



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Department
of Commerce

Sheryl Maxfield, Director



NEWS RELEASE

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Governor DeWine Announces Recipients of Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame Awards

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — Governor Mike DeWine today announced the recipients of the 40th annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame & Fire Awards.

The Ohio Department of Commerce’s Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Division of EMS come together each year to honor men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and provided exceptional service to Ohioans and Ohio’s fire service.

“We are proud to recognize these Ohioans who provide such a critical service to their communities,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “We cannot thank them enough for their dedication to keeping their fellow citizens safe.”

This year’s class of 12 honorees will join the hundreds of first responders and citizens who have been recognized for their selfless and heroic acts throughout the last four decades.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s honorees are being recognized individually at smaller, more intimate award ceremonies in their home communities or online.

“With all the challenges faced this year, we felt it was important to continue our tradition of honoring these first responders and citizens for their selfless and courageous efforts,” said State Fire Marshal Kevin S. Reardon. “We are pleased to be able to recognize these heroic individuals.”

This marks the 40th year of the annual awards ceremony and the ninth time the State Fire Marshal’s office and the Department of Public Safety have partnered for the event.

“The Division of EMS values the partnership with the Division of State Fire Marshal as we recognize each awardee, said Interim EMS Executive Director Rob Wagoner. “It is inspiring to see the tremendous dedication each has made, especially in these unprecedented times, to improving the health and safety of all Ohioans and visitors to the state.”

In all, there are approximately 50,000 dedicated men and women who serve in the Ohio’s fire service.

Detailed information on this year’s awardees, along with descriptions of their honors, may be found [here](#).

For descriptions of each award category, [click here](#).

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Department of Commerce's Division of State Fire Marshal Awards:

Citizen's Award: Steve Pozniak (Cuyahoga County), Marcus Brigham (Montgomery County), Christopher Papouras (Cuyahoga County)

First Responder Award: Josh Robertson (Cleveland Heights Police Department)

Valor Award: Ryan Sprunger (East Wayne Joint Fire District)

Distinguished Service Awards: Jack Rupp (Plain Township Fire Department), Scott Skeldon (retired) (Madison County)

Department of Public Safety's Division of EMS Awards:

Fire Department of the Year: Erie Valley Fire & Rescue (Stark County)

Fire Prevention Educator of the Year: Josh Whitehead (West Carrollton Fire Department)

Fire Officer of the Year: Grant Burns (Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS)

Fire Service Instructor of the Year: Scott Wallace (Dayton Fire Department)

Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award: Jim Steele (Van Wert Fire Department)

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*The **Division of State Fire Marshal** is part of the Ohio Department of Commerce. The department is Ohio's chief regulatory agency, focused on promoting prosperity and protecting what matters most to Ohioans. We ensure businesses follow the laws that help them create jobs and keep Ohioans safe. To learn more about what we do, visit our website at com.ohio.gov.*

*The **Ohio Department of Public Safety**, through the Division of EMS, oversees the certification of emergency medical technicians and firefighters and ensures that the professionals in these lifesaving roles are properly trained, educated and prepared for emergency situations.*

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