



STATE FIRE MARSHAL NEWS

Spring 2017 • 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

Larry L. Flowers

State Fire Marshal



A message from Marshal Flowers

As I prepare to retire...again

What a FANTASTIC ride it's been since May of 1970!

I have been so blessed to have this opportunity to serve local community's and the State of Ohio. I could not have completed any of this without the loving support of my wife (of 46 years) Patty and two daughters Mandy and Kiley. Family is very important to me and that all started with an awesome Dad and Mom!

This is an excerpt from John Donne's Devotions upon emergent occasions and seuerall steps in my sickness - Meditation XVII, 1624:

"No man is an island"

"All mankind is of one author, and is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated... As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon, calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to come: so this bell calls us all: but how much more me, who am brought so near the door by this sickness... No man is an island, entire of itself... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Having the door of opportunity open for me many times during my 47-year career, I've found that the key to success is to surround yourself with great people. I have learned so much from so many of you.

As a sign in my office states: "Being Nice Matters." I could fill many pages in thanking people and organizations that have impacted my life, so here are just a few:

- God, for all the blessings he has sent my way
- My loving and always supportive family
- Kirkersville VFD (now West Licking Fire Dist.)
- Baltimore VFD (now Basil Fire Dist.)
- Sharon Twp. Fire Dept. (now Worthington Div. of Fire)
- Madison Twp. Fire Dept., Franklin Co.
- The Ohio House of Representatives, Speakers Householder & Husted
- Governor John R. Kasich
- Commerce Directors: David Goodman, Andre Porter & Jacqueline Williams
- The Ohio Fire Chiefs Association
- The National State Fire Marshals Association



And, the many employees I have worked with! Especially all on our Administration team.

I promised all of you that I would leave SFM and its eight bureaus in better shape than when I found it -- and leave it in good hands. I feel strongly we have accomplished both.

After numerous "Listening Tours" around the state, I heard your requests and worked hard with the Department of Commerce to meet your needs. To name a few, we accomplished securing \$3M in annual MARCS grants, \$1.5M in Firefighter I grants, increased our Direct Delivery programs and helped provide valuable training Close to Home and at no cost.

I know all of you will continue to serve this great state and keep customer service always our first priority. In Public Safety,

Larry L. Flowers
State Fire Marshal, 2011-2017

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Governor, State of Ohio

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State Fire Marshal



Sniffing Out Arson

Celebrating SFM's canines for Arson Awareness Week

**Contributed by
Vicki Hunsaker, FEIB Staff**

Weeding through hazardous debris, trampling amidst structure remains, carefully discerning the remnants of what was once a home or place of business – this is the crucial work of a State Fire Marshal (SFM) investigator, be it human or canine. And the relationship of the two is both a professional and personal bond.

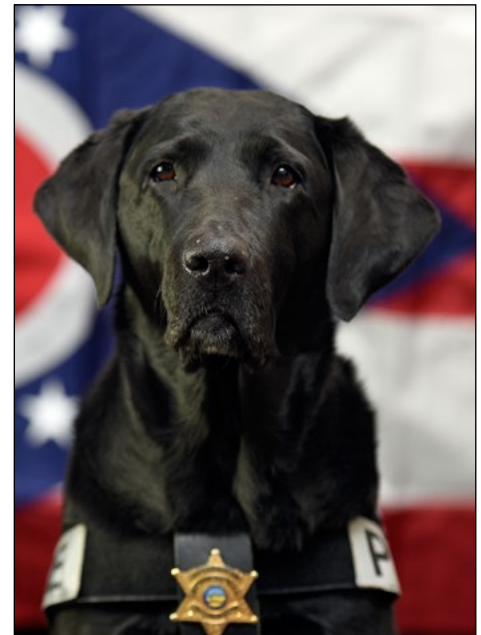
Each year during Arson Awareness week, which is recognized the first week of May, we tend to celebrate our canine coworkers a little bit more for the work they do. Knowing that countless fires are the cause of a human act, whether arson or accident, our K-9 units in the Fire and Explosions Investigation Bureau (FEIB) are willing and ready to assist in any investigation that requires their expertise and specialized training.

The SFM Canine Unit explores scenes for explosives, post-blast debris, firearms, accelerants, and substances that could define more thoroughly a fire cause or contributing factors. And for our canines and their handlers, it is all in a day's routine work. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it takes canines an average of 30 minutes to cover an average fire scene. Let it be noted that it can take humans days to do what a dog does in just minutes.

Our remarkable team of canines derive from various backgrounds such as rescue organizations, Pups for Prisoners, and from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Their intense training programs take place at the Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and also here at SFM home-base. The hands-on training is designed as "food reward methodology" and each dog, to sustain training, must possess a strong food drive and sense of purpose.



Dolan, Labrador
Handler Jeff Heft



India, Labrador
Handler John Weber



Dodger, Labrador
Handler Ron Stemen



Connor, Labrador
Handler Jeff Koehn

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Fire safety for spring

Many concerns for fire safety in the spring and summer months involve outdoor activities. Here are some key points to remember:

Outdoor Cooking and Grilling

Safety during outdoor cooking is just as important as in the kitchen:

- Stay at your cooking area the entire time
- Clean grill and barbecue racks often so that fat and leftover greases don't catch fire.
- Keep your grills at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including the house, cars, bushes and outdoor structures.
- Never cook on your grill in an enclosed area such as a patio cover, garage or overhang. The carbon monoxide created during the cooking process can be deadly!
- Store propane cylinders in a garage or shed away from direct sunlight.
- Turn off propane grills or extinguish charcoal or barbecue pit fires before you leave the area.



Portable Generators

From time to time you may find the need to use a portable generator. Remember these important tips:

- Use portable generators outside in well-ventilated areas away from windows, doors and vents.
- Carbon monoxide will be present during generator use. Avoid letting it into your living area.
- Make sure you have working carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Connect appliances to generators using properly rated, heavy-duty extension cords.
- Fuel your generator when it is cool. Don't refill a hot generator. Gas vapors can easily ignite.



Yard Equipment and Gasoline

- Store gasoline in approved containers with the lids closed tightly. When possible, store these in locked cabinets in a garage or shed away from direct sunlight.
- Let hot lawnmowers, tractors or other gasoline powered equipment cool down before refilling.

Indoor Safety During Spring and Summer

As important as these outdoor tips can be, note that safety inside the home is as important during the warmer months as it is during the heating seasons:

- Do not leave food cooking. Unattended cooking accounts for

the greatest number of home fires.

- Keep things that can burn away from the cooking area.
- Remember that extension cords are for temporary use.
- Frayed and broken cords on appliances, lamps and other devices should be discarded and replaced.

Home Protection

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside and outside of bedrooms
- Test alarms once a month to ensure functionality, replace alarms that are ten years or older.
- Make a home fire escape plan with the people in your home and practice it at least twice a year!

For more information

Contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at the State Fire Marshal at 614-752-7115 for more safety information or visit the [web site](#).

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Spotlight on: **Sharon Township Fire Department**

Chief: Robert M. Haas

Membership makeup: 36 part-time/paid-on-call fire and EMS providers.

The STFD command structure consists of the Fire Chief, an Assistant Chief, five Lieutenants and Firefighters, cross-trained as EMT-Basics, Advanced and Paramedics. The department requires and provides training for each member to obtain minimum certifications as Firefighter 1 and EMT-Basic. Additionally, the department provides training for Fire Inspector, Instructor, Advanced EMT and Paramedic. Over one-third of the Department's personnel are career personnel for other Fire or EMS agencies.

Number of stations: One centrally located station in Sharon Center.

Apparatus types: 1998 Pierce Engine, 2014 Pierce 2500 gallon Pumper/Tanker, 2007 Pierce Heavy Rescue, two (2) 2008 Ford/Braun Type III Rescue Squads (Ambulance), 2005 Ford Excursion Command Vehicle, 2009 Ford Expedition Chief's/Command Vehicle, 2016 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD, 2014 John Deere UTV/RKO Wildland/Brush Trailer

Area covered: Jurisdiction covers 26 square miles

With a population of 5,300 consisting of rural, suburban, commercial and industrial properties. Infrastructure includes three major State Routes, the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad and Freedom Field/Medina Municipal Airport, a reliever airport for general aviation air traffic for Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. The Township boasts many homes on the U.S. Historical Register, two elementary schools, numerous churches and several parks affiliated with the Medina County Park District.

Services offered: Fire, Rescue, ALS medical care



About our department:

The Sharon Township Fire Department was officially organized in 1950, and was staffed by volunteers; farmers, local businessmen and residents. As the Township evolved from a predominantly rural, agricultural community to a suburban, bedroom community for the nearby cities of Akron and Cleveland, it has seen an influx of commercial development and the addition of three industrial parks. The STFD provides automatic and mutual aid to our neighbors in Medina and Summit Counties. It is dispatched through the Medina County Sheriff's Office, staffed with Emergency Medical Dispatchers utilizing modern CAD with enhanced 911. The STFD conducts commercial fire inspections and plan reviews. Members are integral participants in the Medina County's All-Hazards Team, a county-wide response team to high angle, confined space, trench, structural collapse and hazardous materials incidents. Additionally, members are training to perform swiftwater and flood rescue.

The department is upholding its traditions and history with the restoration (resto-mod) of its first commercially purchased fire engine. This apparatus will be showcased in parades and fundraising events and has a special purpose, as well. The engine will be available for departments to employ as a funeral caisson for department members and special individuals. In the early 2000's the department experienced the unfortunate deaths of three of their active members, including a line of duty death. The department's ability to obtain the original fire truck, combined with these solemn events, gave purpose to our organization in providing our friends and neighbors a fitting apparatus which would reduce their burden and honor their member with an appropriate final procession. Please visit our website at sharonfire.org and Like Us on Facebook at "Sharon Township Fire Department" or for more information about our truck restoration Like Us at "Last Alarm - Sharon Township Firefighters Association".

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Nominations Open for 2017 Fire Service Hall of Fame Awards

The State Fire Marshal's office and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS are once again joining together to honor all who serve Ohioans through the fire service, now with a new First Responder Award.

The joint awards program provides an opportunity for firefighters and departments to nominate someone in fire service, law enforcement or in the general public for their acts above and beyond their basic duties and responsibilities, and for exemplifying the finest traditions of the fire service.

All nominations are due by June 26, 2017

Access nomination form

[HERE](#)



Categories include:

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



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Academy training corner — Spotlight on:

Fire Officer III / IV Pilot Course

Contributed by
Rob Cloud, Fire Training Officer

The Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) has long provided high quality professional development programs for the front line fire officer. We have built a culture of learning through the Fire Officer I & II programs that evolve public service leaders and provide the tools necessary to serve subordinates and communities with competent and confident managers.

With this strong foundation built, the OFA administration and its officer instructors recognized a strong need for the next level instruction. With great support and leadership, the OFA has presented and is currently conducting the academy's first Fire Officer III/IV program.

This program is a hybrid class which students attend two days a month for a three-month period. It brings together a diverse group of instructors and chief officers to help ensure the course curriculum meets the OFA's overall mission to develop and deliver quality programs to enhance the ability of emergency service providers to protect life, the environment, and property.

The goal of this course is to provide an individual with many of the skills and abilities to effectively lead a dynamic and complex fire/emergency service organization. The program focuses on strong team dynamics, integrating military leadership, change management



techniques and strategic development objectives as described in the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, 2003 edition.

Students in this course will face tasks, challenges and assignments designed to fulfill the job performance requirements of the modern fire chief. In essence, it is intended to be the pinnacle of the Ohio Fire Academy's fire service professional development series.



2017 Fire Expo and Muster

Date set for family event showcasing Ohio's fire service

The annual Fire Expo and Muster is set for Saturday, June 24 at the SFM campus. This event brings together fire service members, families and the community to spend a day immersed in the firefighting culture. A flea market, antique fire apparatus show and various fire-related displays around the grounds keep everyone in the family entertained!

The antique fire apparatus come from all corners of the state and are always a big attraction, featuring pieces that are both old and new. Fun and education cross paths in our yearly event with several opportunities to learn about fire safety and prevention.

This free event will be held rain or shine and is open to the public. It will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Two Departments, One Mission

The ODNR and SFM's unique case of an interagency employee

There are many ways in which the Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) cross paths. Between the fires that involve wildland, the training courses held at the Ohio Fire Academy for Forestry employees, and the equipment that is maintained by both entities, there is also one undeniable connection... His name is Mike Bailey.

Mike Bailey is one of the most unique employees of the State of Ohio, not only is he an SFM employee, but also a DNR employee. (And you thought reporting to one boss was tough).

Bailey started out as a volunteer firefighter with a passion and specialty in fighting wildland fires, which put him in a great position to be the liaison between the wildland firefighting team within the DNR Division of Forestry and SFM.

"We have a shared mission with the Division of State Fire Marshal in fighting fires in the state," says Greg Guess, Deputy Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry. "Having a shared employee helps us fulfill that mission to protect lives, property, and forest resources from wildfire."

DNR Duties

One of Bailey's major priorities with DNR is to maintain the wildland fire engine that is stored at SFM and used for out-of-state assignments, keeping it in compliance with standards set by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). DNR owns this truck, and another similar truck which is stored at Maumee State Forest. When an agency in need makes a request for help through the National Interagency Coordination Center, the order can be filled from available engines across the country, including Ohio's. Bailey oversees the coordination and deployment of crews from Ohio to assist in wildland firefighting as needed.

"As the Ohio coordinator for interagency wildland fire resources, I prepare and maintain the equipment cache that the folks being deployed take to go out west and fight fires," says Mike Bailey. "I also teach the course that prepares people for this specific deployment, and I myself have been deployed about a dozen times so I'm intimately familiar with what they'll need to be prepared and well equipped out there."

Wildland Training

At SFM, Bailey is an instructor with the Ohio Fire Academy, teaching the Interagency Wildland Fire Training courses and also managing the Direct Delivery program, which helps bring



training opportunities directly to fire departments around Ohio.

"Mike is an integral part of our team here at OFA," says Steve Goheen, Superintendent of the Ohio Fire Academy. "Not only does he train firefighters across the state, but the firefighters in the Division of Forestry, who really get to learn from an expert in that area."

Though Bailey mentions the difficulty in juggling communication between two supervisors, he says it's all worth it, "Training firefighters is the most rewarding part about my position and this part of the DNR-SFM partnership."

Brush Truck Travels

Some of the major fires Ohio's wildland fire engines have assisted:

- Nebraska, 2006
- Minnesota, 2007
- Idaho, 2007
- Nevada, 2007
- Georgia, 2007
- Texas, 2011
- Nebraska, 2012
- Missouri, 2012
- North Carolina, 2016
- Tennessee, 2016
- Pennsylvania, 2016

The Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are committed to Governor Kasich's mission of increasing efficiency in government through shared services and interagency collaboration, which they have done through this wildland fire training and equipment partnership.

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Efficiency in Government

Improving processes for the people we touch every day

**Contributed by Bill Spurgeon,
Code Enforcement Bureau Chief**

We live in a world where instantaneous is an expectation. With increased pressure from constituents to 'do more with less,' decision makers work to find enhanced methods of delivering government services without increasing the need for additional capital.

Here at the State Fire Marshal's office, we continually examine methods to deliver cost-effective services that are both consistent and of high quality. Rest assured, we are committed to efficiency in government.

Cracking the "Code" to Efficiency

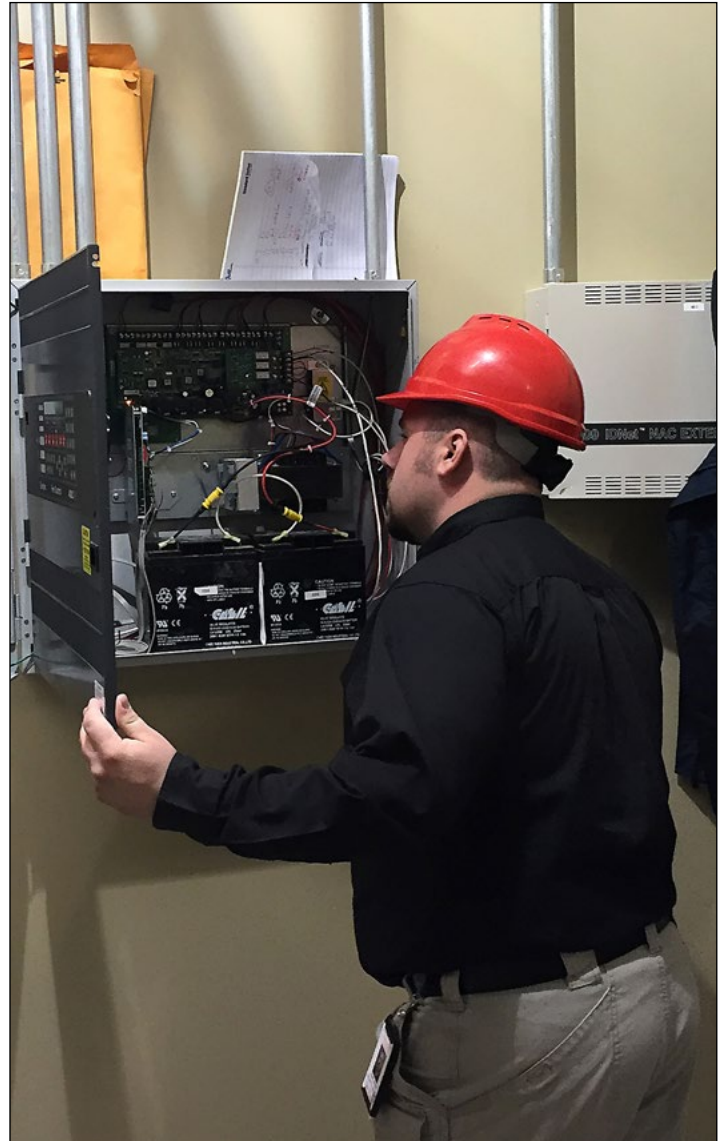
The Code Enforcement Bureau, one of the seven bureaus within the Division of State Fire Marshal, is comprised of 37 dedicated public servants who further the mission of protecting Ohio citizens and first responders from the threat of fire. While we've embraced the use of technology, more can be done. One area we've focused on improving, which is set to begin soon, is online invoicing.

Under the previous process, when a facility received services an invoice needed to be printed, cataloged, and mailed. This created a lag time of up to two-weeks from the point of service to when the invoice reached the customer. We identified this process as a weak point of our service model, taking more time and resources than necessary.

A review group was assembled to discuss methods to enhance accuracy and efficiency in our invoice process. This group included other government agencies like Fiscal and Information Technology, but also included the Chief Deputy Marshal and members of Code Enforcement. As a point of interest; it was the very members performing the work (oftentimes redundantly) who identified the need for revisions. As alternative approaches were discussed and identified, areas of improvement were collaboratively developed and agreed upon by all.

New System is a Win for Users

In the coming months, Code Enforcement will begin to roll out our new system which reduces costs, eliminates redundancies, and cuts down the time required for recipients to remit payment. By fully embracing technology, we will deliver paperless requests which clearly identify the invoice number, facility address, and other pertinent information. Internally, the streamlined process reduces the use of paper and postage. Externally, citizens will enjoy a method which is accurate and timely.



Here at the State Fire Marshal's office, we're engaged in continuous process improvements and are proud of the ideas of our members to innovate and streamline the way we do business. We are venturing down a path which reduces cost and increases satisfaction. By researching and identifying methods to enhance our service, efficiency in government succeeds.

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Fireworks 101

Fireworks exhibitors: licensing and CE hours

As the final frost of winter begins to thaw, you may be preparing to pack up all your winter gear and bring out the raincoats, but here at SFM we're already preparing for the Fourth of July! At least in the Testing and Registration Bureau.

Fireworks exhibitors have a variety of steps that need to be completed in the Spring in order to put on the great shows that are displayed throughout the state. And if you're curious about how these folks get to have the glorious (and potentially dangerous) task of putting on the extravagant lights shows in honor of our great county, here is a little info.

Fireworks Licensing

Currently in the State of Ohio, 566 individuals are licensed for fireworks exhibitions. These exhibitors, along with their assistants, are legally permitted to conduct fireworks shows large and small throughout Ohio.

In order to obtain a fireworks license, individuals must successfully complete a vigorous internship, achieve a passing score on a competency examination, and complete a criminal national background check. The examination is offered the second Tuesday of each month, and pre-registration is required along with the fee of \$50.

All of these licenses expire each year on April 1 and require an ongoing National FBI background check as well as Fireworks Continuing Education every 36 months. Licenses for exhibitors and assistants are currently online and ready to be renewed via the Fire Marshal's website.

If you are in need of a fireworks exhibitor or would like to verify active licenses, please use this link:

<https://elicense7.com.ohio.gov/Lookup/LicenseLookup.aspx>

Fireworks Courses

Annual Continuing Education (CE) courses for Fireworks Safety are offered by the State Fire Marshal's office (SFM), as well as third party companies throughout the state, and are a requirement for maintaining an exhibitors license.

The fireworks CE courses offered by SFM are unique in that they are intended for not only fireworks exhibitors, but also those responsible for issuing permits like law enforcement, fire and EMS individuals. Pertinent information relating to fireworks in the



National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio Fire Code (OFC) requirements, responsibility, liability and safety are covered.

These courses will not meet the training required for individual to become licensed as a fireworks exhibitor initially. Police and Fire departments are encouraged to attend Fireworks Courses.

Pre-approved Third Party Fireworks CE courses:

- Legendary Entertainment – Courses on 4/1, 4/15, & 4/25
- Great Lakes Fireworks - Course on 4/6/2017
- Art Rozzi Pyrotechnics – Course on 4-8-2017
- Pyrotecnico – Course on 4-22-2017
- Lynch Imports – Course on 4-29-2017
- Rozzi Fireworks – Course on 4-29-2017
- Hamburg Fireworks – Course on 5-20-2017

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Focus Your Efforts Through Community Risk Reduction

**Rich Palmer, Assistant Chief,
Fire Prevention Bureau**

Most firefighters walk into an interview and say, “I want to help protect my community,” or, “I want to help save lives.” Though many of the newly hired recruits have visions of rescuing people from buildings on fire or from severe vehicle crashes, the greatest impact to the safety of a community won’t come from a heroic act, but rather from the quiet, systematic reduction of risks and the prevention of harmful events. It is rare that lives are saved after a traumatic event has happened.

During my career, I’ve heard many fire chiefs say, “I can’t afford prevention.” They share their frustrations in trying to maintain an adequate fleet of fire apparatus and trying to keep a full staff on hand to manage the increasing number of calls for service. They talk about reduced budgets, but an increase in the demand for emergency service. I find it interesting that many don’t consider that they already have the resources within reach to do risk reduction in their communities, but they’re forced to focus great attention on the struggle to keep up with the call load.

Focus Your Efforts Safety Starts with You

The term Community Risk Reduction seems to be a buzz word in the fire service community right now - but it is often misunderstood. It is not simply a smoke alarm installation program or a school fire safety event.

The concepts for CRR are not new, but we have realized that many things we have always done can be better organized, better planned and better facilitated. Instead of “throwing mud against the wall and hoping it sticks” we can now focus our efforts precisely on the areas that need the most attention. We can evaluate those results effectively and share those results with our elected officials and our community. We have technology on our side now. The many skills, resources, advocacy groups, and tools to do the job of prevention are put together into a nice package that has great effect.

Successes of CRR

Called Integrated Risk Management in the United Kingdom, this approach to reducing risk in a community has had great success. Their statistics show reduced fatality and injury rates, and increased community value. Towns where the fire problem was increasing and the budgets were decreasing have now become model communities from which we can learn a great deal. There are many

throughout the United States that have done much the same.

A key success to reducing risk is to fine tune efforts in areas that need the most attention. Keeping good records (yes, data IS important) will help determine the concerns that most impact your agency. Regardless of agency size, there are perceptions of the types of incidents that generate the most calls for service. By using the anecdotal information of the responding crews and comparing it to response reports, you can begin to focus in on the greatest concerns.

There’s a secret to Community Risk Reduction: You DON’T have to do it all by yourself. Once you have determined your primary area of concern you can begin to enlist the aid of advocacy groups, subject matter experts, and volunteer organizations that share the same mission in reducing the risk identified. Often, it is found that the emergency response crews gain a greater sense of ownership for their community and the safety of those they serve when they engage in the CRR approach.

Accomplish CRR with the Five E’s

We learn in the NFPA 1035 Fire and Life Safety Educator courses that the most effective community programs involve five key areas. Education is the most effective in changing behavior, but there are four others that contribute to a successful risk reduction initiative. These include: Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Response, and Economic Incentive. These “Five Es” are all important. They must all be utilized to provide the most efficient and effective fire department operation. When used together, they save lives; they reduce property loss; they keep firefighters and emergency medical personnel from being hurt or killed; they return money back to the community and help it to thrive.

Not sure how or where to start? A recommended place to begin is at the Institution of Fire Service Engineers Vision 20/20 project at strategicfire.org. There are tools, manuals, videos, training and network resources in the CRR Portal that can help you get started. You can find information about model programs and access presentations from recent symposiums.

The strategic plan for the Fire Prevention Bureau at the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal is to begin providing support through our field educator team to help you identify your highest risks, to discover possible solutions to address them, and to help facilitate instruction for your officers and emergency responders. Please call us at 614-752-7115 to learn more.

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