



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
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Jonathan Jones, State Fire Marshal

For Immediate Release:

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Chief Dennis Ray to Lead State Fire Academy

Chief Dennis Ray has accepted the position of South Carolina Fire Academy Superintendent, and will assume his new duties Dec. 1, 2017. In his new role, he will also serve as an Assistant State Fire Marshal.

“This is a once-in-a-career opportunity for me to lead an incredibly talented team at the Academy and to serve as an Assistant State Fire Marshal,” said Chief Ray, who has served as the Fire Chief of the Lugoff Fire-Rescue for the past seven years. “I am honored to have been chosen for this crucial leadership position ensuring we provide our firefighters throughout South Carolina modern, progressive, and standardized training to better prepare us for the various fire and rescue demands of today’s profession.”

Chief Ray began his fire service career in 1992 as a volunteer firefighter with Pine Grove Fire Department. He continues to serve as a volunteer with Pine Grove Fire Department. In the past, he has worked as a full-time telecommunications officer for Kershaw County, a police officer with the Camden Police Department, and a State Transport Police Officer and State Law Enforcement Liaison with the S.C. Department of Public Safety.

LLR Director Emily Farr says the Agency is fortunate to have Chief Ray as he brings an array of training and experience.

“His record as a dedicated public servant, his passion for the fire service, and his leadership experience will make our Fire Academy team even stronger as we continue to provide excellent, state-of-the-art firefighter training and education to South Carolina,” Farr said.

The Fire Academy provides emergency services training to the municipal fire service - both paid and volunteer - airport crash rescue departments, industrial fire brigades and emergency teams and service organizations including EMS, law enforcement and military from around the state and the world.

“The superintendent is a leadership position central to our success at State Fire,” State Fire Marshal Jonathan Jones said. “In the announcement for posting the Superintendent’s position, I stated we were looking for a visionary leader, who is innovative, enthusiastic, caring, open-minded and forward-thinking. There is no doubt Chief Ray embodies these qualities and brings much to our team.”

The Fire Academy is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) for multiple NFPA firefighter levels.

The Fire Academy and the State Fire Marshal’s Office make up the Division of Fire and Life Safety, which is a division of the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.