

and an authorized representative of his employees shall be given an opportunity to accompany the State Fire Marshal or his designee during any inspection of any place of employment. Where there is no authorized employee representative, the State Fire Marshal or his designee shall consult with a reasonable number of employees concerning matters of safety and health in the place of employment. †

†(3)†-†2† All information reported to or otherwise obtained by the State Fire Marshal or his designee in connection with any inspection or proceeding under this subtitle which contains or might reveal a trade secret as defined hereafter shall be considered confidential, except that such information may be disclosed to other officers or employees concerned with carrying out this subtitle or when relevant in any proceeding under this subtitle. In any such proceeding the State Fire Marshal, his designee, or a court of competent jurisdiction, as the case may be, shall issue such orders as may be appropriate to protect the confidentiality of trade secrets.

†(4)†-†3† For the purposes of paragraph †(3)† †2† above, trade secrets shall mean any confidential formula, pattern, device or compilation of information which is used in the employer's business and which gives him an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it. It is known only to the employer and those employees to whom it is necessary to confide it.

†(5)†-†4† It shall be unlawful for any individual, including but not limited to employees of the State Fire Marshal, from giving prior notice of any inspection as authorized by this subtitle, without the written approval of the State Fire Marshal or his designee.

(f) The State Fire Marshal may at any time investigate as to the origin or circumstances of any fire or explosion or attempt to cause fire or explosion occurring in the State. The State Fire Marshal shall have the authority at all times of the day or night, in performance of the duties imposed by the provisions of this article, to enter upon and examine any building or premises where any fires or attempt to cause fires shall have occurred, or which at the time may be burning, and also the power to enter upon at any time any building adjacent to that in which the fire or attempt to cause fires occurred, should he deem it necessary in the proper discharge of his duties; and he may, in the exercise of his discretion, take full control and custody of the said buildings and premises, and place such person in charge thereof as he may deem proper, until his examination and investigation shall be completed.

(g) (1) The State Fire Marshal, in making this inspection or investigation, may, when in his judgment necessary, take the testimony on oath of all persons