

**Robert Polk**  
South Carolina State Fire Marshal  
South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
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Marshal Polk began his fire service career in 1972 as a firefighter/paramedic in St. Petersburg, Florida. He rose through the ranks serving in training, suppression, and emergency medical services, and retired in 1996 as Division Chief. He served as Fire Chief in Moline, Illinois from 1996-2000, and returned to Florida as Director of Fire and Emergency Services for Charlotte County.

Marshal Polk was appointed South Carolina State Fire Marshal in August of 2000. The Office of State Fire Marshal has regulatory responsibility to ensure compliance with state fire safety regulations. Marshal Polk oversees inspection activities by deputy state fire marshals in the field and code consultation and plans review services provided by the Engineering Services Section.

Marshal Polk works closely with the Public Fire Safety Education Section by instituting fire prevention activities aimed at reducing the state's fire death rate. Activities include the distribution of smoke detectors, programs in the schools to educate youth and the dissemination of timely fire safety information to the public.

He was recently appointed by South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges to the State Emergency Response Commission and to the newly formed State Security Council.

Marshal Polk maintains memberships in various professional organizations including the National Fire Protection Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM), International Fire Marshals Association, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He has served on national committees, as well as numerous state boards. He has instructed firefighters and officers from recruits to college, and was an adjunct instructor for the US Fire Administration's National Fire Academy, in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He lectures frequently and has been published in various trade journals. He currently serves as chair of the NASFM Consumer Product Safety Task Force.

Marshal Polk has degrees in Fire Administration and Management, has attended the Executive Fire Officer Program through the National Fire Academy, and is recognized by the National Fire Protection Association as a Certified Fire Protection Specialist. He resides with his family in Columbia, South Carolina, and is committed to making our communities a safer place to live and work.

7/17/02