

DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2016—2017



Dräger Phase V

Fire Simulator Prop



Education is the key to Professionalism

Delaware State Fire School Mission:

To Provide Professional Instruction and Training for the Emergency Services and the Public to Improve Fire - EMS Services for all the Citizens of Delaware.



STATUTORY MANDATE

Delaware Code, Title 16, Chapter 66, §6613 – 6618, mandates the Delaware State Fire School to:

1. Provide firefighter's with needful professional instruction and training at a minimum cost to them and their employers
2. Develop new methods and practices of firefighting
3. Provide facilities for testing firefighting equipment
4. Disseminate the information relative to fires, techniques of firefighting, and other related subjects to all interested agencies and individuals throughout the state
5. Undertake any project and engage in any activity which, in the opinion of the State Fire Prevention Commission, will serve to improve public safety.

On July 1, 1972, the State Fire Prevention Commission was also given the mandate under Delaware Code, Title 16, and Chapter 67, §6708 – 6714, to regulate the ambulance service in Delaware. The Commission assigned to the State Fire School the added duties of inspecting and licensing ambulances and the training and certifying of ambulance personnel.



FROM THE DIRECTOR, Robert P. Newnam

My staff and I are proud to provide this, the Fifty-third Annual Report of the Delaware State Fire School. The Delaware State Fire School, under the auspices of the State Fire Prevention Commission, provides Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Training and Public Fire Safety Education to the Fire and Rescue service, as well as, to Industry and Citizens of our State.

The strong support and belief in our mission, goals and objectives by the Governor and members of the General Assembly have enabled us to achieve the reputation of being one of the finest training facilities in our nation. However, even more important is our ability to provide training, that on a daily basis, helps ensure the safety of all the citizens of Delaware, their property and the environment whenever an emergency occurs.

This past year has been another busy and productive year for the Fire School. We have made major advances in implementing upgrades to our facility and grounds. We have a new fire simulator, capable of giving students realistic conditions for training. In New Castle, we have new training props and equipment, as we begin to provide more training at our Divisions.

Carrying on the vision of the first Director Lou Amabili the mission of this school has not changed, to provide professional instruction and training to the public and emergency responders of this State. We are proud of our past and look forward to the future.

Fiscal Year 2018 will bring many challenges, which we are prepared to meet. We will continue to be responsive to the needs of our Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services and those of our other customers. As we do business in a smarter more technologically advanced world we are and will be prepared to continue to meet our mission.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to comply with the statutory mandate, the State Fire School established a goal "To provide Fire, Rescue, Emergency Care and related training to members of the fire community, industry, agencies, institutions and the general public requiring specific programs and any program which will serve to benefit the safety of the public." The primary activities are consolidated into in-service fire department training courses, training programs for state agencies, institutions and industrial facilities, public education programs, and emergency care courses. The agency objectives established to achieve that goal are:

- To provide firefighter's with needful professional instruction and training.
- To provide basic life support personnel with needful professional instruction and training.
- To provide rescue personnel with needful professional instruction and training.
- To certify basic life support personnel as State of Delaware Emergency Medical Technician.
- To inspect and license ambulances that operate within the State of Delaware.
- To provide agency, institutional and industry and the general public with needful professional instruction and training.
- To disseminate information relative to fires, techniques of firefighting and other related subjects to all agencies and Individuals throughout the state.
- To develop new methods and practices of firefighting.
- To provide facilities for testing of firefighting equipment.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

In order to more effectively manage the State Fire School's training and education program, services for specific target audiences have been identified:

- Program services for firefighter's and fire officers
- Program services for ambulance and rescue personnel
- Program services for state agencies, institutions, and industrial personnel and the general public.

An integral part of each program service area is the technical services which include, but are not limited to, the preparation of instructional outlines, the preparation of student materials, the selection and development of visual aids and training aids, the selection and development of instructional staff, the preparation and publication of informational bulletins, consultation services, emergency planning, etc.

QUALITY CONTROL

Since its inception in 1964, the State Fire School has been sensitive to the need for quality training and education in the fire prevention and control effort and has been continually responsive to that need. As the demand for programs and services increase, so does the need to select and qualify additional instructional personnel.

Strong emphasis is placed on improving the instructor development program for the part-time personnel. Instructor candidates are trained in instructional methodology and then trained to teach specific subject areas. Active instructors are cross-trained in high priority subject areas to help the school meet its program service demands as well as improving the individual's professional ability. All instructors are required to attend improvement seminars as scheduled by the Fire School in order to maintain their certification.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Continued emphasis is placed on planning and evaluation. Existing courses of instruction are reviewed and revised, as necessary, to assure their content is current and consistent with new concepts and techniques. Careful study is given to the need for additional courses. When a need is determined, the completion date for the development of the course is established, the selection and training of instructors is considered, and the date for delivery of the new course is scheduled.

Regular staff meetings and yearly evaluation and planning meetings are scheduled to monitor the progress of the tasks assigned during the planning session and to make any adjustments which may become necessary. These efforts continue to produce positive results. In addition to conducting the normally scheduled activities and meetings, honoring special requests for programs and services, progress continues to be made towards improving program quality. Emphasis on improving program management and monitoring cost analysis has improved program quality and cost-effectiveness.

PROJECTS / INITIATIVES COMPLETED

Major projects initiated or completed during fiscal year 2017 included:

1. Continued the validation of programs offered by the School.
2. Continued to update our computers and computer programs to keep up with a changing environment.
3. Constructed additional classroom and office space at the New Castle Division.
4. Installed a car fire prop at the Sussex Division, received through a Federal Grant.
5. Installed the Phase V Burn Prop at the Dover Center, received through a Federal Grant.
6. SCBA replacement project with the purchase of 130 Scott Air-Paks completed.
7. Replaced the sliding glass doors in Dover Classrooms 8 and 10 with Emergency Exit doors.
8. Ran two DSFS Fire Academy classes at the New Castle Division.
9. Began the use of MyBrady Lab with EMT class allowing students to study more online.
10. Installed forcible entry training doors at all 3 Divisions.
11. Replaced all CPR manikins to be uniform and updated.
12. Developed and delivered an American Sign Language Course.



13. Developed and delivered a new MAYDAY Skills Course In-service.
14. Updated the Firefighter Survival Program.
15. Constructed a garage and storeroom at Sussex Division for Fire Safety.
16. Held a Junior Fire Camp to introduce teens to the fire service in Delaware to assist with recruitment and retention.
17. Upgraded flammable gas pad manifold.
18. Repairs to railings and roof drill tower..

NEW PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

Major projects or programs to be initiated or implemented during fiscal year 2018 include:

1. Continue to upgrade online learning system and improve "cloud" service to staff and instructors.
2. Continue the validation of programs offered by the School.
3. Continue to update our computers and computer programs to keep up with a changing environment.
4. Remodel the staff office areas to become more streamlined and efficient.
5. Add a Computer Lab to facilitate computer-based courses and add testing center capabilities as a Pearson Vue Center for NREMT testing and for certification testing.
6. Repair concrete pad on the drill grounds and repair bulkhead at the Dover Center.
7. Build a Fire Fighter Self Survival prop using a box container donated to us.
8. Make improvements to our Vehicle Rescue area by adding curbing or guardrails.
9. Working with Delaware Technical and Community College on a Fire Science certificate program.
10. Continue offering the DSFS Fire Academy class with possible expansion to Sussex County.
11. Develop a Low Angle Rescue course.
12. Develop a Vehicle Rescue Officer program.
13. Update Harassment and Diversity training to make separate courses for leadership available.
14. Offer more hybrid courses to allow students to take training at their own pace.
15. Explore additional certifications, such as Life Safety Educator, Traffic Management, and National Training of EMS Educators.
16. Begin staffing of Divisions on a regular basis Monday through Friday.
17. Remodel the State Fire Prevention Commission office area.



IN CONJUNCTION WITH . . .

In a continuing effort to support the emergency services in Delaware, the Delaware State Fire School continues to offer courses and seminars provided by other experts in special areas:

Rapid Intervention Teams
Specialty Rescue Teams
National Fire Academy
DNREC & Water Rescue
DE Volunteer Firefighters Assc.

Delaware State Fire Chiefs
Dept. of Agriculture—Forestry Division
DE State Police Helicopter DE Air Rescue Team
State Fire Police
DE Academy of Public Safety

Delaware State Police Recruit Class



Delaware Academy of Public Safety Class

Training Center Usage

The administration building is made available for meetings, classes and other functions, which serve the public interest. During the past year, maximum usage of the facility has continued because of its central location. The following state agencies, institutions and emergency service organizations utilized the facility:

DE Volunteer Firefighter's Association
DE Volunteer Firefighter's Ladies Auxiliary
Delaware Emergency Management Agency
Delaware State Police
Department of Corrections
Department of Education
Department of Elections
Department of Finance
Department of Forestry
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Public Health
Department of Technology & Information
Department of Transportation
Dept of Services for Children, Youth Family
Division of Accounting
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Division of Social Services
Fire Marshal's Office

Air Products and Chemicals
Axeon Specialty Products
BASF Corporation
Chemours
Eastern Technical Inc.
Edgewell
E.I. Dupont—Experimental Station
Honeywell
MacDermid
Mead Westvaco
New Castle County Police
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Office of Management and Budget
PBF (DE City Refinery)
Philadelphia Energy Solutions
Proctor and Gamble
State Emergency Response Commission
Sunoco
U.S. Capitol Police

National Certification Programs

Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations Certification

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications nationally recognized certification examination for Hazardous Materials Awareness are administered by the Delaware State Fire School within the Basic Fire Fighting Skills Course, Law Enforcement Recruitment Training and our EMT classes. The Hazardous Materials Operations Certification examination is offered annually and In-Service upon request. This past year, 716 students received certification in Hazardous Materials Awareness and 257 students received certification in Hazardous Materials Operations.

Firefighter & Fire Officer Certification

Nationally recognized certification examinations for Firefighter I & II and Fire Officer I & II are administered annually at the Delaware State Fire School in conjunction with National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. This past year 13 students challenged and successfully passed the Firefighter I examination and 6 students passed the Firefighter II examination. The Fire Officer I examination was challenged by 7 students and the Fire Officer II examination was challenged by 6 students.

Driver/Operator, Pump & Aerial Certification

Nationally recognized certification examinations for Pump & Aerial Operations is available in conjunction with National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Practical evolutions are also offered, leading to the national certification. This past year 2 students were certified in Driver/Operator.

Rescue Technician Certification

Nationally recognized certification examinations for Rescue Technician in the Vehicle Rescue, Confined Space and the Rope Rescue disciplines are available in conjunction with National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications. This past year there were no students certified in Rescue Technician.

Hazardous Materials Technician Certification

The Delaware State Fire School provides a 40-hour Hazardous Materials Technician course. We also offer a 6-hour Hazardous Material Branch officer and a 16-hour Hazardous Materials Safety Officer. The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications provides eligible individuals certification. This past year 254 students were certified as 40-hour Hazardous Materials Technician. There were 62 students who received certification for the Hazardous Materials Branch Officer and 66 students who received certification for the Hazardous Materials Safety Officer.

Incident Safety Officer Certification

Nationally recognized certification examinations for Incident Safety Officer are available in conjunction with National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications. This past year 21 students were certified in Incident Safety Officer.

Fire Service Instructor I & II Certification

The Delaware State Fire School conducts courses and certifies students as Fire Instructor I and Fire Instructor II. This year 14 students took Fire/Emergency Services Instructor I class and were certified in Fire Service Instructor I and 12 were certified to National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications Fire Instructor II level.

NFPA 1081 Advanced Exterior Fire Brigade Certification

Nationally recognized certification examinations for Advanced Exterior Fire Brigade Member are held at the end of a 40-hour training course. There were 11 students receiving a passing grade in both a written and practical examinations and were certified by the National Board of Professional Fire Service Qualifications.

Fire Inspector Certification

Nationally recognized certification examinations for Fire Inspector I & II are administered annually at the Delaware State Fire School in conjunction with National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Working with the NFPA, students attended a 40 hour course with a full work load.



PROGRAMS....

FIRE, RESCUE and OFFICER PROGRAMS

The fire department training programs are conducted at the Delaware State Fire Training Center throughout the week, including nights and weekends. This allows the volunteer firefighters of the state to be accommodated without having to take time off from work. The Dover Center and two regional centers are used for weekend and weeknight training and refresher training for a variety of courses that range from six core entry level programs all the way through various stages of leadership. Each of the courses is designed so that the firefighter may progress from one level of training to the next more difficult level. Ancillary programs are offered throughout the year to supplement the sequential training program. Also provided are National Fire Academy courses to support continuing education and special interest seminars; thereby allowing for the firefighters and officers in the state to maintain the highest level of training.

We have added the option of taking classes in a blended format. Combining online learning with traditional lecture or hands-on. Currently, Firefighter I, Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor I and Blue Card are available this way, and we are developing other programs for the near future.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE BRIGADE PROGRAMS

The Delaware State Fire School is very proud of its Industrial Fire Brigade training programs. Though this program has been copied elsewhere, its quality has never been duplicated. The programs were developed so that courses between Basic Skills and Brigade Leadership may be taken in any order to accommodate fire brigade personnel from industries and businesses in the state. Each of the programs have been developed to meet the national standards under NFPA 600. We now offer certification NFPA 1081 in Advanced Exterior Firefighting. The training ranges from basic firefighting skills, to leadership development; with a full range of rescue programs and Hazardous Materials Technician courses where successful completion grants Pro Board certification. Also, the School provides Emergency Medical Responder training for those requiring a basic first aid course as well as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training.



AGENCY and INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

Training Courses are conducted for those associated with other agencies that have a need for Safety Awareness. Programs are provided through our Healthcare Program to employees of Long Term Care Facilities, Hospitals and any other individuals who provide direct care to others. Custodial Fire Safety Training is held for those who are new employees within State School Districts to make them familiar with Fire Safety Issues within their workplace. All of these programs are designed to meet the special needs of the clients in obtaining the certification level they are required to have. Corrections Fire Safety training is offered to recruits and Corrections Officers at our state's detention facilities. Topics include Basic Hazard Identification, patient movement, evacuations and General Fire Safety. Training is provided for new Recruits of area Police Departments through our Law Enforcement Fire Safety Program.

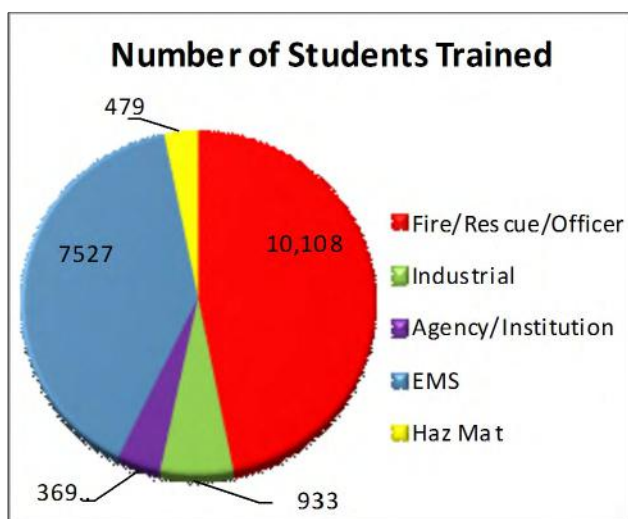
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

The Delaware State Fire School continues to improve its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Programs. The school offers various levels of EMS training to the State's fire and ambulance companies as well as law enforcement and industrial companies. The vision of the Delaware State Fire School's EMS program is to provide quality education to willing individuals, create partnerships among the various agencies and to always offer the most progressive EMS training available.

Introductory courses offered are American Heart Association (AHA) programs. Students learn CPR and basic first aid. The next level of training is the Emergency Medical Responder course. This training is based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) national curriculum. However, the National Registry written examination is optional.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is the highest level of training the school offers. This course is based on the (NHTSA) national curriculum. To be certified in the State of Delaware, individuals must have completed all course requirements and successfully completed the National Registry of EMT's written and practical examination.

Partnerships with other agencies continue to be an integral part of our successful EMS division; such as Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support through National Association of EMT's (NAEMT).



Fire Safety Programs Reached 29,110 People

Fire Safety programs are provided to a wide range of audiences across our state. Programs are age appropriate, targeted at groups ranging from Pre-School to Senior Citizens. They are given for public and private schools, as well as civic organizations, scout groups, day care centers, senior citizen groups, agricultural groups, state agencies, and many others. Children, teachers and parents may visit our facilities through our "School Tour Program." They become familiar with the Fire School and participate in activities such as Stop, Drop and Roll, Emergency Calling, Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH), Fire Behavior, and the roles of the Community Helpers such as Firefighter and EMT's.

The Delaware State Fire School also partners with several groups to provide safety messages to the public, including Kent Kids, Delaware Safe Kids, Injury Prevention Coalition, Local Senior Centers as well as other State Agencies and Safe Routes to School.



The Fire School attempts to assess and generate current information regarding Community Risk Assessment. Major resources include but are not limited to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Fire Academy, National Fire Protection Association and the International Fire Service Training Association, all of which support National Fire Protection Association Standards.

We play an active role with groups such as Safe Kids, Progressive Ag Safety, Center for Campus Fire Safety and Vision 20/20, expanding the message of Risk Reduction.

Injury Prevention Programs Reached 16,066 People

The Delaware State Fire School continues to offer injury prevention programs in schools and community settings to help decrease preventable injuries, lower overall visits to emergency rooms, and even reduce the death rate of children in Delaware. Some of the risk areas that are offered include poison prevention, stranger safety, bicycle safety, and pedestrian safety.

The Delaware State Fire School also works closely with Safe Kids Delaware, as well as other partner agencies, to deliver these safety messages. Through one of these partnerships we were able to add a bike rodeo to our school tour programs for 4th and 5th grade classes. During these bike safety lessons students learn bike helmet safety, rules of the road, and get to practice some important riding skills.

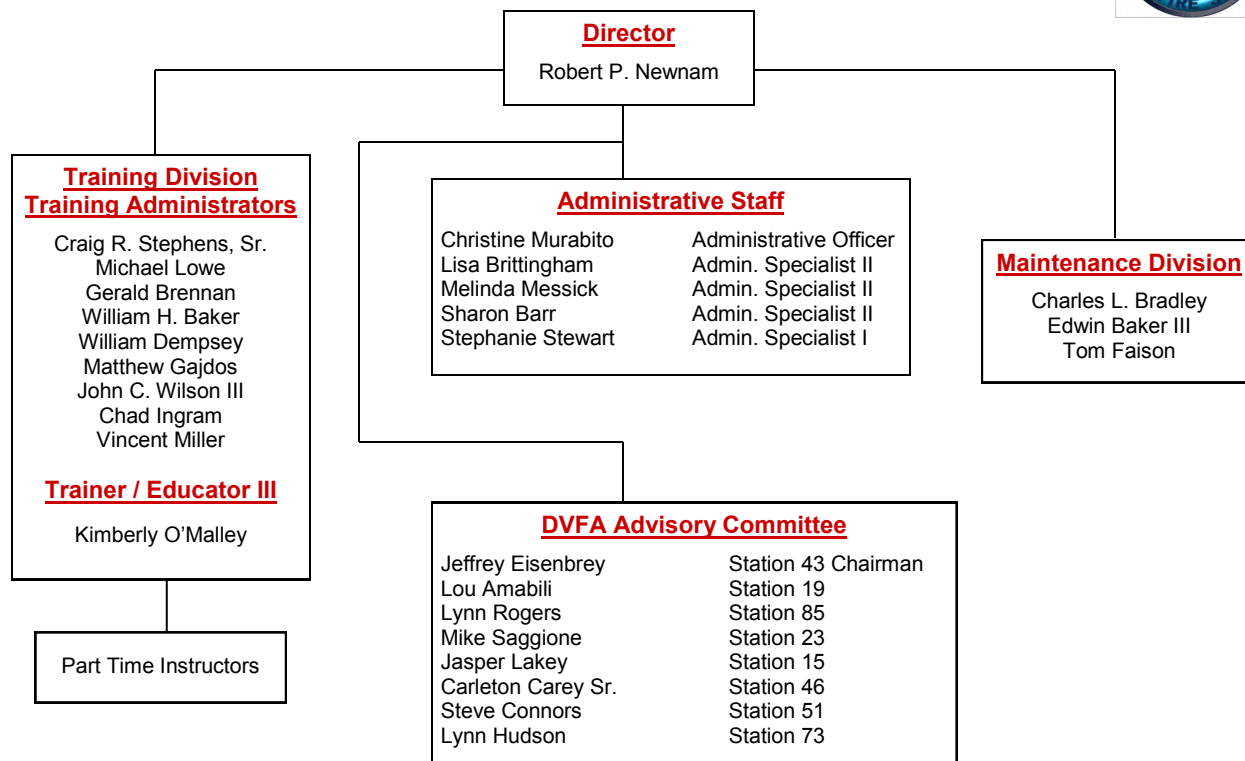
Our community outreach has expanded to include displays at various events on safety topics related to the time of year the event is held. Some of the topic areas include back to school safety, Halloween safety, poison prevention, bike safety, and home safety. Our Halloween safety displays can be seen in public libraries throughout the state during the month of October.



Delaware State Fire School Program Managers:

- William (Billy) Baker* (Member of Houston Fire Company) Joined the staff in April 2000. His responsibilities include: Fire Instructor I and II, Foam, Truck Company Operations, Wildfire classes and the Custodial program. He schedules the Fire Department in-service training for Kent County Division. Billy is also responsible for the Instructor Aides and Assistant Accreditation Manager for Certification.
- Gerald (Jerry) Brennan* (Member of Delaware City Fire Company) Joined the staff in April 1999. His responsibilities include: Emergency Vehicle Operator courses, Air Monitoring, Arson Awareness, Fit Testing classes, and the National Fire Academy programs. He schedules the Fire Department in-service training for the New Castle County Division. Jerry also manages the Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant and the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- William (Tucker) Dempsey* (Member of Cheswold Fire Company) Joined the staff in March 2011. His responsibilities include: Fire Officer Training classes and certification, Blue Card Certification program, Engine Company classes, Incident Command training, Fire Inspector classes, Fire Ground Operations classes, Residential Building Construction and Smoke Signals classes. Tucker is also a member of the Delaware Air Rescue Team.
- Chad Ingram* (Member of Wilmington Manor Fire Company) Joined the staff in March 2016. His responsibilities include our core curriculum to become a firefighter—the Basic Firefighting Skills, Structural Firefighting Skills and Hazardous Materials Response Skills classes, Introduction to Emergency Services, Fire Alarm classes, Recruit classes, and the Firefighter I and II training.
- Matthew Gajdos* (Member of Dagsboro Fire Company) Joined the staff in October 2012. His responsibilities include: the Emergency Medical Technician Full and Refresher classes, Emergency Medical Responder Full and Refresher classes, EMS Reciprocity classes, EMS CEU classes, BLS Protocols, FTO Program, and National Fire Academy Delaware Weekend. Matt also serves as the EMS-Children Representative.
- Michael Lowe* (Member of Laurel Fire Department) Joined the staff in June 1998. His responsibilities include: Delaware State Police Recruit classes, the Public Fire Safety Education Programs, Seminars and Displays. He schedules the Fire Department in-service training for Sussex County Division. He represents the school in the Public Education Section of the National Fire Protection Association. He is the Certification Administrator for the School, working to keep our national certification accreditation current. Mike also serves as the Fire School Public Information Officer.
- Vincent Miller* (Member of Cranston Heights Fire Company) Joined the staff in August 2015. His responsibilities include: Fire Police Classes, Harassment Programs, and Women’s Programs. Vinnie is the American Heart Association Training Center Coordinator and manages all the CPR, AED, and First Aid classes. He is also the On-Line Class Coordinator and is working with the Delaware Learning Center to offer more class offerings on-line. He handles all the Certification Testing and is the Certification Testing Compliance Officer. Vinnie also maintains the Fire School’s social media (Facebook, Web Page, etc.).
- Kimberly O’Malley* (Member of Citizen’s Hose Fire Company and Auxiliary) Joined the staff in August 2012 and is serving as a Trainer/Educator III in Public Safety Education. Her responsibilities include scheduling school tours at each of the three Divisions. Kim also coordinates injury prevention programs in child care facilities and in classrooms in the schools.
- Craig Stephens* (Member of Lewes Fire Company) Joined the staff in April 1997. His responsibilities include the Hazardous Materials Technician training and Industrial Fire Brigade Programs, Aerial Apparatus, and Driver/Operator. Craig also develops the Memorial Program for the Annual Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association Conference.
- John (Jackie) Wilson III* (Member of Seaford Fire Company) Joined the staff in January 2015 after retiring from the Wilmington Fire Department. His responsibilities include the Rescue Programs, managing the classes of Vehicle Rescue, Aircraft Rescue, Water Rescue, Rope Rescue, Firefighter Self Survival, RIT Training and Rescue Technician Certification.

DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL STAFF



STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION



The State Fire Prevention Commission was formed for the purpose of the promulgation of regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion. The commission is comprised of six members appointed by the governor for a six-year term. Each county has two representatives, one from industry, and one from the fire service. A seventh member of the commission is the past president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association, who serves a one-year term. The commission conducts their meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., in the commission chamber located in the Delaware State Fire School.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
David Roberts	Chairman	January 2020
Alan Robinson, Jr.	Vice-Chairman	October 2022
Joseph Zeroles	Commissioner - DVFA	September 2017
Tom DiCristofaro	Commissioner	October 2022
Marvin Sharp	Commissioner	September 2018
Ron Marvel	Commissioner	January 2020
Lynn Truitt	Commissioner	November 2020
Patrick Matthews	Medical Director	
Sherry Lambertson	Executive Specialist	
Elizabeth Carey	Administrative Specialist II	
Dave Truax	Investigator II	



Delaware State Fire School
1461 Chestnut Grove Road
Dover, DE 19904

Phone: (302) 739-4773
Fax: (302) 739-6245
www.statefireschool.delaware.gov



History of the Fire School

Over five decades ago, a group of ambitious men from the Delaware Fire Service organized the first formal training program for the volunteer firemen. For many years, the Educational Committee of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association, supported by the Department of Vocational and Technical Education carried on a valiant and rewarding program to provide training for the firemen in the state. They held classes in abandoned houses, in sandpits, at schools, in fire stations, and any other location that they could find. During this time, the dream of a permanent training center took root and grew, nourished by the ideas of many dedicated men.

Actual design for the center began in November 1964 when the Delaware State Fire School was created as a State agency. With the financial backing of the State Legislature, the staff and the architect began to sort ideas to fit the needs of the fire service, and to visit other training facilities to review the good and bad points of each. Finally, a plan was developed which, interestingly enough, was not modified from the start, attesting to the original strength of the plan.

On November 12, 1966, the dream began to take shape as a reality when Governor Charles L. Terry, Jr. turned the first spade full of earth, officially starting the construction. The original Classroom and Administration building was divided into three sections. The western end housed the office of the director, senior instructors, administrative offices, and locker facilities for the staff and students. Either a hallway or a closet separated each of the four classrooms in the center section, thus allowing for maximum soundproofing. The third section of the Administration building originally housed the cafeteria, a completely equipped kitchen, and an apparatus room. In 1970 with the addition of the warehouse the apparatus room was converted into an auditorium.

The drill grounds included a network of road-

ways connecting the various training areas. The Structural Fire Building serves as a multi-purpose building. The right side of the building simulates a regular 2 ½ - story dwelling, with the left side simulating a commercial or industrial building. The Control Tower is the nerve center of the training complex. From the windows on the second floor, the visitors and safety officer have an unobstructed view of every one of the different training areas. The original construction also included a Breathing Apparatus Building that offers a special facility for training firefighter's in the use of all types of breathing apparatus under actual smoke and darkness conditions.

During the mid 1970's four pole shed type classroom structures were erected on the drill grounds. These outdoor student areas are equipped with chalkboard and electricity. During 1978 a new training area was constructed as the Flammable Gases Training Area, located between the pump house and the Liquids Training Area.



The current Classroom and Administration building bears little resemblance to

the original Administrative Building. During Fiscal Year 1981, 16,200 square feet of additional administrative, classroom, and cafeteria areas were added to meet the growing and expanding needs of the Fire School. The modern facility can comfortably accommodate approximately 700 people for learning, workshops, meetings, or for any purpose in which large numbers of people assemble.

During the summer of 1984 the Flammable Liquids area was reconstructed to upgrade the original liquids training area. And the late

1980's added another addition to the west end to house the Fire Prevention Commission and their Secretary.

Throughout the 1990's many different projects were completed that added to the ability of the school to conduct and improve training. These included the construction of the Confined Space Training area and the Forcible Entry building, along with the replacement of the outdoor classrooms. With the financial support of the State Legislature, the Fire School was able to construct two Divisions, one in Sussex County and one in New Castle County. These regional training centers allow the school to provide in-service training to our customers.

While the Classrooms and Administration Building are the focal point of the complex, the Drill Tower dominates the skyline. This original structure that has served many functions since the beginning was completely refurbished ensuring that the structure would remain serviceable for another 40 years while at the same time making changes to upgrade this multi-purpose building.

A newly constructed Sussex Division was completed June 2013. It includes two new classrooms seating 40 students each. The Delaware State Fire School celebrated its 50th year of service in 2014. The new and improved Sussex Division is up and running successfully, as well as the construction of a new rope tower at the Dover Center. The future addition of the New Castle Division is beginning. The construction will be completed by spring 2017. Today the complex of training facilities, classrooms and administration building stand as a tribute to those dedicated men who had a dream, as well as the succession of governors who gave their unflagging support, the succession of legislators who made the dream a reality, and to the thousands of firefighters for whom this center was built and will always be maintained.