

**STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

**Items 170 and 171 from the General Fund and Dry Cleaners Fund**

Requested 1969-70	\$1,090,710
Estimated 1968-69	1,060,539
Actual 1967-68	967,827
Requested increase \$30,171 (2.8 percent)	
Total recommended reduction	None

**GENERAL PROGRAM STATEMENT**

The main objective of the State Fire Marshal is to devise ways and means of preventing fires and protecting the lives of people against fire and panic. This objective is accomplished through nine programs as follows.

**Building Fire and Life Safety**

Reviews of construction blueprints and specifications are made to determine if standards established by the State Fire Marshal are met. On-site survey studies are made of existing buildings to ascertain if they meet required structural standards and if equipment for detecting and extinguishing fires is adequate.

**Training**

The State Fire Marshal has designed a program of fire prevention training for local authorities and state and private institutional personnel. This training program consists of classroom courses and workshops on standards and regulations for fire prevention, emergency evacuation procedures and fire suppression. State institutional training courses are conducted on a continuous basis.

**Flame Retardants and Research**

The State Fire Marshal examines and approves all flame retardant materials or fabrics. All concerns engaged in the manufacture or sales of such materials must register with the State Fire Marshal.

**Construction Material and Equipment**

All building materials, assemblies of materials, methods of construction and equipment must conform with test methods and standards prescribed by the State Fire Marshal. His staff evaluates technical data and test methods to determine conformance.

**Flammable Liquids**

The transportation of flammable liquids presents a hazard to motorists on the highways when accidents result from collision or upsets of cargo tanks that transport these liquids. To insure as much safety as possible in the transportation of these liquids the State Fire Marshal inspects biennially approximately 10,000 tanks for design and construction to determine continued conformance with adopted safety standards. The cargo tanks must be registered with the State Fire Marshal.

**State Fire Marshal—Continued****Fire Extinguishers**

The State Fire Marshal establishes the standards that persons, firms, corporations and associations servicing fire extinguishers must meet before they can be licensed. Employees of licensed firms who are engaged in this service must pass examinations and practical tests before they can be registered. Field inspections of the physical plants used for this servicing are made to ascertain conformance with minimum standards.

**Explosives**

The Fire Marshal establishes the least hazardous routes to be followed in transporting explosives and establishes safety standards for their use and storage. Approved routes and safe stopping places are published and distributed annually to the industry, local authorities and the California Highway Patrol. Classification, packaging and marking standards must also be met.

**Fireworks**

Licenses must be obtained from the State Fire Marshal by all manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, pyrotechnic operators and persons putting on public displays of fireworks. The State Fire Marshal classifies types of fireworks by conducting laboratory analysis, field examinations and test firing of production items.

**Administration**

The State Fire Marshal in his capacity as head of this program dictates policy and procedures for the various programs and gives overall direction to the program managers. Budgetary, fiscal and statistical activities are performed in the business services section of this program.

**ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

*We recommend approval of this item as budgeted.*

The amount of \$1,090,710 requested for the 1969-70 fiscal year is \$30,171 more than is estimated to be expended in the current year. The principal increase results from legislation (SB 766, 1968 Session) which added additional duties relating to the licensing and registration of persons, firms, corporations and associations in the business of servicing fire extinguishers. Fees for licensing and registration were increased and offset the cost of one additional deputy state fire marshal (salary \$9,168 not including staff benefits, travel or per diem) to handle the increased number of field inspections from 13 in the current year to 150 for the 1969-70 fiscal year. Additional temporary help (salary \$4,524) for one year only is requested for a biennial registration of cargo tanks. The balance of the increase is due to price increases and merit salary adjustments.