



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

MSAR #2029
Commission No. SP-0156

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 2020:

Edward S. Tochterman, Jr. Chairman Term Expires June 30, 2026	At-Large Industry Representative
Kevin J. Simmons Vice Chairman Term Expires June 30, 2022	Central Maryland Career Fire Company
Douglas C. Alexander Term Expires June 30, 2023	Western Maryland Volunteer Fire Company
Mark A. Bilger Term Expires June 30, 2024*	At-Large Volunteer Fire Company
Emily K. Devan Term Expires June 30, 2024*	At-Large Member of Public
Michael R. Faust Term Expires June 30, 2022	Eastern Shore Industry Representative
Randy E. Sanger, II Term Expires June 30, 2023	At-Large Building Contractor
Daniel J. Stevens Term Expires June 30, 2025	Southern Maryland Volunteer Fire Company
Stacy N. Welch Term Expires June 30, 2022*	Washington-Metro Architect/Engineer

Commissioner Sanger replaced Commissioner K.C. Harrington on February 15, 2021.
Commissioner Stevens replaced Commissioner Charles D. Davis on September 24, 2020.

*Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

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	8/20/20 Annapolis	10/15/2020 Annapolis	12/10/20 Virtual	2/18/21 Virtual	4/15/21 Annapolis	6/17/21 Annapolis
ALEXANDER	A	P	P	P	P	P
BILGER	P	P	P	P	P	P
DAVIS	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DEVAN	P	A	P	P	P	P
FAUST	P	A	P	P	A	A
HARRINGTON	A	A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SANGER	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P
SIMMONS	P	P	P	P	P	P
STEVENS	N/A	P	P	P	P	P
TOCHTERMAN	P	P	P	P	P	P
WELCH	P	P	A	P	P	P

P=Present A=Absent N/A Not Appointed

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. No new appeals were filed in Fiscal Year 2021.

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 29.06.01 State Fire Prevention Code

With the publication of the 2021 editions of *NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 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 Tochterman served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and other local fire and building code authorities. Office of the State Fire Marshal Chief Fire Protection Engineer Kenneth Bush presented the committee’s proposal for amendments to the Commission at its June 17, 2021. The Commission will review the proposal and vote whether to proceed with the adoption process at its August 19, 2021 meeting.

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.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the 2020 conference was cancelled. This is the first time in the sixty-one year history of the conference that it had to be cancelled.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

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, fire and explosive investigation, and code enforcement:

- Maryland State Firemen's Association
Commissioners Alexander, Bilger, and Faust participate in activities or serve on a variety of committees under the auspices of this association. Commissioners Bilger and Faust are Past Presidents of the 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.
- 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 Rehabilitation Code Advisory Council
Commissioner Tochterman represents the Commission on this council. The council encourages private investment in existing buildings by streamlining the code requirements for rehabilitation work in buildings older than one year.
- Fire and Explosive Investigation Advisory Workgroup
Commissioner Alexander represents the Commission on this workgroup. The group consists of representatives associated with various public and private fire/explosive investigation agencies and organizations, forensic experts, and fire/explosive investigation instructors. The group is tasked with reviewing developments in fire/explosive training/certification standards, advancements in forensic sciences and investigative techniques, and conducting peer reviews of selected fire/explosive investigations and reports to identify areas which can be improved.

