



# FLORIDA DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*THE DESIRE TO SERVE – THE COURAGE TO ACT – THE ABILITY TO PERFORM*

**FLORIDA DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
REPRESENTING CFO ALEX SINK**

## From The Desk of Director Julius Halas

30 April 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Director Julius Halas

### One Florida State Fire Marshal Bureau Receives Accreditation & One Earns Re-Accreditation

I write this letter with great honor to inform you that during the month of February, 2010 the Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) received two prestigious accreditations for two different Bureaus. On Wednesday, February 3, 2010, the SFM's Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) received the prominent honor of full accreditation status from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The BFAI qualified for the highly prized recognition of law enforcement excellence after meeting 260 standards of professionalism designed specifically for Florida law enforcement agencies. CFO Sink attended the accreditation ceremony in Stuart along with Director Julius Halas and commended Bureau Chief John Corbett and Accreditation Manager Captain Janet Hartman for this outstanding achievement.



This privilege demonstrates the hard work and professionalism of my BFAI investigators, as they join the ranks of top law enforcement agencies in Florida. My team works diligently with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies everyday in an effort to keep Floridians safe while investigating crimes of arson. This mark of distinction is well deserved! I am very proud of the excellent work and commitment of the members of BFAI who earned what was

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#### STATE FIRE MARSHAL

<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/>

#### Bureau of Fire and Arson

[http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfai/bfai\\_index.htm](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfai/bfai_index.htm)

#### Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosive Analysis

[http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/ab/BFEA\\_index.htm](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/ab/BFEA_index.htm)

#### Bureau of Fire Prevention

[http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM/bfpr/bfpr\\_index.htm](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM/bfpr/bfpr_index.htm)

#### Bureau of Fire Standards and Training

[http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM/bfst/bfst\\_index.htm](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM/bfst/bfst_index.htm)

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## Two Florida State Fire Marshal Bureau's Receive Accreditation (cont'd)

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considered to be a “flawless” site visit of both headquarters and the field offices as expressed personally by one of the Accreditation Commission members, Julie Jones, Executive Director of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The BFAI is now the only stand-alone fire investigative unit in the country to be law enforcement accredited.

One week earlier, we proudly announced the re-accreditation of the SFM's Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (the Florida State Fire College) by the Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualification System; international fire service organization who accredits recipients that use the nationally recognized and approved fire standards, predominately the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) professional qualification standards. I am thrilled to see the hard work and dedication of the members of the Florida State Fire College who develop such quality Fire Service training programs that resulted in earning Pro Board accreditation of twenty-two of our programs offerings. The Pro Board fully accredited 22 programs within the State Fire College.



*Left to right: Fire College Chief Barry Baker, Director Julius Halas and Assistant Director Jeff Merritt*

I would like to thank State Fire College Chief Barry Baker and staff for professionalism displayed throughout this process. I am very proud of the many men and women who were involved in making the accreditation and re-accreditation a success. Because we have such an exceptional staff, we are able to provide students with professional, comprehensive and consistent emergency responder training – an essential element in ensuring the citizens and visitors of Florida receive the best possible emergency care available. Pro Board accreditation is a giant step in achieving that goal.

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## From the Office of Assistant Director Jeff Merritt

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*Assistant Director Jeff Merritt*

### State Fire Marshal Staff Applauded for Their Efforts During the Florida Fire Chiefs Associations' Annual Fire-Rescue East Summit

During the 2010 Annual Fire-Rescue East Summit, Florida's State Fire Marshal Alex Sink, Director Julius Halas, and many SFM staff members were in attendance to participate in the various programs being offered and to make presentations to the attendees on a variety of fire-related issues.

I am very proud of our SFM Fire College staff who made presentations to over 100 attendees on various topics to including: Fire Risk Safety Training, Incident Safety Officer Train-the-Trainer, and Labor and Management Issues Facing

Florida's Fire Service.

During the Summit, Director Halas addressed the members of the Florida Emergency Service Coalition, newly formed to bring leadership together from Florida's fire service associations (Florida Fire Chief's Association and Florida Professional Firefighters), along with legislative members and corporate leaders of fire equipment manufacturers and distributors. The Coalition will serve as an avenue to increase fire awareness and

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# Leadership Messages and Notes

## State Fire Marshal Staff Applauded for Their Efforts During the Florida Fire Chiefs Associations' Annual Fire-Rescue East Summit (cont'd)

operational issues affecting Florida's fire service on the local and statewide level, while promoting solutions through information sharing among the members.

CFO Alex Sink's proposed legislation for the upcoming session was discussed including "doing what it takes to preserve and protect the budget of the fire and arson safety initiatives, emphasizing the importance of continued training and being equipped with the proper tools." CFO Sink is also in full support of seeking federal grant dollars for public safety initiatives and to make full use of all the means available to get the job done accurately and safely. Other proposals include "clean up" language for the SFM's bill for training, state standards, arson and fire prevention issues. For more information on the Fire-Rescue East Summit visit the Florida Fire Chief's Association website at [www.ffca.org](http://www.ffca.org).



## Chief John Corbett, Bureau of Fire & Arson Investigations



Bureau Chief John Corbett

### New Leadership and Investigator Academies Prove to be Beneficial

Now that the accreditation process has been completed, the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) has been focused on collaborating with the Division of Insurance Fraud to present the Department of Financial Services Leadership Academy and the New Investigator Academy. The Leadership Academy was held February 8- 12, 2010, and the New Investigator Academy will conclude on May 28, 2010. This mutual effort by BFAI and DIF, is the first time the two have worked together to create a combined training academy class. The goal behind this joint effort was not only to work more efficiently during a tight budget year by hosting one class instead of two, but also to provide a more cohesive environment that allows for the attendee's to learn more about each others duties and responsibilities and, when appropriate, combine similar efforts to produce more efficient investigative tools and strategies. Working together will result in higher achievement levels in training and investigating arson and insurance fraud crimes.

Across the State of Florida many members of BFAI and DIF already work together as members of the same task forces. These task forces provide our staff with many benefits that include the sharing and understanding of each group's unique background, perspective, and investigative approach. Having a team of diverse expertise allows individuals to bring their special talents and knowledge to the table which can become the key to solving arson and fraud investigations. Although we are broken down into different divisions and bureaus, we all serve the common goal of protecting and educating the citizens and visitors of Florida. It is my intent that these collaborative efforts will continue. As Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

## Leadership Messages and Notes

### Chief Jim Goodloe, Bureau of Fire Prevention



Bureau Chief James Goodloe

#### Fire Safety: Taken for Granted

Have you ever been in a large residential or commercial building during a thunderstorm when there was a power failure? Did you notice that the paths to the exits were illuminated and that doors were marked in a way to lead you out of the building? These are just a few of the many fire protection features required in Florida's building environment to enhance public safety. This comprehensive set of fire safety standards is based on the same premise that will be used to direct emergency egress from buildings during a fire emergency. The fire safety features that we encounter each day, many without even noticing, are required to be installed, maintained and must continually pass rigorous performance testing under the watchful eye of local and state fire officials.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention is beginning its final quarter of inspections for this fiscal year. Florida Statute mandates fire safety inspections of each high hazard state-owned structure every year. Each room or area of the nearly 8,000 structures is physically evaluated by direct observation during these inspections. The Bureau is charged by the State to provide inspection services to its internal and external customers. The Bureau has successfully met this charge each year and is on target to accomplish this task in fiscal year 2009/2010.

The Inspection Section, staffed by 43 professional and 6 administrative personnel, must provide the entire line of field services required to support the Bureau's programs. As our customers work and/or visit the thousands of public and private buildings each day, dozens of fire protection features have been designed to provide safety against fires to each structure. The men and women of the Bureau's Inspection Section are here to ensure that these features perform as intended, in the unlikely event of a fire emergency.

### Chief Carl Chasteen, Bureau of Forensic Fire & Explosive Analysis

This spring the BFFEA is completing the home stretch for achieving accreditation. To meet these rigid requirements the Bureau has revised and re-written almost all of its standards and must continue to review and update its processes. We ask that our customers access the current version of the form posted in the Bureau's "*GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION, PACKAGING, SUBMISSION AND ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE*" available at (<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM>).

Be certain to print both your name and provide a signature in the chain-of-custody section. We have found some courts where this is being seen as an essential item. The new form also has a place for your email address. This not only allows us to contact you readily if we have a question, but in the near future will allow us to send an Adobe.pdf copy of your case report directly to you. We are piloting this process the week of March 22. As always, if you have comments or questions about our services or performance, please feel free to contact me.



Bureau Chief, Carl Chasteen

# Leadership Messages and Notes

## Chief Barry Baker, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training



Bureau Chief, Barry Baker

### Customer Service Top Priority for Your Training, Standards and Firefighter Safety Needs

The Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (BFST) has been working hard to improve it's services to you and we hop you have noticed a changes! Whether it's a phone call to one of our dedicated staff, a purchase from the book store or meeting a team member at the front desk – BFST is committed to exceeding your expectations. Collectively our team is the custodian of this great institution for you – our customers. Whether you need assistance from me or from one of my great team members, our standard of service is clear – to exceed your expectations!

We are pleased to announce our recently received accreditation from Pro Board. A prestigious accomplishment, achieving Pro Board accreditation recognizes that we have met the rigors of review by an independent organization that uses the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) professional qualification needs. Professionalism has long been a goal achieved by members of Florida's fire service and we are proud that an independent review validates we meet the national standards of training and certification. To date, we've achieved recognition in seven NFPA Professional Qualifications including 25 professional certifications.



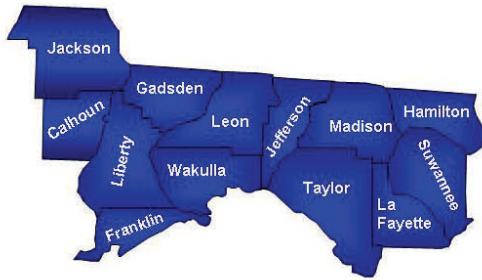
In another area, we are focusing on enhancements to the Florida State Fire College dormitories. As of today, half of the student dormitories have been updated. New carpeting has been installed, rooms have a fresh coat of paint and new furniture is in place. We want our students who elect to stay on campus, appreciate the living quarters while training and studying.

When visitors arrive at the Fire College it doesn't take long to notice the designation of our new property we've acquired immediately south of the campus. This 50 acre site is the future home of Florida's Fire College. We have already taken the first step in making this acreage our new site by submitting a federal appropriations request. If approved, these funds will be used for the early site planning and development for the 50 acres.

Our vision is clear – to develop a world class, multi-discipline training institute that fulfills the needs of our customers and staff. We have already held meetings with our constituency groups to insure the future facility meets the long term needs of our clients and I look forward to providing you with an update on the changes very soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (352) 369-2800.

# Bureau of Fire & Arson Investigations

## NORTH REGION NEWS



### REIMINDER: ACCIDENTAL FIRES CAN CAUSE POSE HIDDEN DANGERS

By Captain Joseph Steadman

In March of this year, several fire departments were dispatched to a mobile home fire in rural Jackson County. Upon the arrival in the first unit, heavy fire was found to be coming from the living room area of the home. After an aggressive attack, the fire was contained to the living room and immediately adjacent bedroom and kitchen.

During search and overhaul operations, items consistent with those used during illicit drug manufacturing were found in the rear of the home. Firefighters withdrew from the home and requested that personnel from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations respond to the scene. Based on the information provided to BFAI by the firefighters on the scene, the Jackson County Drug Task Force was requested to respond for possible abatement.

The fire scene investigation revealed that the cause of the fire was accidental, resulting from an electrical failure in the living room. However, it was confirmed that hardware and precursors necessary for the production of Methamphetamine were present in the home as well.

Though the residents were not “cooking” at the time of the fire, this incident should serve as a reminder to both fire suppression and investigative personnel that in addition to the hazards that are normally present in structure fires, there is the ever present danger that could exist as the result of items in the home being used for criminal activity. Personnel should always remember to use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. The life you save may be your own.

### Meth Scourge Goes By Many Names; All Define Human Misery

By Captain Gloria Whitehurst, Northwest Region

They call it different names such as Meth, Ice, Crank, Crystal, White Cross, White Crutch, and Blue Belly, but don't be fooled; all these terms describe methamphetamine—a highly addictive and sometimes deadly, illegal drug whose manufacturing process endangers not only those making the drug but can also hurt innocent people who may be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Chief John Corbett of the Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) wants you to help us keep these crimes out of your neighborhood and away from your children. In order to do so, you must make a conscious effort to know your neighbors and surrounding areas.



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# Bureau of Fire & Arson Investigations

## Meth Scourge Goes By Many Names; All Define Human Misery (*cont'd*)

Not long ago, making meth required a makeshift lab, cooking over an open flame, combining powerful chemicals, solvents and hundreds of pills sold over the counter at pharmacies. This process created a danger of fire and explosion and gave off such an awful odor, forcing meth makers and labs to often be based in rural areas to reduce the risk of detection.

To combat this problem, in 2005, anti-meth laws were adopted in Florida and across the nation that placed restrictions on the quantity of decongestant containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine that could be purchased. Part of the law included tracking the identity of the purchaser.

In response to the new laws and restrictions, meth manufacturers and users quickly found a new formula for making the drug. People are now making meth simply by combing a handful of cold medicine pills along with some household chemicals into a plastic bottle that they shake. The batches made are smaller, however the process to make the drug is faster and cheaper. This simple process produces one of our country's most addictive drugs.

The effects and dangers of methamphetamine use are well-documented. What is not commonly known, however, is the danger that is involved in the meth-making process. The chemical reaction is very volatile and explosions and fires can occur during the process; damaging property and injuring people.

“We have had too many cases where innocent bystanders have been severely burned when the illegal concoction erupted, causing flames to shoot out of the bottle,” Chief Corbett said.

The indicators of meth use may include dilated pupils, sweating, dry mouth, rapid pulse, irritability, hallucinations, and grinding of teeth. Users may also have sores on their arms from scratching at imaginary bugs during their hallucinations.

The Bureau's mission is “To Effectively Prevent, Discourage, Investigate, and Prosecute Arson and Arson-Related Crimes for the Protection of Florida Citizens and Their Property.” The Bureau's detectives and supervisors, under the supervision of Chief Corbett, have received top-notch education and training in the meth-making process and are working closely with the local law enforcement and fire service agencies to combat this dangerous problem. “Our focus is to make sure that any fire suspected to be caused by a meth-making activity is aggressively investigated in order to include the appropriate drug charges to the arrest warrants when we make an arson related arrest,” Corbett said.

Anyone with information about suspected meth-making activity is asked to call their local law enforcement office. If you have information about any intentionally set fire, please call the ARSON TIP HOTLINE at 1-877-NO-ARSON or 1-877-662-7766.



Common Meth Lab Components

# Bureau of Forensic Fire & Explosives Analysis

## Get To Know Your Arson Lab and Services

*By Elizabeth Kamerick, Forensic Technologist*

We are often asked about our capabilities at the laboratory. Our primary mission is testing for the presence of ignitable liquids. Most of our services are more fully explained in the Bureau's "*GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION, PACKAGING, SUBMISSION AND ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE*" available at (<http://www.myfloridacfo.com/SFM>).

When we report on the presence of ignitable liquids in fire debris evidence, positive reports will state the class of ignitable liquid as described in the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard method for fire debris analysis. The ignitable liquid classes that we report are: gasoline, petroleum distillates, isoparaffinic products, aromatic products, naphthenic-paraffinic products, normal-alkane products and oxygenated products (mostly alcohols and acetone). If these names aren't familiar or clear to you, don't panic! If you call the laboratory, our analysts will be happy to discuss the findings with you and discuss examples of the various products that fall into the particular class named on your report. You can also find a listing of examples of these products and the class they belong to in the appendices of the "*GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION, PACKAGING, SUBMISSION AND ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE*".

We use the ASTM system because commercial marketers sell the same refinery product under many different product labels. For example, most charcoal lighter fluids are the same composition and are indistinguishable from many paint thinners. Likewise, Cutex® nail polish remover is reported as an oxygenated product" because its primary ingredient is acetone which is the same regardless of the product in which it is mixed. Most ignitable liquid classes have multiple uses as commercial products and chemical testing will never be able to tell us what words were on a product's label. If you have a specific product for comparison, we need a sample of it. A name from a label is not enough because marketers often change the formulation of a commercial product when a cheaper alternative is available without changing the label.

We also do not specify that gasoline is from a particular brand or has a particular octane rating. Most gasoline products have nearly the same formulations. The subtle differences are usually obscured by: weathering by fire or evaporation, contaminants introduced by the debris, or the mixing of commercial brands in underground storage tanks (one refinery may supply a station that does not share its brand name). For extremely heavy products such as motor oil or vegetable oil our processes do not routinely pull them out. We need to be alerted if you suspected them so we can employ alternate procedures. Even then, a conclusive identification may not be possible.

We occasionally get questions about extra analysis of the burned debris. We will do what we can to help, but we do not identify the type of wood in debris. Identification of plastic or wax in a sample is generic and can only name the primary constituent (polystyrene, polyester, nylon, paraffin wax, for example). It is rarely possible to tell you what an item was before it was burned to debris. For explosives analysis, we are geared toward identifying low explosives such as black powder, smokeless powder, and fireworks. These are the most common items that are available.

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# Bureau of Forensic Fire & Explosives Analysis

## Get To Know Your Arson Lab and Services... (cont'd)

High explosives such as C4 and dynamite can be determined by the laboratory, but these are not as readily available to the public. Chemical Reaction Bombs or pop bottle bombs are routinely analyzed by the laboratory for the residues remaining in them. The absolute rule you must follow for any explosives testing is that all devices must be rendered safe prior to delivering to the lab.



Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis

For a short time, the Bureau screened items for latent print examination. We found that our efforts were being duplicated by FDLE when they worked on items submitted for comparison. As a result, we stopped screening for latent prints, and recommend they be sent directly to FLDE or another local laboratory for analysis.

Testing for chemicals used in methamphetamine production is a fast growing area of our services. The chemicals of concern are typically organic solvents that we can identify using the same methods as we do for ignitable liquids or inorganic chemicals that we identify using the same analytical tools as we use in explosives identification. We will not test for the presence of drugs and ask that no drug product be submitted. The laboratory can identify most of the non-drug chemicals involved in the various manufacturing methods for methamphetamine including acetone, light petroleum distillate (petroleum ether), iodine, red phosphorus, and strong bases like sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide. The packaging and shipping requirements for meth lab evidence is very stringent so please call for guidelines before submission.

The Bureau also works with video tapes from security, surveillance, or other video sources to extract information. They are often formatted to show multiple camera views on the same screen or to switch views every second. This makes it difficult to review. We can separate these images into a stream from only one camera at a time correcting and stabilizing the images. We can remove background noise from audio. However, we are often limited by the quality of the camera used to capture the images and the quality/resolution of the media on which the information is recorded. Please remember, that every time you replay an original, its quality will diminish.

We are frequently asked for assistance with non-routine testing and are willing to consider each request. Each case must be discussed with an analyst and pre-approved by the Bureau Chief. Some of the special tests we have conducted in the past include things like testing for the presence of bleach or antifreeze, testing the metal composition of a pan, identifying common acids or bases, and testing materials for flammability or corrosivity. We have also been involved with experiments involving assessing how a cadaver burns, Chinese Drywall effects on copper wire and smoke alarms, and temperature monitoring during burns.

There are many tests that we can't perform because we do not have the staff or appropriate equipment. Most are forensic tests performed by FDLE. These include toxicology, drug testing, Gun Shot Residue analysis, DNA analysis, Latent Prints, and impression comparisons (toolmarks, ballistics, tiremarks, or footwear). If you need these tests we will be happy work with you to find a laboratory that can perform the testing. Always feel free to call us with your questions; we are here to help you!

# Bureau of Fire Standards & Training

## Eye Injury Prevention

*By: Charles Brush*

Are eye injuries an accident, a pre-meditated act, or the loss of a bet with fate? How many times at home and on the job have you needlessly placed your ability to see on the line by not using eye protection? It is one thing when you unknowingly place yourself in jeopardy; it is another when you do it on purpose. When you, or one of the troops, go under a rig to do or check something, perform tasks overhead or do anything that causes the little voice to say “you should have safety glasses on”, you are betting your vision that you can get away with it. If the bet is lost, you and others pay in terms of dollars, pain, quality of life, and in many cases, a career.

Of the 80,000 firefighter injuries annually, 4,000 are eye injuries with an annual direct and indirect cost of about 18 million dollars per year. Of the 4,000 injuries, 3,600 were avoidable. With these numbers, the question becomes, why don't folks utilize eye protection?

With the magic of eye injury prevention being the use of eye protection, what prevents this magic from occurring? Let's look at the components of an eye injury prevention system. From arduous study and observation, the components seem to be:

### **Culture - User - Devices - Availability - Cost**



**Culture** – Fire service safety and risk managers are fighting a culture of risk taking compounded by the need to look cool, look the part, and never display weakness. Using eye protection reduces the potential for eye injury by 90% so make sure to use eye protection! Take the time to discuss eye protection safety with your safety committee to identify areas, procedures and situations that eye protection should be worn?

**User** – Users want style, ease of use and the knowledge that their eye protection will add, rather than detract from their appearance. Some users wear glasses and may not be willing to trade vision for protection. Finally, if eye protection is not dealt with as an important issue, serious bodily damage can occur.

**Devices** - While there is the normal plethora of standards for one issue (NFPA 1971, NFPA 1500, Federal OSHA Standards 29 CFR), all point to American National Standards Institute, Eye and Face Protection Standard Z87.1 or ANSI Z87.1. To be sure of compliance, eye protection devices should be marked “Z87” or “Z87+” (the + indicates impact resistance).

Per Z87.1, All eye protection is broken down into two types:

- **Primary Protectors** - Devices that can be worn alone or with a secondary protector.
- **Secondary Protectors** – Devices worn only with a primary protector.

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# Bureau of Fire Standards & Training

## Eye Injury Protection ... (cont'd)

Armed with this information we now revisit some familiar, if not well used eye protection:



- **Goggles / Safety Spectacles with sideshields** – Primary protector devices that shield the eyes by fitting to the skin around the eyes. They may also be used in conjunction with secondary protectors.
- **Faceshields** - Secondary protector devices that protect (only if used) the eyes and some or all of the face. They must be used with a primary protector because while the faceshield will protect from impact, it will not protect against particulate.
- **SCBA mask** – Per NFPA 1500 and OSHA, if the regulator is attached, it is primary protection, if not and there is direct access to the face through the regulator port, it does not qualify as eye protection.

**Availability** – Eye protection is readily available and in condition for use without much fuss. Availability is useless if the protection is such that its appearance, cleanliness, fit and distortions cause them to be ignored rather than used. The best method of ensuring availability is issuing them, having spares and having face shields to compliment them for use with equipment determined to require such protection.

**Cost** – If eye protection were used, rather than worn like decoration or ignored, the cost savings would be about 16 million dollars annually plus reduced workers compensation insurance costs.

**To prevent eye injury use protection , have a plan and enforce it.**

- Establish a mandatory program.
- Have your safety committee or safety coordinator identifying areas that may present eye hazards.
- Select protective eyewear designed for the specific hazard.
- Have the eyewear properly fitted to each firefighter.
- Reinforce the use of protective eyewear by making it part of all training procedures.
- Those that wear glasses or contacts can get glasses that meet the requirements of safety spectacles and can be worn with SCBA. (The value of this type as opposed to SCBA mounted glasses is that when the mask comes off, the vision remains.)

The loss of vision is bad, partial loss of vision is worse. It takes about three years to adjust when one goes from binocular to monocular vision. The adjustment time frame is age dependent; the older you are, the longer it takes. The process involves “rebooting” the brain to interpret vision (see) in a new way. Should one lose partial vision in an eye, the adjustment process becomes much longer and may never occur.

While this information is directed to the on-the job aspects of eye protection, it is equally applicable at home, in sports and for those you care for.

For information about eye injuries, go to: <http://www.aaopt.org/aaopt/patients/eyemd/injury.cfm>

Stay safe and See safe.

# Awards and Accolades



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## Law Enforcement Investigators Academy Commander Tammy White Receives Recognition for Innovation, Dedication and Commitment to Excellence

**Captain Tammy White** developed an eight week academy to train newly hired employees to be investigators for the Divisions of State Fire Marshal, Insurance Fraud and Workers' Insurance Compensation. This academy increases the Department's hiring pool by eliminating the required three years of law enforcement experience and replaces it with job specific training to properly prepare new investigators.

Through months of planning and organizing she obtained more than 50 instructors, coordinating nearly 80 full and part-time students; arranged for over 1,600 dorm room nights, and approximately 3,500 meals; ordered and issued class uniforms, and notebooks; and coordinated every class hour for the entire eight weeks of training. She planned every detail from the opening ceremony to class graduation.

This program successfully graduated 14 new investigators who have made significant contributions to the department.

Congratulations to Captain White on a job well done!

## Honorable Mention to Boiler Safety Program

On Friday March 19, 2010, Florida TaxWatch announced the Boiler Safety Program (BSP), within the SFM's Division of Fire Prevention, received Honorable Mention in the 2010 Prudential – Davis Productivity Awards program competition. **BSP staff members Kevin Burke, John Norman, Neil Mathews, Carlos Suescun, Veronica Baxter, Patsy McConnell, Nancy Goodson and Michael Burns** were recognized for streamlining the boiler inspection and billing processes.

Their efforts included shortening of inspection report processing from about three months backlog to 2 days decreasing the number of duplicated inspections performed by special and deputy inspectors. This translated into decreasing overdue inspections from 2,538 in April 2008 to 1083 in September 2009. Concurrently, identification of code deficiencies also increased from 5% to 12% bringing it inline with the national average. These improvements in the section's quality and service delivery help further the State Fire Marshal's mission of reducing the loss of life and property to fire and other disasters statewide through loss prevention.

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### We're On the Web !!!

[http://www.myfloridacfo.com/  
sfm/index.htm](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/index.htm)

### Mission Statement

*“To reduce the loss of life and property to fire and other disasters statewide through internal and external leadership, standards and training, prevention and education, and fire and arson investigation.”*

The Division of State Fire Marshal is located within the Department of Financial Services, where Alex Sink not only serves as Florida’s Chief Financial Officer but also as Florida’s State Fire Marshal.

The Division of State Fire Marshal is dedicated to providing the highest quality services to all of our customers, from local fire departments who request our assistance with conducting fire investigations to citizens who want to attend one of the finest fire training colleges in the state. Our Headquarters is located in Tallahassee, Florida; however, we have numerous field offices located across the state to help us serve our customers better.

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## Report Arson—Earn Up To \$2,500



*In cooperation with the Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention*

**Call Anonymously 1-877-662-7766**