



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
**Division of Fire and Life Safety**  
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### **A Fire Safety Message from the State Fire Marshal**

Tragically, in the first three months of this year, we have lost 40 citizens to fire-related incidents. This nearly doubles the five year average of 22 fire fatalities during the same time period.

As the newly appointed State Fire Marshal, my first priority is identifying the contributing factors leading to these deaths and utilizing the resources of South Carolina State Fire to keep this number from continuing to rise. Unfortunately, we cannot bring back the lives lost, but through state, local, private, and public partnerships we can do a lot to prevent future loss.

South Carolina State Fire is committed to reducing the loss of life and property due to fire. To do so, we provide assistance for communities and local fire departments through research, statistical analysis, and public education. State Fire's Community Loss Education and Response (CLEAR) team provides a pro-response resource to local fire departments on the scene of any fatal fire. The data collected through the CLEAR team response is used to provide proactive fire prevention education to the public.

In order to deter or prevent losses associated with fire, we encourage South Carolinians to ensure they have working smoke alarms less than 10 years old, prepare and practice an exit plan in the event of a fire, close doors to prevent the spread of fire, and once out of harm's way stay outside to await the arrival of your local fire department.

We need your help, too, in getting the fire safety message out. Please view fire safety messages on our website and share this information with family, friends, and neighbors. Click here for more information: <http://scfiremarshal.llronline.com/crr/>

Please be fire safe South Carolina.

Jonathan Jones  
State Fire Marshal