

# Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety

## Mission and philosophy

Through quality service and motivated employees, work in concert with our customers to protect life and property from fire and electrical hazards.

## Results of outcomes

### Fire Prevention

In FY 2004, the Fire Prevention Division performed 129 plan reviews for new construction, remodel work and additions to existing buildings with a total valuation of \$63,386,239. As a result, 560 inspections were conducted to ensure these facilities met the minimum standards adopted by the state. The Division also conducted 470 fire and life safety inspections in schools, day care facilities, hotel/motels and state institutions. There were 69 inspections on fire alarm systems. It responded to 32 complaints and received 1,114 requests for assistance in code interpretations, on-site inspections and technical research. There were 90,725 miles driven to complete all inspections.

The Division eliminated the use of self inspections for school/daycares and replaced it with in-person inspections.

### Electrical Division

In FY 2004, the Electrical Division processed 3,420 applications for electrical licenses. Exams were held six times at five locations and a total of 581 applicants tested with 360 new electrical licenses issued; also 1,185 apprentices registered with the state this year. There were a total of 2,859 permits issued for electrical work. Currently there are seven electrical inspectors for the State of Wyoming and they performed 2,307 inspections, and some of which were multiple inspections to the same permit site. The inspection numbers include plan reviews, permits for homes, businesses, industries, safety inspections and assistance inspections. There were approximately 4,856 requests for public assistance in the National Electrical Code interpretations during the year. There were also approximately 420 license violations reported during the year as well. Implemented reports/accountability system to accurately track inspections. There were 180,000 miles traveled to conduct this work.

### Training Division

The Training Division certified 425 Wyoming emergency first responders. The Division also handed off and/or delivered one hundred thirty-six (136) classes. The number of students was 1,748. Included in these numbers

#### General information

Jim Narva, Director/State Fire Marshal

#### Agency contact

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#### Other locations

Riverton, WY; Buffalo, WY; Green River, WY; Laramie, WY; Worland, WY; Thayne, WY

#### Year established

1963

#### Statutory references

W.S. 35-9-101 through 35-9-130; W.S. 16-6-501 and W.S. 16-6-502

#### Authorized personnel

31 full-time

#### Organizational structure

Administration Division, Fire Prevention Division, Training Division, Electrical Safety Division.

#### Clients Served

Fire Service, first responders, architects, engineers, building & fire code officials, federal/state/county/municipal agencies, building & electrical contractors, electrical industry, media, and general public.

#### Budget information

General funds .....	\$1,567,636
Federal funds.....	1,661,924
Other .....	351,297
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,580,857</b>

were participants of the FY 2003 Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations program where we sponsored ninety-one (91) classes and 1,191 emergency first responders from numerous disciplines. The funding for this program is provided to Wyoming as a result of a grant the agency was awarded from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Fire Administration for \$80,000.00.

The Training Division received seven (7) additional grants totaling over \$2 million dollars. One grant for \$1.55 million dollars was used to provide equipment to 114 fire departments across the State of Wyoming to enhance their emergency response capabilities. The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security provided funding for this project. Each fire station (171) in Wyoming received two (2) self contained breathing apparatus, two (2) spare air cylinders for the breathing apparatus, one (1) four-gas monitor, two (2) pair of binoculars, two (2) hazardous chemical reference guides and six (6) sets of protective clothing (Suits, boots and gloves).

The Division sponsored two fire and life safety programs this year. Both programs were funded through grants. The first program was a "Juvenile Firesetters Coalition Building Workshop" in Casper, Wyoming. Thirty-six participants attended representing a variety of disciplines that work with children in their communities. The program is proactive, and provides a vehicle for prevention and intervention alternatives for juveniles involved in fire setting.

The DFPES also received funding for an "Enhanced Smoke Alarm Program" from the DHS/USFA Fire Act Grant FOR \$45,970. The program includes pre/post educational testing of families regarding home survival skills and basic fire safety information. Over 2000 smoke alarms will be installed in communities across the State of Wyoming as a result of this program, targeting homes with our most at risk populations; homes with elderly and those with children.

Other grants included funding for a new Emergency Services Training database, continuation of our Hazardous Materials Technician training program, and the National Fire Academy course deliveries for the Wyoming fire service.

The Fire/Arson Investigation section investigated 47 fire scenes for origin and cause determination. The total dollar loss for these fires is \$11,547,000.00. The investigator also instructed eight classes across the state. This program teaches emergency responders basic investigative techniques to determine origin and cause of the fire.

One hundred sixteen (116) fire departments provided fire incident data to our agency for the 2004 annual report by the February 10th deadline. Sixteen fire departments have not submitted their data as of this printing.

## Strategic plan changes

Changed (NFIR) National Fire Incident Reporting focus from number of departments participating in data collection to focusing on timely reporting all departments currently reporting their fire data.

Changed focus from counting the number of certified firefighters as measure of effectiveness and focused on setting up training programs in departments to help them train themselves; and on improving needed skills.

Changed focus of fire investigations completed to focusing on training local departments to conduct their own investigations.

Combined electrical and fire prevention and plan review information into a combined category.

## State Electrical Board

Agency to which group reports

Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety

Number of members

Three members appointed by the Governor; with one (1) member each representing the following groups: electrical contractors, Journeyman Electricians, and Master Electricians.

Meeting frequency

There are two statutorily mandated meetings per year. If possible, the Board meets quarterly.

## Council on Fire Prevention & Electrical Safety

Agency to which group reports

Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety

Number of members

Five members appointed by the Governor; with one (1) member each representing the following groups: Counties/Municipalities, Architects/General Contractors, Electrical Board, and Fire Fighters.

Meeting frequency

There are two statutorily mandated meetings per year. If possible, the Council meets quarterly.

# Fire Prevention & Electrical Safety organization chart

