

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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OSFM Report:**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The fire service has been called the “jack of all trades and master of many”. The expectation from our communities is “when they call, we haul, and that’s all”...in other words, we will be there to do what is needed for their protection and safety. That call was never more prevalent than 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

The final 9-11 Commission report stated, “Emergency response is a product of preparedness. On the morning of September 11, 2001, the last best hope for the community of people working in or visiting the World Trade Center rested not with national policymakers but with private firms and local public servants, especially the first responders: fire, police, emergency medical service, and building safety professionals.” On that day, New York City emergency responders mobilized the largest evacuation and rescue operations in the city’s history. The same dedication also played out in Washington DC at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Many responders suffered emotional trauma and physical injuries; while others made the ultimate sacrifice with the loss of life. One message is clear... even in a situation beyond anyone’s imagination, these individuals used their training and preparedness to do the job that was expected of them by their communities.

September is **National Preparedness Month**. We all are reminded of the opportunities to help our communities be better prepared by sharing information and providing community level preparedness training. During a disaster, a prepared and trained community is of great assistance to emergency responders when resources will be challenged and quickly diminishing. Our world is changing and the emergencies we respond to are changing as well. We need to be ready for whatever event, emergency, or disaster that may come our way. The fire service meets the call to “train like your life (and the life of all citizens) depends on it”.

Our attention during this year’s National Preparedness Month is focused on honoring and remembering the individuals who took the “call” ten years ago on 9-11; all those who exemplified preparedness and the dedication to do what was needed for their community and country. By following their example, and being prepared and willing to do whatever is needed to take care of and protect each other, we will honor all who took the call; and memorialize those who perished on September 11, 2001.

Be safe,

TONYA L. HOOVER
Acting State Fire Marshal



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Tonya L. Hoover