



Contact

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ATAC Honors Waco Fire Marshal

Waco Fire Marshal Jerry Hawk was honored by A Texas Advisory Council on Arson (ATAC) for his 36 years of fire service. Hawk received ATAC's Fire Service Special Award in closing ceremonies at the 54th Annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar in Austin.



Hawk started his career as an Austin firefighter in 1973. He joined the Waco Fire Department in 1977, rising up through the ranks to become Fire Marshal in 1997. Hawk has strengthened the position to actively pursue arson criminals. He was instrumental in giving the Fire Marshal full authority to be the lead investigators in all fire related crimes with access to all police department data, reporting system and evidence storage.

Hawk is a strong believer in public fire safety education. He has started numerous fire education and fire prevention programs in Waco including promoting the *We're Out to Alarm Texas* smoke detector campaign that has resulted in thousands of smoke detectors being placed in the homes of Waco's seniors and low income families. He has credited the use of smoke detectors for making 2008 the first year in a long time that Waco has not suffered a fire fatality.

The Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar is a week-long event that draws Texas fire chiefs and fire marshals from all over the state for in-house training and updates on fire fighting capabilities. ATAC meets during this event to discuss the activities of the state fire marshal and the Arson Hotline.

The Arson Hotline is funded by ATAC, whose members include fire, police, industrial and insurance representatives. 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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