



# STATE FIRE MARSHAL

• Summer 2018 •



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## A Message From Marshal Hussey

I recently had the pleasure of attending and speaking at the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association (OFCA) annual conference. It was great seeing many of Ohio's fire service leaders who I have met in my role as State Fire Marshal over the past year. I was also pleased to meet many new fire chiefs and other officers from all parts of the state.

We are extremely fortunate to have a strong state fire chief's organization. As I speak to my counterparts across the country, I realize the OFCA is one of the strongest state fire service organizations in the nation. I especially want to recognize the OFCA leadership, including outgoing President Bill Houk, as well as incoming President Mark Martin, and the entire board of directors. I am extremely pleased to report that the relationship between the OFCA and the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office is stronger than ever. We continue to work very closely on a variety of contemporary issues and I am thankful for our great relationship.

For those of you who are not actively participating in the OFCA, I encourage you to get involved. The organization is not just geared towards chief officers; it has ramped up efforts to help junior officers develop and grow in their careers. Please be sure to consider attending the conference next year. Beyond the number of technical course topics, the opportunities to develop relationships with your counterparts are endless.

Again, thank you to the entire OFCA membership for their commitment and dedication to our great profession. The State Fire Marshal's office is fortunate to have you as a partner.

Sincerely,

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





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## CRR – Let's Not Overthink This

by Richard Palmer, CPM – Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention Bureau

The fire service is now used to hearing the term Community Risk Reduction (CRR). Though this term may be familiar, fire departments may not be sure how to apply this approach to their efforts.



Begin by identifying what is impacting your community at the greatest level. A community risk analysis helps departments learn from their reported data. What is the run volume for the high-risk concern? When does it happen most often? Who is affected? A high-impact, high occurrence risk is certainly a good place to start when considering a strategy.

Rather than getting weighed down by the concept of how to reduce risks in an entire city, town or response district, consider smaller approaches that identify high-risk in an identified neighborhood. Another option is to look at the data to determine where a particularly high number of emergency responses are happening - by risk category or even by occupancy type.

### Case Study

Lieutenant Annmarie Pickett of the Worcester Fire Department (WFD) in Massachusetts shared an example at the recent 2018 Model Performance in CRR Symposium explaining how a targeted approach can be effective in reducing risk. The WFD initiative resulted in obvious impact and an outcome that can easily be shared.

Worcester FD recorded a total of 559 residential cooking fires in 2014. This number increased 3.3 percent in 2015 to 578 cooking fires, which resulted in one civilian death and two fire service injuries. Working with the Worcester Housing Authority

(WHA) to analyze locations and populations at disproportionate risk, WFD identified four properties. These properties housed low-income older adults that represented nearly 24 percent of all reported cooking fires in 2015, an average of 12 incidents per month.

WFD applied for and received a FY15 FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant, which supported a collaborative effort to replace conventional electric coil burners with units installed with temperature-limiting control technology to prevent auto-ignition. During the period of performance, the team retrofitted approximately 800 electric stoves with fire-safe burners and provided on-site safety education to approximately 900 residents.<sup>1</sup>



### The Result

In the last six months, ZERO stovetop fires have been reported in units where smart technology burners were installed. This is an example of how a targeted CRR strategy can make a significant impact in reducing risk for citizens in a community, while also reducing injuries to public safety workers and decreasing responses to once high-risk occupancies.

Future articles will focus on approaches to building an effective CRR strategy. In the meantime, explore Vision 20/20 by the Institution of Fire Engineers – United States of America Branch. Annmarie Pickett's presentation can be viewed there along with others presentations from the 2018 Symposium. A good place to start is by reviewing the [Community Risk Assessment Guide](#).

When it comes to beginning a strategy in CRR - start small. Consider approaches to help solve one issue at a time in your community. When it comes to beginning a strategy in CRR - start small. Consider approaches to help solve one issue at a time in your community.

<sup>1</sup>Teaching and Technology: A Recipe for Fire Safe Cooking, 2018 Model Performance in CRR Symposium, [www.strategicfireorg/2018symposium](http://www.strategicfireorg/2018symposium)

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## Fire Department Highlight



**Washington Township  
Fire Department**  
Montgomery County  
Fire Chief William Gaul, III

### Staffing Makeup:

Chief, deputy chief, five battalion chiefs, nine lieutenants, 24 full-time firefighters, 72 part-time firefighters, five dispatchers, two mechanics and six civilian staff.

### Number of Stations:

The Washington Township Fire Department fully staffs and operates five fire stations located throughout the city of Centerville and Washington Township. One of the stations houses a complete classroom training facility and another houses a three-story gas-fed fire training tower.

### Apparatus:

One 105-foot ladder truck, four engines, one rescue/engine, five medic units, one hazmat unit, two boats, a fast attack mini-pumper, a reserve engine and a large fleet of staff and service vehicles.

### Area Covered:

The Washington Township Fire Department covers 31.4 square miles and includes unincorporated Washington Township and the incorporated city of Centerville. Total population of just over 56,000 residents, which includes 16 schools, two hospitals, nine large scale nursing homes/assisted care facilities and a portion of interstate 675. Included in one of the city parks is the nine-county Miami Valley Fallen Firefighter and EMS Memorial, naming 71 brothers and sisters lost in the line of duty from the region's history.

### Services Offered:

The Washington Township Fire Department provides fire and medical emergency response, as well as technical rescue services to the communities it serves. The department also provides a full fire safety program, including inspections, plan review and education services. Additional services include an EMS bicycle team, CPR instruction, residential and commercial Knox Box program, honor guard, explorer program, citizen fire academy and a full line of fire prevention and safety education programs.

## History of our Department:

### 1946

After years of providing separate fire protection, the communities of Washington Township and Centerville joined forces to serve their communities as the Washington Township Fire Department. Louis Campbell became the first paid fire chief of the newly joint department, and the first fire station was an addition built onto the rear of the town hall building. Chief Campbell lived upstairs and was also the township facilities maintenance man. This was also the first summer of the fundraising ice cream social held the second Sunday in August, a tradition that continues to this day.

### 1950s

In 1955, the department suffered its first line of duty death (LODD) when volunteer firefighter Robert Hedges, a local dentist, was electrocuted when he came in contact with a downed power line in a response after a tornado. A second fire station was later built and dedicated in Hedges' memory.

### 1960s

Robert Billet was named the second chief and the department expanded again, adding its third station and first ladder truck.

### 1970s

Harry Burdick was named chief and a new station was built to replace station 1. Randy Staley was promoted to become the fourth chief of the department and the first volunteer paramedics began responding with ambulances. In 1979, the fourth station was put in service.

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*History of our Department cont'd*

## 1980s

The fifth station was built. In 1986, 'Attack One' was placed in service, which was a full-time paramedic staffed 2-man fast-attack mini-engine used to supplement the volunteer responses. Attack One was staffed on a 24/48 schedule and responded to all calls, fire or medical. In the late 1980s, the department added its first group of part-time responders to supplement the daytime volunteer staff.

## 1990s

In 1991, the full-time staff joined the IAFF, becoming local #3369. Ken Parks was promoted to become the fifth fire chief in 1996. In 1998, Robert O'Toole was struck and killed, along with Centerville Police Officer John Kalamán, while operating at a vehicle accident on Interstate 675. Firefighter O'Toole became the second LODD in the department's history. The fifth station is dedicated in his memory.

## 2000s

A new headquarters was built next to station 5 and two new stations were built to replace older firehouses. Current Chief William Gaul was promoted to become the sixth chief of the department. In 2007, the department became the first in the area (and is still one of only nine in the state) to become internationally accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

## 2010s

Since the department's beginnings in 1946, the department relied almost entirely on volunteers. However, in 2014 the department made the decision to bring all its volunteers in-house to fully staff all five stations with a mix of full- and part-time members.

## Today

In 2017, the Washington Township Fire Department responded to 7,777 calls for service. Currently, in 2018, the department will be undergoing its third accreditation review, a process repeated every five years to ensure that the department continually improves to serve the needs of the citizens of Centerville and Washington Township.



*From the top of the tower, crews taking a break during rope rescue training.*



*The Washington Township Honor Guard marching in the Americana Festival parade on July 4th.*



*The Miami Valley Fallen Firefighter & EMS Memorial located in Stubbs Park, Centerville, Ohio*

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## State Fair

Heading to the Ohio State Fair this year? Make sure to stop into the Bricker Marketplace Building and visit the Ohio Department of Commerce booth- featuring an Ohio Fire Academy engine, special fire safety messaging and a daily carbon monoxide detector giveaway!

In addition to learning about fire safety, visitors will have the chance to connect with the Division of Unclaimed Funds and the Division of Liquor Control. The Division of Unclaimed Funds will have a kiosk where visitors can see if they have any missing money and the Division of Liquor Control will have an interactive event that encourages Ohioans to redefine how they think about certain events, topics and words.



The fair runs from July 25 - Aug. 5 at the fairgrounds in Columbus, OH.

## Fire Expo

Over 1,000 visitors came out for the 18th annual Fire Expo and Muster at the State Fire Marshal's office this year. Despite a little rain, the event was a huge success.

The event featured over 50 hand-pulled hose carts, thanks to the Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association and its members. The carts participated in the first-ever Fire Expo and Muster parade. Dodger, the bomb-detecting canine, showed guest his impressive sniffing skills, and attendees saw a helicopter land on the grounds and were able to take a look inside.



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## Fire Prevention Week 2018

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13, and this year's theme is **"Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere."**

This theme takes a holistic approach to fire prevention and safety:

**Look**

"Look" encourages people to look around their home and identify potential fire hazards and fix them.

**Listen**

"Listen" tells people to listen for the sound of the smoke alarm, quickly evacuate the space and head to a designated outdoor meeting place.

**Learn**

"Learn" advises people to learn two ways out of every room and make sure all exits are easily accessible.

Fire Prevention Week started as Fire Prevention Day on Oct. 9, 1911 on the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. The Great Chicago Fire burned from Oct. 8-10, 1871 with the worst of the damage happening on Oct. 9. The fire killed over 300 people, destroyed over three miles of the city and over 100,000 people were left homeless.

For more information on this year's Fire Prevention Week, [click here](#).

**LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.**  
Be aware.  
Fire can happen anywhere.™

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 7-13, 2018**  
firepreventionweek.org

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## NFPA Safety Summit Coming to Ohio

The Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal and the National Fire Protection Association are teaming up to bring a Safety Summit to Ohio on Friday, November 9, 2018. These Safety Summits are conducted throughout the U.S. and Canada from time to time to introduce fire prevention officers and fire safety educators to new topics, updated information and updates about NFPA initiatives. This is the first time that the event has been planned for Ohio!

The agenda is being planned, but preliminary presentations include:

- Ohio Fire Data & How It Can Be Used to Reduce Risk
- Stocking Your Toolkit
- ABCs of Safety Messaging
- Red Cross Updates on Smoke Alarm Installation and Canvassing in Ohio
- Successful Model Programs by Ohio Fire Departments and more!
- Updates on the NFPA 3000™ (PS) - Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program

A location for the Safety Summit is still pending confirmation, but mark your calendars now. The event will be FREE to attend!

## Nationwide Testing Now Available!

Beginning mid-July, PSI Services LLC will be proctoring fire protection and fireworks examinations on behalf of the State Fire Marshal (SFM). Our office is excited for this new venture and the services that will now be available to our customers. PSI offers nationwide testing and has eight locations in the state of Ohio including; Cambridge, Dayton/Piqua, Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo and two in the Columbus area. Examinations will be offered Monday – Saturday some with extended business hours.

### What Testing Changes should I Expect?

- Testing will be available Monday – Saturday, nationwide.
- PSI will charge an additional examination fee of \$40. This fee will be paid directly to PSI by credit card, debit card, money order, cashier's check or company check before an examination date can be reserved. A window of 90 days will be available for testing.
- PSI requires notice of cancellations for testing at least two calendar days prior to the originally scheduled examination date. Otherwise, the \$40 PSI testing fee is forfeited and applicant can re-schedule only by paying another examination fee.
- Time limit for testing will be two hours per examination.
- PSI will be administering newly revised exams based on updated NFPA Standards, 2017 Ohio Fire Code, and 2017 Ohio Building Code.
- Applicant's name will need to be written on application exactly as it appears on a valid government-issued photo ID.
- Each applicant will need a unique email address; no duplicates will be permitted.
- Examination results and scores will be given at the completion of examination(s).

[Click here for Individual Fire Protection Certification Application](#)

[Click here Fireworks Exhibitor's Certification Application](#)

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**Ohio**

Department  
of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal



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