

Fire Marshal and Fire Academy

Activity Report October 2008

- The S.C. Division of Fire & Life Safety hosted 33 public safety officials from the United Kingdom on October 14, 2008. The event consisted of an early morning tour and lunch at the Fire Academy, a tour of SLED's Fusion Center and an afternoon briefing at the State Emergency Operation Center.
- Assistant State Fire Marshal, Firefighter Mobilization Coordinator and State Fire Marshal attended the National Weather Service All-Hazard Conference.
- Work has begun on the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Building collapse prop, slated to be completed by early 2009. The several-acre prop will become a desired training resource for South Carolina, as well as other states.
- The Fire Marshal participated in the first Ocean Island Seven Bike-a-Thon commemorating the fire deaths at Ocean Isle Beach in October 2007. In that tragic event, six University of South Carolina students and one Clemson student lost their lives. This event on the campus of USC will become an annual event, raising funds for Ocean Isle Seven fire safety and sprinkler awareness programs.
- Sondra Senn, Manager of Public Fire Education and Data Management, has been appointed to serve on the Safe-Kids Worldwide National Fire Safety Advisory Board as the Southeastern Representative.
- In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, the S.C. Firefighter Appreciation Weekend served as the official kick-off of Fire Prevention Month. Held at EdVenture Children's Museum on October 4 and 5, 2008, more than 900 people attended. Division staff participated in the annual Fire Prevention Parade and luncheon sponsored by the Columbia Fire Department in Columbia. Twelve fire safety programs reaching more than 1,400 people were conducted during the month of October. In addition, staff prepared and coordinated Governor Mark Sanford's Fire Prevention Week and Fire Prevention Month Proclamation.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal, working through a grant with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, is expanding the Residential Injury Prevention Project into the Darlington and Clarendon counties areas. Through this project, smoke alarms will be installed in high-risk areas within those counties. A coordinated effort between fire service and county health officials ensure success in reaching the most "at-risk" segments of our population.
- Office of State Fire Marshal staff met with the S.C. Department of Social Services Fire Protection Licensing representative to discuss training needs for local fire inspection personnel to support the DSS Child Care Facility program. The inspection and licensing process will eventually become the sole responsibility of DSS.
- Information has been posted on the Website concerning the S.C. Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act 357. Information concerning the Municipal Association Model Ordinance and water purveyor recommendations and the S.C. Department of Revenue forms is available to assist local authorities in the adoption process of ACT 357.
- A power point presentation on the value of sprinklers and information on Act 357 has been completed and is now ready for delivery. Communities adopting this act will provide a mechanism to increase safety, both to the public as well as the first responder. To schedule a presentation, contact the Office of State Fire Marshal at (803) 896-9800.

- Staff from the S.C. Fire Academy and the Office of State Fire Marshal participated in the annual conference of the S.C. State Fire Chiefs Association in Myrtle Beach.
- The Fire Marshal participated in and served as moderator at the State and Provincial Fire Marshals Forum in Boston, Massachusetts.
- Twenty-two students graduated with IFSAC-accredited (International Fire Service Accreditation Congress) NFPA Firefighter II credentials from the Fire Academy seven-week program "Firefighter Candidate School." Beginning January 2009, the program will expand to eight weeks and be offered five times in 2009.