



## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Justin Daniels

October 2020

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### **Greetings everyone!**

I have struggled thinking about what to say in this article for some time. Quite frankly there is not a lot of good news out there right now, although it does exist and I'll get to that in a minute. Many of you that know me are aware that I don't have any trouble speaking what's on my mind so I'm just going to shoot straight. This has been a difficult year for all of us. For many of us it has meant furloughs, salary cuts, and even job loss. And more importantly, some of us have had to face the Coronavirus head on as case numbers continue to rise. For those of you that have battled this virus not just at work and in everything we are doing to keep our universities going but at home and within your own mind and body, know that all of us are with you and are thinking of you.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is not immune to the financial stress facing our nation. As a nonprofit organization, we depend greatly on our partner organizations, sponsors and vendors. This year we had to cancel our annual forum and will conduct our annual meeting virtually. The strength of our organization is in our partners and in our ability to provide opportunities for all of us to meet in person and form relationships that last a lifetime. There are many of you out there that I speak to via text or phone call on a regular basis and this year has been no different. I thank you for your friendship, guidance, and strength, and I thank you for the many hours' worth of conversations we have had over the last several months. We are going to get through all of this and when we do, there will be a Center for Campus Fire Safety Forum and together we will celebrate our victory over this virus.

Now I promised some good news...Despite cancellation of our annual Forum, we will be conducting our annual members meeting virtually this year. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to bring you all that we have accomplished over the last year, despite the virus, and I hope you can join us. It will be great to see everyone's face and laugh with many of you just like we would if we were in person. Also, since our annual members meeting is always during lunch, we are strongly encouraging you to bring your sandwich, frozen meal, or microwaved leftovers and sit down in front of your computer with us just like if we were in person. We want this to feel as much like we are all together having our meeting as we can so do not be shy about bringing your lunch with you as we meet. For our west coast friends, I suppose you can bring your breakfast



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Next I want to talk about the success of our new website. Cathy has been working behind the scenes (as she always does) and we are learning new things about the capability of our new site every day. The new site looks fantastic both on your computer and on your mobile device. Also, we have activated several new features including the option of signing up for institutional memberships. This membership option allows you to sign up yourself and multiple individuals at your university and gives you complete control over your account. You can add/drop individuals and all of your team will have access to our free webinars as well as many other features.

There is so much more to discuss but I don't want to spoil everything before our annual members lunch so I'll save the rest for later. Thank you for your dedication to the Center for Campus Fire Safety. Thank you for everything you are doing to keep your universities safe and operational. And always remember that you can call, text, or email me anytime to chat. I hope that you are well, safe, and strong. We will all see you next month at the annual meeting. Take care and Boomer Sooner!

Justin



### Justin Daniels, President

Justin Daniels is the Fire Marshal, at the University of Oklahoma - Norman Campus. Justin started working in the fire marshal's office at the University of Oklahoma in February 2002. He worked as a fire safety technician, helping recharge fire extinguishers, conduct fire drills, and assist with fire safety training for faculty, staff and students. Justin graduated from the University of Oklahoma in December 2006. After graduation he worked one year for SimplexGrinnell doing fire alarm and fire sprinkler inspections. In February 2008, Justin returned to OU to become the fire inspector, promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal in January 2013, and then to Fire Marshal in August 2013. As Fire Marshal, his duties and responsibilities included but are not limited to: fire inspections for all 320 existing buildings on campus, fire and life safety training for faculty, staff and students, plan review for new buildings and existing facility remodels, fire drills, fireworks and open flame permits, assist with game day operations and other special



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events, fire investigation, supervision of 2 Fire Inspectors, and to ensure all fire and life safety systems on campus are inspected and maintained.



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