



# NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We are anxiously anticipating when the N.C. General Assembly will tackle some of the Office of State Fire Marshal's key issues:

- We are adamantly requesting the N.C. General Assembly pass responsible legislation to protect and aid firefighters who face a significant increased risk for cancer. This protection involves medical care for those diagnosed with the disease and financial protection while they are out of work and facing associated costs and related disabilities.
- We are also requesting legislation for parity for our career firefighters with law enforcement by passing a Separation Allowance Bill. A study bill passed the House but was not addressed in the Senate. When the short session convenes, the Senate could move this bill forward by re-establishing the original intent of the bill.
- Finally, we are requesting a generous increase in our Firefighters and Rescue Worker's Pension Fund. The monthly payment hasn't increased since 2008.

## FIRE & RESCUE COMMISSION

- High School Firefighter Challenge in Asheville, NC: 40 applied, 31 attended, 29 graduated.
- NFIRS and Fire Bridge participation increased
  - 2017 – 87% of NC fire departments reporting
  - 2018 – 95% of NC fire departments reporting

## FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING

- Extrication School was developed and has been well received. The first year we had a total of 90 students with 60 on the waiting list.
- We also developed and integrated the new course scheduler which will improve the process of requesting and advertising courses to the fire and rescue community across the state.

## RATINGS & INSPECTIONS

- In the last 14 months, we have inspected 31 straight Class 9S/9E departments and they have improved to a Class 6 or better.
- In the last 14 months, we have surveyed all departments that were more than 11 years old since their last lower than 9S/9E inspections. All departments have been inspected for at least a 9S in the last 6 years.

## MANUFACTURED HOMES

- The Manufactured Building Division has established an online renewal and licensing application to be implemented in 2020.
- Manufactured Building Division has established an online application for modular label orders that includes electronic payments from manufacturers.

## FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

- Staff has developed classes and assisted in the delivery of the FIT class with our training division.
- We have transitioned to CID Special Agents to the FIU in a full-time capacity to assist the mission.

## GRANTS & GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

- In the last 14 months, we have awarded over \$11 million dollars in direct aid grants to fire and rescue departments.
- We have improved the grants administration process to make it more accessible and easier for departments to submit their application and process their grant.

## INJURY PREVENTION

### FIRE PREVENTION

- The Smoke Alarm Canvassing Grant website will open January 1 – 30, 2020. Departments that received the Smoke Alarm Canvassing Grant in 2019 do not need to reapply but should reorder alarms to continue the grant. New applications will be received from January 1 – 30, 2020. This is a competitive grant process and early applications are encouraged. To apply, visit [www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury\\_Prevention](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury_Prevention) and click on Smoke Alarms.
- Save the Date: Smoke Alarm Saturday 2020 is June 6. Registration opens in February. To register your event and receive up to 54 alarms, visit [www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury\\_Prevention](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury_Prevention) and click on Smoke Alarm Saturday 2020.

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- Fire & Life Safety Educators Conference will be held Feb. 12 – 14, 2019, at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. For more information visit [www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury\\_Prevention/FLSE](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Injury_Prevention/FLSE)
- Safe Kids NC Conference will be held May 19 – 21, 2020. Registration opens soon.
- Child Passenger Safety Technician Certification Classes
  - Feb. 24 – 27, 2020 @ Morrisville Fire Department
  - March 23 – 26 @ Lincoln County Health Department
  - March 24 – 27 @ Elkin Rescue
  - May 11 – 14, 2020 @ Wilson Fire Headquarters-Station 1

For more information or to register for a class go to: [www.buckleupnc.org](http://www.buckleupnc.org).

## ENGINEERING

- Engineering has experienced great success the past year. The most notable is the passing of House Bill 946. With the passing of this bill, DOI/OSFM Engineering ushered in a new era in the field of code inspections.
- On the anniversary of the downtown Raleigh fire, we hosted a “Train the Trainer” course to prevent fires of buildings under construction.
- We sponsored the second annual NCDOT Code College September 23-27, 2019.
- We performed DCERT and SERT damage assessments following Hurricanes Florence and Michael in numerous N.C. counties in September 2018.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

- The major accomplishment in the past year has been the successful protection of five dormitories at University of North Carolina – Asheville.