

MARYLAND
STATE FIRE
PREVENTION
COMMISSION



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR
2012**

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

The State Fire Prevention Commission was established in 1964 and consists of nine (9) members appointed to a maximum of two five-year terms by the Secretary of the State Police, with the approval of the Governor in accordance with Public Safety Article 6-201. The following members served on the Commission in FY 2012:

| | |
|--|--|
| Timothy F. Dayton Chairperson Term Expires June 30, 2014* | Western Maryland Volunteer Fire Company |
| Sharon S. Gilyeat Vice Chairperson Term Expired June 30, 2012** | Southern Architect/Engineer |
| Charles D. Davis, Jr. Term Expires June 30, 2015 | At-Large Volunteer Fire Company |
| Brian S. Geraci Term Expired June 30, 2012*** | Washington-Metropolitan Industry Representative |
| K. C. Harrington Term Expires June 30, 2013 | Eastern Shore Building Contractor |
| Mark. F. Hubbard Term Expired June 30, 2012*** | Central Maryland Career Fire Company |
| Martin J. LePore Term Expires June 30, 2016* | At-Large Industry Representative |
| Anthony J. Spencer Term Expires June 30, 2014 | At-Large Member of the Public |
| Richard L. Yinger Term Expires June 30, 2013 | At-Large Volunteer Fire Company |

*Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

** Term expired 6/30/12 – Serving until replaced

***Reappointment to second term pending

In April 2012, the Commission office moved to the newly constructed Maryland State Police Western Operations Center located at

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Hagerstown MD 21740
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Secretary: Heidi Ritchie

The Commission is mandated under Public Safety Article Title 6-204 to hold a minimum of six regular meetings every year. A quorum was achieved at all meetings. Public meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted at the following website:

<http://www.mdsp.org/sfpc>

| ATTENDANCE ROSTER | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| MEETING DATES/LOCATION & MEMBERS | 8/18/11 Laurel | 10/13/11 Laurel | 12/13/11 Waldorf | 2/16/12 Annapolis | 4/19/12 Laurel | 6/19/12 Ocean City |
| DAVIS | P | A | P | P | P | P |
| DAYTON | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| GERACI | P | P | A | P | P | P |
| GILYEAT | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| HARRINGTON | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| HUBBARD | P | P | A | A | P | P |
| LEPORE | P | P | A | P | A | P |
| SPENCER | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| YINGER | A | A | P | P | P | P |

P=Present A=Absent

**Statutory Responsibility
Annotated Code of Maryland
Public Safety Article Title 6-501**

The Commission is empowered to hear appeals filed by a person who is aggrieved by an order or decision of the State Fire Marshal or his designee in the course of enforcing the State Fire Prevention Code. The Commission received seven appeals in Fiscal Year 2012:

Case 11-01 Stewart Duke Sportsman Club, Prince Frederick, Calvert County

The club appealed the State Fire Marshal's cease and desist order for an assembly portion of the building until such time certain violations of the State Fire Prevention Code were corrected. The Commission affirmed the State Fire Marshal's order.

Case 12-01 Boonsboro Restaurant, Boonsboro, Washington County

The restaurant appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to install a fire sprinkler system on the second floor of the building as part of a renovations project. The parties reached a mutual solution and the appeal was withdrawn prior to being heard.

Case 12-02 Makson Contractors, Maryland Sprinkler Contractor License

The company appealed the State Fire Marshal's decision to deny the issuance of a Maryland Sprinkler Contractor license. The company subsequently met the qualifications to obtain a license and the appeal was withdrawn prior to being heard.

Case 12-03 St. Edmonds Church, Chesapeake Beach, Calvert County

The church appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to install panic hardware on an exit door. The parties reached a mutual solution and the appeal was withdrawn prior to being heard.

Case 12-04 Reinheimer Gazebo, Stevensville, Queen Anne's County

The owners appealed the Queen Anne's County Fire Marshal's cease and desist order to use a gazebo for assembly purposes until such time fire suppression systems are installed. An August 30, 2012 hearing date was scheduled.

Case 12-05 Kaywell Construction, Maryland Sprinkler Contractor License

The company appealed the State Fire Marshal's decision to suspend its Maryland Sprinkler Contractor license. An August 30, 2012 hearing date was scheduled.

Case 12-06 Camp Saint Charles, Rock Point, Charles County

The camp appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to provide secondary means of egress from the infirmary sleeping rooms. The parties reached a mutual solution and the appeal was withdrawn prior to being heard.

**Statutory Responsibility
Annotated Code of Maryland
Public Safety Article Title 6-206**

The Commission is empowered to promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion and to hold public hearings pertaining to such regulations. Code of Maryland Regulations as promulgated by the Commission may be viewed at the following website:

<http://firemarshal.state.md.us/codes.htm>

COMAR 29.06.01 STATE FIRE PREVENTION CODE

With the publication of the 2012 editions of NFPA 1 Fire Code and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, the Commission delegated a committee to review changes in these national standards. Vice Chairwoman Sharon Gilyeat and Commissioner Brian Geraci served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other local fire and building code authorities. The Commission unanimously voted to accept the committee's proposal to amend the regulations. An August 30, 2012, public hearing was scheduled, with an anticipated adoption date of January 1, 2013.

COMAR 29.06.03 APPROVAL OF TESTING LABORATORIES

State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard requested the Commission consider the repeal of these regulations as part of Governor Martin O'Malley's regulatory review initiative. The regulations are obsolete and several other organizations and federal agencies perform similar functions to approval testing laboratories. The Commission unanimously voted to accept the Fire Marshal's recommendation to repeal the regulations. An August 30, 2012, public hearing was scheduled.

COMAR 29.06.04 FEES FOR FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES

Public Safety Article 6-206 requires the Commission to adopt regulations and administer a fee schedule for plan reviews and fire safety inspections and to review the schedule annually. The Commission delegated a committee to conduct an in-depth review of fees charged by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for fire prevention services. Chairman Dayton and Commissioner LePore served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other local fire authorities. The Commission unanimously voted to accept the committee's proposal to amend the regulations. A public hearing was held October 13, 2011, with no opposing public comments received. The amended regulations were adopted April 1, 2012.

COMAR 29.06.07 GROUND-BASED SPARKLING DEVICES

The National Fire Protection Association updated several national standards and codes pertaining to these products. Upon review it was found that many of the Maryland regulations were redundant and no longer necessary. The Commission unanimously voted to accept the Fire Code Update Committee's proposal to amend the regulations. An August 30, 2012, public hearing was scheduled, with an anticipated adoption date of January 1, 2013.

**Statutory Responsibility
Annotated Code of Maryland
Public Safety Article 6-205**

The Commission is mandated to promote and conduct seminars, conferences, workshops and meetings at least once each year to inform the public and firefighting personnel of the latest techniques in fire prevention programs and procedures, life safety measures, changes in the State Fire Prevention Code, and development of improved fire safety goals.

MID-ATLANTIC LIFE SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Fire Prevention Commission co-sponsored the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference held September 27, 2011, in Laurel, Maryland. This annual conference offers a variety of safety oriented workshops presented by some of the nation's leading fire and emergency services professionals. Approximately 300 persons attended the event, including several Commission members. Vice Chairperson Gilyeat serves on the Conference Steering Committee.

Other Activities

Throughout the year, Commission members attend and participate in a variety of activities and serve on committees involving fire prevention education, fire and emergency services, and code enforcement.

MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE COMMISSIONS

The Mid-Atlantic Association of State Fire Commissions is comprised of fire commissions from twelve (12) member states for the purpose of sharing and promoting state and national goals related to fire prevention and education. The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia each host the annual conference on a rotating basis.

Representatives discuss a variety of topics related to fire code enforcement issues, proactive initiatives for automatic sprinkler system installations, funding sources, firefighter recruitment and training, and fire prevention education.

The 33rd Annual Conference was hosted by the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission in Ashville, North Carolina, September 8-10, 2011. Due to lack of funding, no Maryland members were able to attend the event.

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Chairperson Dayton and Commissioners Yinger and Davis serve on a variety of committees under the auspices of this association. The association membership is comprised of volunteer departments from throughout the State whose mission is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland.

The association sponsors an annual contest to recognize fire, rescue, and ambulance departments' efforts in promoting fire prevention in their communities. The Fire Prevention Commission took the opportunity during the association's annual convention in Ocean City to participate in convention activities and present Certificates of Appreciation to several fire and emergency services departments for their contributions to fire prevention and fire safety education.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Vice Chairperson Gilyeat, a licensed professional engineer and University of Maryland graduate, serves on several NFPA committees:

- NFPA 99 Standards for Health Care Facilities Fundamentals Committee
- NFPA 99 Standards for Health Care Facilities Health Care Emergency Management and Security Technical Committee
- Chair of NFPA 115 Laser Fire Protection Committee
- Past Chair of NFPA 82 Incinerator and Waste Handling Systems Committee

NFPA is a leading developer of codes, standards, recommended practices and guides on fire and safety issues developed through a consensus process by volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests.

ALLEGANY-GARRETT COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Chairperson Dayton is a member of this association which serves, promotes, advocates and represents the interests of thirty-seven volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical services companies in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

F.A.B.S.C.O.M. (FIRE AND BURN SAFETY COALITION OF MARYLAND)

COMMITTEE FOR VISUAL SMOKE ALARMS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS

Commissioner Yinger has chaired this committee since 1997. The committee is comprised of members of the deaf community, public safety organizations, and private corporate organizations. The committee assists the deaf and hard of hearing persons in providing low-cost visual smoke alarms in private residences.

MISCELLANEOUS

Vice Chairperson Gilyeat participates in numerous professional organizations:

- Fire Protection Engineering Academic Honorary Society - Member
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers – Member and Past President
- Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Instructor and Seminar Developer