



Alcohol and  
Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of  
Criminal  
Apprehension

Driver  
and Vehicle  
Services

Emergency  
Communication  
Networks

Homeland  
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Emergency  
Management

Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Pipeline Safety

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire  
Marshal



## State Fire Marshal

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### State Fire Marshal Update

#### Email Updates

The State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) will be migrating to a new email update system and the use of Gov.Delivery. If you are currently a subscriber to our email updates, you will need to sign up again to be included in the Gov.Delivery updates from our office. You can subscribe using this [link](#).

#### Barn Conversions to Wedding Event Centers

At an alarming rate, older barns in rural and metro areas throughout Minnesota are being repurposed for weddings and other large gatherings. A barn is the latest “perfect place” for brides and grooms to bring family and friends to witness their celebration. Many of these structures have been converted with no review or approval by the local fire code official. The SFMD estimates that less than 1 percent of the estimated 100+ converted sites in Minnesota have met the state’s building and fire codes (after being reviewed by local building code officials).

In early June a letter, information sheet and self-inspection check list was sent certified mail to over 90 venues such as barns converted to wedding venues and wineries located throughout Minnesota. The goal was to provide owners information on fire and life safety provisions that apply to these types of buildings.

The letter did generate some questions to our office on fire code requirements. A copy was also mailed to the local fire department charged with protecting these venues. As one owner stated during testimony at the Capitol this spring, one fire in a wedding barn with injuries or deaths could devastate this fast growing industry.

If you have questions about a barn/wedding venue in your area, contact SFMD code specialist [Tom Jenson](#).

#### Fire Data

Wedding barns and similar assembly buildings used for events continue to be an issue. Many of these buildings were never intended as buildings to house large numbers of people. The SFMD developed some resources for facility owners and fire code officials to use when dealing with these buildings:

- [Self-Inspection Checklist](#)
- [Fire Safety for Assembly Occupancies](#)
- [Crowd Managers, Fire Watches and Standby Firefighter Requirements](#)

## **Fire Code Adoption Update**

We're happy to announce that the first draft of Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7511 (a.k.a. The Minnesota State Fire Code), and its SONAR (Statement of Need and Reasonableness) have been completed following a year-long review of the 2018 International Fire Code by SFMD code staff and the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Code Committee. However, the process is far from over.

The next step is to send the rule draft and SONAR to the MN Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) for review by their rules specialist before being delivered to DLI Legal Services, where the rulemaking process beings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

The goal is to have both the new fire code and building code rules published by the State Revisor's office sometime in the summer of 2019. The proposed effective date of both the 2020 MN State Fire Code and 2020 MN State Building Code would be approximately nine months following publication, perhaps as early as March, 2020.

If you have any questions in reference to the fire code adoption process, please contact [Forrest Williams](#).

## **Fire Code Inquiries**

SFMD code teams continue to average about 225 phone calls, emails and text messages per month from fire departments, contractors, architects, building owners and the general public. And this underrepresents the real number of inquiries, because many of our field staff receive questions directly. The code teams pride ourselves on same-day or at least 24-hour response to questions. However, some calls require code research and could take a week, but we will let you know if there will be a delay.

We have two email addresses for code questions (new format): [fire.code@state.mn.us](mailto:fire.code@state.mn.us) for code questions and [fm.fire.sprinklers@state.mn.us](mailto:fm.fire.sprinklers@state.mn.us) for fire sprinkler code questions. You can also call the fire code specialist, Tom Jenson, at 651-201-7221.

When sending a question by email, it helps to include as much information as possible about your question. Most important is to include your name (not all email addresses contain your name) and a phone number where we can reach you. Some questions are better answered over the phone, and sometimes we need more information and talking is easier than emailing back and forth. So please include some kind of signature line with your name, department and phone number.

## **Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education**

The MBFTE staff and the fire service specialists are running at full speed this time of year to ensure that the fire departments and training providers submit their requests for training reimbursements before the Aug. 1 deadline. With one more day to go (as of this edition), the MBFTE has seen a record amount of departments seeking reimbursement. With just over \$2.2 million available in fiscal year 2018, nearly 700 fire departments have submitted \$4 million in eligible training expenses. Four hundred fire departments submitted more expenses than their awarded funding for the fiscal year.

In addition to the training reimbursement program available to every fire department in Minnesota, there are many other programs funded by the MBFTE each year such as Live Burn in Acquired Structures, NFPA 1001, conferences and seminars, and Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grants, so there is a lot of follow-up with the fire service that happens in July and August. The MBFTE board and committees will meet in August

following the Fire Service Advisory Committee meeting on Aug. 8 to determine fiscal year 2019 funding for the fire service.

The MBFTE made requests of the Fire Service Advisory Committee for consideration of more than \$3 million in one-time funding to add to the base budget of \$4.265 million in fiscal year 2019. As you can see by the continuing use of the training reimbursement program, this one-time funding will certainly contribute to the fire service’s training needs in fiscal year 2019.

**Sprinkler Saves**

From 2004-2017, there have been 1,021 sprinkler saves in Minnesota. Attached is a chart showing where these sprinkler saves have occurred. It is interesting to note that the majority of these sprinkler saves are in apartment buildings. What is even more interesting is the fact that, while we have been sprinklering other types of occupancies for over 100 years, the codes have only required that new apartment buildings be sprinkler-protected since 1989. In 28 years, apartment buildings have become the leading place for sprinklers to put out fires.

Here is a breakdown of the sprinkler saves by type of system and number of sprinklers activated:

Sprinkler Saves by System Type and Number of Sprinklers – 2004-2017				
Sprinkler System Type	Number of Fires	Average Number of Sprinklers Activated	% of Time That Two or Fewer Sprinklers Activated	% of Time That Four or Fewer Sprinklers Activated
Wet-pipe system (most common type of system)	931	2	89%	94%
Dry-pipe system	75	4	73%	81%
Other type of system	15	2	73%	93%
ALL TYPES	1,021	2.3	87%	93%

In 2017 and 2018, the average building and contents loss from these sprinkler-controlled fires was \$33,528. The average valuation of the building and contents in these fires was \$5,994,544. That equates to 99.4% save percentage.

**Fire in Minnesota 2017:**

The State Fire Marshal Division’s data team is finalizing the 2017 edition of Fire in Minnesota. Here is a summary of the 2017 fire loss data reported on the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) from 772 out the state’s 775 fire departments:

- 304,171 incidents responded to by fire departments
- 13,456 fires:
  - 6,165 structure fires
  - 2,604 vehicle fires
  - 4,687 other fires (outdoor, wildland, grass, rubbish, etc.)
- \$223,949,787 in fire loss

The full Fire in Minnesota 2017 report will be available in print by mid-October.

### **Basic Fire Code Academy:**

The State Fire Marshal will be hosting its first week-long Basic Fire Code Academy class at Camp Ripley on May 13-17, 2019. This class is intended for people just getting into the fire inspection and fire code enforcement fields. This will be an intense 40-hour class with pre-class assignments, inspection field trips, research projects, and after-hours assignments (homework). Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested persons can sign up on the [SFMD Training Registration website](#).

### **Fire Deaths:**

As I have reported before, fire deaths in 2017 were at the highest level seen in over two decades. Many people mistakenly believe that most fires and most fire deaths occur in the seven-county metro area. The fire death rate in the non-metro areas of Minnesota is almost twice as high as the metro fire death rate. The following table shows the rate of fires and fire deaths per capita for the metro area and in non-metro areas:

	Seven-county metro	Non-metro areas
Percentage of state's population	55%	45%
Number (percent) of fires	6,699 (50%)	6,756 (50%)
Fire loss	\$94 million (42%)	130 million (58%)
Fire Deaths (Fire Deaths per 100,000 Population)	27 (0.89 fire deaths per 100,000)	41 (1.65 fire deaths per 100,000)

### **Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting**

Minnesota's fire incident reporting software from our vendor, ImageTrend, is undergoing an update to a new platform called "Elite." The new system will have additional capabilities, including the ability to do more customization at a local level. The SFMD will be migrating fire departments over to this Elite platform in the upcoming months.

ImageTrend Elite is on the move. The early adopters are all moving forward in the new MNFire Elite system. Now the next step is to start rolling out regionally, because the goal is to have all agencies that use ImageTrend migrated to the new MNFire Elite system by year's end.

### **Migration schedule**

June Region 11 United and Region 12 Minnesota Valley  
July Region 8 North Suburban and Region 10 Central  
August Region 6 Lake and Region 7 St Croix Valley  
September Region 9 West Central and Region 15 Southeast  
October Region 2 Northern and Region 4 Northeast and Region 5 Cuyuna  
November Region 1 Capital City and Region 14 South Central  
December Region 3 Arrowhead and Region 13 Southwest

Each agency's MNFire administrator will be contacted with training links and instructions. In the meantime, please bring the current incident validity up to 100 percent. Don't worry, you'll be able to update them in the new Elite system.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact [Scott Radke](#), [Joel Paylor](#) or [Nora Gierok](#).

## **Fire and Life Safety Education**

Upcoming trainings:

Fire and Life Safety Educator: Aug. 17-18 at Bemidji Fire Department  
Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Specialist: September 8 & 9 at Willmar  
NFPA & SFMD Safety Summit: September 27 at New Brighton Public Safety

## **Team Update**

The team is working to prevent fire deaths in Minnesota and are currently reviewing the data since 2004:

- Males 65 percent
- Single family homes 57 percent
- Adults over 50 years old 63 percent

We are digging deeper into the available information and demographics in order to come up with a plan for how to help local fire departments educate the public so that last year's fire death trend will not continue. To date, 30 YFPI cases have been referred to the Youth Fire Intervention Team through our office.

Also, visit us at Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair on Friday, Aug. 24. Staff from SFMD will be in the Hot Zone once again giving away the much-coveted yard sticks. Visit Dan Patch Park at 11:30 am to listen to Commissioner Dohman and Fire Marshal West give the State of Fire Prevention Address. Be sure to check out the full schedule of events at [www.governorsfirepreventionday.org](http://www.governorsfirepreventionday.org)

## **Fire Investigation Team**

The Fire Investigation Team continues to be extremely busy, with over 430 case files pulled already in 2018. Even though the staff is busy, do not hesitate to call for assistance. Please call the duty officer to contact a fire investigator for a new case. MN statute 299F.04 puts the responsibility of determining the origin and cause of fires on the local fire chief. However, with changes in the fire investigation industry in the past few years (namely NFPA 921 and 1033), any fire of any consequence should be investigated by a properly credentialed fire investigator.

Our fire investigation team is here to be a resource to the local fire chiefs to provide that properly credentialed fire investigator. As we say, "call early and call often". There is no way we can make every fire, but we are available 24/7 to at least consult with you on the phone. Please see our fire response priority list in the Fire, Arson and Explosion Investigation Services Handbook on our web site. If in doubt, call the MN Duty Officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798. We will respond to calls from the fire service, as well as any MN law enforcement agency.

In addition to fire investigations, in the last couple months we have several cases that have gone to court or resulted in confessions based on our investigators hard work. Specifically, Andrea Bexel has been working hard on these cases and has spent plenty of time in court and getting confessions. Also, Andrea was just recently married. Most of you may have known her as Andrea Wenzlaff, but now she is Andrea Bexel. She married a deputy sheriff and they reside in Thief River Falls.

Our newest investigator, DSFM Brian Petersen, has completed his initial training and is running on calls in his territory in the southwestern corner of the state. He is eager to continue to gain experience and is out trying to meet everyone in his territory.

Fire Investigation training has not slowed down much this summer. The investigations trainer, DSFM Kevin Mahle, and the other investigators continue to provide The First Responder's Role in Fire Investigation class to fire departments and law enforcement agencies throughout the state. This is a 2.5- to 3-hour class that can be provided at your station and during your regularly scheduled training sessions. Contact your local DSFM investigator or Kevin Mahle at 612-718-8448 to schedule this class for the upcoming fall and winter season.

Staff continue to work with and provide training for County Fire Investigation Teams throughout the state. There have been a few teams reorganizing and some new teams starting up. A number of Introduction to Fire Investigation classes have been provided primarily for the start-up teams. Intro to Fire Investigation is an 8- to 12-hour class that goes into more depth than the First Responder's Role class and can have a practical component if a burn structure is available. This class is intended for fire officers and staff that would assist a certified fire investigator (CFI) in the fire investigation process. If you are interested in having the Intro to Fire Investigation class in your area, please contact Kevin Mahle. The SFMD is very supportive of county investigation teams and will assist you as much as possible. But remember that the local DSFM Investigator needs to be part of the team to be effective.

Kevin continues to finalize the changes to the Fire Investigator Part 1 and Part 2 courses (formally the BCA classes or Basic/Advanced classes). The new curriculum for both classes have again been approved with the National Fire Academy as prerequisites to other advanced fire investigation training at NFA. Part 1 is now a 40-hour course and is taught from a textbook (Fire Investigator: Principles and Practices to NFPA 921 and 1033, 5<sup>th</sup> edition) that will be provided at the class. Fire Investigation Part 2 is similar to the prior Advanced class, and a copy of NFPA 921 and 1033 will be provided at this course. The Part 2 class will still include a fire scene examination and the written investigation report. These classes are intended for fire service and law enforcement staff that will be pursuing a career in fire investigations.

Law enforcement personnel will have to be licensed peace officers with at least five years of experience to register for these courses. Fire service personnel will be required to be a minimum of Firefighter II certified with a minimum of five years of fire service experience. The MN Fire Service Certification Board Fire Investigator written test will be the final written test for the Part 2 class. The cost for these courses will be \$100 per person to offset the cost of the textbook and NFPA manuals.

Although Kevin had hoped that these courses would be online this spring, he continues to work with Itasca County in hopes of getting the inaugural Fire Investigator Part 1 and Part 2 classes scheduled for early fall of 2018. Keep an eye on the class registration section of our website for the postings of these Fire Investigation Part 1 and Part 2 courses in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding our fire investigation team, please contact Chief Fire Investigator Jim Iammatteo at [james.iammatteo@state.mn.us](mailto:james.iammatteo@state.mn.us) and he will happy to assist in answering your questions.

### **Fire Service Specialists**

**NAFTD:** The SFMD is preparing to host the North American Fire Training Directors Conference (NAFTD), which will be held in Bloomington this year on September 25-26. Planning is moving along very well. Training providers are welcome to attend the sponsor show on September 25. If you would like to attend, please contact John Ehret at [john.ehret@state.mn.us](mailto:john.ehret@state.mn.us)



**Training props:** The SFMD has eight props available for use: five car fire/LP props and three vent props. The trailers and props are available for rent to all fire departments and training institutions in Minnesota if a member of your department/training institution has attended one of our “Train-the-Operator” sessions.

There is now an "SFMD Props" tab at the top of the [mbfte.org](http://mbfte.org) website that will bring you to an interactive map showing the location of all the SFMD training props, contact information to schedule renting of the trailers, along with rental requirements for the trailers. As the trailers are rented, the schedule for the trailers will also be posted on the MBFTE calendar. Departments will be able to see where the trailers are scheduled to be used and then they can contact that department if they would like to participate in the training. You can also contact your local training provider to bring the SFMD props to your department.



**Live burn facilities:** If you have a fixed live burn facility in your jurisdiction and have not already contacted us, please contact [tate.mills@state.mn.us](mailto:tate.mills@state.mn.us) with the name, location and contact info for the facility.

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG):** Fiscal year 2017 award announcements are underway and will continue for the next several weeks. If your department is awarded a grant this year and you have questions about how to best manage the grant award process, please reach out to one of the fire service specialists to assist you.

We are anticipating the fiscal year 2018 application period to be open sometime in October, so NOW is the time to start preparing your next application! If your application has been turned down this year or in years past, and you want to apply again this year, the fire service specialists are available to assist you with reviewing your application, including the narratives.

**Service Planning Grants and sharing services:** We are continuing to work with the six groups that were awarded funds for their varying projects. If you have any input and feedback, or if you would like to see the Service Planning Grant Program continue (with possible fiscal year 2020 funding), please let us know. You can email your comments, questions, and or concerns to FSS Tate Mills [tate.mills@state.mn.us](mailto:tate.mills@state.mn.us).

We continue to hear from fire departments with the desire to share services. If you have any questions or if you need more information on sharing services with your neighboring departments, contact one of the fire service specialists.

**OSHA:** Recently, we have been told by several fire departments in the state that MN OSHA has been making random standard compliance visits to local communities, including fire departments. The other category we have been hearing about is complaints being made requiring an OSHA visit. With the compliance visit, we have been hearing the top 15 common OSHA violations remain a priority (you can find a list of them on the [MBFTE website](http://mbfte.org)). Citations have been issued for turnout gear not in compliance with the 10-year-from-

manufacture-date rule and expired turnout gear that is stored in the fire department. We are continuing to work with MN OSHA to gain a better understanding of the recent compliance visits. Once we have a better picture, we will share the results.

Additionally, we have been working with the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association and MN OSHA to have MN OSHA provide an update at the fall MSFCA conference. More information to follow in the next several weeks.

MN OSHA has a consultation service. They can help you assure a safe work environment and avoid OSHA violations. For more information, contact MN OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation via [email](#) or phone: 800-657-3776.

**Staging Manager Program:** The purpose of the Staging Manager Program is twofold: meet the expectation of the Governor's Executive Order and meet the needs of local fire departments during large-scale incidents. The Governor's Executive Order 13-15 1930 has required the SFMD, upon request of the local fire chief, to support staging functions and the local incident commander as requested. The Staging Manager Program is not just for emergency situations; it can be used for non-emergency or pre-planned events as well.

We have SFMD employees strategically placed throughout the state ready to assist. Additionally, the fire service specialists are standing at the ready to assist you in support of your incident. The fire service specialists have substantial background and training to assist you during a large scale incident. We will not take over your incident; rather, we will offer you resources, guidance and support.

This past March, the Staging Manager Program team members met to review and implement some changes to the program, as well as conduct some table-top exercises in conjunction with the MN DNR. The table-top exercises went very well and the team felt confident to move forward with the program.

In July, the Staging Manager Team was invited to Cambridge to participate in an all-hazard drill for an active shooter and a 3 Echo response model. This was the ideal opportunity to exercise the team in a fast-moving training environment. We are proud to say that things went very well for the team, and they are confident in their abilities to assist local fire departments with any type of situation.

If you would like more information on the Staging Manager Program and how it can assist your department, contact one of the fire service specialists:

- Tate Mills FSS West [tate.mills@state.mn.us](mailto:tate.mills@state.mn.us)
- John Ehret FSS East [john.ehret@state.mn.us](mailto:john.ehret@state.mn.us)
- Jared Rozeboom FSS South [jared.rozeboom@state.mn.us](mailto:jared.rozeboom@state.mn.us)

### **USDA Funding Available for Public Safety Infrastructure and Equipment**

Did you know? USDA Rural Development is committed to the continued support of infrastructure and equipment for rural community facilities such as hospitals, clinics, public safety facilities, childcare facilities and much more. This includes fire emergency facilities, vehicles and corresponding equipment.

Low-interest loan and grant financing is available through the [Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program](#), which is currently accepting applications. Eligible applicants include public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, non-profits and tribal nations. Funds may be used for fire



hall construction/expansion/renovation, fire rescue vehicles, ambulance vehicles, storm warning systems and more.

For example, the City of Littlefork in Koochiching County recently received a community facilities direct loan of \$100,000 to help purchase a used fire rescue vehicle fully equipped with new tank, pumper and hoses. It replaces the current vehicle, which was originally purchased in 1975 and quickly approaching the end of its useful life. For more information on the community facilities program, contact your [local area office](#) or visit [www.rd.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mn).

### **School Inspection Team**

Our inspectors recently received their lists of assigned public school inspections for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), consisting of 482 school buildings that are due for inspection. The legislative mandate for the school inspection program began in 1990 due to concerns over the state's aging school building population and following two major schools fires in 1986 and 1987. Minnesota Statute 299F.47 requires the state fire marshal to develop a plan to inspect, each public school and public charter school once every three years throughout the state.

Local jurisdictions may conduct inspections under M.S. 299F.47 if they can provide documentation that they were conducting comprehensive school inspections during the three-year period prior the adoption of the statute. The current list of local jurisdictions conducting public school inspections include Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Duluth, Hastings, Hopkins, Maple Grove, North St. Paul, Owatonna, St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, White Bear Lake, and Woodbury.

There are approximately 1750 public school buildings throughout the state. The SFMD school team inspects approximately 1450 school buildings, while qualifying local jurisdictions inspect the remaining 300.

### **School fires**

Although it's rare these days to hear about a school fire in the media, the truth is a fire occurs somewhere in a Minnesota school every eight days on average. But the good news is, thanks in large part to the evolution and enforcement of fire and life safety codes, fires in school buildings typically result in minimal damage, and injuries are rare. A few examples of recent school fires:

- Fire involving materials on an unattended hot plate in a science lab
- Fire involving an industrial shop spray finishing booth and exhaust duct
- Fire within a wood shop dust collection system duct
- Fire involving a commercial clothes dryer (spontaneous combustion)
- Incendiary fire set in a school restroom

It should be noted that both the spray finishing booth fire and dust collection system fire were extinguished by fire sprinkler activation. The MN State Fire Code requires each of these hazardous operations to have fire sprinkler protection, and rightly so, as demonstrated in these cases. It's always great to see a sprinkler save!

### **Residential Team Update**

Thanks to all the extra efforts by each of the Residential Care and Lodging Team members, all of the required hotel inspections for fiscal year 2018 were completed on schedule with a few days to spare. This was a huge accomplishment in light of the fact the team was short-staffed the entire year.

In addition to its everyday inspection duties, the team also provided fire code training on Department of Human Services licensed facilities to 169 state, county and private licensors at six locations and to 26 fire inspectors at Camp Ripley. The training for fire inspectors held at Camp Ripley was a 1.5-day program that included half a day of hands-on inspection experience. The feedback on including the hands-on experience was very positive.

For the start of fiscal year 2019, the team is concentrating on adjusting hotel inspection schedules to even out the workload throughout the year, staying current with DHS inspections and training within the team to improve consistency. The team is also working with MDH on proposed lodging rules updates and DHS on daycare certification inspections.

### **Washer/Extractor and Dryer Program Request for Funding**

Since 2015, the first year of the Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor Program, the Department of Public Safety has awarded over \$500,000 to over 60 Minnesota fire departments for the purchase of turnout gear washers/extractors.

A good turnout gear decontamination program should also include equipment to quickly dry turnout gear after washing so that it can be more quickly put back into service. Turnout gear dryers can dry wet gear in four hours or less, as opposed to the much longer hang-dry method. Wet turnout gear is difficult to don and can cause steam burns to the wearer. Also, if the decontamination process (washing/drying) can be accomplished more quickly and efficiently, firefighters will be more likely to regularly clean their gear, thus leading to more healthy firefighters in the long-term.

Despite being more physically fit and healthier than the general population, both career and volunteer/paid-on-call firefighters experience cancer at higher rates than those in the communities they serve. Studies continue to show that firefighters are acutely exposed to known carcinogens during structure and other fires, and are continually exposed via turnout gear that is soiled due to exposure to toxic combustion byproducts.

Minnesota Professional Firefighters (MPFF) President Chris Parsons had a proposal for the Fire Service Advisory Committee (FSAC) at its June 6, 2018 meeting to renew the Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor Award Program for another year (fiscal year 2019) with a funding level of \$300,000 and create a new Turnout Gear Dryer Matching Award Program with a funding level of \$300,000.

If this funding is awarded in August 2018 by the FSAC, information on the programs will be sent to all Minnesota fire departments for them to review and apply for any available funding.

### **Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety**

The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) continues its year as it conducts inspections throughout the state of Minnesota. In addition to its annual inspections, MNOPS also participates in its own inspection by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). A PHMSA inspector travels to Minnesota for two separate inspections each year.

The first inspection, completed in early July, focused on MNOPS procedures and documentation of pipeline safety inspections and investigations conducted in 2017. The second round of inspections will occur in early August where the inspector will observe MNOPS inspectors out in the field as they perform annual inspections and audits. MNOPS aims for the highest scores available as they are linked to PHMSA funding used by the office to carry out inspections each year.

## **2018 Fire Fatalities**

2017 was a very tragic year for fire fatalities, with 68 in comparison to 43 for all of 2016. Once again in 2017, it appears careless smoking will be the leading cause of fire-related deaths in Minnesota. In 2018 through August 9, we have had 31 fire fatalities in comparison to 38 fatalities in 2017. Please continue to challenge your communities with your fire and life safety messages throughout the year.

With your help and persistence in presenting fire prevention education in your communities, we can make a difference in the number of fire fatalities each and every year. One fire fatality is too many in any community, and we ask that you please continue to keep fire prevention at the forefront with your citizens. Thank you for your continued support of the SFMD.

## **Public and Private Fire Training Providers**

I have added a piece in my Fire Marshal Update that I hope all the readers will enjoy: highlighting one of Minnesota's public or private training providers. This issue, I'm highlighting Scott Carriveau from Customized Fire Rescue Training, Inc.

Customized Fire Rescue Training, Inc. (CFRTI) is located in central Minnesota, just southeast of St. Cloud and west of Minneapolis. CFRTI provides high quality, challenging training to fire departments, law enforcement, EMS agencies, public health entities, hospitals and private industry. CFRTI is made up of a specifically selected team of more than 50 instructors who strive to customize the course to meet specified objectives. All instructors are certified Instructor 1 and have been on the MBFTE qualified instructor list. CFRTI staff are passionate about first responder safety and doing whatever they can to make sure our customers go home safely at the end of a call/shift. The foundation of our safety culture is "Through training, ordinary people can do extraordinary things by being masters of basic skills learned in hands-on training scenarios."

CFRTI challenges students with a fleet of mobile props available to be brought to your location at a reasonable price. Props include a 40-foot semi-trailer used for SCBA Confidence, RIT, Firefighter Survivability Prop, Class A Live Burn Trailer, Car Fire Prop, LP Gas Emergencies Prop, Roof Ventilation Prop, Forcible Entry Prop, Hazardous Material Operations Training Trailer, Large Tank HazMat and Confined Space Prop, and Mobile Command Simulation Software.

The lead instructor/training coordinator is Scott Carriveau, who has been involved in emergency response training since 2000 and a Minnesota firefighter since 1995. Carriveau has been ambulance director and training captain, and is currently assistant chief at Maple Lake Fire Department. He is a member of the MN IAAI, MSFCA, and has been an active instructor at FITOAM conferences. Scott's personal favorite classes to teach are live burns, anything with fire pumps and SCBA Confidence and Leadership Training.

CFRTI provides full courses in NFPA 1001 (FF1, HM Ops, FF2), Fire Apparatus Operator, Basic and Advanced Pumps, Officer 1 and 2, Instructor 1 and 2, Inspector 1, and has a course listing available on their [website](#). CFRTI has an experienced team for NFPA 1403 live burn in acquired structures and has extensive knowledge in fire pump instruction. If you don't see the class you would like on his list, let Scott know and he will create and customize one for you. Scott Carriveau can be reached at 320-980-5307, [zipscoot@lakedalelink.net](mailto:zipscoot@lakedalelink.net) or [scarriveau@gmail.com](mailto:scarriveau@gmail.com).

Each of the public and private fire training providers work very hard at providing educational emergency response training to the 780 fire departments across Minnesota. Training providers like Scott Carriveau always make sure safety is their top priority for our firefighters. Be Safe, Train Hard, Go Home!