



# NEWS RELEASE

**RALPH T. HUDGENS**  
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER  
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

Seventh Floor, West Tower  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
[www.oci.ga.gov](http://www.oci.ga.gov)

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Contact: Glenn Allen  
404-463-0729  
[gallen@oci.ga.gov](mailto:gallen@oci.ga.gov)  
@GA\_DOI

## HUDGENS HONORS FIREFIGHTERS DURING CEREMONIES ON CAPITOL HILL

**Atlanta** -- Georgia firefighters were honored today by Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens during Firefighter's Recognition Day ceremonies in Atlanta.

Today marked the 41<sup>st</sup> year for Firefighter's Recognition Day ceremonies at the Georgia Capitol.

The Commissioner credits the efforts of the state's firefighters along with his Public Safety Education Unit in helping to reduce Georgia's fire death rate. Since 1995, the fire death rate has dropped dramatically, from 195 fire deaths that year to 88 fire deaths in 2012.

"When you consider that our state population exploded over that 17-year period, you can see that we have come a long way in reducing fire fatalities," Commissioner Hudgens said.

"Working together, we can continue to bring these figures down," the Commissioner said. "And I pledge to continue my support of Georgia's fire service."

Earlier in the day, Hudgens' Office hosted a breakfast reception for firefighters from around the state attending today's festivities in Atlanta. During the reception, fifty local fire marshals that assist in the enforcement of the state fire code were deputized.