New York State
Office of Fire Prevention & Control

Jerome Hauer
Commissioner
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Bryant Stevens
State Fire Administrator

William Davis, Jr.
Deputy State Fire Administrator

OFPC
Three major functional areas

- Three Branches
  - Inspections and Investigations
  - Fire Training
  - Special Operations

OFPC Inspection Group
Office Locations

Headquarters – 99 Washington Ave
- OGS Division: Empire State Plaza
  - Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, 23rd Floor
  - 1515 State Office Campus, Albany
- East Division: 99 Washington Ave
  - Albany
- Central Division: Hughes State Office Building
  - 333 East Washington Street
  - Syracuse
- West Division: Electric Tower Building
  - Buffalo
- Long Island: Hauppauge
Inspections and Investigations Branch

- Bureau Chief – Paul Martin
- Deputy Bureau Chiefs
  - John Gilmore - Central Division
  - Mark Mallick - West Division
  - Guy Swartwout - East Division
  - Bradley Tygar - Special Occupancy Group / Downstate
  - Benjamin Keller – Special Occupancy Group / Upstate
  - Randi Shadic – Investigation Group

Fire Inspection Group

- OGS – Capital Detail
- Eastern – North Country to Long Island
- Central – 1000 Islands to Binghamton
- Western – Rochester/Buffalo/Southern Tier
- Upstate – OPWDD Detail (Capital District DDSO & Points North / West
- Downstate – OPWDD Detail (All points South of Capital District DDSO)

OFPC

Inspections and Investigations Branch

Major Program Areas

- Campus Fire Safety Program
- State Agency Inspections Services
- Special Event Planning
- Miscellaneous Code related activities
- Cigarette Fire Safety Program
- Fire Investigation & Training
Inspection Group Duties

Campus Fire Safety Program
- Result of NYS actions after fatal Seton Hall fire
- Program represents major commitment on part of NYS to enhance fire safety on colleges and Universities

Prior to Seton Hall
- OFPC inspected SUNY colleges (advisory capacity)
  - consisted of annual inspection only
  - violations referred to SUNY for correction
  - minimally effective
- OFPC did not inspect Community Colleges or Private Colleges

State Agency Inspections Services
- Inspections currently provided for
  - Department of Environmental Conservation (statewide)
  - New York Power Authority
  - Racing and Wagering Commission
  - Office of the State Comptroller
    - 110 State Street, Albany
    - OPWDD
Inspection Group Duties

**Special Event Planning**
- Upon request of:
  - State Agency
  - Locality
- Often in conjunction with other Bureaus
- Activities include:
  - Site Plan reviews
  - Fire Protection planning
  - Coordination with local fire department, local code enforcement officials
- Examples include:
  - USGA US Open – Bethpage State Park
  - Woodstock Music Festivals
  - World University Games

**Miscellaneous Code Related Activities**
- Consultation/technical assistance with code compliance issues and fire/life safety improvements. Assistance to:
  - Fire departments
  - Local governments
- Voting members – International Code Council
- Represents State Fire Administrator in meetings/conferences relating to fire prevention/code enforcement

**Cigarette Fire Safety Standards**

Chapter 284, Laws of 2000: OFPC to promulgate Fire Safety standards for cigarettes
- Will stop burning within a specified time period OR
- Meet performance standards to limit risk of igniting upholstered furniture, mattresses or household furnishings
Special Occupancy Inspection Group

- Fire Protection Specialists Assignments
  - Upstate Group
    - Seven FPS
    - Three Buffalo
    - One Syracuse
    - Three Albany
  - Downstate Group
    - Six FPS
    - Two Poughkeepsie
    - Four Long Island / Metro NY

Special Inspection Group Support Staff

- Clerical Support Staff
  - Syracuse Office 315-428-3261
    - Deborah Bille
  - Hauppauge Office 518-292-2880
    - Joanne Speranza
Special Occupancy Group Duties

**OPWDD Fire Safety Program**
- **Expert Panel Recommendations**
  - Assessment/evaluation of an individual's ability to evacuate
  - Evacuation planning
  - Fire drills
  - Controls over fire safety
  - Staffing levels
  - Training
  - Determination of necessary fire safety construction and system features

**OPWDD MOU – OFPC Duties**
- Consultant for Fire and Safety Matters
- Conduct Fire Safety Training
- Participate in pre-openings with DQI
- Review and evaluate fire safety projects
- Review vendor contracts for ITM of fire equipment
- Maintain a central file of inspections conducted by OFPC
- Act as a liaison to local fire depts. on behalf of OPWDD
- Provide fire investigation services
- Conduct annual fire inspections in accordance with 19NYCRR 1204.15
- Conduct Life Safety Code surveys pursuant to NYCRR 635.7
- Respond to fires or other emergencies when requested by OPWDD

**OPWDD MOU-OFPC Duties**
- Conduct follow-up inspections to verify abatement
- Provide prompt and detailed reports of inspection to OPWDD
- Investigate complaints of violations of fire and life safety regulations
- Review evacuation plans
- Review records of drills and conduct random drills to evaluate effectiveness
- Monitor special events and provide a fire watch if necessary
OPWDD MOU-OPWDD
DUTIES

- Maintain records associated with required OPWDD fire safety training
- Conduct emergency light testing as required by code
- Conduct inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire extinguishers as required by code and NFPA 10
- Conduct or cause to be conducted required fire alarm system maintenance
- Conduct or cause to be conducted required fire suppression system maintenance
- Conduct or cause to be conducted required maintenance of other systems per code
- Provide a representative to accompany inspector with access to all portions of facilities
- Report all fires on state property
- Provide lists of facilities requiring inspection

Special Occupancy Group
Duties

- Training
  - New Employee Training
    - 3 Hour Course for all newly hired state employees on general fire safety topics directly related to OPWDD
  - Supervisor Training (Currently Under Construction)
    - Supervisory responsibilities related to fire safety
  - Hands On Fire Extinguisher Training
  - Basic Code Awareness Training

Mass Gathering Events

Mass Gatherings/Major Events

- Notify OFPC when > 5000 attendees
  - Exemption may be granted for facilities designed for and routinely holding
- May be cause for inspection
Reporting of Fires

• Immediate notification to OFPC by established OPWDD reporting methods

• May be cause for follow-up actions such as a post-incident analysis, fire investigation, and/or post-fire inspection prior to re-occupancy

Inspection / Survey Program

Authority:

• All buildings owned by the State of New York / OPWDD (Fire Inspections)

• 24 hour supervised residential sites with Life Safety Code Application (Surveys) including voluntary providers

• Buildings to be re-inspected for abatement verification

• Documentation generated for each inspection

Fire Inspections

• Inspections
  – Fire Inspections
    – Established via MOU with OPWDD
    – Inspections are designed to meet the requirements of 19 NYCRR Part 1204 annual inspection of state property

    – Program involves:
      • annual inspections
      • re-inspections
      • enforcement authority
Life Safety Code Reviews

- **Surveys**
  - *Life Safety Code Reviews*
    - Also per MOU with OPWDD
    - OFPC to conduct Life Safety Code portion of DQI surveys in 24 hour supervised residential sites
    - Surveys will be conducted on an ANNUAL basis with results forwarded to DQI for reporting purposes as part of the site certification / recertification process

Enforcement

- **Enforcement**
  - OFPC authorized to take appropriate actions, issue Notices of Violation and to forward survey items to DQI for issuance of Statements of Deficiency
  - OFPC authorized to make recommendations w/ respect to fire safety
  - OFPC authorized to use any or all of following
    - Order immediate building closures in conjunction with OPWDD fire safety or DQI (imminent threat)
    - Forward non-compliance issues to the Commissioner of OPWDD for further remediation

Inspection Reports

- **Database system**
  - Complete electronic history of each property
  - Permits data analysis

- **Pen Tablets**
  - More efficient for Inspector
  - Standardization of reports
Clarifications / Review

- Inspector is the first contact for clarifications needed following an inspection.
- Deputy Chief may be contacted if consensus cannot be reached.
- Central Office Fire Safety Representatives are a good resource to assist in developing methods of violation abatement and drafting of plans of correction.

What can you do to help?

- Provide an escort for each site that has access to the entire facility and has a working knowledge of the persons being served if it is a residence.
- Provide all inspection, drill, and evacuation documents on site for at least one year’s previous cycle.
  (NYS Code requires records to be kept for 10 years)

What are we finding / looking for?

- Inspectors will be a complete life safety code review of the facility.
- Potential to take a new look at past decisions / practices.
- Inspection, testing and maintenance documentation is a must for all safety systems.
  - Maintained according to NFPA by the Life Safety Code mandatory references
  - Maintained according to manufacturer’s requirements
What are we finding / looking for?

- Enforcement of Part 635 requirements
- Enforcement of ADM 2012-02 where applicable

Pyramid of Regulations

- OPWDD Part 635 Physical Plant Regulations
- NYS Building Codes [Residential Code, Building Code, Etc]

Fire Behavior 101

- Hot
- Dark
- Toxic
- Fast
Marble Mountain Sprinkler Test

UL Comparison Test Burn

Three Key Questions

- Can we prevent the fire?
- Can we escape the fire?
- Can the fire be extinguished?
Inspection Methodology

- Fire Causes & Their Elimination
  - Elements of fire
    - Fuel
    - Ignition Source (Heat)
    - Oxygen

Examples - Fuel
Examples-Oxygen

- Always present
- Enhanced oxygen sources
- Limit availability to the fire
Three Key Questions

- Can we prevent the fire?
- Can we escape the fire?
- Can the fire be extinguished?
Inspection Methodology

- **Egress**
  - *Notification of emergency*
    - Fire Detection & Alarm Systems
  - *Clear path of egress*
    - Obstructions
  - *Construction Features*
    - Fire Barriers
    - Smoke Partitions
Three Key Questions

- Can we prevent the fire?
- Can we escape the fire?
- Can the fire be extinguished?
Inspection Methodology

- **Fire Control**
  - Prevent spread to provide adequate evacuation time
    - Construction Features
    - Engineered Systems (Fire Sprinklers)
Inspection/Code Enforcement Philosophy

- Partnership with facility to raise the level of fire/life safety
- Strive and encourage voluntary compliance
- Process is a cooperative venture