

## Fire Inspectors: Still Trustworthy

In the past several months people impersonating Fire Inspectors have been in the news. These people have given the profession of Fire Inspecting a bad name. They have utilized the title and in some cases the uniform to gain entry into an establishment. When in these establishments they would steal items or charge for the service they were supposedly performing.

The Burlington County Fire Marshal Association which represents Fire Marshals and Fire Inspectors from throughout Burlington County would like to make it clear that a Fire Inspector is still a trustworthy individual. A Fire-Inspector is very professional and cares about what he/she does and the community in which they serve. To become a Fire-Inspector one must obtain a license through the State of New Jersey. He/she must attend continuing education classes on a regular basis. Fire-Inspectors are dedicated to their profession and their communities.

The Burlington County Fire Marshal Association has listed a few items below to help safeguard against these impersonators.

### Know Your Inspectors:

- Most Fire-Inspectors will be wearing a uniform or something with the agencies name on it. Just because they have a uniform on don't assume they are who they say they are.
- All Inspectors (Fire, Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Water Dept.) will have a picture identification card on them at all times. This card will have their name and department as well as a contact number. If you have any doubt, contact your municipal office before allowing access.
- A Fire-Inspector must have his/her Inspector license with them; don't be afraid to verify this with their ID tag or Driver's License.
- A Fire-Inspector would never come to any type of residential home without being scheduled to do so.
- A Fire-Inspector is required to give you a certificate or a violation notice with the date in which he/she performed the annual inspection. If you have any doubt about the timing of the inspection; thinking the Inspector was just there, then just check this paperwork and the date. As mentioned these inspections are annual with the exception of a few.
- In most cases a Fire-Inspector will not take any kind of payment in the field. If he/she does it should be in the form of a check, made out to the agency in which they are performing the service for.
- Maintenance on Fire Extinguishers, Alarms, and Sprinklers are typically scheduled annually by a private company. Check the tags or previous bill to see when they were last performed. When in doubt, contact the company to verify someone should be out there. These services being performed are billable; never pay cash if you are unsure.

Most departments go through great lengths and expenses to ensure that their Inspectors are identified; you are not inconveniencing them by asking for this information.

If you should have any questions contact your local Fire Prevention Office or go to our website [www.bcfma.org](http://www.bcfma.org)