



Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

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Colonel Terrence B. Sheridan
Superintendent

Timothy F. Dayton
Chairman

September 20, 2010

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis MD 21401

Honorable Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of the members of the Fire Prevention Commission, I am pleased to provide you the Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010.

Should you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning activities of the Commission, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Timothy F. Dayton
Chairman

TFD:hr

cc: Colonel Terrence B. Sheridan
State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard
Sarah Albert, Dept. of Legislative Services

Enclosure

MARYLAND
STATE FIRE
PREVENTION
COMMISSION



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR
2010**

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

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 2010:

Timothy F. Dayton
Chairperson
Term Expired June 30, 2014*
*Western Maryland
Volunteer Fire Company*

Sharon S. Gilyeat
Vice Chairperson
Term Expired June 30, 2012*
*Southern
Architect/Engineer*

Richard K. Brooks, III
Term Expired June 30, 2010**
*Central Maryland
Volunteer Fire Company*

Brian S. Geraci
Term Expires June 30, 2012
*Washington-Metropolitan
Industry Representative*

K. C. Harrington
Term Expires June 30, 2013
*Eastern Shore
Building Contractor*

Mark. F. Hubbard
Term Expires June 30, 2012
*At-Large
Career Fire Company*

Martin J. LePore
Term Expires June 30, 2011
*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*

***Second Term Expired – Continues to Serve Until Replaced*

During the fiscal year, the Commissioners elected new officers in anticipation of former Chairperson Brooks' replacement. Vice Chairperson Dayton assumed the Chairperson office and Commissioner Gilyeat assumed the Vice Chairperson office.

The Commission may be contacted at:

12 North Jonathan Street, Suite 100
Hagerstown MD 21740
Telephone: 301-791-4758
Toll-Free: 877-890-0199
Fax: 301-739-8785
E-Mail: sfpc@mdsp.org
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://firemarshal.state.md.us/fpcomm.htm>

ATTENDANCE ROSTER						
MEETING DATES/LOCATION & MEMBERS	8/27/09 College Park	10/15/09 Laurel	12/17/09 Hagerstown	2/8/10 Laurel	4/29/10 Laurel	6/15/10 Ocean City
BROOKS	A	P	P	P	P	A
DAYTON	P	P	P	P	P	P
GERACI	P	P	P	P	P	P
GILYEAT	P	P	P	P	P	P
HARRINGTON	P	P	P	P	P	P
HUBBARD	P	P	A	P	A	A
LEPORE	A	P	P	P	P	A
SPENCER	P	P	P	A	P	P
YINGER	P	P	P	A	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 heard one appeal in Fiscal Year 2010:

Case 09-02

Thursday's Steak and Crab House
Galesville, Anne Arundel County

The restaurant appealed the decision of the Anne Arundel County Fire Marshal to enforce provisions of the State Fire Prevention Code, NFPA Standard 101 Life Safety Code, Section 11.5.3 pertaining to egress and fire sprinkler requirements for restaurants on piers. The Commission affirmed the order of the Fire Marshal. The restaurant filed for a Judiciary Review in Anne Arundel Circuit Court with a hearing scheduled for November 1, 2010.

**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>

The Commission held a public hearing in Laurel on October 15, 2009, to amend COMAR 29.06.01 State Fire Prevention Code which adopts by reference the 2009 editions of *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code* and *NFPA 1 Fire Code*. Vice Chairperson Gilyeat served on the Code Update Committee. The amended regulations became effective January 1, 2010.

At the public hearing, the Commission also voted to repeal COMAR 29.06.06 Fresh Cut and Live Tree Fire Safety since many of the requirements are contained in the 2009 NFPA Codes or have been incorporated as COMAR 29.06.01 amendments.

RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

During the year, the Commission supported local efforts to adopt residential fire sprinkler system requirements for new one- and two-family homes. Various informational seminars and sprinkler system demonstrations were and continue to be held throughout the state as more jurisdictions consider the life and property saving benefits of residential fire sprinkler systems. To date, 12 counties and 157 municipalities have adopted ordinances pertaining to the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems.

Statewide requirements are already in place under Public Safety Article Title 9-204 for residential fire sprinkler systems in newly constructed townhomes and multi-family residential buildings.

**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 22, 2009 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 and Commissioner Brooks is the Moderator for the conference.

FIRE CODE UPDATE SEMINARS

The Commission sponsored four training seminars to provide state and local fire code enforcement authorities with an overview of the amended COMAR 29.06.01 State Fire Prevention Code and changes in the 2009 editions of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and NFPA 1 Fire Code. Approximately 400 persons attended the seminars.

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 31st Annual Conference was hosted by the Kentucky State Fire Commission and was held in Louisville, Kentucky, November 5-7, 2009. Due to budget restraints, no Maryland Fire Prevention Commission members were able to attend this event.

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Chairperson Dayton and Commissioners Yinger and Brooks 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:

- Chair of the Incinerators and Waste Handling Systems Technical Committee
- Member on the Health Care Emergency Management and Security Technical Committee
- Alternate member on the Health Care Facilities Technical Correlating Committee.

The association 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.