

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

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

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 8, Issue 2

NJDFS OPERATION 7 SAVE A LIFE KICKS OFF 2013 SMOKE ALARM GIVE-A-WAY CAMPAIGN

HOTEL PIERRE OPERATION 7 SAVE A LIFE KICKOFF 2013



New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III announced that the Christie Administration is again partnering with Kidde and WABC-TV Channel 7 on the *Operation 7: Save a Life* smoke alarm distribution campaign, which is now in its 15th year.

As part of the campaign, the Division of Fire Safety will distribute free smoke alarms in communities impacted by Superstorm Sandy, as well as to senior citizens, low-income residents, and households with children in the



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PAULSBORO DEPLOYMENT

~IN THE LINE OF DUTY~

DISTRICT WARDEN

JEFFERY SCHEUERER



NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL
MAY 17
KEAN UNIVERSITY

NJDFS OPERATION 7 SAVE A LIFE KICKS OFF 2013 SMOKE ALARM GIVE-A-WAY CAMPAIGN



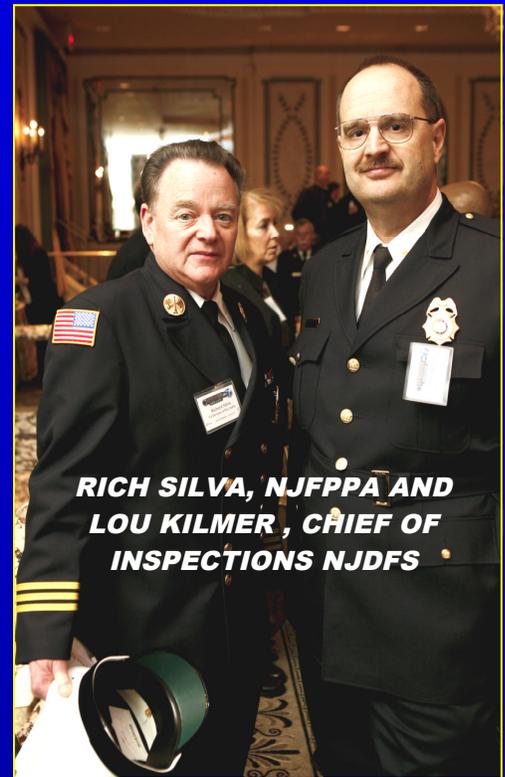
PAUL ELENIO, JOE ERDHARDT AND RICH FARLETTA ARE "CLASS A" ATTENDEES

station's viewing area, which includes North Jersey and much of Central Jersey. The Division has distributed approximately 115,800 free smoke alarms to New Jersey households since joining the annual campaign.

"We are always pleased to partner with WABC-TV Channel 7 in this unified effort to place these life-saving devices in the hands and in the homes of our most vulnerable residents," said Commissioner Constable.

Operation 7 Save a Life seeks to increase public awareness about fire safety and prevention and focuses on how to prepare for and handle emergency situations. The campaign has helped distribute more than 670,000 smoke alarms throughout New Jersey, New York, and Long Island since its inception in 1999 to individuals who otherwise couldn't afford them. A similar program is led by WPVI-TV Channel 6, the ABC-affiliated station in Philadelphia for the South Jersey region. The smoke alarms are donated by Kidde, a long-time sponsor of *Operation 7 Save a Life*.

This year, Kidde donated more than 16,875 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms, a portion of which New Jersey will receive. The next phase of the campaign involves the distribution of the alarms.



RICH SILVA, NJFPPA AND LOU KILMER, CHIEF OF INSPECTIONS NJDFS



NJDFS OPERATION 7 SAVE A LIFE KICKS OFF 2013 SMOKE ALARM GIVE-A-WAY CAMPAIGN



New Jersey has among the lowest per capita fire death rates in the nation, according to the National Fire Protection Association, citing the state’s model fire code and its aggressive public outreach and enforcement programs. Nonetheless, state fire data collected by the Division of Fire Safety shows that the onset of cold weather coincides with an increase in residential fires.

“The problem of fire in our state remains particularly concentrated in one and two-family dwellings,” said Acting State Fire Marshal William Kramer, Jr.

“Seventy-seven percent of our civilian fire fatalities occurred in residential properties in 2011. A working smoke alarm is a must-have piece of equipment because it is a family’s first line of defense against fire,” Kramer added.

More information: paul.elenio@dca.state.nj.us



...In The Line of Duty

Proclamation

WHEREAS, District Warden Jeffrey Scheuerer was raised in Readington Township and was a resident of Flemington, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Warden Scheuerer was employed by the New Jersey State Forest Fire Service since February 10, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Warden Scheuerer was appointed as the District Warden, Division A, Section 8, District 6 on July 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Warden Scheuerer was a volunteer with the Readington Volunteer Fire Department, Station 32, since 1991; and

WHEREAS, Warden Scheuerer was performing his assigned duties for the Forest Fire Service at Round Valley Recreation Area on March 28, 2013 when he was struck down; and

WHEREAS, Warden Scheuerer's dedication to public safety and the protection of human life is worthy of recognition by all citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and fitting for New Jersey to note his commitment to the welfare of others, to mark his passing, to honor his service, and console his friends and his family as they remember him;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State do hereby PROCLAIM and DIRECT

- 1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half staff at the State House during appropriate hours from Tuesday, April 2, 2013 to Monday April 8, 2013 in recognition of the life and in mourning of the passing of District Warden Jeffery Scheuerer.*
- 2. This Proclamation shall take effect immediately.*

*Kim Guadano
Lt. Governor*

*Chris Christie
Governor*

"We live in deeds, not years"

DIVISION PERFORMS MULTIFACETED ROLE IN RESPONSE TO SUPERSTORM SANDY

Superstorm Sandy is now and forever viewed as the worst to ever hit New Jersey. The storm was the cause for an unprecedented mobilization of state, county and local firefighting resources by the Division.



Division Command Post Ocean County

Coordinating with other state response agencies, the Division saw to the 24-7 deployment of more than 250 pieces of fire equipment and apparatus and more than 850 individual firefighters over an intensive three week period of recoiling, reconnoitering and recovery.

Acting Director Kramer viewed first hand the center of the storm's concentrated devastation in Ocean County soon after the massive storm, nearly 850 miles wide, moved inland.

It became immediately apparent that the storm had wrecked not only fire company structures but many of the homes of firefighters as well, complicating the restoration of normal fire protection to many, many communities in the short and long term. The damage was significant at the immediate shore, however inland communities such as Little Ferry in North Jersey suffered facility damage as well.

"Certainly in my memory there had never been a storm of this magnitude and certainly never one that caused as much widespread damage to our firefighting infrastructure, which so sadly came at the expense of the very people we were calling on to respond," said Kramer.



Ortle Beach-Toms River Township

Along with a FEMA Type-1 Incident Management Team, the Division began an assessment of the damage to firefighting resources. FEMA officials, fresh from working a devastating early snowstorm in West Virginia and some with first hand experience in the aftermath of Katrina, noted immediately how critical a regional approach would be.



Route 35 in Mantoloking

DIVISION PERFORMS MULTIFACETED ROLE IN RESPONSE TO SUPERSTORM SANDY

This discussion left the Division in good stead with its current use of County Fire Coordinators and its “boots on the ground” approach. The storm situation evolved from evacuation to restoration of critical infrastructure, symbolized by the location at Herbert Street in Mantoloking where the Ocean met Barnegat Bay.



With this level of storm intensity, local evacuation centers quickly filled and themselves became an issue as the widespread power failures—which became an unfortunate hallmark of the storm—caused a fall back to standby power supplies. This in turn ultimately threatened the integrity of the shelters themselves by making many of them fire code deficient, as those standby supplies succumbed.

A landmark effort was made to collaborate with local fire officials to keep the shelters open until other arrangements, which came to include using the vacant billets at Ft. Monmouth as transitional housing, could be made. The storm destroyed or seriously damaged more than 190,000 homes and caused \$91 billion in damage.

The FEMA Team reached out to more than 80 fire companies to make assessments and invited local chiefs of departments directly affected to the Toms River Fire Academy to hear firsthand from them as to what needs they had in order to bring their stations back to full operability. The Division continues that process today via timely conference calls with this group in an ongoing effort at vetting response, readiness and any



ongoing problems.

One of these, not unsurprisingly, were not just the homes that burned in the Normandy Beach section of Toms River Township outright but a number of fires that appeared to be intentionally set.

The Division has begun tracking these reports within its Arson Unit, and will compile them in an effort to establish a shared database. The Division also continues to assist LEAs with issues related to the inland salvage title vehicle parking lots which blossomed post-storm in what were ordinarily fallow farm fields, requiring sensible access and spacing to forestall any large scale incident.

DIVISION PERFORMS MULTIFACETED ROLE IN RESPONSE TO SUPERSTORM SANDY

Throughout the storm's extended aftermath the Division issued public health and welfare advisories which came to include strict warnings about portable generator and portable heater use which had become epidemic as widespread power loss continued.

The Division's long association with Kidde Corporation through its annual smoke alarm distribution program with ABC television stations resulted in the unsolicited donation of 5,000 CO alarms which were tagged for distribution in shore area communities.

"Once again the men and women of the Division stepped up, whether for volunteer duty at the RIOC, or for field response, and in doing so joined other state departments and local emergency responders by answering the call to help their fellow citizens, unselfishly. That's the best story we can ever tell about Sandy or any other storm that may likely come our way," said Kramer.



Looking west out Mantoloking Road at Barnegat Lane. The location of where the Atlantic met Barnegat Bay and what along with the Star Jet Roller Coaster in the Ocean off Seaside Heights remain the iconic images of Superstorm Sandy.

DCA/DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY TO OVERSEE FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Counting on a personal commitment to promote the program from Governor Chris Christie himself, Acting Director William Kramer, Jr. is encouraging storm-impacted firefighters to take advantage of the Firefighter-to-Firefighter Assistance Program established by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

The program anonymously matches firefighters who need help with other firefighters who have volunteered their services – creating a peer-to-peer network of volunteer assistance— to help address a range of needs and in the end keep firefighters in their own homes and communities.

“During and after Superstorm Sandy, I personally saw local firefighters whose homes were damaged by the storm putting the needs of their communities ahead of their own. While these firefighters selflessly continue to help their communities and neighbors rebuild and recover, a significant number of them still need assistance rebuilding their own homes,” said Governor Christie.

“I want to let these firefighters know that we see their need and we are creating an avenue to provide help from within the comfort of their community – the brotherhood of firefighters. If there is a need, their fellow firefighters and the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety stand ready to lend a hand.”



While the initiative does not offer financial support, it does provide a broad range of volunteer assistance including demolition, shoveling, plumbing, electrical work, roofing, waterproofing, and carpentry – one firefighter to another.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety will take the request and find a participating firefighter who has the needed skill and/or experience to do the work.

Once a match is found, the Division will call the firefighter requesting assistance to facilitate the initial contact, and then allow the firefighters to work out the necessary arrangements.

“While the program’s predominant goal is assisting firefighters, it is also aimed at helping the hard-hit communities they serve by keeping these Sandy-impacted firefighters in their homes so they can continue to respond to calls in their respective towns,” said DCA Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III.

“We have already helped firefighters everywhere from Seaside Park to Little Ferry and a lot in between,” said William Kramer, Jr. Acting State Fire Marshal.

Firefighters interested in participating in the program can go to the DCA’s Division of Fire Safety website to fill out a form to either seek assistance or volunteer their time for those in need.

MORE INFORMATION

http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dfs/hurricane_sandy.html

PROVISIONAL ON DUTY FIREFIGHTER FATALITY REPORT REVEALS SAD STATISTICS

41% HEART ATTACK OR STROKE **45% STRESS OVEREXERTION**
42% VOLUNTEER **27% ON SCENE**

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced a provisional total of 83 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2012, the same number of firefighter losses as in 2011.

The 83 fatalities were spread across 34 states. Pennsylvania and North Carolina experienced the highest number of fatalities with nine firefighter deaths each. New York had six firefighter deaths, including the most recent tragic shooting deaths of two firefighters in Webster. California and Texas, each with five firefighter deaths, were the only other states with five or more firefighter fatalities in 2012.

Heart attacks or stroke were responsible for the deaths of 41 firefighters (49%) in 2012. This single year total is a near average proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke over recent years.

This nature of fatal injury has remained relatively constant, while others, on average, have been reduced during the past decade.

Eleven on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the same as 2011 and 2010.

The single cause of injury seeing more than a four-fold increase in firefighter deaths during 2012 was vehicle collisions (including aircraft), with 18 deaths.

These **2012 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional** and will likely change somewhat as the USFA contacts state fire marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2012. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July.

2012 PROVISIONAL FIREFIGHTER FATALITY REPORT

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS
A FEATURE OF NJDFS-KEAN SPRING 2013 CATALOGUE

YOUTH FIRESETTING PREVENTION TO INTERVENTION: EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTIONS CE776 **NEW**

Instructor: Michael O. McLeleer, Firefighter, Merrimac (MA) Fire Department, Adjunct Faculty National Fire Academy, Training Coordinator Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

This course will provide students with the opportunity to understand why we need to deliver year round fire prevention programs and how it relates to a reduction in youth firesetting. An emphasis will be placed on how we should deliver fire and injury prevention education to children 3 - 5 years old using the Bici® play safe® be safe® program as an example. Finally, the new nationally acclaimed high school documentary "Sean's Story: My Life Torn Apart by Firesetting", which has been incorporated into the new National Fire Academy Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention curriculum, will be released. This free toolkit from the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center was designed to increase awareness of youth firesetting in the community, and explicitly demonstrates the long-term consequences that can occur if fire misuse behavior is minimized, ignored, unrecognized, or untreated.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS; FROM BULK STORAGE TO BIG BOX STORES CE773 **NEW**

Instructor: Ronald E. Kanterman, Fire Chief/Fire Marshal, Mohegan Tribal Fire Department

New Jersey is one of the largest manufacturers of chemicals in the United States, second only to Texas. Add to that, home centers, gas stations, hardware stores and other mercantile outlets and we realize there are "hazmat's" everywhere. This one day course will take participants through large bulk industrial facilities to mom & pop shops and occupancies in between. Topics covered are, but not limited to, Federal and state laws, applicable fire code sections (IFC Ch.27 and other applicable chapters), cited NFPA standards, identification systems, storage quantities and allowable limits, tanks and vessels, site surveys and inspection methodology and fire protection requirements. Case histories and discussion of failures in code enforcement are part of the day. Participants will come away with a good direction on the compass towards inspecting facilities containing hazardous materials.

LEADING A HEALTHY TEAM C2T20 **NEW**

Instructor: Gabrielle Wanamaker, TrustWorks

Not many occupations require the physical ability and stamina required of the men and women in Fire Service. While the physical demands are steep, often little is done to maintain the health and fitness of fire service professionals after the initial physical exam. Researchers and health professionals have determined that fire service professionals suffer from certain diseases at a higher rate than the general population. The addition of healthy practices such as maintaining fitness through exercise and good nutrition would support decreased illness and injuries to fire service professionals. In this course, we will examine particular health challenges and through the wisdom of a fitness expert, identify strategies leaders can take to support the health of their teams throughout the span of their careers. The course will incorporate current thinking in firefighter life safety. Course Objectives include the importance of physical fitness in the fire service, identify the health concerns most likely experienced in the fire service, examine wellness practices in the fire service throughout the US, detail and demonstrate elements of a work-based and home-based physical fitness program, explain standards of good health, weight, BMI, nutrition, etc., provide healthier food options and offer suggestions for leaders on how to incorporate health maintenance into daily routines.



NEW JERSEY FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY LOCATIONS

RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND AND REPEAT AFTER ME C2T21 **NEW**

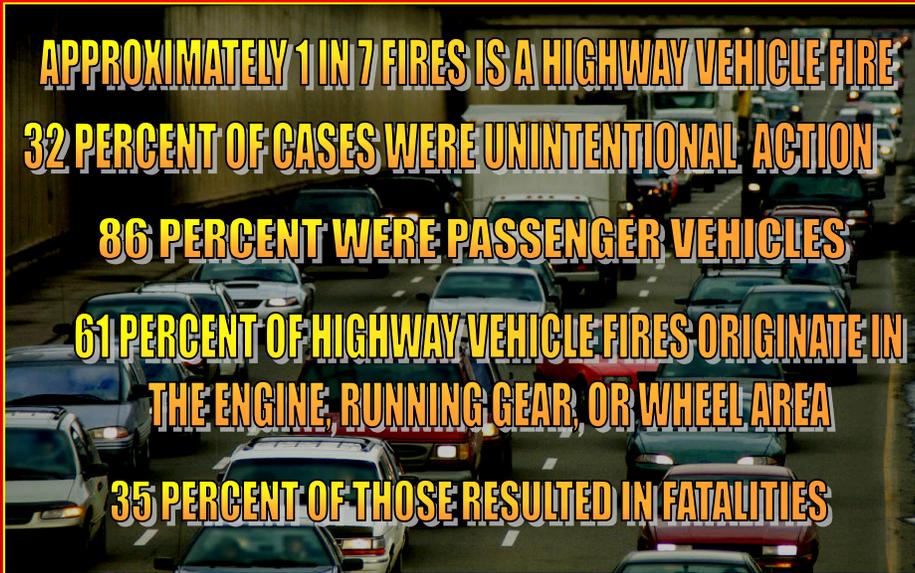
Instructor: Kathleen Kirvan, Esquire, Lieutenant, Mount Laurel Fire Department

This course will provide each attendee with insight into what to expect if he or she is ever called to testify as a witness or is personally sued because of his or her affiliation with the emergency services community. The course will take attendees through the pre-trial and trial process, what a party to lawsuit can expect and the rigors of testifying at trial. Students will also be provided with insight into the legal process of a court case by defining the similarities and differences between criminal and civil trials, and emphasizing the elements of trial testimony of both lay and expert witnesses. This course is for all members of the emergency services community, with a special emphasis on fire officials, fire inspectors, training officers and superior officers.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - ATLANTIC COUNTY | 7 - GLOUCESTER COUNTY | 13 - OCEAN COUNTY |
| 2 - BERGEN COUNTY | 8 - HUNTERDON COUNTY | 14 - PASSAIC COUNTY |
| 3 - BURLINGTON COUNTY | 9 - MERCER COUNTY | 15 - SALEM COUNTY |
| 4 - CAMDEN COUNTY | 10 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY | 16 - SOMERSET COUNTY |
| 5 - CAPE MAY COUNTY | 11 - MONMOUTH COUNTY | 17 - SUSSEX COUNTY |
| 6 - CUMBERLAND COUNTY | 12 - MORRIS COUNTY | 18 - WARREN COUNTY |

ALL NEW!

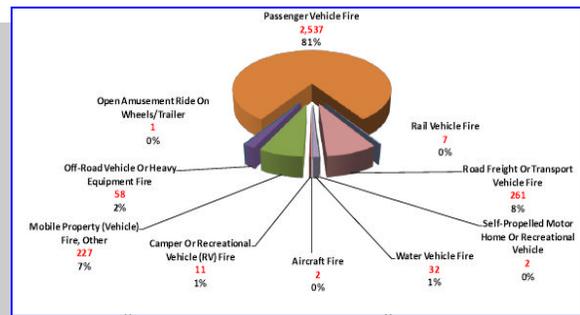
NATIONAL VEHICLE FIRE STATISTICS MIRROR STATE REPORTED NUMBERS FOR 2011



Just released USFA statistics from 2008 to 2010 showing that an estimated 194,000 highway vehicle fires occur in the United States each year resulting in an annual average of approximately 300 deaths, 1,250 injuries and \$1.1 billion in property loss.

Highway vehicle fires accounted for 14 percent of fires responded to by fire departments across the nation. Highway vehicle fires include fires in passenger road vehicles (e.g., cars, motorcycles and off-road recreational vehicles), freight road transport vehicles (e.g., dump trucks, fire apparatus and tank trucks), and agricultural and construction vehicles. Topical reports are posted by the US Fire Administration and drawn from state-supplied fire reporting, which addresses the characteristics of highway vehicle fires reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) from 2008 to 2010.

**Request a free copy of "Vehicle Fires: What to Do" with your
FD Logo or FO Seal: fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us**



Source "Fire in New Jersey 2011"

In New Jersey according to NJDFS "Fire in New Jersey 2011" 81 percent of vehicle fires were passenger vehicles. In 42 cases investigation revealed that the fires were intentionally set. Eleven people died in vehicle fires throughout the state during that year.

USFA TOPICAL SERIES REPORT

FIRE IN NEW JERSEY 2011

10TH ANNUAL JUVENILE FIRESETTER CONFERENCE SETS ATTENDANCE RECORD

10TH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY JUVENILE FIRESETTER INTERVENTION CONFERENCE



BACK TO BASICS

NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2012 • MIDDLESEX COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY
FOR FIRE SERVICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, MENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICE AND EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS

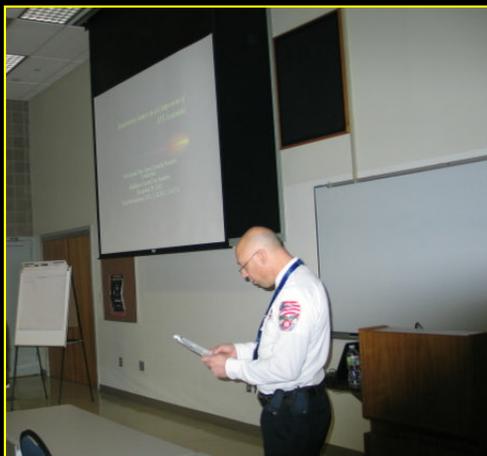
PRESENTED BY:
THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
& KEAN UNIVERSITY IN ASSOCIATION WITH
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS



DFS Tech CEU's Available



The tenth year of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Kean and the IAII sponsored Conference drew over 120 participants, including the City of Ft. Wayne, the FDNY Fire Marshal's Office and a host of others to what is now established as the "must attend" event in the field of Juvenile Firesetter intervention.



Major Chris Eckert NJDFS Arson Unit chief takes an instructional turn at the 2012 Conference



10TH ANNUAL JUVENILE FIRESETTER CONFERENCE SETS ATTENDANCE RECORD



Registrants check in with NJDFS Preparedness Unit staff members Bruce Tynan and Jim McFadden



Denis Onieal, National Fire Academy chief, our keynote

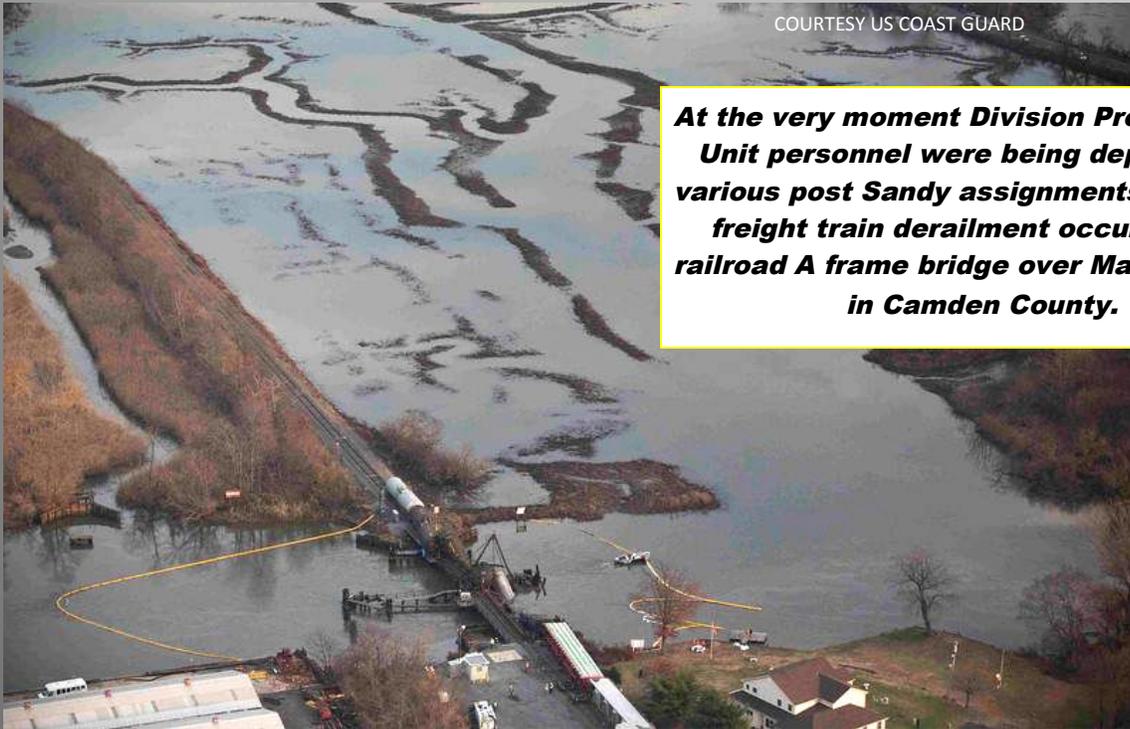


Bill Kramer updates attendees on the ongoing NJDFS response To Superstorm Sandy



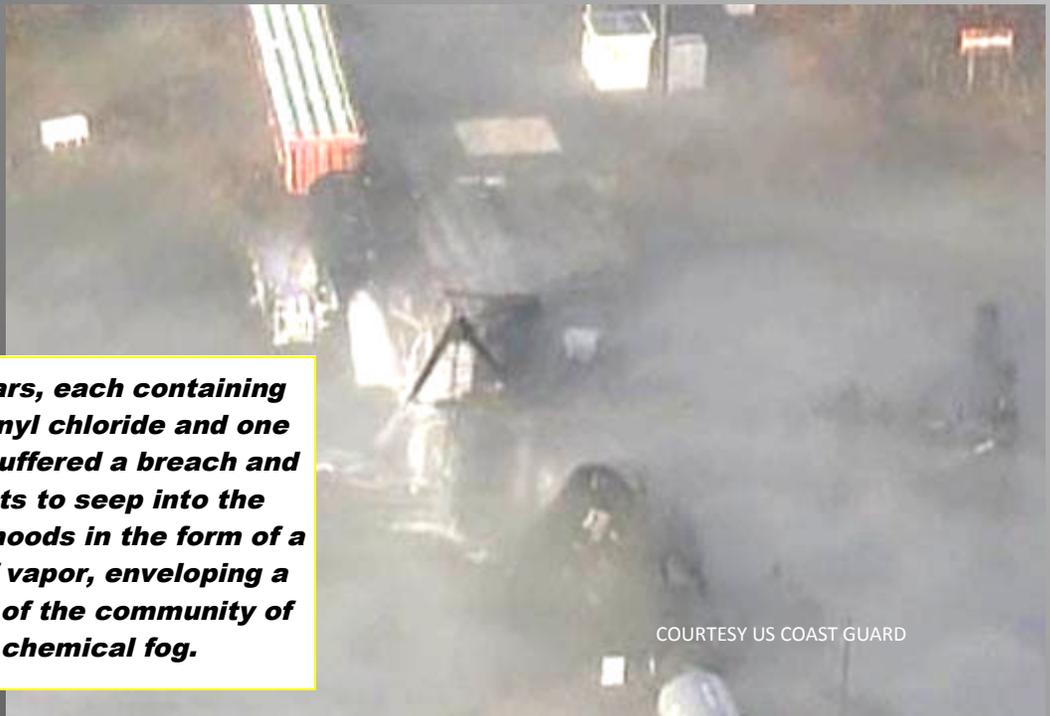
The Conference featured a number of tributes to Charlie Luxton, retiring Conference Coordinator, one of which included an overhead of Charlie guiding a horse drawn steam pumper, evidence of how long his tenure was with the Newark Fire Department .

PAULSBORO TRAIN DERAILMENT PUTS DIVISION ON SCENE FOR INCIDENT'S DURATION



COURTESY US COAST GUARD

At the very moment Division Preparedness Unit personnel were being deployed for various post Sandy assignments, a Conrail freight train derailed at a railroad A frame bridge over Mantua Creek in Camden County.



COURTESY US COAST GUARD

One of four tanker cars, each containing 180,000 pounds of vinyl chloride and one containing Ethanol, suffered a breach and allowed the contents to seep into the surrounding neighborhoods in the form of a 30 foot high cloud of vapor, enveloping a nearly 27 block area of the community of Paulsboro in a chemical fog.

PAULSBORO TRAIN DERAILMENT PUTS DIVISION ON SCENE FOR INCIDENT'S DURATION



The Division deployed the regional Neptune system as a precautionary standby to support the initial local response in addition to a special CSX railroad Hazmat team that Conrail operates. Its freight consists of trackage that CSX owns, a common practice in the railroad industry.

In addition the Division's Preparedness, Unit Chief Rick Farletta placed two 4,000 gallon foam tenders from Gloucester County nearby as well as others on standby. The "Ironman" unit, capable of a 7,000 gpm "deluge," was also on scene. All tolled all three deployments meant to handle the possibility of an ignition of the contents for about 17 days.



FEDERAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER'S BENEFIT ACT NOW INCLUDES VOLUNTEER COVERAGE



Capping a three-year effort by Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), President Obama has signed into law legislation that will remedy coverage gaps in the federal program that provides a crucial safety net for the families of first responders who are killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.

The measure is Leahy's most recent effort to close gaps in the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act (PSOB) that have left some first responders without benefits when they are injured or killed in the line of duty.

He first introduced the Dale Long Emergency Medical Service Providers Protection Act in June 2009, naming the bill in honor of the Bennington emergency medical technician (EMT) who was tragically killed in an ambulance accident.

Leahy added his bill to the Senate's version of the annual defense authorization bill. Because it was not also in the House version, he convinced conferees to keep it in the final bill. The Senate Judiciary Committee, which Leahy chairs, had approved the bill in 2010, but further action on the legislation had stalled due to an objection.

The President signed the defense bill, with the Dale Long Act included in January.

The PSOB program was launched more than three decades ago to provide assistance to the surviving families of police, firefighters and medics who died or became disabled in the line of duty.

Under current law, the PSOB program applies only to public safety officers employed by federal, state and local government entities.

The Leahy measure will extend the PSOB program to cover private, nonprofit emergency medical services (EMS) volunteers and personnel.

The measure also includes provisions to lessen the length of a currently unwieldy appeals process for claimants, clarify the list of eligible survivor beneficiaries, and make those who have been catastrophically injured eligible for peer support and counseling programs.

It removes artificial distinctions under current law to include vascular ruptures in the types of injuries that would make a public safety officer's survivors eligible for benefits.

Leahy credited the efforts of several public safety organizations for their help in building support for his bill, including the American Ambulance Association, the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Firefighters.

SOUTH KOREAN FIREFIGHTER DELEGATION HEARS FROM NJDFS ABOUT FIREFIGHTER SAFETY



South Korea has seen a higher death rate among firefighters than Japan or the United States over the past five years, prompting calls for more systematic responses to disasters.

According to the data compiled by the National Emergency Management Agency, an average of seven firefighters died each year between 2007 and 2011, marking 1.85 deaths out of every 10,000 firemen.

As of 2011, there were 37,826 firemen in South Korea, with 159,354 in Japan and 344,050 in the U.S., according to the agency. In 2012, seven officers died while on duty, with four of them losing their lives while putting out fires, the agency added.

Japan saw 11.2 deaths among its firefighters per year on average during the 2007-2011 period, but the figure represents 0.7 deaths per every 10,000 firemen.

For the U.S., the yearly average of the death toll per 10,000 firefighters came to 1.01, the data showed. (Philippine News Agency)

Kent Neiswender (*above*) and Rick Farletta met with a delegation of South Korean firefighters to discuss various aspects of the support New Jersey firefighters receive from the Division to enhance their safety as a result of training, certification requirements for all firefighters and continuing education, as well as, tactical support and resource pooling for large scale disasters like Superstorm Sandy.



SOUTH KOREAN FIREFIGHTER DELEGATION HEARS FROM NJDFS ABOUT FIREFIGHTER SAFETY



Using his on-the job experience as a former Trenton firefighter, NJDFS Preparedness Unit head Rick Farletta briefs National South Korean Fire Corps members on what governing factors keep firefighters safe on the fireground anywhere.



The NJDFS in cooperation with the Kean University Fire Safety Training Program hosted a delegation from the National South Korean Firefighter Corps at Middlesex Fire Academy. The South Korean firefighters have visited with NJDFS officials before as part of a diplomatic exchange hosted by the Korean Embassy in New York, evidencing the common scourge fire fatalities and property loss represent internationally.

STUDY SHOWS COOKING AS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE FOR HOME FIRES FOUR YEARS RUNNING



On average, an estimated 164,500 cooking fires in residential buildings occur each year in the US.



Cooking was, by far, the leading cause of all residential building fires and injuries.



Residential building cooking fires occurred mainly in the evening hours from 4 to 9 p.m., peaking from 5 to 8 p.m. accounting for 26 percent of the fires.



Residential building cooking fires peaked in November at 10 percent and declined to the lowest point during the summer months.



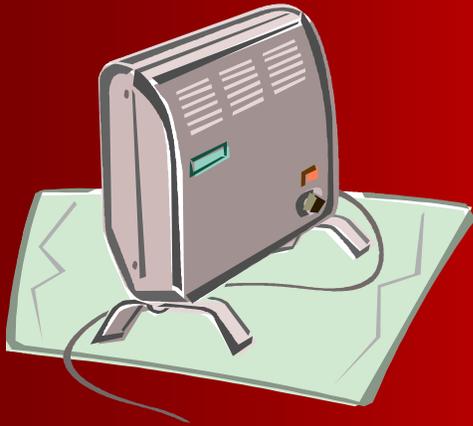
Confined fires or fires limited within a cooking vessel were 94 percent of residential building cooking fires.



Oil, fat and grease (51 percent) were the leading types of material ignited in nonconfined cooking fires in residential buildings.

According to a new report from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), cooking remains the leading cause of all residential building fires and injuries for the period 2008-2010. The report, *Cooking Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)*, addresses the characteristics of these fires and is based on data gathered by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and other state jurisdictions and compiled in a national report. The research helps the U.S. fire service increase awareness about fire-safe cooking behaviors in communities and provide recommendations for behavioral mitigation strategies that reduce cooking fires and resultant injuries and fatalities. Educational video messages, research reports and presentations for public fire educators are available on the USFA's website.

SANDY COMPROMISED HEATING UNITS PROMPTS NJDFS PORTABLE HEATER ADVISORY



New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III and Acting State Fire Marshal William Kramer, Jr. caution that while portable heaters are a convenient method to heat homes, especially during cold snaps, it is critical that people follow the recommended safety guidelines during their use.

"Bitter cold temperatures may lead some households to turn to portable heaters to stay warm. This is especially true of families whose home heating system was damaged by Superstorm Sandy," said Commissioner Constable. "Even though portable heaters are small in size, they can cause tremendous damage and loss of life when not used properly. We urge people to recognize the potential danger of these heaters and take appropriate precautions to protect themselves."

Last year, the U.S. Fire Administration issued a special report entitled, *"Portable Heater Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)."* The report found that while only 2 percent of residential heating fires involved portable heaters, these heaters were involved in 45 percent of all fatal heating fires in residential buildings.

Also, an estimated 900 portable heater fires in residential buildings are reported to U.S. fire departments each year, causing an estimated 70 deaths, 150 injuries and \$53 million in property loss.

"The consequences of portable heater fires are substantial. But as with most fire incidents, many of these fires could have been prevented if households took the time to learn about how to properly use these heaters," said Acting State Fire Marshal Kramer.

- Turn the heater off when you leave the room or when you go to bed.
- Keep young children and pets at least three feet away.
- Keep combustible material such as bedding, curtains, and clothing three feet away.
- Plug the heater directly into wall outlets and never into a household extension cord or power strip.
- Only purchase and use heaters with a "tip over" switch that turns the heater off if it's knocked over.

For additional information:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v13i9.pdf>.



USFA AND NIJ ENDORSE HIGHWAY MARKING GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES



The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), supported by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and in partnership with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association's (CVVFA) Emergency Responder Safety Institute, announces availability of a guide to help emergency services departments increase the visibility of emergency vehicles to motorists in order to keep responders safe during roadway operations.

"The USFA staff is pleased to release this guide in support of our goal to reduce the number of emergency vehicle crashes and injuries to all emergency first responders," said U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell. "We are grateful for NIJ's continued support of this effort and for the work of the CVVFA to the benefit of the fire service, EMS and law enforcement personnel at work on our nation's roadways."

Vehicle Marking and Technology for Increased Highway Visibility – A Reference Guide for Decision-Makers provides information on best practices in the application of various arrangements of emergency warning devices, creative use of retro reflective decal markings and other innovative designs - all with the intent of increasing the visibility of emergency vehicles to motorists approaching them. It focuses on emergency vehicles not covered by existing standards in this area.



"Enhancing the operational safety of law enforcement officers and firefighters is a major priority of NIJ," said John H. Laub, Director of the National Institute of Justice. "We place a premium on partnerships like this one with the USFA because they multiply our ability to prevent accidents and save lives."

"CVVFA is pleased to release the results of this project that will support the decision makers in local fire, police and EMS departments on ways to enhance the emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety of their organizations," said CVVFA President Steven L. Haines. "We are grateful for the support of both USFA and NIJ in this effort to enhance the safety of emergency responders."

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/011713a.shtm>

FIREFIGHTERS BURN HOUSES TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT THE FIRE IN THE HOUSES THAT BURN



Fire researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and colleagues from fire service organizations turned an abandoned wood-frame, single-family house near the site of an old Spartanburg, S.C., textile mill into proving and training grounds for new science-driven fire-fighting techniques.

The objective of the study is to improve firefighter safety and effectiveness.

Experiments conducted in eight different houses will demonstrate fire-fighting methods—individually and in combinations—for strategically ventilating and isolating fires to prevent—or at least delay—flashover, the extremely perilous phenomenon that occurs when heat builds up in a burning structure’s contents and components to the point that they burst into flames simultaneously.

In conjunction with the experiments, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (IFSI) will

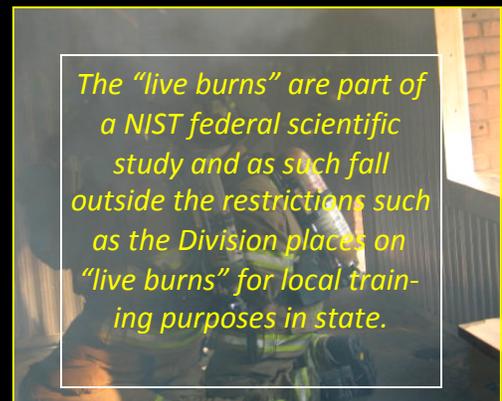
videotape how firefighters implement size-up, flowpath control, and exterior fire attack, also known as transitional attack. The IFSI will then develop training modules that will be available to firefighters across the country.

Other collaborators in the field experiments include the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the South Carolina Fire Academy, the Spartanburg Fire Department, the South Carolina State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Spartanburg Public Safety Office.

The project is funded with a DHS/FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

In July 2012, in another team effort, NIST fire researchers gathered data in experimental burns in 20 abandoned townhouses on New York’s Governors Island, about a kilometer from the southern tip of Manhattan.

The Spartanburg fire tests are being conducted in an area slated for a major redevelopment initiative.





AT ISSUE:

FIRE SERVICE FEDERAL FUNDING



(From NVFC)



On April 10, President Obama submitted the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget for the United States Government to Congress.

The budget request proposes reducing funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs by \$2.5 million each from the FY 2013 level of \$337.5 million.

The President is also requesting \$41.3 million for the United States Fire Administration (USFA). This represents a \$2.7 million reduction that includes cuts to support for state fire training academies, National Fire Academy course delivery, revision and development efforts, and funding for wildland fire initiatives.

The President's budget would eliminate the [automatic sequester](#), which resulted in an across-the-board five percent rescission for most non-defense discretionary spending accounts, including AFG/SAFER and USFA in FY 2013.

The President is proposing that the savings from the automatic sequester be replaced by raising taxes and cutting entitlement spending to reduce the budget deficit.

Under the President's budget, AFG and SAFER program management and administration costs would be paid for out of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Salaries and Expenses account rather than being taken from funds appropriated for the programs themselves.

This practice was established in the recently-enacted [FY 2013 appropriations bill](#).

"The President's budget request is the first step in the appropriations process," said National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "The NVFC will work closely with Congress to ensure that adequate support is provided to critical fire and emergency services programs and agencies."

The entire FY 2014 Budget for the United States Government is available for download at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb>.

Or view a detailed explanation from the Office of Management and Budget of the request for FEMA's [State and Local Programs](#) (including AFG and SAFER) and [USFA](#).

Use the NVFC's [Capwiz service](#) to ask your U.S. Representative to sign onto a letter to the House Appropriations Committee asking that AFG and SAFER funding not be cut in FY 2014. The deadline to sign onto this letter has been extended to April 17.





AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

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



A141/S266 (1)

Charitable registration fees

A145 (1)

Changes fire district election date

A266/S507 (3)

Firefighter Solar Panel Bill

A824 (1)

Move fire district election to Non partisan election date

A1030 (1)

Fire Company impact statement

A1044 (1)

Fire Department oxygen delivery notification

A1149 (1)

Fire District five year financials

A1187 (1)

Fire suppression systems for paratransit and school buses

A1382 (2)

Fire Company Utility Co. credit

A1503/S1896 (1)

Fire District share of tax appeal

A1555 (1)

State fire warden/incident commander reporting order

A1560 (2)

Approve firefighter transfer from PERS to PFRS

A1570/S2273 (2)

*Home Fire Sprinkler Bill
(Passed the Assembly)*

A1843/S1255 (2)

Group Home Fire Safety Act

A1881 (1)

Requires surplus state police vehicles go to volunteers

A2113/S2120 (1)

Contract arbitration time limit

A2120/S511 (1)

“Assistance to Firefighters Families Act”

A2243 (1)

Tenure for FOs after 4 years

A23334 (1)

Appoint paid chiefs

A2344 (1)

Residency credits on exams

A2348 (1)

Fire Commissioners Board/ EMS

A2463/S1650 (2)

Revises EMS service credentials

A2511 (1)

Workers Comp for Volunteers on Fire Calls

A2593 (2)

Designate a fire command structure in mutual aid

A2596/S1829 (2)

*Portable extinguisher one and two family homes exclusion
CONDITIONAL VETO*

A2600 (1)

Firefighter Exempt status

A2720 (1)

Established NJDFS in the DL&PS

A2756/S1469 (3)

LODD survivorship benefit

A2823 (1)

Upholstered furniture standards



AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

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



A2911 (1)

Fire District consolidation

A3263 (1)

Joint purchase agreements

A3302 (1)

Expand PFRS qualifications

A3362/S2256 (1)

Fire District tax exemption

SENATE

S500 (1)

*Municipal building
fire code compliance*

S503/A2291 (1)

*Requires O2 providers to advise
FD when delivery ends*

S565 (1)

Fire-EMS Crisis Hotline

S914 (1)

Apply NYC Bldg. Code to WTC

S921/A1881 (1)

State Police surplus vehicles

S1255/A1843 (3)

Group Home Fire Safety Act

S1299 (1)

Fire Commissioner elections

S1356 (1)

*Fire academy exemption from
Highlands Act*

S1397/A2593 (2)

Mutual aid fire command

S1423 (1)

Fire district election day change

S1469/A2756 (3)

LODD survivorship benefit

S1605 (1)

Fire Safety seat on the DSPPG

S1774 (1)

District elections date change

S1896/A1503 (1)

*Fire District share of successful
property tax appeal refunds*

S1918/A3263 (2)

Joint purchase agreements

S1975 (1)

Internet site for fire equipment

S2146 (1)

Change Fire District voting day

S2183 (1)

NJDFS standard for Type 1 tank

S2205/A3302 (1)

PERS to PFRS eligibility

S2244 (1)

Campus fire reporting

S2256 (1)

Fire district tax exemption

S2273/A1570 (2)

Home Fire Sprinkler Bill

S2320 (1)

Contract arbitration time limit

SCR93 (1)

First Responder tax credit

UPDATES

www.njleg.state.nj.us

USFA POSTS FIRE IS EVERYONE'S FIGHT PSAs AS PART OF NEW NATIONAL PREVENTION PUSH



The US lags behind countries such as Japan by historically categorizing fire for the most part as an “unfortunate accident.” That has to change.

The debut of a new *national* and long overdue fire prevention initiative hopes to instill in individuals a sense of *personal responsibility* for preventing home fires—so long a part of the successful Smokey™ campaign—for the places fire code enforcement cannot currently reach, and, where ironically most fires now occur, single-family homes and multi-family residences.

In that regard, the USFA and the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety recognize the power of partnership as a critical means of marketing and driving down accurate, consistent and grassroots safety messages into the community introduces:

Fire is Everyone's Fight™

The program is based on social marketing research commissioned by the grassroots Vision 20/20 fire safety consortium with funding

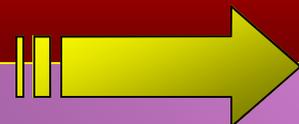
from an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

NJDFS and USFA are asking our local partners to use the ***Fire is Everyone's Fight™*** tagline with existing or new materials. Based on partner resources, they may implement a number of strategies, such as sharing information with staff, organizations, community groups, and other stakeholders.

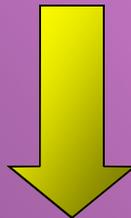
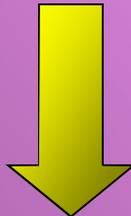
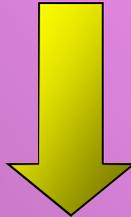
By leveraging ***Fire is Everyone's Fight™*** resources, supporting dissemination or advertising efforts and supporting local stakeholders to join in the initiative, the fire service in our state can present a consistent, repetitive message that helps diverse members of our society take action to reduce their risk of fire.

This includes support for PSA placements, educational outreach to community organizations, local media relations activities and other activities.

***BEGIN YOUR PARTICIPATION
BY POSTING THE CAMPAIGN
VIDEO PSAs TO YOUR LOCAL
WEBSITE OR BY PROVIDING
A LINK TO THEM, INCLUDE
A LOCALIZED PREVENTION
MESSAGE IN THE PROMPT***



USFA POSTS FIRE IS EVERYONE'S FIGHT PSAs AS PART OF NEW APPROACH TO FIRE SAFETY



[http://www.youtube.com/playlist?
list=PL69D1444B992E92E8](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL69D1444B992E92E8)



Here is a list of “must dos” for all career, volunteer, local fire official, local public safety or OEM prevention personnel in New Jersey to make absolutely certain this effort is recognized by the citizens they serve as *the* community fire prevention message.

- ▶ Incorporate the theme ***Fire is Everyone's Fight™*** into your existing fire prevention materials or create new fire prevention and safety materials with the theme.
- ▶ Provide a list of the audiences to which the partners reach out on a regular basis (older adults, parents, teachers, local businesses, etc.).
- ▶ Provide a list of communications tools that the partners have resources and access to produce (radio PSAs, TV PSAs, newsletters, websites, blogs, etc.).
- ▶ Help identify new tools and resources to fill gaps and strengthen outreach efforts. Identify barriers and challenges to address collaboratively.

USFA will lead an effort to determine what resources are already available to the public as well as fire and life safety organizations, highlighting those that have been evaluated for effectiveness. Once this inventory of the materials is completed, USFA will work with its partners to identify the gaps. Where possible, USFA will develop new resources to meet key needs.

Learn how your fire service organization can support the development of this exciting initiative and share your ideas with USFA about ways to help it grow in communities across America.

For more information, contact:
Teresa Neal at (301) 447-1024 or
Teresa.Neal@fema.dhs.gov



Arthur Mercurio

1923-2013

Art Mercurio long serving member of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, representing The New Jersey State Volunteer Fireman's Association, answered the last call on January 16, 2013.

Art served in the United States Navy during WW II. He was employed by RCA in Camden and in Moorestown, New Jersey.

Residing in Collingswood, New Jersey since 1947, Art was a 50 year member of the Collingswood Fire Department and a Past President of the New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Those of us who knew him and called him friend will recall his kind concern, his caring manner and his advocacy for firefighters statewide.

Our Brother and our Good Friend

REST IN PEACE



1951-2013

Paul E. Hartstein

Chief Fire Marshal Paul E. Hartstein began his career with the Camden County Fire Marshal's Office in December of 1981. Paul started out as a Deputy Fire Marshal serving in that position for ten years, of which his duties included working in the fire investigation unit and code enforcement. In 1991, Paul was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Fire Marshal where he would serve for the next four years ultimately being promoted to the distinguished position of Chief Fire Marshal where he served out the balance of his career for the next sixteen years.

Paul started his career in the fire service when he joined the Audubon Volunteer Fire Department in 1966. Paul served as Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and Chief of the Audubon Fire Department. Paul also belonged to many organizations including the New Jersey Association of County Fire Marshal's, New Jersey State Firemen's Association, the Camden County Firemen's Association, the Camden County Fire Chief's and Fire Officer's Association, New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Burn Foundation of Philadelphia, the Camden County Hero Scholarship and the New Jersey State Fire Safety Commission.

On November 30, 2012, Paul received an award from the New Jersey State Juvenile Firesetters Council on behalf of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. The award was given to him for his tireless efforts and dedication in support of juvenile firesetter awareness and intervention throughout the State of New Jersey. On February 2, 2013, Paul was presented an award by the Audubon Fire Department for his dedication and for gratefully serving the Borough of Audubon the past 40 years.

Paul proudly resided in Audubon, and leaves behind his wife, Annette, and two children, Jennifer & Paul. He retired May 1' 2011 as Chief of the Camden County Fire Marshal Office following 30 years of service to the County of Camden.

Our Brother and our Good Friend

REST IN PEACE

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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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