



# North Dakota Insurance Department

Safeguarding Promises. Fostering Fairness.  
Jon Godfread, Commissioner



## Background

When North Dakotans call 9-1-1 because of a fire, it's expected that a team from their local fire department will swiftly tend to the flames and secure the property as much as possible. Ensuring North Dakota's fire departments are prepared and equipped for when the call comes in, should be a priority.

The North Dakota Fire Marshal's office is tasked with reducing the risk of fires in a variety of buildings and environments. Additionally, the Fire Marshal and staff investigate cases of arson, which oftentimes is driven by insurance payouts. This work, similar to insurance, is to protect and support individuals when the unexpected happens.

The Department administers the Insurance Tax Distribution Fund which provides millions of dollars in funding to fire departments across the state. This money is used for more training, equipment and more, which can lower property insurance premiums and ISO ratings.

To create a more efficient state government and improved safety for North Dakotans, the Fire Marshal's office would be best served within the Insurance Department.

Primary shared roles of the Insurance Department & Fire Marshal are to mitigate risks and prepare for the unexpected. This move would provide greater efficiency to better serve and respond to North Dakota communities, large and small.

### Joel Boespflug Bismarck Fire Chief

"The closer partnership of agencies involved in the coordination of fire training, fire investigations and fire prevention can create synergies to help communities improve their Insurance Services Office (ISO) Community Fire Protection Rating."

### Rob Knuth NDFCA Training Director

"The North Dakota Firefighter's Association supports the initiative to unite with the ND State Fire Marshal's office under the ND Insurance Department. The State Fire Marshal provides departments fire prevention, inspection, and investigative services while the ND Firefighter's Association provides training and certifications. Both entities' goal is to improve the capabilities and readiness of the fire departments in the state."

### Ken Wangen NDFCA President & Carrington Fire Chief

"It makes too much sense. We've been looking for this in a long time. From a fire department's standpoint, fire departments are tasked with life and property, in that order. The way we achieve that is through education. From a volunteer standpoint, it costs money. Equipment costs have done nothing but go up. Getting ongoing appropriations of premium tax is extremely helpful. Funding the NDFCA is a premier priority."

