

Data, Technical Info.: Roger Steger reported via written report that Roger Powell is working on our copyright/trademark, will up-date as we proceed.

Fallen FF / EMS
Memorial - MD: No report.

Fallen FF / EMS
Memorial - NFFF: No report.

Finance / Fundraising: No report.

Fire Prevention
(Incl. Smoke Alarms): No report.

Historical / Archives: No report.

IAFC - VCOS: David See reported that the VCOC Board meeting will be on February 6 and 7th in Salisbury, with the primary meeting being from 8-5 on Saturday. Motion made to help sponsor the VCOC Board meeting at \$250.00 made by Rick Blair and seconded by Pete Mellits.
VCOS has released the EMS Report – Orange.
VCOS is working on FF Health and Safety – Green.

IAFC – EDIAFC: Pete Mellits advised that the EDIAFC Annual Conference will be in York, PA on May 14-16, 2009.

Ladies Auxiliary: Fire Prevention Queen (Erin Drumheller) and the 1st Runner Up (Bobbie Utz) were in attendance. They offered held to whoever asks.

Legislative (State & Fed.): Bill Barnard stated that the general assembly went into session last Wednesday. There is a proposal to create a new State Department of Emergency Services to include MIEMSS, MEMA, SYSCOM (Helicopters), fire service and the police. It is still in discussion and no one group has bought in yet.

David Smart suggested that a letter be sent in support of the pending helicopter bill. The fire service legislative group meets every Friday morning at 0900 hrs. at the Taylor Avenue Fire Station.

There is support of the Flame Retardant Materials Bill.

The MSP Trooper 2 crash hearing was held on January 21st and it was determined that there were critical issues with the Air Traffic Controller.

MACO: No report.

MSFA: No report.

Membership: No report.

MFRI: No report.

NFPA: No report.

President’s Advisory: No report.

Scholarship: Roger Steger emailed his report (he was out sick):
The following fire service members will be receiving a \$ 900 scholarship from the MD Fire Chiefs for the National Staff and Command Seminar held in March 2009. Payment will be mailed after the completion of the seminar, as attendance is required to receive payment.
Salisbury Fire Department - Brooks Morris, Michael Donaway, Chris O'Barsky and Lorenzo Cropper,
Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department - Bill Bounds,
Maugansville-Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company,

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Roger A. Steger, Sr.
Ocean City, Maryland

Sponsorship: No report.

Tags (License Plates): No report.

Training and Safety: The Chief Officers Seminar will be held in Montgomery County during the first weekend in March, 2009. "Leadership from the ground up" is the theme.

- MD Fire Chief's seminar, 137 registered to date.
- MD Fire Chief's seminar, 1-800 Board Up is sponsoring the lunch.
- Encouraged all to refer all to website to register.

The MFRI Staffing and Command class sponsorships were awarded.
Roger Steger reported via written report that they will need assistance on Monday March 16 at Charlie Black's, as the MFCA will be providing dinner and a tour of the museum for the class.

MSP Aviation: No report.

Office of the State Fire Marshal – January 22, 2009 Report to the MFCA as prepared by the OSFM

Members of the *Maryland Fire Chiefs Association* and guests it is an honor and a privilege to present you with a brief update on the events and activities of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

- ❖ **OSFM Staff Positions** – Currently, the OSFM has eight full time vacant positions; seven Deputy State Fire Marshals and one Fire Safety Inspector. Most likely, these positions will remain vacant during the rest of the fiscal year due to budget reduction measures.
- ❖ **Fire Deaths – Update** – The 2008 fire death total for the year, stands at 60. This ties with 2006 as an all time historic low for the State since statistics were gathered in 1975. In addition, it is a 36% reduction in fire deaths from 2007 when the fire death total reached 94. Congratulations to all the jurisdictions that saw decreases in their fire death totals from last year. Keep up the great work!

The 2008 Fire Deaths by jurisdiction are as follows:

Anne Arundel County – 4
Baltimore City – 19
Baltimore County – 8
Calvert County – 1
Carroll County – 2
Cecil County – 1
Charles County – 3
Dorchester County – 2

Fredrick County – 2
Harford County – 1
Montgomery County – 9
Prince George’s County – 5
Somerset County – 2
Wicomico County -- 1

❖ **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.

❖ **International Code Council (ICC) Code Change Hearings** – On Friday, December 19, 2008, the International Code Council (ICC) Board of Directors voted unanimously to reject an appeal by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) seeking to remove residential sprinklers requirements from the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC). This action follows a unanimous vote by the ICC Appeals Board to reject the appeal and concludes ICC appeals process exhausting the final administrative options for overturning the IRC sprinkler requirements prior to the publication of the 2009 edition of the IRC. The only potential action remaining for the NAHB is to seek relief in the court system.

Report of the State Fire Marshal
January 22, 2009
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❖ **Fire Sprinkler Update** – On Monday, January 5, 2009 the Anne Arundel County Council approved a measure requiring residential sprinklers all newly constructed one and two family homes beginning 45 days after the legislation is signed by the County Executive. The County Council voted 6-1 in favor of the bill. Numerous fire service organizations and agencies were present for the vote. County Executive John R. Leopold and Fire Chief Robert Ray were extremely proud that the legislation passed, since it will save lives in Anne Arundel County for generations to come.

❖ **NFPA Training Classes** – Two one day classes on NFPA 1 and 101, (2006 edition) are scheduled for March 3 and March 5, 2009. They are being held at the MFRI Auditorium in College Park, Maryland. This class is designated to be a refresher course for new people assigned to Fire Marshal Offices across the State. Thus far 110 persons are registered for the class. If you have any questions please call Chief Fire Protection Engineer, Dennis Gentzel at 410-653-8983. Special thanks go out to Ben Roy, the Mid-Atlantic Representative from NFPA, for helping to schedule the class and providing books, and to Jim Dolan, former New Jersey State Fire Marshal, for instructing the class.

Additional training classes on NFPA 13 and NFPA 25 will be scheduled later this spring. Dates will be announced once all scheduling and logistics are completed. These classes will be provided free of charge and will also include books from NFPA.

❖ **News Releases** – During December the OSFM issued News Releases on, “Home Fire Safety for the Holidays”, “Portable Space Heater Risk Remains” and “Fire Safety Tips for the New Year.” An additional news release will be issued before the end of January about the fire death analysis for 2008.

❖ **Fire Investigations/Arrests** – On Monday December 29, 2008, Deputy State Fire Marshals charged a 23 year old Centerville man with setting a Christmas Day fire at the former Safeway Grocery Store at 24 Kent Towne Market in Chester, Queen Anne’s County. The man was charged with 2nd degree arson and is awaiting trial on another arson case which involved setting a port-a-pot on fire on September 23, 2008.

On Friday, January 2, 2009, Deputy State Fire Marshals charged a 20 year old male from Harford County with making a threat to burn. The threat to burn charge stems from his January 1, 2009, arrest by a MSP trooper on a number of other charges. During the arrest in Cecil County he made threats against the MSP Trooper stating he was going to burn down his house and cause harm to his family.

MFCA Board:

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2008-2009**

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Southern: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's / **Robert Small**

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Upper Eastern: Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne / **Bill Hildebrand**

Central Eastern: Caroline, Talbot, and Dorchester / **Calvin Stack**

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START: 1904 HRS.
END: 2030 HRS.

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Representing the Maryland Emergency Services Officers with Progression While Maintaining Tradition

MEETING / EVENT SIGN-IN SHEET

Description / Location: MFCA EX. BP., / FISHERMANS' Date: 1/22/09

Name: _____ Representing: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

M. Thompson MFCIT
Terena Ann Gisma LAMFCA
Christine Jackson LAMFCA
ERINDRUMHELLER MFCA
 (2) John Spiker LAKE SHERR
Bobbie UTZ MFCA
F. ROBERT SEIBEL CSAC.
Cyrus Black
Charles N Black IV
TERRY THOMPSON
CALVIN STACK
HARRY E. GOSSARD
Rick Hemphill WCVFA
SKIP MENZIES
David See SFD
Bill Barnard OSFM
Rick Blair 30
BOB MOUTS

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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