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ATAC Welcomes New State Fire Marshal

A Texas Advisory Council on Arson (ATAC) congratulates Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner Eleanor Kitzman on her appointment of Chris Connealy as the state's new fire marshal. Connealy has served in the fire service for the past 34 years and all of it in Texas.



Connealy started with the Houston Fire Department in 1978 and worked his way up to fire chief. In 2004, Connealy became the fire chief for Cedar Park. He will take over the reins as state fire marshal on June 18.

ATAC president David Mitchell said Connealy should bring a wealth of knowledge to the state fire marshal's office.

"Chief Connealy has fought fires, served in Emergency Operations, EMS and dealt with managing one of the largest fire departments in the country," said Mitchell. "I think his background shows he has done it all and he has been honored for his work on numerous occasions. Commissioner Kitzman has made a good choice and we look forward to working with him."

ATAC works with the State Fire Marshal's Office in supporting the state Arson Hotline which has resulted in numerous arson arrests all over the state. The Arson Hotline is answered seven days a week, 24-hours a day and every caller remains anonymous. Calls that lead to legitimate arrests may result in a reward. The Arson Hotline number is 1-877-4-FIRE-45 (1-877-434-7345).

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) provides the administrative support in keeping ATAC operational on a daily basis. ICT staff members also publish and distribute the ATAC newsletter and work closely with the State Fire Marshal's Office in responding to calls from the Arson Hotline.

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