

The Agency

Rhode Island State Fire Marshal

Agency Operations

The State Fire Marshal Division is responsible for enforcing and performing the duties required by the Fire Safety Code and all other provisions of the general and public laws as they relate to fires, and fire prevention, protection, inspection and investigation. The division enforces all laws regarding the keeping, storage, use, manufacturing, sale, handling, transportation, or other disposition of explosives and inflammable materials as well as conducting and supervising fire safety inspections of all buildings regulated by the code, and certifying whether or not buildings satisfy these requirements.

The division is divided into units specified in law: The Bomb Disposal Unit assists local police and fire departments in the proper handling and disposition of all hazardous materials suspected to be of explosive or incendiary nature. It also conducts training programs of local fire departments.

The Investigation Unit investigates suspicious or attempted fires to determine the cause, origin and circumstances where property has been damaged or destroyed. It also investigates fires where a fatality has occurred in so far as it is possible to determine the cause. Local government officials must report such fires immediately so as not to delay the start of the investigation.

The Enforcement Unit is responsible for the criminal prosecution of any person(s) in violation of the State Fire Safety Code and any general and public laws as they relate to fires, fire prevention, fire inspection, and fire investigations.

The Fire Education and Training Unit is responsible for implementing the Fire Academy, by providing education and training to all fire departments in the State, public and private. The Fire Education and Training Coordinating Board develops the training program and the cost is reimbursed by the participating community.

The Plan Review Unit is responsible for reviewing architectural drawings of proposed construction plans for compliance with the Fire Safety Code. All fees collected for review of the plans are deposited as general revenue for the State.

The Inspection Unit is responsible for conducting fire safety inspections of all buildings regulated by the Fire Safety Code.

Agency Objectives

To reduce the number of fire losses in Rhode Island through prosecution of arson related crimes and through the investigation of suspicious fire; to enforce state, federal, and other laws relative to fires, explosives and public safety; to develop public awareness programs related to arson, explosives, juvenile firesetters, and fire prevention; and, to develop uniformity in firefighting techniques through courses presented by the State Fire Marshal and Training Academy.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L.23-28.2 establishes the Rhode Island State Fire Marshal and defines its duties.

The Budget

Rhode Island State Fire Marshal

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Revised	FY 2007 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,208,557	1,681,217	2,318,291	2,516,448
Other State Operations	405,525	530,892	641,072	451,116
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	978	8,998	76,564	37,446
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,615,060	\$2,221,107	\$3,035,927	\$3,005,010
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,615,060	\$2,221,107	\$3,035,927	\$3,005,010
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,514,606	2,099,879	2,656,030	2,814,010
Federal Funds	100,454	121,228	367,298	191,000
Other Funds	-	-	12,599	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,615,060	\$2,221,107	\$3,035,927	\$3,005,010
FTE Authorization	27.0	32.0	38.0	36.1
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	3.7%	3.1%	2.6%	2.6%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	25.9%	21.9%	23.7%	23.7%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	3.8%	2.6%
Program Measures				
Fire Determination Rate	85.8%	85.5%	88.0%	88.0%