



STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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



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John R. Kasich,
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

Following a record warm fall, we have jumped firmly into the winter heating season. And as Ohio's firefighters know, this comes with a significant increase in residential fires across our state.

As I look at the cause of home fires we investigate, I continue to see a couple of very basic causes of accidental fires we all can work to prevent.

Cooking continues to be a major cause of home fires across the nation. With all the distractions in our lives, it can be easy to forget about a pot on the stove, which can easily combust and extend to the surrounding cabinets and furnishings.

This time of year, we also need to pay close attention to portable space heaters, which can certainly leave homeowners at risk if proper safety precautions aren't taken. All space heaters must have at least 3 feet of clearance from combustibles. Curtains and bedding are often the first materials ignited by portable heaters in the home. It is also important to use only listed space heaters that are designed with a safety feature to shut them off, if they are accidentally tipped over by a pet or child.

Wood heating appliances are extremely common in Ohio's rural areas. A chimney that vents a wood-burning appliance will accumulate creosote, which is combustible. When the creosote ignites, it triggers an intense chimney fire that can often extend into hidden wall and attic spaces. It is vitally important to have chimneys cleaned and visually inspected at least once a year, prior to the heating season. If you do experience a chimney fire, close off the air supply to the wood stove and call 9-1-1.

Most importantly, it is incredibly imperative to have an adequate number of working smoke alarms in your home. We continue to lose more than 100 Ohioans every year to fires, often where there are no working alarms present. There should be smoke alarms on every level of the home and inside each bedroom. The best protection comes from interconnected (either wired or wireless) alarms, which activate all the alarms simultaneously in the residence.

Smoke alarms may not function reliably if they are older than 10 years, so it's crucial to replace every device in the home each decade. Batteries must be replaced every six months; better yet, if replacing alarms, purchase devices with a 10-year, sealed battery.

With a little pre-planning, we can take these few simple measures to make certain our families are safe from fire this upcoming winter.

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





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Hall of Fame Awards



Each year, the State Fire Marshal's office teams up with the Division of EMS to award the fire service's highest honors at the Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame & Fire Awards ceremony.

The ceremony recognizes the bravery, commitment and the sacrifice Ohio's fire personnel, and even some citizens, make on behalf of the communities they serve every day.

This year, 16 awards were presented, including awards recognizing the two fallen firefighters who died in the line of duty within the past year.

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

Safety Summit slated for Nov. 9

The Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal's office and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are partnering to bring a Safety Summit to Ohio on Friday, Nov. 9.

These Safety Summits are conducted throughout the U.S. and Canada to introduce fire prevention officers and fire safety educators to new topics, updated information and updates about NFPA initiatives. This is the first time the event has been planned for Ohio!



Preliminary presentations include:

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

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbus, 2700 Corporate Exchange Dr. Columbus, OH 4323. This event is currently full. For more information, click [here](#).

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CRR, Why is it Important?

Integrated Strategies Are the Value of Community Risk Reduction

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



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is the identification and prioritization of risks followed by the integrated application of resources to improve public safety and reduce increasing call volumes.

Community Risk Reduction is not simply a new name for fire- and life-safety education or prevention. CRR integrates the five “E” approach:

- Education
- Engineering
- Enforcement
- Emergency Response
- Economic Incentive

Fire departments have been doing these interventions for years, with the most successful agencies integrating these interventions in a balanced manner – leading to longer-lasting impact.

Agencies can be more effective in their CRR efforts by starting small. Fire departments that solve a high-risk concern in a specific neighborhood or determine integrated strategies to reduce run volume of a specific category are more successful.

Though they are not the only solution, home-safety visits have been singled out as one of the more effective measures a fire department can take to improve public safety. Done at the station level, CRR empowers station leaders to tailor their

approach to improve efficiency and meet specific local risks. Departments don’t have to do it all alone. Partnering with other community organizations helps to accomplish risk management objectives. This also enhances the relationship with the public.

Borrowing from the Vision 20/20 National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention, fire departments are asked to answer these three questions:

- Are you making CRR part of your department’s core mission?
- Do your personnel know how to identify risks and how to apply CRR strategies to prevent them?
- Does your department understand CRR programs can be effective in controlling rising emergency incident rates and costs, especially while resources for many agencies are being reduced?



Fire departments can learn more about Community Risk Reduction by visiting the IFE Vision 20/20 project at strategicfire.org. The site contains a wealth of information, including guides for getting started, model programs from around the U.S. and the globe, presentations from previous Model Performance Symposiums and even a Station Plan template in the CRR Portal.



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BUSTR Inspectors

The Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks (BUSTR) has 11 inspectors, two supervisors, and one manager working to ensure gas station owners and operators comply with Ohio laws through the release prevention program. (OAC 1301:7-9-6 through 12)

The regulations laid out in Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) Sections 1301:7-9-6 through 12 were implemented to protect both human health and the environment from petroleum contamination. Federal law requires BUSTR inspect regulated underground storage tank (UST) systems every three years.

BUSTR inspectors are the eyes and ears of the program, serving as the front line of defense in the battle to protect our environment. Inspectors examine the area where the USTs and dispensers are located. They need access to tank tops and dispenser containment sumps.

Once on site, the inspector checks for the following:

- Properly maintained tank components and records,
- Release-detection equipment
- Containment sump equipment
- Spill-prevention equipment
- Overfill-prevention equipment
- Corrosion-protection equipment
- Operator training records
- Financial responsibility records and
- Walkthrough Inspection records

Once the inspection is conducted, the inspector prepares a Compliance Inspection Report for BUSTR records. The report describes the facility status, what complies and what does not. The inspector then notifies the owner/operator with a Request for Underground Storage Tank Information (RUSTI), outlining exactly what information is needed to be compliant.

If nothing is corrected by the station owner/operator after receiving the RUSTI, the inspector will issue a Notice of Violation (NOV), giving the operator 60 days to correct the violations. Again, if nothing has been corrected after 60 days, the inspector can issue an escalated NOV and/or forward the case to the BUSTR enforcement section.

Enforcement involves a Compliance Order and Settlement Agreement (COSA), which includes a fine for each violation. The responsible party now has 60 days to correct the violations or enforcement escalates the case to the Ohio Attorney General.

Petroleum contains carcinogens, which can cause health problems if released into the environment. This is why BUSTR inspectors monitor, check, and ensure the regulated petroleum underground storage tanks comply with Ohio law.

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Marshal Hussey kicks off National Fire Prevention Week in Allen County



State Fire Marshal Jeff Hussey had the pleasure of kicking off National Fire Prevention Week on Oct. 1 with an all-day visit to Allen County.

Chief Joe Kitchen of Bath Township Fire Department invited Marshal Hussey to tour his beautiful fire station and chat briefly with the on-duty firefighters during breakfast. The marshal then observed a live fire drill at Bath Elementary School. He spoke to a classroom full of smiling second graders about the importance of smoke alarms and why keeping their doors closed at night can help keep them safe in a fire.

The marshal then joined Chief Kitchen and members of the United Auto Workers Local 1219 for a tour of the Ford's Lima engine plant, which manufactures hundreds of thousands of engines each year!

In the afternoon, Marshal Hussey was the featured speaker at the Rotary Club of Lima. Following a brief introduction into everything the State Fire Marshal's office does, the marshal gave a brief presentation about Fire Prevention Week and provided the audience with many tips that will help keep them safe this winter.

Fire Prevention Week – which ran from Oct. 7-13 – officially kicked off in Allen County during a press conference at the American Township Fire Department. With approximately 11,000 house fires and 109 deaths reported in Ohio last year, the marshal gathered alongside members of the Allen County Fire Chiefs Association to present a unified message about fire prevention.

In addition to having working smoke alarms installed throughout the home, the marshal urged the public to develop a fire escape plan with their families that includes knowing two ways out of every room in their homes and having a designated meeting space outside.



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Ohio Firefighters Now Required to Report Suspected Elder Abuse

As a firefighter, you know saving people from dangerous situations can extend far beyond a house fire or EMS call. In fact, you may be the first person to come into contact with someone who is being abused, neglected or exploited.

Effective Sept. 29, Ohio law now requires all firefighters to report suspected abuse of the elderly by calling 1-855-OHIO-APS or reporting such mistreatment to the relevant county department of job and family services. The Ohio Revised Code now lists anyone who is a firefighter for a lawfully constituted fire department as a mandatory reporter of suspected elder abuse.

Ohio law states a report must be made if any firefighter has reasonable cause to believe an adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, or is in a condition resulting from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Physical proof or other evidence is not required.

State law allows no exceptions to the reporting requirement for professional relationships such as firefighter/EMT-patient, doctor-patient or attorney-client relationships.

The statutory penalties for failing to report known or suspected elder abuse, neglect or exploitation are outlined in O.R.C. Section 5101.99 and apply to all individuals and professions listed in O.R.C. Section 5101.63. Elder abuse reports are confidential and not considered a public record.

For more information, the publication "Understanding Elder Abuse: A Guide for Ohioans" can be found [here](#). Printed copies can be found and ordered by searching for the form number "JFS 08098" at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/>.



Ohio Fire Academy looks to springtime for next Feel the Heat course

Due to low registration, the Ohio Fire Academy has cancelled the Feel the Heat course originally slated for November and instead plans to host a session this spring.

The OFA developed this free course to help local elected officials – such as city council members and township trustees – understand the demands of firefighting through an immersive, hands-on experience. During the course, elected officials don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and participate in a variety of real-world scenarios, including: search-and-rescue operations, auto extrication demonstrations, extinguishing of a live fire inside the OFA's burn building, and more.

Any elected official interested in participating in Feel the Heat must coordinate with their local fire department for the use of PPE and SCBA. Additionally, participants with beards or other facial hair that interferes with the SCBA may not take part in some activities. A change of clothing is also recommended. Participation in each scheduled event is optional.

Every Feel the Heat session is scheduled based on the number of individuals interested and/or registered for the course. For more information, or to be on the lookout for the spring session, visit the OFA website at www.fireacademy.com.ohio.gov.



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