



**FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**  
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**TO:** Carl Plaughter, Fire Chief  
**FROM:** Daniel K. Kucik, Assistant Chief / OFM  
**SUBJECT:** 2008 Annual Report

The Fire Marshal's Office is a bureau that reports directly to the Fire Chief's Office and consists of the following sections:

- Training and Administrative Services Section
- Plan Review Section
- New Construction Section
- Downtown Orange County Section - International Drive Corridor
- Existing Construction Occupancy Compliance Section

Each section of the Fire Marshal's Office contributes to the reduction of the financial devastation and personal injuries, which can result from structure fires. The bureau supports fire prevention through the implementation of structure plan reviews, building fire inspections, and client education. The Office of the Fire Marshal's Bureau and the business and construction industries have managed to develop a successful working relationship in pursuit of their common goal.

The Fire Marshal's Bureau consists of 35-inspection and plans review personnel, together with 9 support staff. The Bureau is responsible for working closely with other state and county agencies, design professionals, building owners and managers, the Central Florida Construction Industry Council, Economic Development Committee, and citizens to ensure the highest quality of:

- Plan reviews of new construction, interior alterations, fire protection systems, tents, trade shows, pyrotechnics, retail sales, and burn permits.
- Code compliance with national, state and county codes, county standards and laws.
- Life safety inspections on existing facilities
- New construction inspections, ensuring safe and timely occupancy of new structures
- Citizen Complaint Program
- Nuisance False Alarm Program
- Hydrant Program Coordination
- Responses to emergency incidents
- Existing buildings with structural alterations

- Site Plans
- Developmental Review Committee Participation
- Tent, burn, pyrotechnic, special event permitting
- Support to the International Drive construction community.
- Support to the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association.
- Full-time inspection staff at the existing OC Convention Center
- State Mandated Licensing Inspections
- Private Client-Annual Inspections
- Over 200 Orange County Public School Annual Inspections
- Battalion Inspections-Based on Priority
- Post fire inspections
- Assistance to the State Fire Marshal with Fire Investigations (Cause and Origin).
- Fire & Life Safety Board of Adjustments & Appeals
- After Hours Exit Check
- Monthly and Annual Computer Performance Tracking
- Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association Liaison Program
- Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association Adopt-A-School Project
- Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association 911 Committee Project

The Fire Marshal's Office maintains a "lifetime" record of over 32,000 inspectable properties which includes:

- Ownership information
- Type of occupancy
- Location
- Use record
- Building construction data
- Inspection logs

This information is utilized in order to schedule follow-up visits and to track cited deficiencies through to full correction. In addition to these services, the Bureau's personnel lend their expertise to a variety of special projects, programs and emergency incidents annually.

During fiscal year 2007/2008, the Office of the Fire Marshal realized fee recoveries of over \$2.2 Million. OFM provided 20,820 plan reviews, 25,316 new construction inspections, and 23,112 maintenance inspections. This highly talented fire prevention bureau continues to conduct thousands of pre-development design and construction meetings and special projects annually specifically outlined to heighten the level of safety to our citizens and customers. With billions of dollars being spent annually on Orange County construction projects, the Office of the Fire Marshal plays an essential role in ensuring the fire safety of these investments by conducting over tens-of-thousands fire prevention activities, which is a significant increase over the previous year. This equates to 69,248 annual fire safety inspections and plan reviews and over 117,400 annual fire prevention activities which is over an 18 % increase over 2006/2007. The Fire Marshal's Office also enforces the Automatic Fire Alarm Ordinance and processed over 7,187 nuisance alarms during the past year.

OFM's interaction and support from the construction and design industry, county departments, and state departments is unsurpassed.



- Performance Racing Industry, the world's largest racing trade show, has extended dates at the Orange County Convention Center through 2016.
  - The 2007 show in Orlando marked PRI's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and posted record numbers of attendees and exhibitors.
  - The 2008 show will include 170 new exhibitors.

**Downtown Orange County Properties Completed in 2008:**

- Aquatica – Sea World's new Water Park
- Westin Imagine – 315 Rooms
- Pointe Orlando continues its redevelopment project with the completion of BB King's Blues Club, Capital Grille as well as other restaurants and shops.

**Notable Downtown Orange County Properties under Construction:**

- Peabody Expansion (Fall 2010) – 35 story tower with 750 guestrooms, 210,000 square foot of meeting space including a 55,000 square ft. pillar free ballroom. This project is expected to create 400 to 450 jobs.
- Hilton Orlando (Summer 2009) – 1400 rooms; 130,000 square ft. of meeting space;
- Amalfi (2010) - Sixteen story, 242 room hotel to be built on the old Mercado site. Amalfi will be the first hotel within a 340,000 square ft. mixed-use center called The Square.
- Waldorf-Astoria Bonnet Creek – 498 rooms; 81,000 square feet of ballroom space; 13,900 square feet of flexible pre-function space; 18 hole golf-course;
- Hilton Bonnet Creek – 1000 rooms; 114,000 of meeting space; 36,000 square feet Grande Ballrooms; 27,500 square feet Junior Ballrooms;
- ORMC Sand lake Hospital Expansion
- Ruby Lake High-Rise Hotel
- The Great Wheel Project
- Villas at Lake Eve

**Existing Construction Section accomplishments for FY 2008**

- The Existing Construction Section conducted 23,112 inspections, re-inspections, and Special Inspections during FY 2007/2008.
- Mandated Inspections - Priority 1 (for the purpose of licensing and/or mandated by State Statute or Florida Administrative Code)
- Orange County Public Schools - Jointly inspected all OCPS schools and ancillary properties within unincorporated Orange County
  - A. 100% submittal to the State of all school inspections
  - B. 100% of all required Fire Drills were performed
  - C. No Action Plan was required to be submitted to the State of any significant deficiencies outstanding at the conclusion of the Inspection cycle
  - D. Fire Alarm Monitoring by OCPS Central Station has:
    - 1. Reduce the number of Automatic Fire Alarm to all school properties
    - 2. More efficiently address Fire Alarm malfunction issues
  - E. No significant fire on school properties in unincorporated Orange County
  - F. Orange County Public Schools opened two new campuses and updated seven existing facilities

1. 47 additional building inspections
2. 407,632 square feet of inspectable space
3. 115 special inspections

- Annually inspected all Private Schools in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all DCF Childcare/ After School Programs in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Pediatric Patient Emergent Care (PPEC) in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all State Exempt Childcare in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Children Based Summer Camp Programs in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Adult Daycare Programs in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Trade Schools in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected the East Campus of Valencia Community College
- Annually inspected all accredited colleges in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all assisted living facilities (ALF) in unincorporated Orange County
- Sprinklers added to four facilities and fire sprinklers permitted for five facilities in 2009.
- Participated in the State of Florida's AHCA meetings and the Task Force for Elderly Abuse.
- Reviewed 42 Emergency Contingency Plans
- Annually inspected all adult family care homes in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Group Homes (licensed by Agency for Persons with Disabilities) in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Nursing Homes in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Hospitals in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Medical Centers (licensed by JCAHCO) in unincorporated Orange County

- Annually inspected all Residential Childcare Facilities in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Foster Homes in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected Correction Facility (33<sup>rd</sup> Street Jail)
  - A. Monthly task force familiarization with Engine Company and Jail Staff
  - B. Tweaked and practiced Emergency Contingency Plans with greater success than past practices
  - C. Clarify bedding use
- Annually inspected all Institutional Detention not State facilities (Great Oaks Village, Lakeside Alternative, University Behavioral Center) in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected Eckerd Wilderness Camp
  - A. Annually inspected all in unincorporated Orange County
  - B. Upgrading of draft hydrants and new additions to facility
- Annually inspected all Crisis Centers in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Drug Treatment Centers in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all DCF Counseling Centers in unincorporated Orange County
- Annually inspected all Waste Tire facilities in unincorporated Orange County
- Inspected all new Oxygen Retail Sales facilities.
- Inspected all tents not related to seasonal sales of sparklers.
- Responded to citizen complaints and engine company concerns about fire code issues
- Responded to Post-Fire/ Emergency Incidents to insure code compliance and integrity of fire protection systems
- Inspected new business for use permits.
- Continued self-inspection program.
- Conducted after hour exit checks in assembly occupancies with occupant loads greater than 300 people
- Implemented an annual inspection program of all hazardous material/explosive handling properties in unincorporated Orange County.
- Implemented an annual University of Central Florida Student Housing inspection program of all apartment complexes within 1 mile of the campus.

**State Fire Marshal Liaison:**

1. Information sharing

- a. Follow up on SFM response to fires in unincorporated Orange County
  - b. Regular reports of Open Case of SFM under investigation
2. Investigations
- a. Assist command at Fire Scenes of Origin and Cause (technical support)
  - b. Assist State Fire Marshal on Origin and Cause
  - c. Code Enforcement actions as needed from Fire damage

## **The Training and Administrative Services Section Accomplishments**

- New hire inspection training is recognized by the Florida State Fire College for Fire Safety Inspector I continuing education credits.
- The Florida State Fire College recognizes the Office of the Fire Marshal as a provider of continuing education courses for Fire Safety Inspector I and Fire Service Instructor I, II, and III.
- Conducted 42 hours of fire inspection related training for Fire Safety Inspector I continuing education credits for bureau/departement personnel.
- Developed spreadsheet to track all private fire hydrants in unincorporated Orange County and contract areas. So far we have identified 5,919 private fire hydrants and have begun tracking operational status and inspection/service dates.
- Developed spreadsheet to track all private fire protection systems in unincorporated Orange County and contract areas. So far we have identified 12,718 private fire protection systems and have begun tracking operational status and inspection/service dates.
- Inspected 1,132 private fire hydrants that were identified as being out of service or having deficiencies and have followed through correcting 1,113 private fire hydrants.
- Sent notices to the various water utilities for 1,075 fire hydrants that were out of service or needed repair and so far we have received documentation that 1,065 hydrants have been repaired.
- Worked with Code Enforcement and Information Systems and Services to put the fire codes in Code Enforcement's Electronic Database so as to improve filing Fire Marshal code enforcement cases.
- Inspected 62 temporary pyrotechnic retail sales permits for sales during New Years Eve and July Fourth holidays.
- Inspected 124 pyrotechnic retail sales permits for sales during New Years Eve and July Fourth holidays.
- Liaison with the water utilities serving Orange County. Improved notification out of service and damaged fire hydrants to the larger utility companies through email. Utilities are able to respond to problems and send corrections back more quickly.

- Based upon Beta testing of the One-Step Fire Inspection Program additional customization of the application was needed for our use. The program has been changed and merged with our existing fire inspection data and will be initiated during the first quarter of FY 2009.
- Investigated 7,187 nuisance fire alarms and billed for \$779,369.04 in fire alarm response fees and administrative costs.
- Responded to 189 public records requests.
- Processed 124 boxes of plans, files, and other records for archiving by the County Comptroller.
- Participate in the Orange County Task Force for Underage Drinking.
- The section participated in the legislative session for the adoption of the Aldridge/Benge Truss Safety Bill and promulgating rule making for various State Fire Marshal Rules.

### **New Construction Section Accomplishments:**

The New Construction Section has been extremely active in 2008 inspecting all new buildings from the ground-up in this booming construction period in Orange County. The section tests all fire protection systems which include, fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, kitchen hood suppression systems, smoke control systems and clean agent systems. The Section also inspects all new buildings without fire protection systems to ensure that all life safety features are present to in order for the customer to receive a certificate of occupancy. Many large projects clear the land by burning the natural foliage and the New Construction Section is responsible for inspecting these locations to ensure that the burning is done in a safe manner. During the construction phase, the New Construction Section routinely interacts with various construction professionals to ensure that buildings meet all applicable fire codes.

- The new construction section conducted 25,316 inspections and re-inspections during FY 2007/2008.

### **New Construction Section Programs**

Fire Department Access and Water Supply Program-During construction this OFM section routinely checks building sites to ensure that there are adequate fire hydrants on site, that they are accessible, and operational. Flow tests are conducted on all hydrants and these reports are given to the hydrant coordinator to include in the database. Fire department access roadways to these projects are also regularly inspected to ensure quick access during emergency incidents.

Preliminary Meetings-New Construction Inspectors visit construction sites prior to construction to answer any questions from contractors and present them with a new construction checklist which will assist them with upcoming inspections.

OFM Website-The Office of the Fire Marshal website is continuously updated to provide the construction industry access to important forms and documentation which will assist them in their various projects.

## **New Construction Section Major Projects Completed**

Dr. Phillips Hospital Expansion  
Village of Imagine  
Aquatica Water Park  
Walgreens Distribution Center  
Premium Outlet Mall Expansion  
Lake Buena Vista Resort, Multiple Buildings  
Granville at Avalon  
Central Behavioral Treatment Hospital  
Gator Land  
Fairfield Bonnet Creek, Multiple Buildings  
Publix @ Lake Cay  
Mitsubishi Power Systems  
Windermere Preparatory School, Gym and Classrooms  
Donald Craig Suzuki  
Avalon Church  
Islamic Society  
The Rialto Plaza  
Walt Disney Cast Housing  
Value Place Hotel

## **New Construction Section I-Drive Ongoing Projects**

Grand Palisades  
Holy Family Catholic Church Expansion  
Villas at Lake Eve  
Orlando Hilton  
Waldorf and Hilton at Bonnet Creek  
Ruby Lake  
Dr. Phillips Hospital Phase 2 Renovation  
Peabody-New Tower, Parking Garage and Convention Center  
The Pointe Orlando Entire Complex Renovation  
International Hilton  
Hilton/Waldorf Astoria, Bonnet Creek  
Sand lake Hospital-Energy Station

## **Plan Review Section Accomplishments:**

- \$2.2 Million in OFM fee recoveries in FY2007/2008.
- The plan review section conducted 20,820 plan reviews during FY 2007/2008.
- Thousands of pre-development design, construction meetings and special projects annually
- Actual OFM turnaround times:

	13.96 days new construction
	7 days interior alterations
	6.10 days fire protection systems

## **Plan Review Section Major Projects in 2008**

The Reserve @ Westgate

Peabody Hotel 32 Story Addition  
Hilton I-Drive  
Camelot (Student Housing)  
Phillips View Tower  
Darden Headquarters  
Orange County Medical Examiner's Office  
The Great Wheel  
The Square  
Dr. Phillips Hospital @ Sand Lake Addition  
Marriott Residence Inn  
Fairfield Bonnet Creek (7 – 18 story buildings)  
Grande Lakes Timeshare (8 – 4/5 story buildings)  
Hilton Ruby Lake  
Dellagio  
Grande Palisades @ Lake Austin  
Florida Hospital East  
Lake Buena Vista  
Orlando Premium Outlet Expansion  
Sea World New Coaster  
Rialto  
Lighthouse Key  
Portofino Meadows  
Lake Sawyer Townhomes  
Wickham Park Townhomes  
Discovery Tech II  
Shoppes @ Avalon  
Preston Square  
Avalon Park Tower  
Signature Lake Townhomes  
Nona Terrace Townhomes  
Westgate Lakes  
Harbor Square  
LMG Warehouse  
Holy Family Catholic church  
Lakeside Village Apartments  
LaCascada Townhomes  
Grandview Isle townhomes  
Florida Mall town Center  
The Reserve @ Westgate Lakes  
Signature Lake Townhomes  
Vistana II  
Royal Vista Townhomes  
Somerset chase Townhomes  
Phillips View  
Lockheed Martin Laser Tower  
New Destiny Christian Center  
Orlando World Marriott  
United Stationary  
Grand Palisades  
Kinder Morgan  
Gatorland  
Lockheed Martin East Campus

Northrup Gruman

Large Pyro Shows: Chase Bank & Florida Pyrotechnic Guild Association

Unusual Outdoor Special Event: The Wheel of Fortune

Established a new process for reviewing and permitting single-family residential site plans.

Established a new process for reviewing and permitting outdoor special events.

c: James Fitzgerald, Deputy Fire Chief  
Anthony Rios, Lieutenant / PIO/Life Safety & Education Bureau