

Monthly Activity Report: January 2009
Program/Division/Unit: Fire & Life Safety Division

- The South Carolina Firefighters' Association, in cooperation with the South Carolina Fire Academy, hosted the fourth Firefighter Annual Safety & Health Conference. Forty fire service personnel participated in this premier educational opportunity, which may serve as a foundation for others to follow.
- The SCFA was audited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accrediting organization. This required five-year audit was conducted by a three-member audit team from North Carolina, Alabama and Canada. The Fire Academy received excellent results and will be re-accredited for 14 NFPA professional levels at the April IFSAC annual conference.
- The Fire Academy, in conjunction with the S.C. Firefighters Association, hosted the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation LAST Seminar dealing with line of duty deaths (LODD). There were 42 people in attendance with students from South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama and New York.
- The "Spray It Forward" program, designed to equip firefighters with the knowledge necessary to deliver consistent, age-appropriate fire and life safety messages across the state, is entering its second year of success. A total of 63 "Spray it Forward" presentations were delivered in 2008 to 1,215 firefighters. To schedule this free program and assist in changing the culture of South Carolina's fire service, please contact the Public Education and Data Management Section.
- There were 74 civilian fire deaths in 2008, an increase of 14 from 2007. The leading causes of fire deaths were cooking related. The holiday season took a tragic toll, with 15 people dying from fire-related incidents during the months of November and December. The trend continued into January as another 16 people died in fires, 11 within manufactured homes. Numerous news releases and interviews were conducted by the Fire Marshal to increase public awareness on the value of smoke alarms, fire sprinklers and fire prevention during the winter season.
- The State Fire Marshal delivered a key note address to the Orangeburg County Fire Commissioners Annual Banquet in Holly Hill. The Fire Administration of Orangeburg and its commissioners were commended for their aggressive efforts to seek federal grant funds for public fire safety education initiatives, firefighter protection and suppression equipment. Federal grants over the past several years have been awarded in the amount of nearly \$8 million.
- To stay on the cutting edge of fire prevention and code enforcement, the Office of State Fire Marshal adopted the following 2009 National Fire Protection Association Standards on January 23, 2009: 17, 17A, 54, 59, and 101.
- Staff of the Office of State Fire Marshal conducted training and inspection activities on the Island of Daufuskie this month. Issues involving flammable and combustible liquids, LP Gas, school inspections and firefighter mobilization were addressed during the visit.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal hosted a five-day Urban Search & Rescue / Firefighter Mobilization Training Summit for the Louisiana State Fire Marshals Office in January. Planning for the event began after information was exchanged at the 2008 NFPA-sponsored Fire Marshal Forum in Boston last October.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal hosted the initial meeting between LLR and the Office of the Attorney General on the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program. A strategy was developed for implementation of ACT 331, which begins in January 2010.
- Assistant Fire Marshal for Codes & Engineering attended the NFPA writing workshop in Tampa, Florida for the purpose of updating national certification exams and developing testing procedures for the S.C. Office of State Fire Marshal.
- The Fire Academy provided a myriad of courses this month, including an 80-hour FEMA Structural Collapse Course for 28 students and an NFA Executive Officer Two Course for 30 officers. A total of 21 courses were delivered onsite for 410 students, and 10 courses off site for 190 students. There were 23 trailer deliveries and pickups completed for regional course training.