Time Line of the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal

April 1900

Senate Bill 51, Section 9, is passed by the Seventy-fourth General Assembly establishing the Office of State Fire Marshal. The powers of the State Fire Marshal are devoted almost exclusively to the investigation of fires of a suspicious nature or incendiary origin and the prosecution of "fire bugs."

May 1900

S.B. Hollenbeck appointed first State Fire Marshal.

August 1919

The "General Code" is passed providing the State Fire Marshal the authority to inspect and license hotels, restaurants and dry cleaning plants. In addition, the State Fire Marshal is directed to cooperate with the Director of Public Instruction and the officials of the public, private and parochial schools in the enforcement of the law relating to lessons in fire prevention and fire drills.

1921

As a result of the "reorganization code," what had been known as the "Department of State Fire Marshal" became the Division of State Fire Marshal in the Department of Commerce.

1947

The Division of State Fire Marshal is reorganized, and the Bureaus of Arson, Prevention and Inspection are created.

1973

Ohio became the first state to develop an arson laboratory in 1973 with funds from LEAA, a federal law enforcement grant.

1975

Ohio was among the first states to pilot test the NFPA Pamphlet 901 system for collecting fire incident reporting data. This was the beginnings of the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

January 1974

Federal legislation created requiring owners to register underground storage tanks with local fire departments.

November 1967

The Ohio State Firemen's Training Academy, now known as the Ohio Fire Academy, was established.

1930

The original Fire Marshal Law was amended so that assistant state fire marshals could inspect property of all kinds and ordered changed or removed any unsatisfactory conditions or fire hazards found. Every school building is to be inspected at least annually.

1977

The Academy and the Laboratory moved to its present location in Reynoldsburg. At that time, the 50-acre campus also housed the Arson, Inspection and Fire Prevention bureaus.

July 1979

House Bill 590 is enacted which reorganized the Division of State Fire Marshal, created a State Fire Commission, created the "Ohio Fire Code", although in fact, IAI Fire Code had been previously adopted in 1951 by administrative rule, created the Arson Crime Laboratory, and required the State Fire Marshal to compile statistics concerning loss due to fire and explosion.

1987

The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR) is created.

1999

The Arson Bureau branched out to encompass post blast investigations and was renamed to the Fire and Explosion Investigations Bureau (FEIB).

May 1978

The Division of State Fire and Ohio Fire Academy new offices and training grounds are dedicated.

1986

The General Assembly amended the Ohio Revised Code to charge the State Fire Marshal with the responsibility of implementing an underground storage tank program.

1992

First BUSTR specific rules are created in the Ohio Fire Code.

2000

The Fire Prevention Bureau began accepting fire incident reports electronically.

2001

Testing and Registration became a separate bureau from Code Enforcement and BUSTR.

2005

The Division of State Fire Marshal begins a $10 million renovation and expansion project. The State Fire Marshal headquarters now encompasses more than 70 acres, includes state-of-the-art classrooms, a 350-person auditorium and modern dormitories. New office space allows all eight Division of State Fire Marshal bureaus to operate from one location.

2021

The Division of State Fire Marshal began a large-scale Capital Improvement Project as part of a 10-year master plan. Improvements include updates to the main building, a new joint entrance with Ohio Department of Agriculture, a new dedicated entrance for the Laboratory, covered parking for trailers, multiple training buildings for the Ohio Fire Academy and a Firefighter Training Learning Center for Ohio Fire Academy students to use in simulated responses to existing and new training buildings and props.

November 2002

The Division of State Fire Marshal acquired the drive-in movie property to the west of campus from the Rainbow Development Corporation.

March 2013

The Division of State Fire Marshal acquired the Goodroe property, the land between the drive-in movie property, extending our campus further west towards Taylor Road.

2023

The Fire Prevention Bureau launched the Ohio Fire Incident Report Management System (OFIRMS), a web based program, which allowed all Ohio fire departments to not only directly report their fire incidents to the State Fire Marshal's office, but also offer them fire station management capabilities and analytics on their data.