

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
Winter 2015

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 11, Issue 4

FIRE IN NEW JERSEY 2014

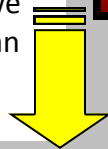
Picture courtesy of Chris Tompkins:
Little Falls, New Jersey, April 17, 2014



The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety has posted **Fire in New Jersey 2014** the Division's annual statistical analysis, which provides fire and emergency incident information for the previous calendar year. According to the report, New Jersey fire departments responded 413,926 times to fire-related incidents in 2014.

"The Division of Fire Safety has done a tremendous job providing information for households to better understand fire safety. Residents and fire officials can collectively implement prevention strategies that reduce fire-related deaths, injuries and property damage," said DCA Commissioner Charles A. Richman.

"This year, we received data from 87 percent of the state's 724 fire departments and we strongly encourage any departments that have not participated to do so next year. The more data we have, the more effective our fire departments can be in preventing and fighting fires."



IN THIS POSTING...

13th Annual Youth Firesetter Conference

How to Get to Sesame Street

Fire Officer Requirements

School Security vs. School Fire Safety

Legislative Update

4th USFA "Survey of Needs"

"In Memoriam"



FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM
TOOLKIT

A Comprehensive Resource for Fire Safety Educators

FIRE IN NEW JERSEY 2014

The 2014 statistical analysis of fire and emergency data reported eight firefighter and 81 civilian fatalities as a result of fire. Fire department personnel also revived 523 civilians using an automatic external defibrillator (AED), according to data.

“While the numbers reported today pale in comparison to previous statistics, our goal remains firm, to reduce the toll fire takes each year in our state. We are increasing efforts to heighten public awareness on fire prevention to avoid the deadly consequences of fire,” said William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director and New Jersey State Fire Marshal.

Fire in New Jersey 2014 contains not only the facts about fire incidents in 2014, but vivid color photos of actual fire events and the firefighters who risk their lives to protect New Jersey’s citizens and property. The data collected and used in the formulation of this report comes from departments throughout New Jersey that participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

[FULL REPORT](#)



NEW JERSEY FIRE CLOCK

ONE FIRE EVERY 19 MINUTES 7 SECONDS



RESPONSE EVERY 14 MINUTES 7 SECONDS

13TH ANNUAL YOUTH FIRESETTER CONFERENCE

“ADDRESSING YOUTH FIRESETTING IN OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES”



Alvaro Llanos victim of the Seton Hall University dorm fire stands with fellow victim, Shawn Simons giving their first hand eyewitness testimony to one of the state’s most infamous fires and its most famous call to action. As a result of the fire which killed three of their fellow students New Jersey has the most comprehensive dormitory sprinkler regulation in the nation.

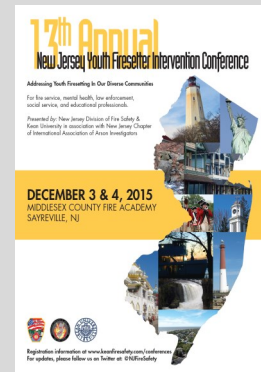
13TH ANNUAL YOUTH FIRESETTER CONFERENCE



The Conference casts a wide net for experts in the field. Keynote Don Porth, retired Portland, Oregon Fire and Rescue and SOS Fires President joins William Kramer, Jr., Acting Director and State Fire Marshal after their opening remarks.

Conference coordinator Charles Lavin formally welcomes conference attendees by encouraging them to embrace the shift in terminology from “juvenile” to youth and “public education” to Community Risk Reduction as a way of addressing the shift in focus for these two professional disciplines within our increasingly diverse communities.

“Addressing Youth Firesetting in Our Diverse Communities”



USFA TEAMS WITH SESAME STREET FOR FIRE SAFETY MATERIALS FOR YOUNGER SET



FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

Color and Learn



U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA



More than half of fire deaths among children sadly show age four or younger to account for a significant percentage of these casualties. Though all fire death is tragic and many times avoidable, the loss of the most vulnerable among us since it creates a terrible sense of loss within the community. The US Fire Administration has partnered with an icon of early childhood education to develop bilingual fire safety messages and instruction.

The most important feature? It's downloadable and free to post on your social media page.

Reserve your materials today!



Click graphic

U.S. Fire Administration

Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2014

August 2015



Click graphic for link to study

A recently released report on firefighter fatalities includes those members of the New Jersey Fire Service memorialized in the Division of Fire Safety report for 2014. The US Fire Administration study explains in detail each of the 91 fatalities as a cautionary tale to prevent others.



**59 FIREFIGHTER DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO HEART FAILURE
42 DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH EMERGENCY INCIDENTS
25 DIED ON THE FIREGROUND
13 DIED RESPONDING TO AND FROM
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS CAUSED NINE DEATHS**

DEDICATION

We honor the firefighters who selflessly gave their lives to protect the citizens of their communities.

Cosmo Paris
Cliffside Park Fire Department

Gregory D. Barnas
Wallington Fire Department

Joseph E. Bove
Spotswood Fire Department

Robert Meyer
Union Beach Fire Department

Richard Choate
Byram Township Fire Department

Christopher Hunter
Cinnaminson Fire Department

Arthur "Art" Treon
Deputy OEM/Fire Coordinator,
Cape May County
Town Bank Volunteer Fire Company

James Woods
Jersey City Fire Department

**Source NJDFS "Fire in New Jersey 2014"*



THE FIREFIGHTER AS EMT EQUATION NEEDS A “SELF AWARENESS OF STROKE” COMPONENT

(Editor’s note: The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Fire in New Jersey 2014 report shows 523 civilians revived by AEDs that year. The figure represents both the shifting mission of firefighters and the need for them to recognize the health risks associated with both tasks.)

Despite its being the second leading cause of death worldwide, 93 percent of Americans still do not recognize the global threat stroke poses and the warning signs associated with it, according to a new public opinion study sponsored by Covidien and the World Stroke Organization (WSO).

The survey measured awareness of strokes and stroke prevention both among adults aged 18 and older in the United States and New York City specifically. Its findings indicate that at least half of the respondents (56 percent in the U.S. and 50 percent in New York City) have had, or have a family member or friend, who has had a stroke. And while two-thirds of respondents say they are knowledgeable about stroke, only a small percentage (12 percent in New York City and 17 percent nationally) realize women are more likely than men to experience a stroke.

“Stroke claims a life every six seconds across the globe, so it is critical we underscore the risk and the steps people can take to prevent a stroke,” said Dr. Mark Turco, chief medical officer, Vascular Therapies, Covidien.

“Stroke is the second leading cause of death worldwide and the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. Everyone can be powerful in saving a life if they know what to do. These survey results identify a significant – but addressable – gap in knowledge when it comes to stroke awareness.”

Additional findings of the survey include:

- ◆ Knowledge about risk factors is generally low: While nationally, about 1 in 3 people know smoking and high blood pressure are risk factors for stroke, fewer than 1 in 10 know diabetes and poor circulation are risk factors.
- ◆ Knowledge of warning signs and symptoms of a stroke are similarly low: About 1 in 3 adults in the U.S. recognize slurred speech and 1 in 4 can identify facial numbness or drooping as warning signs and symptoms, but fewer than 1 in 10 are aware that vision issues (8 percent), confusion (6 percent) or balance/coordination issues (4 percent) may also signal a stroke.
- ◆ Preventative care is limited: Almost half (48 percent) of New Yorkers haven’t had their blood pressure checked in the last month, compared with 46 percent nationally.

Covidien is collaborating with the WSO as a Platinum Sponsor of this year’s World Stroke Campaign. In addition to the survey, the company is highlighting its commitment to stroke patients and raising consumer awareness through a new global campaign. The company’s “Take 2 ... Tell 2” campaign focuses on what can be achieved in just 2 minutes – having every person take 2 minutes to raise their awareness about stroke and then telling two people about those signs.

“More than 17 million people experience a stroke each year and 6 million of them do not survive,” added Dr. Turco. “Despite its impact, stroke is still not well understood, highlighting the need to give this condition a greater voice. Through our ‘Take 2 ... Tell 2’ initiative, we’re focused on helping people understand the impact of stroke, which can potentially save lives,” he added.

THE FIREFIGHTER AS EMT EQUATION NEEDS A “SELF AWARENESS OF STROKE” COMPONENT

Participants across the globe are encouraged to visit www.take2forstroke.com to learn more about stroke and inspire others to do the same.

Using the hashtag **#take2forstroke**, people can share their stroke-related story via video and photographs on their favorite social media sites.

“Stroke claims a life every six seconds, but it is still not well understood, highlighting the need to give this condition a greater voice,” said Dr. Stephan A. Mayer, founding director, Institute for Critical Care Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

“The ‘Take 2 ... Tell 2’ initiative is focused on helping people understand how many of their family and friends may be affected by stroke and educating them to prevent future strokes, which can potentially save lives.”

As the World Stroke Campaign lead sponsor, Covidien is supporting a range of global WSO initiatives to share educational materials and other awareness-focused information

about stroke prevention and treatment. The campaign includes



websites and a variety of supporting materials designed to drive greater awareness of stroke.

WWW.TAKE2FORSTROKE.COM

TAKE 2
...to know the facts about stroke

EVERY OTHER SECOND A PERSON SUFFERS A STROKE, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE OR GENDER.

People of all ages, including children and newborns, suffer from stroke. Especially:

- Women (even more than men)
- People over the age of 60
- Family members of stroke victims
- Those with high blood pressure

Stroke affects **17 million people** each year... **6 million** of those won't survive.

TAKE 2
...to know the signs

- DROOPING FACE
- ARM WEAKNESS OR NUMBNESS
- DIFFICULTY SPEAKING
- TIME TO PHONE

TAKE 2
...TELL 2

Tell 2 people what you know about stroke

Share your story online using #Take2forStroke

1 OUT OF 6 PEOPLE WILL SUFFER A STROKE IN THEIR LIFETIME... TAKE 2 TO HELP SAVE A LIFE.

www.take2forstroke.com

Source: World Stroke Organization and American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. COVIDIEN, COVIDIEN with logo and Covidien logo are U.S. and internationally registered trademarks of Covidien AG. © 2014 Covidien.



Sponsors



**CITY FIRE
EQUIPMENT CO., INC.**

FIRE OFFICIALS, INSPECTORS, SUB-CODE OFFICIALS & OFFICERS

Seton Hall University: Friday, January 8, 2016

Princeton University: Thursday, January 7, 2016

(9:00am – 4:00pm) Registration & Continental Breakfast 8:00 to 9:00 am
Lunch will be offered from 12:00 to 1:00pm



S.O.F.D

South Orange Fire Dept.

FIRE FACTS SEMINAR # 23 FIRE SUBCODE UPDATE: 2015 NJ UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE

Instructors: John Drucker, CET

Fire Protection Subcode Official, Red Bank, NJ



New Jersey Fire Officials, Fire Sub Code Officials, Fire Inspectors and Fire Officers are invited to attend this **FREE** seminar sponsored by **City Fire Equipment Company, Seton Hall University, Princeton University and The South Orange Fire Department.** Attendees will be eligible for **0.5 Technical CEU's** from the **New Jersey Division of Fire Safety** and **0.5 Technical CEU's** from the **New Jersey Division of Codes and Standards.**

LOCATIONS:

Seton Hall University

Jubilee Hall
400 South Orange Avenue
South Orange, NJ 07079

Princeton University

James S. McDonnell Hall of Physics
Washington Road
Princeton, NJ 08544

Simply fill out the requested information below and email to Melissa@cityfire.com or fax it to Attn: Melissa, City Fire Equipment Company at 973-781-1099. Registration is only open to Fire Officials, Fire Subcode Officials, Fire Inspectors & Fire Officers until December 11th. After December 11th registration is open to all, subject to available space.

Please check only one location:

___ Seton Hall University: Friday, January 8, 2016 ___ Princeton University: Thursday, January 7, 2016

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

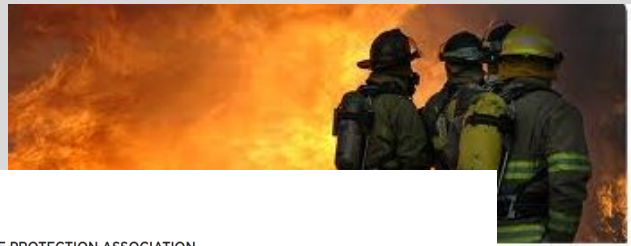
City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone#: _____ Cell Phone#: _____

Fax #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Certification #: _____

You will receive confirmation by email or fax, if registration is received by December 31st. For Information, contact Melissa at City Fire Equipment Company, Telephone 973-560-1600, extension 234 or E-mail melissa@cityfire.com.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
Fourth Survey of the Needs of the U.S. Fire Service

MAKE IT EASY
 Complete the Survey Online
www.nfpa.org/2015needsassessment
 NFPA FDID top left corner
 PASSWORD top right corner

PART I. Basic Information

Name of person completing form: _____
 Rank/Title: _____ NFIRS FDID: _____
 E-mail address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

1. Population (permanent residents) your department has primary responsibility to protect



“HELP US HELP YOU! Please ask the fire chief(s) or designees within your jurisdiction to complete the U.S. Fire Service Needs Assessment survey as soon as possible, and ensure that the U.S. Congress and USFA know where to allocate AFG funding among U.S. fire departments. If the survey is not completed, policymakers won’t understand the needs of your jurisdiction, and your needs won’t be met.”

William Kramer, Jr., Acting Director and State Fire Marshal, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

In an attempt to assist the National Fire Protection Association and the United States Fire Service the National Association of State Fire Marshals has requested that I remind all fire chiefs of the importance of the needs assessment survey that was recently sent to each fire department in the country. This survey can easily be completed on-line by following the instructions that came with the request. You can either fill it out online or download and email it to: nasurey@nfpa.org or mail it to NFPA, Fire Analysis & Research Division, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169. As stated above, if we do not let our needs be heard they will not be met. Please take the time to respond today.

11. Total number of active part-time (including call or volunteer) firefighters: _____ How many are female? _____
 Average number of call/volunteer personnel available who respond to emergencies:
 During weekdays: Days: _____ Nights: _____ During weekends: Days: _____ Nights: _____

18. Fire prevention (preparedness & mitigation).

- A. Is this a role your fire department performs? (Check one) Yes No
 B. If yes, what percentage of the personnel who perform this duty have received formal training (for example in a classroom or online) at the local, regional or state level (not just on-the-job training)?
 None (0%) Few (1-25%) Some (26-50%) Many (51-75%) Most (76-99%) All (100%)

Click the link below.

[4th Survey of Needs](#)



ANNUAL FIRE OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS NOTICE



As in year's past, the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety is notifying all fire departments of the minimum, mandatory incident management requirements for fire officers. Please print and post.

N.J.A.C. 5:73-1.6 states, that no person shall be promoted, assume or assigned (including elected) any fire service position, the duties of which include the management of emergency operations. Unless, that person has obtained, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification issued by the Division. In order to qualify for Incident Management Level 1.

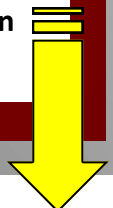
Certification, a person must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ **Obtained Firefighter 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.**
- ◆ **Have three years of documented experience in the fire service. (This means three years as a firefighter and does not include time spent in an Explorer or Junior Firefighter Program)**
- ◆ **Attended a 12 hour classroom based Basic Incident Management Course (ISO 200) Offered or approved by the Division.**

A certification application must be submitted to receive the Incident Management Certification. This means that every fire officer, career and volunteer **MUST** have, at a minimum, Incident Management Level 1 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety. *We have heard a number of times that some volunteer fire departments believe that these requirements do not apply to them. This is incorrect. Failure to comply may result in violations to the fire company, municipality and the individual holding the office.*

In order to ensure compliance with NIMS, which may be required to receive Federal and/or State Homeland Security Grants, the Division of Fire Safety recommends the following Fire Officer Requirements:

- ◆ **Entry Level First Responders, including but not limited to, firefighters, engineers, driver operators, fire police and support personnel; I-100 and IS-700.**
- ◆ **First Line Supervisors, including but not limited to, Lieutenants and Captains, Acting Lieutenants and Captains, Lead Dispatchers; 1-200 and IS-700.**
- ◆ **Middle Managers, including but not limited to, Battalion Chiefs, Acting Battalion Chiefs; I-300 and IS-700. It is also recommended that IS-800, Introduction to the National Response Plan be completed. Completion of these courses and holding the prerequisite of Incident Management Level 1 Certification will qualify the individual for Incident Management Level 2 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.**
- ◆ **Command and General Staff, including but not limited to, the Chief of Department or Acting Chief, the second in command such as Deputy Chiefs, Acting Deputy Chiefs or Assistant Chiefs and Acting Assistant Chiefs; I-400. It is also recommended that both the IS-800 and IS-701, Introduction to Multi-Agency Coordination Systems be completed. Completion of these courses and holding the prerequisite of Incident Management Level 2 Certification will qualify the individual for Incident Management Level 3 Certification issued by the Division of Fire Safety.**





ANNUAL FIRE OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS NOTICE



Combination and volunteer departments need to determine how to comply with ICS when their certified officers are not available. This can be accomplished by determining what other members of your department may be asked to assume a command position, and ensure that they have the proper level of training. Another that address utilizing certified officers from other departments or county/regional Incident Management Teams.

However, simply attending the above listed courses does not qualify someone for all ICS positions. There are many position specific training programs that are available through the Division of Fire Safety or the Emergency Management Institute including, "Staging Area Manager," "Strike Team Leader," "Resource Unit Leader" and "Division/Group Supervisor" that provide detailed training in these areas leading to a better understanding of how ICS is designed to work.

In addition, the New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) program has a number of safety and health standards that employers, (municipalities and fire districts) must comply with regardless of whether they are volunteers or career.

These are contained in the Safety and Health Standards for Public Employers in **N.J.A.C 12:100** and include the Standards for Firefighters at **N.J.A.C 12:100 Subchapter 10**.

Examples include the adoption of a respiratory protection program that stipulates how the employer will ensure compliance with an individual's ability to be medically cleared to wear a respirator; an annual respirator face piece fit test and a policy regarding facial hair when wearing a

respirator.

Another example includes the requirement that anyone who will be supervising an incident involving a hazardous substance above the awareness level needs to meet the requirements of On-Scene Incident Commander; and annual refresher training for blood borne pathogens, confined space and hazardous materials; as well as bi-annual Right-to-Know (RTK) training. It is imperative that fire chiefs and municipal officials realize the responsibility they have to ensure compliance. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your regional fire coordinator directly or through the office at 609-292-4109.

The Coordinator will assist you in understanding how to ensure compliance. You may contact Justin Baker, Assistant Chief of the PEOSH On-Site Consultation Unit at 609-292-2832 or at justin.baker@dol.nj.gov. Lastly, the Division of Fire Safety offers various levels of Fire Officer Certification that not only meet current NFPA standards but have also been accredited by IFSAC and Proboard. Fire Departments, Fire Districts and Municipalities should consider requiring these comprehensive certifications based on the specific officer levels within their department.

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact the Office of Fire Department Preparedness at 609-292-4109.

All PEOSH Standards including the PEOSH Act can be found at: <http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lisse/laws/peoshalaw.html>.

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY REPORT CONCLUDES STUDENTS ARE STILL DYING IN COLLEGE FIRES



The goal of the Campus Fire Safety Report is to reveal the factors that are leading to the unnecessary fire deaths of college students.

The study provides comprehensive information about campus fire fatalities to college and university fire and safety officials along with the local fire and emergency service organizations that serve these institutions so they can better plan to reduce and prevent injuries and deaths on college campuses in the future.

This report examines data from fatal campus fires and the fatalities that resulted from these fires, beginning with the horrific fire that took place in January 2000 at a Seton Hall University dormitory, where three students and 67 others were injured, through May 2015. During the last 16 academic years from 2000 through 2015, there have been 85 fatal fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities and off-campus housing, resulting in 118 fatalities.

94 PERCENT OCCUR IN OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

NO SPRINKLERS IN ALL 85 FATAL FIRES

ALCOHOL INVOLVED 75 PERCENT

SMOKING THE LEADING CAUSE

New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Public Education Advisory Council member and Jefferson Township Fire Marshal Vinny Corsaro conducts a comprehensive campus fire safety education program for graduating seniors at Jefferson Township High School each and every year for many years. School principal Karl Mundi gives the annual session high marks.

Fire Marshal Corsaro's stake is as a veteran firefighter with a college age daughter.

Corsaro receives media attention whenever he puts on the presentation, thus only adding to the number of college bound students the message reaches.

Contact Vinny for more info: vcorsaro@jeffersontownship.net

NVFC-IAFC JOINTLY ISSUE SPECIFIC BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR POV RESPONSES

Since 2003, 52 volunteer/paid-on-call firefighters have been killed responding to or returning from calls in POVs. (Privately Owned Vehicles).

Of the activity types defined, the highest percentage (13.4 percent) of volunteer fatalities are related to POV responses. (32.1 percent) of those killed were 21 years old or younger.

Those sort of statistics have caused the International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) and Health and Survival Section (SHSS) along with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to issue guidelines designed to define best practices for POV response for departments in New Jersey and elsewhere.

Click the link below to see what your department can do to speak to this critical issue.

[**POV REPORT**](#)

Let's Make a Difference

Best practices to minimize injuries and deaths while using POV for ESO responses



A joint project between the International Association of Fire Chiefs - Volunteer & Combination Officers Section, Safety, Health & Survival Section, and the National Volunteer Fire Council

SCHOOL SECURITY VERSUS FIRE SAFETY: -WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE-



Atlantic City High School

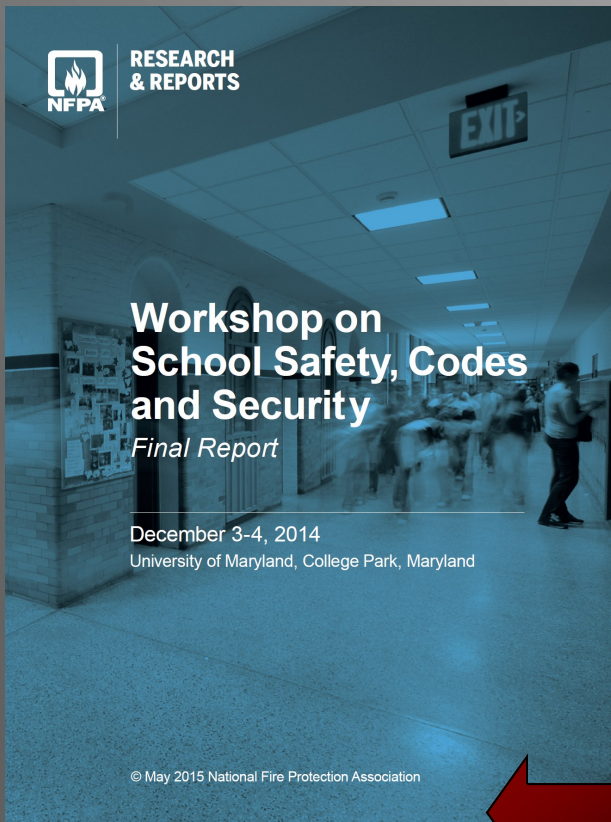
The conflict of interests between law enforcement and the fire service continues to be exacerbated by the collision of those interests over rising instances of school emergencies involving security versus swift evacuation, especially in an emergency.

Local first responders, fire departments, code officials, law enforcement and school administrators must come together to develop sensible approaches that set the preservation of human life as the primary goal.

The problem continues to be what is the optimum solution so that all interests are satisfied. For that reason the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has gathered those interests in one place and produced a report worthy of incorporating into any ongoing local dialogue with those interests in this the most densely populated state in the nation.

Issues such as fire alarm systems, “lockdowns,” locking hardware in the code, and notification procedures and new technologies all come into play.

Click the adjacent graphic for the final NFPA report.



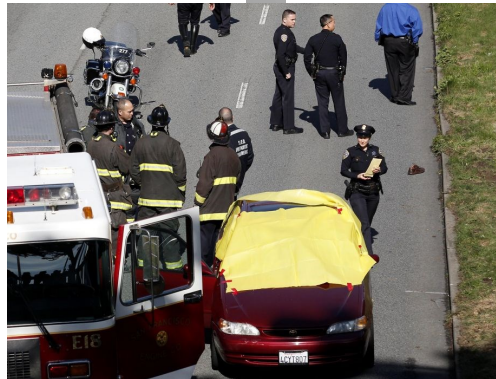
ASSAULTING THOSE WHO CAME TO HELP NOW A FACT OF LIFE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS WHO DO

(Editor's note: NFFF Initiative 12 seeks to advance these national standards for response.)

From the beginning of America's fire service, firefighters have been responding to incidents that were the result of, or caused by, an act of violence. Fire departments respond to a wide range of events from the simple Saturday night altercation at the corner bar, to the events like: Watts, Columbine, Oklahoma City, 9/11, Webster, NY, or Gwinnett County, GA. On most occasions, the fire department responds, renders service, and returns to quarters. Unfortunately, over our history, not every member has been able to return home due to factors associated with violence.

In March 2006, former Peoria (AZ) Fire Department Fire Inspector Howard M. Munding produced a thesis titled: *"Violence Against Firefighter: Angels of Mercy Under Attack."* In the thesis, he quotes the stunning statistic that an estimated 700,000 assaults occur on paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) annually.

Additionally, according to a 2008 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firefighter Fatality Report, 32 firefighters died from assaults while on duty in the report's 32-year history. At the end of 2010, that number grew to 34, or one firefighter per year. In order to ensure that we meet our mission, to make sure everyone goes home, we offer the following strategies against violence associated with response.



Improved understanding and application of Dynamic Risk Management

Initiate or improve communication with the local law enforcement component.

Define and expand role of dispatchers in educating risk.

Prohibit single (person) resource response to violent incidents.

Require use of an Incident Management System and communicate directly with Law Enforcement component prior to operating at an incident of violence.

De-commit personnel and equipment and leave if violence commences or reoccurs during fire department operations.

Obtain stakeholder understanding and buy-in of response and deployment policies including non-response and non-engagement at incidents of violence.

Implementing these strategies will help reduce the likelihood of fire service members being injured or killed during a response to a violent incident. The 12th Initiative expands our understanding of how and where firefighters can be injured and demonstrates the need for the development of national protocols regarding violent incidents. For more information click link.

[National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#)



AT ISSUE:



PENDING BILLS FROM CFSI AND NVFC

On Tuesday, September 22nd, Congressmen Tom Reed (NY-23) and James Langevin (RI-2) introduced **H.R. 3591**, the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act. Senators Susan Collins (ME) and Thomas Carper (DE) introduced identical legislation, **S. 2068**, in the Senate on the same day.

First introduced following the deadly Station Nightclub fire in West Warwick, RI in 2003, the legislation creates a tax incentive for property owners to retrofit existing buildings with automatic sprinkler systems.

Under IRS rules, this would allow small and medium-sized businesses to deduct up to \$125,000 of the cost of retrofitting a building with an automatic sprinkler systems. Additionally, the bill would classify automated fire sprinkler system retrofits in high-rise buildings as a 15-year property for purposes of depreciation. Currently, the depreciation schedule for a fire sprinkler retrofit is 39-years in a commercial building and 27 ½- years in a residential building.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2014, there were 1,298,000 fires reported in the United States, leading to 3,275 civilian fire deaths, 15,775 civilian injuries, and \$11.6 billion in property damage. When you include the indirect cost of fire, such as lost economic activity, the cost is closer to \$108 billion annually.

Studies by NFPA have concluded that buildings outfitted with sprinklers reduce the death rate per fire by at least 57% and decrease the property damage by up to 68%. **S. 2068** was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

The Thin Blue Line Act (**H.R. 814/S. 2034**) would make killing or targeting a police officer, firefighter, or other first responder an “aggravating factor” in federal death penalty cases. The law would apply in cases where the public safety officer was killed or targeted while engaged in the performance of official duties, because of the performance of official duties, or because of their status as a public safety officer.

The Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarships Act (**H.R. 2350/S. 1352**) would allow a Pell Grant-eligible student whose parent or guardian dies in the line of duty as a public safety officer to receive an automatic zero expected family contribution (EFC) and qualify for the maximum Pell Grant award. Under current law, education assistance received through the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, which provides financial assistance to the families of public safety officers who die or become permanently disabled as a result of an injury suffered in the line of duty, actually counts against students in calculating the amount of the Pell Grant award that they are eligible for.



AT ISSUE:



ACTIVE FIRE SERVICE 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.**

A4073/S2687

**Schaer (D36); Prieto (D32);
Caride (D36)
CO alarm requirement.
P.L. 2015 Chapter 146**

A4265

**Rumana (R40); Simon (R16);
Ciattarelli (R16)
Permits 5 year local residency
requirement for firefighters.**

ABSOLUTE VETO

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 Installa-
tion 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
Homebuyer Assistance Act."**

S1813

**Whelan (D2); Oroho (R24)
Requires each State agency to
review permits
issued by the them.**

ALL PENDING FIRE SERVICE RELATED LEGISLATION

KEYWORD "FIRE"

**GERALD "BEAR" CALECKI
SOUTH AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT
SOUTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY**

REST NOW MY FALLEN BROTHER
LAY SOFT YOUR SUFFERING BACK
REST WELL AND FOREVER
YOUR MEMORY SHALL NOT LACK
REST YOUR TIRED HANDS
WIPE CLEAN YOUR WEARY BROW
REST WITH ST. FLORIAN
YOUR SPIRIT NOW ENDOWED
REST HERE YOUR BREAKING HEART
WE KNOW YOU GAVE YOUR ALL
REST EASY, YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART
YOU'VE ANSWERED YOUR LAST CALL
REST KNOWING THAT IN GOD WE SOUGHT
OH LORD, WATCH OVER ANOTHER WHO JUST FELL
REST ASSURED YOUR TROUBLED THOUGHT
AS WE RING THE FINAL BELL.

**THOMAS KOLARICK
PROTECTION FIRE COMPANY #1
KEASBY, NEW JERSEY**

REST NOW MY FALLEN BROTHER
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**IN MEMORY OF CHIEF AL BEERS
WILDWOOD CREST
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY # 1
WILDWOOD CREST, NEW JERSEY**

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NEED VOLUNTEERS? **NVFC** NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL
 CLICK HERE FOR FREE RECRUITMENT TOOLS!



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