



State Fire Marshal News

John R. Kasich, Governor Andre T. Porter, Director of Commerce Larry Flowers, State Fire Marshal Spring 2013

State Fire Marshal’s “Listening Tour”

State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers is committed to providing exemplary fire service support to fire departments throughout Ohio. To this end, he has been traveling around the state with members of his leadership team visiting departments on a “Listening Tour.”

The Division of State Fire Marshal provides support to fire departments, based on local needs. This support runs the gamut of Fire Safety Education to Fire Code Inspection to investigative assistance by the Fire and Explosive Investigation Bureau; which includes canine detection support and use of the country’s longest-serving and fully-accredited forensic laboratory.

In order to better determine the support services the Division should provide, the Marshal is seeing and hearing first-hand about the needs of local departments across Ohio. These needs change over time and Marshal Flowers wants to make sure his office changes with them.

A number of volunteer departments expressed concerns with getting members up-to-date on certification. The Marshal’s office responded with a 36-hour certification training class for volunteers that can be completed in just two weekends. And they’re offering it for free.

Additionally, some departments have expressed the need for more training closer to home. The Marshal took this back to the Ohio Fire Academy and challenged the staff to redefine Direct Delivery Training to better meet regional needs – and to do it at an affordable price. The Academy has risen to this challenge by tailoring training regionally.

Continued on page 3

In this Issue...

Marshal’s Message	2
Director Andre T. Porter	3
SFM Fire Department Equipment Grants ..	4
OFIRS Refresher Course	4
FEIB Training & Terrorism Seminar	5
Code Steps Up Inspection Efforts.....	6
Fireworks Season is Fast Approaching	6
Forensic Lab Receives New Equipment.....	7
BUSTR Assists With Regulation.....	7
Grain Bin Rescue Training.....	8
Swift Water Rescue Training	9
Hall of Fame Nominations.....	10
Fire Expo & Muster 2013.....	11
Employee Service Pin Awards.....	12
Contact Us.....	12



(From left) Fire Prevention Bureau Chief Frank Conway, Ohio Fire Academy Supt. Dana Smith and State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers visit New Philadelphia Fire Department on one of the “Listening Tour” stops.



A message from... State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers

After a long, cold winter, Spring has finally arrived!

2012 marked the lowest number of fire deaths in the last 26 years, and so far, this year is trending even lower. This accomplishment is the result of the hard work and dedication of many of you, but we should not allow it to lull us into letting down our guard. Please let us know what we can do to help you get a strong fire prevention message out. Here are some of the common themes we are seeing in the number of fire deaths so far this year:

- Oxygen is explosive and smoking doesn't mix with a flammable gas. Several people have died this year in connection with smoking while using oxygen.
- Space heaters can be deadly if not used properly. Lives have already been lost where space heaters were used improperly.
- Finally, and most importantly, we must continue to encourage people in our communities to have working smoke detectors on every level of their home and in every sleeping room. Additionally, an established escape plan helps guide people to safety in an otherwise chaotic situation. It is vital that all Ohioans identify two ways out in case of a fire.



Most fires are preventable. Our mission is to get out the word on best practices to prevent fires. As discussed in the first article in this month's newsletter, my 'Listening Tour' is underway. My team and I are traveling the state, visiting fire departments to hear how we - the Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Fire Academy - can serve you better. I'd like to visit your local department and hear how my office can help to meet today's challenges in your community.

Inside this issue, we will re-introduce you to the various bureaus which may refresh you on how we can help. And look for our social media options. Please "follow" us for all the latest information about what's happening in the fire service at @OhioFire and @OhioFireAcademy and visit our facebook page.

I want to always be accessible to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 752-7161 if I can be of service.

Larry Flowers
State Fire Marshal

HALL OF FAME AWARDS NOMINATIONS

2013 SFM EMS Joint Hall of Fame Awards Nominations are due by **June 17, 2013**. For the criteria and nomination forms, please visit:

www.com.ohio.gov/fire/docs/fire_HallofFameAwardPacket2013.pdf

www.com.ohio.gov/fire/docs/fire_HallofFameAwardsNominationform2013.pdf

Ohio Department of Commerce Director Andre T. Porter:

As you may know, Governor John R. Kasich recently appointed Commerce Director David Goodman as Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. David did an outstanding job in leading the Department of Commerce and serving the citizens of Ohio for the past two years.

I am honored that Governor Kasich has appointed me as the new Director of the Department of Commerce.

Please allow me to briefly introduce myself. Most recently, I served as a Commissioner at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and assisted in the regulation of Ohio's public utilities. Prior to that, I was an attorney in private practice focused on real estate taxation and public utilities law, in addition to providing general counsel for public agencies. I plan to put my private and public sector experience to work at the Department of Commerce.

I'm enjoying my work with State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers and his team as we to continue to deliver the kind of service Ohio fire departments expect and deserve.

The Ohio Fire Academy continues to be the premier fire service training facility in the state. In response to requests from Ohio fire departments, we have taken our training on the road through our Direct Delivery program as well as continuing to provide classes at our campus. One example of this is the Grain Bin Rescue Training that is being provided in rural areas of the state.

Our Fire Prevention Bureau conducts fire safety programs throughout the state, often partnering with local fire departments, community groups and businesses to conduct their own programs. By facilitating the distribution of smoke detectors into homes that do not have them, the Fire Prevention Bureau has a real and lasting impact on saving lives.

These are only two of the Bureaus that make up the Division of State Fire Marshal. All of our Bureaus work hard every day to ensure that we fulfill one of the primary missions of this Division: Everyone Goes Home.

As we work to serve you better, Marshal Flowers and I want to hear any thoughts and ideas you may have. Please feel free to call me or email me any time at 614-466-1286 or andre.porter@com.ohio.gov

Andre T. Porter, Director
Ohio Department of Commerce



“Listening Tour” continued....

Another benefit of the Listening Tour is the sharing of best practices. While cognizant that one size doesn't necessarily fit all, Marshal Flowers believes that if a department finds something that helps them in their mission it's beneficial to share that with other departments in the state. Innovation and collaboration make for a more adaptable and effective department. In Tipp City, they have a volunteer department with a waiting list while other areas of the state are having trouble finding volunteers. The Marshal was then able to share Tipp City Fire Department's recruiting ideas with struggling departments. Where there are opportunities for collaboration, the Marshal is making those connections. In the end, it means a stronger fire service for everyone.

The Listening Tour began in November 2012 and in just six months Marshal Flowers has visited more than 20 fire departments. He's eager to continue to meet firefighters, leadership and elected officials in every corner of the state. To schedule a tour, contact Michael Duchesne, the Division of State Fire Marshal's Public Information Officer, at 614-752-7179 or Michael.Duchesne@com.ohio.gov. Marshal Flowers wants to know how he can help and how the fire service can build even stronger partnerships.

State Fire Marshal's Office Awards Over \$1 Million in Equipment Grants

The Division of State Fire Marshal wants to make sure fire departments have everything they need to safeguard lives and property. State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers and his team have been paying visits to departments throughout the state to award grants for everything from protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus to communications equipment.

The equipment grant programs are designed to offset the cost of state-certified firefighter training programs and/or equipment purchases to local governments. Local fire departments chosen for the grants were selected based on a variety of criteria, including the fire department's annual budget, annual number of fire incidents and the resident population served by the department.

"This program allows Ohio's fire departments to purchase new equipment for their first responders to better protect our citizens," said Commerce Director Andre Porter.

Over \$1 million in grant money has been awarded to 94 departments already this year. For smaller departments whose equipment may be in disrepair, these funds could make the difference between life and death for emergency personnel.

"These firefighters must have the protective equipment they need to perform their jobs," said Marshal Flowers. "We want to make sure that each responder will be able to serve fully and return home safely at the end of an emergency. These grants help enable that."

OFIRS Basic Refresher Class Offered

Do you have questions when you attempt to submit fire reports to the Fire Prevention Bureau at the Division of State Fire Marshal? Do you wonder if your responses to queries in the Ohio Fire Incident Reporting System (OFIRS) are correct? Are you ever frustrated because the system identifies errors when you try to upload your reports? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, a new class being offered by the Division of State Fire Marshal might be for you.

While traveling the state on his Listening Tour, State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers often hears about the frustrations that arise while using the OFIRS system, especially among smaller, volunteer fire departments. This class is designed to make the system easier for everyone.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is offering a two-hour basic refresher course to help those in your department who are responsible for submitting fire reports to the State. Attendees will learn the benefits of OFIRS and the need for accurate reporting. Instructors strive to address reportable incidents and define which modules are to be completed. Students will also be able to identify which corrective measures to take when issues arise during reporting and be proficient in uploading a file to the OFIRS system.

The class is offered as a direct-delivery to fire departments. A minimum of 12 students are required and students can come from a variety of departments. Students should be those that are already handling fire reporting for their agencies. Please note that this class does not teach how to use specific software programs. Host agencies should be able to provide ample space in an environment suitable for learning. Audio-visual equipment and the ability to show PowerPoint is requested. No fees are charged for this course.

To discuss possible scheduling of the OFIRS Basic Refresher, call the Bureau at (614) 752-7115 or (888) 243-0305.



Marshal Flowers presents Range Twp. Fire Chief Donald Gildow with a check for \$10,000 to be used for purchasing protective clothing.



West Licking Joint Fire District staff participating in the 'refresher' course.

Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau Hosts Training and Terrorism Seminar

First responders from dozens of fire departments and law enforcement agencies received training from the Fire and Explosion Investigations Bureau (FEIB) in April.

FEIB staff taught the annual spring Basic Fire Investigation course. This course teaches the fundamentals of fire scene investigation for origin and cause determination, which have undergone dynamic changes in forensic science in the past 20 years. The course included interactive classroom presentations, lectures, group exercises and hands-on practical application. The students came away with the basic tools necessary to participate in a fire scene investigation.

This course is intended for applicants with at least five years' experience in fire service and/or law enforcement, and was attended by firefighters throughout the state, a federal investigator and an assistant prosecuting attorney.

Generally, candidates are those responsible for determining fire origin and cause for their respective agencies.



Also in April, the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy was on-site at the State Fire Marshal campus to train FEIB investigative staff in Firearms and Use-of-Force, as well as decision-making in vehicle handling using the PatrolSim driving simulator. The Firearms training puts officers in real-life scenarios.

The Ohio Fire Academy hosted the Ohio Homeland Security Division Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Workshop, which focuses on training first responders on how to recognize and report suspicious activity. There are over 600 TLOs from local jurisdictions who serve as conduits for information with the common goal of effective information sharing and networking.

Ohio Weekend at the National Fire Academy

June 28 - June 30, 2013

Details at www.ohioweekend.org

Applications Due MAY 21, 2013

Code Enforcement Bureau Steps Up Inspection Efforts

The Division of State Fire Marshal Code Enforcement Bureau is partnering with local fire departments and building code officials to ensure that Ohio schools are kept safe for students. The strength of the partnership rests on the exchange of information between local and state agencies.

Code Enforcement Bureau Chief Denny McCann stresses the importance of annual inspections and reporting the information requested in the Ohio Fire Code to his office. Not only is this required under state law, but it is important that the Bureau's database be kept up to date to ensure the highest possible safety standards are met.

Chief McCann believes that a full inspection, not just a review of fire drill records, provides the best chance for a fire safe environment in schools. His office stands ready to assist any departments needing guidance.

“Our concern is that, should an event occur in our schools, the staff and students have received the proper instruction and training through fire drills and rapid dismissals to properly respond,” said Chief McCann. “Otherwise, the safety of our children may be affected.”

Should you need assistance or have any questions, the Code Enforcement Bureau can be contacted at 614-728-5460, toll free at 888-276-0303 or via e-mail at websfm@com.ohio.gov.



Fireworks Season is Fast Approaching

Fireworks season is fast approaching and the Division of State Fire Marshal's Bureau of Testing and Registration is gearing up to make this summer as safe as possible. In May and June, the State Fire Marshal's Office is sponsoring free classes to educate the fire service, law enforcement personnel, and exhibitors on the requirements, responsibility, liability and safety of fireworks. In the past, over 80 percent of attendees have been first responders.



These classes are designed to help reduce the number of fires and fireworks-related injuries in Ohio. The Bureau partners with exhibitors and those responsible for issuing permits to help ensure a safe and fun Fourth of July.

The Division of State Fire Marshal encourages Ohioans to attend public fireworks displays hosted by local municipalities and licensed exhibitors. There is no such thing as a backyard fireworks permit.

Under Ohio law, stiff penalties can be applied for the illegal possession or discharge of fireworks. It is a first-degree misdemeanor for non-licensed individuals to discharge fireworks in Ohio, to falsify an application when purchasing fireworks, or to possess them for more than 48 hours without taking them to the designated out-of-state address. First-time offenders are subject to up to a \$1,000 fine and six months imprisonment.

For information about when and where courses are being offered, please visit this link: www.com.ohio.gov/fire/docs/fire_2013fireworksclasses.pdf

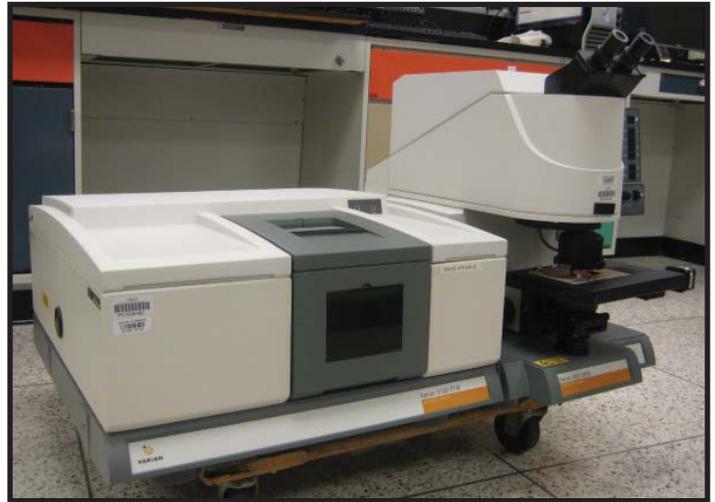
Marshal Flowers Fireworks Reminder

With fireworks season almost upon us, the Division of State Fire Marshal wants to remind local fire code officials that all accidents involving fireworks which result in injury or property damage must be reported to our office immediately in accordance with the Ohio Fire Code. Additionally, the accident scene must be held until released by the State Fire Marshal.

Forensic Lab Receives New Equipment

The State Fire Marshal's Forensic Lab has added new technology to help combat arson related crime. As part of an ongoing partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Forensic Lab Chief Chad Wissinger helped engineer the transfer of a highly sophisticated instrument to his Lab.

The Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (FT-IR) Microscope collects data in a wide spectral range. The FT-IR Microscope will be used in the analysis of explosives, unknown chemicals and meth lab evidence. Lab staff will be able to look at complex chemical mixtures on a microscopic scale. "We can pick out individual particles the size of a grain of sand and analyze each individual particle," said Wissinger. "This will save us quite a bit of time, especially on complex explosive mixtures."



The Forensic Lab was recently accredited through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board International Accreditation Program. The scope of the Lab's accreditation includes fire debris, explosives, general physical and chemical analysis, latent print processing, video analysis and audio analysis.

This accreditation is the newest program that ASCLD-LAB offers. It replaces the ASCLD-LAB Legacy Program as all labs are transitioning to the new International Program. Accreditation is granted after a thorough evaluation of the laboratory's management system and technical procedures and practices. Accreditation is the result of an extensive commitment of resources and much preparation by the management and the personnel of the entire system. Accredited labs are expected to maintain the high standards which were required to attain accreditation.

BUSTR Assists Fire Departments With Regulation

Sometimes the lines of jurisdiction can seem a little blurry. When local fire departments need clarification on who should be inspecting what, the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) stands ready to assist.

BUSTR has jurisdiction over underground storage tanks (USTs) that store gasoline, diesel and kerosene similar to what you find at gas stations. In general, BUSTR has jurisdiction over USTs, underground piping and containment sumps. Above ground components, such as dispensers, emergency stop buttons, and above ground vent lines fall under local jurisdiction.

The Bureau's employees work with local fire departments and other officials to ensure compliance with local, state and federal regulations. This includes efforts to educate UST owners and operators so that they remain compliant, and if necessary, to take enforcement action to bring them back into compliance. By overseeing the investigation and clean-up of releases from USTs, BUSTR helps to protect human health and preserve the environment for the citizens of Ohio.

In most situations, tank owners and contractors performing work on underground storage tanks should have a permit from BUSTR, and they should have a license showing that they are a Certified UST Installer. Local fire departments may ask to see this documentation at any time, or they may call BUSTR at (614) 752-7938 and ask to speak to a release prevention supervisor to clarify if BUSTR-related work is being performed correctly.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Ohio Fire & EMS Expo - 2013 Educational Conference and Exhibition is set for September 24-27 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Details on registration, vendors, speakers, and events can be found at:

<http://www.ohiofireexpo.com/>

Ohio Fire Academy Offers Grain Bin Storage Rescue Training

Emergency first responders from Ridgeville Corners, Napoleon and Archbold Fire Departments became the first departments to benefit from a specialized training simulator that can reduce the severity of farm accidents. The Grain Bin Storage Rescue training is being offered by the Ohio Fire Academy. Since the initial training, many departments have received this training, including the Washington Township Fire Department in Montgomery County.

“Grain bin accidents don’t happen that often, but when they do, we need to be prepared and trained and know how to deal with them,” said Washington Twp. Fire Chief Gene Hanning. “With multi-faceted types of rescues, you have to train with all of them the best you can to have a positive outcome and save a person’s life.”

Agriculture is a leading industry in Ohio, with 73,700 farmers across the state. It is also one of the most dangerous occupations, according to the National Safety Council. Automated equipment has made handling grain easier and faster. But grain storage structures and handling equipment can create hazardous work areas, as most grain bin accidents involve someone being trapped in flowing grain. Accidents peak during the harvest when production increases. That makes this the perfect time of year for training so first responders are prepared for the upcoming harvest season.



First responders are being trained with the State’s new Comprehensive Agriculture Rescue Trailer, also known as CART. Mounted on a 40-foot flatbed trailer, the simulator includes a grain bin, grain leg, gravity wagon and other training essentials.



The simulator is being used across the state as part of the State Fire Marshal’s goal to partner with local fire departments and deliver training directly to the departments. To schedule this training for your department, please call the Ohio Fire Academy at (614) 752-7196.



Swift Water Rescue Training Conducted

Emergency first responders from the New Franklin Fire Department, Scioto Township (Jackson County) Fire Department and the Wellston Fire Department participated in Swift Water Rescue Training in Zanesville in April. The event was jointly offered by the Ohio Fire Academy and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft. Students learned the hazards found during typical water rescue incidents and worked with various types of equipment and rescue watercrafts.

“It’s terrifying for someone to be trapped by rising flood waters,” said State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. “When first responders are on the scene, this type of specialized training can make the difference between life and death for both the victim and the rescuer.”

According to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, flooding is the most frequently-occurring natural disaster in Ohio as well as the United States. Floods occur when flow exceeds the natural or artificial confines of a river, stream or body of water. Flooding peaks following winter thaws and spring rains.



“We can work with the Army Corps of Engineers and get a water release where we can re-create conditions realistic to what these guys are going to see in a flood or water rescue situation,” said Ohio Fire Academy Instructor Steve Treinish.



This partnership between the two agencies is part of Governor John R. Kasich’s vision of shared services within the state. The event coupled the Fire Academy’s long history of quality training for first responders with the Division of Watercraft’s expert knowledge of Ohio waterways.

The training is available to first responders throughout the state.



Hall of Fame Awards 2012

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS awarded the fire service's highest honors to firefighters and fire officers during the state's 32nd annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame ceremonies. For the first time, the Division of EMS presented their top firefighting awards during the same ceremony.

The Ohio Fire Service Valor Award was presented to Firefighter Jason Burley (Jackson Township FD, Grove City), Lt. Brian Henry (Toledo Fire & Rescue), Captain Randy Little (Jackson Township FD, Grove City), Firefighter Kamal Parker (Toledo Fire & Rescue) and Captain Michael Posadny (Toledo Fire & Rescue). Former Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Donald Cooper and Columbus Division of Fire Captain Greg Lash were honored with the Ohio Distinguished Fire Service Award for milestone careers. Lash also was recognized by the Division of EMS with the Ohio Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. Chief Joe Kitchen of the Bath Township Fire Department was awarded the Division of EMS Ohio Fire Officer of the Year Award.

For additional information regarding their awards, please go to www.com.ohio.gov/fire/fireFame.aspx



ODPS Director Tom Charles, EMS Executive Director Mel House, Jason Burley, Randy Little, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Jeff Leaming and former Commerce Director David Goodman.



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ODPS Director Tom Charles, EMS Executive Director Mel House, Kamal Parker, Michael Posadny, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Jeff Leaming and former Commerce Director David Goodman.



ODPS Director Tom Charles, EMS Executive Director Mel House, Van Wert Fire Chief James Steele, Joe Kitchen, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Jeff Leaming and former Commerce Director David Goodman.

SFM Employees Recognized For Years of Service

During National Public Service Employees Recognition Week May 5-10, 2013, 23 SFM employees received pins for their years of public service (a combined 395 years):

5 Years: Bryan Duzak, Robert McGarry, and Robert J. Snyder, II

10 Years: Dennis Gobelt, Ken Klouda, and Scott Siglar

15 Years: Jeff Davis, Jason Hoffman, Amy Neile Myers, Alan Smith, and Richard Vance

20 Years: Michelle Gilliland, Edward Hazel, Ken Johnson, Jeffry Koehn, Barbara Richardson, Jennifer Snyder, and Tim Thompson

25 Years: Kelly Gill, James Johnson, and Sheryl Knapp

30 Years: Marsha Phillips and William Spradlin

Congratulations and thank you for your service!



Come Visit Us at the 2013 Ohio State Fair!!

July 24 - August 4, 2013

The Division staff is available to help you:

General Information

Phone Number: 614-752-8200

Toll Free: 1-888-252-0803

Email Address: websfm@com.ohio.gov

TTY/TDD: 1-800-750-0750

www.com.ohio.gov/fire/

Mailing Address:

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Division of State Fire Marshal

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Our hours of operation are: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Eastern Time Zone, Monday through Friday

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Sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter:

karen.bowman@com.ohio.gov



SFM staff give fire safety tips to fairgoers visiting the fire prevention safety house in the Department of Commerce fair booth.