

GALLAGHER PRESENTS 2005 FIRE SERVICE AWARDS *Fire and Arson Investigator Named Detective of the Year*

Detective Juan Bailey of the Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations, was among 10 fire, rescue and emergency management service personnel honored today by State Fire Marshal Tom Gallagher for exemplary leadership last year in the line of duty. Gallagher



presented proclamations signed by Governor Jeb Bush and other members of the Cabinet recognizing their outstanding commitment to protecting the people and property of Florida. This week is designated by the Cabinet as Florida Firefighter Appreciation Week.

“In the aftermath of back-to-back hurricanes and the threat of man-made disasters, in addition to daily duties of responding to fires, these individuals have valiantly responded to the needs of the people of Florida,” Gallagher said. “On behalf of the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the people of Florida, we give them and all who wear an emergency responder uniform our heartfelt thanks for their service.”

Bailey was named Fire Investigator of the Year and was nominated by the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association. He has served with the State Fire Marshal’s Office since 2000 and is a senior detective in the Orlando office. In 2005, he led the office in arson-related arrests. He also serves as a public information officer for the region.

The Cabinet-signed proclamation states that “his investigations were persistent and thorough, utilizing great judgment in police work tempered with a sense of justice and compassion for victims.”

These awards are presented annually to fire and rescue personnel who are recognized by their colleagues as having served beyond the call of duty. Following the awards presentation, Gallagher led a ceremony at the Fallen Firefighter Wall of Honor to remember 135 Florida firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Recognizing that firefighters and emergency responders are facing increasing risks due to methamphetamine, or meth, labs in Florida, Gallagher this year is pushing for legislation that would apply strong criminal penalties to meth manufacturers whose labs kill or injure a responder, and would prevent insurance companies from canceling coverage for an emergency responder injured while responding to a meth lab. The chemicals used to make meth are highly toxic and flammable, and in the last two years there have been at least 50 meth lab fires and explosions. For more information, visit www.fldfs.com/fightmeth.

As a statewide elected officer of the Florida Cabinet, Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher oversees the Department of Financial Services, a multi-division state agency responsible for management of state funds and unclaimed property, assisting consumers who request information and help related

to financial services, and investigating financial fraud. Gallagher also serves as the State Fire Marshal.