

1 **employees; equipment.**

2 (a) The State Fire Commission shall appoint a State Fire
3 Marshal. The State Fire Marshal serves at the will and pleasure of
4 the commission and is exempt from coverage under the classified
5 civil service system.

6 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall have a baccalaureate degree
7 from an accredited four-year college or university, or equivalent
8 experience as determined by the commission, and six years of full-
9 time or part-time equivalent paid or volunteer experience in fire
10 prevention or fire safety including two years in a supervisory
11 capacity in fire prevention and fire safety.

12 (c) The State Fire Marshal, within policy established by the
13 State Fire Commission, shall have all responsibility for the
14 implementation of fire safety programs in this state designated to
15 minimize fire hazards and disaster and loss of life and property
16 from these causes. These responsibilities include, but are not
17 limited to, the establishment and enforcement of fire safety
18 practices throughout the state, preventive inspection and
19 correction activities, coordination of fire safety programs with
20 volunteer and paid fire departments and critical analysis and
21 evaluation of West Virginia's fire loss statistics for
22 determination of problems and solutions.

1 (d) The State Fire Marshal may employ such technical,
2 clerical, stenographic and other personnel and fix their
3 compensation and may incur such expenses as may be necessary in the
4 performance of the duties of his or her office within the
5 appropriation therefor. Employees of the Fire Marshal's office
6 shall be members of the state civil service system and all
7 appointments of the office shall be a part of the classified
8 service under the civil service system.

9 Further, any individual who is employed to conduct criminal
10 investigations or who may become actively involved in matters of a
11 criminal nature shall first be required to pass a civil service
12 examination testing his or her competency and proficiency in the
13 law of arrest, search and seizure and other criminal procedures
14 relating to the powers granted to the State Fire Marshal pursuant
15 to the provisions of this article.

16 (e) The State Fire Marshal and other personnel of the State
17 Fire Marshal's office shall be provided with appropriate office
18 space, furniture, equipment, supplies, stationery and printing in
19 the same manner as provided for other state agencies.