



# ANNUAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

**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 2022:

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

\* Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

\*\* Reappointment to second term pending

\*\*\* Second Term Expired – Will serve until replaced

Chairman Tochterman was re-appointed to his second term July 15, 2021, and the Commission unanimously voted to re-elect him to continue serving as Chairman.

Commissioner Welch's second term expired June 30, 2022. She will continue to serve until replaced. At the June 21, 2022, meeting Commissioner Welch was recognized for her service and presented a Governor's Proclamation signed by Governor Larry Hogan thanking her for her service.

The Fire Prevention Commission may be contacted as follows:  
 Maryland State Police/Western Operations Center  
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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>

<b>FISCAL YEAR ATTENDANCE ROSTER</b>						
<b>MEETING DATES LOCATION &amp; MEMBERS</b>	<b>8/19/21 Mt. Airy</b>	<b>10/21/21 Odenton</b>	<b>12/16/21 Pikesville</b>	<b>2/17/22 Aberdeen</b>	<b>4/21/22 Glen Burnie</b>	<b>6/21/22 Ocean City</b>
ALEXANDER	P	P	P	P	P	P
BILGER	P	P	P	P	P	A
DEVAN	P	A	P	P	P	A
FAUST	A	A	P	P	P	P
SANGER	P	P	P	P	P	P
SIMMONS	P	P	P	P	P	P
STEVENS	A	P	P	P	P	P
TOCHTERMAN	P	P	P	P	P	P
WELCH	P	P	P	P	P	P

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. Three appeals were received in Fiscal Year 2022.

All three pertained to a change in use from single-family dwellings to lodging and rooming houses in Garrett County. The appellants appealed the requirements to comply with NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2018 edition) Chapter 26 for lodging and rooming houses, mainly the installation of a residential sprinkler system and a fire alarm system. All three appellants withdrew their appeals prior to the scheduled hearings.

**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 Tochtermann served on the committee along with members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and approximately 25 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 reviewed the proposal and voted to proceed with the adoption process at its August 19, 2021 meeting. The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on May 6, 2022. As of June 6, 2022, only one public comment was received regarding elevator disconnect means. A public hearing is scheduled for August 18, 2022.

### **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 and the normal venue not being open for rental, the September 29, 2021, Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference was held virtually with 159 persons attending. The Commission co-sponsors the event along with several other organizations. This conference offers a variety of fire and life safety oriented workshops presented by some of the nation's leading fire and emergency services professionals.

Commissioner Mark Bilger serves as the Chairman of the Conference Steering Committee.

### **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, Faust, and Stevens 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.

#### Public Information Act Request

The Commission received a Public Information Act request from the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA). The Association requested all documents pertaining to the High-Rise Safety Task Force, the Commission's actions pertaining to high-rise structures, and the Commission's vote to designate all non-sprinklered residential high-rise structures as an inimical hazard. The High-Rise Safety Task Force included former Vice Chairman Joseph Scheffey, Chairman Tochterman, Chief State Fire Protection Engineer Ken Bush, Ron Weinholt representing the AOBA, Montgomery County Battalion Chief Matthew Carrigan, and Joseph Felton representing the Montgomery County Division of Building Construction. Montgomery County has many non-sprinklered high-rise structures. The Commission received the Task Force's report but took no further action.

Effective July 1, 1974 Maryland law required all newly constructed high-rise buildings to be sprinklered. There are numerous existing high-rise buildings that were constructed prior to this law. The 2021 edition of *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code* will require all non-sprinklered high-rise structures to be sprinklered by 2033. The 2021 edition of *NFPA 1 Fire Code* will require all non-sprinklered high-rise structures to post signs at all entrances indicating no sprinkler protection is present. The Commission provided the requested records at a cost of \$1,296.00.

#### Line-Item Budget Expenses

The Commission requested Maryland State Police Secretary Woodrow W. Jones provide the Commission with line-item budget funding, which he granted. The Commission was requested to track its expenses on a quarterly basis. The expenses do not include secretarial staff or general office supplies as those expenses are incurred as part of the State Fire Marshal's budget. The Commission's Secretary is an employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal who operates out of the Western Regional Office.

Total expenses for Fiscal Year 2022 totaled \$4,935.30. This included travel/meal expenses for members, miscellaneous purchases, court stenographer services, and postage.

### Frequency of Inspections and Fire Safety Inspectors

During the course of the year the Commission discussed the need to develop minimum fire prevention inspection frequencies for various types of occupancies in existing buildings. After discussions with the State Fire Marshal and his staff, it was felt ten additional inspectors would be needed. The State Fire Marshal requested these additional inspectors in his budget request and the Commission sent a letter to Maryland State Police Secretary Woodrow W. Jones supporting his request. To date the new inspector positions have not been approved.

### Awards

Commissioner Douglas C. Alexander was inducted into the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association's Hall of Fame. Inductees are recognized for their distinguished service to their communities and lifelong dedication to the fire service. Commissioner Alexander is a member of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company and has been active in fire and emergency services throughout his life.

Commissioner Daniel J. Stevens was awarded the Maryland State Firemen's Association's Russell E. Strickland Memorial Award for his lifetime service in the area of fire service personnel training and qualifications. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated professionalism in the field of fire service certification. Commissioner Stevens serves on the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board.

## **IN MEMORY**

*Charles D. "Danny" Davis, Jr.*

*March 3, 2022*

Commissioner Davis was appointed to the Commission on August 25, 2010, and served until September 24, 2020. He was Vice Chairman from February 21, 2013, to August 21, 2014, and Chairman from August 21, 2014, to October 24, 2019.

