



FIRE MARSHAL 101

NOBODY TAUGHT ME ALL THIS!!



PANEL INTRODUCTION

PANEL MEMBERS

- RANDY CRIM
- MIKE GARCIA
- MIKE MONTGOMERY
- RON PRAY

MODERATORS

- LAURIE L. CHRISTENSEN
- JIMMIE MILES



Brief Background – 3-5 Minutes Each

- Panel Members
 - RANDY CRIM – Fire Marshal City of Lake Jackson Texas
 - MIKE GARCIA – Fire Marshal City of Rosenberg Texas
 - MIKE MONTGOMERY – Fire Marshal Harris County Texas
 - RON PRAY – Fire Marshal Victoria County Texas
- MODERATORS
 - LAURIE L. CHRISTENSEN – Assistant Chief Harris County Fire Marshal's Office
 - JIMMIE MILES – Fire Marshal City of Shenandoah



How this Class was Designed

- We have been asked the last two years to put something together that details what being a fire marshal is
- Instead of lecturing over specifics we chose a panel discussion so that **YOU** the audience could participate and take away the specific knowledge needed to enhance skills to take back to your jurisdiction
- This is the first time it has been taught in panel format:
 - Moderators will ask the questions on the screen
 - Moderators will take questions from the audience about the topic
 - At the end there will be a final Q&A session as time warrants



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Should be qualified in appropriate levels consistent with the job duties

- NFPA 1037 certification and requirements
- NFPA 1035 (Public Fire And Life Safety Educator)
- NFPA 1033 (Fire Investigator)
- NFPA 1031 (Fire Inspector/Plans Examiner)



Kickoff Question

- Why did you want to take this job in the first place?!!



Where does your authority come from? LGC and/or ordinances

- Municipal
- County
- Why is this important to know if you are pursuing a Fire Marshal position?



Certifications

- Do you have to be TCFP certified as Head of Department?
 - What responsibilities come with that?
- Do you have to be TCLEOSE certified?



Planning

- Strategic Planning - why it matters
- Setting the structure of your organization
- How far out should you plan as an agency?



Certification Audits

- Texas Fire Commission on Fire Protection
 - What is the greatest risk you have if audited by TCFP?
 - What is your responsibility if you are or are not the Chief Administrator?
 - With the new online system evolving what concerns do you have regarding regulations?
 - How are the roles between county and municipal different when complying with TCFP?



Certification Audits

- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education
 - What is the greatest risk you have if audited by TCLEOSE?
 - What is your responsibility if you are or are not the Chief Administrator?
 - How difficult is it to obtain TCLEOSE training for your department?
 - If you report to another law enforcement agency what concerns should you have for yourself and staff regarding compliance?



Certification Audits

- Department of Public Safety
 - Do you know your responsibilities with TCIC/NCIC
- Are there any other audit agencies you have dealt with?



Budget

- Factors
 - If you have never created one where do you start?
 - How do you prepare for future economic impact?
 - What if your budget is rolled up under another department or division? Do you have any control?



Budget Cont.

- Citizens are more concerned about crime than fire threat, how do you ask for additional money in your budget?
- What is the special requirement of LGC 233 fire code funds?



Politics

- What are the appointed differences between municipal and county?
 - Expectations of elected officials
 - How do you meet goals of them individually?
 - What do you need to know for political settings?



More on Politics

- How do you match idealistic expectations with:
 - Fiscal reality
 - Staffing reality
 - Political reality
- Direct Reports such as Fire Chief, Commissioners, etc. How often and how should you communicate?
 - Frequency
 - Communication methods
 - Support from staff



Financial Audit Responsibility

- LEOSE Fund (discussion of how you manage it) OCCUPATIONS CODE TITLE 10 CHAPTER 1701. SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS Sec. 1701.156.
- Seized Asset (discussion of how you manage it) CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE TITLE 1. CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CHAPTER 59. FORFEITURE OF CONTRABAND
- Various Grant Funding – does anybody ever really check?



NFPA Standard 1037

- What is your familiarization with it?
- How important is it to know about this standard?
- Do you expect to see an increase in education or certification knowledge in the near future to be a Fire Marshal?
- How important is it to have policies and procedures or as some call SOP/SOG's for your agency?



NFPA 921 and 1033

- It will be discussed at various times throughout this conference in other settings, but are you doing anything in your agency right now to address this topic?



Duplicated Services

- Is there any function your office performs that is also performed in another department within your jurisdiction?
- What function do you perform that you would expect should be handled by another?
- How do you prepare to “do it all?”



Recommended Approach

- Liaisons:
 - Fire department personnel
 - Law Enforcement – Police/Sheriff
 - City Attorney, local District Attorney
 - Environmental Health Department
 - Local Fire Marshals



Recommended Approach

- Service Groups
 - Fire Alarm/Suppression Designers and Contractors
 - Architects and Design Professionals
 - Local Schools
 - Local Businesses
- Local Groups
 - Chamber, Lions, Rotary, Optimist, any service group



What Areas Require Additional Attention based on Risk

- Inspections
- Investigation/Arson
- Suppression
- Hazmat
- Others



Updates

- How important is legislative update monitoring?
- When should you update your fire code?
- Is the impact on other groups important?
- ISO, should you keep up with it?



Top Ten Every Fire Marshal Should Know

1. You have an unpopular position in City/County Government – You are seen as an enforcer of codes
2. Know who your boss is
3. Know who your boss works for
4. Who is backing your decisions as FM?
5. Does City Council back your decisions?



Top Ten Every Fire Marshal Should Know

6. Are businesses against or agreeable to inspections?
7. Does your City/County Attorney support you?
8. Does your boss know what your job is?
9. Does City Council know what your job is?
10. What are your enforcement powers?



Resources

www.collegeforalltexas.com

Firefighters Taking Fire Science Courses

[College for all Texans LE Exemption](#)
**Exemption for Peace Officers Enrolled in
Law Enforcement or
Criminal Justice Courses**



Resources

NEW! Fire Marshal's Handbook, 1st Edition

Authored by Tim Bradley

Susi Baker

New Business Development Manager for Texas

* Fire * EMS * Government *

Delmar /Cengage Learning

10650 Toebben Drive

Independence, Ky 41051

Toll Free 1-800-513-1046 Ext 5725 (o) 859.282.5725 | (f)859.525.5392 |

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Fire Website: <http://www.cengage.com/community/fire>

EMS Website: www.cengage.com/community/EMS



Resources

National Fire Protection Association

www.nfpa.org

[NFPA 1037](#)



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Development

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