



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Fire Safety Inspection Program

*Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety
Department of Labor and Economic Growth*

Report Number:
64-143-05

Released:
August 2006

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety is generally responsible for managing Michigan's overall fire safety through construction plan review, fire safety inspections, and training and certification of fire inspectors. Within the Bureau are the State Fire Marshal, the Fire Fighters Training Council, and the State Fire Safety Board. Through its fire safety inspection program, the Bureau conducts annual fire safety inspections of various regulated facilities under the Fire Safety Prevention Code (Act 207, P.A. 1941, as amended).

Audit Objective:

To assess the Bureau's efforts to measure the effectiveness of its fire safety inspection program in protecting Michigan citizens from fire and related hazards.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that the Bureau's efforts to measure the effectiveness of its fire safety inspection program in protecting Michigan citizens from fire and related hazards were moderately effective.

Reportable Conditions:

The Bureau needs to establish outcome measures to enable it to assess the overall effectiveness of its fire safety inspection program in reducing fires and related hazards (Finding 1).

The Bureau needs to update its written policies and procedures to help ensure that it conducts fire safety inspections in accordance with the Bureau's goals and objectives (Finding 2).

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Audit Objective:

To assess the Bureau's efforts to ensure that fire safety inspections are performed as required by law.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that the Bureau's efforts to ensure that fire safety inspections are performed as required by law were moderately effective.

Reportable Conditions:

The Bureau did not ensure that annual fire safety inspections were completed for places of public assemblage. Also, the Bureau did not ensure that places of public assemblage obtained annual certification from the State Fire Marshal prior to establishment or operation. (Finding 3)

The Bureau did not complete annual fire safety inspections of adult foster care homes, homes for the aged, family adult intermediate services facilities, and hospitals in a timely manner (Finding 4).

The Bureau did not conduct timely fire safety inspections of construction and renovation projects of various facilities as required. In addition, the Bureau did not properly document when fire safety inspection reports were received and reviewed (Finding 5).

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Agency Responses:

Our audit report contains 5 findings and 7 corresponding recommendations. The Bureau's preliminary response indicates that it agreed with all the recommendations.

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Background:

Executive Order 1997-2 transferred certain inspection and administrative functions of the Fire Marshal Division, Michigan Department of State Police (MSP), and the State Fire Safety Board to the Office of Fire Safety, Department of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS), effective September 1997.

In March 2003, the Office of Fire Safety was merged into the Bureau of Construction Codes, which was renamed the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety. Executive Order 2003-18, which was effective in December 2003, renamed CIS as the Department of Labor and Economic Growth and transferred the remaining functions involving fire safety from the Fire Marshal Division to the Bureau, which included the State Fire Marshal position and the Fire Fighters Training Council. The functions remaining with MSP included the State arson strike force unit, fire investigations, criminal enforcement, and the Fire Investigator Training Program.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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