

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 2016

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 12, Issue 1



New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Bureau of Inspections Chief Louis Kilmer addresses the attendees at the 18th annual WABC 7 Operation Save a Life kickoff breakfast at Rockefeller Center in New York City. This is part of the Division's

critical role as the central distribution point of vital smoke alarms for elderly and needy at no charge, throughout New Jersey. WABC 7 and its legacy partners including Kidde have relied upon the Division of Fire Safety to play the role FDNY plays for New York City and its outer boroughs since the program's inception. In the 18 years the Division has participated in WABC 7 Operation Save a Life, more than 100,000 alarms have gone to at-risk members of the community in the WABC-TV viewing area and beyond.



IN THIS POSTING...



HOVERBOARDS!

FINAL REPORT WEST, TEXAS EXPLOSION

ATTACKS ON FIRST RESPONDERS

RED CROSS IS THERE FOR FIREFIGHTERS

ROWAN-GLOUCESTER EMS SYMPOSIUM

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION



FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM
TOOLKIT

A Comprehensive Resource for Fire Safety Educators

DIVISION-KEAN SPRING TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE



Spring 2016 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



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U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

INVESTIGATION REPORT

FINAL

WEST FERTILIZER COMPANY FIRE AND EXPLOSION (15 Fatalities, More Than 260 Injured)



WEST FERTILIZER COMPANY

WEST, TX

APRIL 17, 2013

KEY ISSUES:

- REGULATORY OVERSIGHT
- HAZARD AWARENESS
- EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE
- FERTILIZER GRADE AMMONIUM NITRATE STORAGE PRACTICES
- LAND USE PLANNING AND ZONING

REPORT 2013-02-I-TX

On April 17, 2013 a fire and subsequent explosion took the lives of 12 emergency responders and three civilians in West, Texas at the West Fertilizer Company.

(click the report cover page above for access to the full report)

ILLINOIS FIRE SAFETY INSTITUTE STUDY SHOWS DEADLY CARDIO-CHEMICAL FF CONNECTION

This study was designed to better understand how operating in a modern fire environment is related to the two leading health issues facing firefighters; namely cardiovascular events and chemical exposures related to carcinogenic risk. We investigated the impact of different tactics (traditional interior attack vs a transitional attack) and different firefighting location/assignment (interior attack, outside operations, outside command, overhaul) as well as measures such as skin cleaning and gross on scene decon to affect these risks.

Significant advances have been made in our understanding of the hazards associated with structural firefighting. Research has provided a greater understanding of the development, propagation and dangers of modern residential fires. The fire service has been provided with important tactical guidance that may potentially increase firefighter effectiveness while decreasing risk. Sudden cardiac events are the leading cause of duty-related deaths among firefighters and they are far more likely to occur after fire suppression activity. Substantial evidence suggests that firefighting leads to significant cardiovascular strain. Firefighters have an increased risk for several types of cancer. Fires produce hundreds of toxic compounds. Some are carcinogenic like benzene and certain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Despite these advances in understanding, important questions remain.

What is the physiological and chemical impact of the different exposures experienced by firefighters

employing differing tactics and conducting various job assignments on the fireground? How do factors related to firefighting effect cardiovascular responses under realistic modern fire environments? How effectively does the body recover over the 12 hours following a response?

How - and at what levels - do toxic combustion products get into a firefighter's body? How much of the absorbed dose comes from skin absorption versus inhalation? Significant advances have been



made in our understanding of the hazards associated with structural firefighting. Research has provided a greater understanding of the development, propagation and dangers of modern residential fires. The fire service has been provided with important tactical guidance that may potentially increase firefighter effectiveness while

decreasing risk.

How do factors related to firefighting effect cardiovascular responses under realistic modern fire environments? How effectively does the body recover over the 12 hours following a response? How - and at what levels - do toxic combustion products get into a firefighter's body? How much of the absorbed dose comes from skin absorption versus inhalation? In order to safely and reliably conduct typical firefighting operations and tactics with 12 person crews, we designed and built a structure that had all of the interior finishes, fuel loads and features common in the 21st century, yet contained safety systems and hardened construction techniques that ensured our participants' safety.

ILLINOIS FIRE SAFETY INSTITUTE STUDY SHOWS DEADLY CARDIO-CHEMICAL FF CONNECTION

During this study, we measured 1) the production and transfer of thermal energy as well as the magnitude and composition of gasses and particles in the fire environment, 2) contamination of firefighters' personal protective equipment and skin, 3) absorption of that contamination into the firefighters' bodies and 4) how these variables were influenced by tactical decision (interior only vs. transitional attack) and operating location (interior fire suppression vs. exterior operations vs. interior overhaul). Specifically:

- Temperature, heat flux, oxygen, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide were measured throughout the structure to characterize risks for firefighters as well as potentially trapped occupants.
- A variety of chemical compounds were evaluated in the air surrounding firefighters during the fires, as well as in the fireground. Firefighters wore SCBA when inside the structure, but did not always wear SCBA when on the fireground.
- The chemical compounds (or their metabolites) found in urine, blood, or breath were characterized before and after firefighting. This tells us what was absorbed into the firefighters' bodies.
- Contamination on neck and hand skin was assessed after firefighting. We also determined the effectiveness of using commercial skin wipes to clean the neck area.
- Volatile and non-volatile contamination on turnout gear was measured after firefighting and after three types of field-based decon.

We assessed cardiovascular responses to firefighting and to specific tactics and operating location by assessing 1) ECG responses, 2) blood chemistry and coagulatory measures and 3) vascular responses during and up to 12 hours following firefighting. The results presented in this summary of the interim report are a small subset of the data that was collected. We cannot make any definitive conclusions until we perform a comprehensive analysis of *all* the data.

These results are provided to alert the fire service of the study and its complexities, provide a glimpse of what we are finding, and to prepare the fire service for future publications and other outputs. For example, results from skin and biological exposure monitoring (blood, urine, and breath) are still pending. The results provided below are only examples of data from one or two scenarios, but we believe to them to be fairly representative of the typical study.

For the first time, the variability in interior structure temperatures, heat flux and gas concentrations that result from different, yet common, fireground operations (different crews and two separate tactics in the same fire scenario) have been quantified in a controlled manner. The impact of tactics on exposures of trapped occupants has also been quantified to better understand the risks and benefits of firefighter activities on the potential victims.

Firefighters core temperatures and skin temperatures were strongly affected by the fireground job assignment. Activities such as outside vent and overhaul resulted in elevated temperatures even though the firefighters were not operating on the interior of the structure while

ILLINOIS FIRE SAFETY INSTITUTE STUDY SHOWS DEADLY CARDIO-CHEMICAL FF CONNECTION

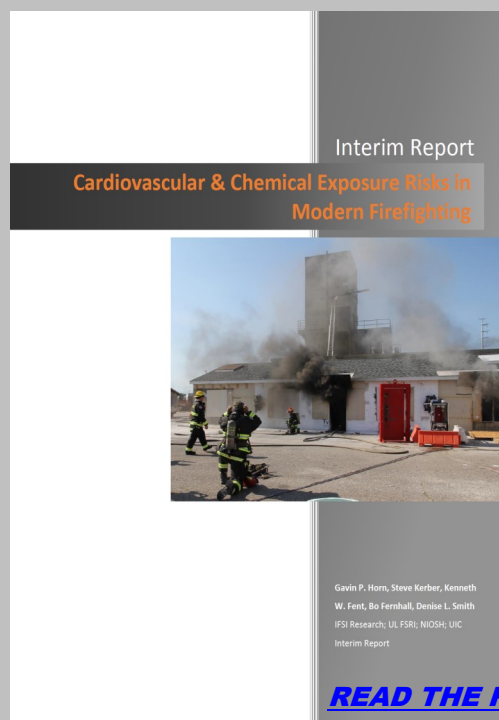
the fire was burning. Blood clotting potential appears to be strongly related to fireground job function. We detected a variety of flame retardants in the fuel package materials used for all fires and in the air inside the structure.

Air sampling from within the structure during active fire on one day showed hydrogen cyanide levels that were nearly 7 times the Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) level and benzene levels that were up to 15 times exposure limits. These and other volatile compounds were also detected inside the structure during overhaul and on the fireground, but at levels below applicable exposure limits.

- Based on two days of sampling, two important sources of particulate were identified on the fireground: (1) smoke plume from the fire and (2) diesel exhaust from the fire apparatus. The contribution of both sources is dependent on the wind direction.

- Several flame retardants and PAHs were detected on turnout gear items after use in a fire. Gross on-scene decon with water/detergent and scrubbing was effective in bringing the PAH contamination to pre-fire levels.
- Volatile compounds like hydrogen cyanide and benzene were measured off-gassing from turnout gear after use, but at levels below applicable exposure limits. Off-gas levels returned to background within an hour regardless of whether or not the turnout gear were decontaminated.

A detailed fire service toolkit is scheduled to be released in 2017 with a comprehensive overview of the information available and tactical considerations. The toolkit will be freely available to firefighters and fire officers around the globe.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY STUDY FOCUSES ON FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC OTJ INJURY

Each year an estimated 1.7 million American workers report an injury as a result of workplace violence [Gates et al., 2011]. In 2009, data from the Consumer Product Safety Commissions' National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) estimated more than 137,000 workers were treated in emergency departments for nonfatal violence Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Occupational Violence, 2014]. Health care workers have the highest rate of workplace violence compared to all other industries, with the majority of violent injuries committed by their patients [Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007]. Reports show that health care workers have an injury rate of 20.4 per 10,000, which is significantly larger than the general sector rate of 2.1 per 10,000 [Gates et al., 2011].

There are an estimated 900,000 full-time, part-time, and volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) workers in the United States who treat 22 million patients a year [Maguire and Smith, 2013]. EMS workers have a variety of responsibilities that include responding to emergency calls, providing clinical care in the field, and transporting patients to hospitals and health care facilities [Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Emergency Medical Services Workers, 2014]. In 2012, an estimated 2,400 EMS workers visited U.S. hospital emergency departments to treat an injury resulting from work-related violence [Center for Disease Control and Prevention, EMS Workers Injury and Illness Data, 2014].

Maguire estimated that patient-initiated violence to paramedics and EMTs occur in 1–2 percent of all nonfatal injuries in Australia and the United States, respectively [Maguire and Smith, 2013; Maguire et al., 2014].

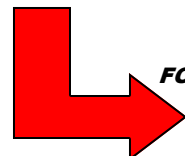
A survey of paramedics from two Canadian provinces found 75 percent of respondents experienced violence in the last year, with verbal assaults more common than physical [Bingham et al., 2014]. In a previous research study, we confirmed this violence problem among EMS responders by examining data from the National Fire Fighter Near Miss Reporting System, an international voluntary reporting system created by the IAFC.

www.nearmiss.com

We reviewed emergency medical call reports and analyzed their narrative text fields. Of 185 reports, violence was the most commonly identified mechanism of near-miss or injury. We found that emergency medical responders were threatened or assaulted by patients as well as family members and bystanders. Common underlying factors included: violent patients, patients with a mental health issue, and patients with particular health conditions (e.g., seizure, hypoglycemia) [Taylor et al., 2015].



**CLICK GRAPHIC
FULL REPORT**



FOR



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search class 2112
register for all 3 days!



Gloucester County EMS
Rowan University EMS
Clinical Education Symposium

FREE!

info available at:
symposium@co.gloucester.nj.us

or to register if your
OEMS ID starts with 6

FREE!



The shifting mission of fire departments is becoming clearer each day. Fire departments already serve the “Omni “ response needs in many communities. Increasingly, communities view fire departments as the logical place for emergency medical personnel to be stationed.

This Clinical Education Symposium provides an opportunity to learn up-to-date information from EMS-friendly physicians and other subject matter experts.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ATTENTION FIRE OFFICERS:



American Red Cross
New Jersey Region

January 7, 2016

New Jersey Fire Officers:

As a Fire Officer, you are responsible for many critical duties on the fire ground, including managing risk and life safety hazards. Also important is to provide for the welfare of those displaced by the fire. The American Red Cross has been assisting fire and other disaster victims for over 130 years. We are ready to assist you, as you help those that are displaced by fire or other disasters in your community. When you dispatch the Red Cross, we will respond in a timely manner to provide essential services and to help plan for the recovery for those in need. Our response team will identify themselves to you when they arrive on scene, adhere to the safety protocols that you have established, and start working immediately to help affected families.

Our local Red Cross Disaster Action Teams can provide housing (hotels/motels or shelters for larger incidents), emotional support and reception center operations (including feeding and canteening) during your response to home fires. We can also provide immediate recovery items such as food and groceries, clothing, assistance with prescriptive medication, durable medical equipment replacement and eyewear replacement support. Our teams help the fire victims to formulate their own personal plan to recover, and supply information tailored to their needs and community support services.

Our services are provided at **no cost** to the victims, or the fire departments, thanks to the generosity of our donors and our volunteers who serve all of our communities. All your department needs to do in order to activate our services and allow us to assist the victims is to call **800-507-6058** anytime day or night – 24/7.

Please post the attached flyer in the firehouse, and also mention our services at your next meeting of your department. If you have any questions about what services the Red Cross provides, or if I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call 973-797-3321 or email at Steven.Sarinelli@RedCross.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sarinelli".

Steve Sarinelli,
New Jersey Disaster Officer



Hoverboard — part toy, part transportation. These self-balancing scooters have quickly become the latest fad. However, many hoverboards have been linked to fires. NFPA urges you to be fire safe when using these devices.

IF YOU PURCHASE A HOVERBOARD

- » Choose a device with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- » Read and follow all manufacturer directions. If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- » An adult should be responsible for charging the hoverboard.
- » Do not leave a charging hoverboard unattended.
- » Never leave the hoverboard plugged in overnight.
- » Only use the charging cord that came with the hoverboard.
- » Stop using your hoverboard if it overheats.
- » Extreme hot or cold temperature can hurt the battery.

NEW TO MARKET

Hoverboards are fairly new to the mass market. Be on the lookout for updates from manufacturers and safety groups.

Signs of a Problem

Some hoverboard fires have involved the Lithium-Ion battery or charger. Signs you could have a problem:

- Leaking fluids
- Excessive heat
- Odor
- Sparking
- Smoke

If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device right away. Call **9-1-1**. If safe to do so, move the hoverboard outside away from anything that can burn.

Travel Notes

- Many airlines have banned hoverboards. If you plan to fly with a hoverboard, be sure to check with your air carrier.
- When riding in a car, keep the hoverboard where you can see it in case it shows signs of a problem.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here

www.nfpa.org/education — 12/16/2015

[**DOWNLOAD HERE**](#)

Download and post the above NFPA flyer on your social media page.

**NEW JERSEY WEEKEND
AT THE
NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY
APRIL 2-3, 2016**

NEW JERSEY WEEKEND

Presented by: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs &
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety



Registration for New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy is now closed. This annual event hosted by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and FEMA for all members of the state fire service, gives participants an opportunity to interact among career and volunteer members, receive CEUs, and allows for a chance to contribute in a collegial setting to an open dialogue about improving the standards and practices of firefighting.

Look for announcements about next year's New Jersey Weekend on the Kean University Fire Safety website.

ATTENTION FIRE DEPARTMENTS



The Division of Fire Safety is assisting the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in increasing public awareness about the New Jersey Safe Haven for Newborns program. DCF is willing to provide the sign shown below to any fire or EMS station that is staffed 24/7.

They are requesting the sign be mounted on an exterior wall, or an area near the main entrance and must be visible to the public. The Division strongly recommends that fire and EMS stations that meet the staffing requirement participate in this program.

Any fire station or ambulance, first aid, or rescue squad that is willing to participate in this program can request a sign from Deryl McElvarr at either 609-888-7915 or deryl.mcelvarr@dcf.state.nj.us. Participating agencies will be provided with the protocols to be followed if an infant is surrendered.

Please help those who cannot help themselves by partnering with the Department of Children and Families and the Division of Fire Safety in this extremely important and possible live-saving program.

William Kramer, Jr., Acting Director/State Fire Marshal, NJDFS



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT VIDEO



Meghan Quinn
Volunteer Firefighter/EMT,
Glen Echo Fire Department

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has released a new two-and-a-half minute video to introduce members of the public to the fire service and encourage them to find local volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer departments across the country are struggling to find new recruits. NVFC research shows that many people, including underrepresented groups such as Millennials, women, and minorities, are interested in volunteering but simply don't realize their local department needs volunteers. Another obstacle is that people unfamiliar with the fire and emergency services aren't sure if they can do the job required.

The video features several members of the fire service explaining why they decided to volunteer and the many benefits that come from volunteering as a firefighter or EMT. The message aims to increase awareness about the need for volunteers and reinforces the idea that anyone who has the motivation and will to volunteer can serve their local fire department.

At the end of the video, viewers are directed to go to www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org to learn more and find local volunteer opportunities. Register your department with the campaign for free at <http://portal.nvfc.org> and post your volunteer opportunities so that these potential volunteers can find you.

The department portal also features customizable tools and resources to help implement a local recruitment campaign.

click graphic below for more information



FIRST RESPONDERS: ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER?

During the fall and winter months, many Americans enjoy holidays and family time, and anticipate a fresh start in the new year. At the same time, some find the holiday season and the new year challenging. During the changing seasons, many people experience the "winter blues," or seasonal depression, medically known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD). SAD is a mood disorder characterized by depression that occurs at the same time every year. SAD can sap your energy, make you feel moody, and prevent you from enjoying your life. If you suffer from it, according to the [National Institute of Health](#), people with SAD might experience the following symptoms:

- Low energy and feeling sluggish or irritable
- Problems getting along with other people and hypersensitivity to rejection
- Loss of interest in activities you used to enjoy
- Oversleeping or having trouble sleeping
- Change in appetite, weight gain, and craving for [foods high in carbohydrates](#) (sweets, fatty foods, snacks, etc.).
- Feeling depressed most of the day, almost every day.

If you are experiencing these symptoms and think you have SAD, there are many ways you can find support and resources to help you get back to your normal self.

Talk to someone. One of the first steps in overcoming the winter blues is being social. Although it may be difficult, spending time with friends and family can help change your mood.

Consider counseling. It may be necessary to consider a counselor to help you deal with SAD and other types of depression. Consult your current physician, a friend or family member for a referral, or search online through the [National Board of Certified Counselors](#), and other online resources. Benefits.gov also houses a wealth of [Counseling programs](#) for this and other mental issues.



Get active. Avoid feeling sluggish by incorporating exercise activity into your day. Whether you go to the gym or for a quick morning jog, it is important to get active and get out of the house. Avoid fatty foods and eat foods that will [boost your mood and energy levels](#). View some of our [Food/Nutrition government programs](#) if you are in need of food assistance. Also, decreased sun exposure can contribute to a rise in depressive symptoms, and the reduced level of sunlight in fall and winter may cause winter-onset SAD. Make sure to keep a well-lit home and find ways to get more sunlight during the day.

Don't let the winter blues keep you down. If you are in need of additional resources on your journey to good health, consider visiting online resources here: [Browse by Category](#). Find the help that will direct you to employment resources, healthcare resources, and more.

If you or a loved one that is experiencing depression is at risk for suicide, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

YOUTH FIRESETTER PROGRAMS



Coffee Break Training - Fire Prevention and Public Education

Youth Firesetting Information Repository & Evaluation System

No. FM-2016-1 February 4, 2016

Learning Objective: The student will be able to explain the Youth Firesetting Information Repository & Evaluation System (YFIRES) data collection project.

Do you have a youth firesetting program in your community? If so, on project funded by the Department of Fire Safety and Prevention Agency



YFIRES Logo

Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist Level II April 28 and 29, 2016

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

Conference details and registration available March 1st, 2016 at www.keanfreesafety.com.

This two-day course covers the job performance requirements of a Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist II as detailed in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1035. The course is designed for the person who is responsible or will be responsible for leading a Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Program.

Material covered:

- The difference between the titles Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist I and Youth Firesetting Prevention and Interventions Specialist II
- Summarize the job performance requirements as detailed in NFPA Standard 1035
- Develop a youth firesetting prevention and intervention program in their own community
- Demonstrate how to evaluate a youth firesetting prevention and intervention program

Instructors:

Captain Helge Nordveit (Ret.)
Cranford Fire Department & Middlesex County Firewatch Program

Joe Ehrhardt
Middlesex County Firewatch Program

Cost: \$60.00 - To cover Instructor Fees and Materials
Time: 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

Please complete registration forms and mail to:
Kean University
Fire Safety Training Program (L-145)
1000 Morris Ave
Union, NJ 07083
Attn: Christina Rigano
908-737-3063

[REGISTER HERE](#)

by the extent of professional services, mental health services, etc. The mission of YFIRES is to act as the central repository for data and program experiences generated by youth

YFIRES was created to be a comprehensive electronic case management system with elements without compromising the confidentiality of the type of youth and behavior characteristics

YFIRES system (NFIRS). However, youth-set fires are not entered into NFIRS. Youth firesetting does not always get entered into enforcement data system. Experts believe this leads to a significant gap of reported youth-set fire incident data. YFIRES is providing necessary resources to the national issue of

YFIRES. Many referrals come to programs for youth firesetting behavior. Also, YFIRES tracks firesetting behaviors in the course of other

YFIRES. Youth who have been involved in a firesetting incident, misused fire, or used fire without the supervision or permission of a responsible adult. A youth does **not** have to set a fire with destructive consequences to be entered into the system. For example, youth should be entered into YFIRES

YFIRES details were rolled out at this year's NJDFS Youth Firesetter Conference by keynote Don Porth of SOS Fires. The NJDFS Youth Firesetter Advisory Council encourages all jurisdictions to fully participate in the bid to identify the youth firesetter problem within their community. The YFIRES site offers comprehensive information on how to accomplish that. You can also participate in the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Youth Firesetter Advisory Council, please contact: charlesl.lavin@dca.nj.gov

[YFIRES WEBSITE](#)

HAZMAT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY OFFICER & BRANCH OFFICER

Provided by
CNR Training Group

Course Description:

This 40 hour course is designed to provide responders with the understanding and skills necessary pertaining to most hazardous materials emergencies in an offensive or defensive manner.

Completion Certification:

This class meets 29 CFR 1910.120(q) and NFPA 472 2008 Chapter 7 for Hazardous Materials Technician Level. Certification from the National Fire Pro Board or International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) can be obtained for this Class.

Who is Eligible:

Individuals whose current or anticipated work involves dealing with HazMat related emergencies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Miranda Jackson,
Program Recruiter for the Center
for National Response
☎ (304) 293-0964
✉ Miranda.Jackson@mail.wvu.edu



Chemours

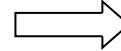
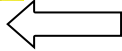
This course is sponsored by the CNR
Training Group, Chemours, and
West Virginia University



AT ISSUE:

VOICE YOUR SUPPORT OF FIRE SERVICE FUNDING

Click Capitol Building graphic to contact your
New Jersey Representative



(From CSFI)

The White House released the Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal, the final budget of the Obama Administration. The \$4.23 trillion budget contains \$40.6 billion for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Included in the proposed budget are several programs of importance to the nation's fire and emergency services, including the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs.

The budget proposal recommends funding FIRE and SAFER at a combined \$670 million, with funds split equally between the two programs. This is a reduction of \$20 million from the level enacted by Congress for Fiscal Year 2016. Additionally, the President's budget proposes \$40,811,513 for the United States Fire Administration and includes \$1.5 million for infrastructure improvements at the National Fire Academy. Congress funded USFA at \$44 million for Fiscal Year 2016.

"While it is frustrating the White House proposes spending cuts for these critical programs, ultimately it is the Congress that decides funding levels," said Bill Webb, CFSI Executive Director. "CFSI will begin working with the other national fire service organizations and Congressional Fire Services Caucus to ensure these programs receive the necessary funding levels in Fiscal Year 2017."

The White House budget proposal is the first step in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget process. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will now begin drafting funding bills for the individual departments of the federal government.

One way firefighters can become a legislative "force to be reckoned with" they potentially are, is to set aside traditional parochial differences and operate in the legislative arena, like other uniformed services do, by speaking with one voice.

Become familiar with the state and federal legislative process, participate in local firefighter and fire code common interest organizations, such as the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, become an advocate for firefighter safety.

The volunteer fire service alone provides nearly 400 billion yearly, yes billion, and yes yearly, in the value of services it provides nationwide. *(USFA figures).*

In addition to becoming locally active, you can interact with like minded peers at the Congressional Fire Services Institute 2016 National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium / 28th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner, May 5 and 6th.

Each year, approximately 2,000 fire and emergency officials participate in the program, attending seminars, conducting meetings with the members of Congress and networking to build relationships.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



AT ISSUE:

PENDING FIRE SERVICE
LEGISLATION
<click bill number to search>



ASSEMBLY

- [A141](#)
- [A177](#)
- [A191](#)
- [A250](#)
- [A319](#)
- [A377](#)
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