



STATE FIRE MARSHAL NEWS

Winter 17-18 • 8895 East Main Street • Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 • Ohio Department of Commerce

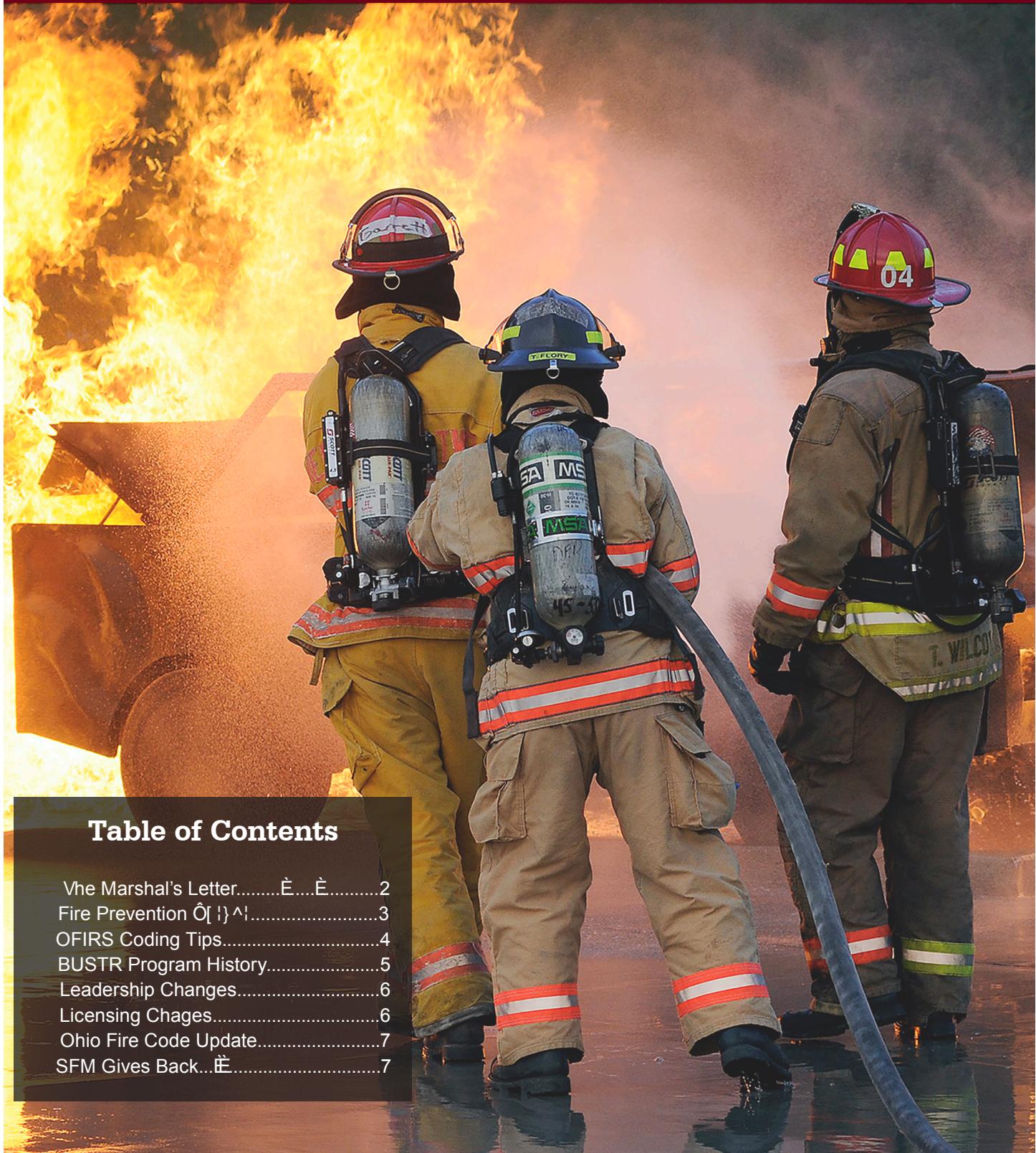


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John R. Kasich
Governor, State of Ohio

Jacqueline T. Williams
Director, Ohio Dept. of Commerce

Jeff A. Hussey
State Fire Marshal



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A message from Marshal Hussey

With the chilly temps of winter comes warm fireplaces, cranked up furnaces and bundling up. This is a comforting scene for many, but for Ohio's fire service, cold weather means an increased number of fires.

Winter months pose the most significant threat for fires because of the increased use of heating. During the 2016-2017 winter heating season, there were nearly 6,000 fires in Ohio.

It's even more important this time of year that each Ohioan is prepared in case of a fire in their home.

You've heard plenty of times that you should have working smoke alarms in your home and at least two ways out. There are also a few additional precautions you need to think about based on your type of home.

Each type of structure presents its own unique fire safety risks, whether it's a conventional single family home, a high-rise apartment building or a manufactured home. Here are a few examples:

Conventional wood frame homes: These are your one- and two-family standalone homes. Many of these homes have wood burning fireplaces with chimneys. When these chimneys aren't taken care of and cleaned, fires can ignite from creosote buildup. The best way to avoid a chimney fire is regular maintenance and yearly cleanings.

Another thing to consider is stairs. A second escape option is critical if there is a fire and the stairwell is blocked. Identify your second escape route ahead of time. This can include escaping off a porch roof or keeping an escape ladder readily available on the upper level.

Apartments: It's important to remember that, even if you are taking every precaution to ensure your home is fire-safe, your neighbor may not be as careful. It's important to know how to escape your apartment.

Many apartment buildings have long hallways that lead to the stairs and fire escapes. Hallways can fill up with smoke in a fire, making it impossible to see. The solution? Make sure you can escape through your hallways by touch. Know how many doors there are from your apartment to your escape route so you can feel your way out.

With manufactured homes, the importance of fire safety is magnified because fire can spread very quickly in the smaller space, leaving you with even less time to escape. Heating these homes can also be a challenge because most are lifted above the ground. Cold wind on the underside of the home making it even colder.

If you are using portable heaters, I recommend using an electric unit that has an automatic safety switch that turns the heater off if it is knocked over. Make sure to have at least a three-foot 'safe zone' around the heater – this area shouldn't contain anything that can burn.

Our goal is to safeguard every Ohioan's life and property. By educating the public of deadly heating fires, we can take another step toward a fire-free winter.

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



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Fire Prevention Corner

Winter's Silent Killer - Carbon Monoxide

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, etc. do not burn. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. These incidents are more common during the winter months, and in residential properties.

CO enters the body through breathing. Because CO poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses it is sometimes difficult to identify. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light headedness or headaches. High levels of CO can be fatal, causing death within minutes. More than one person in a home showing symptoms may indicate that CO poisoning has happened. Everyone should exit the home and immediately seek medical attention.

A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over time or by large amounts of CO during a short time.



10 Tips for Staying Safe Against Carbon Monoxide

1. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
2. Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory, like Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
3. Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
4. If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
5. If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.
6. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
7. If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
8. During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

For more tips, visit the [NFPA website](#).

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Fire Department Insider OFIRS Coding Tips



General Tips for ALL Reports

- Don't forget to add occupants & owner's names
- Dollar loss is an estimate
There are several methods of calculating dollar loss:
 - Ask a contractor the replacement value
 - Contact the insurance agent
 - Check with the homeowner
 - County auditor's website
- Narratives are a necessity

*****Narratives are required for OFIRS

*****Avoid using codes that end in "0"

*****They don't tell us what the real problem is

*****REPORT ALL INCIDEANTS!!

Fire Incident Types



STRUCTURE
111



**SILOS AND
BRIDGES**
112



**CONFINED
COOKING**
113



**CONFINED
CHIMNEY**
114



**CONFINED
TRASH**
118



**MOBILE HOME
RESIDENCE**
121



**MODULAR
BUILDING**
123



VEHICLES
131



**MOTOR HOME
CAMPER**
136-137



MULCH
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**NATURAL
VEGETATION**
141-143



TRASH
150-151



DUMPSTER
154



**GRILLS
FENCE**
162



MAILBOX
164



**CROPS AND
ORCHARDS**
171-173

[View the full tip sheet.](#)

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BUSTR PROGRAM HISTORY

The State Fire Marshal's Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulation (BUSTR) has an environmental policy to protect human health and the environment while allowing for economic growth.

Why Does BUSTR Exist?

In 1969, the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Actually, the debris floating on the river started to burn. The debris was coated in oil and gasoline from unregulated releases - evidence of Ohio's rampant pollution. This was the catalyst for our current environmental regulations, creating the EPA in 1970 and passing the Clean Water Act in 1972.

Petroleum products contain volatile organic hydrocarbons, such as benzene, toluene and xylenes. Petroleum also contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, all of which have been independently associated with adverse human health effects. When petroleum gets released from an underground storage tank (UST) it is absorbed into the soil and groundwater. People are then exposed to the carcinogens through soil contact and drinking water.



The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM), is the implementing agency for the state and federal UST program, tasked with protecting human health and our environment.

H]a Y]bY

1986 The Ohio General Assembly amended Section 3737.87 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizing the SFM to implement provisions of Subtitle I of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA Subtitle I). Governor Richard F. Celeste designated the State Fire Marshal to implement the UST program.

1987 The SFM created BUSTR to develop a U.S. EPA approved state UST program and to administer the Federal Leaking UST Trust Fund.

1988-89 The U.S. EPA's final UST technical regulations became effective Dec. 22, 1988 and financial responsibility requirements for petroleum tanks became effective Jan. 24, 1989.

BUSTR Makeup

BUSTR has three major programs: release prevention, corrective action and enforcement.

- Release prevention ensures proper tank installation and operation.
- Corrective action requirements protect human health and the environment by requiring adequate investigation, assessment, and clean-up of any suspected or confirmed releases.
- Enforcement is required when the owners/operators are not complying with the regulations and violations have not been corrected.

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Leadership Changes at the Ohio Fire Academy

The Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) is happy to announce a new superintendent will begin in January 2018. Jack Smith will be responsible for overseeing all activities of the OFA, including curriculum, training programs, and more in order to ensure delivery of high quality instruction and programming.

Smith comes from the Division of EMS where he served as the fire education coordinator overseeing chartered fire training programs across Ohio. He has over 32 years of fire service leadership experience, having served as associate director of the National Center for Medical Readiness at Wright State University for 16 years, and working as battalion chief, training officer and safety officer for Jefferson Township Fire Department (Montgomery County). Smith also brings extensive experience as a command fire officer from the Hamilton County area along with extensive state project management experience. Smith has served as a member of Ohio Task Force One, and was the Administrative Director of the Ohio Mortuary Operations Response Team, along with other state mass care response programs.



Smith will be taking over for current superintendent, Steve Goheen, who is retiring effective Jan. 18. Goheen served as superintendent for three years, and led many initiatives during his time at OFA including further development of the Direct Delivery programs, securing \$500K in federal grants to purchase the state-of-the-art driving simulator lab and development of numerous IFSTA accredited courses.

Licensing Changes with New 2017 Ohio Fire Code

In the past, fire protection licenses were offered a grace period where the renewal fee would still be accepted if received past the expiration date. However, effective December 15, with the 2017 Ohio Fire Code, this grace period will no longer be offered.

All renewals received after the expiration date will be considered a new application and re-testing may be required for individuals. Please review the expiration dates for fire protection licenses. Feel free to renew online if you are near expiration: <https://elicense7.com.ohio.gov/>.

Expiration Dates:

- Last names A-G, Jan. 2
- Last names H-M, Apr. 1
- Last names N-S, Jul. 1
- Company licenses starting with 50 and 53 also expire Jul. 1

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Ohio Fire Code Update

The 2017 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) became **effective as of December 15, 2017**. To help educate on the significant changes between the 2011 and 2017 fire codes, the State Fire Marshal's office (SFM) is in the process of developing free training courses that will focus on some of the major differences.

The first stage of this training will include representatives from SFM travelling throughout the state to provide in-person, interactive, day-long seminars about the new OFC. The seminars will concentrate on new code enforcement processes, updated special provisions of the OFC and important national model code changes that are incorporated into the 2017 OFC.

The SFM is in the process of securing dates, which are slated to be held in mid-March through early April 2018, with the online course modules becoming available later in spring 2018. These courses will emphasize the proper application of the 2017 OFC by fire code officials, but they will be applicable and open to all industries and persons impacted by the OFC. Please continue to check [our website](#) for announcements regarding dates and times for the training.

As in the past, the 2017 OFC will be published by the International Code Council (ICC). It is anticipated that hard copy books will be available for purchase through the ICC in early Spring 2018. The JCARR version of the 2017 OFC can be located on-line through the [Register of Ohio](#) (the filing agency is 1301 –Department of Commerce). The Ohio Legislature's [Lawriter](#) website (Section 1301:7) also may publish a version of the 2017 OFC.

SFM Gives Back

The 2017 Department of Commerce toy drive to benefit the Nationwide Children's Hospital Burn Unit was a great success. Dept. of Commerce Director Jacqueline Williams and State Fire Marshal Jeff Hussey delivered 303 toys, games, activity books, etc., and 50 care packages for parents to representatives from the Burn Unit.

This year's toy drive greatly surpassed the efforts from last year, and is always an enjoyable way to give back for all Commerce and SFM staff.



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