

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2026

Letter From the Chairman

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Winter Edition of our newsletter. I hope everyone enjoyed a joyous, safe, and fire-conscious holiday season.

The goal of this newsletter is to keep our stakeholders and the public informed of the latest updates, initiatives, and activities taking place at the Delaware Fire Service Center. We are pleased to share that construction of the new Commission office is nearing completion, with plans to open to the public by March. To commemorate this milestone, we are planning a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House for this state-of-the-art facility. Additional details will be shared soon.

The Delaware State Fire Commission is responsible for overseeing background requirements for the fire and emergency medical services. We are proud to announce that the Commission is now an authorized IdentoGO and TSA background check provider. This new capability allows us to conduct background checks for students and individuals seeking membership in the fire or EMS services, as well as assist members of the public in obtaining required background screenings.

As we enter the new year, several new regulations will take effect. If you have questions regarding regulations, certifications, or licensing, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our staff is committed to ensuring you receive accurate and timely information. If there is information you would like to see included in future editions of this newsletter, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to contact us by phone or email.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and valuable, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

Respectfully,
Ron Marvel
Delaware State Fire Commissioner
Chairperson

Healing the Helpers Conference

Our dedicated first responders—firefighters, law enforcement officers, marshals, and EMS personnel—face unique challenges every day. Recognizing the importance of both mental and physical well-being, the Behavioral Health Consortium (BHC) hosted the inaugural Healing the Helpers Conference on November 12, 2025, in Dover, Delaware.

The conference offered first responders a chance to focus on personal and professional wellness, providing practical tools, peer support, and resources to strengthen emotional resilience and promote long-term well-being. National and local experts shared insights on managing cumulative stress, trauma exposure, and proactive mental health care—emphasizing that seeking support is a sign of strength, not weakness. Equally important was the opportunity for attendees to connect. The room was filled with emergency responders eager to learn strategies for reducing stress, building resilience, and developing skills to rely on when challenges arise. A segment of the conference provided Lt. Governor Gay and Commission Taylor from the Department of Correction to lead a group panel discussion, featuring first responders sharing personal experiences. Among them, Brennon Fountain, Chief of Carlisle Fire Department, spoke openly about his own struggles and the journey toward renewed strength and determination.



The Delaware Fire Commission's Mental Health Administrator, Diane Glenn, was instrumental in planning the day's agenda and coordinating speakers. She now serves as Chair of the First Responders & Veterans Working Group for the Behavioral Health Consortium, helping lead initiatives that address the unique mental health needs of first responders and veterans across Delaware. The BHC First Responders & Veterans Working Group will continue to provide ongoing opportunities

for organizations and individuals dedicated to behavioral health to share expertise, implement best practices, and lead meaningful change. The Healing the Helpers Conference reinforced a vital message: by prioritizing wellness, first responders are better equipped to serve their communities effectively while maintaining their own health.

Commission Staff Spotlight - David Truax, Chief Investigator



In 2014, the Delaware State Fire Commission assumed additional responsibilities when it was charged with overseeing ambulance permitting and certification statewide. To support these expanded duties, the Commission created an investigator position responsible for conducting investigations related to regulatory and EMS protocol violations. David Truax was selected to fill this critical role.

A lifelong Delaware resident, Mr. Truax has dedicated his career to public safety and service within the Delaware Fire Service. He has held multiple positions throughout his career, including serving as the Dover City Fire Marshal. Mr. Truax began his career in October 1990 as a fire investigator and steadily advanced through the ranks to become the City's Fire Marshal.

During his tenure, Mr. Truax was instrumental in advancing the Dover City Fire Marshal's Office, including the hiring of the City's first law enforcement officer. This milestone allowed the office to operate independently and conduct investigations into criminal statutes related to fires.

In 2022, the Delaware State Fire Commission further expanded its investigative services, and Mr. Truax was promoted to Chief Investigator, overseeing the Commission's investigative division. In this role, he continues to play a key part in assisting with the implementation and enforcement of fire and EMS regulations across the state.

The Commission extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Truax for his dedication, leadership, and continued loyalty to the agency.

New Building Update

Exciting progress continues throughout the building! Furniture is scheduled to be moved in at the beginning of February, marking another big step toward completion. The custom wood wall panels for the chamber are expected to arrive in early February and should be fully installed within 1-2 weeks of delivery. Work in the garage area is moving quickly and is anticipated to be completed by next week. Meanwhile, the admin side punch list remains on track and is scheduled for completion during the first week of February.

Seasonal Safety Tips

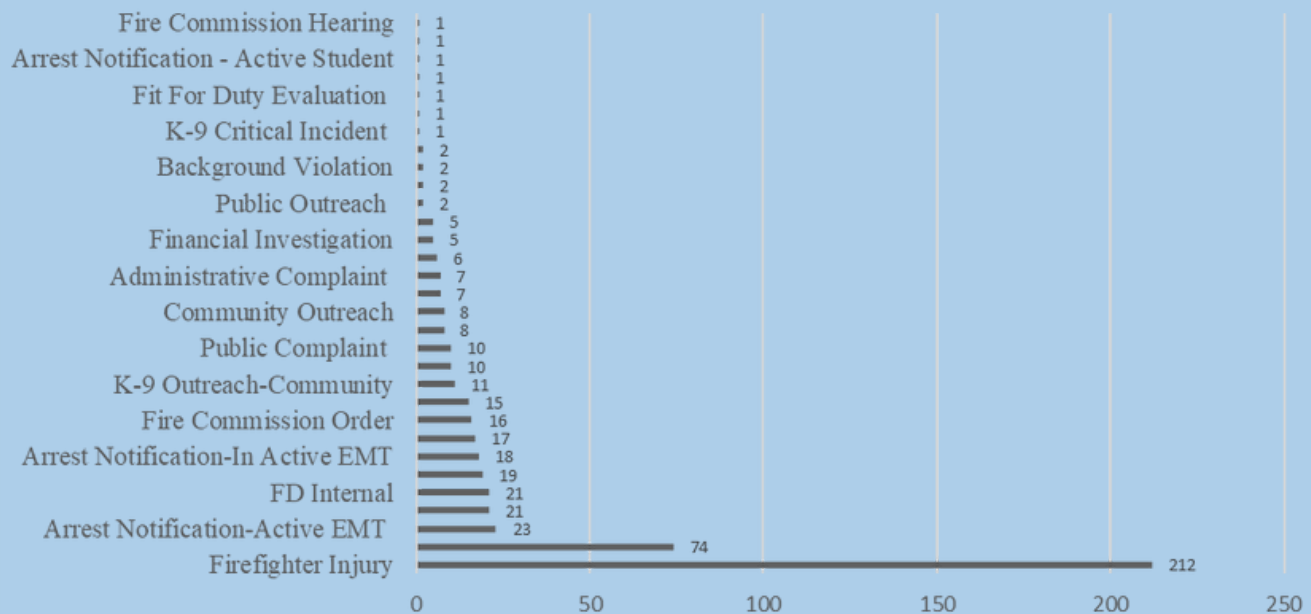
Cold winter temperatures mean increased use of space heaters, fireplaces, and electrical devices, which also increases the risk of home fires.

To reduce fire risk this January:

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn
- Never leave heaters or fireplaces unattended
- Plug heaters directly into wall outlets—avoid extension cords
- Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed
- Turn off heating devices before going to bed or leaving the room

A little prevention goes a long way in keeping your home and family safe this winter

2025 Investigations



Upcoming Public Meetings

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 9:00 am—11:00 am

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 9:00 am—11:00 am

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 9:00 am—11:00 am

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 9:00 am—11:00 am