



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

Ted Strickland, Governor
Kimberly A. Zurz, Director

1 October 2010

Dear Fire Chief:

I am writing to encourage you to assist Explore Information Services, LLC, who have been contracted by the Federal Government to conduct a survey to update the National Fire Station Database. This comprehensive database provides an overview of the fire infrastructure and emergency response capabilities in the United States. It is used to provide Federal and State agencies with situational awareness and critical infrastructure information in a national, state or regional emergency. The data collected in Ohio will also support the data needs of the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal, the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP), Ohio Homeland Security, and other state agencies.

I am writing to assure you that this critical infrastructure information will be used only by authorized entities and to ask you to make sure someone from your department completes and returns the survey. Ensuring the accuracy and completeness of this survey is critical to the numerous agencies that depend on it to help protect the public safety.

Please have someone complete the survey as soon as you receive it. If you would like to complete the survey electronically, a copy of it can be found at <http://www.nationalfirestation.com>. In addition to the survey, you will also be asked to provide your primary response boundaries for your fire station(s). If these boundaries are available as a digital GIS layer, please email the files to GIS@exploredata.com or send a copy on CD with the survey. If you have questions regarding the survey please contact Explore Information Services at 800-531-9125 (option 3), or contact Kathy Enga at kathy.enga@exploredata.com or 651-405-4266.

Your cooperation and support of this important effort is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Cooper".

Donald C. Cooper, PhD, MIFireE, CFO, OFE
Interim Ohio State Fire Marshal