

MARYLAND
STATE FIRE
PREVENTION
COMMISSION



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

FISCAL YEAR 2018
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

MSAR #2029
Commission No. SP-0156

IN MEMORY OF

RICHARD L. YINGER

October 13, 1941 ~ July 2, 2017



Commissioner Yinger was appointed to the State Fire Prevention Commission on January 23, 2009, and reappointed to his second term on August 13, 2013, by Governor Martin O'Malley. Up to the time of his passing, he attended 46 of the 51 meetings held throughout the State. Commissioner Yinger passed away July 2, 2017 and was unable to serve out his last year as a member of the Commission. He was a dedicated servant to the citizens of Maryland and he is missed greatly by his colleagues, family, and friends.

The State Fire Prevention Commission was established in 1964 and consists of nine (9) members appointed to a maximum of two five-year terms by the Secretary of the State Police, with the approval of the Governor in accordance with Public Safety Article Title 6-201. The following members served on the Commission in Fiscal Year 2018:

C. Daniel Davis, Jr. Chairman Term Expires June 30, 2020*	<i>Southern Maryland</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>
Joseph L. Scheffey Vice Chairman Term Expires June 30, 2022*	<i>Washington-Metropolitan</i> <i>Industry Representative</i>
Mark. A. Bilger Term Expires June 30, 2019	<i>Western Maryland</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>
K. C. Harrington Term Expired June 30, 2018*	<i>Eastern Shore</i> <i>Building Contractor</i>
Mark. F. Hubbard Term Expired June 30, 2017**	<i>Central Maryland</i> <i>Career Fire Company</i>
Edward S. Tochterman, Jr. Term Expires June 30, 2021	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Industry Representative</i>
Stacy N. Welch Term Expires June 30, 2022*	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Architect/Engineer</i>
Richard L. Yinger (deceased) Term Expired June 30, 2018*	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Volunteer Fire Company</i>
Vacant	<i>At-Large</i> <i>Member of the Public</i>

*Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

**Second term expired – Serving until replaced

The Fire Prevention Commission may be contacted as follows:
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Website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>
Secretary: Heidi Ritchie

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-204:

The Commission is mandated to hold a minimum of six regular meetings every year. A quorum was achieved at all meetings. Public meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted at the Commission’s website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>

FISCAL YEAR ATTENDANCE ROSTER						
MEETING DATES LOCATION & MEMBERS	8/17/17 Laurel	10/19/2017 Laurel	12/12/2017 LaPlata	2/15/2018 Annapolis	4/26/18 Laurel	6/19/18 Ocean City
BILGER	P	A	P	P	P	P
DAVIS	P	P	P	P	P	P
HARRINGTON	P	P	A	P	A	P
HUBBARD	P	A	A	A	A	A
SCHEFFEY	A	P	P	P	P	P
TOCHTERMAN	P	P	P	P	P	P
WELCH	A	P	P	P	P	P
YINGER	Mr. Yinger passed away July 2, 2017. A replacement for his position was not appointed in Fiscal Year 2018.					

P=Present A=Absent

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-501:

The Commission is empowered to hear appeals filed by a person who is aggrieved by an order or decision of the State Fire Marshal or his designee in the course of enforcing the State Fire Prevention Code. The following appeals were received in Fiscal Year 2018:

- Appeal 17-01 Miller Fire Protection, Brandywine, Prince George's County. The company appealed the Fire Marshal's decision to impose a one-year probation on its fire sprinkler contractor license. The appellant withdrew the appeal before it was heard.
- Appeal 18-01 Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick, Frederick County. The school is appealing the Fire Marshal's decision to require fire alarm text notification signs display within ten seconds. A hearing will be scheduled.

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-205:

The Commission is mandated to promote and conduct seminars, conferences, workshops and meetings at least once each year to inform the public and firefighting personnel of the latest techniques in fire prevention programs and procedures, life safety measures, changes in the State Fire Prevention Code, and developments in improved fire and life safety goals.

The Fire Prevention Commission co-sponsored the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference held September 26, 2017, in Laurel, Maryland. This annual conference offers a variety of safety oriented workshops presented by some of the nation’s leading fire and emergency services professionals. Approximately 250-300 persons attend this annual event, including several Commission members. Commissioner Mark Bilger served on the 2017 Conference Steering Committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-206:

The Commission is empowered to promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion and to hold public hearings pertaining to such regulations. Code of Maryland Regulations as promulgated by the Commission may be viewed at the Commission's website: <http://sfpc.mdsp.org>

- COMAR 29.06.05 Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Regulations
A public hearing was held February 15, 2018 on proposed amendments to clarify authorized work on specialized equipment associated with fire sprinkler systems and to allow for the electronic submission of plans and use of digital signatures. No public comments were received and the amendments were adopted effective May 7, 2018.
- COMAR 29.06.01 State Fire Prevention Code
With the publication of the 2018 editions of NFPA 1 Fire Code and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, the Commission delegated a committee to review changes in these national standards. Commissioners Stacy Welch and Edward Tochtermann served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other local fire and building code authorities. At its June 19, 2018, meeting the Commission unanimously voted to accept the committee's proposal to amend the regulations and proceed with the formal adoption process. A public hearing will be scheduled in the Fall of 2018 with an anticipated adoption date of January 1, 2019.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

At its October 19, 2017, meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to elect Commissioner Joseph Scheffey as Vice Chairman to replace outgoing Vice Chairman Mark Hubbard.

The Commission received and welcomed guests to various meetings throughout the year to remark on topics of interest in Maryland:

- College Park Fire Chief William Corrigan and Secretary Mat Chibbaro presented a report and overview of the Fuse 47 wood-frame high-rise apartment building fire that occurred on April 24, 2017. The five-alarm fire caused an estimated \$39 million in damage to the structure that was still under construction. The sprinkler system had not yet been placed in service. The National Fire Protection Association codes and standards, as adopted in Maryland, provide recommendations regarding fire safety in buildings under construction or demolition. This is a nationwide concern that is receiving much attention.
- To address fire and life safety concerns in existing non-sprinklered high-rise buildings, the Commission formed a workgroup to gather data and make recommendations as to whether, if any, legislative or regulatory action should be taken to require fire sprinklers or other fire protection features. Vice Chairman Scheffey, Commissioner Tochtermann, Chief Fire Protection Engineer Ken Bush with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Ron Wineholt with the Apartment and

Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington and Montgomery County Battalion Chief Matthew Kerrigan, and Joe Felton, Manager of Fire Prevention, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, are participating in the workgroup. Mr. Wineholt has also attended several Commission meetings to provide input.

- Craig Beyler, a Maryland resident and Chairman of the Fire and Explosion Investigation Subcommittee for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees, reported on efforts to develop a Science Advisory Workgroup in Maryland to improve some areas of fire and explosion. Mr. Beyler was accompanied at the Commission meeting by Doctor James Milke, professor and chairman of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering at the University of Maryland, and Patrick Marlatt, Associate Director at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. Mr. Beyler's organization has been reviewing how investigations are handled nationwide and how to improve forensic sciences through standardization, certification, and accreditation.

Throughout the year, Commission members attend and participate in a variety of activities and serve on committees involving fire prevention education, fire and emergency services, and code enforcement.

- **Maryland State Firemen's Association**
Chairman Davis and Commissioner Bilger serve on a variety of committees under the auspices of this association. The association membership is comprised of volunteer departments from throughout the State whose mission is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland. Several commission members attended and participated in the association's annual convention in Ocean City.
- **National Fire Protection Association**
Commissioner Stacy Welch serves as a member of the National Fire Protection Association's Board of Directors. NFPA board members are chosen from various disciplines and backgrounds and are elected based on experience in business, finance, or administration; respect of peers; respect as a member of the safety community; commitment to the Association's goals; and appreciation for the relationship NFPA must maintain with the changing needs of society. Commissioner Welch is Vice President of Fire Protection and Life Safety for Marriott International.
- **Maryland Society of Professional Engineers**
Vice Chairman Joseph Scheffey serves on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers. The organization is tasked with advancing and promoting the public health, safety and welfare through developing professional concepts and continuing competence among engineers.