

DONALD P. BLISS
State Fire Marshal
Director of Fire Safety & Emergency Management
New Hampshire Department of Safety
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Donald P. Bliss has been the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal since August 1, 1992. As State Fire Marshal, he oversees fire investigations and fire and building code enforcement throughout New Hampshire. In addition, the State Fire Marshal administers the state's modular building program and the statewide fire incident reporting system and is responsible for the coordination of state agency responses to hazardous materials incidents. On July 1, 2002, the NH Office of Emergency Management was merged with the State Fire Marshal's Office to form the Division of Fire Safety & Emergency Management. As director of the new division, Bliss is responsible for the oversight of the state's emergency response planning for natural and man-made disasters, including terrorism. The Division of Fire Safety & Emergency Management is coordinates disaster recovery and mitigation efforts and administers the state's Emergency Operations Plan and the Radiological Emergency Response Plan. Bliss currently chairs the Governor's Commission on Preparedness and Security and is Governor Shaheen's point-of-contact to the White House Office of Homeland Security.

Director Bliss was the fire chief in Salem, NH from 1983 to 1992. He also served as the Town's emergency management director, and was the interim town manager for a nine-month period. From 1980 to 1983, he was the Director of the University of Connecticut Fire Department in Storrs, CT and Fire Marshal for the University of Connecticut System. Bliss began his fire service career with the Durham-UNH Fire Department in Durham, NH, rising through the ranks from call firefighter to Fire Marshal/Deputy Chief from 1970 to 1980.

Fire Marshal Bliss is active in numerous professional organizations, including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs, and the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society. He is a past president of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs and is the former chairman of the New Hampshire Emergency Medical Services Coordinating Board. He served as the Chairman of the *International Fire Code* Prescriptive Drafting Committee and was a member of the *International Fire Code* Scoping Committee. He currently serves as president of NASFM and is the past chair of the NASFM Consumer Product Safety Task Force. Bliss chairs the NFPA 1 *Uniform Fire Prevention Code* Technical Committee and is a member of the NFPA Northeast Regional Fire Code Development Committee.

Fire Marshal Bliss graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B.A. in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration degree, and has completed numerous courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Revised July 2002.