



Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

12 North Jonathan Street
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Hagerstown, MD 21740
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Colonel Marcus L. Brown
Superintendent

Timothy F. Dayton
Chairman

September 14, 2011

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 2011.

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 Marcus L. Brown
State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard
Sarah Albert, Dept. of Legislative Services

Enclosure

MARYLAND
STATE FIRE
PREVENTION
COMMISSION



ANNUAL
REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2011

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

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 2011:

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

**Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment*

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	8/19/10 Laurel	10/21/10 Laurel	12/9/10 Chester	2/17/11 Laurel	4/21/11 Laurel	6/21/11 Ocean City
DAVIS	*	A	P	P	P	P
DAYTON	P	P	P	A	P	P
GERACI	P	P	A	P	P	P
GILYEAT	A	P	P	P	P	P
HARRINGTON	A	P	P	P	A	A
HUBBARD	P	P	A	P	P	P
LEPORE	P	P	P	P	P	P
SPENCER	P	A	P	A	A	P
YINGER	P	P	P	P	P	P

P=Present A=Absent

*Not yet appointed to the Commission

**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 2011:

Case 10-01

National Freight Industries
Hagerstown, Washington County

The appellant took issue with the State Fire Marshal's decision to require an automatic fire sprinkler system in its new repair facility. Prior to the hearing, the appellant's representative and the Office of the State Fire Marshal reached an agreement to allow three-hour fire barrier walls equipped with fire doors to be constructed to create fire areas less than 5,000 square feet instead of installing fire sprinklers. The appellant accepted this alternative and withdrew the appeal on behalf of his clients

**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 29.06.04 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 fees. The proposal is in the process of being published in the Maryland Register for public comment prior to final adoption.

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, 13 counties and more than 150 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 28, 2010, 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. Eight members of the Commission attended the conference.

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 32nd Annual Conference was hosted by the Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and was held in Hartford, Connecticut, September 9-11, 2010. Vice Chairperson Gilyeat attended the conference.

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

Commissioner Spencer proudly earned his Master's Degree in Applied Science in Public Administration from the Sojourner-Douglass College in Baltimore on June 26, 2011.