



# State Fire Marshal News

Ohio Department of Commerce • Division of State Fire Marshal

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## Operation "Safe Stay" Hotel Incentive Program to Begin in Ohio

by *Tracie Boyd, Code Enforcement Bureau*

Beginning in January 2017, all Ohioans and visitors to the State of Ohio will begin to see the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal's (SFM) Operation "Safe Stay" logo appear in the windows of local hotels.

The "Operation Safe Stay" program was created on June 16, 2014, when Ohio Governor John R. Kasich signed House Bill (HB) 486 into law. Among other things, HB 486 created the "Ohio Business Compliance Incentive" (OBCI) program and authorized the SFM to develop the "Operation Safe Stay" program. This initiative allows SFM to publically designate as a "Safe Stay" hotel those hotels and extended stay facilities in Ohio that consistently meet the highest level of Ohio Fire Code (OFC)-based fire and life safety standards and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) based sanitary guidelines.

Prior to opening for business, all hotels in the State of Ohio must be inspected by and receive a license from the SFM. Thereafter, each hotel must apply for a renewal of their license on an annual basis (all hotel licenses expire on December 31 of each calendar year). Upon the submission of an application to renew its license each year, the hotel will again be inspected by the SFM's Code Enforcement Bureau (CEB). The CEB may also conduct an inspection of a hotel facility upon the receipt of a complaint regarding that facility. When conducting their inspection, CEB inspectors are looking to ensure that each facility is in compliance with both the sanitary standards that hotel facilities are required to follow pursuant to the ORC and with all applicable safety provisions of the OFC.

Because many hotels in the state, routinely comply with the ORC and OFC standards, the OBCI program was developed. It is a transformative approach to regulations and encourages compliance with regulations while safeguarding Ohioans.

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Under the Operation Safe Stay program, the SFM may designate a qualifying licensed hotel as a "Safe Stay Hotel" if the hotel meets certain requirements. Essentially, a hotel may qualify for participation in the Safe Stay program and be designated as an Ohio Safe Stay hotel if they meet the following requirements:

1. For a period of 24 consecutive months, the hotel must
  - a. maintain a valid license to operate
  - b. timely submit its' renewal application (on or before October 1), and
  - c. be in compliance with all applicable ORC and OFC requirements; and
2. For a period of 60 consecutive months, there has not have been
  - a. a finding of nuisance against the facility,
  - b. a conviction for lewdness, assignation, prostitution, or felony drug activity based on conduct that occurred at the hotel property (or in some cases against the facility operator).

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## *A Message from State Fire Marshal Larry L. Flowers*



As December rolls around each year, I take the opportunity to reflect on all of the things that have happened at the State Fire Marshal's office (SFM) during the year. And let me tell you – 2016 didn't disappoint! This year has been full of exciting new additions and changes, and I want to take a moment to share with you some of the great things the men and women of SFM have accomplished this year with the

support of the Ohio Department of Commerce and Commerce Director Jacqueline T. Williams.

First and foremost, without a great team in place, accomplishing great things just isn't possible. This was a year of change throughout SFM, but I am eagerly looking forward to seeing what our new staff members can achieve. Our first big hire was that of Chief Deputy Jeff Hussey. From there, we added new chiefs in three of our bureaus: Chief Bill Spurgeon of the Code Enforcement Bureau and Chief Danitra Butler of the Testing & Registration Bureau joined us in October, and Chief Ken Klouda of the Fire Prevention Bureau stepped up to the leading role in the bureau in November. Finally, in December, we added Public Information Officer Kelly Stincer to the team. I am all about putting the right people in the right places, and I know these individuals have hit the ground running with our current staff to continue the great work of the office.

While we worked hard on filling key vacancies at SFM, staff members also worked hard to bring necessary upgrades to our campus in Reynoldsburg thanks to the Capital Improvement Budget. Currently, our cafeteria kitchen is undergoing much needed renovations, and the Forensic Lab will be upgraded in three phases. Some other construction will be happening in 2017, all with the goal of making our office as efficient as possible for our staff and customers.

Changes also came in the form of upgrades to the Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) in 2016. More and more firefighters are looking to become EMTs and paramedics, and the staff at

the OFA looked into ways to meet that growing demand. We opened the Center for EMS in October, which will house all of our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) courses, allowing more room for hands-on training. And we will team up with our great educational partner, the Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), to offer our first-ever paramedic course next year.

The men and women in the OFA also worked hard to secure an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through the Department of Homeland Security to purchase a driving simulator for use beginning in the spring. And finally, the OFA launched a new online registration system and upgraded classrooms and courses to meet the technology demands of today's fire service.

Speaking of meeting the demands of the fire service, the Fire & Explosion Investigation Bureau (FEIB) added a new K9 unit to the team. Investigator Jeff Heft and K9 Dolan completed training in August and have been on the move ever since. Their location in the southern part of the state ensures we have a quick response to any fires in that area that require the help of a K9 unit. We hope to add another team to the mix in 2017.

Finally, we have continued our commitment to offer grants for training and equipment to better prepare Ohio's firefighters for whatever may come their way. We continue to offer the Equipment and Training Reimbursement Grants and Revolving Loan, as we have for years. The MARCS Grant remains a popular grant, and fire departments have until December 31st to apply for funding. Finally, we are still offering the Firefighter I Grant and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's Volunteer Firefighter I Grant with the ongoing goal of training Ohio firefighters to a higher level. We are proud to say we have awarded \$5.2 million in grants in 2016, and hope to continue that trend into the New Year.

All of these efforts point to one thing: being our best to give our customers the best. As you can see, we are already looking ahead to 2017, and we will continue to commit our time and resources to bettering Ohio's fire service, and strive to put our best foot forward for the fire service and all of Ohio.



## *Do you know the dangers associated with Carbon Monoxide?*

by *Assistant Chief Rich Palmer, Fire Prevention Bureau*

Carbon Monoxide, often called CO, is known as an invisible killer. The gas is odorless, poisonous and colorless. It is created by any fuels that burn incompletely. These include gasoline, natural gas, propane, coal, wood, oil, and methane. In our homes, heating and cooking equipment can become the source of CO dangers.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) tells us that 150 people in the United States die annually from accidental non-fire-related CO poisoning. These deaths are often associated with consumer products such as generators or faulty, improperly used or incorrectly vented appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces.

### **Know the Symptoms**

People may not know that they are exposed to carbon monoxide because it is undetectable to the human senses. Symptoms of low to moderate poisoning are like the flu, but they don't include fever. These include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

High level CO poisoning will result in more severe symptoms:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Eventual death



A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long time or by a large amount in a shorter time.

### **Prevent the danger**

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected every year by a professional. When using a fireplace, always open the flue. Never use the oven to heat your home.

### **Have working CO alarms**

- Install alarms in a central place outside sleeping areas. Interconnected alarms throughout the home are best.
- Always follow manufacturer recommendations for placement and mounting height.
- Choose alarms that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Test alarms monthly; replace them when the manufacturer recommends
- When the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to fresh air outdoors. Identify that everyone in the home is away from the danger. Call for help while in fresh air and stay until emergency services arrive.

### **Important reminders**

- Use portable generators outdoors and away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Be sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow or other things that can block them.
- Only use gas or charcoal grills outside. These produce carbon monoxide, too!
- When warming a vehicle, remove it from the garage. Do not run it inside the garage, even if the doors are open.

In addition to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, these agencies provide additional tips and information on carbon monoxide safety: The [United States Fire Administration](#) and the [National Fire Protection Association](#).





## Meet the New Chiefs!

The State Fire Marshal's office welcomed some new faces in 2016 to lead various bureaus of the office. Take a few moments to get to know these chiefs a little better!

### *Chief Deputy Jeff Hussey, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal*

Chief Deputy Jeff Hussey joined the State Fire Marshal's Office in August 2016 following his retirement as fire chief of Granville Township in Licking County, where he worked since 2006. Chief Deputy Hussey served as a firefighter/ paramedic at several Central Ohio departments over a 33-year career, including Mifflin Township and Westerville.



He is a graduate of Franklin University in Columbus and completed the Ohio Fire Executive program in 2009. Hussey is an accredited Ohio fire chief through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Deputy Hussey's goal is to ensure that the DSFM is closely aligned with the needs of Ohio's businesses, residents and first responders. He embraces an open, approachable style and is working to build strong relationships with the fire service and industry partners across the state.

He and his wife, Patty, have four children and live in Granville.

### *Chief William (Bill) Spurgeon, Code Enforcement Bureau*

Chief Bill Spurgeon joined the State Fire Marshal's office in October 2016. He brings more than thirty years of public service to the agency and most recently served as the Director of Public Safety in Newark, Ohio. Spurgeon was a Newark firefighter, serving in a variety of roles in his time with the department.

He graduated Cum Laude from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) and has completed the Ohio Fire Executive Program. He is the chairperson for the COTC Fire Science Advisory Committee and Alumni Committee and has taught classes in the Fire Science Program at the college.

He employs a servant-based leadership model to lead his group of code compliance educators and their goal is to exceed customer expectations while eliminating the threat of fire. Bill's professional philosophy is simple "try to leave government a little better than you found it".

He and his wife, Susan, have two adult children and reside in Newark.





## Meet the New Chiefs!...continued

### *Chief Danitra Butler, Testing & Registration Bureau*

Chief Danitra Butler became the chief of the Testing & Registration Bureau in October 2016. She is a Department of Commerce veteran, having worked in both the Division of Liquor Control and the Division of Real Estate & Professional Licensing since December 2001. Prior to coming to Commerce, she worked at Chase Mortgage Corporation, Merck-Medco Rx and Alliance Data Systems.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Capital University and a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Ashland University.

Butler has a strong background in the administration of licensure programs from her previous work as the Enforcement Chief in Real Estate & Professional Licensing, where her duties included overseeing the administration of the appraiser licensing and certification program.

In her new role, Butler's first priority is to modernize the testing process for licensees who are required to take and pass an exam as part of the licensing process. The new testing process will include improved testing opportunities and more convenient locations to better serve applicants.

She and her husband, Wil, live in Reynoldsburg with their two sons.



### *Chief Ken Klouda, Fire Prevention Bureau*

Chief Ken Klouda became the head of the Fire Prevention Bureau in November 2016. Most recently, he served as Assistant Chief of the bureau, a role he assumed in November 2013. He joined the State Fire Marshal's office in December 2010 as a Fire Training Officer 2. Before coming to Columbus, Klouda began his career in the fire service in 2003 at the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department in Mantua, Ohio as a firefighter/EMT-paramedic. Klouda also served that role at the Hiram Fire Department in Hiram, Ohio. While at Hiram Fire Department he facilitated fire inspections in the Village of Hiram and Hiram Township.

Klouda has extensive education and training, including an associate's degree in Fire Protection Technology and a bachelor of science degree in Emergency Management from the University of Akron.

Chief Klouda is looking forward to having the Fire Prevention Bureau be the forefront of Community Risk Reduction in the state of Ohio. He feels the bureau's role as leaders in the state is to help every community address their fire and life safety risks.

Ken and his wife, Shannon, live in Pataskala with their son.







## Bureau Spotlight: The Ohio Fire Academy

**Mission: “To be recognized as the premier provider in Ohio and a national leader in the development and delivery of fire, EMS and Emergency Responder education and training programs”**



In 1967, the Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) was established to provide firefighter training for emergency response personnel statewide.

The OFA began with a few props donated by the initial instructors or equipment borrowed from local fire departments. The burn building was initially a metal

shipping container and served the Academy until a concrete building was constructed. Years later in 2002, the OFA dedicated the modern engineered high intensity building.

Currently, the Academy occupies approximately 65 acres of the Ohio Fire Marshal's complex. The fire ground consists of many training props such as a propane fueled car fire, rack storage, farm equipment and ground fires props. The extrication, trench rescue and confined space areas provide safe real-life training scenarios to test the newest firefighter to veterans in the fire service. The OFA annually updates and adds to the grounds to meet the ever changing needs of the fire service.

The “Close to Home” program was created to meet one of the biggest challenges today's fire service is facing. Fewer volunteers and more part-time firefighters paired with everyone's busy lives, creates an obstacle for training away from home. The “Close to Home” program brings training right to Ohio's fire service at little to no cost. The OFA currently has a fleet of mobile resources, including the Grain Bin Rescue, Fire Behavior Lab, Search & Rescue Trailer and Fire Blast Trailer. Coming in summer 2017, the Academy is adding the Mobile Driving Simulator where students will be able to train in handling operating emergency equipment and the unique situations that equipment can create.



The Academy strives to continuously evolve to meet the always changing training environment, each year touching the careers and lives of more than 15,000 firefighters. The new Center for EMS opened in October. It will house Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic class in partnership with Central Ohio Technical College (COTC). This dedicated building will provide larger classroom spaces and a permanent lab facility for students.

A new online registration system offers a “one stop shop” for class registration, dorm reservations and related class materials to streamline the process for busy students. Also, learning today is different than twenty years ago – the Academy moved from textbooks to laptops. To meet the technology demands of today's fire service, classrooms have new modern equipment, and instructors are updating our courses to be compatible with all forms of learning.

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## *The Ohio Fire Academy...continued*

New class offerings are always in the works at the OFA to continue training Ohio's firefighters to be the best they can be. Starting this winter, the Academy will have Fire Officer 3 and Fire Officer 4 courses. It's important to the OFA to continue developing those who are leading the fire service to ensure a bright future and strong infrastructure within fire departments for years to come in Ohio.

Looking ahead to 2017, the Academy wants to continue providing state of the art education to the rapidly changing needs of the modern fire service.



## *Code Corner: Did you know?*

The Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Fire Code require K-12 schools with 20 or more pupils to instruct and train children by means of drills or rapid dismissals? Hand in hand with this is the requirement for schools to submit a copy of the fire drill records to the Division of State Fire Marshal twice a year. These records allow the State Fire Marshal and local fire departments to ensure that, in the event of an emergency, children have been trained to leave the building in the shortest possible time without confusion. The records shall be submitted halfway through the school year and again at the end. The records can be submitted via snail mail (8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068), fax (614-728-5168) or [email](#).





## Highlighting Ohio's Fire Service: Cedarville Township Fire Department

**Chief:** Interim Chief Kyle E. Miller

**Membership makeup:** One career fire chief, one administrative assistant position, 43 volunteer fire and EMS providers. Previous to Chief Baldwin's retirement in June, the fire chief and assistant fire chief were career positions. We have not filled the assistant chief position and the township trustees are currently evaluating how Cedarville Township can be best served by paid personnel in 2017 and beyond.

**Number of stations:** One centrally located station in the Village of Cedarville.

**Apparatus types:** 1999 Pierce Engine, 1985 Pierce 95' Platform, 2012 Rosenbauer 3000 gal. Tanker, 1994 Summit Rescue, 2004 Ford Brush Truck, 2008 Ford/Horton Type III ambulance, 1997 Ford/Horton type III ambulance, 2004 Ford Excursion Command Vehicle, 2008 Ford F150 Command Vehicle, 1999 Wells Cargo MCI trailer

**Area covered:** Our jurisdiction covers 55 square miles, a population of 5,875 (9,675 with seasonal increase) and consists of Cedarville Township, the Village of Cedarville, and the northern half of Ross Township by contract. Located in the village is Cedarville University, a private, nonprofit school which has around 3,700 students and 625 faculty and staff. Services offered: Fire, Rescue, ALS medical care



**About our department:** Our fire department was organized in 1851, and was known as the Neptune Fire Company. It was staffed with volunteers, just as we are today. We have always received great respect for the job we do. We are today, in part, for the foundation laid by those that came before us. We have always received great support from the community and we strive to provide the level of service they expect and deserve. We respond AMAR with our neighboring jurisdictions on a frequent basis. We have worked hard to obtain an ISO Class 4 rating which saves home and business owners on their insurance premiums. We are dispatched through a countywide CAD system that includes enhanced 911.

Our volunteers take pride in being the only true volunteers in Greene County. They do not receive compensation from the township for their time making calls, training, and performing public services like fire prevention in schools and churches. The members belong to the Cedarville Fireman's Association which sponsors fundraisers to help support the mission and needs of the fire department.

We continuously try to recruit year round residents to volunteer but have found greater success in recruiting Cedarville University students. Of our current roster, 37 members are students, graduates or faculty/staff members of the university. We pay for new members' training and generally only have their service for a few years. We are a transient department regularly turning over 1/3 of our membership yearly. We are blessed to have the availability, youth, enthusiasm and strong desire to serve the community that the students bring. The challenge we face is the experience level of our members and maintaining an adequate level of staffing when the university is not in session. We are very thankful for those that serve the community by volunteering with us.







## *Winter Driveway Access*

As we enter our busiest home fire season, homeowners should consider factors that may keep the fire department from accessing their home during an emergency. Rural properties may be particularly challenging for fire equipment in the winter months. Here are some tips to make sure emergency personnel can reach you, even when the weather isn't so great.

- Generally, fire trucks need a ten-foot wide path which is at least twelve feet high. Tight turns require additional width to maneuver larger trucks.
- Driveways should be kept clear of snow and ice to allow heavy fire apparatus access in and out of properties.
- It is a good idea to cut down low hanging tree branches, as they can keep fire trucks from reaching home fires.
- When trimming trees, keep in mind the effect of snow and ice loading on branches.
- Residential bridges can be especially dangerous for heavy vehicles. The average fire engine weighs 50,000 lbs, while some can weigh up to 70,000 lbs. If a private bridge looks structurally questionable, a bridge engineer should be consulted to determine a weight rating for the structure.

Any homeowner with questions regarding emergency vehicle access should contact their local fire chief for a consultation.



## *Welcome to the team!*



The Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau (FEIB) is continuing to add to its K-9 team to help reach the goal of having four Accelerant Detection Canines. With the recent addition of Dolan and handler Jeff Heft to the team, FEIB is at three accelerant detection canines and one explosive detection canine, with another team to begin training during the spring of 2017. We will be detailing the unit in upcoming newsletters! Welcome, Dolan!

## *Safe Stay...continued*

A list of hotel facilities that have been designated as a Safe Stay facility will be posted (beginning in January 2017 when the program 'goes live') on the SFM's [website](#) and will be updated nightly. Hotels that receive the "Safe Stay" designation will be allowed to advertise their status as such – through print and/or social media. They will also receive a decal that can be displayed in their lobby window. The presence of the logo will signify to the public that the facility has been inspected and meets the highest level of OFC-based fire and life safety standards. "Over time and as the program grows and all become familiar with it," said State Fire Marshal Larry L. Flowers, "Ohioans and the traveling public will recognize the logo much like they do a 'Better Business Bureau' or a 'AAA' decal; it will be an indicator to the public that the facility is consistently being operated with their safety in mind."

For more information about the program and all of its requirements, please contact the SFM's CEB at 614-728-5460 or toll-free at 1-888-276-0303. Also, look for future information on the SFM's [website](#).



## Chimney Fires

Many home fires are caused by the use of wood burning fire places and stoves in conjunction with poor chimney maintenance. There are some steps you can take to ensure your heat sources are safe this winter.

- Chimneys should be cleaned at least annually, and more often with heavy use.
- Chimneys should be internally inspected by trained professionals who can identify cracked or separated lintels.
- Chimney fire risk can be reduced by only burning clean, dry hardwoods.
- Never burn paper, cardboard or soft wood in a fire place or wood burning stove.
- If a chimney fire develops, close off combustion air to the fireplace, get out of your home and call 911.



Chimney fires, resulting from burning creosote within the chimney, can often result in a fire which extends into walls and attics. Older, unlined chimneys are particularly prone to fires which spread into attic spaces and grow rapidly. Chimney fire extension into wall and attic spaces may go undetected for several hours. Your local fire department can check these void spaces with thermal imaging equipment.

## Animal Ice Rescues

Many fire departments are equipped to rescue both people and animals from ice covered water. Pet owners should never go onto unstable ice to rescue a pet. Many people have fallen through ice and perished trying to rescue a pet. If an animal falls into a frozen pond or river, contact your local fire department for assistance. Do not attempt rescue alone!



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