

GAFC FIRESIDE

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A NEW GOVERNOR



by: President David Kimbrell

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Our heartiest congratulations are extended to Nathan Deal, our new Governor. As many of our members know, each year, members of the Georgia Fire Service visit with Georgia Congressional delegation members. The visits are usually in April and coincide with the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and IAFC workshops on federal legislation. Looking back over the years, Congressman Deal always welcomed our visits and listened to our concerns. He reviewed our 5 Year Strategic Plan and asked questions regarding the status of the Georgia Fire Service. His staff was always accommodating.

All this is said with the hope that as Governor, his doors will be open to our status reports and policy or legislative recommendations. If there was ever a time when we needed the support of a governor, it is now. So many of our fire departments have been placed at risk because of budget cuts, and reductions in force, shop worn safety equipment and a reduction in our training programs and have caused us great concern. We look forward to working with Governor Deal.

CONGRATULATIONS! Georgia Assistant State Fire Marshal Elected to the International Code Council Bd.



Dwayne Garriss

Georgia Assistant State Fire Marshal [M. Dwayne Garriss](#) has been elected to serve as a Sectional Director on the International Code Council Board for a region that includes Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the Caribbean. As Assistant State Fire Marshal, he oversees the Engineering and Inspection Division, and the licensing of fire suppression contractors, inspectors and special hazard system technicians. The [International Code Council](#), a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention and energy efficiency, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states [choose the International Codes](#), building safety codes developed by the International Code Council. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States.

Dwayne was a Senior Fire Safety Engineer and Director of Engineering in the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner. He is the Safety Fire Commissioner's designee on the State Codes Advisory Committee for the Department of Community Affairs, and Chairman of the Georgia Fire Safety Symposium. Dwayne was named 2000 Fire Official of the Year by the Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association. He is a Past President of the Georgia Fire Inspectors Association and was named Fire Safety Professional of the Year in 1998 by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers Georgia Chapter. He has been a construction codes instructor for the University system of Georgia and a Fire Academy Adjunct Instructor.

HAZ-MAT REVIEW WORK BEGINS . . .

A three part statewide cooperative project involving GEMA, GAFC and GMAG has begun. The challenge is to verify the status (team typing) of the 49 HAZ-MAT teams, ascertain the needs of those teams, and support the GEMA effort to examine the results of grant awards made to fire departments between 2006 and 2009. The summer and early fall months have been devoted to developing a process to make it as easy as possible for fire departments to participate in the project without experiencing serious time losses.



L-R Smith-GEMA, Thayer-GMAG, Register-GEMA, McDonald-Marietta



L-R- Smith, Register (GEMA), Flowers-Cobb, Lewis-GMAG, McDonald-Marietta

L-R Flowers-Cobb
Smith-GEMA



THE SEATBELT PLEDGE REPORTING PROCESS . . .

There are number of Georgia Fire Departments that achieved pledges to wear seatbelts from all personnel driving or riding in their fire department vehicles. GAFC found that the reason these departments were not listed in the last newsletter had to do with proper notification of their pledge achievement. THERE ARE TWO (2) parts to the notification:

PART 1. Once the Brian Hunton National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge form is filled out (get it by going to www.trainingdivision.com) and find the one-line that says, "Please Download Seatbelt Pledge Form Here." When it is filled out, fax it to [1-866-638-3842](tel:1-866-638-3842). **Yes, there's more**

PART 2. IF YOU ARE 100% Compliant, you must e-mail to: batla@trainingdivision.com. We suggest you indicate your name as authorized rep for your department and give particulars: Name of Fire Dept. Mailing address, Phone #, e-mail address and statement that you certify all applicable personnel signed the pledge and you are 100%. You'll be sent a well-deserved certificate. **Thanks to all.**

Georgia Fire Service Five Year Plan To Be Rewritten

Five years have come and gone. What began as a noble planning experiment turned into a big success for the Georgia Fire Service. First of all (and in case our readers don't remember) there was no groundswell for promoting and otherwise taking pride in the accomplishments of the entire Georgia Fire Service. The content of the strategic plan promoted a unified and united fire service. The theme was that all components of the fire service needed to work together on common goals and programs that would benefit every part of the service. The concept was to fight back with an offense against those who enjoyed dividing one association from another or causing important agencies to provide minimal support to ALL fire departments; career, combination and volunteer. Today, nearly every state association is stronger, many new regional organizations have been created and there are now "Unification Partners," a concept thought to be unachievable. Communications between state organizations have never been better. In five years, nearly \$1,650,000.00 was raised in grants and/or legislative activities called for in the plan. Now we begin again as new information, trends, bright ideas and priority problems are identified and hopefully written into a new plan. Now is the time for every member of the fire service (firefighters, fire officers, EMS personnel, investigators, inspectors, trainers, educators, EMA directors, employees of state agencies serving the fire service and everyone else to talk to the officers within each association or government organization regarding their (your) individual views and future needs.

PLANNING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE