BERNARD L. HUTCHINSON

FIRE MARSHAL

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Summary

Tennessee-certified Fire Marshal with 18 years of fire code enforcement, inspection, and investigation leadership at the Memphis Fire Department. Oversees a 12-inspector division conducting 3,200+ commercial and residential inspections annually. Reduced fire-related civilian injuries 30% over 3 years; achieved 97% prosecution rate on referred arson cases. Expert in IFC, NFPA 1, NFPA 101, and Tennessee State Fire Code interpretation and enforcement. Recognized with the Tennessee Fire Marshal's Excellence in Fire Prevention Award (2022).

Skills

Fire Code Enforcement (IFC/NFPA 1/101) • Division Administration & Leadership • Arson Investigation & Prosecution Liaison

Fire Prevention Program Management • Budget Administration ($1.8M) • Community Fire Safety Education • Permit System Administration

Expert Witness / Court Testimony

Experience

Memphis Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

Memphis, TN

Fire Marshal

Jun 2018 - Present

Lead Fire Marshal overseeing 12-inspector division conducting 3,200+ annual commercial, industrial, and residential fire code inspections.

- Direct 12-inspector division conducting 3,200+ commercial, industrial, and residential inspections annually
- Reduced fire-related civilian injuries 30% over 3 years through proactive inspection and community education programs
- Achieved 97% prosecution rate on arson cases referred to Shelby County District Attorney's Office
- Oversaw $1.8M fire prevention budget; secured $340K in FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grant funding
- Established online permit and inspection portal, reducing permit processing time 55% and eliminating paper backlog
- Delivered fire safety education to 8,500+ Memphis residents through school, community, and business outreach annually

Memphis Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

Memphis, TN

Deputy Fire Marshal

Jan 2012 - May 2018

Supervised 6 fire inspectors and 2 investigators; led code enforcement and arson investigation programs.

- Supervised 6 fire inspectors and 2 investigators; increased division inspection output 28% over 5 years
- Investigated 60+ fires annually for origin-and-cause determination; testified in 9 criminal arson proceedings
- Drafted and implemented new high-rise fire safety compliance program covering 34 downtown Memphis buildings

Education

Middle Tennessee State University

Murfreesboro, TN

Bachelor of Science

Sep 2006 - May 2010

Fire Administration

Certificates

Tennessee Certified Fire Marshal

Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office

Jul 2012

State Fire Marshal's Office certified fire code enforcement officer.

ICC Certified Fire Marshal (CFM)

International Code Council (ICC)

Sep 2014

International Code Council certified fire marshal credential.

IAAI Certified Fire Investigator (CFI)

International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)

Mar 2016

International Association of Arson Investigators fire investigator credential.

CPR/AED Instructor Certification

American Heart Association

Jan 2022

Certified to deliver CPR/AED instruction to fire prevention staff.

Awards

Fire Marshal of the Year

City Fire Department

2019

Award for outstanding service and dedication to fire safety and prevention

Distinguished Service Award

County Fire Department

2016

Award for exceptional service and commitment to the fire department

Languages

English

Native

Spanish

Fluent

Hobbies

Volunteer Firefighting • Fire Safety Education