



## New Course Helps Certify Canine Teams

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State Fire Marshal

Summer 2015

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On May 19 – 20, 2015, the pilot Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Team Evaluator Course was held at the Ohio Fire Academy (OFA). This class helps prepare evaluators to conduct the ADC evaluation testing of the teams.

The first day of the course consisted of classroom topics that included legal updates, ethics, canine first aid and the chemistry of ignitable liquids. The second day consisted of four hours of classroom instruction on how to set up and conduct the evaluation testing. The second half of the day students set up the test and learned how to evaluate the ADC teams.

By passing this course, evaluators will receive a certificate that will be valid for two years. Each evaluator must conduct an evaluation at least once in that two year period. The first ADC evaluation test will be conducted on July 2, 2015 at the OFA.

The evaluation test will be conducted in two phases. The first phase is an odor recognition test, which is made up of two circles each having ten cans (total of twenty cans). The cans contain various samples, including burned and unburned samples (examples: carpet, wood), some blank cans and some distractor items (food). A set number of the cans are spiked with a very small amount of ignitable liquid, which the canines then have to find.



The second phase consists of “real world” scenarios/environments that the canines work in during routine operations. This phase includes placing small amounts of ignitable liquids in various random places in four different scenes – an open field, a structure with multiple rooms, vehicles and a clothing lineup. Again, the ADC teams must find the ignitable liquids to successfully pass this phase.

After finding all of the ignitable liquids in both phases, the canine teams receive certificates showing that they successfully passed the evaluation test, which will be valid for one year.

If you are part of a canine team, there is still time to sign up for the testing on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. To apply for the course, sign up here: <https://www.comapps.ohio.gov/>

## *A Message from...State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers*



May was a time to celebrate several groups here at the State Fire Marshal's office. The week of May 3 – 9, 2015 was important at SFM for two reasons. First, it was Public Service Recognition Week, honoring all of our employees. It was also Arson Awareness Week.

Public Service Recognition Week is so special to me because it allows us to take a minute and thank everyone who serves the public. Often times, these men and women do not get the recognition they deserve, and this celebration is a small sliver of thanks for their hard work. I am so proud of each and every one of our employees at SFM for what they do to serve Ohioans day in and day out. I believe we have a staff that is second to none in customer service and we hope to carry out our mission as best as possible. All of those who were honored will be featured later in this newsletter. I am also thankful for Ohio's firefighters, who serve their communities 24/7. You offer such an invaluable service and you should be proud of your work.

During Arson Awareness Week, we are able to let the public know about intentionally set fires and talk about the dangers associated with them. Last year, fire departments reported 3,936 arson fires to our Fire Prevention Bureau. This year's theme was "Sniffing Out Arson – Accelerant Detection Canines (ADC)." Our office is so fortunate to have three ADC teams, as well as an explosives team. The canines are able to help our investigators out by finding possible accelerants at a fire scene. Just

how important are these canines? They have a sense of smell that is 100,000 times more acute than a human's. Talk about a valuable resource! Our handlers are also such a key part of the teams. Training 365 days a year and spending countless hours with the canines, the handlers know them better than anyone.



Finally, May 17 – 23, 2015 was EMS Week. So many of our firefighters are also trained as EMT's or paramedics, providing potentially lifesaving care to patients. EMS Strong was the focus of the week, and that seems like the perfect way to describe the profession. These individuals see so many different situations on a daily basis and continue to help those in need. I look forward to our Fire Expo & Muster on June 27<sup>th</sup>, when we can honor those who are in EMS even more.

All three of these groups should be proud of their work. Without you, a piece of the puzzle would be missing. Please keep up the outstanding work and continue to make your communities and Ohio proud!

## Smoke Alarm Program Making Communities Safer

Reducing death and injuries caused by home fires in the next five years by 25% is the goal of the American Red Cross' Home Fire Safety Program. That goal is also important to the State Fire Marshal's office, and that is why representatives have gotten involved with the campaign. Volunteers have been working with local fire departments to conduct door-to-door campaigns to install smoke alarms in neighborhoods at greatest risk for home fires. As a part of the program, the volunteers are also talking about fire safety and prevention by taking a few minutes to speak with families about keeping their homes fire safe and to leave them with information about a fire escape plan.

The Division of State Fire Marshal has participated in two events with the Red Cross to help with this campaign. The first was in Buckeye Lake (Licking County). This event was a joint effort with the Licking County EMA, the Buckeye Lake Fire Department and the Village of Buckeye Lake. 347 homes were visited; of those, no one answered the door at 136 homes, but fire prevention materials were left for the residents. 181 home visits were conducted with 77 smoke alarms mounted and batteries for 20 smoke alarms installed.



The second event was with the Prairie Township Fire Department in western Franklin County. Prairie Township is working with the Red Cross and plans to cover their entire district. Their campaign started on April 11, 2015, with other dates scheduled throughout the year. Outside of the scheduled drives, the firefighters are regularly going out in the evenings and weekends in an effort to offer each of their residents an opportunity to have working smoke alarms on every floor. This is a very ambitious program with 5,000 single family residences to visit. The program has been made possible through the help of generous donors and partnerships.

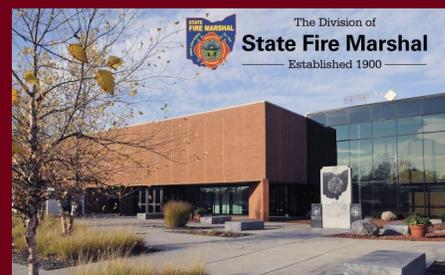
“There is not a more valuable gift that we can provide to our residents than working smoke detectors. It also provides for a positive interaction between the residents and the firefighters at a time when we are offering them a service rather than asking for their support,” said Prairie Township Fire Chief Chris Snyder. “The support from our donors and the gratitude of our community has been overwhelming.”

“We are so happy to be involved with this very important campaign,” said State Fire Marshal Larry L. Flowers, who participated in both events. “Hopefully, we can make a difference in these communities and keep the residents prepared.”

The American Red Cross has installed over 4,000 smoke alarms in homes across Ohio. During this campaign, they are also asking every household in America to check or install smoke alarms in their home and to practice a home fire safety drill.

**Need help from the State Fire Marshal's office? We're only a call away!**

**Main Line- (614) 752-8200**  
**BUSTR- (614) 752-7938**  
**Code Enforcement- (614) 728-5460**  
**FEIB- (614) 752-7106**  
**Fire Prevention- (614) 752-7115**  
**Forensics Lab- (614) 752-7150**  
**Ohio Fire Academy- (614) 752-7196**  
**Testing & Registration- (614) 752-7126**



## *Ohio Fire Academy and National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Continue Partnership to Educate Firefighters*

The Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) believes in the principles of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), and that's why both organizations are continuing a partnership to teach Ohio's fire service. Through the agreement, NFFF will help the Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) deliver several classes including Courage To Be Safe (CTBS), Leadership, Accountability, Culture, Knowledge (LACK) and Leadership So Everyone Goes Home.

In addition, NFFF will conduct train-the-trainer sessions to allow for greater reach of the courses and the Everyone Goes Home program. OFA will then be able to also run train-the-trainer sessions and work with NFFF state advocates to get this information to firefighters.

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives will continue to be a focus during the training as well.

"We're changing the culture of the fire service," said State Fire Marshal Larry L. Flowers. "Educating our firefighters will lead to safer responses, safer departments and safer communities."

"We are proud to work along side the Ohio fire service as they continue to improve services and do all they can to ensure Everyone Goes Home at the end of their tour of duty. We applaud the efforts of the State Fire Marshal and the state should be proud of his leadership," said Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

This collaboration has already begun. For information on courses available, visit [www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire).



## *The 2015 Fire Expo & Muster is Almost Here!*

The annual Fire Expo and Muster is set for June 27<sup>th</sup>, just days away! This year, the focus of the event will be on EMS, and a newly refurbished Heartmobile will be unveiled. There will be several displays set up throughout our campus, as well as antique fire apparatus from all across the state. A flea market and fire muster will also be highlights during the day.

The Fire Expo and Muster is a way to bring together fire service members and families in the community. It serves as a way to educate the public and have fun at the same time.



Those in attendance have several opportunities to learn about the apparatus, both new and old, as well as fire safety.

The free event will be held Saturday, June 27, 2015, rain or shine, at the Division of State Fire Marshal, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio. It will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to come out.

## *Remember Fireworks Safety*

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July isn't too far away, and that means some people will choose to celebrate the holiday with fireworks. However, we should all do so safely. Here are some tips as you and your loved ones enjoy this holiday:



### **Fireworks Safety:**

- Handle and discharge trick and novelty devices only under adult supervision.
- Appoint one adult to be in charge. This person should know the hazards of each type of firework being used.
- Carefully read and follow the label directions on the trick and novelty device packaging.
- Light only one sparkler at a time and hold it away from your body and others.
- Sparkler wires, which can burn up to 1800 degrees, should immediately be placed in a bucket of water to avoid injury as they remain hot for a few minutes after burnout.
- If someone gets burned, run cool water over the wound for two or three minutes and seek medical attention when necessary.

### **What types of fireworks can be legally discharged in Ohio?**

Trick and novelty fireworks include items such as sparklers, snaps, glow snakes and smoke bombs. In general, these can be sold in Ohio and used in the state. But check with your local community which may have its own rules preventing these from being sold or used.

### **Are any fireworks completely safe?**

Firecrackers and sparklers cause the most injuries. Severe burns, injuries to the hands, eyes and face, and even blindness or hearing loss can happen anytime something is burned. For example, legal sparklers burn at up to 1800°, hot enough to melt gold. Severe burns happen every year. In addition, puncture-type injuries to an eye are common. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a show by a licensed exhibitor.

### **What types of fireworks are illegal to discharge in Ohio without a license and permit?**

#### **1.3G Fireworks**

Display or exhibitor fireworks include aerial shells that are fired from mortars. They can only be sold by a licensed manufacturer, wholesaler, or, under limited circumstances, out-of-state shippers. They can only be sold to a licensed manufacturer, wholesaler or exhibitor. 1.3G fireworks can only be discharged by a professional, licensed exhibitor. These fireworks can only be discharged by a licensed exhibitor in accordance with Ohio laws regarding exhibitions, including a properly issued exhibition permit issued by the local fire and police departments.

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*Continued from Page 5***1.4G Fireworks**

Commonly referred to as consumer fireworks, these include firecrackers, bottle rockets, roman candles and fountains. A license is needed to sell these, but anyone over the age of 18 may purchase these items, but must sign a form certifying they will take the fireworks outside the state of Ohio within 48 hours. It's illegal to set them off in Ohio.

**How many fireworks stores are in Ohio?**

There are 46 licensed wholesalers in Ohio. There are also seven licensed manufacturers which may manufacture and sell fireworks. There is currently a moratorium preventing the issuance of any new sales licenses.

**What is a purchaser form?**

To buy fireworks in Ohio, you must sign a purchaser form certifying you will take the fireworks out of state within 48 hours. Purchasers are responsible for illegal use of the fireworks, including any damages. Making a false statement on the form is a first-degree misdemeanor. The purchaser's copy of the form must accompany the fireworks, be attached to an invoice itemizing the quantity of fireworks purchased, the amount of the sale, and made available upon request by a law enforcement officer or fire authority.

**Are there penalties for failing to follow Ohio's fireworks laws?**

Yes. Most first time violations are first-degree misdemeanors, punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated by law enforcement authorities. Violations include falsifying the purchaser form, failing to complete the form, failing to transport fireworks out of state within the specified time period, and discharging fireworks.

**How many injuries result from fireworks use?**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports fireworks were involved in an estimated 11,400 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during calendar year 2013. Children under the age of 15 accounted for 40% of the injuries.

**How does the State Fire Marshal promote fireworks safety in Ohio?**

The Department of Commerce actively reviews and works to increase fireworks safety, both in showrooms and for public exhibitions. The Department focuses on the regulation and education of the fireworks industry and those involved in the exhibition of fireworks.

The Division of State Fire Marshal operates a Fireworks Incident Team (FIT) to respond to the scene of any fireworks accident to investigate and assist local authorities. Investigations by FIT have led to both administrative and criminal action being taken against exhibitors who fail to follow the regulations.

**What is the process for fireworks exhibitions?**

A permit from local authorities is required for all exhibitions. The permit specifies the date, time, location and various other parameters of how the exhibition will be executed. Authorities inspect the exhibition site before, during and after the exhibition using a State Fire Marshal issued checklist. Only licensed fireworks exhibitors can perform fireworks exhibitions. During the shoot, only registered employees and the certified fire safety official are allowed within the discharge site.

Only licensed fireworks exhibitors can perform fireworks exhibitions. Exhibitors must undergo six hours of training on fireworks laws and safety every three years, and must, in turn, relay that training to all employees annually.

## *Last Call! Hall of Fame Nominations Still Being Accepted*



Firefighter Jerod Smith accepts the Valor Award.

There's still time to nominate someone for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame Awards. You can nominate someone for the Ohio Fire Service Citizen Award, the Ohio Fire Service Distinguished Service Award, William L. Howard Public Service Award or the Ohio Fire Service Valor Award.

To qualify for the Ohio Fire Service Valor Award, a nominee must be a fire service member who, at great personal risk to themselves, are credited with directly saving or attempting to save a life or lives during an emergency situation above and beyond the normal line of duty. The nominee must also have been a member of a career or volunteer fire service in the state of Ohio at the time of the heroic act. The incident shall have occurred

between January 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015.

For the Ohio Fire Service Citizen Award, a member of the general public qualifies for nomination if he or she, at great personal risk to themselves, is credited with directly saving or attempting to save a life or lives during an extreme fire or other emergency rescue situation. This award can be given to a resident of any state for an event that occurred in the state of Ohio or to any resident of the state of Ohio for incidents occurring in any state. The nominee must not have been a member of the same household as the victims, or in which the incident occurred. In addition, the nominee must not have been a member of the career or volunteer fire services in Ohio at the time of the incident. The incident shall have occurred between January 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015.

The Ohio Fire Service Distinguished Service Award is for outstanding individuals whose contributions to, and leadership of, the fire service within the state of Ohio has been a milestone in the development of those services; whose actions have served not just their community, but have contributed significantly to the fire service on a regional, statewide, and/or national basis; and, whose leadership and accomplishments in these areas are widely recognized and respected in the Ohio fire service.

The William L. Howard Award is for citizens of Ohio, who are not members of the fire service but have, during the course of their career or their lives, made significant contributions toward the furtherance of the fire service on a regional, statewide, and/or national basis; and, whose leadership and accomplishments in these areas are widely recognized and respected in the Ohio fire service.

Nomination forms can be found at <http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire>. If you have any questions about the nominations, you may call Tonia Smith at (614)-752-7161. The deadline for nominations is June 22, 2015.



Firefighter-Paramedics Scott Baum and Joseph Phillips accept the Valor Award.

## SFM Employees Recognized for Years of Service

On May 12, 2015, 23 SFM employees received pins for their years of public service (a combined 305 years):

**5 Years:** Michael Aldridge, Josh Amspaugh, Patrick Beckley, James Clevenger, Dale Egner, James Mayer, Ryan Siath

**10 Years:** Charles Arnold, William Bare, Sherry Maag, Michael C. Miller, Patricia Sheldon, Tonia Smith

**15 Years:** Michael H. Miller, Ronald Stemen

**20 Years:** Troy Huth, Marla Reichenbach, Tiki Robison, Stephen Sessions, Brian Whitten

**25 Years:** Diane Kuhn, Verne Ord

**30 Years:** Timothy Schreadley

Congratulations and thank you for your service!



### Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal  
John R. Kasich, Governor  
Jacqueline T. Williams, Director

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