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AUDITOR GENERAL

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

WILLIAM THOMSON
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

January 23, 2004

The Honorable John Huppenthal, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable Robert Blendu, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Representative Huppenthal and Senator Blendu:

Our Office has recently completed a 24-month followup of the Arizona Department of Building and Fire Safety regarding the implementation status of the 12 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the performance audit report released in September 2001 (Auditor General Report No. 01-23). As the attached grid indicates:

- 8 of the 12 recommendations have been implemented;
- 2 of the 12 recommendations are in the process of being implemented; and
- 2 recommendations have not been implemented.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations resulting from the September 2001 performance audit.

Sincerely,

Debbie Davenport
Auditor General

Attachment

cc: Mr. N. Eric Borg, Director
Department of Building and Fire Safety

AZ DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND FIRE SAFETY
24-Month Follow-Up Report To
Auditor General Report No. 01-23

FINDING I: Fire Safety Inspection Process Improved

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Department should formalize its procedures for updating its charter school inventory on a quarterly basis.	Implemented at 6 months	
2. The Department should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop policies that specify inspection time frames for its inspection priorities once it has assessed the impact of its inspection process on its workload; b. Require documentation when supervisors and inspectors change inspection priority scores; and c. Ensure that data entry staff do not change inspection priority scores. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementation in Process</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implemented at 6 months</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Implemented at 6 months</p>	

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FINDING II: Some Steps Taken To Improve Installation Inspection Program

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Department should develop a process to track and identify installers who repeat violations and take appropriate action against these licensees.	Substantially Implemented at 24 months¹	
2. The Department should incorporate information on frequently occurring violations and how to prevent these violations in its voluntary training program.	Implemented at 6 months	
3. The Department should reduce the number of inspections it provides for each permit from three to one.	Not Implemented	In its response to the Auditor General's report, the Department indicated it disagreed with and would not implement this recommendation.
4. The Department should determine the costs of providing an inspection and revise its current fee, if necessary.	Not Implemented	In its response to the Auditor General's report, the Department indicated it disagreed with and would not implement this recommendation.

¹ The Department has developed a database that tracks and identifies installers who repeat violations, and while the Department indicates it uses this process to warn licensees with repeat violations, it has not used this information to support formal action against licensees.

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FINDING III: Department Has Acted To Improve Access To and Awareness of Relocation Fund

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Legislature should consider modifying A.R.S. §33-1476.01(H) to allow tenants to apply for and receive monetary assistance from the Fund up to 60 days after they have relocated.	Implemented at 12 months	
2. The Department should study the Fund's use over the next 3 years and, if necessary, work with homeowner and park owner associations to determine if charges to the homeowner tax assessment are warranted.	Implemented at 18 months	

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SUNSET FACTOR 4: The extent to which rules and regulations promulgated by the agency are consistent with the legislative mandate.

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Department's Fire Safety Committee should adopt rules relating to the Arson Detection Fund.	Implementation in Process	

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SUNSET FACTOR 5: The extent to which the agency has encouraged input from the public before adopting its rules, and the extent to which it has informed the public as to its actions and their expected impact on the public.

Recommendation	Status of Implementing Recommendation	Explanation for Recommendations That Have Not Been Implemented
1. The Board of Manufactured Housing and the State Fire Safety Committee should have current statements of where meeting notices will be posted on file with the Secretary of State.	Implemented at 6 months	