

2009 State Fire Commission's Ohio Hall of Fame Award Recipients

Ohio Fire Service Citizens Award - This award is conferred upon citizens of Ohio who, at risk of their own lives, perform a lifesaving act in a fire or emergency situation.

Dr. Jonathan Gose

On April 29, 2008, Dr. Jonathan Gose became an unexpected hero as he drove down Route 50/32 near Athens. Dr. Gose witnessed a vehicle leave the roadway; continuing down a steep embankment striking two large bridge pillars. As the driver was rendered unconscious and the vehicle burst into flames, Dr. Gose drove to the scene, descended the embankment, and with total disregard to his own personal safety, rescued the victim from the burning car. Despite the extremely hazardous conditions, Dr. Gose's courage and willingness to sacrifice his own well-being to save the life of a person in need illustrates the very best of humanity. His noble actions are an example for all to follow.

Catherine Kistler

On September 28, 2008, Catherine Kistler's heroic actions helped save the life of a victim trapped inside a burning, overturned car in Galloway. As she drove by the accident scene, Kistler immediately took action. Discovering the victim still strapped in his seatbelt, and with little regard to her own personal safety, Kistler attempted to reach the seatbelt through the intense heat but was unable to release it. Tim Jansen arrived on the scene. As the seatbelt melted off, they were able to pull the victim away from the burning car and immediately began to 'beat' out the flames on his burning clothes. Medics soon arrived to find the victim had suffered burns over 70 percent of his body. Had it not been for the selfless and courageous actions of Catherine Kistler and Tim Jansen, the victim may not have survived. Kistler's act of heroism brings great credit to herself, her family and the citizens of Ohio.

Tim Jansen

On September 28, 2008, Tim Jansen's heroic actions helped save the life of a victim trapped inside a burning, overturned car in Galloway. While he was home, Jansen was alerted to a car crash by his wife. As he ran towards the scene, he found a passer-by attempting to rescue the victim. Jansen forced the car door open and both he and Catherine Kistler were unable to release the victim from his seatbelt. Rushing back inside his home to retrieve fire extinguishers, Jansen returned to assist Kistler in pulling the victim away from the burning car and immediately began to 'beat' out the flames on his burning clothes. Medics soon arrived to find the victim had suffered burns over 70 percent of his body. Had it not been for the selfless and courageous actions of Tim Jansen and Catherine Kistler, the victim may not have survived. Jansen's act of heroism brings great credit to himself, his family and the citizens of Ohio.

William L. Howard Public Service Award: Conferred to outstanding individuals who are not members of the fire service, but who have during the course of their career or their lives made significant contributions toward the furtherance of the fire service.

Arlene Cook

An integral part of every fire department is the command center -- the hub of daily activity and direction. This is no different for the State Fire Marshal's office. For the past 21 years, 'the hub' of this office and the State Fire Commission has been Arlene Cook. Her dedication and commitment to Ohio's fire service has earned the respect of firefighters throughout the state as well as her co-workers. Her professionalism and resourcefulness has reflected well on the State Fire Marshal's office, ever cognizant of the traditions and responsibilities of the nation's oldest fire marshal's office. Although never sworn into active fire service, Cook has "always been on duty." She began her service in the Arson Bureau, now known as the Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau. For the past 13 years, she has been 'the glue' that has held the State Fire Marshal's office and the State Fire Commission together, as the Fire Marshal's Administrative

Assistant. During this time, she has served four Marshals and one Interim Marshal (James J. McNamee, Robert R. Rielage, Stephen K. Woltz, Michael P. Bell and Donald Cooper) and several acting Marshals, each with their own style. Through Cook's diplomatic and stalwart actions, she made sure nothing fell through the cracks during the transitional times or their tenure. Whether it is communicating with nearly 1,300 fire departments on any given day; managing information for the Commission; keeping the Marshal's schedule; serving as a conduit between staff and management; planning the Hall of Fame ceremony and all the little things that get done but no one knows how, Cook's actions have benefited not only the fire service but the citizens of Ohio. Always optimistic and smiling, Cook's mission has been to make people aware of not only the role of the State Fire Marshal's office but how important fire safety is to each and every person. Although she hasn't put on the turnout gear, climbed ladders and fought fires, Cook has never wavered in her support of Ohio's fire service and its mission. This quiet leader and true friend of the fire service has done the State Fire Marshal's office, and the State of Ohio, proud.