STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Spring 2018 • 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 • Ohio Department of Commerce

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Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey
State Fire Marshal

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A Message From Marshal Hussey

Capital Budget

I am excited to announce that, for the first time in more than 15 years, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM) has received approval to purchase two new fire apparatus for the Ohio Fire Academy.

This is all thanks to the state's biennial Capital Budget, which provides appropriations for repair, reconstruction and construction of capital assets of state agencies such as, SFM.

In the previous Capital Budget Bill, covering years 2017-18, Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly approved funds for a new maintenance building, forensic lab storage building and replacement of the original HVAC equipment in the main SFM building. These projects are set to begin this spring.

In March, the 2019-20 Capital Budget Bill was signed and includes $3,172,500 for State Fire Marshal projects. Roughly $1.5 million will go toward more traditional building upgrades, including replacement windows and security enhancements. However, the remaining $1,675,000 is what I am most excited to announce to our staff and Ohio's fire service.

We plan to purchase a full-sized aerial platform and a new metro-style engine. This is an incredible opportunity to replace some apparatus that are nearly 20 years old, and to diversify our fire training fleet. It is my vision to have our fleet be more representative of the various types of fire apparatus across Ohio so our students can receive training on a wider variety and style of equipment.

By replacing these older assets, we will obtain apparatus with modern controls and systems, including electronic throttle systems, modern pressure governors and electronic aerial device controls. It is also important for our students to be taught with current safety systems, such as back-up cameras, seat belt monitors and electronic compartment door monitoring. The diversification of our fleet, coupled with these modern operating features will certainly enhance the student experience at the Ohio Fire Academy!

I would like to offer my most sincere appreciation to the Ohio General Assembly, Governor Kasich, Department of Commerce Director Jaqueline Williams, the Office of Budget and Management and the Commerce Fiscal staff for their support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Jeff A. Hussey

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

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Spring Cleaning Fire Safety

We're finally thawing out here in Ohio, and that means it's time for some spring cleaning! As you begin your spring cleaning, remove clutter that may have built up over the winter months, including boxes, papers and other combustible materials taking up space in your home.

Paper & Boxes

Never store paper products near furnaces and water heaters. Move these items away from those appliances or discard them in your community recycle bins.

Avoid burning boxes and other paper items in fireplaces, wood stoves, outdoor fire pits and bonfires. Embers from paper products can be carried away by rising heat from fire and spread to neighboring buildings and properties. Paper also adds layers of creosote to your chimney, which can build up over time and cause chimney fires.

Clothes Dryers

While most people were taught to clean the lint trap inside their clothes dryer, it is equally as important to clean behind and under the dryer, as well. The tubing coming from the back of the dryer – as well as the rigid vent pipes leading outside – can clog with lint and dust, leading to a potential fire hazard.

If your dryer is taking too long to dry clothes or you smell something odd each time you use it, immediately check all vents, pipes and tubes coming from the back of the dryer. Additionally, do not operate your dryer while you're not home or sleeping.

Smoke Alarms

Just because you've changed the batteries in your smoke alarm, doesn't mean it cannot still malfunction. Dust can accumulate inside a smoke alarm, causing a malfunction or leading to nuisance alarms. That means you should vacuum your alarms to get rid of any dust. Use the soft brush attachment on a traditional vacuum cleaner or a hand vacuum, to reach up and gently clean the alarm of any possible dust buildup. While you're there, make sure to check the date of the alarm to ensure it's not more than 10 years old. Manufacturers recommend replacing smoke alarms before 10 years so you always have the protection your household needs.

Many hazards can easily be found and corrected if you take the time during your spring cleaning efforts. Check out the Home Fire Safety Checklist for some help!

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Making Fire Prevention a Priority in Gates Mills

The Gates Mills Fire Department is a volunteer department in Cuyahoga County consisting of approximately 25 members. The department operates out of one station and serves approximately 2,400 residents in 8.8 square miles, consisting of mainly single-family residential dwelling with various commercial and institutional facilities requiring yearly fire safety inspections.

Creative Staffing

The Gates Mills Fire Department is made up exclusively of volunteers, and like many other volunteer departments in Ohio, they struggle with not having enough members available for daytime calls. To alleviate this problem, the Village of Gates Mills had their full-time service department employees trained to the Firefighter II level. That way, they can respond to calls during their shift when many of the other volunteer members are at their day-jobs. This creative staffing idea makes it possible for the fire department to be staffed around the clock in case of an emergency.

Making Fire Safety a Priority

A few years ago, the local dispatch center, which monitored home fire alarm systems free of charge for residents, closed down. The new regional dispatch center could not provide this service, and the fire department worried what could happen if residents opted to cancel fire alarm systems, rather than pay a company to monitor it. Determined to find a solution, Chief Tom Robinson met with the mayor, safety committee and council to come up with a way to encourage residents to continue protecting their homes with fire alarm systems.

After discussing the importance of fire safety, the Village of Gates Mills decided to cover the cost of monitoring fire alarm systems for their residents, through a contract with American Security. Currently, the village spends approximately $30,000 per year to offer this fire protection service to its residents.

Additionally, any time the fire department responds to a home where a family is experiencing a problem with its alarm system, “loaner alarms” are provided to ensure the family has working smoke alarms until repairs can be made.

Top Notch Smoke Alarm Program

Chief Robinson budgets approximately $3,000 per year for the purchase of First Alert smoke alarms for the community. An average of seven-to-eight alarms are installed per home, free of charge. The alarms are programed to communicate with each other; meaning, if one goes off, they all go off. Initially, the alarm(s) play a verbal message, alerting the occupants to the location of smoke/fire, and eventually default to the typical “beep” alarm.

The Gates Mills Fire Department is an excellent example of an active department in the community using a proactive approach for fire safety and prevention. Do you have a prevention education program or tactic you’d like featured in our next newsletter?
Email us and tell us about it!

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Passing the Leash

After seven years, it's time to pass the leash to a younger, more energetic canine.

Accelerant Detection Canine India officially retired from her role in the State Fire Marshal's Fire & Explosion Investigation Bureau on Feb. 22.

India began her service career in the Guiding Eyes for the Blind program in Connecticut. However, due to her excessive sniffing, she was dropped from the program and picked up by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) for its accelerant detection canine program. Upon successful completion of that program, India came to the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office in February 2011 and was partnered with investigator John Weber.

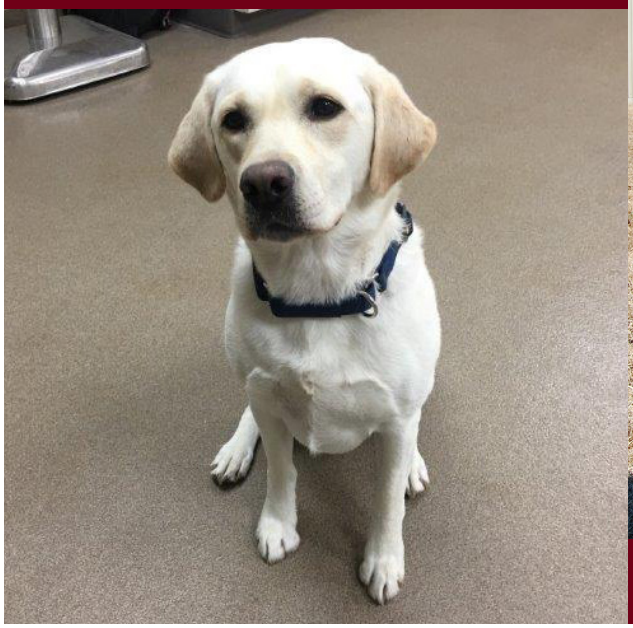
"With her strong desire to work and find the products we look for, I couldn't have asked for a better partner," said Weber. "With her strong sense of purpose and drive, she's been with me at over 500 fire scenes and has been instrumental in about 50 convictions."

Inda has released her harness and leash to yellow lab Max, Weber's new partner.

Max comes to FEIB from an ATF team in Texas. As a pup, Max was nurtured in the Inmate Pet Care Program in upstate New York. From there, he was chosen to serve in law enforcement with the ATF for four years.

"Max has some big paws to fill," said Weber. Witnessing Max's enthusiasm and compliance, Weber feels Max will follow well in the excellent standards set before him.

Max



Thank you for your service, India!

John R. Kasich,
Governor, State of Ohio

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Testing and Registration

Fire Protection Licenses

Fire Protection Licenses issued by the State Fire Marshal's office are available to be renewed online! Click here to renew or verify active licenses.

All company licenses expire on July 1, annually. Individual licenses expire quarterly by last name:

A–G Jan. 2 expiration	**N–S July 1 expiration**
H–M April 1 expiration	**T-Z Oct. 1 expiration**

The grace period previously offered for fire protection licenses was eliminated as part of changes within the newly released 2017 Ohio Fire Code. Contact the Testing and Registration Bureau at 614-752-7126 or email with questions.

Below is a chart with other licensure changes that went into effect with the new fire code.

What Changed?	Effective Date
The 60-day late-renewal period for Fire Protection licenses was eliminated. Past-due renewal applications for companies and individuals will no longer be accepted. All renewal applications received after their expiration date are now considered new applications.	**Jan. 2, 2018**
Individual Fire Protection licensees will be required to RE-TEST if renewal is not received by the license expiration date.	**Jan. 2, 2018**
The State Fire Marshal's office (SFM) must be notified of a fire protection company's branch office address change or closure within 30 days of the address change or closure. The main fire protection company or the branch is responsible for providing this notification to SFM.	**Dec. 15, 2017**
The initial fee for Provisional Fire Protection applications (apprentices) has been reduced to $35 for new licensure.	**Dec. 15, 2017**
Company branch applications now have an initial $10 fee for new licensure. There are still no fees for branch renewals.	**Dec. 15, 2017**
Sole Proprietor Fire Protection Company applications now have an initial $50 fee for new licensure. Annual renewal fees for sole proprietor companies has increased to $25.	**Dec. 15, 2017**
Fire Protection exams will be offered more frequently in various state-wide locations by a third-party vendor. In addition to SFM fees for application processing, a nominal fee will be charged by the testing vendor.	**Mid 2018 – Specific date to be determined**

Testing and Registration cont'd.

Underground Storage Tank Renewal Fee Change

The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) announced on December 8, 2017, its proposed rule update of OAC 1301:7-9-04 regarding annual Underground Storage Tank (UST) registrations. Stakeholders were notified of the proposed draft via email and had until Dec. 19, 2017 to submit comments directly to BUSTR.

The rule will change BUSTR's annual UST registration fee from $50 to $100 per tank starting with the 2018 UST registration cycle, effective April 1. The Testing and Registration Bureau will begin sending registration renewals via email by the second week of April.

This revision is designed to be concurrent with the $50 per tank reduction in UST fees collected by the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board. This is intended to be a cost-neutral change, as UST owners will see no change in overall per-tank fees. If you have questions regarding the change, please contact 614-752-7938 or web.BUSTR@com.state.oh.us.

Ohio Fire Academy

NEW Online Request Forms for Ohio Fire Academy Regional/Direct Delivery

The Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) has transitioned to the use of electronic web forms instead of paper requests for Close to Home/Direct Delivery and Regional Delivery courses.

Directions for use of web form

- The electronic form can be found at https://ofa.com.ohio.gov then by clicking on Web Forms.
- Form must be submitted at least 45 days prior to the requested course start date.
- Please request each session separately by completing another request form. For example, if you are requesting a full day of training for the Driving Simulation Lab, which is a four-hour course, you would need to make one request for the morning session (for eight students) and one for an afternoon session (eight additional students).

The Fire Behavior Lab (understanding fire behavior course) can accommodate up to 12 students for each burn, so if you have 20 students for the course you would need to request two sessions. The same is true if you want to have multiple offerings over multiple days.

If you have any questions regarding the new process, please contact Dan Swords at dan.swords@com.state.oh.us.

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Judges & Prosecutors Arson Seminar

The Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau (FEIB) will host its annual Judges and Prosecutors Arson Seminar on Thursday, May 17. The seminar provides education to the judicial community concerning professional forensic fire investigation, identification of incendiary fires and the subsequent criminal investigation of arson.

The seminar is offered to all judges and prosecutors in Ohio and will cover topics such as insurance fraud, regulations in explosives, services offered by the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) forensic laboratory, and developments in the audio/video process in the courtroom. The course will take place at the SFM office, 8895 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

To register for the course, please email your name, address, company name, phone number and email address to Deborah.Carter@com.state.oh.us.

Hall of Fame Award Nominations

What better way to honor a colleague or outstanding community member than by nominating them for an Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame Award!

State Fire Marshal and Division of EMS award categories include:

- Citizen's Award
- First Responder Award
- Valor Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- William L. Howard Public Service Award
- Fire Department of the Year Award
- Fire Instructor of the Year Award
- Fire Officer of the Year Award
- Fire Prevention Educator of the Year Award
- Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award

For the criteria and nomination form, click here.

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Division of State Fire Marshal

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