

Julius Halas currently serves as the Director of the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) under the authority of CFO/State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis. Director Halas has 45 years of experience in fire protection, serving as a firefighter, paramedic, and instructor while moving up thru the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief. He achieved the position of Fire Chief for the City of Sarasota in 1992 and then served as the Fire Chief for the Town of Longboat Key from 1999 until May 2009. Since being appointed as SFM Division Director in May 2009, he has been responsible for the oversight of the Bureaus of Fire Prevention and Fire Standards and Training as well as the Florida State Fire College. He is also responsible for leading the management and staffing of firefighters and search and rescue teams (ESF 4 and 9) in the event of a disaster or state emergency.

Director Halas is a member of several fire and emergency management related organizations, and he is a past President and current member of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association and the current President of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). Director Halas received his Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology (1991) from State College of Florida graduating Summa Cum Laude, and received a (MS 2001) Master of Science and a (BA 1993) Bachelor of Arts Degree from National-Louis University, graduating with honors.