

FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025



NEW MEXICO STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S MISSION

The mission of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is to protect the lives and property of New Mexico residents and guests from the devastating effects of fire. This goal is accomplished through promotion of public safety and fire prevention programs, as well as resources distributed to the New Mexico fire departments for fire protection services. The SFMO carries out its mission through four bureaus: Code Enforcement, Fire Investigations, Fire Service Support, and the Fire Training Academy.

The New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office became a part of DHSEM in 2021.

NEW MEXICO DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) works to protect the people of New Mexico and the nation through a comprehensive and coordinated program of mitigating hazards, preparing for emergencies, preventing attacks, and recovering from disasters regardless of cause. Our department prepares for a wide variety of emergencies, including wildfires, flooding, health crises, and domestic attacks. When necessary, the state assists localities whose capabilities are overwhelmed, and DHSEM serves as the conduit for federal assistance. Our work in emergency management is coordinated around the five mission areas of the National Preparedness Goal: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

OUR LEADERSHIP



MAJOR GENERAL MIGUEL AGUILAR, INTERIM CABINET SECRETARY

Maj. Gen. Aguilar serves as The Adjutant General for the State of New Mexico and the Acting Secretary for DHSEM.

A native of Dexter, Aguilar received his commission from the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell. Aguilar deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 as a member of an Embedded Training Team for the 205th Regional Corps Advisory Group. He assumed command of 1st Battalion, 200th Infantry, in 2011 and led the battalion through a deployment to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. Aguilar took command of the 111th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in 2014 and oversaw its transition to the 111th Sustainment Brigade. He commanded the brigade until 2017 when he became the New Mexico Army National Guard's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Aguilar retired from the New Mexico State Police in 2018 as a major in command of the Special Operations Bureau.



**RANDY VARELA,
STATE FIRE
MARSHAL**



**ALI RYE,
DHSEM STATE
DIRECTOR**



**REGINA CHACON,
DHSEM CABINET
SECRETARY**

OUR LEADERSHIP



**ANTHONY LEYBA, ASSISTANT
STATE FIRE MARSHAL**



**AARON GARCIA, ASSISTANT
STATE FIRE MARSHAL**



**DERRICK RODRIGUEZ,
FIRE SERVICE
SUPPORT BATTALION
CHIEF**



**FEDERIC HERNANDEZ,
FIRE ACADEMY
BATTALION CHIEF**



**JIMMY ST. JAMES,
INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU BATTALION
CHIEF**

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**OVERALL
DEPARTMENT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In Fiscal Year 2025, the New Mexico State Fire Marshals (SFMO) worked with departments across the state to ensure the safety of New Mexicans and increase compliance, resources, and knowledge for local fire departments.

As part of our mission, we will continue to provide support and resources to local departments in order to keep our communities safe.



NEW MEXICO STATE FIRE ACADEMY

The Academy works to meet the needs of a complex and dynamic fire service by providing programs of the highest quality. The New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy's objectives and goals are:

1. Provide training programs designed to develop the basic and advanced skills necessary for students to be more effective members of the fire service and society;
2. Provide the best instruction and training possible in all areas of the fire service;
3. Serve the public at large by providing education services, training, and counseling; and
4. Provide a means to allow firefighters to demonstrate their ability to meet professional qualification standards.



NEW MEXICO STATE FIRE ACADEMY

In Fiscal Year 2025, the New Mexico Fire Academy continued training New Mexico's fire service members to provide the best protection to their communities, all while improving and innovating the programs provided and the resources available to training staff and all who spent time learning from them.

TRAINING CONTACT HOURS

117,149

CLASSES CONDUCTED

351

PASS RATE FOR CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

75%



FY 25 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully maintained dual accreditation through the Pro Board and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).
- Installed an electric vehicle charging system; replaced drinking fountains with bottle-filling stations; constructed a three-dimensional fire evolution prop at the flammable liquids training pad; enhanced campus landscaping; and installed a safety perimeter fence around the water recycling retention ponds.
- Hosted the 2024 State Fire and EMS Expo, fostering collaboration among fire departments and vendors to promote the exchange of innovative ideas and emerging training technologies.
- Acquired new operational assets, including three fire engines, three utility trailers, a telehandler, a skid steer loader, a riding lawnmower, and various maintenance equipment.
- Procured updated personal protective equipment, rescue ropes, and additional fire training supplies to support instructional programs.
- Added Rope Rescue Awareness and Operations, Rope Rescue Technician, and Fire Inspector courses.
- Strengthened outreach efforts by delivering non-certification and entry-level training directly to fire departments, improving accessibility and responsiveness to departmental needs.



CODE ENFORCEMENT



The Code Enforcement Bureau provides for the life safety of occupants in buildings, structures, and facilities, the prevention of fire and the reduction of property losses due to fires. The State Fire Marshal's Office has adopted the ICC International Fire Code 2021 edition to assure standardization of life safety concerns statewide.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Code Enforcement Bureau worked across the state to ensure the safety of buildings, new and old. Inspectors worked across the state to inspect buildings, review projects and plan, and educate those they serve on the standards that exist to keep New Mexicans safe.

BY THE NUMBERS: FISCAL YEAR 25 INSPECTIONS

CONDUCTED NEARLY

4,000 INSPECTIONS TOTAL



**8M SQ. FEET
NEW PROJECTS**



**344 NEW
PROJECTS**



**146 NEW PROJECT
SCOPE OF WORK
LETTERS**



**NEARLY 300
FIREWORKS
INSPECTIONS**



FIRE SUPPORT BUREAU

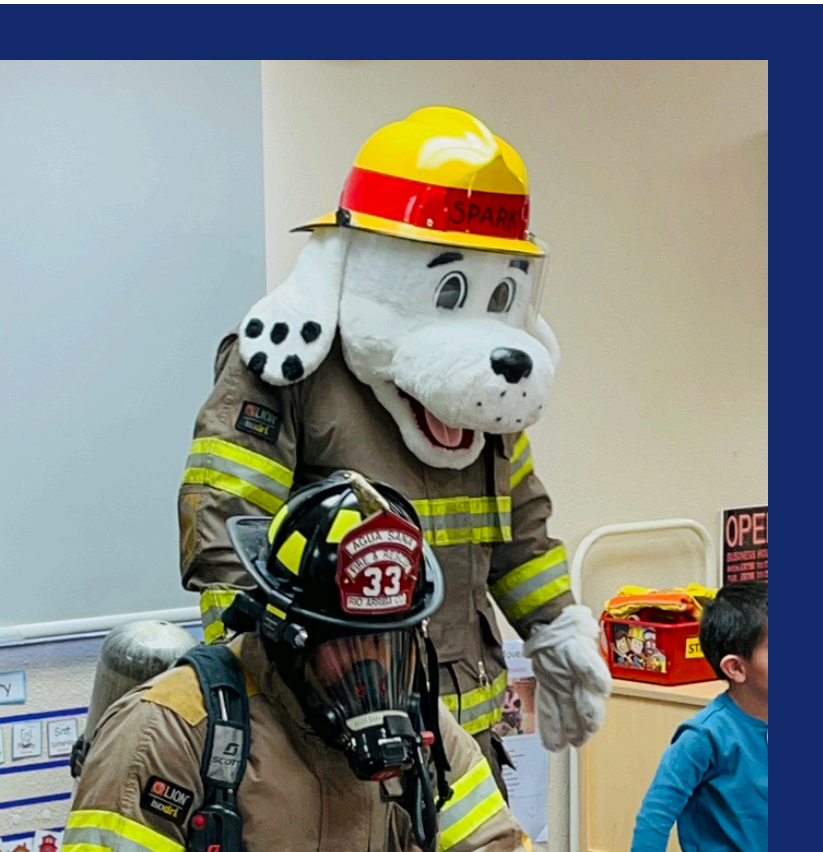


The Fire Support Bureau is responsible for the distribution of funds from the State Fire Fund and provides assistance to local fire departments in preparation of Insurance Service Office (ISO) surveys. The bureau also reviews fire apparatus specifications in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, performs site feasibility inspections for new fire stations and districts, and conducts certification inspections of new stations and fire districts for funding purposes. The services provided by the bureau promote increased fire protection in all communities which result in reduced loss of life and property from fire incidents and lower insurance rates (where applicable) for the citizens of New Mexico.



FIRE SUPPORT BUREAU

- 33 fire departments improved their ISO rating Statewide.
- Increased our fire prevention outreach program to the schools teaching the kids the importance of fire safety.
- Reached over 300 people and installed 409 smoke alarms in 169 homes through the New Mexico Sound the Alarm program in partnership with the American Red Cross.
- Fuego Safety Squad was provided to 635 students in 34 schools with 96 local fire department personnel in attendance.
- Reached over 1,600 individuals through Community Risk Reduction training, career days, and community outreach events.
- Provided Fire Safety and Extinguisher Training for over 208 state employees and seasonal workers.



- Increased amount available to distributed to departments for the Fire Fund Grant in Fiscal Year 2026 by \$22.6 million.
- Awarded \$32.5 million to 80 recipients through the Fire Protection Grant and provided over \$730K in stipends to local fire departments.
- Achieved 95% NIFRS reporting compliance from fire departments statewide.
- Completed 576 fire department inspections.



FIRE INVESTIGATION BUREAU

The Fire Investigations Bureau is responsible for determining the origin, cause, and circumstances related to a fire incident. State fire investigators respond to requests for assistance from local fire departments and law enforcement agencies and assist the Office of the Medical Examiner (OMI) in fatal fire incidents.

BY THE NUMBERS: FISCAL YEAR 25 INVESTIGATIONS

ASSISTED IN

199 INVESTIGATIONS TOTAL



**20 FATAL
INCIDENTS**



**42 FIRES CASUED
BY ARSON**



**27 ACCIDENTAL
FIRES**



FIRE INVESTIGATION BUREAU

Investigators handled numerous high-profile incidents involving homicides, serial arson events, wildland fires, and large-loss structure fires.

Our investigators worked with partner agencies including:

- New Mexico State Police
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Local Fire Departments and District Attorney Offices

These partnerships continue to strengthen the Bureau's reputation for professionalism, collaboration, and thorough investigations statewide.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Fire investigators participated in community engagement activities throughout the year as part of our commitment not only to public safety, but to community service and engagement.

- Members of the Investigations Bureau led a statewide initiative to distribute toys to children during the holiday season.
- Assisted Fire Prevention with public safety events throughout the state.





STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OVERALL FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received \$35 million for the Firefighter Memorial and Training Facility in Santa Fe. The plan and design of this project has already been started.
- Received \$5 million for upgrades for the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro.
- Increased the amount available for distribution to fire departments from the Fire Fund by \$100 million for FY 26.
- Supported State Emergency Operation Center during the activation in response to fires and floods across New Mexico. SFMO also helped in local Emergency Operations Center and delivered much needed resources to communities facing disasters.

