

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

# FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

Charles A. Richman, Commissioner  
William Kramer Jr., Acting Director  
Fall 2015

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety  
Volume 11, Issue 3



EVERY BEDROOM  
NEEDS A WORKING  
SMOKE ALARM.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK  
OCTOBER 4-10, 2015

firepreventionweek.org

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"Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website, [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). © 2015 NFPA."

**The 2015 NFPA National Fire Prevention Week campaign theme is:**

**"Hear the Beep, Where You Sleep"**  
(click the link for all 2015 FPW material)

**The theme is designed to raise public awareness about fire related deaths. Nearly half of residential fire fatalities occur between 11pm and 7am.**

**The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey state Fire Prevention & Protection Association are jointly distributing 2015 Fire Safety Calendars as well as kicking off the 2015-2016 Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest which asks student artists to depict this year's National Fire Prevention Week theme.**



## IN THIS POSTING...

**Fall Registration Now Open**

**National Fire Prevention Week**

**Civilian Fire Fatalities 2011-2013**

**North Brunswick Fire**

**NJDFS-NJSFPPA Fire Safety Calendar**

**Community Risk Reduction in Action**

**Fire Safety Program Toolkit (click below)**



FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM  
**TOOLKIT**

A Comprehensive Resource for Fire Safety Educators

# NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

## OCTOBER 4th through 10th 2015



Hillside Fire Department receives Operation Save A Life smoke alarms

The NJDFS-NJFPPA Fire Safety Calendar is distributed throughout each county during National Fire Prevention Week. The 10,000 printed calendars provide numerous fire prevention messages. The theme is designed and developed by our own school age artists.

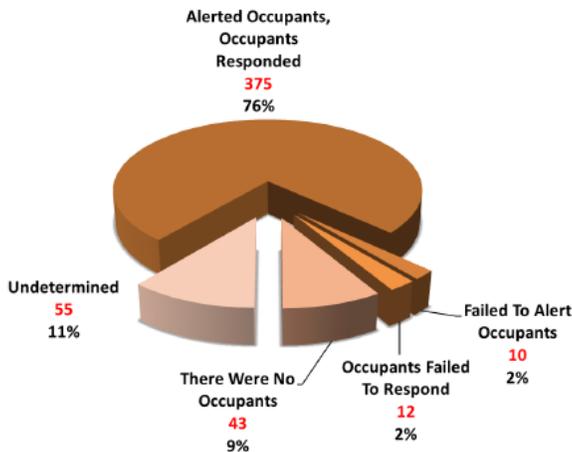
5000 ten-year sealed battery smoke alarms were distributed for National Fire Prevention Week by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. Alarms are given to senior and underserved populations. It is community risk reduction in action.

### 2016 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendar



Printed Courtesy of  

Detector Effectiveness In 1 Or 2 Family Dwellings



Source: "Fire in New Jersey 2013"

**NJ FIREFIGHTERS REPORT SMOKE ALARMS SUCCESSFULLY ALERT OVER 75 PERCENT OF FIRES !**

# **USFA CIVILIAN FIRE FATALITIES STUDY DOCUMENTS 2011-2013 NATIONAL TOLL**



***Thermal burns and smoke inhalation were the main causes of death in 90 percent of fire fatalities.***

***Half of civilian fire fatalities that occurred in homes, happened in bedrooms.***

***36 percent of fire victims were attempting to escape at the time of death, while 33 percent of victims were sleeping.***

***At 15 percent, unintentional careless actions and at 14 percent smoking were the leading causes in reported cases of fatal fires for residential buildings.***

***Females accounted for 42 percent of fire deaths.***

***Males accounted for 58 percent of civilian casualties.***

***Adults ages 50 to 69 accounted for 36 percent of civilian fire fatalities in homes.***

***11 percent of civilian fire fatalities are children less than 10 years old .***



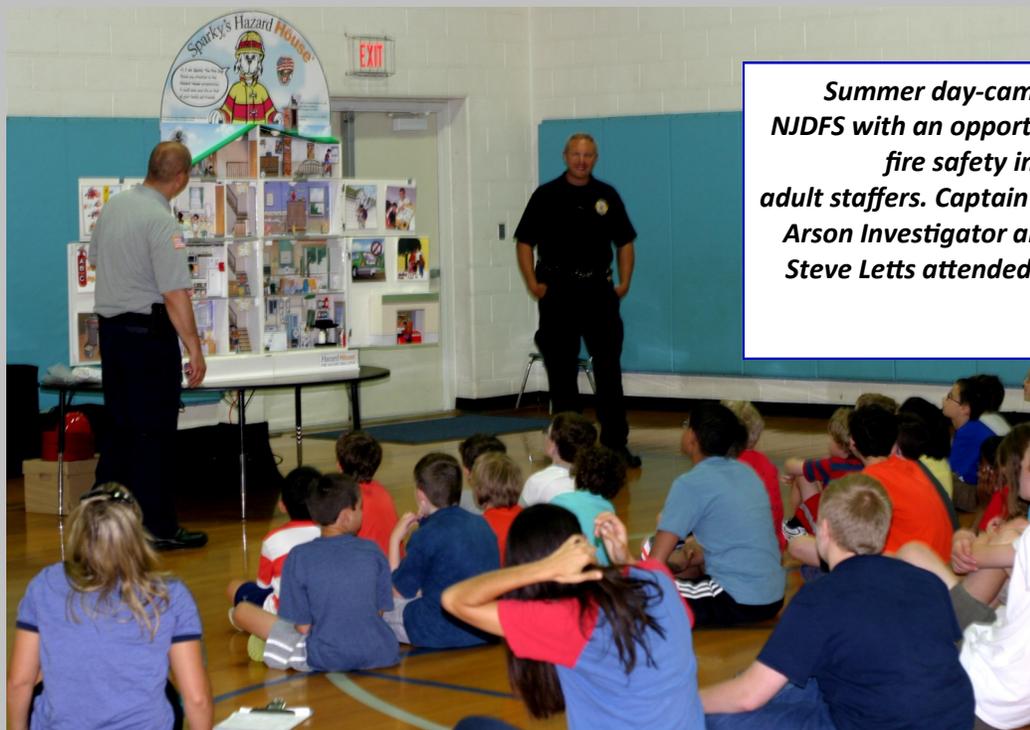
# ***NORTH BRUNSWICK WAREHOUSE FIRE DARKENED THE SKIES IN TWO COUNTIES***

*Photos by Capt. Bruce Tynan OFDP*



***The fire in North Brunswick remains under investigation by the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office. However, the response commanded 115 fire departments, 171 fire apparatus and over 600 fire fighters to battle a fire in a 1 million square foot sprinklered warehouse. Nearly 200 residents were evacuated as a precaution during the smoky blaze, which darkened the sky above Middlesex and Somerset counties.***





*Summer day-camps held statewide provide NJDFS with an opportunity to convey important fire safety information to children and adult staffers. Captain Greg Kirkham, along with Arson Investigator and canine handler Captain Steve Letts attended a session at the Hopewell Elementary School in July.*

# **NJDFS COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION IN ACTION**



*Always popular with both children and adults is an opportunity to meet one of the NJDFS Arson Unit canines. Here, arson unit dog, Titan, displays what Investigator Letts describes as important “play” behavior. Titan is specially trained to detect ignitable fluid, his job is to help investigators determine the cause and origin of suspicious fires.*

## ***HOME FIRE OR AREA WIDE DISASTER A FAMILY ESCAPE PLAN IS NECESSARY FOR BOTH***

Ensuring your family's safety in an emergency depends on having these things in place: an advance warning system and a well planned escape route.

In 2013, an estimated 369,500 home structure fires resulted in the death of 2,755 people, as well as an additional 12,200 injured, according to National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) in Quincy, Mass.

"Many people think of fire first when it comes to an emergency in the home, but all kinds of emergencies, such as floods, tornadoes or chemical spills, can make it necessary for people to evacuate their home," said Mary Ellen Keegan, the deputy director of Monroe County's Office of Emergency Management in Snydersville.

Unless you are personally faced with a disaster, you probably haven't given too much thought about how often or even what type of disasters happen in Pennsylvania, but statistics show they do happen.

Between June 26 and July 13, 2013, the state of Pennsylvania — plagued by severe storms, tornadoes and flooding — qualified and received federal disaster aid from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency. During 2014 Pennsylvania experienced nine tornadoes with the largest one sweeping a 500-foot path and traveling just short of 11 miles of ground.

Not to mention, the state holds the No. 5 spot on the list of states with the highest number of hazardous-material incidents in the nation. That's an average of 76 incidents per month, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan, so make sure everyone that lives in the home participates when you walk through your plan," said Judy Comoletti, the NFPA division manager for public education.

First, take a walk through the home and inspect and consider all exits and possible escape routes, and remember to also make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily, she said.

Make sure to check for emergency release devices on the inside of any windows or doors covered with security bars, so they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Emergency release devices won't compromise your security — they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire — according to the NFPA.

Think about the abilities of all who live in the home. "Infants, family members and older adults with limited mobility need an assigned person to assist them during a fire drill and in the event of an actual emergency," Comoletti said. "Also, a backup assist person should be assigned, in case the other person is not home during the emergency."

Also, the NFPA recommends marking the location of each smoke alarm and drawing a floor plan of the home and marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Involving the children in making the floor plan is a great way to get children involved in the emergency plan in a nonthreatening way, Keegan said.

Choose an outside meeting place that is a safe distance from your home.

## ***HOME FIRE OR AREA WIDE DISASTER A FAMILY ESCAPE PLAN IS NECESSARY FOR BOTH***

"The place should be a familiar place that young children can identify easily — the swing set in the backyard, the mailbox out front or even the neighbor's house," Keegan said.

Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan and discuss the place picked as the meeting place, so everyone is on the same page about where to meet.

You should also go outside to see if your street number and address sign are clearly visible from the road to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.

"This applies to any emergency. Police, first responders and the fire department can be on the scene much sooner if they don't have to wait for the dispatcher to find the house or apartment," Comoletti said. Make sure every member of the household knows to call 911 for any emergency, so anyone can make the call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.

"Never call the emergency in while still in the building. Get out of the building and make the call and then go to the designated meeting place," she said.

"Having a 'go bag' packed for every member of your family can save you and your family a lot of stress in case of an emergency evacuation," Keegan said. A backpack is ideal for this use. A sleeping bag, a complete change of clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy shoes and a rain poncho should also be included in everyone's bag, Keegan said.

Copies of your important documents such as insurance cards, house deed, photo ID or state

driver's license, passport, bank information, physician contact information and family contact information stored in a waterproof container to save time and lessen stress in the event of an emergency evacuation from your home.

Many times when an area is evacuated because of fire or flood, law enforcement will require you to show proof of residency in order to be able to go back into the area to survey the damage or gather personal belongings, Keegan said.

FEMA requires homeowners to show proof of ownership when they apply for assistance. "If you don't have the original document, because it was accidentally destroyed in the emergency, it is easier and faster to obtain a new one if you have a copy with all the information on it," she said. Keegan suggested scanning all your important papers and documents and saving them to a USB flash drive.

"Putting the flash drive in a safe deposit box, your desk at work or in your glove box, as one woman I know did, guarantees you will have the information you need when you need it," she said.

The American Defense Council suggested when packing your bag to include \$50 to \$100 in small bills, an extra set of car and house keys, bottled water and nonperishable food such as energy or granola bars and an LED flashlight. Also matches and a first aid kit with a list of medication each member of your household takes. Remember to refill the prescriptions in the go bag before the medicine expires.

"And finally, store the bags year-round in an easily accessible place in case you have to leave your home suddenly," Keegan said.

# **RED CROSS AND DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY ARE PARTNERS IN FIRE PREVENTION**

The American Red Cross and its partners have saved 15 lives and installed more than 100,000 smoke alarms in homes across the country during the last 10 months.

This accomplishment is part of a nationwide [Home Fire Campaign](#) launched last October to reduce the number of people who die or are injured during a fire in their home.

“Those 100,000 smoke alarms will be out there protecting families every day for years to come, thanks to the dedication of local volunteers

and partners going door-to-door to spread preparedness information in their communities,” said Russ Paulsen, the executive director, community preparedness and resilience services for the Red Cross. “We can count 15 of our neighbors who are still with us today and we know there will be more lives saved. This success lays the groundwork to more than double our efforts next year.”

The campaign is a multi-year effort to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent. Working with fire departments and community groups across the country, the Red Cross is installing smoke alarms in homes in neighborhoods at high risk for fires and teaching

residents about fire prevention and preparedness.

[The Home Fire Campaign](#) is powered by more than 1,800 local community partners and more than 40 national partner organizations, including the National Volunteer Fire Council and the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety. People should also install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. The alarms should be tested every month and the batteries replaced at least once a year.

People can visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire or contact their local Red Cross to learn about the

location of local smoke alarm installation events. They can also help by volunteering their time or making a donation today to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS, or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations to Disaster Relief will be used to prepare for, respond to, and help people recover from disasters big and small. The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 other disasters every year, from home fires to hurricanes and more. Learn more about how Disaster Relief donations have helped people affected by previous disasters including home fires.

[Central New Jersey](#) [Northern New Jersey](#)  
[NJ Crossroads](#) [South Jersey](#)

Click links for local New Jersey Red Cross office.



*“Our Red Cross partnership is based on a common goal protecting human life.”*  
William Kramer, Jr.



*Click graphic for access to the fall catalogue*

## **Fall 2015 TRAINING COURSES**

*for Fire Officials, Fire Inspectors, Fire Instructors and Firefighters*

Presented by:  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs,  
Division of Fire Safety in cooperation with Kean University



***“ The course catalogue is delivered with our training partners at Kean University and thoroughly represents New Jersey fire service. It is the most comprehensive, robust and timely fire knowledge offered by any state. In conjunction with our county ETOs (Eligible Training Organizations) we host municipally-based access which offers convenience and the ability for our first responders to “stay close” in the event of a call for mutual aid.”***

***William Kramer, Jr.  
Acting Director***

# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference

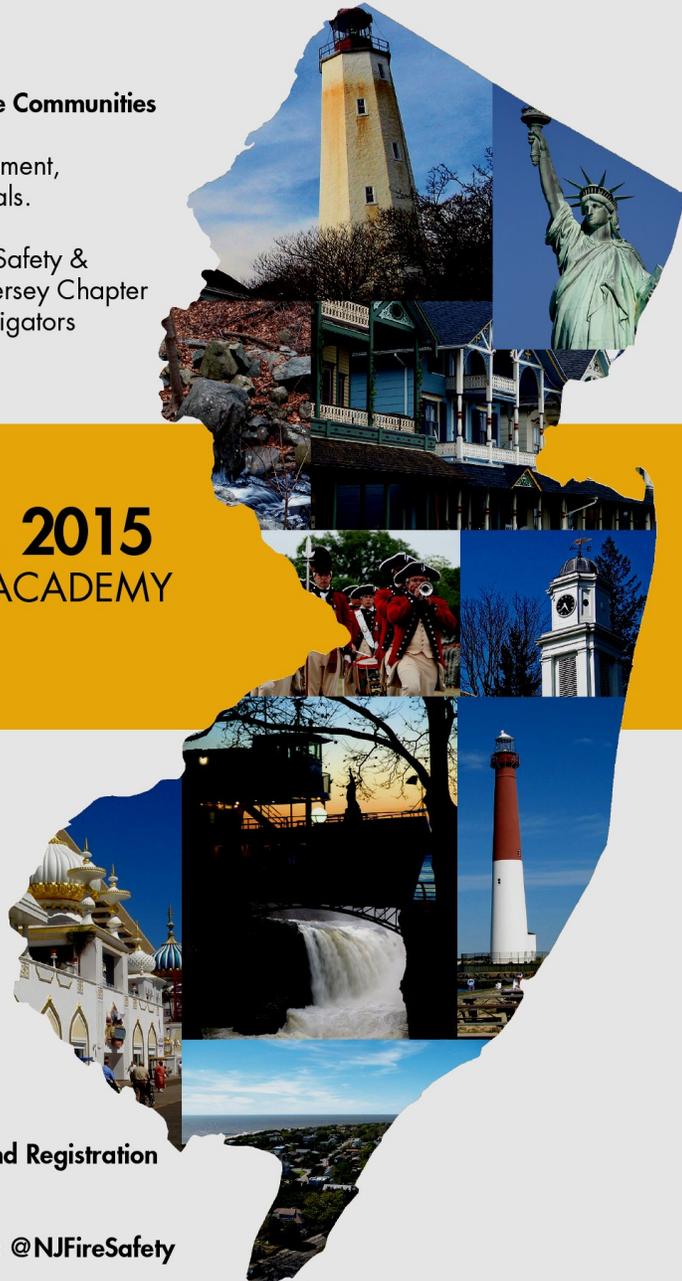
## Addressing Youth Firesetting In Our Diverse Communities

For fire service, mental health, law enforcement, social service, and educational professionals.

*Presented by:* New Jersey Division of Fire Safety & Kean University in association with New Jersey Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators

**DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2015**  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY  
SAYREVILLE, NJ

Please look for full Conference Brochure and Registration information on September 28, 2015 at [www.keanfiresafety.com/conferences](http://www.keanfiresafety.com/conferences). For updates, please follow us on Twitter at: @NJFireSafety





# AT ISSUE:

**FIRE, SAFER, USFA, US&R  
ALL REQUIRE FULL FUNDING  
CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE**



Congressional Fire Services Institute / Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association /  
Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association / International Association of Arson Investigators /  
International Association of Fire Chiefs / International Association of Fire Fighters /  
International Fire Service Training Association / International Society of Fire Service Instructors /  
National Association of State Fire Marshals / National Fire Protection Association /  
National Volunteer Fire Council / North American Fire Training Directors

**Outside Witness Testimony:** Submitted to the Senate Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
**Regarding:** Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs –  
Firefighter assistance grants, United States Fire Administration, Urban Search and Rescue System

March 31, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
S128, The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Chair, Homeland Security Subcommittee  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member, Homeland Security Subcommittee  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cochran, Mikulski, Hoeven and Shaheen:

On behalf of the nation's fire and emergency services, we write to urge your continued support for critical programs that enhance our nation's readiness: the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the Urban Search and Rescue Response System (US&R).

The FIRE and SAFER grant programs are imperative to addressing the needs of more than one million fire and emergency services personnel, while providing an economic stimulus to American businesses. As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 appropriations process, we encourage you to fund these programs at \$810 million evenly divided between the two programs. This funding level represents a restoration to the Fiscal Year 2011 funding levels and will assist local fire departments in meeting the increasing costs of equipment and labor.

Congress created FIRE and SAFER to address the baseline needs of our nation's fire and emergency services. These two highly successful programs help ensure that our nation's 30,000 fire departments have the necessary training, equipment, and staffing to respond to over 30 million emergency calls annually and to continue to reduce community risk. Every community across the country relies on our firefighters to respond to a variety of emergency situations, including structure fires, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, and wildland/urban interface fires. Both the FIRE and SAFER grant programs improve the response capabilities in every one of those emergency response areas, and provide funding for crucial fire prevention and safety programs targeted toward high-risk populations.

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# AT ISSUE:



## ACTIVE BILLS

### ASSEMBLY

#### A373

Caputo (D28); Diegnan (D18);  
Spencer (D29)

Requires school buildings to be equipped with emergency light and panic alarm linked to local law enforcement.

#### A1250

Prieto (D32); Jimenez (D32)  
Provides certified municipal fire inspectors and fire officials having more than four consecutive years service with tenure in office.

#### A1275

Dancer (R12); Conaway (D7);  
Caride (D36)  
Authorizes prescribed burning in certain circumstances.

#### A1338

Quijano (D20); Cryan (D20);  
Caputo (D28)  
Establishes pilot program within Office of Emergency Management to provide zero-interest loans to certain gas stations that install appropriate wiring for generators.

#### A1340

Quijano (D20); Dancer (R12)  
Requires removal of equipment and markings on certain used emergency vehicles; requires that Attorney General issue guidelines or directives.

#### A1698

Wisniewski (D19); Green (D22);  
Jasey (D27)  
Requires fire suppression systems in new single and two family homes.

#### A2689

DeAngelo (D14); Lagana (D38);  
Pinkin (D18)  
Requires State to offer surplus State Police vehicles to certain volunteer fire and emergency service organizations.

#### A2996

Lagana (D38); Stender (D22);  
Whelan (D2)  
Authorizes snow removal from covered fire hydrants and locator pole installation.  
**P.L.2015, CHAPTER 71**  
**July 6, 2015**

### SENATE

#### S264

Greenstein (D14);  
Cunningham (D31)  
"Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act"; concerns workers' compensation for public safety workers.

#### S564

Smith, B (D17); Bateman (R16)  
Establishes "Solar Roof Installation Warranty Program" in EDA and transfers \$2 million from societal benefits charge to initially fund program.

#### S1593

Turner (D15); Ruiz (D29)  
Establishes "Police Officer, Firefighter, Public School Teacher and Sanitation Worker Home-buyer Assistance Act."

#### S1813

Whelan (D2); Oroho (R24)  
Requires each State agency to review permits issued by the agency and make necessary changes to expedite and facilitate permitting.

**ALL PENDING FIRE SERVICE RELATED LEGISLATION**

**KEYWORD "FIRE"**

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