



South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Fire Academy

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Dear Fire Service Members:

Please accept this letter as an update and as an expression of gratitude. My first two months as your Fire Academy Superintendent has allowed me the opportunity to experience your hospitality, learn about our state and its fire service, as well as represent you on issues of concern.

First, we have been working cooperatively with OSHA in regards to 1910.156 and 1910.134. I am pleased at our progress to date. We, the fire service and South Carolina Fire Academy (SCFA), will continue to work together to develop training and certification commensurate with the functions performed in the fire department. For example, if your fire department job function does not include interior fire attack, NFPA 1001 in totality will not be the minimum requirement. The SCFA will develop training based on the fire department job functions and OSHA will utilize your job function and training in the event an incident occurs. All of us cooperating will make for a safer, more successful fire service, thus increasing our ability to serve the citizens. Our timeline for development and implementation of any additional requirement will be announced at a later date.

Secondly, I have been obtaining feedback by traveling statewide to various meetings (chiefs, firefighters). In addition, I have reviewed and have provided input and feedback regarding the external survey that will benefit our organization and customers.

As a result, in January 2012, we will begin efforts to create a strategic plan for the Division of Fire & Life Safety (State Fire Marshal's office and S. C. Fire Academy). We will utilize the information gathered through the survey and my visits, as well as involve our employees and SCFA stakeholders. If you are interested in being involved with a project or planning, please contact me.

In closing, thank you again for your cooperation and hospitality. If I haven't been to visit your department/station please let me know of an upcoming meeting. I will make every effort to attend. Most importantly, thank you for your service to the state. It is always humbling to see the daily commitment the fire service provides through your efforts.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season,

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