

Texas Fire Marshal's Association

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



2018 October Report

10/1/2018

Co-Chair: Mark Flathouse
Paul Findley
Jon Lopez
Ben Davis
John Helveg

Co-Chair: Laurie Christensen
James Nykaza
Rusty Kattner
Tom Legler
Justin Jurek

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STATEMENT OF YOUR COMMITTEE MISSION AND/OR VISION

Mission: To bridge the avenues of TxFMA, State Legislators, members of the Texas Fire Marshal's and fire departments toward an ongoing dialogue about safety, practices, fire service and all first responders in the state of Texas.

Goals

- Increase Texas Fire Marshal's Association presence and visibility at the State Capitol with state representatives and senators.
- Build coalitions with local and professional support systems to increase availability and access of laws that affect first responders.
- Build and maintain relationships with similar committees with Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, and other First Responder agencies/associations.
- Build and maintain relationships with the Legislative Committees
- Build database of legislative information for Texas Fire Marshal has to increase scope of committee events and efforts around the state.
- Provide timely reports to association of the current changes moving forward during the legislative sessions.

Update

Purpose:

- Contribute to the achievement of TxFMA's mission and strategic goals through scanning, research, planning, and monitoring relative to legislative advocacy direction, activities, and issues
- Monitor, analyze, and formulate appropriate positions on current and prospective legislative issues affecting the management of Fire Marshal's
- Develop and disseminate Institute policy on all matters of state legislation affecting the management of Fire Marshals' job duties.
- Provide guidance to association members on strategies and positions on state and local issues
- Monitor the progress of legislative and public policy initiatives and recommend adjustments to the appropriate governance bodies and staff.
- Working on software to help all members stay in touch

Action Item

- Will be sending out email to all members for a conference call before December 2018.
- Establish an open forum (interactive) website to log in during the legislative session. Working with what we have or use the legislative forum.
- Coordinate with other associations, list organizations and contacts with each group.
- Will have a full-developed schedule for meetings prior to December.
- Meet and coordinate at the conference this year, working together for common goals (Example: city, county, university, etc...)

2018 Annual Meeting Report Update

Over the past three months, we had had communications through emails and conference calls. With the initial meetings, we started work on categories and separating into sections, introducing each other on the team. We broke down the season and timelines. We will use the members to provide strengths and needs for the use during the legislative session. The following categories are the initial focus and what has been worked on before the conference:

- LGC 352.019 from a training standpoint. Trying to enhance capabilities of the training outside of firefighting.
 - Proposed language
- LGC 352 – Class C: revision of the language
 - Penal code offense
 - Reduction of compliance
- 4 year appointment/not 2 year
- Asking TxFMA – to request this issue.
- Penalties between civil and criminal for fire code
- Change the use of fireworks, not the sale of Fireworks.
 - Restricting the use of fireworks to the date or time
 - Need to start reviewing and working in this direction.
 - Restriction of distances from residential structures.
 - Review the current number of county adopted fire codes.