

## **Monthly Activity Report: April 2009**

### **S.C. LLR Division of Fire & Life Safety**

**The following items represent some of the significant accomplishments conducted by the Division of Fire & Life Safety during the month of April, 2009.**

- 35 employees of the division attended a one-day motivational seminar at the USC Colonial Center in Columbia. This seminar was taught by a myriad of icons in the motivational teaching arena including, Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Minister Robert Schuler and Zig Ziegler. This one-of-a-kind training opportunity may serve to enhance customer relations, strengthen morale and improve the quality of life for those seeking self improvement.
- The State Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team hosted the first Membership Training Exercise (MTX). This three-day intensive training scenario was developed by the team's command staff and executed to test the individual members within their assigned positions. This internal audit provided the command staff information on the critical make up of the team as a core. It also renewed individual confidence that is needed to maintain the title: US&R Specialist.
- Staff was activated to assist the state's Firefighter Mobilization Plan in three separate incidents, The Beech Island, SCE&G Coal Plant Fire, Abbeville Tornado Incident, and the Horry County Wildland Fire. The Horry County incident was the largest activation of record with Firefighter Mobilization with an activation of approximately 225 personnel and 70 pieces of apparatus, representing 33 departments from 16 counties. In addition to those who responded to the call for assistance, many Fire and Life Safety staff members worked around the clock, including their weekends, coordinating and tasking these individuals. The efforts of these persons significantly improved the final outcome of in each incident.
- The S.C. Fire Academy hosted many fire service organizational and associational meetings this month including, Chiefs, Firefighters, and Joint Fire Service Council. One of the largest was the S.C. Firefighters' Memorial Service held in the Firefighters' Memorial Garden. Tribute was given to all firefighters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Two firefighters were acknowledged this year that lost their lives in 2008 in the line of duty.
- The division participated in the Annual Firefighters Legislator Appreciation Day at the rotunda in the State Capitol. Along with thanking legislators for their support in issues of importance, the State Fire Marshal had the opportunity at the media event to speak on the importance of embracing science and technology within the new codes and standards as they relate to fire sprinklers, novelty lighters and other issues of importance. To highlight the event, Senator Thomas Alexander spoke on the need to protect our children and introduced Senate Bill 766 to Ban Novelty Lighter Sales in South Carolina. This bill, if passed, will eventually decrease fires, protecting children, adults and the first responder community.
- The State Fire Marshal delivered a 3-hour training presentation to LLR's Customer Care Center employees. The participants were oriented in the services offered by the division.
- The Assistant Fire Marshal for Code Enforcement traveled throughout the state investigating complaints involving fire equipment dealers. Various businesses were visited during the investigations, resulting in numerous citations against licensees. In addition, the division's pyrotechnic administrator has had numerous

complaints and also has spent a great deal of time on the road investigating licensees.

- Thanks to Bill Alexander, one of LLR's Unlimited Pyrotechnic Licensees, and one of his assistants under the direction of the Pyro Board Administrator, the majority of the State Fire Marshal's confiscated fireworks were destroyed at the S.C. Fire Academy this month.
- The division assisted the Department of Transportation in filming new public safety messages regarding transportation safety. Staff also assisted the Federal Aeronautics Administration with producing an educational video. The facility offers a unique setting to film such educational messages and we, as an agency, are proud to assist.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal participated in the Historic Elmwood Park Annual Tour of Homes and Gardens. A portion of a 100-year-old home was equipped with a residential fire sprinkler system by Palmetto Automatic Sprinkler Company to promote public safety by educating contractors, homeowners, developers and the general public. Staff worked the event throughout the day showing a sprinkler video, distributing literature and answering questions on fire & life safety. Thanks to the OSFM staff and Palmetto Sprinklers who worked their Saturday spreading the word about life safety.
- The SCFA Certification and Reciprocity Supervisor attended the Annual International Fire Service Accreditation Congress Conference in Oklahoma. During the conference SCFA was reaccredited for the next five years for 14 NFPA professional level programs.
- The SCFA Superintendent and State Fire Marshal visited the Columbia International University and met with President Bill Jones to build a stronger partnership and ascertain how we can assist each other as neighbors. CIU has previously assisted the SCFA with cafeteria services and meeting rooms when requested. As good neighbors, we look forward to returning the good will.