



Larry Hogan  
*Governor*

Boyd K. Rutherford  
*Lt. Governor*

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE**

**FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION**

18345 Colonel Henry K. Douglas Drive  
Suite 240  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
301-766-3899  
Fax 301-766-3889  
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Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III  
*Secretary*

Edward S. Tochterman, Jr.  
*Chairman*

November 9, 2021

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Report Required by Public Safety Article 6-205(c) (#2029)

Honorable Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the members of the Fire Prevention Commission, I am pleased to provide you the Commission's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021. We sincerely apologize for the late submission.

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

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward S. Tochterman, Jr.".

Edward S. Tochterman, Jr.  
Chairman  
Fire Prevention Commission

cc: Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III  
State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci  
Sarah Albert, Dept. of Legislative Services

Enclosure



# ANNUAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR 2021**

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

**MSAR #2029**

**Commission No. SP-0156**

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 Title 6-201. The following members served on the Commission in Fiscal Year 2020:

<b>Edward S. Tochterman, Jr.</b> <b>Chairman</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2026</b>	<b>At-Large</b> <b>Industry Representative</b>
<b>Kevin J. Simmons</b> <b>Vice Chairman</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2022</b>	<b>Central Maryland</b> <b>Career Fire Company</b>
<b>Douglas C. Alexander</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2023</b>	<b>Western Maryland</b> <b>Volunteer Fire Company</b>
<b>Mark A. Bilger</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>At-Large</b> <b>Volunteer Fire Company</b>
<b>Emily K. Devan</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2024*</b>	<b>At-Large</b> <b>Member of Public</b>
<b>Michael R. Faust</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2022</b>	<b>Eastern Shore</b> <b>Industry Representative</b>
<b>Randy E. Sanger, II</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2023</b>	<b>At-Large</b> <b>Building Contractor</b>
<b>Daniel J. Stevens</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2025</b>	<b>Southern Maryland</b> <b>Volunteer Fire Company</b>
<b>Stacy N. Welch</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2022*</b>	<b>Washington-Metro</b> <b>Architect/Engineer</b>

**Commissioner Sanger replaced Commissioner K.C. Harrington on February 15, 2021.**  
**Commissioner Stevens replaced Commissioner Charles D. Davis on September 24, 2020.**

\*Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

The Fire Prevention Commission may be contacted as follows:  
Maryland State Police/Western Operations Center  
18345 Colonel H.K. Douglas Drive, Suite 240  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
Telephone: 301-766-3899 Toll-Free: 877-890-0199  
Fax: 301-766-3889  
E-Mail: [mssp.sfpc@maryland.gov](mailto:mssp.sfpc@maryland.gov)  
Website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>  
Secretary: Heidi Ritchie

**PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-204:**

The Commission is mandated 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 Commission's website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>

<b>FISCAL YEAR ATTENDANCE ROSTER</b>						
<b>MEETING DATES LOCATION &amp; MEMBERS</b>	<b>8/20/20 Annapolis</b>	<b>10/15/2020 Annapolis</b>	<b>12/10/20 Virtual</b>	<b>2/18/21 Virtual</b>	<b>4/15/21 Annapolis</b>	<b>6/17/21 Annapolis</b>
ALEXANDER	A	P	P	P	P	P
BILGER	P	P	P	P	P	P
DAVIS	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEVAN	P	A	P	P	P	P
FAUST	P	A	P	P	A	A
HARRINGTON	A	A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SANGER	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P
SIMMONS	P	P	P	P	P	P
STEVENS	N/A	P	P	P	P	P
TOCHTERMAN	P	P	P	P	P	P
WELCH	P	P	A	P	P	P

P=Present    A=Absent    N/A Not Appointed

**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. No new appeals were filed in Fiscal Year 2021.

**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 Commission's website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>

COMAR 29.06.01 State Fire Prevention Code

With the publication of the 2021 editions of *NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1 Fire Code* and *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code*, the Commission delegated a committee to review changes in these national standards. Commissioners Stacy Welch and Edward Tochterman served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other local fire and building code authorities. Office of the State Fire Marshal Chief Fire Protection Engineer Kenneth Bush presented the committee's proposal for amendments to the Commission at its June 17, 2021. The Commission will review the proposal and vote whether to proceed with the adoption process at its August 19, 2021 meeting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 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 developments in improved fire and life safety goals.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the 2020 conference was cancelled. This is the first time in the sixty-one year history of the conference that it had to be cancelled.

**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, fire and explosive investigation, and code enforcement:

- Maryland State Firemen's Association  
Commissioners Alexander, Bilger, and Faust participate in activities or serve on a variety of committees under the auspices of this association. Commissioners Bilger and Faust are Past Presidents of the 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.
- National Fire Protection Association  
Commissioner Stacy Welch serves as a member of the National Fire Protection Association's Board of Directors. NFPA board members are chosen from various disciplines and backgrounds and are elected based on experience in business, finance, or administration; respect of peers; respect as a member of the safety community; commitment to the Association's goals; and appreciation for the relationship NFPA must maintain with the changing needs of society. Commissioner Welch is Vice President of Fire Protection and Life Safety for Marriott International.
- Maryland Rehabilitation Code Advisory Council  
Commissioner Tochterman represents the Commission on this council. The council encourages private investment in existing buildings by streamlining the code requirements for rehabilitation work in buildings older than one year.
- Fire and Explosive Investigation Advisory Workgroup  
Commissioner Alexander represents the Commission on this workgroup. The group consists of representatives associated with various public and private fire/explosive investigation agencies and organizations, forensic experts, and fire/explosive investigation instructors. The group is tasked with reviewing developments in fire/explosive training/certification standards, advancements in forensic sciences and investigative techniques, and conducting peer reviews of selected fire/explosive investigations and reports to identify areas which can be improved.

