

State Fire Marshal Shane Ray Receives Scholarship for Strategic Management Course at Harvard



S.C. State Fire Marshal Shane Ray has been named as the recipient of the first Fire & Life Safety Section (FLSS)/International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Foundation Scholarship to attend the 2013 Harvard Strategic Management of Regulatory and Enforcement Agencies course April 7-11, 2013.

"This is a great honor for Shane, LLR, and our state," LLR Director Holly Pizarik said. "I look forward to the great ideas Shane will come home with to help advance the mission of the State Fire Marshal Office and the S.C. Fire Academy."

Chief Ray's experience will serve him well as he participates in this course designed for officials in regulatory and enforcement agencies. The recent strategic plan developed by LLR's Division of Fire & Life Safety will provide an excellent framework and context for him to apply the course objectives which include risk control and harm reduction while focusing on process improvement and customer service.

Chief Ray is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government program, the University of Maryland's Leadership Development Program, and the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He was selected as "Fire Chief" magazine's Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year for 2005, Eastern Kentucky University's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for 2006, and Tennessee Fire Chief of the Year for 2011.

"I am honored and humbled to accept this scholarship, and I am very excited about the opportunity to participate in this program that will enhance my knowledge and allow me to serve the citizens, the Governor, and LLR better," Chief Ray said. "My previous Harvard experience in the JFK program for Senior Executives in State & Local Government was one of the most rewarding of my professional career, and I look forward to this opportunity."

Chief Ray currently serves as South Carolina State Fire Marshal, Volunteer Battalion Chief of Clarendon County Fire Department, and is International Director for the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). He has served in various positions within the IAFC, including the Fire & Life Section Board and the Human Relations Committee.