

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 1997-2
SIX-MONTH REPORT – FY 2001**

Fire Investigation and Education and Training

Prepared by

**Fire Marshal Division
Department of State Police**

Submitted to

**Members of the Senate and House Subcommittees on State Police
As required by Sec. 301 of 2000 PA 269**

May 1, 2001

Executive Order

Executive Order 1997-2 transferred certain responsibilities to the Department of Consumer and Industry Services and the Department of Environmental Quality, as follows:

Department of Consumer and Industry Services:

- Plan review and fire safety inspection functions.
- Fire inspector certification and training.
- Fire alarm and fire suppression system installation, documentation, and certification.
- Fire extinguishing compound use and approval.
- Hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- The State Fire Safety Board.

Department of Environmental Quality:

- Above Ground Storage Tank program.
- Inspection of dry cleaning establishments.

All other responsibilities of the **Fire Marshal Division** were retained, including but not limited to:

- Fire investigation
- Public education
- Fire incident reporting
- Imminent hazard abatement
- Training and education
- The Michigan Insured Fire Loss Reporting System
- Explosives permits
- Fireworks
- Fire investigation training to locals, and
- The Fire Fighters Training Council.

Requirement for Report

This report was prepared pursuant to the directive of Act 269 of the Public Acts of 2000 (Michigan State Police Budget Act), specifically Section 301, which reads as follows:

Sec.301. (1) The department shall prepare a detailed report and deliver it to the Senate and House subcommittees on the State Police not later than May 15, 2001.

(2) The report shall contain input from a delegate appointed from and by the following organizations:

- (a) Michigan Fire Chiefs Association.

- (b) Michigan State Fireman's Association.
- (c) Michigan Firefighter's Union.
- (d) Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association.
- (e) Michigan Fire Inspectors Society.
- (f) Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

(3) The report shall contain information about the quality and adequacy of service from the State Fire Investigation, education, and training under the reorganization of the Fire Marshal Division responsibilities. The report shall be based on the performance of the Fire Marshal Division in the performance of its fire safety duties during the first 6 months of fiscal year 2000-2001.

Process

A letter was directed to the head of each of the organizations identified in the budget act ([sample attached](#)). The letter was sent April 2, 2001, and requested that comments be directed to our office no later than April 20, 2001.

The letter requested information regarding the services provided by the Fire Marshal Division following full implementation of Executive Order 1997-2. The letter contained the text of the budget act requirement for the report, as well as an explanation that "reorganization" refers to the reorganization which took place October 1, 1997.

Comments Received

A written response was received from each of the six organizations identified in the statute. [Copies of their responses are attached.](#)

All six responses indicated satisfaction with the current operations of the Fire Marshal Division. Two made suggestions for our consideration, as follows:

Suggestion #1: From the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs – "We must continue efforts to develop a better working relationship between the MAFC and the State Fire Marshal. We should improve lines of communication between the fire chiefs and the Fire Marshal Division regarding legislative issues that affect the fire service. We should also attempt to broaden understanding of the needs and concerns of the fire chiefs at the local level and the Fire Marshal at the state level. While both are working to improve fire safety for Michigan citizens, the focus is different and, at times, seems to be at odds."

Response #1: The Fire Marshal Division has recognized the need for better communication between agencies, associations, and other entities that have a bearing on the functionality and effectiveness of the fire service in Michigan. To this end, in September 2000, our office published a paper on the issue calling for closer coordination and cooperation so the Michigan fire service could speak with "One Voice." We followed up with a discussion group on this issue in early November 2000. As a result, the Michigan fire service is now well on the way to planning a jointly sponsored and operated

“Michigan Fire Service Expo.” All statewide fire associations, and many related agencies, are involved in this effort. The stated purpose of the “Expo” is to “. . . encourage personal growth by providing quality training and educational programs, introduce the latest technologies, provide networking opportunities, and encourage professional excellence through improved communication, cooperation, and coordination.”

The Fire Marshal Division also provides staff support to the Joint Fire Service Council. This organization consists of statewide fire service agencies and regional associations of fire chiefs and has, as its sole function, the dissemination of information regarding legislation and legislative issues. As a part of this support, Fire Marshal Division staff distribute copies of all bills affecting the fire service to members of the Council and also maintain a database listing of all related legislation. Copies of the database are distributed to members and posted on the Fire Marshal Division website www.mspsfmd.org.

Suggestion #2: From the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association – “In the past year, our association has continued to see the efficiency of the Fire Fighters Training Council staff improve as they get the ‘bugs’ worked out with the new computerization system. We feel that as they are able to increase their staff, some of the new ideas/programs will become reality. One of the programs the MFSIA is pushing is creating the need for the certified instructors to acquire continuing education points to keep their certification.”

“The FFTC staff has also finished and implemented two new programs this last year, Fire Officer I/II and Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness, which is a positive for the fire service. Although we feel that within the available curriculum there are many programs that need updating as well as new areas that need programs developed, it would be impossible to complete unless new staff is added.”

Response #2: We agree with the comments of the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association. The fire service is constantly changing and becoming more technical as our world becomes more technical. It is critical that we assure instructors have current information to provide the highest quality training to those who respond to emergencies. Failure to provide up-to-date training, testing, and certification for responding emergency services personnel can have catastrophic consequences. A certification and continuing education program for instructors is a good way to make this happen.

The issue of a changing world impacts curriculum as well as instruction. As the MFSIA notes, curriculum must be updated more and more frequently and additional courses developed as new hazards appear and the scope of responsibility of the modern fire service expands.

The FY 2001 budget contains funding and FTE authorization for positions that are necessary to meet the educational needs of the fire service as described by the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association. However, these positions are currently vacant.

Fire Marshal Programs

Following is information regarding each of the specific programs for which the Fire Marshal Division is responsible:

Fire Investigation:

- The Fire Marshal Division has 19 investigators and four supervisors operating from 18 locations across the state.
- Investigators conduct origin and cause investigations of fires, related follow-up, and fire related fraud investigations. They respond to hazardous materials incidents and requests for imminent hazard abatement and conduct training in arson awareness for local fire departments.
- An “Arson Tipline” is administered by Fire Marshal Division headquarters staff and information is forwarded to the proper investigating agency.

Public Education:

The Fire Marshal Division has adopted an aggressive Public Fire Education strategy to guide its efforts. Implementation of the strategy is based on information, guidance, and support provided by a Public Fire Education Advisory Committee made up of members of local fire departments around the state. Key implementation points include:

- An elementary school public fire safety education curriculum, established as a baseline program, designed to be usable at little or no cost by any fire department in any size community in Michigan.
- Public education information published in *Fire TIES*, the monthly newsletter of the Fire Marshal Division and Fire Fighters Training Council.
- Displays of public education materials and information at fire association meetings.
- News releases regarding fire safety at holidays, Fire Prevention Week, Arson Prevention Week, and dates of significant events.
- Promotion of nationally recognized safety programs.
- Distribution of a minimal number of pamphlets and brochures.
- Support of a fire module for Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring (T.E.A.M.), a program managed by the Prevention Services Section of our Special Operations Division.
- Issuance of educational bulletins for the public and fire service on problematic topics.
- Support of a website containing the above information and other useful items.

Fire Incident Reporting:

- Michigan’s 1,079 fire departments are required to report their activity to the Fire Marshal Division.

- Michigan was the first state to implement and go on-line with the new National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a state-of-the-art, internet-based, data collection system.
- The data is used to identify trends in fire causes which can be used in education efforts, for investigative purposes, and as the basis for change in standards, codes, and statutes.

Imminent Hazard Abatement:

The Fire Marshal Division continues to work with local fire departments in dealing with situations which exceed resources locally available.

Training and Education:

- *Fire TIES* is published monthly. This newsletter is primarily for the fire service and is distributed to every fire department in the state.
- The Fire Marshal Division maintains an Internet website at www.mspfmd.org. The site contains valuable information for the fire service.
- The Fire Marshal Division is the Michigan distribution agency for the *North American Emergency Response Guidebook* which is carried in every police, fire, and emergency medical vehicle in the state. The book provides detailed initial instructions to be taken in a hazardous materials incident.

The Michigan Insured Fire Loss Reporting System:

- Data on insured fire losses is entered into the system and will be used primarily in the identification of arson-related fraud.
- The data will be compared to the National Fire Incident Reporting System as a crosscheck on suspicious fires.

Explosives Permits:

- The Fire Marshal Division maintains a database of all explosives permits issued in the state.
- This database has been used by many law enforcement agencies in the investigation of incidents such as the Oklahoma City bombing.

Fireworks:

- Fire Marshal Division investigators play key roles in the investigation of fireworks incidents.
- Work continues on a proposed revision of the Fireworks Law, 1931 PA 328, as amended.

- Videotapes and articles update law enforcement agencies on recognition of legal and illegal fireworks and permits. Standards for public display have been developed and distributed.

Fire Investigation Training to Locals:

Provides the following training programs to local police and fire investigators on an on-going basis:

- 80-hour Basic Fire Investigation (2 schools annually) – this program is nationally accredited.
- 40-hour Advanced Fire Investigation.
- 32-hour Vehicle Fire Investigation.
- 40-hour Follow-up school.
- 40-hour Arson School (joint w/Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators).
- 32-hour Mobile Homes school (joint with Michigan Arson Prevention Committee).
- 40-hour Prosecutors school (joint with Michigan Arson Prevention Committee).

Fire Fighters Training Council:

The Fire Fighters Training Council received additional funding and staffing authorization in FY 2001 to bring its operation into compliance with statutory obligations. The downturn in the economy and the resulting hiring and spending freeze has delayed implementation.

The Council's staff is responsible to serve the training needs of the state's more than 31,000 fire fighters and 1,079 departments by providing the following services:

- Prepare and publish advisory standards for the selection of fire fighters.
- Prepare and publish training standards.
- Establish instructor qualifications and certification.
- Establish courses of study.
- Evaluate instructors and schools.
- Develop and administer certification examinations for new fire fighters.
- Establish regional training centers to assist departments with training.
- Cooperate with state, federal, and local fire agencies for training of fire fighters.
- Issue certificates of training and maintain individual records.

FMD

Attachments (six fire association input letters)



April 20, 2001

Captain Edmund K. Burke
State Fire Marshal
Michigan Department of State Police
7150 Harris Dr.
Lansing, MI 48913

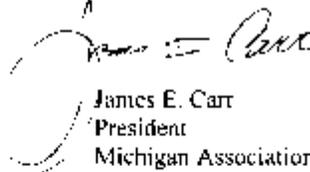
Dear Captain Burke:

You have requested input from the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) on the quality and adequacy of service from Fire Marshal Division in fire investigation, education and training from October 2000 to March 2001. Discussions with the MAFC Board of Directors and other fire chiefs indicate that fire investigations have been more timely in the past year; quality has been as good as or better than in the past; and fire investigators have been responsive to the chiefs' needs.

The Fire Fighter Training Council continues to develop helpful, new programs, such as the Clandestine Drug Lab course. Classes and certificates have been timely. The opening of a regional office in Grand Rapids has been helpful.

We must continue efforts to develop a better working relationship between the MAFC and the State Fire Marshal. We should improve lines of communication between the fire chiefs and the Fire Marshal Division regarding legislative issues that affect the fire service. We should also attempt to broaden understanding of the needs and concerns of the fire chiefs at the local level and the Fire Marshal at the state level. While both are working to improve fire safety for Michigan citizens, the focus is different and, at times, seems to be at odds.

Sincerely,



James E. Carr
President
Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs





President
FELDEHICK, A. KEMPSKI
Michigan State Police
Taw Paw

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West Bloomfield

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Madigan State Police
Richmond

DYRON C. TURNER, Sr.
West Bloomfield F.O.
West Bloomfield

DAVID L. LUTHER
Southfield F.O.
Southfield

HOBNEY C. WOODS
State Farm Ins.
Pontiac

CHAPTER #5

Chartered
April 23, 1963

2000-2001

May 1, 2001

Edmund K. Burke, Captain
Michigan State Police-Fire Marshal Division
7150 Harris Drive
Lansing, Michigan 48913

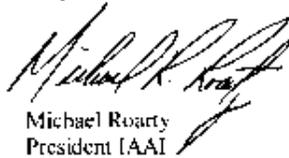
Dear Captain Burke,

On behalf of the International Association of Arson Investigators-Michigan Chapter, I am pleased to report to the Michigan State Legislature about the exceptional performance of your division during this past year.

The dedication and commitment of your division to suppress arson in the State of Michigan has been at the very least exemplary. The division's leadership efforts exemplify exceptional service and continues to serve as an excellent example to us all.

Thank you for this opportunity to report on the progress of the Fire Marshal Division. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully:


Michael Roarty
President IAAI

Edmund K. Burke, Captain

Michigan State Police

7150 Harris Drive



Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

P.O. Box 194 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004

Edmund K. Burke, Captain
Michigan Department of State Police
Fire Marshal Division
7150 Harris Drive
Lansing, Michigan 48913

May 2, 2001

Dear Captain Burke:

On behalf of the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society I commend your agency for the high level of service and professionalism given to our organization as well as the fire service in general. Your dedication and commitment, as well as those on you staff, to providing the best in leadership assistance and customer service is excellent.

Last year when we responded to the review of Fire Marshal Division activities the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society felt there was a need to place more importance on Public Fire Education and indicated this to you. As a result you responded immediately and formed a Public Fire Education Committee to begin working on a statewide program. We would like to commend you for this fast action and look forward to our continued participation and support.

If at any time the Executive Board of the MFIS or it's membership can be of assistance to you please feel free to contact us.

Congratulation and a "Job Well Done."

Yours in fire safety,

Ronald R. Farr
Secretary/Treasure
Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

c. David Uutinen, President



International Fire Marshals Association Chapter 1





Michigan Professional FIRE FIGHTERS UNION

Paul Hufnagel
President

9397 Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
1.800.886.7338 fax 1.800.454.1757

Terrence H. Chesney
Secretary-Treasurer

www.mpffu.org

April 11, 2001

Edmund K. Burke, Captain
State Fire Marshal
7130 Harris Drive
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Captain Burke:

On behalf of the 5,000 + members of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union, we are pleased to report that the members of our organization are very pleased with the performance and services of the Fire Marshal Division of the Michigan State Police.

The Fire Service is fortunate to have such a superior group of skilled employees working in the Fire Marshal Division. It is our opinion that they consistently deliver their services in a very professional manner and are obviously exceptionally knowledgeable in all subject matters that they are responsible for.

Our organization remains grateful and appreciative for the many opportunities you continue to provide to us for input to you and the rest of the FMD.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Paul Hufnagel

Terrence H. Chesney



Affiliations: International Association of Fire Fighters, Michigan State AFL CIO

1-800-886-7338

Michigan State Firemen's Association

2000-2001 OFFICERS

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President

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April 19, 2001

Vice Presidents

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Captain Edmund K. Burke
Michigan State Fire Marshal

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Captain Burke,

GEORGE I. SCAMGER
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As President of the Michigan State Firemen's Association it is my responsibility to provide a response to your question on the "How is the Fire Marshal's Division Doing"? This covers the areas of fire investigation, education, and training. Most of my responses will be based on my personal interaction with members of the Fire Marshal's Division with some input from other members of the MSFA Executive Board and general membership.

Directors

CLIFF A. BOATWRIGHT
131 N. Hwy 50B
Sedroon, MI 49824
Res: 231 544-8002
Fax: 231 544-6610

I have seen what I believe to be an increase in the use of the FM division for fire investigations by the local fire departments. Without question the fire departments in my local area have been very happy with the services provided.

DENNIS IRELAND
49953 1st Mile Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48394
Res: 248 349 0267

From those that I have spoken with in other areas I am hearing the same. I do believe that this is, at least in part, due to the de-centralization of the investigators.

DENNIS H. O'BRIEN
715 Michigan Avenue
Orinador, MI 49753
Res: 989 684-2980

They are more accessible and have also been able to work with the local departments and area fire associations. The cooperative attitude has fostered an improved working relationship and improved understanding of the needs of each group.

Past President

GERALD M. CHANCELLOR
1024 N. Huron Street
P.O. Box 129
Lansing, MI 48210-0129
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The fire marshal's division has been working hard on providing additional education. The fire departments are becoming more familiar with the resources that are provided and I feel that there will be increased demand for information and programs. I have had the chance to see what they have been doing through the schools with various programs and the efforts of the field investigators.

Secretary/Treasurer/Editor

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Training is an area where the fire marshal's division is most visible to many of the fire service. Programs targeted at the fire fighters have been improved during the last year. The Fire Fighters Training Council has adopted several new programs, the new Fire Officer Programs being most notable. The amount and quality of the programs continues to be among the best in the country.

FFTC Representative

MICHAEL J. BURKE
5714 W. Gansswey Road
Lapeer, MI 49849
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Fax: 810 528-2640

In summation I believe that the State Fire Marshal's Office has been working very hard to meet the needs of the state fire service. The entire division has continually strived to provide programs and services in a professional manner. The fire service is benefiting from the hard work of the individuals and through the direction, coordination, and vision provided by yourself and the division.

NVFC Representative

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MICHIGAN FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

April 23, 2001

Captain Edmund Burke
Fire Marshal Division
7150 Harris Drive
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Captain Burke,

As President of the Michigan Fire Service Instructor's Association, I will try to express the opinions of our Board as to "How the Fire Marshal Division is doing", as you have requested.

In the past year, our association has continued to see the efficiency of the Fire Fighters Training Council staff improve as they get the "bugs" worked out with the new computerization system. We feel that as they are able to increase their staff, some of the new ideas / programs will become reality. One of these programs the MFSIA is pushing is creating the need for the Certified Instructors to acquire continuing education points to keep their certification.

The FFTC staff has also finished and implemented two new programs this last year, Fire Officer I/II and Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness, which is a positive for the fire service. Although we feel that within the available curriculum there are many programs that need updating as well as new areas that need programs developed, it would be impossible to complete unless new staff is added.

Finally, our Board has been fully supportive and active in the planning of the Fire Service Conference, which was initiated by your office. It appears that this may be a positive step towards speaking with "one voice", which we support.

If you wish to discuss any of these items or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at 616.530.7252.

Sincerely,

Robert C Austin
President - MFSIA

