

Fire Marshal Commission, State (59 O.S. § 1820.6)

Agency Code 310 (IA)

2401 NW 23 Street, Suite 4, Oklahoma City 73107

405/522-5005, FAX 405/522-5028, Arson Hot line—800/522-8666

www.firemar.state.ok.us

Mission Statement The Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal is a state law enforcement agency charged with the task of preservation of life and property through enforcement of criminal statutes and mandated fire prevention/life safety codes. The agency will be guided by the following principles: a commitment to provide leadership in the fire service through effective communication with the Oklahoma Legislature, public officials, and citizens; a commitment to provide continual public relations and education; a commitment to interact positively with law enforcement, government agencies, and other interested professional entities; and a commitment to the improvement and the financial stability of the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal in order to provide more efficient service to the citizens of Oklahoma.

Administration Robert Doke, State Fire Marshal; JoAnne Sellars, Assistant Fire Marshal

Personnel 24 classified, 4 unclassified, merit

History and Function The State Fire Marshal's Office was originally established in 1910, but then abolished in 1957. Recognizing the need for a state fire marshal, the Oklahoma fire service voiced concerns and the office was re-established in 1965. Prior to this, fires were investigated by agents with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) and code enforcement/plan review regulations were conducted only in cities having an established code enforcement office. In 1965 the Oklahoma Legislature established the Office of the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal and a five-member commission was appointed to oversee the agency's operations, including the hiring of the state fire marshal. The agency began its operations with the state fire marshal and only three agents. They were given statewide jurisdiction and responsibility for conducting fire investigations and building inspections. In 1970 the plans review unit of the code enforcement division of the agency was formed. Today, the agency has three divisions: Administration and Public Education, Fire Investigations, and Code Enforcement. It has approximately thirty employees with an annual appropriated budget of approximately \$2.2 million. All agents are sworn peace officers. Field agents are located throughout the state and office from their homes.