

December 2018

Newsletter for Alaska's
Fire Service and Building Professionals

Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire and Life Safety

From the desk of
The Alaska State Fire Marshal



Greetings,

As promised, December 31st will be my last day serving as the Alaska State Fire Marshal. I can't begin to tell you what an honor it has been to serve you and this great State for so many years. I promise to work harder at staying retired this time.

There are too many family, friends, co-workers and mentors to thank in this short note. I do need to acknowledge the support and patience of my wife Connie and our kids. With all of the late nights, missed meals and changed plans that come with this career I never got one complaint. I am truly fortunate to have such an amazing and supportive family.

To the Fire and Life Safety Team, I thank you! Your hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. For the past several years you have suffered through budget cuts, lay-offs and the unknown with dignity and professionalism. Through it all you maintained your focus and did what needed to be done to meet our mission. When the cuts forced reductions in service you took those angry calls, and read the bad letters. You will never know how proud I am of, and grateful for, every one of you for the service you provide to the public.

To the Building Professionals across the State: You don't get to ride on shiny fire trucks. There are no "Chicago Plans Examiner or Miami Building Fire Inspector" TV shows. You folks walk through countless buildings, you sit behind your desks quietly working your magic to make a safer work environment for our firefighters and a safer place to live, work and recreate for those we serve. The importance of your work shined through during the November 30th Anchorage area earthquake. It was not a fluke there were no fatalities or major loss of infrastructure. We weren't "lucky". It was planned. Use this as an example to demonstrate the importance of what you do to those who "don't get it".

To the Fire Chiefs: We have accomplished a lot over the past 30 plus years. In training and operations our fire service has matured to a point that didn't seem possible. The end roads you have made in Juneau are incredible. Your professionalism and dogged determination have earned the respect of our legislature and the executive branch. In addition to your work with State government, and your day jobs, you have taken on Washington DC with the Congressional Fire Services Institute, and you are now leading the Western Fire Chiefs Association. Because of your efforts and leadership Alaska Fire Chiefs have a great reputation all across the nation for being the folks that get things done. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association. You can all be proud of how this organization has grown. Working side by side with such an amazing group of professionals has been an honor.

To the Firefighters across the State: There is only one thing in this world better than hanging out with a firefighter, and that is hanging out with a whole room full of them. Over the past several years I have been watching the young firefighters and company officers coming up through the ranks. You folks are doing things we never dreamed of, and you're doing it safely. Your focus on safety and training is impressive. I am excited for you and the future of the fire and emergency services in Alaska.

One last note to the Firefighters, your next mission is to continue your efforts to better protect yourselves from the carcinogenic exposures you encounter daily. Don't wait for someone else to do it for you. Take care of yourself. Eat healthy and live healthy, then decon, decon, decon after every call. Of course, **DON'T FORGET TO JOURNAL!!!** Do it for yourselves and do it for your families.

Now, it is with the utmost respect and gratitude that I sign off. I thank each and every one of you for all of your hard work and dedication to public service.

Stay Safe and stay in touch, (blushingmoose@yahoo.com)

Dave Tyler

The mission of the Division of Fire and Life Safety is to
prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion.

The Fire Flyer