

RESOLUTION  
CAL FIRE LOCAL 2881 55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
JANUARY 13 – JANUARY 16

SUBJECT: Fire Prevention / Fire Captain Specialist Staffing

SUBMITTED BY: District 3

INTENT: Increase staffing in support of safety and investigation requirements

FINANCIAL  
IMPACT: NONE

WHEREAS, (1) CAL FIRE lacks sufficient Fire Prevention Officers / Investigators to continue to deal with the complexity of the fire investigations and serial arson suspect apprehension.

WHEREAS, (2) Within the SRA lands protected by CAL FIRE, arson fires make up approximately 11% of the total fires, the firth most common cause of unwanted fire in the state. Undetermined fires make up about 30% of the total SRA fires, which is the number one fire cause of unwanted fires; and

WHEREAS, (3) The director and employees or classes of employees of the department by the director have the powers conferred by law upon peace officers listed in Section 830.2 of the Penal Code. The primary duty of the peace officers shall be the enforcement of the forest and fire laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, (4) The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Guide 921 adopted by CAL FIRE policy states, "Fire scene examinations should not be undertaken alone. A minimum of two individuals should be present to ensure that assistance is at hand; and

WHEREAS, (5) CAL FIRE Investigator(s) is responsible for taking all reasonable steps to investigate the cause and to recover costs from a third party if he or she suspects negligence or intentional acts; and

WHEREAS, (6) Prevention Bureaus are expected to investigate complex/major fires and serial arson cases, as well as assist on Serious Accident Review Teams, maintain unit coverage, investigate all the smaller fires, train new officers, and assume all clerical ancillary duties, which includes filling Public Record Act requests; and

WHEREAS, (7) The majority (14) of the operational units are staffed with one State funded Fire Captain and one Battalion Chief to maintain 24-hour, 7 day a week coverage; and

WHEREAS, (8) The limited staffing does not allow unit prevention staff adequate time to analyze ignition data and trends with the goal of reducing unwanted ignitions; and

WHEREAS, (9) This level of staffing results in yearly burn out of personnel. This impacts the department negatively by losing experienced and well-trained fire investigators / officers; and

WHEREAS, (10) The enforcement of the Public Resource Code and the prevention of unwanted fires to reduce the threat of life and property loss is severely compromised; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, (A) CAL FIRE Local 2881 work with CAL FIRE and legislators towards increasing staffing levels of its Fire Captain Specialist to reduce the number of unwanted fires; and be it further

RESOLVED, (B) CAL FIRE Local 2881 continue to implore CAL FIRE to actively seek out and implement improved staffing models to support the well-being of the CAL FIRE Fire Captain Specialist (AKA Peace Officer).

**ACTION:**

To Executive Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_ Adopt in Original Form \_\_\_\_\_

Adopt as Amended \_\_\_\_\_ Adopt as a Consolidation of Resolutions \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn by Author \_\_\_\_\_ Reject \_\_\_\_\_