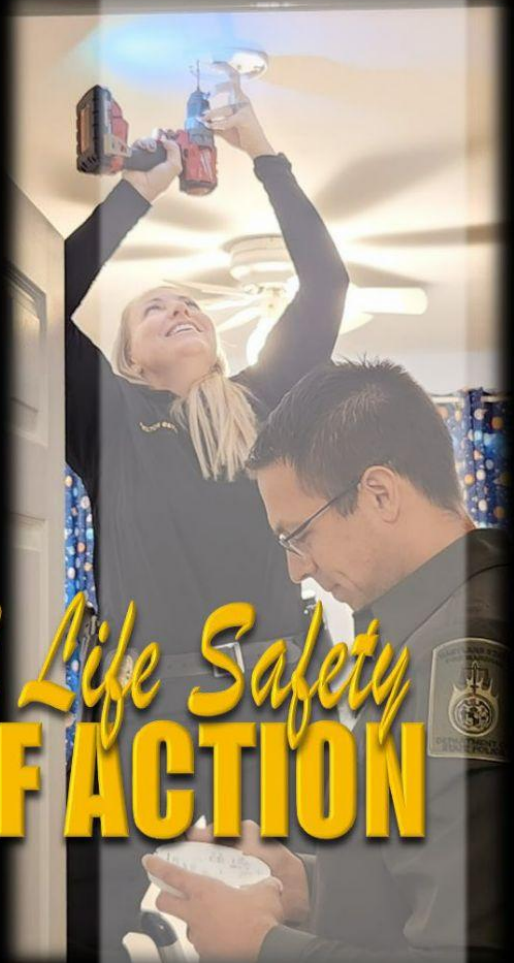
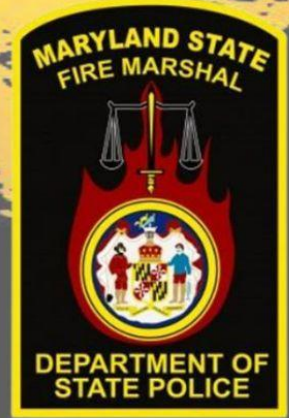


OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of State Police



2026 *Public Fire and Life Safety* EDUCATION PLAN OF ACTION

ONE MISSION | ONE GOAL | A SAFER MARYLAND



OSFM 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action

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OSFM 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action



Welcome from the OSFM



Dear Partners and Community Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, it is my privilege to welcome you as we begin an important year of progress and collaboration. As Acting State Fire Marshal, I am proud to introduce our 2nd Edition of the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action, which reflects our continued commitment to protecting lives, property, and communities across Maryland.

Community Risk Reduction remains a cornerstone of our mission. Through data-driven strategies, strong partnerships, and proactive public education, we are working to reduce preventable incidents before they occur. The 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action builds upon prior successes while positioning us to address emerging risks with greater precision and coordination.

Our 2026 priorities include:

1. Determine conformity with national best practices as they relate to public fire education programming;
2. Implement or make recommendations based upon findings and established areas of responsibility;
3. Coordinate support and public education resources at the state level that support every Maryland county in achieving its public education program goals;
4. Develop and implement within the OSFM a system that defines and monitors public fire education inputs within any given community and assess the adequacy and/or efficiency of those resources on the reduction of fire and fire-related incidents.

This year's plan is designed to be both strategic and adaptable. As we continue engaging with communities and stakeholders, we will refine our approach, identify service gaps, and leverage new opportunities to improve outcomes.

The success of Community Risk Reduction depends on collaboration. We thank our public safety partners, educators, community leaders, and residents for their ongoing support and shared commitment to prevention.

Together, we will continue building safer, more resilient communities throughout Maryland.

Respectfully,

Jason Mowbray
Acting Maryland State Fire Marshal



OSFM 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action

Department of State Police Office of the State Fire Marshal

Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action



Wes Moore
Governor

Colonel Michael A. Jackson
Secretary

Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor

Jason M. Mowbray
Acting State Fire Marshal

Issued: March 9, 2026



OSFM 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action



A primary goal of Maryland's Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is to support citizens and the communities in which they live by the implementation of fire safety programs and assistance in fire prevention matters. To that end, the OSFM has established a Public Education and Risk Reduction Officer position. This position reports to the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal and, in addition to representing the State Fire Marshal on national and State fire prevention associations, is responsible for providing community risk reduction and public fire safety and education programs statewide.

The state's CRR Officer is: Teresa Ann Crisman, and she can be reached at teresa.crisman@maryland.gov

The OSFM has adopted the U. S. Fire Administration's Public Fire Education Planning process. This five-step process, developed in 2008, supports communities in implementing an organized and structured approach to designing, implementing, and evaluating community safety education programs.

This Plan seeks to adapt the U. S. Fire Administration's Public Fire Education Planning process and apply it globally with an eye toward statewide application. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is active in 17 of Maryland's 23 counties. In the remaining 6 counties, the State Fire Marshal has appointed Assistant State Fire Marshals, Special Assistant State Fire Marshals, and/or Deputy State Fire Marshals. Utilizing this structure and its statewide authority, the goal of the Plan is to evaluate each Maryland county to:

1. Determine conformity with national best practices as they relate to public fire education programming;
2. Implement or make recommendations based upon findings and established areas of responsibility;
3. Coordinate support and public education resources at the state level that support every Maryland county in achieving its public education program goals;
4. Develop and implement within the OSFM a system that defines and monitors public fire education inputs within any given community, and assess the adequacy and/or efficiency of those resources in reducing fire and fire-related incidents.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is an agency of the Maryland Department of State Police.

The OSFM is responsible for:

- 1. Statewide fire, arson, and explosive investigations;**
- 2. Enforcement of the State Fire Prevention Code by plan review and inspections;**
- 3. Coordination of fire prevention efforts; and**
- 4. Collection of fire incident data**



OSFM 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action

Community Risk Reduction MISSION

The mission of the OSFM is the protection of life and property from fire and explosion through the efforts of a diverse, highly trained, and dedicated staff in partnership with other public safety agencies and the community. This is accomplished through aggressive criminal investigation of fire and explosive incidents, quality fire protection engineering services, enforcement of the State Fire Prevention Code, data collection and analysis, and public fire safety education.

The OSFM achieves this mission by actively working in communities across the state and supporting fire and law enforcement partners in local jurisdictions when requested. These responsibilities are currently handled with a staff of over 75 field personnel, plus administrative staff.

The purpose of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Plan of Action is to prevent and reduce the incidents of death, injury, and property loss by fire in every community in Maryland by designing, implementing, coordinating, and supporting fire prevention and life safety education programs.

State of Maryland Fire Risk Analysis

In late 2025, the State of Maryland began the transition to the National Fire Incident Reporting System. This transition is expected to provide immediate, actionable fire incident data, allowing departments to understand emerging trends faster. That said, the most complete data set available at the time of this report is Maryland's 2025 fire fatality data. In 2025, 68 people died in fires. The most frequent causes of fire were transportation-related incidents, electrical malfunctions, smoking, and cooking.

Essential to keeping Maryland safe from fire is recognizing what causes fires and the steps to prevent them. Maryland's fire service reported that they responded to a call for service with a fire truck/engine 739,022 times during 2025. Of those, 10,977 or 1.5% were associated with a fire incident code. Of those 27% were smoke scares (2,966), 22% were electrical malfunctions (2,325), and 14% were associated with cooking (1,448).

In 2008, the federal government published a report entitled Vision 20/20: National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention. The report, funded by the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Prevention and Safety Grant, resulted from the Vision 20/20 National Forum, where fire experts from across the country came together and collaborated on those short and long-term strategies determined to have the greatest impact on reducing loss of life and property from fire. Maryland's Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has embraced the Vision 20/20 strategic planning process and believes that it provides a clear direction for the future.

Statewide Collaborative & Engagement Framework

The OSFM, using the methods and materials provided by Vision 20/20, began documenting and adopting community risk reduction best practices through the Statewide Collaboration and Engagement Framework (SCEF). The goals of the SCEF are specific and measurable. Those goals are to:

1. Increase the number of working smoke alarms in the United States,
2. Increase the knowledge surrounding the principles and practices of CRR,
3. Integrate CRR and risk management into all disciplines within the U.S. fire and emergency services,
4. Bring diversity and inclusiveness to CRR discussions at the State and National level,
5. Foster a supportive environment for cultural change across the fire service to support CRR and,
6. Build a nationwide coalition of diverse teams to address emerging issues and support legislation for safer, healthy and more resilient communities

As Maryland's lead agency responsible for coordinating State fire prevention efforts and collecting statewide fire incident data, it is incumbent upon the OSFM to support citizens and the communities in which they live by implementing fire safety programs. To do so, the OSFM must evaluate and define the capabilities and challenges of partner jurisdictions, specifically, and of our public safety partners, generally, to achieve the Statewide Collaboration and Engagement Framework goals in our State.



Statewide Collaboration &
Engagement Framework



Community Risk Reduction GOALS

2026 Goals

An acceptable fire public education planning process is a systematic, data-driven approach that involves analyzing community risks, forming partnerships, setting clear goals, developing and implementing targeted strategies, and rigorously evaluating outcomes to ensure effectiveness, moving beyond simple awareness campaigns to actually reducing fire problems and injuries.

The widely recognized five-step method includes community analysis, developing partnerships, creating an intervention strategy, implementing it, and evaluating results.

To support this systematic approach, we are leveraging multiple data and engagement platforms, including community surveys and comprehensive analysis of survey responses to identify trends, service gaps, and priority risks within our communities.

During Q1 of CY2026, the OSFM CRR Unit will release a survey. This survey is intended to gather information on regional public fire and life safety education planning and associated resources. The survey is designed to gather community statistics, prioritize risks, and identify assistance needs for CRR programs.

In Q2, we will analyse survey responses and compare them across their respective regions. Analysis will focus on individual community preparedness while assessing the level and type of planning and other educational resources available locally.

In Q3, Vision 20/20 regional summits will be established to further support our statewide partners in advancing Community Risk Reduction (CRR) initiatives. Insights gathered through these regional summits will help shape strategic direction, strengthen collaboration, and align efforts with nationally recognized CRR best practices.

These collective findings directly inform the development and enhancement of statewide CRR programs, ensuring our initiatives remain data-driven, collaborative, and focused on achieving measurable, sustainable risk-reduction outcomes across our communities. Our goal is to ensure that every region receives targeted support that reflects its specific challenges, strengths, and priorities.

During the third and fourth quarters, we will ensure that regions have access to the full range of resources offered through the Vision 20/20 and CRR programs, including tools, training, technical assistance, and ongoing guidance. By combining data-driven planning, established best practices, and comprehensive resource support, we aim to create a coordinated, efficient, and sustainable framework that strengthens impact across all regions.



Understanding The Need for CRR Statewide Partnerships



Maryland's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) statewide partnerships represent a coordinated, data-driven approach to reducing fire and life safety risks across our communities. By strengthening collaboration among state agencies, local fire departments, emergency services organizations, public health partners, educational institutions, and community stakeholders, we are building a unified framework that prioritizes prevention over response.

Through shared data analysis, strategic planning, and consistent engagement, these partnerships ensure that CRR initiatives are aligned with identified community risks and tailored to meet local needs. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, Maryland's CRR network enhances public education, supports vulnerable populations, and implements targeted interventions to achieve measurable, sustainable risk-reduction outcomes.

Our statewide partnerships reflect a commitment to collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement—advancing a safer Maryland through proactive, evidence-based community risk reduction strategies.

Understanding Our Survey:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will be conducting a survey as part of our ongoing public fire education planning process and programming efforts to better understand the planning and programming currently being executed or delivered by our member departments across Maryland.

The information gathered will help identify what resources and services are already available within our communities, as well as highlight areas where additional planning, education, outreach, or support may be needed.

Your feedback is critical and will directly inform future planning and program development, ensuring that community risk reduction (CRR) initiatives remain meaningful, effective, and responsive to community risk. Together, this effort helps strengthen prevention strategies and supports our shared goal of keeping Maryland's families and neighbors safe.

Using Survey Responses to Understand and Prioritize Community Needs



The Office of the State Fire Marshal utilizes structured survey data as a foundational component of its Community Risk Reduction (CRR) strategy. Survey responses provide measurable, community-specific intelligence that informs decision-making, strengthens partnerships, and ensures resources are aligned with identified risks.

Through systematic analysis of survey results, we are able to identify high-risk populations, geographic trends, behavioral gaps, and barriers to engagement. This data allows us to move beyond anecdotal assumptions and toward evidence-based planning that reflects the actual conditions and needs within our communities.

Survey findings establish baseline metrics that guide strategic goal setting, including levels of smoke alarm coverage, escape plan practice, fire prevention awareness, and public perception of available services. These benchmarks enable the Office to develop targeted interventions, deploy resources efficiently, and evaluate program effectiveness over time.

Additionally, survey insights strengthen statewide collaboration by identifying partnership opportunities, service gaps, and areas requiring enhanced coordination among local fire departments, community organizations, and state agencies. This structured feedback loop supports continuous improvement and accountability.

By integrating survey analysis into the five-step CRR process—community risk assessment, partnership development, strategy creation, implementation, and evaluation—the Office of the State Fire Marshal ensures that prevention efforts are data-driven, outcome-focused, and responsive to Maryland’s evolving risk landscape. Through this disciplined and systematic approach, survey responses become more than feedback; they become a strategic instrument for reducing fire-related injuries, fatalities, and property loss across the State.



Maryland Community Risk Reduction Summit

The Maryland Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Summit will serve as a statewide platform to align leadership, data, and partnerships in advancing a coordinated risk reduction strategy across Maryland. These summits will bring together fire service professionals, prevention specialists, public safety leaders, educators, and community stakeholders to collectively strengthen Maryland's approach to reducing fire-related injuries, fatalities, and property loss.

Grounded in the nationally recognized Vision 20/20 CRR model, the summit will support and emphasize a systematic, data-driven framework that prioritizes community risk assessment, strategic partnerships, targeted intervention development, implementation accountability, and measurable evaluation. By fostering collaboration and shared intelligence, the Summit supports consistency in prevention messaging, resource deployment, and performance measurement across jurisdictions.

The Maryland Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Summit will:

- **Identify statewide risk trends** through data review and stakeholder input.
- **Highlight service gaps** in prevention, education, and risk reduction efforts.
- **Share proven best practices** among fire service, public health, emergency management, and community partners.
- **Strengthen cross-disciplinary coordination** to improve unified statewide CRR efforts.
- **Gather regional insights** from engagement sessions to ensure local needs inform state strategy.
- **Prioritize statewide CRR initiatives** based on evidence and community risk profiles.
- **Expand and formalize partnerships** to support sustained risk reduction outcomes.
- **Inform long-term strategic planning** for the Office of the State Fire Marshal and partners.

The summit functions as both a listening and action platform—turning data and stakeholder input into coordinated, measurable Community Risk Reduction strategies across Maryland. Through this structured and collaborative approach, the Summit will help reinforce Maryland's commitment to proactive risk reduction—shifting from reactive response to prevention-focused leadership. The outcome is a unified, sustainable strategy designed to protect lives, strengthen communities, and elevate the impact of Community Risk Reduction throughout the State of Maryland.



State of Maryland CRR Statewide Partnerships Programs

Community Risk Reduction **STATEWIDE PROGRAMS**

The State of Maryland's Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Statewide Partnerships Programs represent a unified commitment to protecting lives through collaboration, prevention, and data-driven action. Maryland continues to strengthen a coordinated approach to identifying risks and implementing meaningful solutions. These programs serve as the foundation for advancing proactive strategies that reduce incidents, address emerging community needs, and enhance overall public safety. Together, through the CRR Statewide Partnerships Programs, Maryland is building a more resilient, informed, and safer future for all residents.



2026 STATEWIDE *Community Risk Reduction Weekends*



Acting Maryland
State Fire Marshal
Jason Mowbray
has announced
that our 2026
Statewide
Community Risk
Reduction Program
dates:

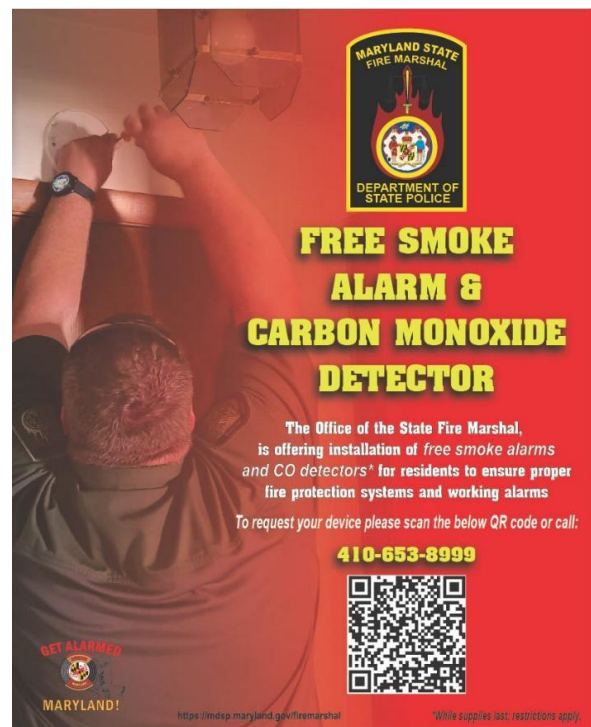
May 16-17, 2026

October 17-18, 2026

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

GET ALARMED MARYLAND

To support the state's smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has developed a centralized portal that allows fire departments and residents to request and obtain smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms efficiently. This system streamlines the distribution process, enhances accountability and tracking, and helps ensure that life-saving devices are readily accessible to communities in need.



The advertisement features a background image of a person installing a smoke alarm on a ceiling. In the top right corner is the Maryland State Fire Marshal Department of State Police logo. Below the logo, the text "FREE SMOKE ALARM & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR" is written in bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Below this, a paragraph states: "The Office of the State Fire Marshal, is offering installation of free smoke alarms and CO detectors* for residents to ensure proper fire protection systems and working alarms". Below the paragraph, it says "To request your device please scan the below QR code or call:" followed by the phone number "410-653-8999" in bold yellow. A QR code is located below the phone number. At the bottom left, there is a small "GET ALARMED MARYLAND!" logo. At the bottom center, the URL "https://mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal" is provided. At the bottom right, a small note says "*While supplies last, restrictions apply."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS MARYLAND

In partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland, the Office of the State Fire Marshal will support local club programs by providing fire and life safety education initiatives that benefit participating youth.

Maryland Boys & Girls Clubs (BGCMD) operate as independent Boys & Girls Club organizations statewide. Our local Clubs across Maryland play a critical role in meeting the unique needs of families in their own communities.

We know we are stronger when we work together to connect our communities and serve Maryland's children. BGCMD is poised to strengthen our individual Clubs across Maryland, serving as a resource to help all young people in our state, especially those who need us most, reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

In response to the increased needs of Maryland youth impacted by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, BGCMD is expanding to every county in the state to reach 45,000 children across all jurisdictions.

Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol

Grades: Elementary (Grades 2-3)

Subject Area: Health & Safety, Math, Language Arts

Made Possible By: Michigan Public Health Institute with a grant from USDHS/FEMA

Welcome to the *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol* educational program! To get started and access the program's lessons, activity sheets, videos, storybook, game, and more, click on the Sound Off Online link below to register your school – it's easy! In addition, you will find the Sound Off Team list with contact information for fire department leaders in participating states.





CARBON MONOXIDE GRANT PROGRAM

Through a grant awarded by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) received funding to implement a Carbon Monoxide Alarm Installation Program. The initiative focuses on three identified areas of concern:

1. **Residential needs**, particularly among low-income households, may make it difficult to afford carbon monoxide alarms.
2. **Families with language barriers**, ensuring outreach and education materials are accessible to non-English-speaking communities.
3. **Liveaboard boat residents in Maryland**, addressing the unique life safety risks associated with marine environments.

This targeted approach ensures that vulnerable and at-risk populations receive both the devices and the education necessary to reduce carbon monoxide incidents statewide.

Partnerships:

In addition to the grant funding, this initiative is strengthened through strategic partnerships with local fire departments, community organizations, housing authorities, marina operators, and advocacy groups serving vulnerable populations. These partnerships support outreach, identify at-risk residents, assist with scheduling installations, and help ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate education is delivered alongside alarm installation.

By working collaboratively, the program expands its reach, increases community trust, and ensures that life-saving carbon monoxide protection is effectively implemented across Maryland.

Current partnerships:

Maryland Department of Health - Healthy Living Program for Children

Maryland Natural Resources Police





OSFM 2026 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Plan of Action



**Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal
Department of the State Police**

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