

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

*Richard E. Constable III, Commissioner
William Kramer Jr., Acting Director
Summer 2013*

*New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 8, Issue 3*

8th ANNUAL NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL FEATURES NORTH VERSUS CENTRAL JERSEY JOUST



Pictured are (l to r) Kevin Bellew, New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, Tony Caputo New 12 New Jersey, Dan DeTrolgio, Chair Pub. Ed. Advisory Committee, NJFSC, William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director, NJDFS, Althea Ato, Dimtry Shlyapkinov, Skyler Martinez, Gerry Konn, Nicholas Oresko School Team Coach Barbara DeBenedictis and Chris Czuba Bayonne Fire Official.

The Division of Fire Safety joined Kean University in hosting the 2013 Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E.) Bowl to promote fire safety education among middle school students. "It is important that we educate the public on fire



IN THIS POSTING...

NJFPPA-NJDFS POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

NJDFS ARSON UNIT RECEIVES AWARDS

NFPA FIREFIGHTER FATALITY REPORT

BOSTON BOMBING AND METRO STRIKE

OPERATION SAVE A LIFE IN WEEHAWKEN

A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ARSON CANINE TAZ



**POSTER
CONTEST
WINNERS!**

8th ANNUAL NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL FEATURES NORTH VERSUS CENTRAL JERSEY JOUST

safety measures beginning at a young age,” said DCA Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III. “This event is a great way to keep students up-to-date on fire safety education and get them thinking about important fire prevention measures all while having fun and competing with their peers.”

Students from 15 schools in Bayonne, Camden, Freehold, and Jersey City formed teams and competed in the 2013 F.I.R.E Bowl. Students from the Nicholas Oresko School of Bayonne secured the title of 2013 state champions against the second place team from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School of Freehold.

Although Nicholas Oresko School took the title, both teams went home with Kindle Fire tablets.

The contest, which was held at the Little Theater at Kean University for the eighth year, was conceived by former State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo as a way to effectively teach important fire safety information to middle school students.



Team Oresko hits the buzzer

“The F.I.R.E Bowl is a great learning tool for students of all ages,” said Acting State Fire Marshal William Kramer. “We are pleased that we can help bring fire safety information in a fun and exciting environment.”

He noted that students in the early grades of elementary school receive the traditional “Stop, Drop and Roll” fire safety lessons from school visits by local fire departments. However, that is usually students’ last encounter with fire safety instruction until perhaps freshman orientation at college.



Team Eisenhower tries an answer



Each competitor is acknowledged

The F.I.R.E. Bowl strives to fill this fire safety educational gap with the participation of both older elementary school students and middle school students. This year the contest was greatly assisted through the donation of the actual textbooks used by New Jersey firefighters.

8th ANNUAL NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL FEATURES NORTH VERSUS CENTRAL JERSEY JOUST

2013 F.I.R.E BOWL TEAMS AND COMPETITORS

Henry E. Harris

Coach—Aric Hall
Michael Lojewski
Jenna Sweeney
Nicolette Troglia
Michael Nolan

Philip G. Vroom

Coach—Kim Simko
Bryant Davis
Roberto Mejia
Morgan Healy
Chris Benavides

Dr. Walter F. Robinson

Coach—Patricia Niland
Kyrollos Aziz
Michael Mulvey
David Perez
Daniel Seecharan

Mary J. Donohoe

Coach—Jolan Tadros
Dania Riaz
Hasumi Hayashi
Mirna Saleh
Michelle Rodak

Lincoln Community

Coach—Joseph Bellia
Napolean Santana
Kevin Gonzalez
Dylan Sadiq
Christopher Nunez

Horace Mann

Coach—Kelly Anne Lake
Jerrick Anthony
Jake O'Callahan
Emily Gill

Midtown Community

Coach—Joyce DiPasquale
Maharene Smith
Shakiba Namjou
Cassidy Svercauski
Kirtika Sharad

Washington Community

Coach—Rose Abeal
Abigail Kowal
Diellza Mashkulli
Joseph Fracasso
Anthony Crincoli

Woodrow Wilson

Coach—Larissa Drennan
Paolo Rivera
Jeremy Lewan
Jhaelinshei Mira-Bautista
Carlos Rivera

John M. Bailey

Coach—Kristy Martin
Zamarria Brake
Zarria Brake
Mia Crimaldi
Therese Pe

Nicholas Oresko School

Coach—Barbara DeBenedictis
Althea Ato
Dmitry Shlyapkinov
Skyler Martinez
Gerry Konn

Academy 1 Middle School

Coach—Joe Osenenko
Salman Rizvi
Suchita Mistry
Joan Marie Tubungbanua
Abeera Saeed

Eisenhower School

Coach—Meghan Campion
Chris Hanley
Lauren Carter
Johnathan O'Brien
Michelle Jasko
Erin Obermayer
Joseph Chiusano
Alan DeCowski

Primary Prep School

Coach—Taryn Rudolph
Othman Gbadamassi
Rachel Avila
Amine Ouadghiri
Breana Sena
Grace DeGruccio

Veteran's Memorial MS

Coach—Keith Edwards
Jessenia Hernandez
Tysheeka Walker
Martin King
Justus King
Arianna Santana
Sirrah Johnson
Cesar Gonzalez
Eury Plasencia
Jonathan Colon



8th ANNUAL NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL FEATURES NORTH VERSUS CENTRAL JERSEY JOUST

State F.I.R.E. Bowl Committee Members

William Kramer, Jr., Acting Director, NJ Division of Fire Safety
Charles Lavin, Fire Safety Commission—Public Education
Karen Grant—Kean University

Local FIRE Bowl Committees

Bayonne: Schools

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D., *Superintendent of*

School

Patricia Dziubek, *Vice Principal, Midtown Community*

Deborah J. Whitney, *Educational Media Specialist*
Joyce Lynch, *Fire Prevention Bureau*

Camden:

Superintendent

Dr. B. LeFra Young, *Superintendent of Schools*
Dr. Davida Coe-Brockington, *Assistant*

Paul Mulle, *Director of Science*

Freehold: School

Dianne Brethauer, *Principal, Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Meghan Campion, *FIRE Bowl Coordinator/Coach*

Jersey City: Department

Armando Roman, *Director, Jersey City Fire*

Grace Moriarty, *Principal, Academy I*
Maureen Hoffman, *Founder/Director, Primary Prep*
Paula Christen/Constance Piatkowski, *JC BOE.*

Sponsors and Donations

Team Shirts - I.M.T.T. Bayonne

Trophies and Certificates - Joshua Marcus Group

Participation Medals - Joshua Marcus Group

Field Trip - Middlesex County Fire Academy Staff and NJDFS

Arson Investigation Unit

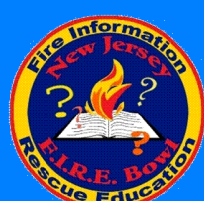
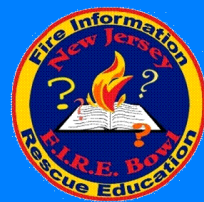
Field Trip Luncheon - Hartz Mountain Industries/

New Jersey State FMBA

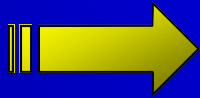
Grand Prizes - Underwritten by FM Global Corporation

Hosted by Kean University

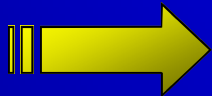
**F.I.R.E. Bowl logo design created by Daniel Ruiz



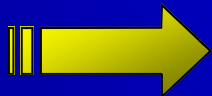
NFPA-FIREFIGHTER LODDs IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES SHOW STATISTICAL DECLINE



Lowest number of sudden cardiac deaths



Lowest number of deaths at structure fires



Lowest number of volunteer firefighter deaths

(NFPA) has released its annual Firefighter Fatality Report. There were a total of 64 on-duty firefighter deaths in the U.S. in 2012, making 2012 the second consecutive year that the total has been below 65 deaths. For the past four years, now, the annual total has been well below 100, dropping the annual average over the past 10 years to 88 deaths.

“NFPA has been tracking this data since 1977 and it is certainly good news that the number of firefighter deaths has continued to decrease over the years,” says Dr. Rita Fahy, NFPA’s manager of fire databases and systems.

“We are grateful for the sacrifices of these brave individuals and are hopeful that with expanded use of codes and standards and other safety initiatives the downward trend in the number of firefighters dying on duty will continue,” she said.

Of the 64 firefighters who died while on duty in 2012, 30 were volunteer firefighters, 23 were career firefighters, four were members of the military, three were federal contractors, two were employees of federal land management agencies and two

were prison inmates. The largest share of deaths occurred while firefighters were operating on the fire ground (21 deaths). This is the lowest number of fire ground deaths since this study began.

The firefighter fatality study is made possible by the cooperation and assistance of the United States fire service, the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program of the Department of Justice, CDC’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the United States Fire Administration, the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety contributes to this national statistical analysis by collecting and collating statistical data from all 689 career, volunteer and combination fire departments in the state and posts those findings annually in the report: [“Fire In New Jersey”](#).

The full national report:
[Firefighter Fatality Report](#)

**2012-13 NJFPPA-NJDFS POSTER CONTEST
WINNERS SHOW TWO WAYS OUT OF A FIRE**



**2.Elementary Schools
3rd through 5th Grade
Winner!**

Aryan Thaper

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
PS 11**

Jersey City



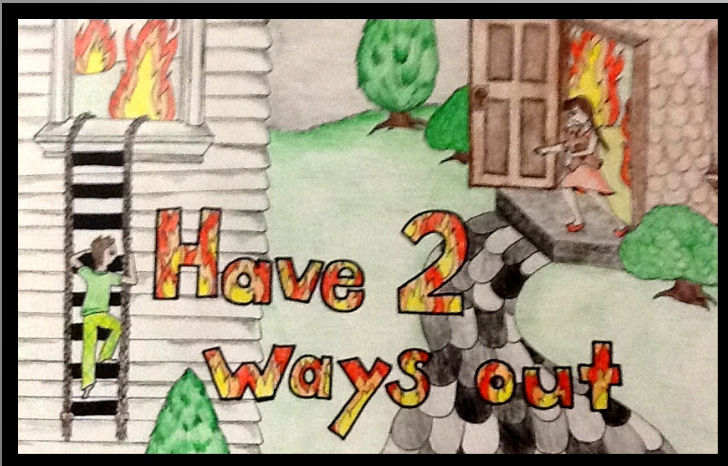
**3.Middle Schools
Winner!**

Sakoy Kromah

Arts High School

Newark

**2012-13 NJFPPA-NJDFS POSTER CONTEST
WINNERS SHOW TWO WAYS OUT OF A FIRE**

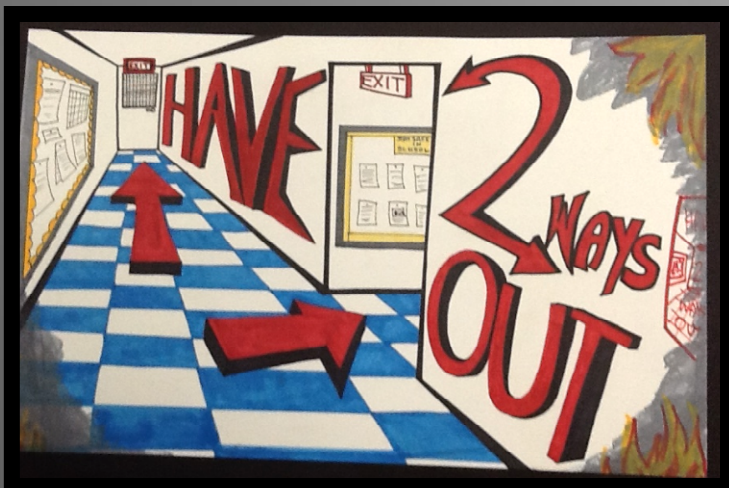


**4. Secondary Schools
Winner!**

Emily Lockwood

Bergen County Academy

Hackensack



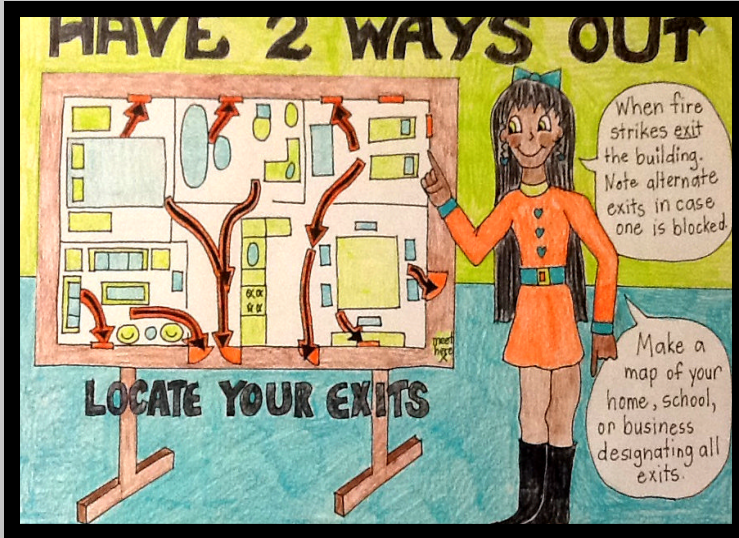
**5. Vocational-Technical
Schools
Winner!**

Katarzyna Sierant

**Union County Vocational-
Technical School**

Scotch Plains

**2012-13 NJFPPA-NJDFS POSTER CONTEST
WINNERS SHOW TWO WAYS OUT OF A FIRE**

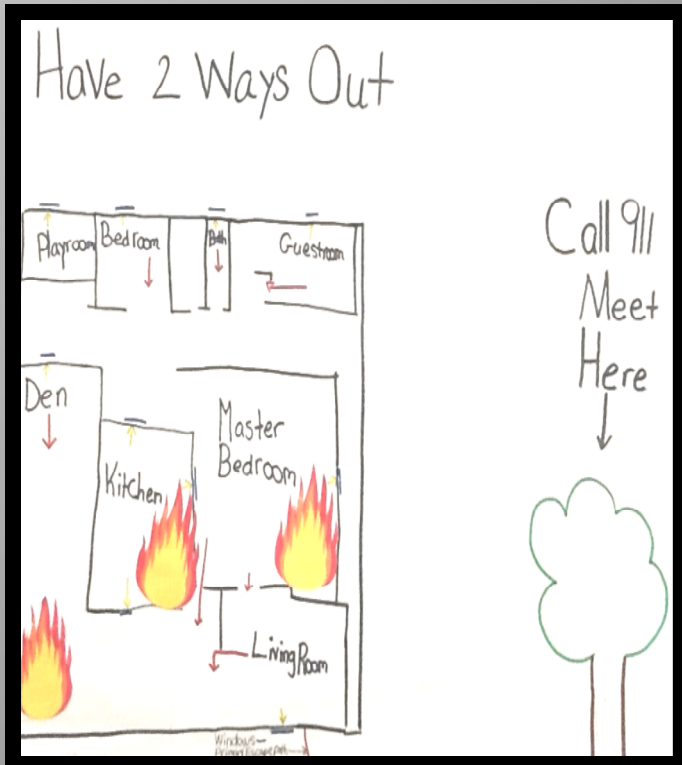


**6. Special Education
Division
K through 8th Grade
Winner!**

Shymaine Armstrong

**Martin Luther King Jr. PS
11**

Jersey City



**7. Special Education
Division
9th through 12th Grade
Winner!**

Heather Loughran

**Central Regional
High School**

Berkeley Township

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST LUNCHEON SEES PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ARTISTS



The 2012-2013 New Jersey Division of Fire Safety–New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association Scholastic Poster Contest culminated in the annual awards luncheon held at the Forge in Woodbridge.

Accepting upon behalf of Overall Winner Shymaine Armstrong, is PS 11 art teacher Linda Sabbia-Fiore—holding a MacBook Pro—given to all Division winners.

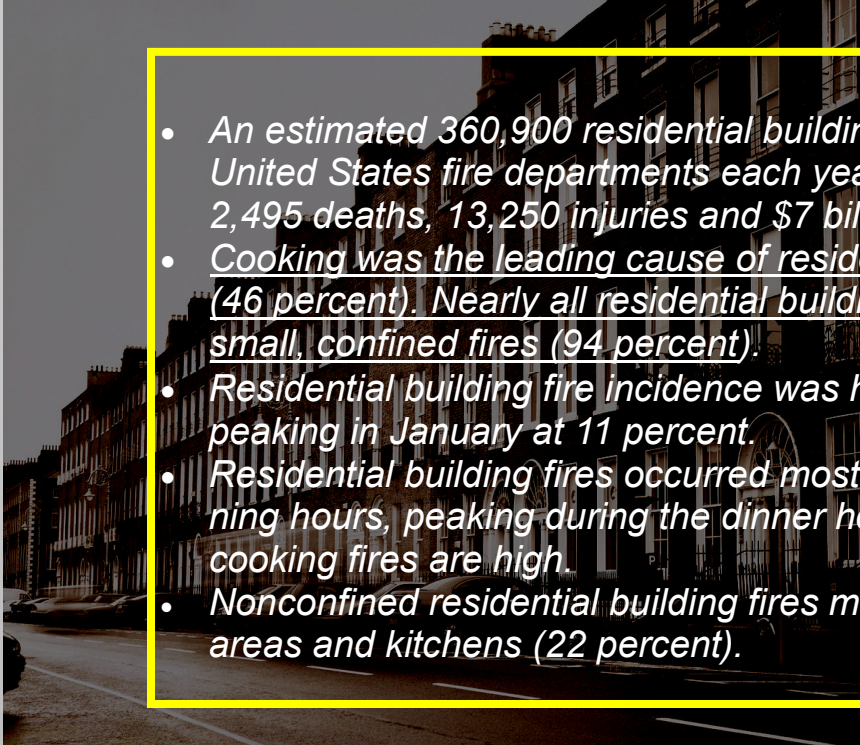
Ms. Sabbia- Fiore who has had at least four previous Division winners is joined by NJFPPA officers Stanley Sickels, Richard Silva and Thomas Pizzano.



Major sponsors and New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Officers join Divisional winners: Chole Genzel, Aryan Thaper, Sakoy Kromah, Emily Lockwood, Katarzyna Sierant and Heather Loughran in celebrating the artistic achievement of this year's NJDFS-NJFPPA Scholastic Poster Contest

LATEST FIRE REPORTING DATA TAGS

COOKING AS CHIEF CAUSE OF HOME FIRES



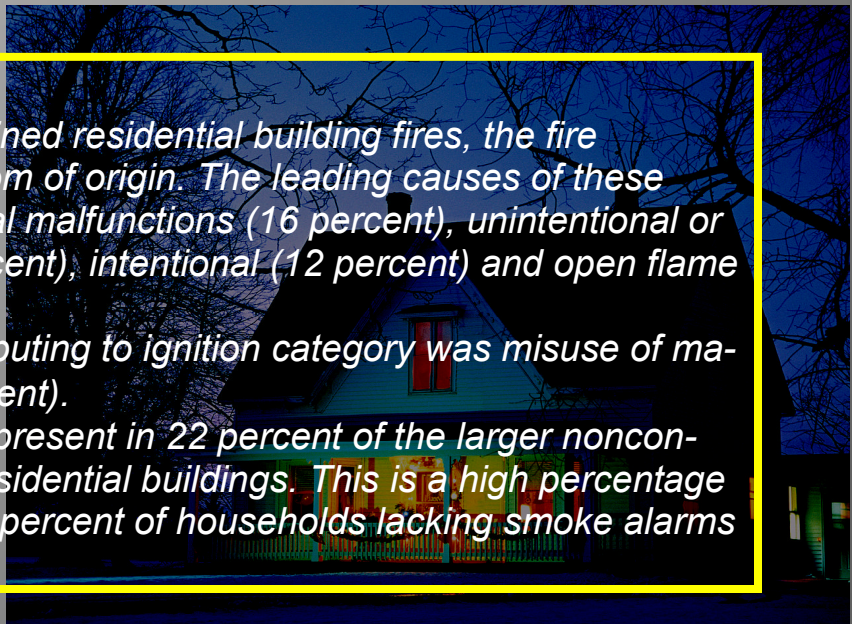
- *An estimated 360,900 residential building fires were reported to United States fire departments each year and caused an estimated 2,495 deaths, 13,250 injuries and \$7 billion in property losses.*
- *Cooking was the leading cause of residential building fires (46 percent). Nearly all residential building cooking fires were small, confined fires (94 percent).*
- *Residential building fire incidence was higher in the cooler months, peaking in January at 11 percent.*
- *Residential building fires occurred most frequently in the early evening hours, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 to 8 p.m., when cooking fires are high.*
- *Nonconfined residential building fires most often started in cooking areas and kitchens (22 percent).*



READ THE FULL REPORT:

[USFA STATISTICAL REPORT](#)

- *In 48 percent of nonconfined residential building fires, the fire extended beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires were electrical malfunctions (16 percent), unintentional or careless actions (16 percent), intentional (12 percent) and open flame (11 percent).*
- *The leading factor contributing to ignition category was misuse of material or product (37 percent).*
- *Smoke alarms were not present in 22 percent of the larger nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings. This is a high percentage when compared to the 3 percent of households lacking smoke alarms*



*NJ DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY DATA IS INCORPORATED INTO THE STATISTICAL REPORT

10TH HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE LOOKS BACK AS A WAY OF LOOKING AHEAD



Courtesy Kean University

(Kean University News Service)

Partnering with the State Fire Marshal and the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Kean University again played host to New Jersey's vibrant firefighting and first responder community, as scores of firefighters, police officers, EMTs, emergency coordinators, public officials, and public service groups descended upon the STEM Building for the 10th Annual Homeland Security and Fire Safety Conference.

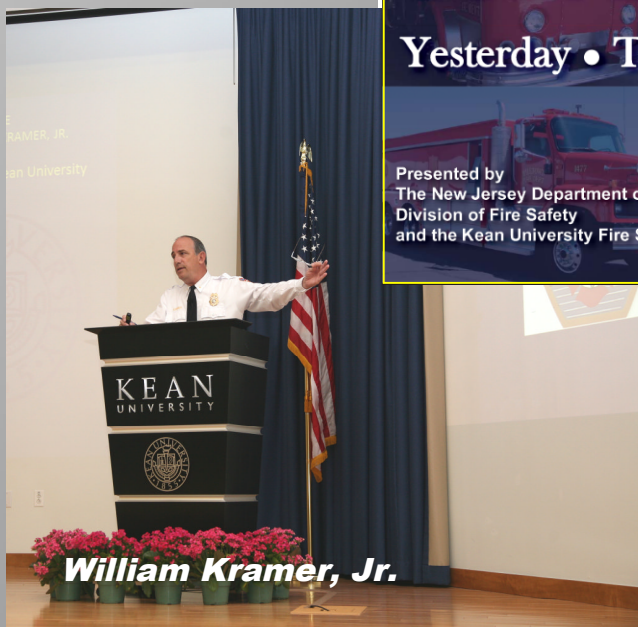
**JUNE 20, 2013
KEAN UNIVERSITY**

**10TH ANNUAL
HOMELAND
SECURITY
& FIRE SAFETY
CONFERENCE**

Yesterday • Today • Tomorrow

Presented by
The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs,
Division of Fire Safety
and the Kean University Fire Safety Training Program

This year's guest speakers were Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy; William Kramer, Jr., Acting Director and Acting State Fire Marshal of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety; and Robert Halton, Education Director of the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) and Editor-in-Chief of *Fire Engineering* magazine



William Kramer, Jr.

All three warmly commended their colleagues' courageous and comprehensive response to Hurricane Sandy, with Halton in particular noting that the efforts of New Jersey's "Finest" in the face of such adversity reminded firefighters everywhere that "selfless sacrifice is really what defines the fire service."

10TH HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE LOOKS BACK AS A WAY OF LOOKING AHEAD

Onieal's absorbing lecture introduced this year's attendees to the "stages of decline" outlined in Jim Collins' influential book, *How The Mighty Fall: And Why Some Companies Never Give In.*

These "stages" identify dangerous behaviors in organizations and individuals that may threaten the safety and security of these organizations/ individuals and others, and divide these behaviors into four basic categories: hubris born of success; the undisciplined pursuit of more; the denial of risk and peril; and grasping for salvation.

Onieal offered a number of illustrative examples of companies and individuals displaying these tell-tale warning signs, from Kodak and Enron to General David Petraeus.

His remarks were further augmented by some arresting video that ranged from the cautionary – footage of a police officer committing vehicular manslaughter, filmed by another police officer – to the entertaining: a no-nonsense boxer taking down his showier, arrogant opponent with a single blow.

Onieal's remarks also included a review of the characteristics of successful leaders, a frank discussion of the necessity of reputation management, and an ardent plea for the universal adoption and administration of a code of ethics.

As mass communications and social media continue to expand and the public's awareness of potential harm increases.



10TH HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE LOOKS BACK AS A WAY OF LOOKING AHEAD

Onieal argued that the fire service's reputation is at risk, with the private decisions of a small minority of irresponsible and/or unethical employees leading to large-scale public embarrassment and the undermining of community respect and support.

While the "great majority of the fire service are ethical people," Onieal insisted that the most isolated instances of cheating, harassment, substance abuse, and other problems can still cause irreparable damage to the force's reputation and morale.

By contrast, Robert Halton's presentation - "*The Case for an All Hazard Approach in Critical Incident Management*" - sought to define critical incidents, review the role of first responsibility, examine the transition from tactical supervision to strategic management, and evaluate the critical National Incident Management System (NIMS) functionality.

Halton cited the Joplin tornado, 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina as three examples of critical events that demanded a multi-agency response, had a significant impact on the community..

Halton's remarks were focused primarily on the initial response phase of critical incidents, and addressed common response issues (communications, delegation of authority, resources, perimeter, crowds, conflicting priorities,

access/egress, politics, etc.) as well as inter-agency issues (communications, resources, trust and deployment).

One of the conference's most compelling narratives came from Onieal's own life, when he shared the story of how he had gotten into college

because of the kindness and generosity of a stranger who took the time to help him register for classes just after Onieal had returned from the war.

Onieal concluded this personal anecdote with one of his favorite quotes, taken from Neil Postman's landmark book, *The Disappearance of Childhood*: "Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see."

Gazing out at the audience as he concluded his remarks, Onieal affectingly asked his colleagues, "What message are you sending [New Jersey's fire and emergency services] that you will not live to see?"



Courtesy Kean University

NJDFS ARSON UNIT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS DURING ARSON AWARENESS WEEK



Major Chris Eckert with Investigator Stephen Letts and Arson Canine Hunter explain to 2013 F.I.R.E. Bowl prospects the science behind arson investigation.

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III and Acting State Fire Marshal William Kramer, Jr. join public safety officials at all government levels and national fire safety advocacy organizations in observing National Arson Awareness Week, which ran from May 5 to 11.

This year's theme, "Reduce Residential Arson," shines a light on the crime of arson and encourages citizens to assist all communities and neighborhoods in reducing arson-related fire in residential areas.

"The ten-year record of success in the Division of Fire Safety Arson Unit speaks for itself," said Commissioner Constable.

"We want to recognize this Unit during a week when national attention is focused on the problem of residential arson and the scourge it represents in communities across our state."

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Arson Unit was created in 2003 as a statewide solution to the spike in arson-related crimes and to fill jurisdictional gaps in the investigation and ultimate prosecution of those crimes.

The Arson Unit is comprised of five investigators and three accelerant detection K-9s. All investigators have been certified through the NJ Division of Criminal Justice and the Unit's canines meet the strict certification and retraining criteria of the state Attorney General's Office. In the last 10 years, the Arson Unit has:

- Conducted more than 2,100 successful arson investigations.
- Secured 20 convictions for First Degree Arson, including seven for homicide.
- Secured two of those as convictions of firefighters charged with arson.
- Conducted 28 firefighter fatality investigations, providing resolution for families of fallen firefighters, as well as contributing to the future safety of all firefighters.



NJDFS ARSON UNIT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS DURING ARSON AWARENESS WEEK



- Authored and saw passage of the “K-9 Access Bill,” which placed working K-9s in the same class with disability aid canines thus allowing them critical access to public buildings, transportation centers, public housing and lodging units.
- Conducted over 586 accelerant fire scene searches with Unit K-9s.
- Cross-trained Unit K-9s for tobacco detection to help the New Jersey Department of Treasury’s Criminal Investigation Unit and the federal Bureau of Tobacco, Alcohol, Firearms Enforcement to combat illicit cigarette trade and as part of the Fire-Safe Cigarette Act.
- Secured two major tobacco apprehensions and as a result produced a palpable dent in the multi-million dollar illicit cigarette trade in the state. In one instance, it seized assets of product and cash amounting to \$118,000, a majority of which consisted of non-fire-safe cigarettes.

- Developed and taught course curriculum about arson investigations and how to utilize accelerant detection K-9s in fire investigations.
- Conducted hundreds of K-9 demonstrations for law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies, and various civic organizations for both children and adults, increasing public awareness of the crime of arson and its costs to the citizens of New Jersey.

“Our Arson Unit has helped jurisdictions that don’t have their own local resources. Under the rubric of shared services, these communities have had access to the very best in forensics and investigative techniques for the past 10 years,” said Acting State Fire Marshal William Kramer, Jr.

“However, as with every public safety effort, we still need the public’s assistance.”



DIVISION HOSTS FIRST OF SEVERAL LOCAL OPERATION SAVE A LIFE ALARM GIVEAWAYS

Chief Frank Montagne of North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue publicly thanked the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, WABC television, and Kidde Corporation for underwriting the department's annual free smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector giveaway program to the needy recently.

Joining Chief Montagne for the occasion at North

Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue Headquarters were Dan DeTrolio, New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, Lou Kilmer, Chief of Inspections, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and Paul Elenio, State Coordinator WABC 7 Operation Save-A-Life. They were joined by representatives from Hudson County fire departments including; Jersey City, Hoboken, Bayonne, North Bergen, West New York, Secaucus, East Newark, Weehawken, Guttenberg, Union City, Harrison and Kearney.

Nearly 1500 hundred smoke alarms including special 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors were included in this initial giveaway to city firefighters to in turn distribute within their respective communities. Next up will be Bergen County fire departments officials say.

Kidde Fire Safety (Kidde) is the leading manufacturer of residential fire safety products, including the 10-year sealed lithium battery operated smoke alarm.

Smoke alarms with long-life batteries have a significant impact on reducing the number of residential fire fatalities, which stands at approximately 2,600 people annually.

Currently, two-thirds of all home fire deaths occur in residences with no smoke alarm or no working smoke alarm, primarily due to dead or missing batteries, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Smoke alarms with sealed-in 10-year batteries are tamperproof and eliminate the need to replace

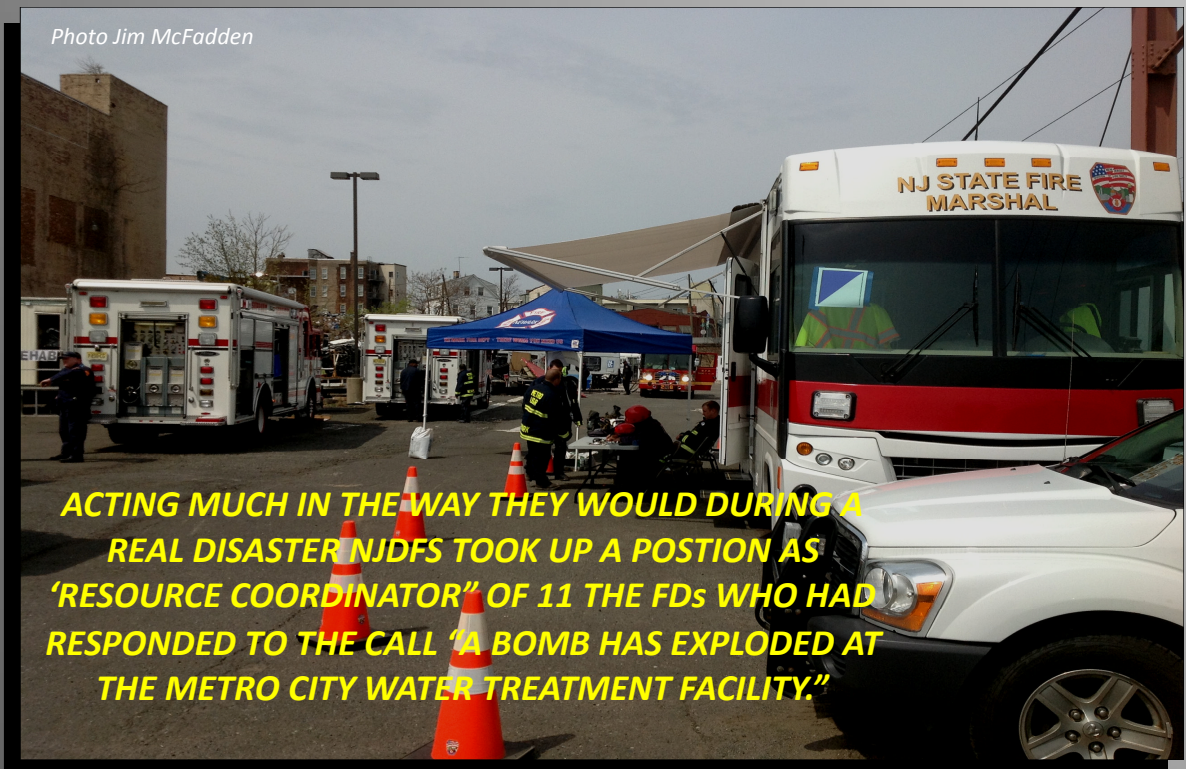
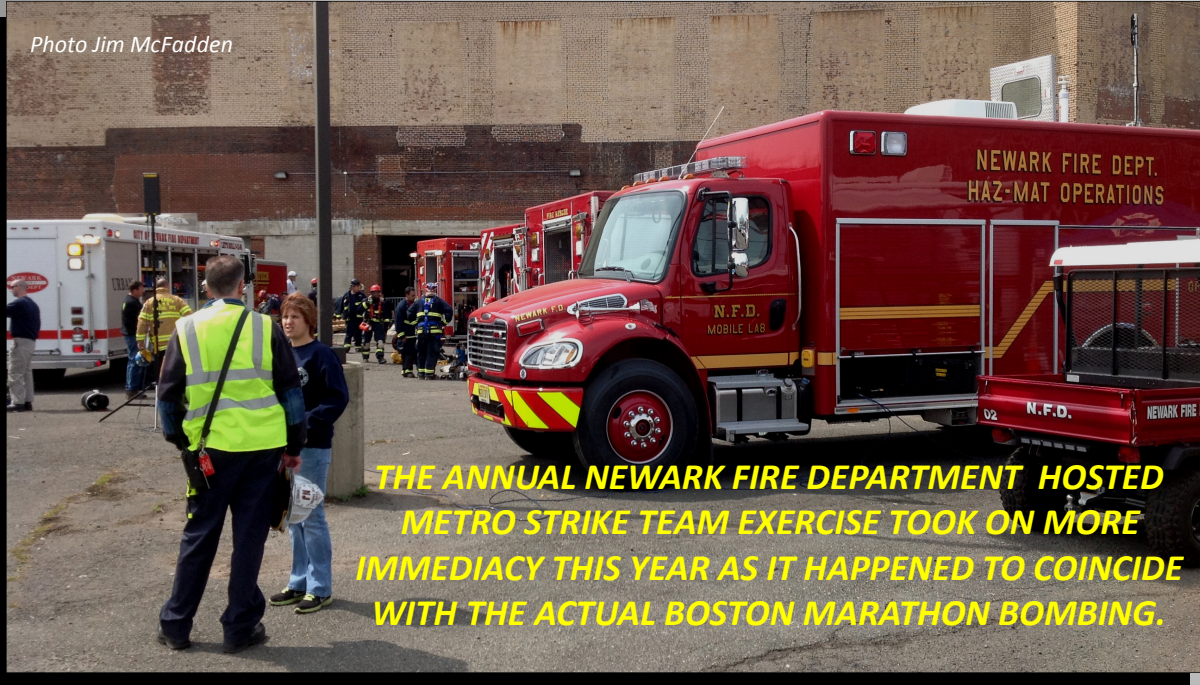
the battery, something many homeowners fail to do.

"We are gratified by our long term participation in WABC7-Operation Save A Life, it is clear that placing these devices in the homes of our most vulnerable residents puts one more advantage in our favor in the fight against fire fatalities in our state," says William Kramer, Jr., Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

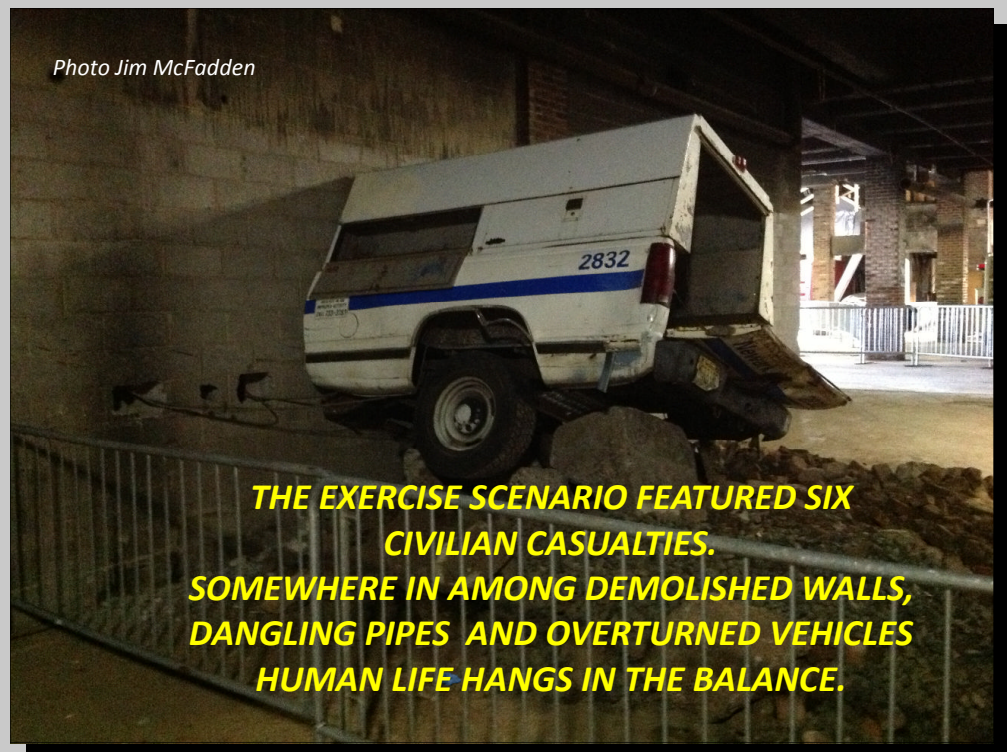


Pictured [left to right] Dan Detrolio, New Jersey State Fire Safety Commission, Frank Montagne Chief of Department, North Hudson Fire & Rescue, Paul Elenio, WABC 7 Operation Save A Life State Coordinator, Lou Kilmer, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Chief of Inspection

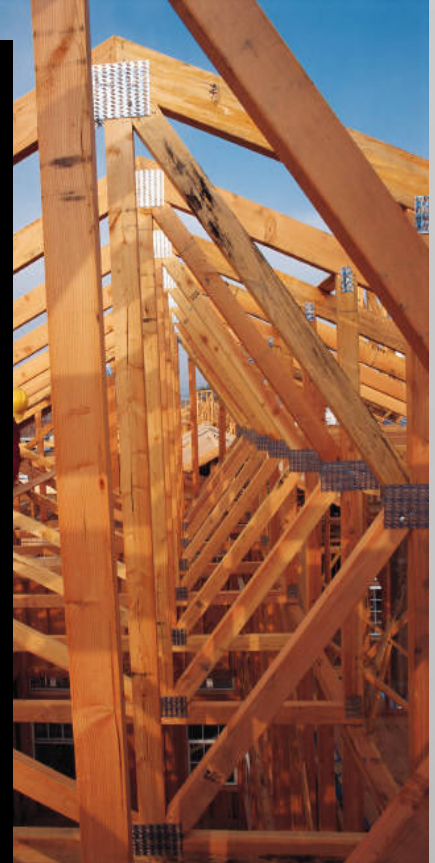
NJDFS-METRO STRIKE TEAM ANNUAL EXERCISE SEEMED ALL TOO REAL THIS YEAR



NJDFS-METRO STRIKE TEAM ANNUAL EXERCISE SEEMED ALL TOO REAL THIS YEAR



NATIONAL FIRE STUDY GROUP CONVENES TO EXAMINE MODERN BUILDING MATERIALS



In response to an invitation from the U.S. Fire Administration, 28 leading national organizations representing the fire service, fire researchers and other stakeholders in home fire safety came together at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in College Park, Md., to explore how changing building construction methods, materials and building contents are affecting the way fires grow and develop in today's homes. The expected outcomes, as stated by USFA, of the workshop were to:

- Enhance the awareness of fire service and life safety officials of the changing and emerging fire and products of combustion risks to residential building occupants.
- Produce a document that clearly identifies contributing factors to the marked increase in the speed of fire spread experienced in interior residential fires.
- Identify potential solutions to mitigate if not prevent those risks.
- Determine which organizations or agencies are interested in further studying and ultimately developing implementation strategies.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

[Changing Severity of Home Fire Workshop Report](#)

NJDFS PLAYS ROLE AT ANNUAL STATE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE



Bruce Tynan, NJDFS UASI Region Fire Coordinator and Chief Craig Augustoni, Pemberton Township Fire Company and NJDFS Regional Fire Coordinator Shore Area, take questions from participants at this year's New Jersey Emergency Management Conference held in Atlantic City.

The Division Preparedness Unit coordinates the regional deployment of fire resources in the event of a large scale incident, which includes the use of the Division managed high capacity water/ foam Neptune units.



TAZ THE FORMER PARTNER OF ARSON CANINE UNIT INVESTIGATOR ROD MEYER HAS SECURED A COMMEMORATIVE PLACE AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY.

NJDFS ARSON UNIT CANINES, LIKE MANY WORKING CANINES, COME UNDER THE CARE OF THEIR HANDLERS AFTER THEY RETIRE FROM STATE SERVICE.

INVESTIGATOR MEYER SINCERELY APPRECIATES ALL THE DONATIONS THAT MADE TAZ'S SPECIAL PLACE POSSIBLE.

NJDFS ARSON UNIT "DOUBLES DOWN" AT IAAI IN ATLANTIC CITY AND ORLANDO

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal Arson K-9 Unit has secured dual award distinction from their peer investigative organization, The International Association of Arson Investigators and the group's New Jersey Chapter, recognizing the Unit's 10-year record of success, recently noted during National Arson Awareness Week.

The International Association of Arson Investigators has announced that Unit Supervisor Christopher Eckert, Investigator Jeff Silver, Investigator Silver's K-9 partner "Scout," Investigator Rodman Meyer, Investigator Meyer's K-9 partner "Ashes," Investigator Stephen Letts and Investigator Letts' K-9 partner "Hunter," and Investigator Jason Speicher have received the International association's coveted "Outstanding Accomplishment Award."



Outstanding Achievement Award Presentation Orlando, FL Unit Supervisor Christopher Eckert, Investigator Jeffrey Silver; IAAI President Roger Krupp.



Investigator Stephen Letts, Major Christopher Eckert, Barry Grimm, New Jersey Chapter IAAI President, Investigator Jason Spiecker, Investigator Rodman Meyer at the NJIAAI Training Conference in Atlantic City.

The national award was given at the Association's annual conference held this year in Orlando, Florida and represents significant recognition among the arson investigative community. The IAAI is a global organization representing over 5,000 professional arson investigators, including all 50 states. The Arson K-9 Unit also received recognition from the Association's New Jersey Chapter at their annual Training Conference in Atlantic City this year. The Arson K-9 Unit received the Chapter's "Outstanding Achievement Award."

"The ten-year record of success in the Division of Fire Safety Arson Unit speaks for itself. We want to recognize this Unit during a week when national attention is focused on the problem of residential arson and the scourge it represents in communities across our state," said Richard E. Constable III, Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs.



AT ISSUE:

**PASCARELL AND
RUNYAN SEEK TO ADD
FUNDING TO FY '14
SAFER GRANTS**

**SPRINKLER
RETROFIT BILL**



The U.S House of Representatives began consideration of [H.R.2217, the Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act](#).

The bill provides \$38.9 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) during Fiscal Year 2014. During consideration of the bill, the House approved several amendments of importance to the nation's fire and emergency services.

The first amendment was offered by Congressman David Reichert (WA-8), current chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and Congressman John Daleney (MD-6) to restore funding for the United States Fire Administration (USFA) to the FY13 level of \$44 million. The bill had initially funded USFA at \$42.2 million and the Administration had requested \$41.3million for the agency in FY14.

A second amendment was offered by Congressman Michael Grimm (NY-11) and Congressman Gerald Connolly (VA-11) to add \$7.667 million to the Urban Search and Rescue System, restoring the program to its FY13 funding level of \$35.18 million.

And third amendment was offered by Congressman Jon Runyan (NJ-3) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) to add \$5 million to the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs, providing a total of \$680 million split evenly between the two programs.

The grant programs received a total of \$675 million in FY13. All three amendments were unanimously approved by the House.

Senators Thomas Carper (DE) and Susan Collins (ME) introduced S. 1163, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act. The legislation was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. Senators Carper and Collins both serve as co-chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. The original measure was introduced in 2004 following the tragic nightclub fire in West Warwick, RI that claimed the lives of 100 victims. Since then, the legislation has been reintroduced in subsequent Congresses with various changes made to address concerns raised by members of Congress regarding cost estimates.

Under the current legislation, automatic sprinklers could be treated as Section 179 property under the tax code. Section 179 allows small and medium-sized businesses to write off the full cost of equipment purchases, up to \$125,000, in a single year. While automatic fire sprinklers are not currently classified as a Section 179 property, passage of the legislation would allow property owners to retrofit a large majority of high fire risk properties, such as certain off campus housing, night clubs, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The legislation would also create a financial incentive for high-rise building owners to install sprinkler systems by reducing the depreciation schedule to 15 years in line with current law.



AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

(1) Introduced (2) Moving (3) To the Governor



A141/S266 (1)

**Charitable registration fees
(Peterson)**

A145 (1)

**Move fire district election to
Non partisan election date
(Peterson)**

A824 (1)

**Move fire district election to
Non partisan election date
(Cryan)**

A1030 (1)

**Fire Company impact statement
(Bucco)**

A1044 (1)

**Fire Department oxygen delivery
notification
(Bucco)**

A1149 (1)

**Fire District five year financials
(Lampitt)**

A1187 (1)

**Fire suppression systems for
paratransit and school buses
(Stender)**

A1382 (2)

**Fire Company Utility Co. credit
(Upendra)**

A1503/S1896 (1)

**Fire District share of tax
appeal
(Carroll)**

A1555 (1)

**State fire warden/incident
commander reporting order
(Wisniewski)**

A1560 (2)

**Approve firefighter transfer
from PERS to PFRS
(Wisniewski)**

A1570/S2273 (2)

**Home Fire Sprinkler Bill
(Wisniewski)
Received in the Senate**

A1843/S1255 (2)

**Group Home Fire Safety Act
(Diegnan)**

A1881 (1)

**Requires surplus state police
vehicles go to volunteers
(Milam)**

A2113/S2120 (1)

**Contract arbitration time limit
(O'Scanlon)**

A2120/S511 (1)

**"Assistance to Firefighters
Families Act"
(Singleton)**

A2243 (1)

**Tenure for FOs after 4 years
(Prieto)**

A2334 (1)

**Appoint paid chiefs
(Johnson)**

A2344 (1)

**Residency credits on exams
(Johnson)**

A2348(1)

**Districts provide EMS
(Johnson)**

A2511 (1)

**Workers Comp for
Volunteers on Fire Calls
(Prieto)**





AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

(1) Introduced (2) Moving (3) To the Governor



A2593 (2)

**Designate a fire command structure in mutual aid (Wisniewski)
Conditional veto**

A2596/S1829 (2)

**Portable extinguisher one and two family homes exclusion (Wisniewski)
Conditional veto**

A2600 (1)

Firefighter Exempt status (Rible)

A2720 (1)

Establishes NJDFS in the DL&PS (Wagner)

A2756/S1469 (2)

LODD survivorship benefit (Quijano)

A2823 (1)

Upholstered furniture standards (McKeon)

A2911 (1)

Fire District consolidation (McGuiken)

A3263 (1)

Joint purchase agreements (Coughlin)

A3302 (2)

Expand PFRS qualifications (Singleton)

A4073 (1)

Fire Department Drones (Benson)

A4157 (1)

Exempt Certificate (Albano)

4256 (2)

**Fire District tax exemption (Schepisi)
Senate Appropriations**

SENATE

S500 (1)

Municipal building fire code compliance (Bucco)

S565 (1)

Fire-EMS Crisis Hotline (Madden)

S914 (1)

Apply NYC Bldg. Code to WTC (Gill)

S921/A1881 (2)

State Police surplus vehicles (VanDrew)

S1255/A1843 (2)

**Group Home Fire Safety Act
Senate Appropriations**

S1299 (1)

Fire Commissioner elections (Turner)

S1356 (1)

Fire academy exemption from Highlands Act (Pennachio)

S1397/A2593 (2)

**Mutual aid fire command
Substituted**

S1423 (1)

Fire district election day change (Beach)





AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

(1) Introduced (2) Moving (3) To the Governor



S1605 (1)
*Fire Safety seat on the DSPPG
(Bucco)*

S1774 (1)
*District elections date change
(Turner)*

S1829/A2596 (2)
*Home Extinguisher
requirement removal
(Bucco)*

S1896/A1503 (1)
*Fire District share of successful
property tax appeal
refunds
(Bucco)*

S1918/A3263 (2)
*Joint purchase agreements
(Cardinale)*

S1956 (1)
*District consolidation
(Holzaphel)*

S1975 (1)
*Internet site for fire equipment
(Cardinale)*

S2146 (1)
*Change Fire District voting day
(VanDrew)*

S2183 (1)
*NJDFS standard for Type 1 tank
(VanDrew)*

S2183 (1)
*Propane Tanks
(VanDrew)*

S 2205/n02 (1)
*PERS to PFRS eligibility
(Norcross)*

S2244 (1)
*Campus fire reporting
(Cunningham)*

S2256 (1)
*Fire district tax exemption
(Gordon)*

S2273/A1570 (2)
Home Fire Sprinkler Bill

S2320 (1)
*Contract arbitration time
limit
(Bucco)*

S2623 (1)
*Exempt
Certificate
(Bucco)*

S2702 (1)
*Drones
(Sacco)*

UPDATES:
NJLEG.ORG



TOPICAL REPORT SERIES EXAMINES NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRES

Nonresidential Building Fires (2009-2011)

- *An estimated 86,500 nonresidential building fires were reported to United States fire departments each year and caused an estimated 85 deaths, 1,325 injuries, and \$2.6 billion in property losses per year.*
- *Cooking was the leading cause of all nonresidential building fires (29 percent). Nearly all nonresidential building cooking fires were small, confined fires (97 percent).*
- *Outside and special properties accounted for the most nonresidential building fires (21 percent), while storage buildings accounted for the most nonresidential building fire deaths (29 percent).*
 - *Nonresidential building fires occurred most frequently from 3 to 6 p.m.*
- *Nonconfined nonresidential building fires most often started in vehicle storage areas (9 percent).*
- *Fifty-six percent of nonconfined nonresidential building fires extended beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires were unintentional or careless actions (19 percent), intentional actions (13 percent), and electrical malfunctions (12 percent).*
- *Misuse of material or product (32 percent) was the leading factors contributing to ignition category in nonconfined nonresidential building fires.*
- *Smoke alarms were not present in 52 percent of the larger, nonconfined fires in occupied nonresidential buildings*

*NJ DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY DATA IS INCORPORATED INTO THE STATISTICAL REPORT

USFA TOPICAL REPORT SERIES

GET READY FOR NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK WITH NFPA STORYBOOK APP

From FMA Quarterly

Free app and eBook teach kids about fire safety

Sparky the Fire Dog® stars in National Fire Protection Association education about Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12

In time for Fire Prevention Week in October, the National Fire Protection Association will release a free deluxe interactive storybook app for ages 3-7, a free e-book for ages 7-10, and a website for parents and teachers (www.sparkyschoolhouse.org), all designed to teach kids about the importance of fire safety in a fun, engaging way.

“NFPA is committed to helping children learn crucial fire safety information, and we’re excited to release these new tools that will do that in a lively, interactive manner,” said Judy Comoletti, NFPA’s Division Manager – Public Education. “Kids will love these free new games and stories, and parents and teachers will love that children are learning life-saving messages through these fun formats.”

Free storybook app: Sparky's Birthday Surprise

In this highly engaging, interactive storybook app for children ages 3-7, Sparky the Fire Dog® and friends learn key fire safety skills while preparing for a surprise birthday party. The digital story experience includes bright graphics, tap-and-play surprises, interactive games that reinforce reading and counting skills, and an original sing-along animated song. Throughout the app, children learn important fire safety lessons, such as what to do if they hear a smoke alarm sound and how to recognize things that are hot and could burn them.

The app, created by Cupcake Digital in collaboration with MDR@School, a division of MDR, a Dun & Bradstreet Company, will be available on Google Play and iTunes, as well as on sparkyschoolhouse.org and sparky.org, on August 26, 2013. A beta version will be available on June 28. Screen grabs, video clips, and promotion codes will also be available upon request.

Free e-book: Firefighting Heroes and Science Facts

This five-story e-book, written for ages 7-10, includes two original stories by New York Times best-selling children’s authors: Julie Cantrell, author of Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter, the story of a regular kid who heroically saves his family from a devastating house fire, and Susy Flory, author of The Black Pearl and Captain Ron, which introduces kids to Pearl, a real-life search-and-rescue dog who works in Los Angeles to keep people safe. The e-book addresses Common Core standards for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science and also includes fully aligned curriculum materials for teachers.

The e-book will be available on all major platforms, including iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, and Barnes & Noble, as well as on sparkyschoolhouse.org and sparky.org. Galleys will be available for review on August 5, 2013, with a full release on August 26.

New website: Sparkyschoolhouse.org

This new interactive site features games and printable activities that build on the fun themes contained in the storybook app and the e-book, including coloring pages, tongue twisters, and word scrambles. Teachers will also find three interactive whiteboard lessons on fire safety, addressing phonics, math, and reading comprehension. The website will also include a teacher/parent guide with discussion questions and extensions, all aligned to Common Core standards.

The site will go live on August 26, 2013. Parents, teachers, and children can also visit sparky.org for games, coloring pages, downloadable activities, and more.

Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12, 2013

The app, e-book, and website feature Sparky the Fire Dog®, NFPA’s mascot, and are being released in connection with Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12. NFPA is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, the longest-running public health and safety observance on record, celebrated each October.

NIOSH FIREFIGHTER FATALITY FINDINGS MAY HELP PREVENT ANOTHER TRAGEDY

From NIOSH:

On December 2, 2012, a 45-year-old male volunteer fire fighter died when he was struck by a backing fire apparatus at the scene of a rural brush fire that had extended into a vacant structure. The victim was one-of-two fire fighters on the first-arriving fire apparatus (brush truck). The victim immediately got out of the apparatus and positioned himself behind the apparatus on the driver-side to direct the driver in backing the brush truck up a steep incline in the gravel roadway to get closer to the burning structure. The victim tripped or fell and was struck by the backing brush truck. The second due fire apparatus arrived on-scene just as the incident occurred and crew members helped with emergency medical efforts. There were a number of bystanders in the area but there were no known eye-witnesses to the incident. The incident occurred at night in a poorly-lighted rural area.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



The state FMBA broke ground on the “Sandy Ground Project” with this first of a planned 26 playgrounds first in Sea Bright and then other states affected by Superstorm Sandy including Connecticut affected also by the tragic shootings in Newtown.

The Sea Bright playground was erected in memory of Anne Marie Murphy the Newtown Special Education teacher who died while protecting her students. To assist in this ongoing project please visit www.njfmba.org

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Fire Focus Quarterly gladly accepts editorial contributions meeting its internal electronic publication standards from members and affiliates of the *New Jersey Fire Service* and the general public exclusively via email and email attachment only.

Please send material c/o Jerry Clark, Content Producer, Public Information Assistant, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Public Education Unit to:



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