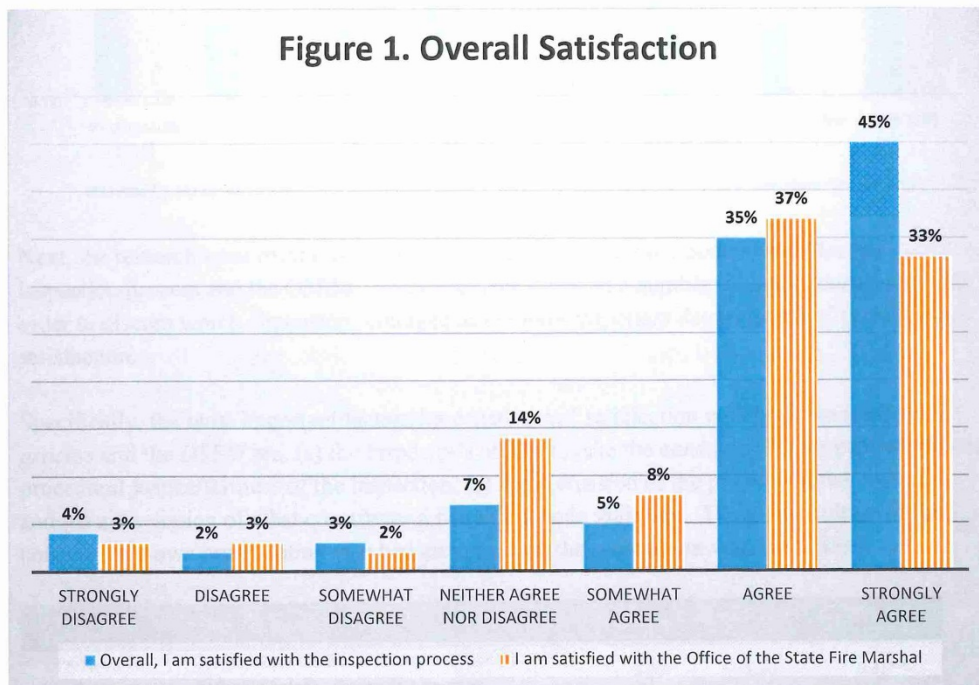


January 9, 2018
Overview of the Office of the State Fire Marshal
Before the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

The mission of the Office of the State Fire Marshal is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search and rescue incident responses.

We have been successful in changing our office philosophy to focus more on customer service, while maintaining the safety of Kansans across the state.

Our office has been able to improve and develop stronger relationships with the organizations we serve.



Constituent Satisfaction Survey for Fire Inspections, conducted in 2016 by University of Kansas School of Business professors May and Chen.

Investigation Division:

- Hosted a 40-hour class and trained over 30 Kansas investigators to be certified as wildland fire investigators.
- Assisted in the training of over 30 Kansas firefighters in the 80-hour, certified fire investigator course.
- OSFM investigators assisted a local agency with the investigation of a serial arsonist. The suspect has been arrested and is awaiting trial for over 30 structure fires. Arson is one of the hardest crimes to convict. The national conviction rate for arson is 3 percent. The OSFM has consistently stayed above this with the average conviction rate between 10% and 14% annually.
- Assisted and trained Kansas and out-of-state investigators in the utilization of the ATF's Bomb and Arson Tracking System (BATS).
- We assisted local agencies in over 406 investigations.

	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
Request for OSFM Investigation/Assistance	382	357	364	406
Polygraph Examinations	3	13	9	8
Canine Responses ²	35	36	33	43
Investigation (in hours)	8,143	8,998	8,753	10,885
Mileage driven by investigators	194,350	158,732	216,353	230,701

Prevention Division:

- Discontinued licensing fees for propane facilities, fire extinguisher/hood & suppression installers and the fireworks industry in Kansas, returning approximately \$250,000 back to businesses in the state.
- Started the process of reviewing all long-term care facilities for the new Emergency Preparedness plans required for Centers for Medicaid Services accreditation.

HazMat/Kansas Search & Rescue Response System Division:

- Deployed three, 14-person Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Teams as part of the Kansas response to assist in Texas following Hurricane Harvey.
 - The search and rescue teams, comprised of 42 first responders from 15 different agencies and 12 different counties across the state.
 - Kansas strike teams searched close to 1,200 structures and evacuated 27 individuals.
 - In total, the joint operation resulted in over 4,000 structures searched and over 100 evacuations.
 - The teams also worked on other small assignments and were on standby as needed.
- Hosted four classes at Crisis City that provided advanced training in search and rescue operations to over 100 Fire and EMS personnel on our regional response teams.
- Continued to train and certify deployable canine search teams in the state.
- Hosted the 10th annual, three-day, Kansas Technical Rescue Conference in Salina.
- Purchased an additional emergency response vehicle and are converting a trailer for search and rescue response and logistical support.

Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant

- This was the second year of our in-state, Firefighter Recruitment and Safety grant. In the first year, we received over \$800,000 in requests for the allotted \$200,000.
- This year, we received over \$1 million in requests for the legislative-approved \$200,000 from local volunteer fire departments across the state. Departments can use the grant funds for the following expenses:
 - Firefighter bunker gear – including coat, pants, hood, boots, gloves, and helmet
 - SCBA Masks
 - Junior Firefighter Program - Explorer and National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)
 - Washing machine (extractors)
 - Physical costs for individual firefighters not covered by insurance or reimbursed by their department

Smoke Alarm Giveaway Program

- Our statewide smoke alarm giveaway program began in 2014.
- Our office has expanded that program from initially only offering a basic, 10-year, sealed smoke alarm to now including combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarm, a standalone carbon monoxide alarm, and two different types of smoke/carbon monoxide alarms for the hearing impaired.
- We rely on the local fire departments to help us promote the program and help distribute the alarms.
- Over the last year, we have been strongly promoting the program with the State Fire Chiefs Association, the Kansas State Firefighters Association, the American Red Cross and Safe Kids Kansas.
- In 2017, we more than tripled the number of alarms that were distributed in 2016.

2018 Legislative Session Priorities

- Based on the response and need demonstrated by the applications for the Firefighter Recruitment and Safety grant program I will be asking the legislature to increase the existing grant funds from \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- In an effort to return more funds to the hard-working business owners in the state, we would like to discontinue the fees we are currently charging for boiler inspections and certificates. This would return over \$600,000 to approximately 14,000 businesses across the state.
- Adopting the 2018 version of the Fire and Life Safety Rules and Regulations. It is the intent of our office to establish an advisory board comprised of local fire departments, city administrations, statewide labor organizations and all the different facility groups who we inspect and regulate. This board will be designed to work through all issues, questions and concerns that may arise from moving to the new rules and regulations.