



# ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

## Fire Prevention Department – Safety and Environmental Services Section

1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine CA 92602 – [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org) – (714) 573-6180 / Fax (714) 368-8836

March 2, 2009

### IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

Dear Restaurant Owner,

Thousands of fires are reported to public fire departments nationwide each year in restaurants involving the commercial kitchen/cooking areas per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics. These fires resulted in direct property damage over \$150 million annually.

Many changes have been made to commercial cooking equipment over the last several years which require upgrading commercial cooking suppression systems. While animal fats were once commonly used, they have since been largely replaced with vegetable oils. Consequently, the vegetable oils burn much hotter and threaten to overwhelm the dry chemical extinguishing systems, resulting not only in losses of businesses and revenues, but valuable income for business owners and their employees.

On January 1, 2008, the Office of the State Fire Marshal established a state-wide requirement making all commercial cooking suppression systems UL 300 compliant. All existing dry chemical fire extinguishing systems installed for the protection of commercial cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors shall now comply with Section 904.11 of the California Fire Code.

Commercial cooking equipment suppression systems that are not UL 300 compliant will no longer be allowed to be serviced by your fire protection company, which is required by the California Fire Code to be serviced every 6 months, or after each activation. If you have a commercial cooking suppression system, you need to inspect your extinguishing system with your fire protection contractor to verify compliance with UL 300 standards. Through the annual inspection program, the OCFA will be inspecting your system to verify that it meets the new state requirement. **All commercial cooking suppression systems must be UL 300 compliant by July 1, 2009.**

The Orange County Fire Authority appreciates your cooperation and is available to answer any questions you might have during this transition period. Please log on to <http://www.ocfa.org/uploads/pdf/sess-contacts.pdf> or call Paris Prophet at 714-573-6180, who will be able to direct you to your local fire prevention office for further assistance.