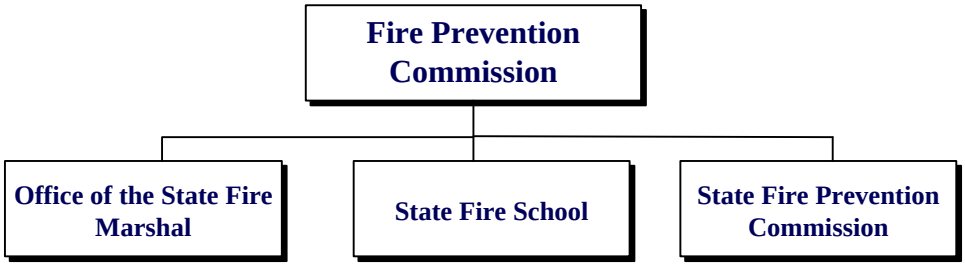
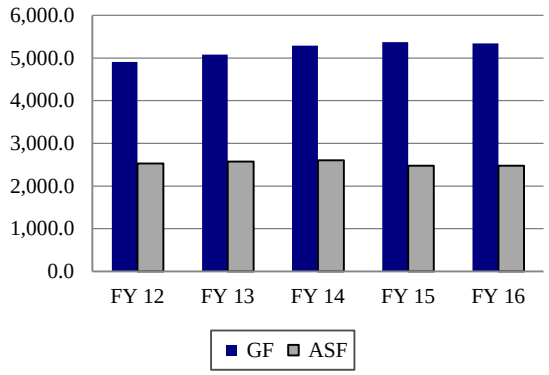
FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
75-00-00



Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	5,157.0	5,341.2	5,503.1
ASF	1,793.2	2,474.7	2,474.7
TOTAL	**6,950.2**	**7,815.9**	**7,977.8**

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	48.3	47.3	47.3
ASF	27.2	27.2	27.2
NSF	0.5	0.5	0.5
TOTAL	**76.0**	**75.0**	**75.0**

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
75-01-01

MISSION

To provide the residents of this State, and all who visit, a fire-safe environment in the home, workplace or wherever they pursue their varied lifestyles or interests.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Eliminate the loss of life and reduce injuries from the threat of fire or explosions by:
  - Suppressing arson;
  - Investigating all fire incidents to determine an accurate cause;
  - Providing thorough and complete supporting documentation of the investigation;
  - Pursuing, apprehending and convicting those responsible for arson and arson-related incidents;
  - Preventing and deterring international and domestic terrorist activities through the investigation of improvised explosive device incidents;
  - Teaming with federal, state and local authorities to communicate intelligence information gathered on investigations and passed through the Delaware Information and Analysis Center (DIAC);
  - Providing victim assistance in the aftermath of a fire; and
  - Disseminating findings to increase public awareness of fire and life safety issues.
- Maintain the highest levels of life safety in educational, health care, business, mercantile and institutional occupancies and places of assembly by:

  - Providing consistent, thorough and accurate compliance inspections and life safety surveys;
  - Attaining compliance with state fire prevention regulations through educational endeavors, inspection and survey programs and property conservation;
  - Providing technical assistance to achieve corrective action; and
  - Responding to the needs and inquiries of Delawareans by taking action on their complaints and inquiries within 48 hours.
- Provide timely and quality service in the Plan Review and Approval, Fire Protection Systems Certification, Licensing and Quality Assurance programs for fire protection systems by:
  - Providing complete, accurate and timely reviews of project submissions;
  - Providing assistance to clients for understanding the technical requirements of state fire prevention regulations required for their projects; and
  - Ensuring required fire protection systems are tested, inspected or maintained.
- Enhance the level of public awareness regarding fire prevention and life safety by:
  - Increasing public appearances and dissemination of fire safety information; and
  - Reducing the loss of life and property for all residents, with a special emphasis on individuals with disabilities and adolescents who play with matches, lighters or cause fires.
- Report, analyze and disseminate fire incident statistical data from the 61 fire departments in the State.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal operates under the direction of the State Fire Prevention Commission, which reports directly to the Governor. The office serves as the lead statewide investigative and law enforcement agency charged with investigating fire and explosion incidents and suppressing arson. State fire prevention regulations, as promulgated by the State Fire Prevention Commission, are the basis for the life safety inspections and property conservation surveys carried out by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Such inspections and surveys impact nearly all occupancies and buildings frequented by the public.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal provides regulatory control in the areas of explosives, fireworks, amusement rides, places of assembly, health care facility certification and a variety of hazards, such as flammable liquids and liquefied petroleum gases.

The Technical Services unit of the Office of the State Fire Marshal provides the Plan Review and Approval process for new construction, alterations and renovations of buildings. Such an approval is required prior to local building officials issuing a building permit. Certification and licensing of fire protection system vendors and contractors provide for quality control in the design, installation and operation of required fire protection systems.

In recent fiscal years, the following initiatives have been successfully completed or are in progress:

- Implemented an ongoing education campaign to ensure all residential occupancies have smoke alarms to enhance survival levels in the event of a fire;
- Provided for the installation of electric-powered smoke detectors with battery back-up to owner-occupied residential dwellings within Delaware for those homes that are not protected by a working smoke alarm, with priority given to homes with handicapped children, handicapped adults, infirm residents and residents 62 years-of-age and older;
- Monitored the installation of sprinkler systems in all student dormitories;
- Assisted in the passage of legislation to increase the penalty for exceeding the posted occupancy limit;
- Placed gas chromatography/mass spectrometry laboratory instruments in service at the Division of Forensic Science to permit the analysis of fire scene debris for all fire investigation and law enforcement agencies throughout Delaware;
- Implemented the e-Permit System to facilitate processing of data and recordkeeping in the Technical Services unit;
- Conducted the Fire Education and Arson Resistance program in eight Delaware middle schools;
- Implemented the False Fire Alarm Law to reduce the amount of false alarms fire departments are called to respond to; and
- Implemented the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes Program Law.

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FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	2,475.1	2,636.7	2,737.6
ASF	1,780.3	2,424.7	2,424.7
TOTAL	**4,255.4**	**5,061.4**	**5,162.3**

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	27.8	26.8	26.8
ASF	27.2	27.2	27.2
NSF	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL	**55.0**	**54.0**	**54.0**

ACTIVITIES

- Pursue, apprehend and convict those responsible for arsons.
- Enforce state fire prevention regulations.
- Provide consistent, thorough and accurate compliance inspections and life safety surveys.
- Attain compliance with state fire prevention regulations through educational endeavors, technical assistance, inspection and survey programs.
- Identify specific target occupancies for inspections and surveys with a fire incident history or special requirements with respect to life safety and property conservation.
- Conduct plan reviews and approvals for all buildings and structures undergoing construction, alteration or renovation to ensure compliance with nationally-recognized standards and practices relating to fire safety and property conservation.
- Assist municipal assistant state fire marshals in support of fire investigations and technical questions relative to state fire prevention regulations.
- Assist the chief officer of any fire department upon request.
- Ensure installation and maintenance of equipment intended for fire control, detection and extinguishment meets specifications.
- Assist all required occupancies and their owners in meeting compliance with the Smoke Alarm Law.
- Respond to all fatal fire incidents in the State with the Major Incident Response team to conduct a consistent and thorough approach to the investigation.
- Analyze the need for additions or amendments to state fire prevention regulations.
- Ensure Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System compliance with quarterly data submission requirements to the National Fire Incident Reporting System.
- Regulate safety in the storage, sale and use of any explosive, combustible or other dangerous article in solid, liquid or gas form.
- Administer the Amusement Ride Safety Act and False Fire Alarm program.
- Increase public awareness regarding fire prevention and life safety issues through the dissemination and delivery of life safety information at various statewide events.
- Serve on the following: Delaware Emergency Management Agency's (DEMA) Delaware Homeland Security Terrorism Preparedness Working Group; Board of Directors for DIAC; Commissioner on the State Emergency Response Commission; Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) - Joint Terrorism Task Force, Delaware Water Supply Coordinating Council and Board of Directors for the Delaware Burn Camp.
- Continue participation in statewide planning committees.
- Coordinate with the FBI, Delaware State Police and Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on explosive investigations and training activities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
% of fires cleared by arrest or apprehension	32	34	35
# of code violations cleared by re-inspection	2,226	2,500	2,750
Average turnaround time for full plan reviews (days)	10	10	9
Fire investigation caseload per deputy	46	48	50
Plan review caseload per fire protection specialist	366	380	400
Full plan reviews/ inspections:			
New Castle County	3,186	3,300	3,450
Kent County	673	700	725
Sussex County	2,620	2,750	2,900

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STATE FIRE SCHOOL
75-02-01

MISSION

The mission of the State Fire School is mandated by 16 Del. C. § 6613 to § 6618 and instructs the Delaware State Fire School to:

- Provide firefighters with needed professional instruction and training at a minimum cost to them and their employers;
- Develop new methods and practices of firefighting;
- Provide facilities for testing firefighting equipment;
- Disseminate information relative to fires, techniques of firefighting and other related subjects to all interested agencies and individuals throughout the State; and
- Undertake any project and engage in any activity that, in the opinion of the State Fire Prevention Commission, will serve to improve public safety.

On July 1, 1972, the State Fire Prevention Commission was given the mandate under 16 Del. C. § 6708 to § 6714 to regulate the ambulance service in Delaware. The commission assigned the State Fire School the duties of training and certifying ambulance personnel.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide firefighters, ambulance and rescue personnel with necessary professional instruction and training.
- Certify and re-certify Delaware emergency medical technicians.
- Provide agency, institutional and industrial personnel, as well as the general public, with necessary professional instruction and training.
- Provide fire and emergency medical services personnel with the necessary training to combat weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To more effectively manage the State Fire School's training and education program, services for specific target audiences have been identified, including firefighters, fire officers, ambulance and rescue personnel, state agencies, institutions, industrial personnel and the general public.

Since its inception in 1964, the State Fire School has been sensitive to the need for quality training and education in fire protection and places strong emphasis on improving the instructor development program for part-time personnel. Instructor candidates are trained in instructional methodology and to teach specific subject areas. Active instructors are cross-trained in high priority subject areas to help the school meet its program service demands, as well as improve the individual's professional ability. All instructors are required to attend improvement seminars as scheduled by the Fire School to maintain their certification.

Continued emphasis is placed on planning and evaluation. Existing courses of instruction are reviewed and revised to ensure their content is current and consistent with new concepts and techniques.

In addition to conducting the normally-scheduled activities and meetings and honoring special requests for programs and services, progress continues to be made toward improving program quality. Emphasis is placed on improving program management and cost-effectiveness.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	2,426.0	2,445.0	2,490.0
ASF	12.9	50.0	50.0
TOTAL	**2,438.9**	**2,495.0**	**2,540.0**

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	18.5	18.5	18.5
ASF	- -	- -	- -
NSF	0.5	0.5	0.5
TOTAL	**19.0**	**19.0**	**19.0**

ACTIVITIES

- Provide emergency medical personnel with the National Registry Emergency Technician Basic Course and refresher courses, as well as annual cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator certification and re-certification.
- Train, test and certify fire service personnel under the National Professional Qualification System.
- Partner with various industrial companies and other state organizations to provide national certification for specialty training.
- Continue the testing program for fire alarm/fire protection system installers as required by the State Fire Code.
- Provide continuing education training for public education and the fire service to implement fire safety education in grades K-6.
- Continue the National Incident Management System in conjunction with DEMA.

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- Maintain International Fire Service Accreditation Congress accreditation for curricula provided.
- Serve on the State Emergency Response team.
- Provide emergency medical responder training to fire fighters and emergency personnel statewide.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of programs	2,333	1,500	1,500
# of students:			
fire/rescue	8,316	10,000	10,000
emergency care	11,718	10,000	10,000
industry	1,167	1,000	1,000
hazardous materials technician program	699	400	400
fire safety-injury prevention	33,909	35,000	35,000
# of fire safety/injury prevention programs	211	250	250

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
75-03-01

MISSION

The mission of the State Fire Prevention Commission is mandated by 16 Del. C. c. 66 as follows:

- Promulgate, amend and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from hazards of fire and explosion;
- Appoint the State Fire Marshal and Fire School Director and have complete jurisdiction and management over the State Fire School;
- Authorize new fire companies or substations, resolve boundary and other disputes and prohibit cessation of necessary fire protection services;
- Ensure a high level of public safety for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion; and
- Oversee statewide basic life support ambulance service.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Promulgate, amend and repeal state fire prevention regulations, state fire service standards and state ambulance service regulations.
- Provide a direct liaison between state government, statewide volunteer fire service and statewide basic life support service.
- Inspect and license basic and advanced life support ambulances and facilities.
- Investigate and provide an appeals process for complaints regarding emergency medical technicians, emergency medical service providers, fire service and public complaints.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The State Fire Prevention Commission consists of seven members who serve without compensation and are responsible for developing the fire policy information base. The State Fire Marshal reviews state fire prevention regulations on an annual basis and reports findings and recommended changes to the commission. The regulations are reviewed and updated every three years. Effective July 1, 1995, live fire training and burn regulations were adopted by the commission. Effective July 30, 1997, state ambulance service regulations were adopted by the commission.

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FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	255.9	259.5	275.5
ASF	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL	**255.9**	**259.5**	**275.5**

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	2.0	2.0	2.0
ASF	- -	- -	- -
NSF	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**

ACTIVITIES

- Provide the link between the fire service and executive branch of government.
- Provide a technically competent code-making body.
- Implement statewide fire safety strategy and policy.
- Inspect and license ambulance units.
- Certify emergency medical technicians.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of hearings - public, appeal grievance	10	18	18
# of commission meetings	12	18	12
# of fire service functions	425	300	300
# of emergency service functions	110	75	75