



HCFMO

Harris County Fire Marshal

Laurie L. Christensen
Fire Marshal

Laurie L. Christensen, CFPS, FM, M.S.



Laurie Christensen is the Fire Marshal of Harris County, Texas, the third-most populous county in the United States with 4.7 million residents, 2.1 million of which reside in the unincorporated county.

Fire Marshal Christensen is a graduate of Sam Houston State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Master of Science in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management. She is an accredited Fire Marshal, a Certified Fire Protection Specialist, a Master Peace Officer, and a Master Firefighter. Christensen is a retired member of the Pasadena Volunteer Fire Department, the former Fire Marshal of La Porte, TX, and has over 25 years' experience in emergency response, including 18 years as a chief officer.

Christensen played an integral role supporting Harris County residents through the development, implementation, and promotion of several critical life safety, investigation and inspection programs. She is an original member of the first adopted fire code in Harris County, which has gone through additional adoptions and continues to be a successful economic and life safety success for Harris County. Christensen also implemented "Know Your Way Out," fire and life safety program for bars and nightclubs. This proactive inspection program was established in nightclubs, large gathering spaces, and schools. The intent is to ensure occupants always know a second way to escape danger. Christensen was one of the developers of the Safe School Inspection Program, which established an annual inspection schedule and interactive, results-oriented reporting procedure for the more than 400 public schools in unincorporated Harris County. This program continues ensure the safety of Harris County's youngest residents on campuses county-wide.

In 2017, during Hurricane Harvey, Christensen served as logistics shelter operations chief and coordinated the efforts of shelter establishments, resource distribution, and coordination of moving residents to NRG Stadium for extended sheltering needs. In 2008, during Hurricane Ike, Christensen held the position of operations section chief and was a member of the team that developed the first inner city point of distribution (POD) system for residents. In 2005, Christensen played a key role during the "Reliant City" operation, where Harris County supported more than 25,000 residents who were forced to evacuate Hurricane Katrina's devastation.

Fire Marshal Christensen is a published author, guest editor and guest speaker throughout the state and country. Christensen also serves on numerous committees for law enforcement and the fire service, and provides frequent expert testimony to the Texas legislature. Fire Marshal Christensen is the recipient of numerous distinguished awards and certificates of merit.

Fire Marshal Christensen can be reached by e-mail at LLC@hctx.net or by phone at (713) 274-1700.

Houston Texas Cell: 281-850-8467 - E-mail: LLC@hctx.net

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EDUCATION

Sam Houston State University	
Master of Science, <i>Criminal Justice, Leadership and Management</i>	2014
University of Houston Downtown	
Bachelors of Science, <i>Criminal Justice</i> (Cum Laude)	2012
Sam Houston State University Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute	2017
Fire Marshal Management Training (FEMT) Class #1	
Houston Community College	
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Certification	2001

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

Master Level Peace Officer (TCOLE)	Certified Fire Protection Specialist – CFPS (NFPA) <i>One of 3030 certified in the world – 256 are in Texas</i>
Peace Officer Instructor (TCOLE)	
Master Level Arson Investigator, Inspector, and Structural Fire Fighter (IFSAC)	Certified Fire Marshal (CPSE)
Certified Wildland Firefighter (TCFP)	FEMA/Emergency Management Certifications in addition to; HSEEP, All Hazard Incident Management Certified, All Hazards Liaison, All Hazards Logistics, NIMS 300,400, COOP Train the Trainer, Professional Continuity Practitioner (PCP)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CURRENT POSITIONS

Fire Marshal Harris County 2004-Current

The Fire Marshal is a certified law enforcement and fire commission position, appointed by County Commissioners Court. Responsible for, Strategic Leadership, Management, and Direction for Administration, Law Enforcement Activities, Inspections, Investigations, Training, and Emergency Management Operations. The position is responsible for direct oversight for development and management for approved budget of \$10.1 MM, responsibility includes 1788 square miles and encompasses 4.7 million residents.

Sam Houston State University, Adjunct Instructor 2015- Current

SCST 2363 *Intro to Homeland Security* - This course will introduce you to the fundamental components of terrorism and homeland security as well as their importance and interrelated duties and relationships. Historic events that have had an impact on homeland security will be examined as well as providing students with a fundamental understanding of responsibilities, techniques, and methodology in the detection and prevention of terrorism.

SCST 3394 *Global Terrorism and Homeland Security* – An overview of the war on terrorism such as the research and analytical skills needed to combat threats from both a public and private perspective.

CRIJ 4365 *Ethics in Law Enforcement* - The study of theories and practices in areas of legality, morality, values and ethics as they pertain to criminal justice. Included will be such topics as police corruption, brutality, and methods of dealing with such practices, as well as the concept of profession and professional conduct.

CRIJ 4390 *Violence Against Women* - This course addresses the current state of research, theory, prevention, and intervention regarding violence against women. It is divided into three parts: theoretical and methodological issues in researching violence against women; types of violence against women; and, programs that work.