

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
Spring 2015

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 11, Issue 1



“We are extremely gratified to work again with our major sponsors and partner firefighters by getting these potentially life saving devices to the more vulnerable members of the community throughout the state. A working smoke or CO alarm can warn in advance of a life threatening event and can help protect those among us who are most at risk,” said William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director and New Jersey State Fire Marshal.

(more)



The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal joins with the major sponsors of the 2015 ABC 7 Operation-Save-A-Life campaign, overseeing distribution of smoke alarms at no charge to at-risk households through local fire departments throughout the northern part of the state.

A similar program hosted by ABC 6 Philadelphia and the local Home Depot sees to the distribution for many communities in South Jersey.



IN THIS POSTING...

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY STUDY

THE GUIDE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

EDGEWATER FIRE: TALE OF TWO CITIES?

LEARN ABOUT THE BLUE CAMPAIGN

“HUNTER “ OUR NJDFS ARSON CANINE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

-click icon below for smoking safety-

Smoking & Home Fires

Smoking is the #1 cause of preventable home fire deaths.
IF YOU SMOKE, PUT IT OUT. ALL THE WAY. EVERY TIME.





Major Christopher Eckert NJDFS Arson Unit speaks on behalf of the men and women of the New Jersey Fire Service by expressing a heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve at-risk populations through the auspices of the program.

The moment was a tad bittersweet for Major Eckert owed to his expected retirement this year. Major Eckert served most of his tenure with the Division taking over the Arson Unit and introducing canines to the fight waged against the human and property loss to fire in New Jersey. We take this opportunity to salute your record of service, and wish you a well deserved respite from your career long dedication to the noble causes of justice and fire safety.





New Jersey Division of Fire Safety uniformed personnel attend the WABC7 Operation Save-A-Life Kick Off Breakfast .

The Division has been a consistent partner in the smoke alarm giveaway program since 1999. Joined by departmental representatives from the NJ-NY area are left to right: Charles Lavin New Jersey Operation Save A Life Coordinator, Bruce Tynan NJDFS UASI Coordinator, Tim Weiss Northwest Region Coordinator, Lou Kilmer, NJDFS Chief of Inspections, Major Eckert, Jim McFadden NJDFS ROIC Coordinator and Major Rick Farletta, NJDFS Preparedness Unit Supervisor.



GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR ALL

NJDFS-KEAN SPRING 2015 COURSES OFFER TO YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO SUCCEED

SPRING 2015 TRAINING COURSES for Fire Officials, Fire Inspectors, Fire Instructors and Firefighters



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



**PUBLIC EDUCATION FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS
FOR FAMILIES AND SENIORS**
Instructor: Joseph Vallo, Jersey City Fire Department
CE151

ATLANTIC COUNTY FIRE TRAINING CENTER

5033 English Creek Avenue, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Phone: 609-407-6743, Fax: 609-407-6745



The Atlantic County Fire Training Center is part of the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center, which also houses Police and EMS Training. It was opened 21 years ago in 1994 and is comprised of a three story burn building, a six story drill tower, a confined space simulator, a flashover simulator, a drafting pond, a two story smoke house, an extrication pad, a roof operations simulator, and a four evolution propane pad. During 2014, the fire academy ran 79 courses in all areas of firematic training and trained 921 firefighters through its courses with a total of 1,621 firefighters using the facility. The academy is unique in that it is run by the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association who has a 99 year training contract with the County to provide fire training.

The Atlantic County Fire Training Center has 36 instructors, who are employees of the Fire Fighters Association, and who with cooperation with Atlantic County continue to provide up to date training programs to keep our firefighters current in areas of operations. We continue to offer Firefighter I & II, Fire Officer I & II, Basic and Advanced Pump, Basic and Advanced Extrication, Rope Rescue I & II, Confined Space Operations, Engine and Ladder Company Operations, Flashover Awareness, Propane Operations, Emergency Vehicle Operations, SCBA Competency, RIT Awareness and Operations, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor I & II, Basic Fire Investigation and all ICS courses on an annual basis.

Our goal is to provide the exceptional fire training to both our career and volunteer firefighters giving them the tools they need to survive, and make safe and effective decisions. Please feel free to visit our web site at www.atlantcountyfireassoc.org.

"FIRE IS"

**Instructors: Andrew Stratton, Captain, Cranford Fire Department
Helge Nordveit, Captain (ret.), Cranford Fire Department
Joseph Ehrhardt, Firefighter, Nottingham Fire Company**

CE159

This course will provide fire service personnel with a comprehensive overview of the education curriculum. The goal of this program, is not only reaching middle school begin to understand fire, but their parents/guardians and caregivers as well. The course is on a home-based learning system employing television, the internet, and public view face on fire safety. Session attendees will receive copies of the program, letters of pilot schools in NJ who have heralded its success; a course curriculum guide; and on how to implement the program without taxing the schools' current curriculum or instructor will present the media and public views on how fire safety and the fire service media to children and their families.

- FRIDAY, MARCH 20** MONMOUTH COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY
- THURSDAY, APRIL 9** SOMERSET COUNTY ESTA
- FRIDAY, APRIL 17** ATLANTIC COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY

The NJDFS-Kean University Spring course catalogue is now online and available. The Atlantic County Fire Training Center is one of many of the county training sites that host fire service specific courses put on by NJDFS and Kean University. A trained fire force is an effective one.

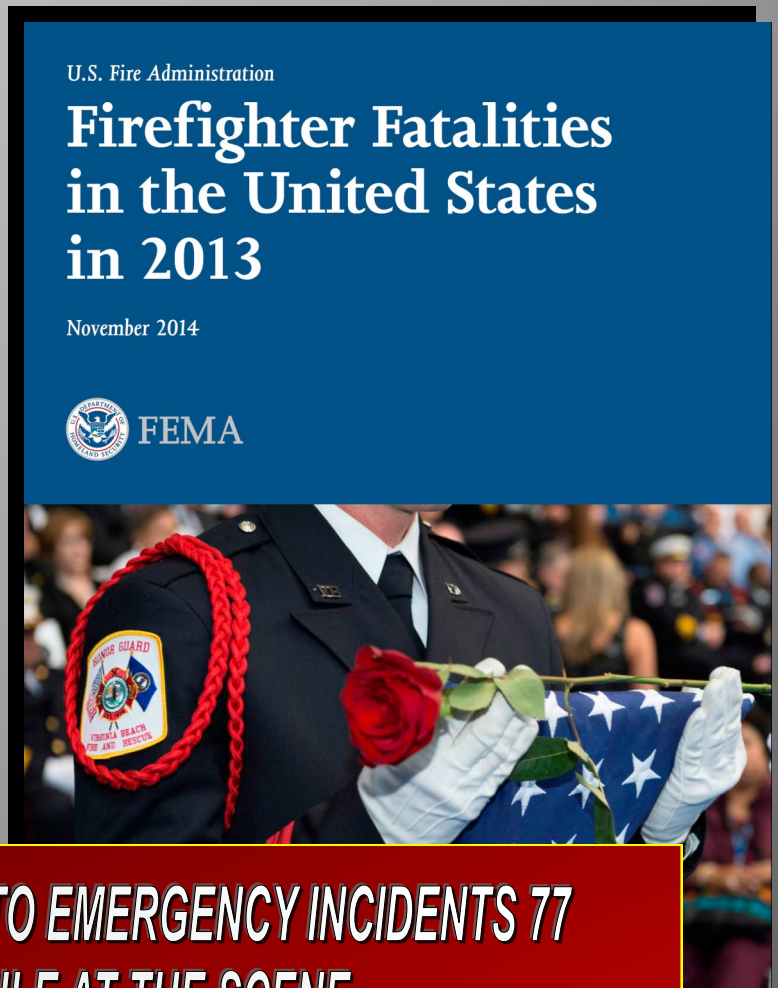
Click the course catalogue above to view all the courses Register for training today!

US FIRE ADMINISTRATION DETAILS 2013 FIREFIGHTER DEATHS NATIONWIDE

*Barry Stires,
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Jeffrey Scheuerer,
New Jersey Forest Fire Service
Robert Winemiller
Spring Lake Fire Department
Kevin Perrone
Lanoka Harbor Fire Department
David Lidke
Hightstown Engine Company #1*

The year was an especially tragic one for firefighters nationwide and in New Jersey. The latest available report from the US Fire Administration attempts to identify the circumstances surrounding the losses, in hope to find reasons and recourse to reducing the sad toll taken on both career and volunteer firefighters.

[THE FULL REPORT](#)



**ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EMERGENCY INCIDENTS 77
55 DIED WHILE AT THE SCENE
14 RESPONDING OR RETURNING
NINE FIREFIGHTERS DIED IN VEHICLE COLLISIONS
36 SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK
SEVEN DIED IN TRAINING**

CDC-USFA TOOLKIT PROVIDES THE BLUEPRINT FOR LOCAL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION EFFORT

Local career and volunteer fire departments now have a blueprint to follow for their public safety education efforts. The [“Fire Safety Program TOOLKIT: A Comprehensive Resource For Fire Safety Educators”](#) is a guide that can be downloaded by clicking the above link.

Public fire safety education does not get the level of national priority afforded other public safety campaigns. With this in mind, the responsibility shifts to the ability of individual firefighters to advance the cause.

Thankfully, the most credible authority on the ravages of fire are the ones who consistently risk their lives to battle it. It’s said that a firefighter walks into any room at 100 percent when it comes to the public regard of the profession.



FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM TOOLKIT

A Comprehensive Resource for Fire Safety Educators



FEMA

U.S. Fire Administration



COUNTERFEIT SPRINKLERS PROMPTS UL ISSUED WARNING TO FIRE INSPECTORS



COUNTERFEIT SPRINKLERS

1. *"TYCO" AND "UL" marked on the side of the wrench flat.*
2. *cULus in a circle marked on the side of the frame. "68C" and "SSP on the deflector without the TY #*
3. *Deflector material zinc plated steel (magnetic)*
4. *5mm glass bulb no markings*



GENUINE SPRINKLERS

1. *"TYCO" marked on one wrench flat, date code on the other wrench flat.*
2. *cULus in a circle, "155°F/68°C" "SP" and "TY3251 marked on the deflector.*
3. *Deflector material brass with chrome or painted white (non-magnetic).*
4. *5mm Geissler glass bulb- "G" between two triangles on one side and lot # on opposite side.*

CDC COMPLETES LONG TERM STUDY OF CANCER INCIDENCES IN FIREFIGHTERS



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™



The Center for Disease Control has just released a long-term study of career firefighters in Chicago and Philadelphia, which according to the study show evidence of a “casual relationship” between exposure and incidences of certain types of cancers. It is by no means definitive and the authors note that more studies are warranted.

Please follow the link below to read the full report.

[CDC Firefighter Cancer Study](#)

NEW JERSEY WEEKEND 2015 AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY: BE THERE!



New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy is an excellent venue to join with fellow firefighters from across the state. Though the state possesses perhaps the most diversified array of firefighting efforts, career, volunteer, combo, urban, suburban, rural and wildland the certainty is that there is a commonality of experiences and purpose. Take advantage of the opportunity by registering today. In addition to the fellowship on campus it is in close proximity to the National Military Park at Gettysburg and the annual reenactment this year on July 4th. Registration Deadline: April 29, 2015.



THE NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL



Conceived as a tribute to America's fire service, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial is one of this country's most beautiful monuments to courage and unselfish service. Constructed in 1981 on the campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the Memorial was officially designated by Congress as the National Memorial to career and volunteer fallen firefighters in 1990. It is a symbol of honor for those who carry on the tradition of service to their communities.

DINING HALL AND LOG CABIN

Use your meal ticket on Saturday and Sunday to have breakfast and lunch in the on-campus dining hall. Meals are provided buffet style during the following times: Breakfast: 6:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Saturday evening's meal: 6:00 p.m. at the log cabin. The log cabin overlooks peaceful Tom's Creek.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES BUILDING

After classes, a fully equipped gymnasium, weight room, and an indoor swimming pool are available for your use at the Athletic Facility Building. The exercise room and swimming pool hours are: Friday evening: 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and Saturday evening: 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Athletic equipment is available for check-out at this location. This includes softball, golf, basketball and volleyball equipment as well as bicycles and helmets. Bathing suits/trunks are not permitted outside the pool area.



EDGEWATER FIRE MAY HAVE CONSEQUENCES ON THE FLOOR OF THE NJ ASSEMBLY



"I rise today to extend my sympathies to the families and recognize and honor the brave men and women of the Edgewater Volunteer Fire Department who responded to this devastating blaze as well as over 500 first responders from 35 municipalities who came to Edgewater, rescued victims and battled flames that blazed for seven hours."

Representative Bill Pascrell on the floor of the US House of Representatives.



PHOTOS BRUCE TYNAN

FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION CHAIR CALLS EDGEWATER FIRE 'CATALYST FOR CHANGE'

As the Chairman of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission and someone who has served on the Commission since 1996, I have learned how hard a major fire can be on the residents who are displaced and whose possessions are destroyed. I have also learned how hard it can be on a municipality, its first responders and citizens.

The 1984 Great Adventure Haunted House Fire that claimed eight lives was one of these major fires. It resulted in New Jersey requiring a fire sprinkler system in any dark attraction. The 2000 Seton Hall dormitory fire killed three and injured 58. That tragedy resulted in New Jersey retrofitting all school residence halls with fire sprinklers.

The reactions to these events were swift and decisive. New Jersey legislators, working with fire safety professionals, identified what had to be done and worked alongside each other in order to make this state a better, safer place to live. Today, I fear we are no longer identifying glaring deficiencies in fire safety and responding. Ultimately, we are putting our citizens at great risk.

In the past 16 months New Jersey has suffered no less than five major fire events that have received national attention. The Seaside Boardwalk fire humbled us with how quickly a fire could spread in certain conditions, and yet the Boardwalk is being rebuilt with limited fire safety improvements.

An 11-alarm fire at South Jersey's Dietz and Watson factory in which solar panels impeded firefighters' ability to contain the blaze exposed another serious fire safety flaw left unaddressed. Given our state is a national leader in solar energy, this is a massive problem.

The Point Pleasant Beach Mariners Cove Motel fire, which killed four people less than a year ago, should have opened our eyes. Antiquated structures such as these were grandfathered, exempting them from sprinkler systems requirements. Surely after such a tragic outcome New Jersey should have done something to ensure that people staying in such buildings were better protected.

The James Monroe Elementary School in Edison burned to the ground. Today, the superintendent of Edison schools continues to struggle to get the insurance company to pay for a fire sprinkler system in the new school. Why? It is not required by New Jersey's fire safety code.

As the nation watched The Avalon Apartment Complex in Edgewater burn, we saw what our firefighters have been telling us for years. Lightweight construction materials that are commonly used in new construction may be economical, but when fire is introduced it goes up like kindling wood. The images of the fire raging and the building collapsing in on itself are haunting. What's more haunting is to think what could have happened if everyone wasn't able to escape.

Thankfully only minor injuries were reported in Edgewater. The structure's fire sprinkler system was designed for life safety allowing occupants the time they needed to escape. Thanks to the sprinklers and first responders, they did.

Structures with similar construction are being built to house New Jersey families every day, except with one major difference. In New Jersey, one and two family homes are not required to have a residential fire sprinkler system. Given what we saw in Edgewater, we need to respond to this glaring deficiency swiftly and decisively.

Last legislative session, the New Jersey Assembly and Senate passed the New Home Fire Safety Act which would require fire sprinkler systems in new one and two-family homes. Governor Christie refused to sign the bill, and the session ended without this important life safety measure being enacted into law. This session, I reintroduced the same bill (A1698), which has, again, passed in the Assembly and currently awaits a final vote in the Senate.

We all need to educate ourselves about fire safety, including the dangers of lightweight construction and the benefits of residential fire sprinkler systems. And if you agree with me and support the New Home Fire Safety Act, contact your elected officials. This time, let the Edgewater fire be a catalyst for change and let's not wait for another tragedy ere lives may be lost.

Honorable John Wiseniewski
Assemblyman 19th District
Chairman New Jersey Fire Safety Commission

USFA RESIDENTIAL FIRES DATA REVEAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES AS NUMBER ONE KILLER



**82 percent of ALL fire deaths
78 percent of all injuries**

**51 percent occurred in bedrooms
52 percent between 1100 to 0700 hours
37 percent attempting to get out
33 percent sleeping**

The US Fire Administration publishes timely updates on fire fatalities nationwide. The most recent study, 2010 through 2012, shows the trend NJDFS gathered in 2013 showing 60 New Jersey residents lost their lives in a home fire that year.

Further, by far the most common cause of residential fire continues to be cooking. Not all of those reported fires result in fatalities, but of those that do, residential dwellings are where they occur.

[THE FULL REPORT](#)

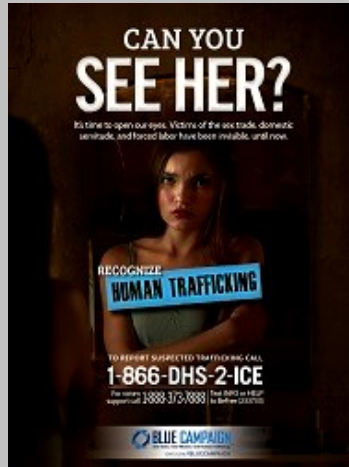
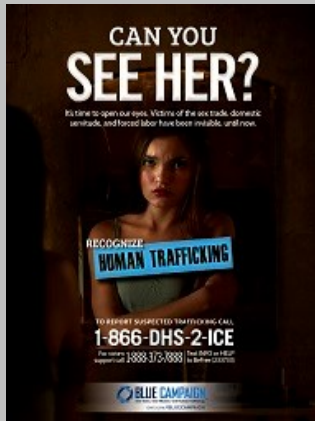
Most Frequent Fire Incident Types Involving Residential Property Uses



Picture courtesy of Chris Tompkins:
Garfield, New Jersey; March 19, 2013

***Fire in New Jersey 2013" Report**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROBLEM NOW WARRANTS FIRST RESPONDER ATTENTION

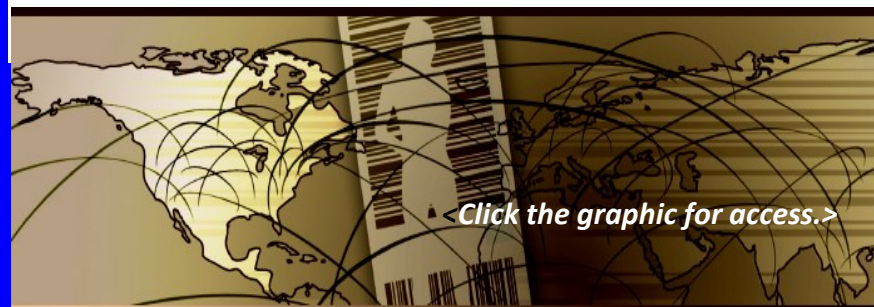


National Freedom Day February 1 each year is the culmination of a month long national conversation about human trafficking, exemplified by Governor Christie is his call for awareness of it before last year's New Jersey hosted Super Bowl.

The Department of Homeland Security [Blue Campaign](#) is designed to identify victims of possible human trafficking. The DHS sees first responders and firefighters as natural allies in fight the since the nature of their task may bring them into direct contact with victims of this heinous crime. Each year millions worldwide are forced into involuntary servitude for commercial gain. Sadly many of the victims are children. It is imperative that public safety personnel are aware of how to recognize possible victims.

The DHS produces a comprehensive guide to assist public safety professionals in doing just that.

THE BLUE CAMPAIGN



**Directory of Training and Technical Assistance Resources
for Anti-Human Trafficking Task Forces and Service Providers**

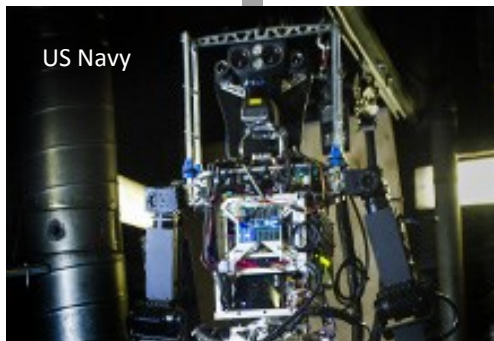
IN THE FUTURE FIREFIGHTING MAY HAVE MORE TO DO WITH SAFFiR THAN S.A.F.E.R

Scientists unveiled a firefighting robot prototype Feb. 4 at the Naval Future Force Science & Technology EXPO, revealing details about its successful demonstrations last fall aboard the USS Shadwell, a decommissioned Navy vessel.

The Shipboard Autonomous Firefighting Robot (SAFFiR), sponsored by the Office of Naval Research (ONR), walked across uneven floors, used thermal imaging to identify overheated equipment, and used a hose to extinguish a small fire in a series of experiments Nov. 3-5, 2014.

Video: [Watch SAFFiR in action](#)

Developed by researchers at Virginia Tech, the two-legged, or bipedal, humanoid robot is helping ONR evaluate the applications of unmanned systems in damage control and inspections aboard naval vessels, supporting the autonomy and unmanned systems focus area in the Navy's Science and Technology Strategy.



“We set out to build and demonstrate a humanoid capable of mobility aboard a ship, manipulating doors and fire hoses, and equipped with sensors to see and navigate through smoke,” said Dr. Thomas McKenna, ONR program manager for human-robot interaction and cognitive neuroscience. “The long-term goal is to keep Sailors from the danger of direct exposure to fire.”

SAFFiR stands 5 feet 10 inches and weighs 143 pounds. The unique mechanism design on the robot equips it with super-human range of motion to maneuver in complex spaces.

“Balancing on any type of terrain that’s unstable – especially for bipedal robots – is very difficult,” said Brian Lattimer, associate professor for mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech. “Whole-body momentum control allows for the robot to optimize the locations of all of its joints so that it maintains its center of mass on uncertain and unstable surfaces.”

Sensors, including infrared stereovision and a rotating laser for light detection and ranging (LIDAR), enable the humanoid to see through dense smoke. It is programmed to take measured steps and handle hoses on his own, but for now, takes his instruction from researchers at computer console.

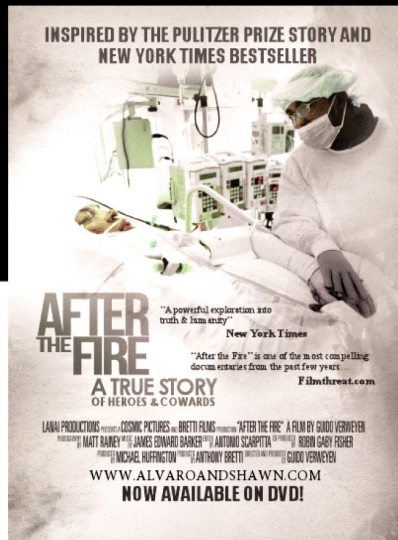
“The robot has the ability to do autonomous tasks, but we have a human in the loop to allow an operator to intervene in any type of task that the robot’s doing,” Lattimer said.

McKenna plans to sponsor a more advanced design as part of the long-term investigational research program. Blueprints include equipping the robot with enhanced intelligence, communications capabilities, speed, computing power and battery life for extended applications.

“For instance, a bipedal robot could be configured to take shipboard measurements, scan for corrosion and leaks, and identify changes to the shape of the room from its original configuration. Even with added intelligence, however, SAFFiR will take its instruction from Sailors and “fire bosses” working remotely in the event of a fire or other dangerous event.

COLLEGE AND WILDFIRE OPPORTUNITIES TO RAISE COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS

AFTER THE FIRE— THE MOVIE & COLLEGE TOUR



In the frigid predawn hours of January 19, 2000, the lives of thousands—maybe even millions, we're changed—because of a great tragedy on the campus of Seton Hall University.

In Boland Hall, a freshman dormitory of the South Orange, NJ campus, what many students thought was another night of fire alarms turned out to be the real thing. Three freshman students passed away, fifty-eight others were injured. Among the injured, two roommates, Alvaro Llamas and Shawn Simons, were two of the most severely burned students.

Los Angeles-based filmmaker Guido Verweyen documented the trials and tribulations associated with Shawn and Alvaro's recovery in a 50-minute documentary entitled, "After the Fire: A Story of Heroes and Cowards," based on the reporting of journalist and author, Robin Gaby Fisher's 7-part series in the Newark Star-Ledger and later New York Times Best Selling book, "After the Fire: A True Story of Friendship and Survival."

THE COLLEGE TOUR ... Shawn & Alvaro want to visit your campus to show you a powerful film and to share their stories with students and faculty, and to re-emphasize the importance of fire safety. There are components included in their approximately 2 hour presentation that will be a great asset to the students and staff of your school. Discussion topics include: fire alarms, sprinkler systems, escape plans, and the effects of panics. They also discuss overcoming adversity - the physical and emotional toll faced during the tragedy and much more.

[MORE: Contact Shawn, (862) 215-6052, shawnsimons@afterthefire@gmail.com.

"This presentation has been commended for being instrumental in the lives of college students, mainly in-coming freshman because they are sometimes naïve or feel indestructible to tragedy."

To view the trailer of this DVD, please visit www.ALVAROANDSHAWN.com



www.ALVAROANDSHAWN.com

There are few things that help you reach college bound high school seniors about their personal fire safety away from home than "After the Fire." This riveting story may well be the best movie ever done on the subject. 2015 is the 15th anniversary of the Seton Hall fire.

Local fire departments and LEAs can be assured that there will be no distractions or disruptions during the presentation. Depending on their availability, Shawn Simon and Alvaro Llamas may be able to speak about the film. Click the adjacent graphic to contact Shawn and Al directly.

WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY Saturday, May 2, 2015

PEOPLE PROJECTS PURPOSE

Sixty-five \$500 project funding awards available to implement neighborhood projects

Apply January 29 – March 5, 2015

Get your community involved in the reality of wildfire and urban grassland fire in New Jersey

[2015 FAC FIELD GUIDE](#)

www.WildfirePrepDay.org



New Jersey State Wildfire season begins in April and communities abutting both woodland and urban grassland areas are vulnerable during any dry, windy day.

A great way to raise community awareness is through activities related to Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

Click the flyer and see how your fire department or LEA may qualify for a funding grant.

Sponsored by:



NFPA, Fire Adopted Communities (FAC) and State Farm are pleased to support the 2015 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day campaign, but have not assessed or endorsed any of the community projects, activities or initiatives. Recognition of any kind in no way implies endorsement or approval of a project, its safety or effectiveness, and the supporters disclaim all liability in connection with any such project, activity or initiative.

**NJ STATE FIRE MARSHAL
ARSON/K-9 UNIT**



**K-9 HUNTER
END OF WATCH 1-30-15
RIP FAITHFUL FRIEND**



AT ISSUE:

Pascrell to Lead Congressional Fire Services Caucus but Lacks Membership



New Jersey Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) has been selected as the chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus for the 114th Congress.

First elected to Congress in 1996, Congressman Pascrell has been a tireless advocate for the nation's fire and emergency services.

Throughout his career in Congress, he has sponsored numerous bills to address the needs of the fire service, and is recognized as one of the principal authors of the legislation that established the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs. In 2001 and 2005, Congressman Pascrell was selected as a co-recipient of the CFSI Legislator of the Year Award for his leadership and support of the nation's fire and emergency services.



"It's an honor to be selected by my colleagues to serve as chairman of one of the most important caucuses in Congress," said Congressman Pascrell, an original member of the House Homeland Security Committee. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to ensure our brave first responders are adequately prepared to protect our communities while recognizing them for their bravery and sacrifice."

"I will also continue to fight and ensure the FIRE and SAFER grant programs are fully funded to not only protect the lives of our first responders, but also the precious lives in our communities."

Heading into the 2014 mid-term elections, there were 257 members of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. 22 caucus members retired, 18 were defeated in the election, two members had unsuccessful bids for governor of their respective states, and one member resigned.

At the start of the 114th Congress, there are 214 members of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. While the Fire Caucus still remains one of the largest caucuses in Congress, this is one of the lowest memberships level since the caucus was first formed.

Recognizing a robust and active caucus is necessary for the fire service's success on Capitol Hill, CFSI will be vigorously working with the Fire Caucus leadership to recruit new members. Every firefighter is encouraged to personally reach out to their members on Congress to ask them to join the Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

(From CFSI)



AT ISSUE:

*Pending National Legislation with
New Jersey Fire Service Impact*



The 114th Congress has convened. Twelve new Senators and 52 new House members have joined Congress. Lawmakers wasted no time getting to work.

The House Appropriations Committee has released H.R. 240, the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. The bill provides \$39.7 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, and increase of \$400 million over the previous fiscal year.

Included in the spending bill is funding for a number of programs of importance for the nation's fire and emergency services.

The Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs are funded at \$340 million each. This is the same amount as in Fiscal Year 2014. The White House had initially requested \$670 million to be split evenly between the two programs, a decrease of \$10 million.

The bill also includes \$44 million for the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and \$35.18 million for the Urban Search and Rescue System, the same amounts as in Fiscal Year 2014. The White House had requested \$41.407 million for USFA and \$27.513 million for the Urban Search and Rescue System.

The Department of Homeland Security is currently operating under a continuing resolution until the end of February. A continuing resolution allows the

government to fund operations in lieu of a formal budget.

The 113th Congress adjourned without passing an appropriations bill for the department due to Congressional leaders opposition to the White House's immigration policies.

The House is expected to start consideration of the bill soon.

Congressman Lou Barletta (PA-11) introduced H.R. 33, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act. The legislation ensures that volunteer fire departments will not be required to provide health insurance to their members under the employer shared responsibility provisions ("employer mandate") of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is scheduled to release regulations that includes language stating that fire departments and municipal governments will not need to include volunteers when calculating the number of full-time employees (or full-time equivalents) for the purposes of PPACA. H.R. 33 codifies the regulations.

The House of Representatives has unanimously approved the legislation. It will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

(From CSFI)



AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING 2014-2015

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



ASSEMBLY

A391 (1)

Impact statement affecting
volunteer fire company
(Bucco R-25)

A499 (2)

Fire District property tax
Exemption
(Referred to State & Local)
(Schlepisi D-39)

A507 (1)

Charitable Fee Exemption for Fire
Company
(Peterson R-23)

A511 (2)

Change District Election Date
Referred to Assembly Judiciary
(Peterson R-23)

A942 (2)

“Assistance to Firefighter
Families Act”
(Referred to Labor)
(Wisniewski D-19)

A1039 (2)

Fire Department Drones
(Reported out with
Amendments)
(Prieto)

A1128 (2)

Increase Arbitration Time
(Referred to Labor)
(O’Scanlon)

A 1224 (2)

Fire District consolidation
(Referred to S&LG)
(McGuckin)

A1250 (2)

Fire Official Tenure
(Referred to HS&SP)
(Prieto)

A1408 (2)

Fire Company Utility Credit
(Referred to Telecom)
(Chivukula)

A1537 (2)

Exempt Certificate Duty Limit
(Reported out of HS&SP)
(Rible)

A1689 (2)

PERS to PFRS for
certain Firefighters
(Referred to S&LG)
(Wisniewski)

A1698 (3)

Residential Sprinkler Bill
(To Senate Urban Affairs)
(Wisniewski)

A1976 (2)

Report On Campus Fires to
University Board of Directors
(Referred to H.E.)
(Riley)

A1987 (1)

Sample Ballots for
Fire District Elections
(Riley D-3)

A2147 (2)

FD Drone Restrictions
(Referred to HS&SP)
(Casagrande)

A2319 (2)

Fair share of tax appeal refunds
from Fire Departments
Referred to S&LG)
(Bucco)

A2689 (2)

State Police surplus vehicles
to Fire Departments
(Referred to S&LG)
(De Angelo)

A2746 (2)

Upholstered Furniture Fire Safety
Regulations via DFS
(Referred to CA)
(McKeon)



AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING 2014-2015

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



A2779 (2)

**Maximize Contribution to Fire
Company Biennially by Towns
(Reported out)
(Andrejczak D-1)**

A2945 (2)

**Permanent FD Arbitration Cap
(Referred to Labor)
(Rodriguez)**

A2947 (2)

**November Fire District Elections
(Referred to Judiciary)
(Dancer R-12)**

A2996 (3)

**Require Fire Hydrant
Snow Removal
(Received in the Senate)
(Lagana D-38)**

A3048 (2)

**Municipal Fire Safety Purposes
(Referred to S&LG)
(Brown)**

A3067 (2)

**Fire Salary Arbitration Cap
-Substituted by S1869-
(Preito)**

A3299 (1)

**Database of all Hotels-Motels
(MuGuiken)**

A3307(1)

**12K Sq. School Fire Suppression
(McGuiken)**

A4073(1)

**Korman's and Parks Law
(Schaer)**

ACR99 (2)

**\$ 200 Property Tax Credit
for Volunteers
(Referred to Homeland Security)
(Singleton)**

SENATE

S106 ((2)

**Certify Municipal Building
Meets Fire Code
(Referred to Senate)
(Bucco)**

S458 (2)

**Fire-EMS Crisis Hotline
(Law & Public Safety)
(Madden)**

S485 (2)

**Report On Campus Fires to
University Board of Directors
(Referred Higher Ed.)
(Cunningham)**

S812 (2)

**Change Fire District
Election Date
(Referred to SGW T&HP)
(Beach)
S830 (2)
Companion A942**

S851 (2)

**Solar Panel Building Emblem
(Referred to L&PS)
(Norcross)**

S1023 (2)

**Fire District Consolidation
(Referred to SC&UA)
(Bucco)**

S1036(1)

Companion A2835

S1092 (2)

**Companion A1537
(Passed by the Senate)
(Rible)**

S1102 (2)

**Seat for Fire Service on
Domestic Security Group
(Referred to L&PS)
(Bucco)**

S1221 (2)

**"Group Home Fire Safety Act"
(Referred to HHS&SC)
(Vitale)**



AT ISSUE:

NEW JERSEY FIRE SERVICE LEGISLATIVE TRACKING 2014-2015

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



S1288 (2)
Charitable Fee Exemption
(Referred to L&PS)
(Doherty)
S1480 (2)
**Maximizes Municipal
Contribution to Fire Safety**
(Reported out of SC&UA)
(Van Drew)

S2094 (2)
**Fire suppression in all primary
and secondary schools**
(Referred to Education)
(Hozaphel)

S2117(1)
**Emergency Fire Systems In
Certain Situations**
(Greenstein)

S2130(1)
**Move Fire District Elections to
November**
(Referred to G.W.T & HT)
(Turner)

S2316(2)
Residential Sprinkler Bill
(Referred to Urban Affairs)
(Whelan)

CLICK GRAPHIC TO REGISTER

New Jersey State Fire & Emergency Services Professional Development Conference



SAVE THE DATE

April 10, 2015 8:00AM-3:00PM

Middlesex County Fire Academy
1001 Fire Academy Drive, Sayreville, NJ 08872

Register at www.keanfiresafety.com

RSVP by April 2nd, 2015

**FIRE FIGHTER JAMES WOODS
JERSEY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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.

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