



STATE FIRE MARSHAL NEWS

Fall 2017 • 8895 East Main Street • Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 • Ohio Department of Commerce

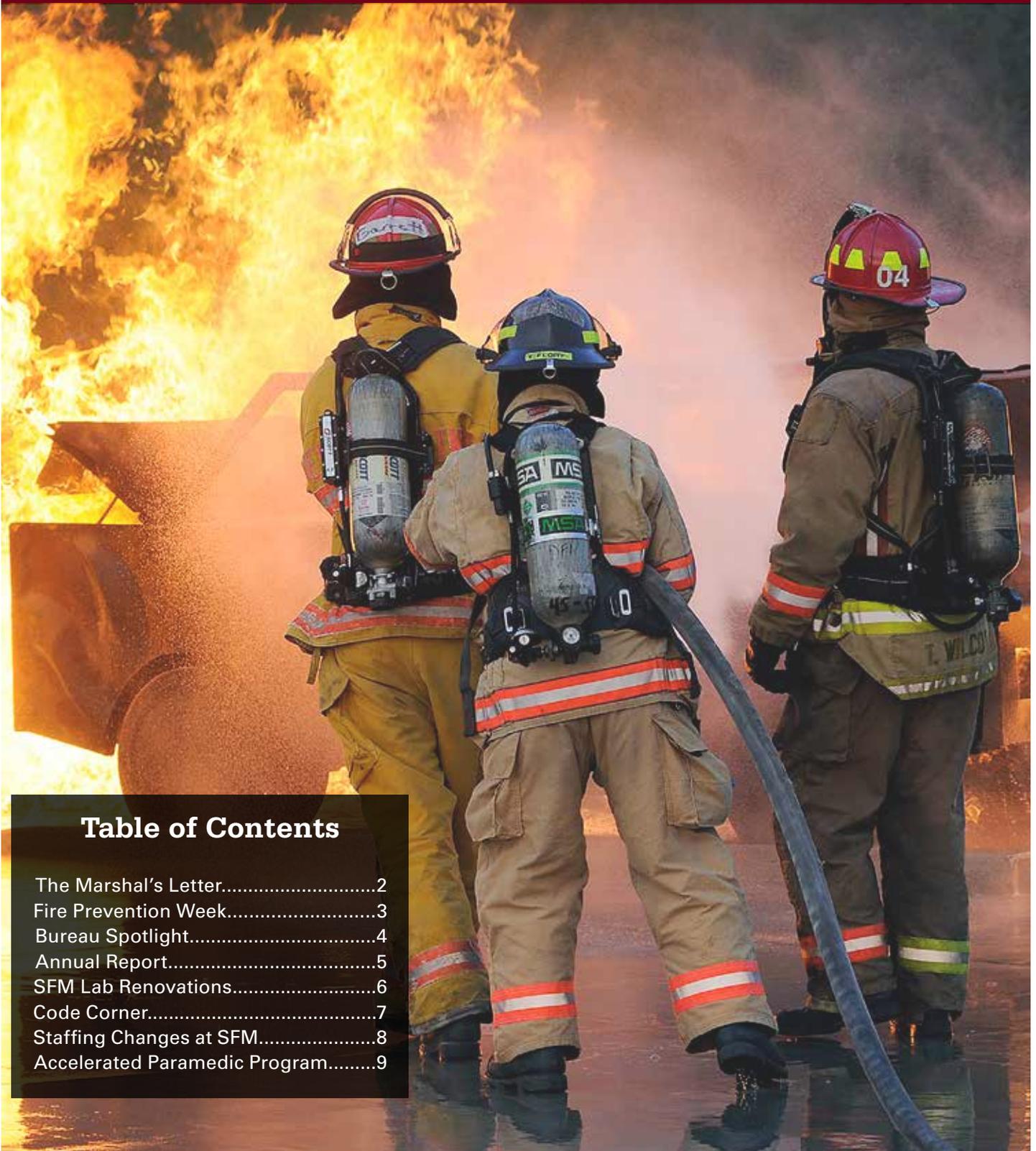


Table of Contents

The Marshal's Letter.....	2
Fire Prevention Week.....	3
Bureau Spotlight.....	4
Annual Report.....	5
SFM Lab Renovations.....	6
Code Corner.....	7
Staffing Changes at SFM.....	8
Accelerated Paramedic Program.....	9

John R. Kasich

Governor, State of Ohio

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Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey

State Fire Marshal



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A message from Marshal Hussey

As we enter the autumn season, I am starting to see a great deal of harvest activity already beginning on Ohio farms. Our farmers work extremely hard, and the fire service needs to be focused on this hazardous occupation, especially in the next few months.

Every year, we see a number of major fires involving tractors, combines and other agricultural equipment. These fires often result in significant economic losses of equipment and production time. Even worse, these fires can cause serious injuries to the equipment operators. Already this fall, there have been combine fires, one of which resulted in serious, life threatening burns to the farmer. This problem is compounded by very dry weather conditions at the present time.

Modern farm equipment produces high amounts of heat, especially around exhaust systems. Farmers should take great care to clear engine compartments of dust and crop residue frequently. Using a leaf blower at each stop is a quick, easy way to remove dust and keep these systems cool. Operators should also be sure to replace worn bearings and hydraulic hoses and oil lines to reduce the risk of fire.

Local fire departments should work with their farm community to teach about these risks. Departments should also pre-plan these types of incidents. Many of these fires occur long distances from the road and require significant water supply and fire flows. Automatic mutual aid responses may be needed to successfully fight these large fires.

As we discuss risks with our farm community, we also need to address the dangers of grain handling. Dangers include potential entrapment by augers and PTO shaft, oxygen deficiency in grain storage structures, and grain entrapment hazards when entering a storage bin. The Ohio Fire Academy offers a Direct Delivery farm rescue program that can help educate farmers and first responders about these dangers.

Thank you all for what you do every day across our great state. Please help keep our agricultural community safe, and enjoy this beautiful time of year!

Sincerely,

Jeff A. Hussey, OFE, OFC, CFO
Interim State Fire Marshal



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Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week - Six Step Home Drill

Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2017. The theme this year, as established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is **Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!**

Rather than celebrate or commemorate Fire Prevention Week, make it a week where you and your family actively prepare. Don't just **think** about fire safety—truly do something to make it happen in your lives. Here are some suggestions for practice drill within your home:

- Draw a map of your home – with everyone participating. Be sure to mark two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit. (Do this even if you live alone.)
- Practice the drill. Don't just talk about it. Athletes practice so that they don't have to think when it's time to move. You can do the same!
- Teach children in the home how to escape on their own in case you can't get to them.
- Look at your address marker for your home. Can first responders see it easily? If not, fix it make sure to make your numbers easily visible.
- Close doors behind you as you leave the rooms during your drill. This helps keep smoke from spreading and doing more damage or causing injury.
- Once outside, **STAY** outside! Never go back in a burning building for any reason.

When you do your drill, have a neighbor or friend take pictures! Share it on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to show others how it's done. Remember to tag @OhioFire on Twitter and @OhioFireMarshal at Facebook!

After Fire Prevention Week – think safety all year long! Check those smoke alarms to be sure they are working and practice fire safety **every day**.



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Bureau Spotlight: Testing and Registration

The Bureau of Testing & Registration is responsible for licensure, permits and registrations for over 20 license types for the Division of State Fire Marshal. Licensing is an integral part of the Fire Marshal's office.

The industries we license are:

- Fire protection individuals, companies and provisional
- Ohio hotels and motels
- Underground storage tanks, installers and inspectors
- Reduced ignition propensity cigarettes
- The storage and manufacturing of explosives
- Fireworks manufacturers, wholesalers, out-of-state shippers, exhibitors and their assistants, pyrotechnics, and flame effects.



Testing and Registration is a small bureau. We have a staff of nine people which include a bureau chief, asst. chief, and seven staff members. Our goal is to always provide excellent, customer-focused service to the industries we license and to the general public.

T&R By the Numbers (one year)



\$3,233,263
TESTING AND
REGISTRATION REVENUE



NEARLY **50,000**
LICENSES/PERMITS/REGISTRATIONS
PROCESSED



442
WALK-IN
CUSTOMERS

3865
EXAMS
ADMINISTERED

15,000
CALLS
RECEIVED



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Annual Report FY 2017

SFM works hard every day to keep Ohioans safe, sound and secure. As part of the **Department of Commerce**, our work is published each year in the Commerce Annual Report, highlighting all that we do to safeguard Ohioans.

The report highlights not only the work of SFM, but the work of each division within the Department of Commerce in Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017). Throughout this report, you'll learn more about Commerce's seven divisions and how they make a difference in the lives of Ohioans just like you. Check out some other FY 2017 highlights now in our Annual Report!

The Division of State Fire Marshal

- Oversaw **21,520** underground storage tanks making up **7,255** registered facilities
- Trained **11,174** students (or 20.6%) of all Ohio certified responders
- Awarded **\$5.2** million in grants
- Conducted **12,743** code enforcement inspections
- Conducted or assisted in **1,065** investigations
- Received **760** forensic lab cases containing **3,240** pieces of evidence

Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame 2017



Each year, the State Fire Marshal's office, along with the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS, award the fire service's highest honors to firefighters and fire officers during the annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame & Fire Awards ceremony.

This year, sixteen awards were presented, including awards recognizing the four fallen firefighters who died in the line of duty in the past year.

The Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame & Fire Awards ceremony exemplifies the bravery, commitment and the sacrifice that Ohio's fire personnel make on behalf of the communities they serve each and every day.

The full list of awardees along with descriptions of their honor can be found [here](#).

For descriptions of each award category, [click here](#).

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State Fire Marshal Forensic Lab Renovations

On July 28, 2017 the SFM Forensic Lab began moving into the newly renovated laboratory space. The staff had been working in laboratories that were constructed in the mid-1970s and were original to the SFM building. The lab space worked well for nearly 40 years, however, with much change in how the lab conducts forensic examinations on evidence since that time, a renovation and change in space was needed.

The renovation project consisted of three phases, which aimed to minimize impact on case turn-around time. In December 2016, phase one of the renovation began with the Preparation Lab (used to prepare fire debris evidence) and the Evidence Room. When that finished up, phase two began and consisted of new Instrument and Explosive Labs. Phase three consisted of a new Digital and Multimedia Evidence Lab and a new Latent Print Lab. All phases included installation of new floors, LED lighting, fume hoods, laboratory cabinets/benches, HVAC and much more.

The new laboratory space was redesigned to more efficiently conduct examinations on evidence from fires, explosive incidents and other criminal acts and to house new instruments that were recently purchased. The modern and open feel of the new labs allow staff more space that is required for today's forensic examinations.



Before



After

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Code Corner

What Inspectors do for Haunted Houses



Halloween is known for pumpkins, scary movies and most importantly.... haunted houses. If you've ever been to a haunted house, you may be wondering how they became visitor attractions. Here's some background on how those creepy old structures can become in compliance with the Ohio Fire Code:

- First, the haunted house must be evaluated for a "change of use" and be classified as a "special amusement building," as defined by the Ohio Fire Code and Ohio Building Code.
- An evaluation must be completed to determine if the conversion of the space to a haunted house is more hazardous than the previous use of the building.
- Because the nature of a haunted house is to confuse, disorient and distract occupants in a dimly lit enclosed space, most haunted houses are more hazardous than the previously approved use of space. In some cases, safety features must be added to haunted houses, like:
 - Sprinkler systems
 - Fire alarm systems
 - Special exit markings

So the next time you go to a haunted house, you may not be safe from weeks of nightmares, but at least you know you will be safe in case of a fire!

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Staffing Changes at SFM

Since our Summer issue, there have been quite a few major additions to our leadership team.



Jeff Hussey, State Fire Marshal

Having served as Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, and then as Interim State Fire Marshal, Jeff Hussey was formally sworn in this past summer as Ohio's 37th State Fire Marshal. As SFM, Hussey is responsible for overseeing all operations and bureaus of the Marshal's office.

Prior to joining the State Fire Marshal's office, Hussey served as Chief of the Granville Fire Department for ten years (2006-2016). He received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Franklin University, has completed the Ohio Fire Chiefs Executive Fire Officer Leadership Program and is a nationally accredited Chief Fire Officer. He is also a certified firefighter II, paramedic, fire instructor and fire inspector.



Bill Spurgeon, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

Bill Spurgeon was appointed Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal this past summer, and sworn in on the same day as Marshal Hussey.

Prior to this appointment, he served as Chief of Code Enforcement since October 2016. In this role as Chief Deputy, Spurgeon is responsible for assisting the State Fire Marshal in identifying goals and objectives, and leading the day-to-day operations of the office. Prior to joining the Marshal's office, Spurgeon served as Director of Public Safety for the city of Newark for five years.



Alan Smith, Code Enforcement Bureau Chief

At the beginning of September, Alan Smith was appointed the new Chief of the Code Enforcement Bureau, rounding out the last of the leadership positions at SFM that needed to be filled.

Prior to this appointment, Alan served as an Assistant Chief of the Code Enforcement Bureau for five years. While Assistant Chief, Alan also served as Interim Chief of the bureau for 11 months. With a total of 28 years of experience in fire safety and code compliance, Alan has the expertise and strong leadership skills to manage the 37-person bureau.

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Accelerated Paramedic Program

OFA Course Helps You Become a Paramedic Quicker Than Ever

The Ohio Fire academy is pleased to announce the addition of an Accelerated Paramedic program to the fire and EMS curriculum—which was created in conjunction with Central Ohio Community College (COTC). The Accelerated Paramedic program gives a firefighter wanting to advance into a career firefighter every certification an employer is looking for in a candidate.

With the addition of the accelerated paramedic program, a student coming into the OFA can complete the needed coursework from Firefighter I & II to Paramedic in less than 24 months.

This full-time course lasts a little over six months and prepares the student to sit for the National Registry certification. The OFA offers residency on campus in Reynoldsburg, which provides a unique opportunity for team study and preparation for the accelerated program.

For more information on the Accelerated Paramedic program, [click here](#).



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