



## NJDFS SEES 3RD YEAR F.I.R.E. BOWL SCHOLASTIC VICTORY FOR BAYONNE!

On May 13, 2008 the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety F.I.R.E. Bowl ( Fire Information Rescue Education) kicked off for the 3rd year running at the Midtown Community School in Bayonne. The fire bowl is the brainchild of State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo.

As with previous contests this year's Bowl evoked all the excitement of typical television game shows. The goal of the program is to create a notion of fire safety through this unique approach for 7th and 8th graders in middle schools throughout the state. This year the Midtown Community School Auditorium was filled to capacity as the challenge pitted last year's winners from Midtown against newcomers Carteret Middle School. The early rounds were a heated display of fire safety knowledge from both

teams.

The Belleville Middle School also fielded contestants for this year's event who battled well in the early rounds. The inspiration for it was the original College Bowl which featured a competition among schools on academics instead of sports.

The NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl tests state middle school students on their familiarity with fire science, with a few trivia type historical challenges thrown in for good measure.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our students, and we are proud to be involved with NJDFS," said Bayonne Schools Superintendent Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan. Superintendent McGeehan's comments were echoed by State Fire Marshal Petrillo, who conceived the contest several years ago.

"This is what it's all about, teaching fire safety education in a unique way," he said.

The heavily favored Bayonne Middle School finally prevailed having benefited from prior F.I.R.E. Bowl contests, a factor according to Captain Robert Magella, of the Carteret Fire Department that will only strengthen their resolve for next year's go-round

"We'll be back!" said Magella.

The event was emceed by local My9 news anchor Harry Martin, News Anchor for the popular local newscast, who annually donates his time and effort to hosting the student "game show."

"I am very proud to represent MY9 at this important community event, these students are absolutely phenomenal," said Martin in speaking to the successful event. More Information:

[clavin@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:clavin@dca.state.nj.us)



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**REIGNING 2008 STATE NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL CHAMPIONS  
MIDTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS!**

**"This is an excellent opportunity for our students and we are pleased to be involved"**

**Dr. Patricia McGeehan,  
Bayonne Schools**



**OUR WINNERS!**

**PICTURED (FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) BROOKE MILLER, EMILY GABRIEL, SAMATHA PUJA, ROBYN SUERCAUSKI, COACH JILLIAN THORMAN**

**PICTURED (2ND ROW) BAYONNE FD CHIEF GREGORY ROGERS, STATE FIRE MARSHAL LAWRENCE PETRILLO, MY9 NEWS ANCHOR HARRY MARTIN, DR. PATRICIA MCGEEHAN SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, CHRISTINE MERCUN, PRINCIPAL, PATRICIA DZIUBEK, VICE PRINCIPAL**



# NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL AS BAYONNE CLOSSES IN ON A DECISIVE WINNING BID....



MIDTOWN COMMUNITY POSTS A TRIPLE DIGIT 3RD ROUND SCORE IN WHAT WAS A SEE-SAW BATTLE UP AND UNTIL THAT POINT. TEAM MIDTOWN DUG DEEP AND SURVIVED A LATE CHALLENGE BY CARTERET TO EMERGE VICTORIOUS!

"I am very proud to represent MY9 News at this important community event, these students are just phenomenal in they way they commit to study fire safety."

MY9 News Anchor and Our Host Harry Martin

CAPTAIN ROBERT MAGELLA OF THE CARTERET FIRE DEPARTMENT IN A GRACIOUS NOD TO THE WINNING TEAM VOWS A RETURN NEXT YEAR, NOTING THAT THE CONTEST ITSELF TEACHES FIRE SAFETY SO EVERYONE ATTENDING IS A WINNER NO MATTER WHAT THE SCORE...



NJDFS ARSON INVESTIGATOR JEFF SILVER'S PARTNER NJDFS ARSON UNIT MEMBER "SCOUT" GETS INTO THE CELEBRATION WITH THE WINNING TEAM AS SUPERINTENDENT PATRICIA MCGEEHAN LOOKS ON...

## NJDFS HOSTS 'SAFE KIDS' CONFERENCE IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety hosted a conference aimed at child care professionals in cooperation with BIC

Corporation, at the Middlesex Fire Academy. The auditorium was filled to capacity as the State Fire

Marshal bid a welcome to the participants to this first-of-its-kind NJDFS session.

Fire Marshal Petrillo viewed the gathering as an important way to reach child care professionals in the state with first hand with an important updates regarding fire safety behavior modification techniques for educators and child care givers alike.

"Part of any fire safety equation that includes seniors

at one end, must include the very young at the other. This effort stresses the idea that there is no age rating on fire safety information." said



Conference Coordinator Charles Luxton in explaining the need for the conference and the large response it received from child care representatives here. Dr. Robert Cole, President of Partnerships for Injury Prevention took attendees through a brisk Power Point focusing on key aspects of behavioral change.

According to Dr. Cole that turns on some key issues like susceptibility and serenity, the idea of an event occurring that would endanger an individual, followed quickly by what benefits.

Further, whether to change or not, influenced by whatever cues to action there may be, more specifically what it would require to change a specific behavior.

Audience participation grew as audience members shared experiences with the smoking habit. Once a widely accepted behavior, it is now shunned by a changing social norm toward health consciousness.

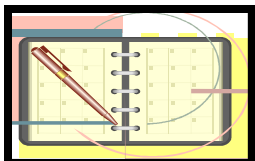
Dr. Cole used that example as one way behaviors can be influenced tremendously by social norms, and so perhaps the tendency of youngsters not to see the consequences of self-threatening activities such as playing with toy lighters and not recognizing the array of consequences. Reached young enough Dr. Cole contends, a pre-schooler would be susceptible to behavior modification techniques that might lead to more socially acceptable norms. For more information: [www.fireproofchildren.com](http://www.fireproofchildren.com)



**"Part of any safety education equation requires attention to the senior citizen and the very young,"**  
**Charles Luxton NJDFS**



**Fireproof Children  
Prevention First  
One Grove Street  
Suite 235  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
585-264-0840**



**DATEBOOK :** New Jersey Fire Commission Meetings:  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008 - Atlantic City.  
Wednesday, January 14th, 2009- Sayerville

**FIFTH ANNUAL NJDFS-KEAN UNIVERSITY HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE**



*(ABOVE)*  
State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo shares a light moment with conference keynote speaker and "Sabotage At Black Tom" author Jules J. Witcover at the start of the 2008 Conference.

**"The German attaché Von Burkoff while reassuring President Wilson was actively involved in planning the blast" Author James Witcover**

Bright sunshine and mild weather served as a contrast to The 5th Annual Kean University-New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Homeland Security Conference, looking ahead and back on the security landscape in New Jersey for both natural and man-made disasters.

Matt Mattia of FEMA Region 2 got the attention of conference participants filling Downs Hall on campus with a presentation that showed what a Katrina-like storm could do to in the NY-NJ Metropolitan Area. Mattia, a Katrina veteran, noted the potential damage to areas of Ocean County with a Katrina-like event, such as suffered in areas along the Mississippi coastline, that might similarly affect municipalities such as Lakehurst, an equivalent 15 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean.

A scenario that can be currently answered in part by the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program, for interested parties. Michael Moriarity, also of FEMA Region 2 provided a website to begin the process:

[www.fema.gov/government/grant/rcp/index.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/rcp/index.shtml)

Capt. David Scott gave a specific view of US Coast Guard operations at the Port of Delaware Bay, which sees one of the largest national streams of crude oil destined for refineries in the port area, of which a large part encompasses the New Jersey portion of the Delaware River, in particular the huge Carney's Point refining complex.

An intriguing 'look back' was provided by Author Jules J. Witcover who discussed his book, Sabotage at Black Tom. The author examined a plot by Imperial Germany just prior to WW I that destroyed a munitions depot near the Statue of Liberty named "Black Tom Island". The verdict from Witcover? It was sabotage and it demonstrates that the area of New York Harbor remains an attractive target for once and future terrorists 9/11 notwithstanding.



**SEMPER PARATUS MEETS OMNIA PARATUS...**

NJDFS Capt. John Honer makes a presentation to Capt. David Scott Sector Commander on the 20th Anniversary of the USCG Base in Philadelphia. The NJDFS Office of Fire Dept. Preparedness is an integral part of the Port Wide Strategic Management Plan through Federal port security grant funding it enhances training and resources for marine firefighting needs both at the Port of NY/NJ and the Delaware/NJ/Philadelphia sectors. More Info: [jhoner@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:jhoner@dca.state.nj.us)

## ARSON UNIT REPORT



The New Jersey State Fire Marshal's Arson/K-9 Unit has been quite busy during the first eight months of 2008. As of the end of August the unit has conducted 168 fire investigations throughout the state. The three Accelerant Detection K-9s assigned to the unit have

been utilized in 59 fire investigations to date and have identified the presence of ignitable liquids in a majority of those cases, indicating the probability of those fires being started by arsonists. To date, the unit has investigated twice as many arson fires as accidental fires. This trend appears to be mainly as a result of revenge, crime concealment and vandalism motives, but with the housing market continuing in a downward spiral, it is projected that more arson fires with the motive of insurance fraud will be observed.

The unit continues to work closely with its investigative partners from the State Police Arson/Bomb Unit, the BATF, county prosecutors offices, county fire marshals and local law enforcement and fire service agencies.

This year saw unit members teaching as part of the NJ Division of Criminal Justice's "Basic Course for Arson Investigators" regarding the use of accelerant detection K-9s in fire/arson investigations at the DCJ Academy in Sea Girt, Monmouth County. The K-9 training module is now a permanent part of the course curriculum.

### FROM THE NJDFS ARSON UNIT CASE FILE...

A fatal fire that killed a teenaged occupant. The fire was ruled to be arson and Investigator Meyer and his K-9 partner Taz conducted a search for ignitable liquids. The fire is still under investigation by the NJ State Fire Marshals Arson/K-9 Unit and county and local law enforcement authorities.

A fire in Burlington County that claimed three lives in a single-family dwelling and was investigated by Investigators

Meyer, Spiecker and Letts. The fire was believed to have been set using ignitable liquids. A fire in Union County that occurred in a large occupied 165' x 206' one story commercial structure and was investigated by the county's Arson Task Force, the BATF and Investigator Silver. The fire was classified as undetermined with a very high probability of a lighting strike as the cause of the fire. Due to the size of this structure, the scene investigation was conducted over the course of three days.

Fire investigated by Investigator Letts in conjunction with a County Prosecutor's Office and the County Fire Marshal's Office that occurred at a Boy Scout Camp. The fire was caused by

several boy scouts playing with matches and isopropyl rubbing alcohol. Three scouts were burned as a result of this incident and one of the scouts later died as a result of his injuries. A fire that occurred in Atlantic County in a very large one-story restaurant/bar that was investigated by Investigators Letts and Meyer along



**DIRECTOR PETRILLO CONGRATULATES ROD MEYER AND RICH FARLETTA ON BEING NAMED INVESTIGATORS OF THE YEAR BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSN. OF FIRE INVESTIGATORS**

with the County Prosecutor's Office and the local police department. The building sustained very heavy fire damage and the fire remains under investigation. A fire that occurred in Hudson County and investigated by Investigators Letts and Silver in a detached garage which was illegally converted into a single family residential structure. The fire resulted in burn injuries to three individuals, two of whom had life threatening burns and were flown to St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston. The fire remains under investigation.

Additionally, the Sussex County Prosecutors Office has reported that a volunteer firefighter from Sussex County has plead guilty to setting six fires that Arson Unit Supervisor Eckert and Investigator Silver and his K-9 Scout investigated in 2006 in conjunction with the NJ State Police Arson/Bomb Unit and the Sussex County Prosecutors Office. The individual was sentenced to six years in prison but credited with two years served.

By Chris Eckert

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*(editor's note: all open cases cannot be specifically referenced)*

## NJDFS HOSTS 2007-2008 ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY AT SPRINGFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The 2007-2008 New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Annual Poster Contest drew entrants from across the state for this year's theme Practice Your Family Escape Plan. A family escape plan is academic say fire safety experts and involves a conscious effort to devise, develop, and deploy a plan in individual dwellings to escape from a fire in a calm and orderly fashion, and to designate a specific outdoor rendezvous point to assemble afterward. It seems such a simple equation, but too many times victims of fatal fires are those who return to a burning structure after a successful escape to seek a loved one, who quite probably escaped as well but just cannot be seen. This year's winners assembled at the

Springfield Fire House for the annual awards luncheon. Category winners were awarded laptops by the Sprinkler Fitters Union, Local 696. The Joshua Marcus Group of Clark provided awards plaques.

Division Winners:

Division 1 (Camden County)

Hannah Robinson  
Winslow Twp School #4  
Sicklerville

Division 2 (Hudson County)

Elizabeth Boyle  
Public School #14  
Bayonne

Division 3 (Union County)

Jhonny Baptista  
David Brearly School  
Kenilworth,

Division 4 (Hudson County)

### 2008-2009 CONTEST INFO:

[clavin@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:clavin@dca.state.nj.us)



Jared Hart  
Bayonne  
High  
School

Jared is  
our Overall  
Winner. His  
artwork  
will be

reproduced courtesy of  
Atlantic Electric and be dis-  
tributed throughout the  
state for public viewing.

Division 5 ( Union County)

Jahania Holteroff  
Union County VoTech  
Scotch Plains



Division 6 (Essex County)

Justin Akaloo  
Belleville Middle School  
Belleville

Division 7 (Hudson County)

Freddie Flores  
Ferris High School  
Jersey City



### WAY TO GO JARED!

STATE FIRE MARSHALL LAWRENCE PETRILLO WITH OVERALL CONTEST WINNER JARED HART OF BAYONNE. JARED CAPPED A STRING OF POSTER CONTEST WINS AND NOW "RETIRES" TO ATTEND COLLEGE IN THE FALL.

**ENTER THE 2008-2009 CONTEST TODAY!**

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Rod Meyer	K-9 Investigator/South
Jason Spiecker	K-9 Investigator/South
Jeff Silver	K-9 Investigator/North

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<b>AIDA JONES</b>	<b>SUPERVISOR</b>
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Gerald Clarke	Coordinator
Fire Focus-Public Information	
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	Marylain Kemp



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## "2 IN AND 2 OUT" ... KNOW BEFORE YOU ROLL

During the recent past, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) Office of Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (OPEOSH) has been experiencing an increase in the number of complaints regarding what firefighters have come to refer to as the "two in two out" regulation. Based on the rise in complaints, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, David Socolow felt that it would be prudent to issue a reminder and a reiteration of the "two in two out" specific requirements. The New Jersey LWD, OPEOSH enforces the provisions of the State adopted Federal regulations as contained in 29CFR. 1910.134 part (g)(3) and (g)(4) for interior structural firefighting activities.

The standard requires employers to follow the procedures for firefighters who enter into immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environments when conducting interior structural fire fighting activities. The standard states that:

***"two firefighters must be stationed outside the IDLH atmosphere and must be in communication (visual, voice, signal line) with the two firefighters inside the structure."***

These firefighters must also be trained and equipped to provide emergency rescue if required to do so. The firefighters outside the IDLH must also be supplied with pressure demand or other positive pressure SCBAs, or a pressure demand or other positive pressure supplied-air respirator with auxiliary SCBA; and either; appropriate retrieval equipment for removing the employee(s) who enters these hazardous atmospheres where retrieval equipment would contribute to the rescue of the employee(s) and would not increase the overall risk resulting from entry; or equivalent means for rescue where retrieval is not required under paragraph (g)(3)(vi) [B] of the standard.

One of the two individuals located outside the IDLH atmosphere may be assigned to an additional role, such as incident commander in charge of the emergency or safety officer, so long as this individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident". The standard also requires that the two firefighters who enter the IDLH atmosphere must remain in visual or voice contact with one another and must use SCBA's while in the IDLH environment.

Fire Departments may designate a FAST (Firefighter Assist and Search Team) to comply with the two out provision and may also designate a mutual aid squad to provide this service as long as all of the above provisions are adhered to. Nothing in the standard precludes firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team can be assembled. Information concerning the provisions of the respiratory standard can be found at [www.Osha.gov](http://www.Osha.gov) under the standards section or you can contact the Office of Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health at (609) 633-3896.

by Howard Black  
Director,  
Office of Public Employees Occupational Safety,  
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.Osha.gov](http://www.Osha.gov)



### TELL A FELLOW FIREFIGHTER... *(please)*

All members of the Fire Service in New Jersey should be aware of the ongoing program "A GIFT FROM CAPTAIN BUSCIO" in memoriam of Capt. Dominick Buscio of the Jersey City Fire Department. The program is an opportunity for all firefighters and officers to receive confidential, comprehensive medical evaluation with no out-of-pocket expense. The annual examinations are provided by Deborah Heart and Lung Center, a leading cardiovascular treatment facility in New Jersey, and also by Dr. Manmohan Patel, MD, Program Director.

To make an appointment at Deborah: Call: **1-800-555-1990**, or, **1-201-216-3055** for another regional facility.

MORE INFO: [www.njfmha.org](http://www.njfmha.org)



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## FIRE FOCUS FOTO FINISH



### TEAM NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

The 130th Annual New Jersey State Fireman's Association Convention was the setting for a New Jersey Division of Fire Safety "Team Photo." Joining New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine from left to right were:

Jason Speiecker, Greg Kirham, Lou Kilmer, John Honer, Jeff Silver, Peter Hodge, Tim Weiss, James McFadden, Mike Gallagher, Bruce Tynan, Robert Kozlowski and Bureau Chief William Kramer, and Charles Luxton, formerly of the Newark Fire Department, batting a thousand for securing the shot with our state's chief executive.

###