



**REPORT  
of  
WILLIAM E. BARNARD, CFPS  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
to the  
MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION  
May 26, 2011**

Mr. President, members of the *Maryland Fire Chiefs Association*, it is my pleasure to present to you this report on the activities and events pertaining to the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal since the last meeting of the Association.

- ❖ **OSFM Staffing:** – Currently, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has two full-time vacant positions, one Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) position and one Fire Protection Engineer (FPE) position. Interviews to fill the FPE position were held in April and a conditional offer has been made and accepted. The Deputy State Fire Marshal position will need to remain vacant in order to meet turnover requirements.
- ❖ **Fire Deaths – Update:** – As of May 24, 2011, there have been twenty-three (23) fire deaths reported. This compares with thirty-two (32) fire deaths reported during the same time period in 2010. This is a twenty-eight (28) percent decrease in fire deaths from the previous year.

**2011 Fire Deaths by jurisdiction:**

Baltimore City – 8  
Baltimore County – 3  
Harford County – 1  
Montgomery County – 1  
Prince George’s County – 6  
Queen Anne’s County – 1  
Washington County – 1  
Wicomico County – 1

- ❖ **Regional Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year Awards- 2010:** – Each Regional Office of the OSFM names one Deputy State Fire Marshal who has shown outstanding effort and dedication to the success of that Region. Those individuals receiving recognition for their outstanding performance are:

Thomas M. Harr - Lower Eastern Regional Office  
Brian C. Quick - Metro Regional Office  
Oliver J. Alkire - Northeast Regional Office  
Paul Schlotterbeck - Upper Eastern Regional Office  
John A. Nelson - Southern Regional Office  
Edward Ernst - Western Regional Office

The Deputy State Fire Marshal for the Year for the Office of the State Fire Marshal will be presented at the Maryland State Firemen’s Association Annual Convention and Conference in Ocean City, Maryland on Monday, June 20, 2011.

- ❖ **Uncertified Sprinkler Contractor License:** – On Tuesday, April 19, 2011, the Office of the State Fire Marshal served two criminal summonses, charging a man with performing uncertified electrical inspections in Talbot and Worcester Counties. The individual knowingly conducted the inspections without proper certification and was charged under Public Safety Article 12-606.
- ❖ **MFIRS:** – Several fire departments and/or counties are not submitting MFIRS reports to the OSFM in a timely manner. MFIRS reports for each month should be forwarded to the OSFM by the tenth day of the following month. Please continue to remind all fire departments of the importance of submitting accurate and timely MFIRS reports to the OSFM.
- ❖ **Training for Residential Sprinkler Systems for Fire Inspectors:** - A training Seminar *“Residential Sprinkler Systems for Fire Inspectors – Understanding Design and Layout Techniques”* was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at MFRI Headquarters in College Park, Maryland. Nearly 100 fire inspectors, fire marshals, building inspectors, plumbing inspectors, and engineers attended the class which was sponsored by the OSFM and MFRI.
- ❖ **Arson Awareness Week (May 1, - May 7, 2011):** - On Friday, April, 28, 2011, the OSFM issued a News Release titled *“Arson Awareness Week – Working Together to Extinguish Serial Arson”*. Governor O’Malley recognized May 1 – May7, 2011, as National Arson Awareness Week in Maryland by issuing a Proclamation making all residents aware of the costly effects of this crime.
- ❖ **News Releases:** – Several other Fire Prevention News Releases have been issued since the last report. On Thursday, April 28, 2011, *“State Fire Marshal Promotes Fire Safety while Medical Oxygen is in Use”* was issued. Fire injuries and death statistics were provided from a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report and several safety tips were included that address specific hazards associated with medical oxygen use.

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, another news release focused on *“Kitchen Fires Remain the Leading Cause of Home Fires in Maryland”*. The Maryland State Fire Marshal offers Safe Cooking Recipes to help Protect Marylander’s. Some of the safety tips include: never leave cooking food unattended, Roll up sleeves to control loose clothing, establish a 3’ “no kids or pets zone”, keep handles turn in to help prevent spills, and keep potholders, towels and clutter off of the stove top.

Mr. President, and members of the Association, this completes my report to you today. As always, it is our pleasure to provide you with this updated information. Thank you for your dedication and hard work in making Maryland a better place to live.