



DEPARTMENT of **PUBLIC SAFETY** MINNESOTA **STATE FIRE MARSHAL**



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2017 **ANNUAL REPORT**

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A LOOK BACK AT A PRODUCTIVE 2017



Welcome to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's *State Fire Marshal Division 2017 Annual Report*.

You'll see in the following pages that State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) staff stayed busy last year, whether by conducting inspections or investigations, bringing fire and life safety education to fire departments across Minnesota, or combing through data to learn how we can reduce fire deaths in our state.

Here's a snapshot of some of our accomplishments from 2017:

- Our School Inspection Team developed a new document outlining strategies for the evacuation of mobility-impaired students in school buildings.
- Our Health Care Inspection Team trained hundreds of Minnesota health care facility staff on new provisions in the 2012 edition of the *National Fire Protection Association 101: Life Safety Code*.
- Our Residential Care and Lodging Team worked with their partners at the Department of Natural Resources training staff to be staging managers at large-scale incidents in Minnesota.
- The SFMD Code Development Committee began its review of the 2018 International Fire Code that is scheduled for adoption in 2020.
- The Fire Investigation Team has responded to 482 fires through mid-December 2017, an increase of over 70 fires from 2016.

Those accomplishments are important, and I don't want to take away from all the hard work our staff did last year. However, 2017 was our worst year for fire deaths (63) since 2002. It's hard to pinpoint a reason for the spike, but I have asked our staff to brainstorm better ways to educate Minnesotans about fire prevention and safety. I encourage you to do the same. I firmly believe that one of the keys to reducing fire deaths is getting Minnesotans to understand that a tragic fire can happen to them and that they need to take responsibility for fire prevention and fire safety in their own homes. If they don't, the chance they'll survive a fire is slim.

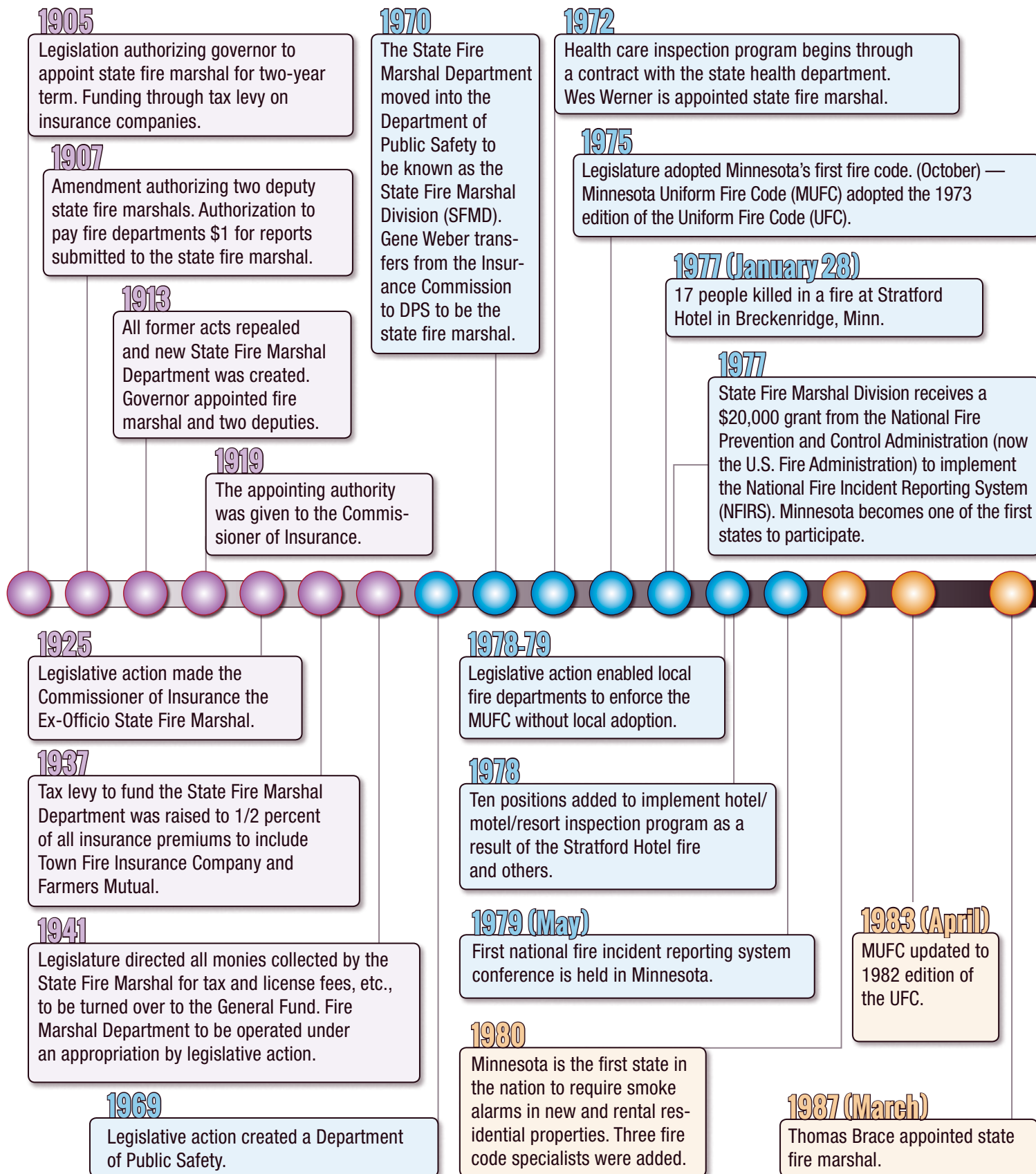
As your state fire marshal, I am proud to provide you with the *State Fire Marshal Division 2017 Annual Report*.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bruce West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Bruce West
State Fire Marshal

MINNESOTA STATE FIRE MARSHAL HISTORICAL TIMELINE



MINNESOTA STATE FIRE MARSHAL HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1989

Three more positions were added to the SFMD: Two day care inspectors and one fire safety educator. The first edition of the Fire in Minnesota annual report is released. (October) — MUFC updated to 1988 edition of the UFC

1990

Legislation added five new positions to the SFMD to conduct school inspections in Minnesota.

1992

New program added to license fire sprinkler contractors, designers, and fitters. New program to develop operation of Hazardous Material Response Teams.

1998

As a result of the Arson Task Force, two new positions were added to the SFMD: One arson investigation trainer and one juvenile fire setter interventionist. (June) — MUFC updated to 1997 edition of UFC. One inspector for the Fire Protection Team was added.

2003 (March)

Fire code changed to adopt the 2000 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC); became known as the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC). (June) — Jerry Rosendahl appointed state fire marshal.

2005 (April)

100th anniversary of the State Fire Marshal Division.

2007 (July)

MSFC updated to 2006 edition of the IFC.

2008

Online fire reporting software system purchased for fire departments to use. Minnesota is the first state fire marshal to have such a system.

1993

Legislative action updated arson statutes. Legislation requires a smoke alarm in every dwelling (new and existing). (August) MUFC updated to 1991 edition of the UFC.

1995

Licensing of operators of public fireworks displays. One fire investigator position added.

1996

The Attorney General formed a task force to study the crime of arson in Minnesota. The division received a federal grant of \$400,000 to study arson as it relates to the criminal or abusive use of alcohol and/or drugs.

1999

The arson data specialist position was filled. Legislation added funding for a part-time code specialist position, to be hired in FY 01.

2009 (January 1)

All fire reporting to meet NFIRS Version 5 (electronic reporting).

2012 (August 1)

Fire protection system demonstration Trailer placed into service

2013 (December)

Bruce West appointed state fire marshal.

2014 (September)

25th anniversary of *Fire in Minnesota* is published using an updated format.

2000

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) — Version 5 introduced and implementation begun.

2015 (April)

110th anniversary of the State Fire Marshal Division.

2016 (May)

The 2015 Minnesota Fire Code was adopted on May 2.

MINNESOTA STATE FIRE MARSHAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART — STAFFING

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS

TATE MILLS

Fire Service Specialist
West Region

JOHN EHRET

Fire Service Specialist
East Region

JARED ROZEBOOM

Fire Service Specialist
South Region

BARB LUNDBERG

Office Services Supervisor

SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM

Angela Kappenman
Nathan Le
Nolan Pasell
Randi Samuelson
Marian Whitney

RYAN WHITING

Fire Safety Supervisor

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM

Travis Ahrens
Dan Beeson
Robert Rexeisen
Kevin Sedivy
George Shellum
Chris Watson
Glen Bergstrand
(Retired 4/17)

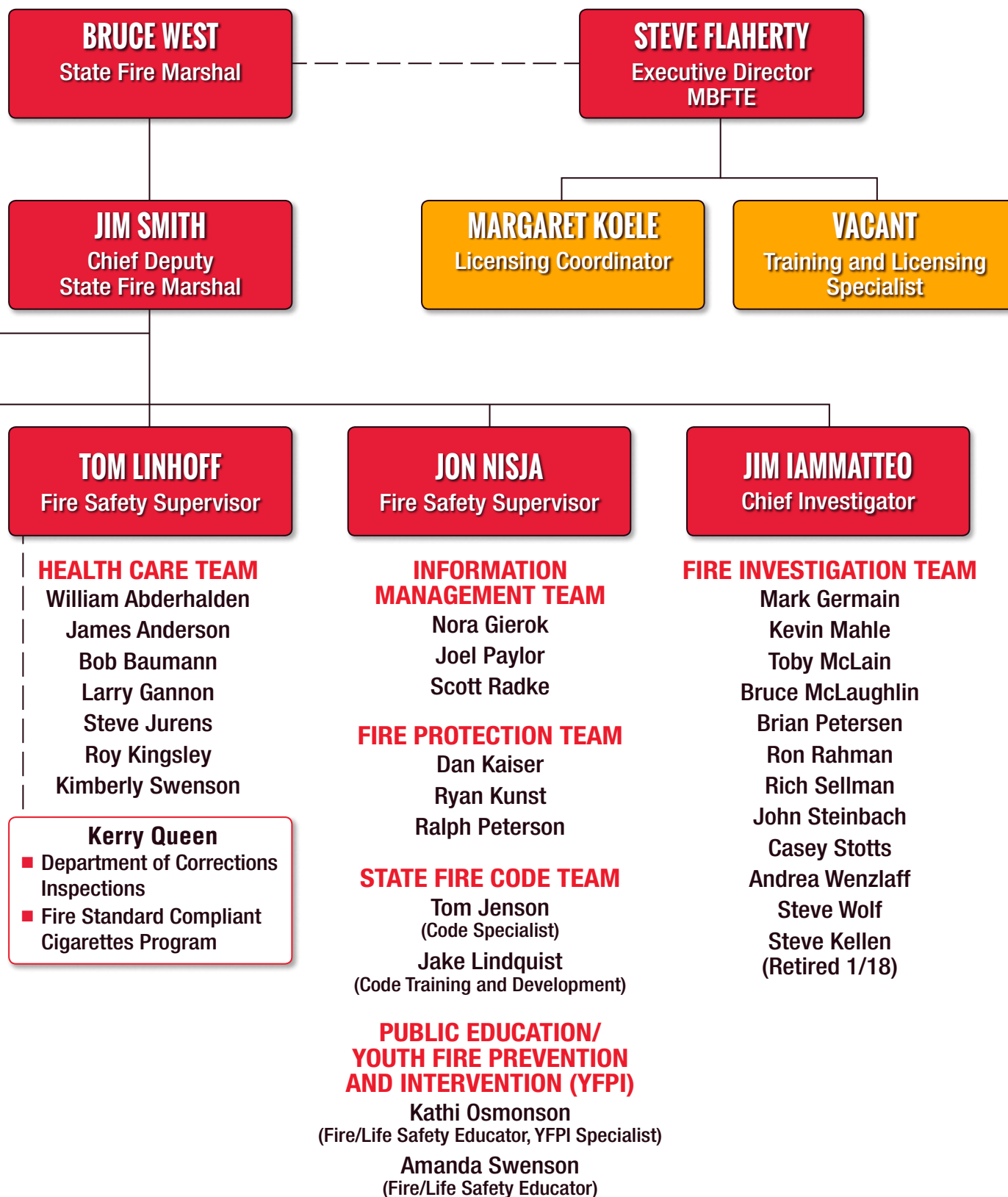
FORREST WILLIAMS

Fire Safety Supervisor

SCHOOL TEAM

Joe Faust
Kurt Kastella
Kevin McGinty
John Swanson
Brad Lundquist
(Retired 3/17)

MINNESOTA STATE FIRE MARSHAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – STAFFING



CONTACT INFORMATION

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FIRE CODE TEAM



ABOUT

The Fire Code Team provides fire code information, guidance in the development of state fire code and training on fire code provisions.

MEET THE TEAM

Jon Nisja | Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7204 or jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Tom Jenson | Fire Code Specialist

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Conducts plan reviews for new and existing buildings, fire investigations and fire and life safety education

Contact: 651-201-7221 or thomas.jenson@state.mn.us

Jacob Lindquist | Fire Code Specialist

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Coordinates fire code training, processes fire code appeals, variance requests and formal interpretations.

Contact: 651-201-7219

WHAT THEY DO

The team's mission is to save lives and property, reduce business interruption and minimize the environmental impact from fire and hazardous materials. The Fire Code Team provides fire safety regulations that can be used throughout Minnesota to help reduce the number and severity of fires. Since the 1975 adoption of a fire code in Minnesota, fire deaths have dropped dramatically. The fire code is a tool for state and local fire officials to improve fire and life safety in buildings and facilities. We hope to continue reducing fire deaths in Minnesota through refinement and enforcement of the fire code.

BEST OF 2017

The Fire Code Team completed fire code update training classes that commenced in 2016. The SFMD Code Development Committee began their review of the 2018 International Fire Code, for adoption in 2020.

FIRE CODE TEAM

State Fire Marshal Conference

On April 11-12, 2017, the SFMD hosted its sixth-annual conference. Over 220 people attended this two-day training event that featured national speakers and presenters on the Station Nightclub fire in 2003, autism awareness for emergency responders, hoarding, food truck fire safety, smoke control systems, the changing environment of residential fires, fatal fire investigations, fire pumps, and sprinkler protection for high-piled storage.

FIRE CODE QUESTIONS — 2017			
Method received			
Month	Phone	E-mail	Total
January	83	111	194
February	78	107	185
March	87	148	235
April	77	108	185
May	91	113	204
June	81	113	194
July	63	101	164
August	81	129	210
September	65	115	180
October	80	106	186
November	65	109	174
December	76	103	179
Totals	927	1,363	2,290

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

The team prides itself on same-day responses for code questions or at least answering questions within 24 hours.

■ Code questions answered:

— 2017:	2,290
— 2016:	2,282
— 2015:	2,435
— 2014:	1,900

■ Most common methods for questions: Telephone (40 percent) or email (60 percent)

■ Code questions are asked by:

— Code officials:	35%
— General public:	16%
— Building owners:	19%
— Contractors:	16%
— Others:	14%

In addition to the two full-time staff and part-time supervisor, six other members of the division monitor and respond to fire code emails.

Fire code and fire protection training

State fire code staff worked with the fire protection staff to provide training opportunities to fire departments, fire protection contractors, fire and building code officials and architects.

SFMD staff provided 127 hours of training to more than 760 attendees on fire prevention and fire safety in 2017 at locations across the state and at fire inspection conferences, including the annual State Fire Marshal Conference.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since adopting a statewide fire code in 1975, fire deaths in Minnesota have been dropping.

FIRE DATA AND EDUCATION TEAM



ABOUT

The Fire Data and Education Team has four primary functions:

- Collection and analysis of statewide fire data.
- Publication of Fire in Minnesota.
- Fire and life safety education.
- Youth firesetting prevention and intervention.

MEET THE TEAM

Jon Nisja | Supervisor

Contact: 651-201-7204 or jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Nora Gierok | Office and Admin Specialist

Duties: Manages the state fire reporting system, coordinates the Fire in Minnesota report, serves as point of contact for the federal fire reporting system.

Contact: 651-201-7209 or nora.gierok@state.mn.us

Joel Paylor | Office and Admin Specialist

Duties: Manages the SFMD vehicle fleet, arranges travel and training, handles data reporting and other administrative support.

Contact: 651-201-7210 or joel.d.paylor@state.mn.us

Scott Radke | State Fire Data Administrator

Duties: Serves as research analyst for fire data and business processes in the SFMD, trains and supports Minnesota fire departments, supports SFMD investigations and inspections teams.

Contact: 651-201-7222 or scott.radke@state.mn.us

Kathi Osmonson | Fire and Life Safety Educator

Duties: Coordinates and conducts statewide fire safety education and awareness programs, develops fire prevention materials, works with media to provide fire prevention information, and is the youth fire prevention and intervention coordinator.

Contact: 651-201-7220 or kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us

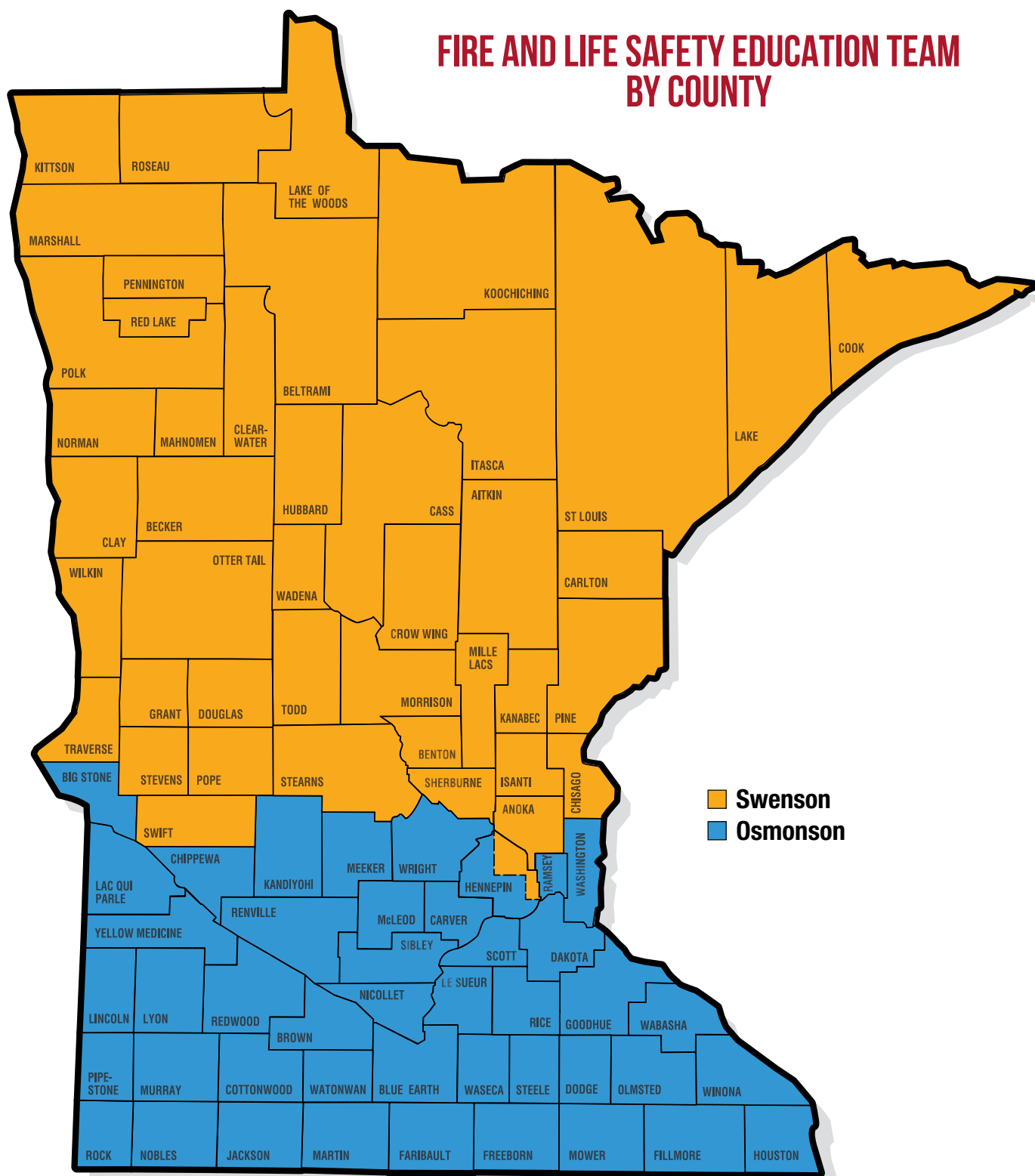
Amanda Swenson | Fire and Life Safety Educator

Duties: Coordinates and conducts statewide public fire safety education and awareness programs, develops fire prevention materials, works with media to provide fire prevention information.

Contact: 651-201-7214 or amanda.swenson@state.mn.us

FIRE DATA AND EDUCATION TEAM

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION TEAM BY COUNTY



WHAT THEY DO

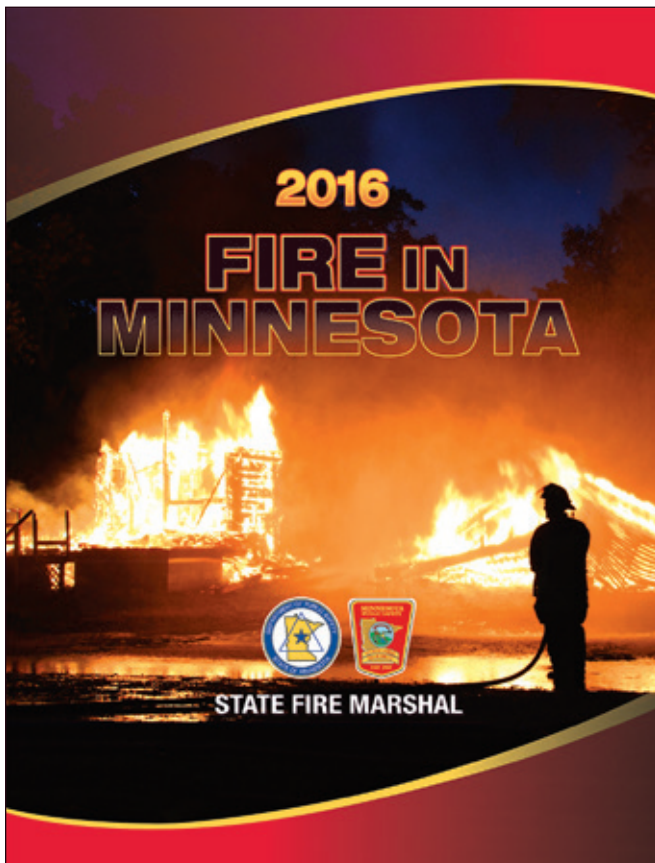
The team's mission is to save lives and property by collecting and analyzing fire-loss data, educating citizens on the dangers of fire, promoting fire-safe behavior, conducting intervention and referrals with youth firesetters and publishing the Fire in Minnesota report. The Fire Data and Education Team collects and disseminates fire-related data and information to help make Minnesota a safer place to live, work and play.

The team seeks to learn where fires are occurring and what causes them in an effort to provide prevention-related information to the public through traditional media, social media, fire departments, government agencies and safety-conscious partner organizations and associations.

BEST OF 2017

Fire in Minnesota

The *Fire in Minnesota* report provides a snapshot of Minnesota's fire problem for the prior year.



The 2016 report provided information on more than 291,000 incidents responded to by 774 fire departments. Included were 13,335 fires doing \$250.1 million in damage.

Copies of *Fire in Minnesota* are available on the division's website — sfm.dps.mn.gov — for download. Printed copies are also available by contacting one of the staff in the fire data section.

Fire and life safety education

The team provided training opportunities and resources to fire departments and residents across the state of Minnesota. They also researched fire deaths and determined which counties experienced the highest fire death rate (number of fire deaths per 100,000 people). Staff sent letters to fire departments in those counties offering assistance with fire prevention and community risk reduction programs.

Fire prevention educators conducted trainings and presentations across the state in a variety of different venues. Presentations were given to groups across Minnesota including the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board, local fire departments, Institute for Building Officials, Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety Conference and fire academy classes. The team hosted a Public Education Workshop (community risk reduction and reaching your audience), Play Safe! Be Safe! (child fire and burn injury prevention) and "Remembering When" (safety for older adults).

The educators also gave presentations to groups with a vested interest in safety and fire prevention education such as WellShare (an immigrant assistance organization), insurance agents, chambers of commerce and multi-housing property managers. Educators offer a number of different presentations including fire prevention basics, presentation skills, messaging in fire prevention and safety, fire safety and fall prevention for older adults, youth fire intervention and updating your fire prevention programs.

During the year, educators served on a number of different committees to assist with fire prevention messages and support. Many of the committees connected directly to Minnesota fire service including the Minnesota State Fire

FIRE DATA AND EDUCATION TEAM

Chiefs Association's (MSFCA) public education committee, the Minnesota Fire Explorer Association, and the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) arson awareness committee.

Educators worked with a statewide coalition to help reduce the number of falls in older adults across the state. They also assisted the MSFCA public education committee to create tool kits for fire departments to use when educating older adults about fire and fall prevention. A popular prop was the smoke alarm testing stick. It is a red stick with a hand pointing a finger at the end. This can be left with older adults to remind them to test their smoke alarms and also to give them a tool for testing their smoke alarms without having to climb ladders or stand on chairs (thereby reducing their risk of falling).

One of the big events of the year is Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair. Throughout the year, staff work with a committee in coordinating the event, which is held the first Friday of the Minnesota State Fair. The SFMD's booth at Governor's Fire Prevention Day featured two dice games that tested visitor's knowledge on

fire safety and prevention. The games proved to be quite popular and thousands of fairgoers received valuable fire and life safety information.

Another statewide event included the Minnesota Educator Academy (MEA) conference in October. Fire and Life Safety educators, along with staff from the division's School Inspection Team, were on hand to provide information to help teachers keep students safe both in and out of the classroom.

The State Fire Marshal Lending Library continues to be a popular resource for fire departments across the state. Popular resources were videos on a variety of fire safety topics and fire safety books.

The Public Educator Newsletter continues monthly as a resource on fire prevention and safety. More than 600 firefighters and safety professionals receive the newsletter each month. The newsletter is also posted on the SFMD website along with other safety resources. If you or your department are not yet on the list please email Amanda Swenson at amanda.swenson@state.mn.us

FIRE DATA ANALYSIS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number FDs	785	789	785	785	785	782	779	779
Reporting FDs	758 (96.5%)	767 (97.2%)	768 (97.8%)	776 (98.8%)	776 (98.8%)	772 (98.7%)	768 (98.6%)	774 (99.4%)
Non-reporting	27 (3.4%)	22 (2.7%)	17 (2.2%)	9 (1.1%)	9 (1.1%)	10 (1.2%)	11 (1.3%)	5 (0.6%)
Software reporting	230 (29.2%)	178 (22.5%)	164 (20.9%)	144 (18.3%)	152 (19.4%)	128 (16.4%)	126 (16.2%)	86 (11%)
Online reporting	528 (67.2%)	589 (74.6%)	604 (76.9%)	632 (80.5%)	624 (79.5%)	644 (82.3%)	642 (82.4%)	688 (88.3%)

*Note: The 2017 fire data is not yet finalized.

FIRE DATA AND EDUCATION TEAM



Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention

The state is divided into 10 regions, each with a regional YFPI program manager.

One of the significant 2017 accomplishments was creating YFPI “go bags.” These “go bags” contain a field guide outlining the steps necessary when conducting an assessment, intervention strategies and tips for working with individuals who have mental health disorders, curriculum for the younger children, activity books for older children, and props for various intervention activities. There were 66 “go bags” deployed in 33 counties, including two of the American Indian tribes.

There were 65 cases of youth-set fires referred to the regional teams in 2017. An important component of a successful youth fire intervention program is educating children about the dangers of fire. Staff provided training to many stakeholders about the dangers of youth-set fires and the YFPI program. Presentations were made to the Hennepin Technical College’s Police Academy, the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies, the Minnesota County Attorney’s Association, advanced investigation classes and fire departments.

The YFPI newsletter merged with the Public Educator Newsletter in 2017. Every month more than 600 firefighters and safety professionals receive information about fire prevention, safety and youth fire intervention. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, or if you would like more information about the youth fire intervention program, please email Kathi Osmonson at kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Fire data analysis

In 2016 and 2017, the team collected fire incident reports from 774 of the state’s 779 fire departments and compiled the fire loss data into its annual report: *Fire in Minnesota — 2016*. Fire departments responded to over 291,000 incidents. Due to the volume and complexity of the data, it takes several months to process and compile this into a usable report.

DID YOU KNOW?

That Minnesota was the first State Fire Marshal to have an online fire reporting system for local fire department use.

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM



ABOUT

The history of fire investigations in Minnesota goes back to the earliest days of the SFMD. When the office of the State Fire Marshal was established in 1905, one of its primary functions was investigating fire origins and causes. Although state statute assigns responsibility for determining origin and cause of fires to the local fire chief, that function remains a high priority for the SFMD to this day, and staff continues to provide investigative services whenever asked by a local FD.

The Fire Investigation Team consists of 11 investigators and one chief investigator. Each investigator works from a home office located in an assigned regional service area. Coverage areas are reviewed regularly to see if changes need to be made to maintain effective response times — typically two to three hours — but it can be longer when weather is a factor.

MEET THE TEAM

Jim Iammatteo | Chief Investigator/Supervisor

Location: Keewatin

Coverage area: Itasca County

Contact: 218-778-0016 or james.iammatteo@state.mn.us

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Steve Wolf | Investigator

Location: Stewartville

Coverage area: Southeast Minnesota

Contact: 763-458-7348 or steven.wolf@state.mn.us

Bruce McLaughlin | Investigator

Location: Inver Grove Heights

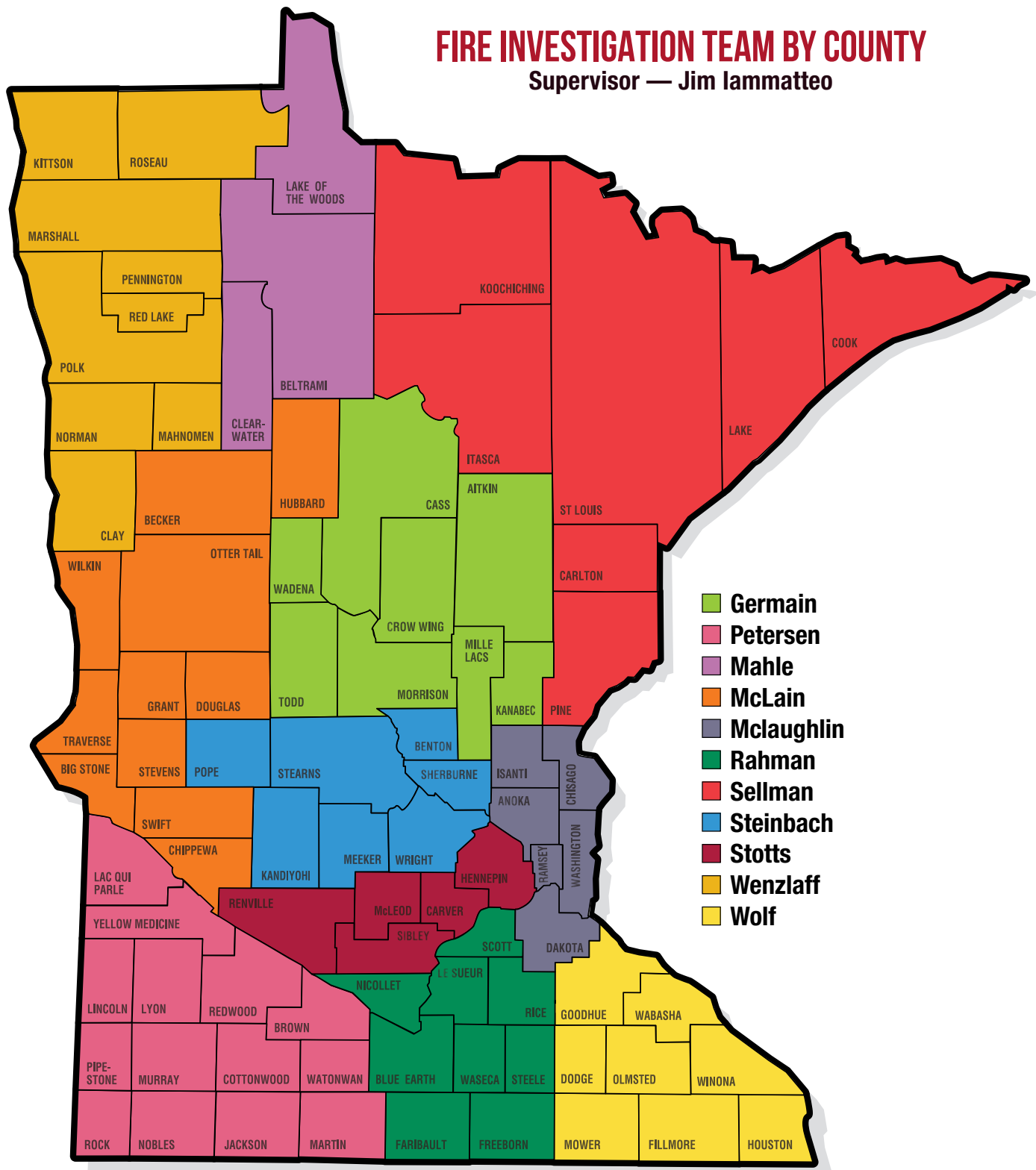
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FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Jim Iammatteo



FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

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John Steinbach I Investigator

Location: New London

Coverage area: Central Minnesota

Contact: 612-710-6825 or john.steinbach@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The team helps local fire departments determine fire origin and cause and also helps county, state and federal agencies bring arson cases to justice. Investigators help with interviews and interrogation, subpoena documents, and provide other assistance to agencies involved in case resolution. Fire investigation is a complex science, difficult to master but essential to justice. The SFMD's goal has always been to have all investigators trained to the certified fire investigator level, the gold standard in crime investigation, in law enforcement and in the courtroom.

BEST OF 2017

We had some turnover in our staff and will continue to see that as our current investigators move closer to retirement. Our training needed to be updated and improved, including training we provide to the fire service and law enforcement as well as the training we provide to our own staff. That is an ongoing project and will be reflected in the trainings we provide around the state.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS **Investigations**

The team assists with hundreds of fire investigations each year across Minnesota. Investigation assistance may be requested by local fire service or law enforcement personnel. Investigators will not be dispatched when requests are received from private citizens or insurance companies.

The team has investigated more than 3,000 fires since 2011:

- 2017: 506 (plus 82 consultations)
- 2016: 475
- 2015: 465
- 2014: 413
- 2013: 396
- 2012: 428
- 2011: 398

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

Training

Basic and advanced training courses continue to draw interest from Minnesota firefighters and law enforcement officers. Training is mandated by state statute and conducted by Investigator Kevin Mahle.

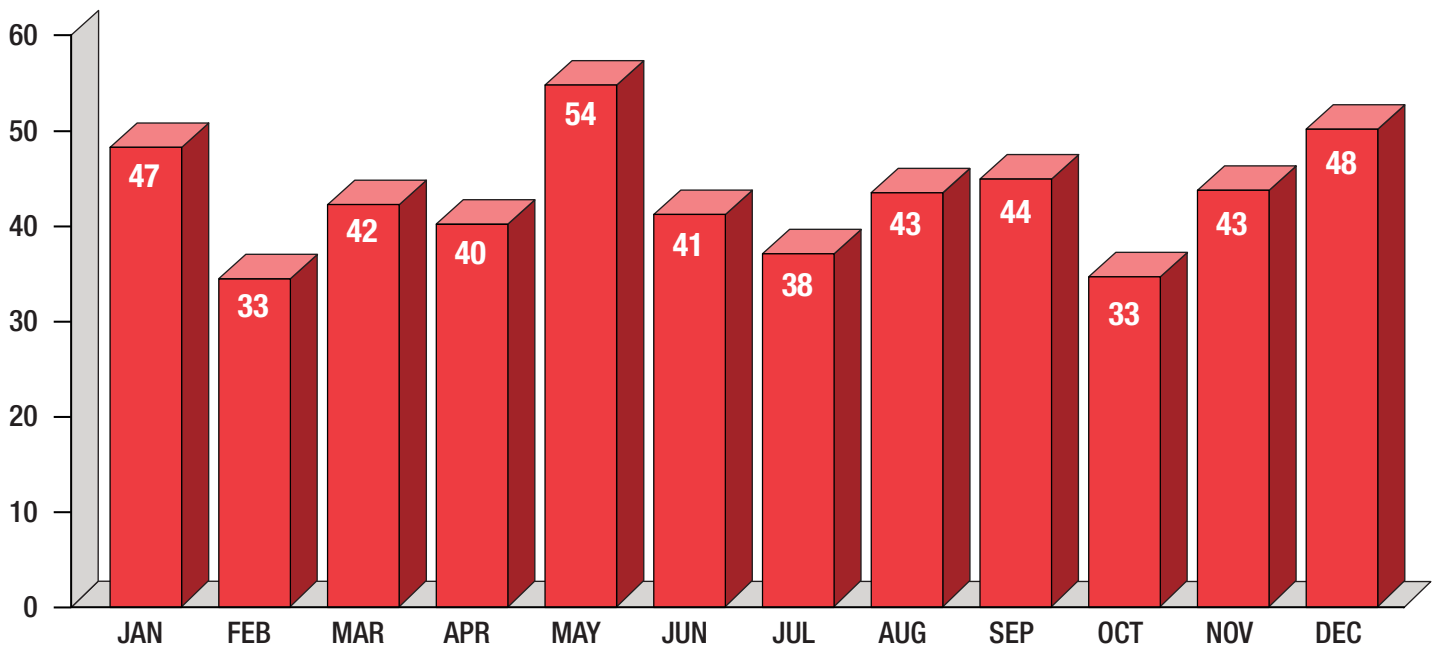
■ Class topics:

- Organizing the fire scene
- Basic fire investigation
- State fire school
- Basic fire and arson investigation
- Basic fire safety
- A line firefighter's role in fire investigations
- Advanced fire investigation
- Fire death investigation
- Interview and interrogations in fire investigations

DID YOU KNOW?

The Investigation Team is considered an assisting agency. What does that mean? It means investigators are team players who value and need their partners to accomplish a complete and fruitful fire investigation. It takes law enforcement, fire departments, state agencies, federal agencies and county attorneys together to make a case go from a burning disaster to a completed case, arson or not.

INVESTIGATIONS BY MONTH – 2017 Preliminary



FIRE PROTECTION TEAM



ABOUT

The Fire Protection Team performs the following functions:

- Licenses fire protection contractors.
- Certifies installing personnel.
- Issues permits for fire protection systems.
- Reviews plans for these systems.
- Inspects fire protection systems.
- Provides training on fire protection systems.
- Provides technical assistance.

MEET THE TEAM

Jon Nisja | Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7204 or jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Nathan Le | Protection Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7207 or nathan.le@state.mn.us

Dan Kaiser | Sprinkler Plan Reviewer

Duties: Performs plan reviews, conducts inspections and provides fire protection information to clients

Contact: 651-201-201-7215 or dan.kaiser@state.mn.us

Ryan Kunst | Sprinkler Plan Reviewer

Duties: Performs plan reviews, conducts inspections and provides fire protection information to clients

Contact: 651-201-7217 or ryan.kunst@state.mn.us

Ralph Peterson | Sprinkler Plan Reviewer/Inspector

Duties: Performs plan reviews, conducts inspections and provides fire protection information to clients

Contact: 651-201-7216 or ralph.peterson@state.mn.us

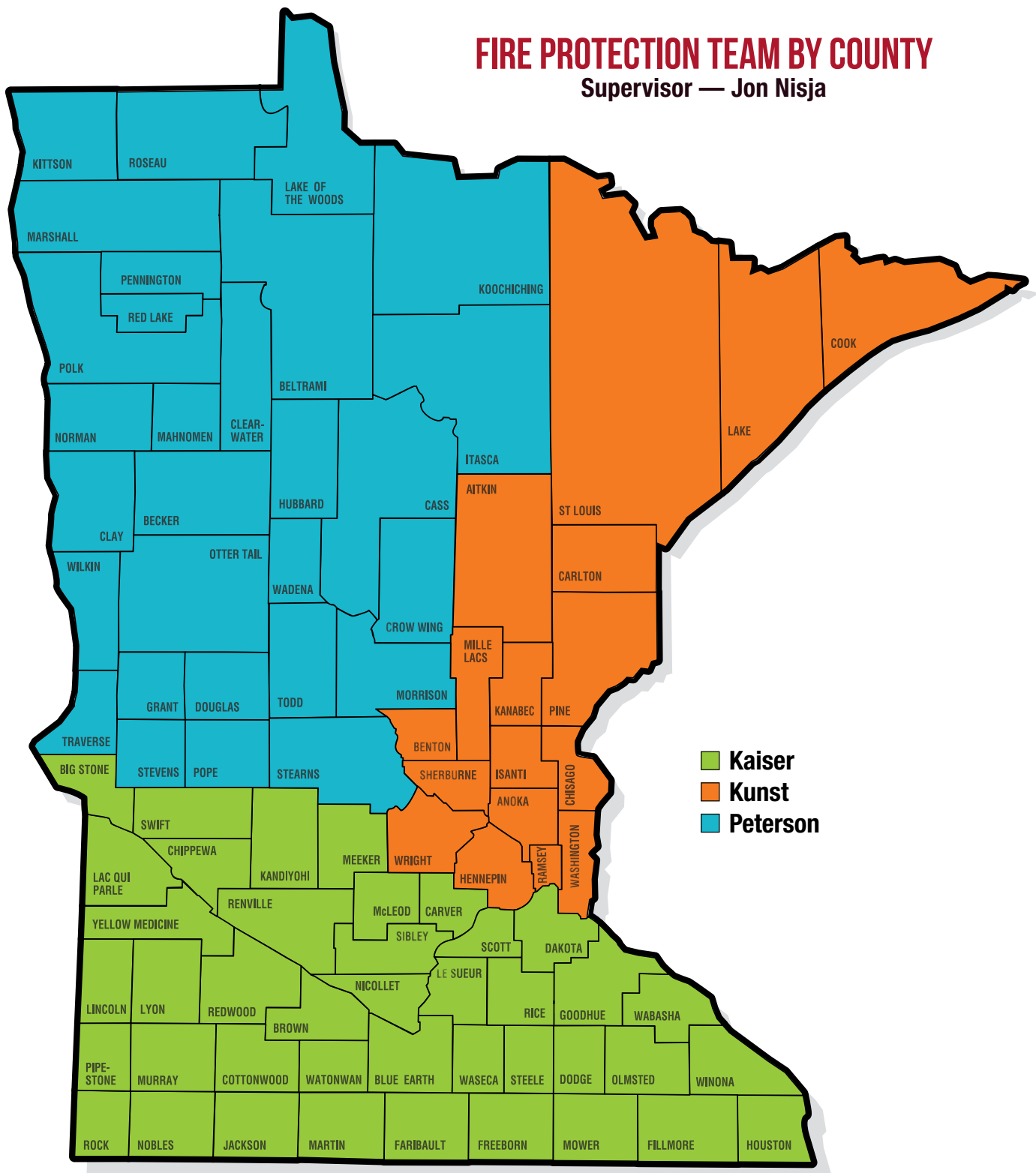
WHAT THEY DO

The team's mission is to save lives and property through effective licensing, plan review and inspecting fire protection systems. Their efforts ensure that fire protection systems work effectively, reducing the harm caused to people and property by fire.

FIRE PROTECTION TEAM

FIRE PROTECTION TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Jon Nisja



FIRE PROTECTION TEAM

The use of fire protection systems is on the rise. The SFMD Fire Protection Team is able to track sprinkler effectiveness and show that these systems are working.

BEST OF 2017

In the early months of 2017, the Fire Protection Team provided training to 515 of the state's 605 sprinkler fitters (85 percent of the sprinkler installers).

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Contractor licensing

In 2017 there were 71 licensed fire-protection contractors in Minnesota. A breakdown of the licenses is as follows:

- Total licensed contractors: 71
 - Limited contractors: 3
 - Design contractors: 10
 - Fire protection contractors: 58

Breakdown of fire protection contractors

- Out-of-state based: 24
- Minnesota-based: 34
 - Metro area: 22
 - Greater Minnesota: 12

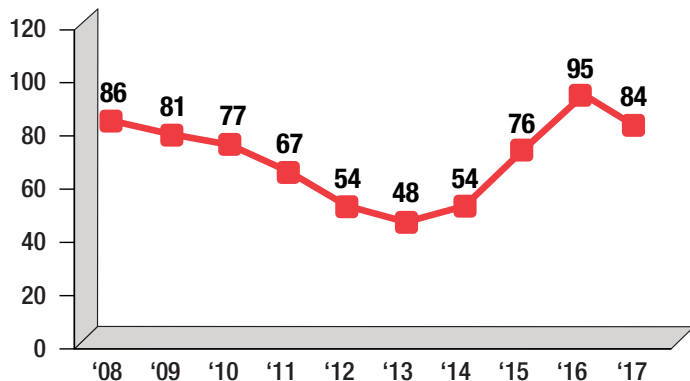
Installer certification

In 2017 there were 697 certificates issued to journeyman sprinkler fitters and managing employees; the following is a breakdown of certificates issued:

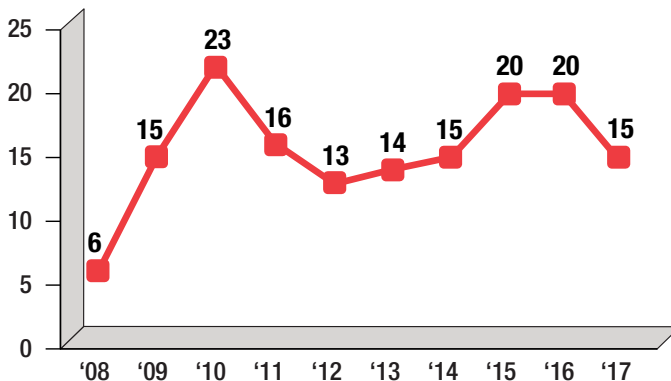
- Number of journeyman sprinkler fitters: 605 (down from 608 in 2016)
- Number of limited journeyman sprinkler fitters: 16 (up from 12 in 2016)
- Number of managing employees: 76 (up from 69 in 2016)

Exams for journeyman sprinkler fitters and managing employees are given every two months. The following shows the exam activity for the past nine years:

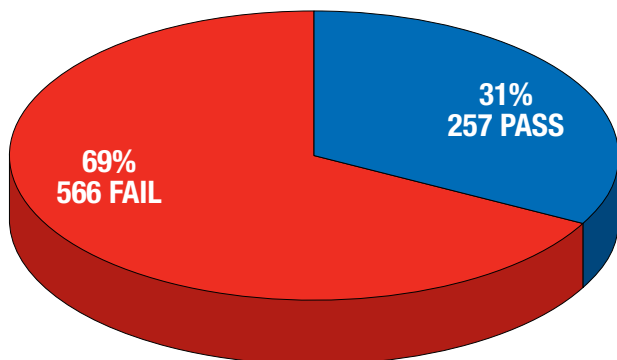
JOURNEYMAN



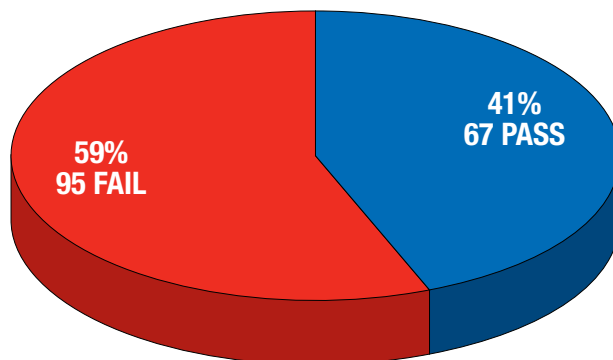
MANAGING EMPLOYEE



JOURNEYMAN EXAM RESULTS 2007-2017



MANAGING EMPLOYEE EXAM RESULTS 2007-2017

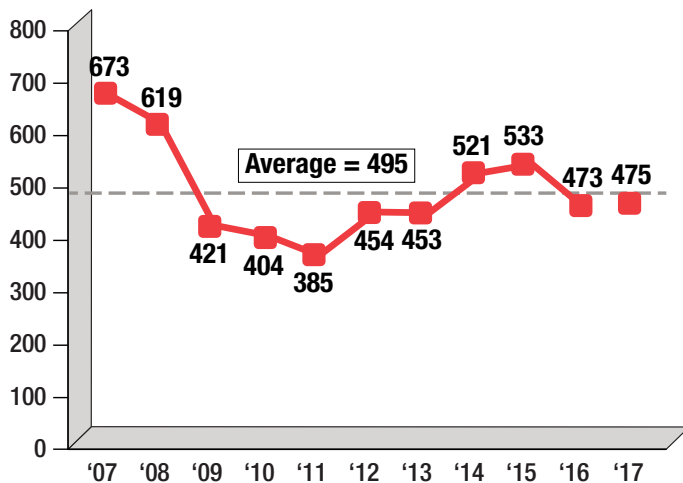


FIRE PROTECTION TEAM

Permit issuing

There are about 190 communities and townships that issue fire protection installation permits. In all other areas of Minnesota, the SFMD is the issuing authority for fire protection permits. The following table shows permit activity since 2007.

**PLANS ASSIGNED A PERMIT NUMBER
CALENDAR YEARS 2007 – 2017**



Plan reviews and inspections

The team has three full-time employees who perform hundreds of fire protection plan reviews and inspections each year. There was a slight decrease in total plan reviews in 2016, while the number of inspections increased substantially. A breakdown of the plan review and inspection activity for the past six years is shown below:

PLANS AND INSPECTION ACTIVITY

Year	Initial Reviews	Re-Submittal Reviews	Total Reviews	Inspections
2012	473	52	525	441
2013	400	59	459	274
2014	424	80	504	312
2015	524	53	577	308
2016	491	48	539	423
2017	524	59	583	297

Fire protection systems training

Training on proper fire protection system installation and operation is an important function of the Fire Protection Team. In 2012, the SFMD had a trailer constructed to demonstrate fire protection systems. The trailer has seven sprinkler and standpipe systems, plus a functional fire alarm and detection system. The fire protection system demonstration trailer is transported around Minnesota and used to train fire service personnel, code officials and facility representatives.

Here is the data on the Fire Protection System Demonstration Trailer activity:

- Number of demonstrations in 2017: 43
- Number of participants: 772

In addition, the fire protection team sponsored its 28-hour Sprinkler Plan Review and Hydraulics Class in July. There were also training sessions at the State Fire Marshal Conference regarding fire pumps and sprinkler protection for high-piled storage occupancies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota averages over 70 sprinkler saves each year. That works out to one sprinkler save every five days.

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS



ABOUT

The fire service specialists are a liaison between the SFMD and Minnesota fire departments. The fire service specialists also provide assistance as requested by fire department officials across Minnesota.

MEET THE TEAM

John Ehret — Fire Service Specialist East

Location: Lake Elmo

Contact: john.ehret@state.mn.us or 651-323-7134

Tate Mills — Fire Service Specialist West

Location: Albertville

Contact: tate.mills@state.mn.us or 320-333-2817

Jared Rozeboom — Fire Service Specialist South

Location: Hills

Contact: jared.rozeboom@state.mn.us or 507-456-0907

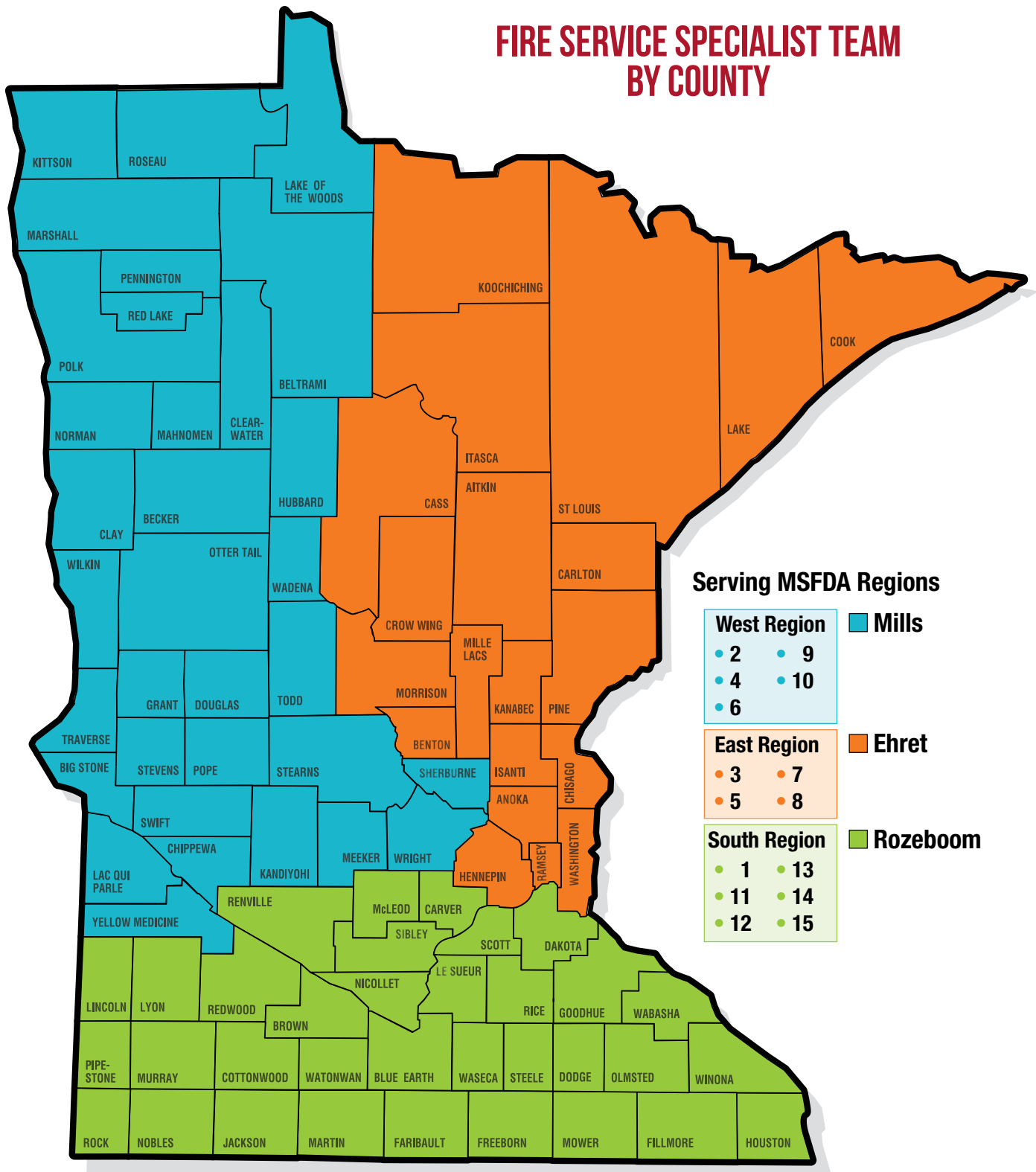
WHAT THEY DO

The fire service specialists assist fire departments upon request with the following:

- Answering the 1-800-FIRE-LINE (national fire department information number)
- National Fire Academy (NFA) state training point of contact
- Publications from SFMD available on website
- Fire department management assistance
- Disciplinary issues
- Grant assistance
- Contracts/disputes/arbitration
- Minnesota Board of FireFighter Training and Education Funding
- Development of SOPs/SOGs
- Service Planning Grant Program
- Minimum credentials/requirements
- Mutual-aid agreements/joint-powers agreements
- Fireworks and explosives annual permitting

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALIST TEAM BY COUNTY



FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS

BEST OF 2017

The fire service specialists took a comprehensive look at the recommendations, received input and modified the legacy Shared Services Program, which is now called the Service Planning Grant Program. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Fire Service Advisory Committee approved \$250,000 (FY18 and FY19) for the new and improved program. The fire service specialists traveled the state assisting communities with their interest in the Service Planning Grant Program.

The fire service specialists traveled the state meeting with key stakeholders in the Minnesota fire service including staff in the the Office of State Auditor (OSA), the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota, the State Board of Investments, and the USDA. The goal was to further assist Minnesota fire departments with the wide range of topics that are presented to them on a regular basis.

The SFMD now has three LP prop trailers. The fire service specialists received the trailers, set up the trailers for use, and created a robust training program.

All three fire service specialists played key roles in assisting the Northrop Fire Department with a grain elevator explosion and fire. From the initial stages through the end of the incident nearly 78 hours later, the team assisted the command staff with requesting resources, developing incident action plans, and documentation of fire departments and firefighters at the scene.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

The team contacted fire departments to provide information on many different fire service topics, including training, grants and other programs the SFMD and the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) have to offer.

The three fire service specialists:

- Contacted over 400 departments regarding MBFTE training money and rosters.
- Spoke with over 160 departments about the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System.
- Contacted over 300 departments on behalf of the Department of Revenue (DOR) regarding FA-1 forms
- Contacted over 110 departments on behalf of the OSA and the DOR on various issues.
- Assisted 12 departments in hosting National Fire Academy (NFA) two-day and six-day classes throughout the state.

DID YOU KNOW?

The SFMD has five training prop trailers available for rent. Each trailer has a car fire prop, BBQ grill prop, and an LP tank prop. A department can rent a trailer one of its members has attended a SFMD Train the Operator session. The SFMD also has three fire vent trailers available for rent to all fire departments and training institutions in Minnesota. If you go to mbfte.org and click on the "SFMD Props" tab you will find an interactive map showing the location of all the SFMD training props, contact information to schedule renting of the trailers, along with rental requirements for the trailers.

HEALTH CARE TEAM



ABOUT

The Health Care Team is responsible for the inspection of all health care facilities licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health and also those federally certified by the Federal Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services for federal reimbursement. Inspections are also conducted as required by the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC).

Health care facilities in these categories include:

- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Boarding care homes
- Supervised licensed facilities
- Outpatient surgical centers
- Hospice facilities
- Prisons/jails

In addition to the above facilities, the team inspects adult foster care facilities upon their initial license application to the State DHS.

The team is made up of 11 personnel: A fire safety supervisor, two support staff and eight inspectors.

MEET THE TEAM

Tom Linhoff I Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7205 or tom.linhoff@state.mn.us

Angela Kappenman I Health Care Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7208 or angela.kappenman@state.mn.us

Marian Whitney I Health Care Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7213 or marian.whitney@state.mn.us

William Abderhalden I Inspector

Location: Otsego

Coverage: West Metro

Contact: 507-361-6204 or william.abderhalden@state.mn.us

James Anderson I Inspector

Location: Little Falls

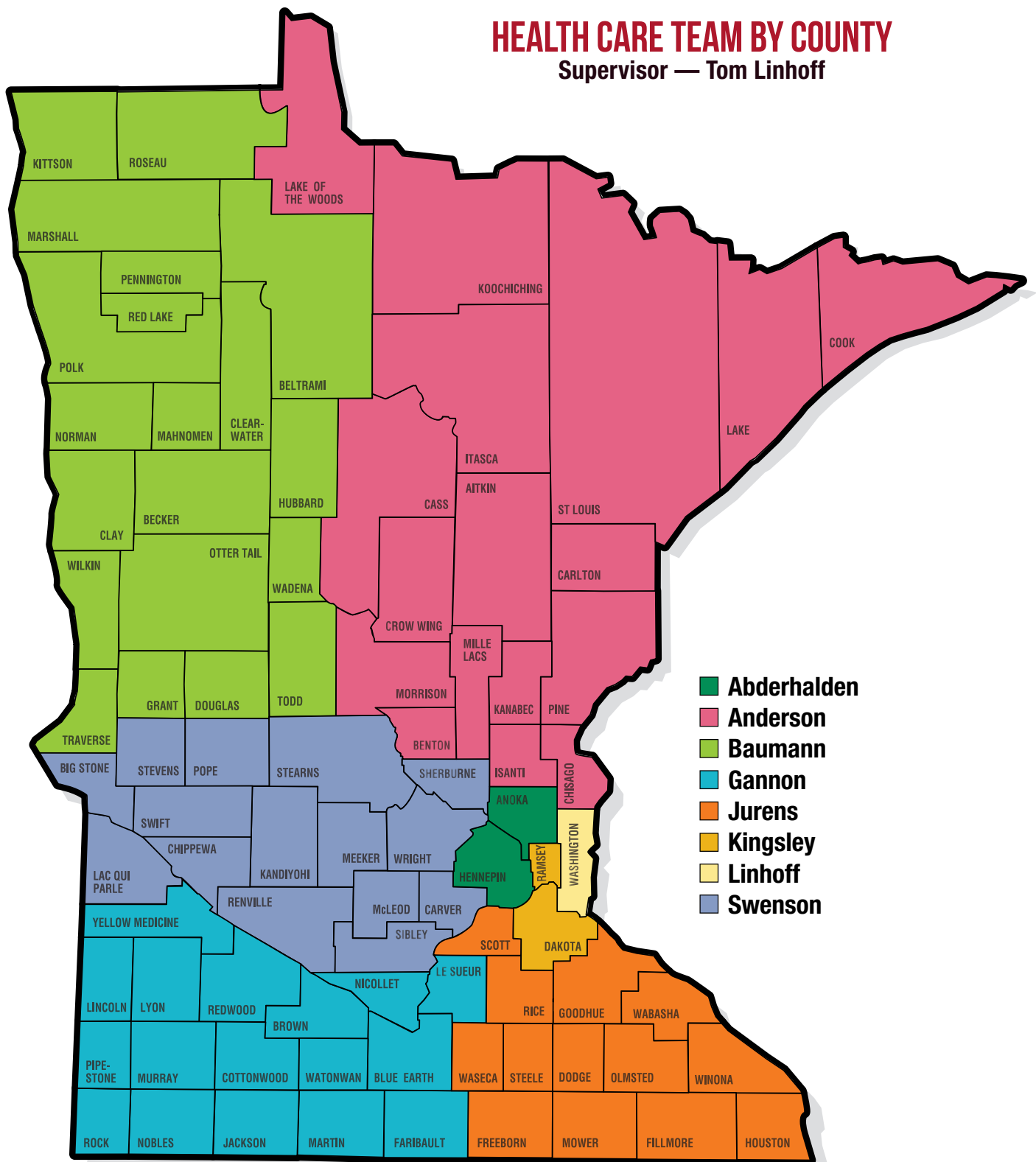
Coverage area: Northeastern Minnesota

Contact: james.a.anderson@state.mn.us or 651-249-6880

HEALTH CARE TEAM

HEALTH CARE TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Tom Linhoff



HEALTH CARE TEAM

Robert Baumann I Inspector

Location: Alexandria

Coverage: Northwestern Minnesota

Contact: 612-430-1276 or Robert.baumann@state.mn.us

Larry Gannon I Inspector

Location: Janesville

Coverage area: Southwestern Minnesota

Contact: larry.gannon@state.mn.us or 651-769-7779

Steven Jurens I Inspector

Location: Kasson

Coverage area: Southeastern Minnesota

Contact: steven.jurens@state.mn.us or 651-470-4416

Roy Kingsley I Inspector

Location: Mendota Heights

Coverage: East

Contact: 651-769-7772 or roy.kingsley@state.mn.us

Kerry Queen I Inspector

Location: St. Cloud

Coverage: Statewide

Contact: 651-769-7780 or kerry.queen@state.mn.us

Kim Swenson I Inspector

Location: Milaca

Coverage area: West Central Minnesota

Contact: 651-769-7773 or kimberly.swenson@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

Annual fire inspections help assure that every resident and/or patient of a Minnesota health care facility has a living environment reasonably safe from the dangers of fire and related emergencies.

SFMD fire inspectors are certified through the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board as a fire inspector I or II and have extensive fire inspection experience. Because this team is responsible for enforcing the Center for Medicare

and Medicaid Services (CMS) fire safety program, each inspector is required to attend a week-long CMS training class on the Life Safety Code, which is the basis of the CMS fire safety program. They must also attend a 24-hour class from CMS including Health Care Facilities (NFPA Standard 99) and Fire Safety Evaluation System (NFPA Standard 101A) for both health care facilities and board-and-care facilities.

BEST OF 2017

We had a full team of inspectors to start the year. All inspectors are certified by the CMS and trained to the 2012 Life Safety Code, which enables them to inspect all federally regulated healthcare facilities to the latest code requirements.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS **Inspections**

The Health Care Team conducted 1,340 inspections in hospitals, nursing homes, boarding caring homes, supervised living facilities, outpatient surgical centers, hospice facilities and prisons/jails.

Hospitals and nursing homes present some of the most complicated fire inspections. Large complexes often feature many types of occupancies, including institutional, assembly, storage, maintenance, helicopter landing pads, clinics, and doctors' offices.

Here is a breakdown of our 2017 inspections:

- Special hospital validation inspections: 6
- Hospital inspections: 40
- Nursing home inspections: 427
- Supervised living inspections: 174
- Surgery center/clinic inspections: 25
- Prison/jail inspections: 142
- Foster care inspections: 181

HEALTH CARE TEAM

DID YOU KNOW?

All inspectors are certified in emergency management and preparedness standards for hospitals and nursing homes. Emergency preparedness is a new 2017 federal standard for hospitals and nursing homes.



The **top five** most frequently cited **fire safety deficiencies** by our health care inspectors are:

1. Failure to conduct required fire drills.
2. Failure to conduct or document required building systems testing.
3. Failure to conduct electrical systems maintenance or testing.
4. Failure to separate hazardous areas.
5. Failure to maintain building smoke barriers.

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM



ABOUT

The Residential Care and Lodging Team (RCLT) was created following several tragic losses of life in Minnesota lodging buildings. Comprehensive fire safety inspections now help make Minnesota a safer travel, vacation and conference destination.

The RCLT:

- Conducts fire safety inspections in hotels throughout Minnesota. Each hotel is inspected at least once every three years with follow-up fire safety inspections as needed.
- Conducts initial fire safety inspections of all Department of Human Services-licensed facilities, including day care centers, family child care, adult day care, day training and habilitation, child foster care and chemical dependency.
- Conducts fire safety inspections on request from or because of a complaint to the local fire department or municipality.
- Provides training on fire code requirements to child care and foster care licensors, providers and local fire marshals.

National and state statistics show people are most vulnerable to fire when they are sleeping. Most fires happen in residential properties; in Minnesota, 77 percent of fires and 74 percent of fire fatalities for 2015 were in residential properties. Having working smoke detectors and suppression systems are critical to waking people who are sleeping for providing adequate time for escape.

MEET THE TEAM

Ryan Whiting | Supervisor

Location: Bemidji

Contact: 612-219-7125 or ryan.whiting@state.mn.us

Randi Samuelson | Residential Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7212 or randi.j.samuelson@state.mn.us

Travis Ahrens | Inspector

Location: Owatonna

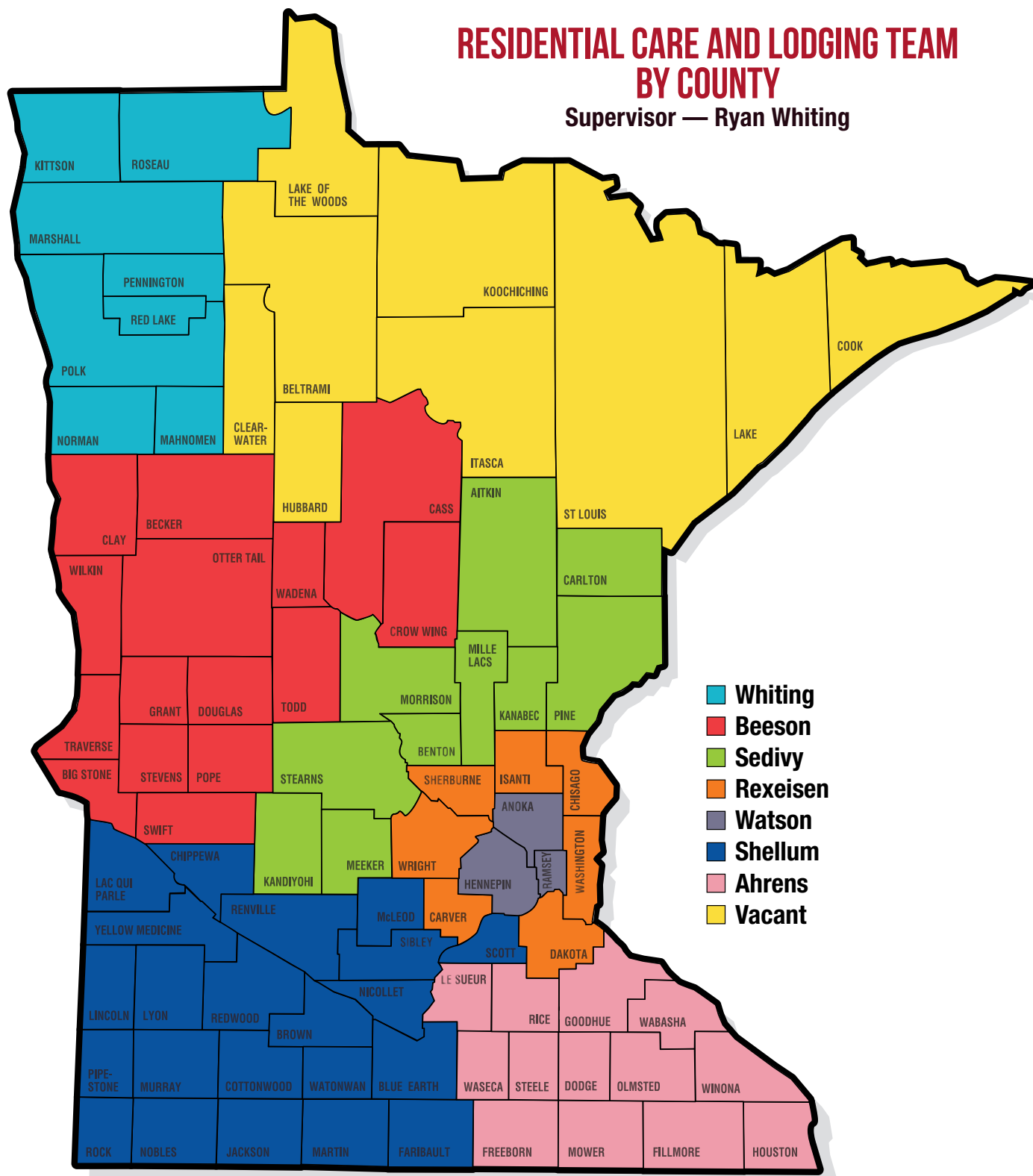
Coverage area: Southeast Minnesota

Contact: 507-3084189 or travis.ahrens@state.mn.us

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Ryan Whiting



RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM

Dan Beeson I Inspector

Location: Brainerd

Coverage area: Northeast Minnesota

Contact: 612-270-9402 or dan.beeson@state.mn.us

Bob Rexeisen I Inspector

Location: Circle Pines

Coverage area: Metro Area

Contact: 612-386-4657 or robert.rexeisen@state.mn.us

Kevin Sedivy I Inspector

Location: Cross Lake

Coverage area: North Central Minnesota

Contact: 651-295-1639 or kevin.sedivy@state.mn.us

George Shellum I Inspector

Location: Silver Lake

Coverage area: Southwest Minnesota

Contact: 320-327-8465 or george.shellum@state.mn.us

Chris Watson I Inspector

Location: Coon Rapids

Coverage area: Metro Area

Contact: 763-754-0343 or chris.watson@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The mission of the RCLT is to prevent fire deaths and property loss in hotels and residential care homes. People are most vulnerable when they are sleeping in unfamiliar buildings with no one awake to notice a developing fire. As the number of people and the size of a building increase, the potential for loss of life increases, too.

The RCLT mitigates this hazard through fire safety inspections of all hotels in Minnesota every three years, as required by law, with follow-up inspections as needed to gain compliance with the Minnesota State Fire Code. Training and consultation on fire safety requirements and fire prevention is provided to municipalities who conduct fire safety inspections of hotels and residential care homes, and to building owners, licensors and managers.

Residential care homes (day care, foster care, rehab) are inspected for fire safety when first licensed by the DHS.

Fire code safety requirements depend on the use of the building, age of construction, size of the building and other occupancies within the building (such as places of assembly, retail, garages and hazardous areas). Fire safety may include fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire-protected exit corridors and stairways, employee safety training, exit route identification, emergency lighting, fire resistive construction and other requirements, depending on the size and use of the building.

THE BEST OF 2017

The RCLT transitioned through a leadership change in 2017 as supervisor Glen Bergstrand retired and Ryan Whiting was promoted to the position. This created an open inspector position filled by Kevin Sedivy. As a result of these personnel changes, the RCLT region map was modified and several coverage areas changed.

Dan Beeson provided fire code update training on hotel requirements to local fire inspectors that contract with the SFMD to inspect hotels within their jurisdiction. RCLT members accompanied the local inspectors on at least one joint inspection in each contract jurisdiction. There are currently 12 jurisdictions that contract with the SFMD to conduct inspections of hotels.

The team also continued to provide training to DHS licensors and local fire inspectors around the state.

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Inspections

The RCLT is spread out across the state and assists with hundreds of inspections each year. The following is a breakdown of inspections in 2015 and 2016. These stay fairly consistent from year to year with all hotels in the state being inspected once every three years.

Hotels:

- 330 fire safety inspections
- 328 follow-up inspections
- 1,120 fire safety violations cited

DHS-licensed facilities:

- 841 fire safety inspections
- 122 follow-up inspections

Facilities

Here is the breakdown of child care centers, family child care settings, child foster care homes, adult foster care homes and community residential settings in Minnesota at the end of 2017. As you can see, there are a lot of people located throughout Minnesota helping others by providing daily care for children and vulnerable adults. A recent study showed that northwestern Minnesota is short child care for an estimated 2,700 children. Having childcare available has become a major issue for many growing communities.

- 1,744 child care centers
- 8,825 family child care settings
- 4,543 child foster care homes
- 1,079 adult foster care homes
- 3,560 community residential settings
- 9,182 family child care settings

DID YOU KNOW?

The RCLT handles all fire code complaints in the state that do not relate to facilities already inspected by the SFMD. These complaints are always referred to the local fire department if there is one and the RCLT provides any requested assistance to help the local jurisdiction resolve the complaint.

SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM



ABOUT

The public school inspection program was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1990 following several destructive school fires in the late 1980s. The legislation requires the State Fire Marshal Division to inspect each of Minnesota's roughly 1,750 public and charter school buildings once every three years, including primary, middle, secondary and alternative schools.

The School Inspection Team consists of four inspectors and one supervisor. Each member is assigned to a geographical inspection region. All school inspectors hold, at a minimum, a Fire Inspector II certification from the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board and participate in continuing education each year.

MEET THE TEAM

Forrest Williams | Supervisor

Location: Duluth

Coverage area: Northeastern Minnesota

Contact: 651-769-7784 or forrest.williams@state.mn.us

Randi Samuelson | School Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7212 or randi.j.samuelson@state.mn.us

Joe Faust | Inspector

Location: Lonsdale

Coverage area: Southern Minnesota

Contact: 507-602-0651 or joseph.faust@state.mn.us

Kurt Kastella | Inspector

Location: Underwood

Coverage area: Northwestern Minnesota

Contact: 651-769-7775 or kurt.kastella@state.mn.us

Kevin McGinty | Inspector

Location: Zimmerman

Coverage area: Northern Metro and Surrounding Counties

Contact: 651-888-9119 or kevin.mcginty@state.mn.us

John Swanson | Inspector and Plans Examiner

Location: Lakeville

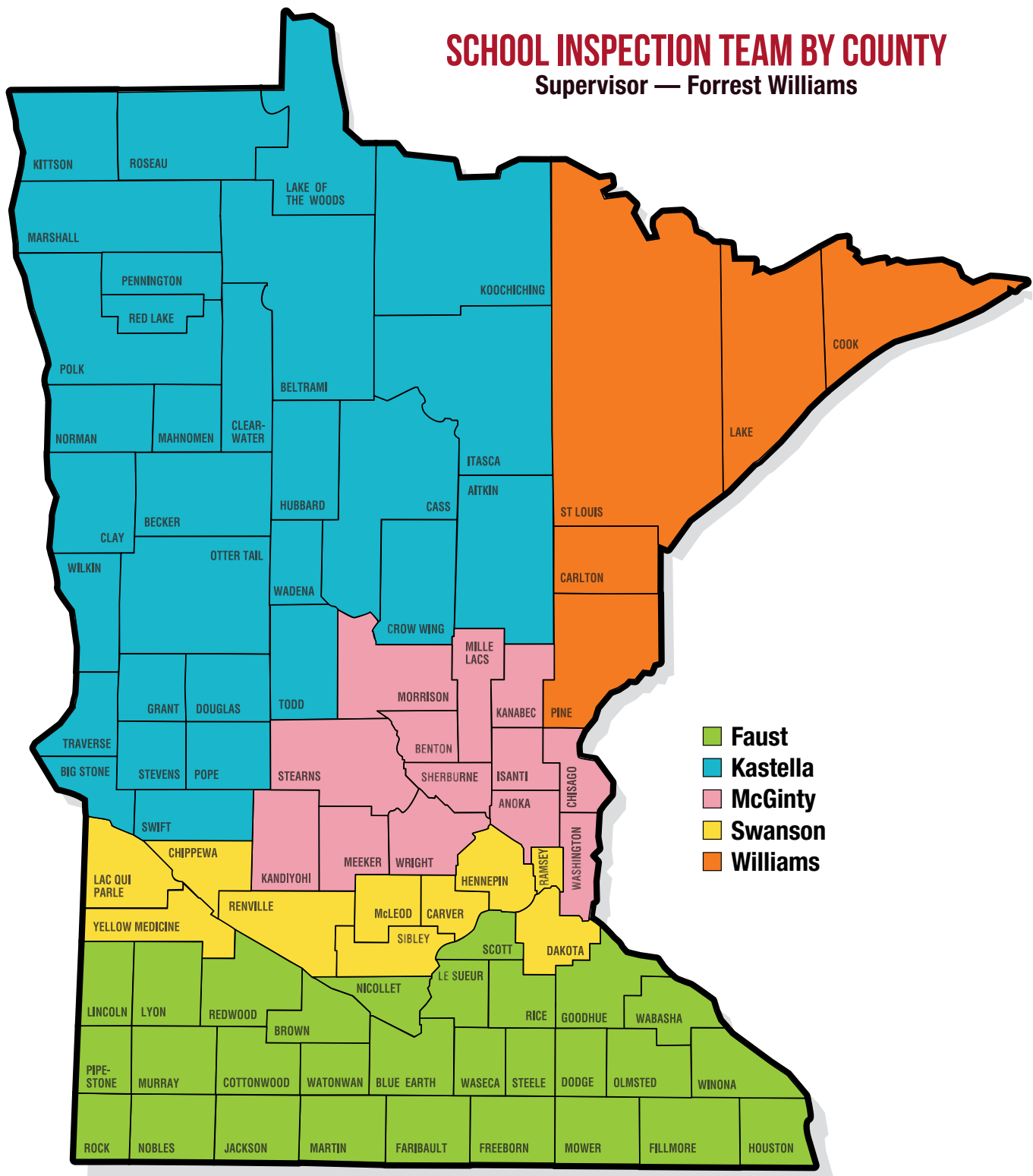
Coverage area: South Central Minnesota

Contact 651-334-3217 or john.swanson@state.mn.us

SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM

SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Forrest Williams



WHAT THEY DO

The primary goal of the program is to identify and correct fire and life safety violations that have historically contributed to disastrous events in schools. To this end, school inspectors focus their attention on the following:

- Adequate means of egress.
- Required fire alarm and fire suppression systems.
- Required fire resistance rated construction features.
- Identification and abatement of fire hazards.
- Educating school administration and staff on fire prevention practices and code compliance.
- Emergency evacuation plans and procedures.

Because many Minnesota school buildings were constructed prior to the adoption of statewide building and fire codes, SFMD officials developed policies to allow installation of automatic sprinkler and fire alarm systems to compensate for the fire safety deficiencies found in these older buildings. Many of these policies were later incorporated into the state fire code. Dozens of school fires have been detected early, controlled or extinguished by fire protection systems installed under these policies.

When school inspectors identify fire code deficiencies, the schools must provide a plan to correct them. Inspectors review these plans to assure that alarm installations and other construction projects meet minimum code requirements.

Evaluating program effectiveness

According to Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) data, Minnesota has 30 percent fewer fires in educational occupancies when compared to the national rate.

Even more impressive is the fire loss comparison, where the average financial loss per school fire in Minnesota has typically been 80 percent below national average when compared to the most recent national data — the only outlier being the total loss of a Minnesota elementary school in 2014 due to a late-night lightning strike. However, prior to that event, there hadn't been a major fire loss in a Minnesota school building for nearly 20 years.

It should also be noted that before the inception of the school inspection program in 1990, fire losses in Minnesota schools closely mirrored the national averages — signifying a 75 percent reduction in fire loss since the inspection program began.

THE BEST OF 2017

The team developed and completed a new informational guideline designed to assist school districts with the development of emergency evacuation procedures for mobility impaired occupants. Because mobility impaired students and staff are often located on floors above or below grade-level, and elevators may be unavailable due to fire conditions, schools must develop alternative evacuation procedures. This document provides resource links and options for schools to consider when evacuating those who may require assistance, and is available for viewing or download on the SFMD website.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Inspections

In 2017 the School Inspection Team conducted 603 inspections and 465 follow-up inspections, resulting in the discovery of 3,695 violations. The 10 most common violations cited by school inspectors are:

1. Means of egress
2. Improper use of extension cords and power-taps
3. Maintenance of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems
4. Improper storage arrangements
5. Openings in ceiling construction
6. Electrical hazards
7. Maintenance of emergency power systems
8. Interior finish materials
9. Non-listed or improper use of electrical appliances
10. Maintenance of required fire doors

SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM

Training

School Inspection Team members provide fire code and inspection training for code officials and local school inspectors, including those units of government authorized to inspect public schools within their jurisdiction. Other training is available for school maintenance staff and administrators, school safety consultants, fire protection system contractors, design professionals and general stakeholders.

Our school inspectors provide quick answers and onsite consultations on code requirements, fire safety practices and emergency planning.

- Training sessions in 2017: 24
- Training hours: 59
- Number of attendees: 970
- Training topics:
 - Fire extinguisher use
 - Common fire code violations
 - State Fire Code update
 - Fire alarm systems
 - Fire code requirements for schools
 - Delayed and staged evacuation strategies

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the school inspection program began in 1990, the fire rate for Minnesota schools has decreased by over 40 percent. The current rate is 1.6 fires per 100 school buildings. An unwanted fire occurs somewhere in a Minnesota school every eight days on average.

SPECIAL TEAMS AND PROJECTS



THE SFMD HONOR GUARD

ABOUT

The Honor Guard was created after a retired staff member died in 2013 and his family requested the SFMD staff participate in the visitation and funeral service.

MEET THE TEAM

Joe Faust | Commander

Contact: joseph.faust@state.mn.us or 507-602-0651

Travis Ahern

James Iammatteo

Thomas Linhoff

Kevin McGinty

Kathi Osmonson

Kerry Queen

Bob Rexeisen

Casey Stotts

Amanda Swenson

Ralph Peterson

Kevin Sedivy

WHAT THEY DO

The 12-member group provides honor guard and color presentation detail for special occasions including:

- Retirements
- Funerals
- Conferences

HOW TO REQUEST THE HONOR GUARD

All requests for the Honor Guard will be forwarded to the State Fire Marshal for consideration. Once a request has been approved, team leaders will contact members for availability to respond and provide all information on the event, its location and times. Go to our website at sfm.dps.mn.gov under the “services” tab to find the Honor Guard webpage to make a request.

SPECIAL TEAMS AND PROJECTS

2017 EVENTS

The SFMD Honor Guard participated in multiple flag (colors) presentations, including the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators annual conference, the SFMD annual conference, the Office of Pipeline Safety annual meeting, the State Fire Chiefs Conference and the Governor's Fire Prevention Day Parade at the Minnesota State Fair.

BEST OF 2017

It was an extremely active year for the SFMD Honor Guard. Team members participated in two line of duty deaths. The Honor Guard also helped transfer a fallen firefighter arriving from Texas onto a plane at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for her final flight home to North Dakota.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Honor Guard provides bell ringing and family escorts at the annual Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ABOUT

The special projects coordinator is responsible for the Recruitment and Retention Stipend Pilot Program, the Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor Grant Program and other special projects as assigned by the state fire marshal.

MEET THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Nanci Libor, Program Administrator

Location: Elk River

Contact: nanci.libor@state.mn.us or 612-270-6956

WHAT SHE DOES

The special projects coordinator assists the SFMD with the following:

- Recruitment and retention
- The Gear Washer Program
- Other special projects

BEST OF 2017

Through the Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor Award program we were able to grant awards of up to \$10,000 to 41 fire departments to assist with the purchase and installation of a gear washer/extractor. This equipment helps clean firefighter gear. Studies have shown that firefighters are acutely exposed to known carcinogens during structure and other fires and are continually exposed via turnout gear that is soiled due to exposure to toxic combustion byproducts.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

The Recruitment & Retention Stipend Pilot Program helped volunteer/paid on call fire departments and EMS organizations with recruitment and retention efforts by paying qualified volunteers a \$500 annual stipend. In 2017, we received applications from all 126 qualified fire departments and 68 EMS organizations. Approximately 3,118 volunteers received the payment. This program was in place through 2017.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Minnesota legislature authorized a program in 2014 to provide an annual stipend to volunteer firefighters, ambulance attendants, and emergency medical responders to improve recruitment and retention of volunteers in these fields. The state paid eligible volunteers in 14 pilot counties \$500 per year for three years. This report from Management Analysis and Development discusses the effectiveness of the program and can be found on our website under "For Fire Departments."

SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM



ABOUT

The SFMD home office in St. Paul has a team of six talented individuals that make sure the division is in great shape to run at optimal levels. Formerly called the clerical staff, these nine professionals are now known as the Support Services Team, a name which better reflects the range of responsibilities carried out by its members.

MEET THE TEAM

Barbara Lundberg | Supervisor

Contact: Barbara.lundberg@state.mn.us or 651-201-7203

Angela Kappenman | Investigations, Health Care, Adult Foster Care and Explosives Support

Contact: angela.kappenman@state.mn.us or 651-201-7208

Nathan Le | Fire Protection and State Fire Marshal Conference Support

Contact: nathan.le@state.mn.us or 651-201-7207

Nolan Pasel | Fleet Manager

Contact: nolan.pasel@state.mn.us or 651-501-7218

Randi Samuelson | Schools and Residential Care and Lodging Team Support

Contact: randi.j.samuelson@state.mn.us or 651-201-7212

Marian Whitney | Health Care Team Support

Contact: marian.whitney@state.mn.us or 651-201-7213

WHAT THEY DO

The complexities of electronic technology have vastly changed the skills required and the level of performance necessary to keep up with the fast pace of the inspectors, investigators, and citizens who depend on the SFMD. No longer the clerical typist of yesteryear, each Support Team member is proficient in the operation of several computer software programs, some of which are job specific, some which occasionally change and require retraining and some of which are completely new. Each team member has individualized, detailed responsibilities for maintaining the schedules and submitted reports of the field staff. Support Services Team members relieve the field staff of some of the details that must be met

SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM

to successfully conduct our classes around the state. Calls from the public are responded to in a timely and professional manner so issues can be resolved. We respect that we hold a position which is critical to the smooth operation of our complicated organization.

THE BEST OF 2017

The support staff has displayed a show of excellence in this past year. A number of major changes that effects each of the staff is in the works. The team has worked as a unit to help each other out in the busy times and have successfully met some tough challenges. Two major changes have involved the investigation team and the health care team.

The Investigation Team is now using a new report and records software system. All of the teams will eventually be transitioning to the new program but the Investigation Team is the first to go live. This has been a long and intense process that has required the cooperation and focused efforts of many parties to succeed.

The Health Care Team has undergone a major revision in time reporting to more accurately reflect the work they contribute to the Department of Health. This change has required detailed and complicated concerted efforts to create an entirely new process that has revolutionized time reporting. Through many revisions, updates, and tweaks, the new time sheets have evolved into an impressive tool.

The Support Services Team has a new member, Nolan Pasell. Nolan has taken on the challenge of building the newly created fleet manager role. With his background in the automotive field and an outstanding approach to customer service, Nolan promises to be a great addition to the subject matter experts that make up our support staff.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

The Support Services Team reviewed and analyzed 7,052 reports in 2017. The reports contained findings following the investigations of fires and the inspections of nursing homes, hospitals, out-patient clinics, daycares, schools, adult and child foster care homes, hotels and motels. Sprinkler plans are reviewed and installations are inspected in construction and remodeling projects. Sites are inspected for explosive permits. Each of these actions requires the careful and thorough documentation by the Support Services Team.

DID YOU KNOW?

The SFMD has never had a fleet manager prior to 2017.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION



ABOUT

The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education's (MBFTE) mission is to standardize training by providing funding to pay for it and by licensing Minnesota firefighters. The MBFTE's vision is to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries through excellence in fire service training and education.

MEET THE TEAM

Steve Flaherty | Executive Director

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Directs, coordinates, and administers the laws, rules, and regulations of the MBFTE. Serves as the link to the Department of Public Safety from the MBFTE. Is accountable for all organizational performance.

Contact: 651-201-7258 or steve.flaherty@state.mn.us

Margaret Koele | Licensing Coordinator

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Manages and administers the MBFTE's legislative mandate to license firefighters; oversees laws, rules and regulations for firefighter licensure; works with the Attorney General's Office regarding the licensing process

Contact: 651-201-7259 or margaret.koele@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The MBFTE was established by the Minnesota Legislature to:

- Review fire service training needs and make training recommendations to Minnesota fire service organizations
- Establish standards for educational programs for the fire service and develop procedures for continuing oversight of those programs
- Establish qualifications for fire service training instructors
- Establish standards under which reimbursement will be provided to departments for training and education

MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The MBFTE has several funding and training reimbursement programs for the fire service to make use of, including: Fire Department Training Reimbursement Award; Live Burn; NFPA 1001 with certification; Conferences and Seminars Award; Incident Safety Officer; Mass and Gross Decon; Railway and Pipeline Awareness; and Fire Service Leadership Development.

Visit www.mbfte.org for more information about the MBFTE.

THE BEST OF 2017

In FY17, approximately \$8 million was made available for Minnesota fire departments, and once again, awards to all Minnesota fire departments were based on a “per firefighter” rate (\$200). The MBFTE chose to award departments based on the number of firefighters on their current roster. No formal applications were required by the MBFTE for a fire department to receive a training reimbursement award.

A record 87 percent of the 780 fire departments submitted training reimbursement documentation to the MBFTE in FY17 — an increase of five percent from FY16.

First-time applicants to the training reimbursement program numbered 15 fire departments, and all but 22 fire departments have now submitted for training reimbursements in at least one of the first nine rounds since this program began. The average reimbursement in FY17 was \$4,366, based on 683 fire departments seeking training reimbursement. Overall, more than \$4.1 million in training reimbursements was requested by Minnesota fire departments in FY17.

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

- Again in FY17, the MBFTE provided reimbursement directly to training providers for NFPA 1001, Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2 and Hazardous Materials Operations training. There was \$2.8 million available to Minnesota fire departments to pay for this training — enough to fund more than 1,300 firefighters.
- The MBFTE provided a total of \$95,000 in reimbursement grants to local, regional and statewide fire service

organizations for unique training events. These “conference, seminar and symposium” awards made available 19 different training opportunities for 21,000 Minnesota firefighters at a significantly reduced rate.

- There was \$98,000 available for live-burn training throughout Minnesota. The money funded 97 separate live-burn trainings in acquired structures across the state in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403 standards. NFPA 1403 live-burn training ensures that all live burns in acquired structures were conducted in a safe manner, meeting a nationally recognized standard.
- The MBFTE provided \$75,000 for cancer awareness and mental behavior health training to the Minnesota fire service. This funding allowed nearly 2,000 firefighters to attend 114 different training opportunities throughout the state.
- The MBFTE provided \$450,000 in funding for 188 students to attend Fire Apparatus Operator training with certification; 235 students to attend Fire Officer 1 training with certification; and 189 students to attend Fire Instructor 1 training with certification.
- The MBFTE provided more than \$45,000 to fund two Fire Service Leadership Development courses held at Camp Ripley throughout the fiscal year. Each 32-hour course consists of four modules, bringing a cross-section of fire service leaders from across the state — at no cost to them or their department — to develop skills and address key leadership issues that are specific to the Minnesota fire service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Firefighter licensure is required by Minnesota Statute 299N.05 for full-time career firefighters. Licensure is optional for volunteer, paid on-call, or part-time firefighters. A license is valid for three years, and the cost is \$75. There are currently 2,239 career firefighters licensed in Minnesota, and another 1,516 non-career firefighters licensed by the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education.

RETIREMENTS

There were two retirements from the SFMD in 2017. Congratulations and well wishes to these employees.

BRAD LUNDQUIST, SCHOOL TEAM INSPECTOR

Congratulations to Brad Lundquist retired in March 2017 after more than 18 years with the State Fire Marshal Division. Brad retired as an inspector with our School Inspection Team. Brad's tireless dedication to school fire safety was evident to all who worked with him.

GLEN BERGSTRAND, RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM SUPERVISOR

Congratulations to Glen Bergstrand who retired in April 2017 after 38 years with the State Fire Marshal Division. Glen retired as the supervisor of Residential Care and Lodging Team. He also served on numerous state and local committees throughout his career, and was instrumental in the development of the SFMD Staging Manager Program.



Minnesota Department of Public Safety
State Fire Marshal Division
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