required flow verification for new construction, this inspection requires two inspectors for one hour
- Verification of fire protection systems design, this inspection requires two inspectors for one hour

Building inspections are a critical component of the building permit process. The site inspections must be provided in a timely and professional manner. Without an organized and efficient delivery of inspections, the construction process will be delayed and code violations will not be identified. The Fire Prevention Bureau's delivery of the new construction site inspection function would be enhanced with the addition of a fire plan checker and a clerical position. It is critical that the software proposed by Public Works includes the fire prevention component to ensure a comprehensive tracking system will make it more convenient for customers to schedule inspections. The enhancement of the fire component of the building permitting process will facilitate the objective of a greater efficiency within the Public Works Department and it will address deficiencies currently existing which affect life-safety.

➤ **New Business Inspections**

The Fire Prevention Bureau recognizes that stopping every unintended fire from starting is an impossible task; therefore they strive to manage risk associated with fire and environmental emergencies. The programs to achieve this goal focus on controlling risk factors in the existing physical environment through Building and Site Inspections, Special Event Inspections and Code Enforcement. New business inspections consist of facility and structure inspections to verify compliance with fire and life safety codes and ordinances. This includes the initial inspection and a re-inspection for corrections. According to the records of Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District 100 inspections were performed on new businesses. Currently, the only areas that new business inspections are performed are:

- The City of Hughson
- The City of Waterford
- The City of Riverbank
- Unincorporated areas – Only Upon Request

The current system in place in the unincorporated area of Stanislaus County for business license permitting does not address fire prevention. There is no mechanism in place that triggers a fire inspection when a new business license is applied for. There are discussions underway to examine this system for possible improvements. It is imperative that any system enhancements should include initial and annual fire inspections to mitigate life safety issues. If a business maintains, stores, uses, handles materials, or utilizes processes which produce conditions hazardous to life or property, or install equipment used in connection with such activities, a fire permit should be required to be in compliance with Fire Code Regulations. Technology should be used to track annual permit renewal and fees. Inspections would ensure that occupancies have not changed, hazardous materials issues do not exist and codes and ordinances continue to be followed. Inspections may be completed by the Fire Prevention Bureau or in conjunction with the local jurisdictional agency following guidelines of the Uniform Fire Code, as is currently being done in other counties. This system improvement would require additional fire prevention inspectors, however, it would address an important Board priority of a safe and healthy community.

➤ **State Mandated Inspections**

Occupancies with special hazards and risks are regulated by the State Fire Marshal through enforcement by the local Fire Prevention Bureau. According to the records of the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District, 133 State mandated inspections were performed in 2005. The following list details the occupancies that State Law mandates initial and annual inspections on:

- Skilled nursing facilities / hospice care
- E-Occupancies – Schools, daycares, and preschools
- A Occupancies – churches, banquet facilities, theaters
- R-1 Occupancies – apartments and hotels

Inspectors ensure that sprinkler and fire alarm systems, fire extinguishers, paths of egress, exit signs and emergency lighting are in place and able to operate as they are intended. These activities assist with the emergency planning process specific to evacuation or sheltering in place to reduce the potential for loss of life in these critical occupancies. Inspectors also verify that building addresses, exterior lighting, fire hydrants and emergency access roads are available for the quickest possible response by fire personnel in the event of emergency. With current staffing, the only consistent inspections being performed are E occupancies and skilled nursing facilities. There are not enough inspectors within the Prevention Bureau to perform all inspections, as required, on an annual basis. There is also a great deficiency in the ability to track and maintain information to ensure that the required inspections are taking place in a timely manner as mandated. Additional inspectors and a comprehensive software package for tracking would greatly enhance the ability to provide the level of

service needed to address the life safety and liability issues inherent in a system not in compliance with state mandates. It is the ultimate responsibility of the authority having jurisdiction to provide fire prevention services as defined in the California Health and Safety Code sections 13109, 13145 and 13146 and the California Penal Code section 386. The codes that are referenced have been included for reference at the end of this document.

➤ **Event Permits**

The Fire Prevention Bureau is currently responsible for issuing event permits in cities and within the unincorporated areas of Stanislaus County. The issuance of a permit also requires an inspection. These permits include the following:

- Carnivals
- Tent Revivals
- Circuses
- Christmas tree sales lots
- Auto sales events
- Fire works sales booths
- Public fireworks display
- Dances

Event permitting is important to ensure that life safety issues are addressed and mitigated before an event occurs. Without the proper number of inspectors or level of technical and clerical support within the Fire Prevention Bureau the system is once again over burdened. By strengthening the Fire Prevention staffing level and efficiency within the Public Works Department and providing comprehensive software and internet accessibility, this will allow for more efficiencies overall and allow for a more effective use of inspectors.

➤ **Code Enforcement**

The current level of service provides for code enforcement upon request. Requests may come from Fire Chief's, the public, County Supervisors or anyone observing a potential violation. Recently there were complaints regarding flea markets within the County for violations of fire codes. Inspectors went to all the flea markets and identified several violations and issued notices for corrections. These additional inspections caused by continual failure to comply generate an avoidable workload. The fire inspectors have also been requested to address violations at local wrecking yards. These inspections are important in identifying and mitigating hazards, however, at the current staffing level, they are only done upon request. A major deficiency identified within the code enforcement function is the inability to issue citations and impose fines. There is little incentive to comply without an administrative or criminal hearing process that could result in consequences, such as fines, for non-compliance.

➤ **Weed Abatement**

Currently there is a part time employee assigned to the weed abatement program. This process is handled in conjunction with the local fire districts or, when the local agency does not have available staff, the public may contact Consolidated Fire District directly. In most cases the local agency will inspect the property based on a complaint, send notice to the property owner, re-inspect the property, and send a second notice. When this process is exhausted without compliance it is turned over to the Fire Prevention Bureau of Stanislaus Consolidated Fire for inspection and eventual force cleaning. According to the 2005 records of Stanislaus Consolidated Fire 299 weed abatement inspections were performed. The direct cost for force cleaning is charged to the property owner and if it is not paid, a lien is placed on the property. A fee of \$173 is added to the actual cost of the force cleaning for 3 inspections, property ownership research, contractor bid process and the billing lien process. If the owner cleans the property, there is no charge for the inspections.

➤ **Fire Prevention Fee Structure**

A major deficiency that currently exists within this system is the fee structure. The County adopted fee schedule currently in place has not been updated since 1992 and provides for fees that in many cases do not cover the cost of the plan review and inspections. When plans must be submitted multiple times for corrections, or inspections must be redone several times due to non-compliance, there must be a mechanism in place for appropriate additional fees to be charged. Fees must be structured to not only cover the cost of the plan review, but the multiple inspections required with the identified systems and the overhead necessary for providing the Fire Prevention services. All fees for the fire prevention component of the permitting and inspection process would be more efficiently collected at the Public Works Department, this would further their goal of a one-stop shop.

In addition, there are a myriad of fire and life safety inspections that should be conducted in Stanislaus County to ensure fire safety code compliance on an annual basis. These inspections should be funded through fees. In researching other counties and cities, it was determined that many Fire Prevention inspections are not being performed in Stanislaus County, and in many cases the fees do not cover the cost of inspection services provided. The current fee schedule is included with this report as well as fees schedules obtained from Fire Prevention Bureaus in local cities and other counties. A comprehensive fee study is necessary to ensure that new development is paying the true cost for plan reviews, plan checks and inspections. In addition, fees for inspections for compliance with fire safety codes and ordinances for businesses in Stanislaus County should be explored and implemented with the business license process. Funding for crucial state mandated inspections may be recovered through the fee structure.

Recommendation for Public Works One Stop Permitting

The reorganization of the building permit process has the potential to make significant improvements to the way business is conducted. An analysis of the

Fire Prevention component has identified opportunities that exist to further enhance the goals of creating a one-stop shop, reduce turnaround time for permitting, improve the delivery of building inspections and centralize fee collection and information tracking and delivery to the customer.

The Fire Marshal is responsible for federal, state and local code interpretation, code variance, pre-engineering analysis, new business development, fire code development, hazardous materials analysis, plan review and is the liaison with the Board of Supervisors, City Councils, and fire districts. He also coordinates the adoption of the Uniform Fire Code throughout the County. In conjunction with the local jurisdiction, he has the final authority on the fire component of all new development and has in-depth knowledge of, or access to, information regarding hazardous materials. The Fire Marshal has the authority to make commitments on behalf of the Fire Prevention Bureau. The Fire Marshal directly supervises the Fire Inspectors and Fire Plan Checkers as well as performing the more complex plan reviews. Ideally, the Fire Marshal should be familiar with all of the Fire District's fees and requirements and should participate in CEQA meetings to ensure that the individual District's needs are considered. Since this position is already in existence, it is a logical conclusion that this person should be present throughout the development process. In our research of other departments, the Fire Marshal was located within the Public Works / Community Development Departments. To further the advancement of the one-stop permitting process, it is recommended that the Fire Marshal's office move to the Public Works Department where he would be available during business hours.

The current system of having a plan checker / inspector in the office 4-1/2 hours per day, four days per week, is not consistent with Public Works objective of having fire prevention resources always available at the counter during business hours. The existing staffing level within the Fire Prevention Bureau is not adequate to maintain current overall service levels and provide the requested staff. Therefore, it is recommended that an additional fire plan checker position is included with the Public Works Department's additional staffing authorization request to implement the process changes. This person will improve the system by ensuring timely plan reviews, and the desired level of service in conjunction with the Fire Marshal and the two inspectors. Existing staff would then rotate to cover for vacation and sick time creating a minimal impact on the inspection function.

An additional Fire Prevention clerical position would greatly enhance the overall provision of fire prevention services to the Public Works Department. The processes currently in place do not address the need for a person to do correspondence, shipping and receiving of engineered systems, notification to contractors of plan completion, fee calculations and collections, file management and maintenance, and data input for tracking. These functions are best provided with a clerical person and not with an inspector that is a more technically skilled and trained employee.

Summary

The Stanislaus Countywide Visioning Project recognized that public safety is the foundation for a safe and healthy society and that fire and life safety service agencies will strive to collaborate and form partnerships to deliver optimum service in all aspects of public safety endeavors. The one-stop shop concept, a joint Fire Prevention Bureau including planning and building departments, and co-location of services for providing fire safety plan checks are all concepts that were discussed and documented in the Stanislaus County Fire Chiefs Association's Strategic Visioning Summary Report, dated July 2004. Fire Prevention services were prioritized as essential by the fire service providers in Stanislaus County. This report has demonstrated how a strengthened partnership between the Fire Prevention Bureau and the Public Works Department will further develop and enhance these visions and concepts, will strive to create a reasonable balance between public safety and economic development, and will begin to develop a more broad-based approach to public safety planning and regulation.

Targeted system improvements

The following list contains issues that were discussed at the County Fire Chief's Strategic Visioning workshop in July 2004, issues that were brought to the workshops in the development of the Fire Authority, and observations made by the current fire prevention staff. They are not listed in order of priority, but were suggested to initiate overall improvements to the Fire Prevention and Fire Protection system throughout Stanislaus County. The Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office and the Stanislaus County Fire Authority are committed to seeking solutions to the challenges that face the fire service. Fire Prevention is the first component to be analyzed for service levels and performance measures.

- Update fire prevention fee structure to achieve a minimum 80% cost recovery
- Fire Marshal to act as liaison between fire agencies, Stanislaus County, and development personnel
- Achieve uniformity countywide in adoption and application of fire and life safety codes
- Adequate inspectors to inspect all businesses
- Adequate inspectors to perform State mandated inspections
- Fire Marshal to have knowledge of all District's needs
- Fire Marshal to participate in CEQA reviews for all Districts
- Fire Marshal to plan and implement fire prevention solutions for increased growth projections in the County
- Standardized fees across the county
- Clerical support
- Fire preplanning
- Advocate both commercial and residential fire sprinklers

- Technology to support tracking and analysis of fire prevention activities both through county planning and at the agency level
- A Fire Protection Engineer to provide in-house expertise
- Ongoing training to ensure technical competency for Fire Prevention personnel
- Weed abatement management

**FIRE PLANS REVIEWED
COMPARISON TABLE
COUNTIES
4-17-06**

Jurisdiction	Population	Personnel	Fire Plans Review	Fee Schedules
San Joaquin County	450k	2	200 Annually	Valuation
Sonoma County	466k	3-FTE 4-PTE	1360 Annually	Hourly Rate
Stanislaus County	500k	3 *	1049 (2005)	Flat Rate

* One personnel currently provides the plan review function

**FIRE PLANS REVIEWED
COMPARISON TABLE
SMALLER CITIES & UNINCORPORATED
COUNTY AREAS
4-17-06**

Jurisdiction	Population	Personnel	Fire Plans Review	Fee Schedules
Riverbank City	20k	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (3)	19 (2005)	Flat Rate
Waterford City	8k	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (3)	2 (2005)	Flat Rate
Hughson City	6k	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (3)	10 (For last 18 months)	Flat Rate
Stanislaus County Unincorporated Area	115k	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (3)	1049 (2005)	Flat Rate

**FIRE PLANS REVIEWED
COMPARISON TABLE
4/17/06**

Jurisdiction	Population	Personnel	Fire Plans Review	Fee Schedules
Turlock City	70k	3	172 (2005)	Hourly
Modesto City	210k	7	1192?	Valuation
Oakdale City	18k	1	60	Community Development Fees
Patterson City	18k	1		Community Development Fees
Ceres City	40k	1		

Health and Safety Codes Related to Fire Prevention

Health and Safety Code

13109. The State Fire Marshal, his or her deputies, or his or her salaried assistants, the chief of any city or county fire department or fire protection district and their authorized representatives may enter any building or premises not used for dwelling purposes at any reasonable hour for the purpose of enforcing this chapter. The owner, lessee, manager or operator of any such building or premises shall permit the State Fire Marshal, his or her deputies, his or her salaried assistants and the chief of any city or county fire department or fire protection district and their authorized representatives to enter and inspect them at the time and for the purpose stated in this section.

13110.5. The State Fire Marshal shall gather statistical information on all fires, medical aid incidents, and hazardous materials incidents occurring within this state. The chief fire official of each fire department operated by the state, a city, city and county, fire protection district, organized fire company, or other public or private entity which provides fire protection, shall furnish information and data to the State Fire Marshal relating to each fire which occurs within his or her area of jurisdiction. The chief fire official of each fire department operated by the state shall, and the chief fire official of fire departments operated by a city, city and county, fire protection district, organized fire company, or other public or private entity which provides fire protection may, also furnish information and data to the State Fire Marshal relating to medical aid incidents and hazardous materials incidents which occur within their area of jurisdiction. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt regulations prescribing the scope of the information to be reported, the manner of reporting the information, the forms to be used, the time the information shall be reported, and other requirements and regulations as the State Fire Marshal determines necessary.

The State Fire Marshal shall annually analyze the information and data reported, compile a report, and disseminate a copy of the report, together with his or her analysis, to each chief fire official in the state. The State Fire Marshal shall also furnish a copy of his or her report and analysis to the State Emergency Medical Services Authority and any other interested person upon request.

13145. The State Fire Marshal, the chief of any city or county fire department or district providing fire protection services, and their authorized representatives, shall enforce in their respective areas building standards relating to fire and panic safety adopted by the State Fire Marshal and published in the State Building Standards Code and other regulations that have been formally adopted by the State Fire Marshal for the prevention of fire or for the protection of life and property against fire or panic.

13146. The responsibility for enforcement of building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal and published in the California Building Standards Code relating to fire and panic safety and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal shall be as follows:

(a) The city, county, or city and county with jurisdiction in the area affected by the standard or regulation shall delegate the enforcement of the building standards relating to fire and panic safety and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal as they relate to R-3 dwellings, as described in Section 1201 of Part 2 of the California Building Standards Code, to either of the following:

(1) The chief of the fire authority of the city, county, or city and county, or his or her authorized representative.

(2) The chief building official of the city, county, or city and county, or his or her authorized representative.

(b) The chief of any city or county fire department or of any fire protection district, and their authorized representatives, shall enforce within its jurisdiction the building standards and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal, except those described in subdivision (a) or (d).

13146.2. (a) Every city or county fire department or district providing fire protection services required by Sections 13145 and 13146 to enforce building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal shall, annually, inspect all structures subject to subdivision (b) of Section 17921, except dwellings, for compliance with building standards and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal.

(b) A city, county, or district which inspects a structure pursuant to subdivision (a) may charge and collect a fee for the inspection from the owner of the structure in an amount, as determined by the city, county, or district, sufficient to pay its costs of that inspection.

13146.5. The provisions of Sections 13145, 13146 and 13146.3 shall, so far as practicable, be carried out at the local level by persons who are regular full-time members of a regularly organized fire department of a city, county, or district providing fire protection services, and shall not be carried out by other persons pursuant to Section 34004 of the Government Code.

Penal Code

386. (a) Any person who willfully or maliciously constructs or maintains a fire-protection system in any structure with the intent to install a fire protection system which is known to be inoperable or to impair the effective operation of a system, so as to threaten the safety of any occupant or user of the structure in the event of a fire, shall be subject to imprisonment in the state prison for two, three, or four years.

(b) A violation of subdivision (a) which proximately results in great bodily injury or death is a felony punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for five, six, or seven years.

(c) As used in this section, "fire-protection system" includes, but is not limited to, an automatic fire sprinkler system, standpipe system, automatic fixed fire extinguishing system, and fire alarm system.