

FIRE FOCUS

Richard E. Constable III, Acting Commissioner
William E. Kramer Jr., Acting Director
SPRING 2012 Posting

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 7 Issue 1

ACTING DCA COMMISSIONER CONSTABLE SECURES 2012 ABC7 SAVE A LIFE ALARMS



Richard E. Constable III
Acting Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Acting Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III gladly accepted for needy New Jersey residents approximately 12,000 smoke detectors from ABC Channel 7 and Kidde as part of the television station's 14th Annual *Operation 7 Save a Life* campaign, which kicked off at The Pierre Hotel in New York City recently.

The DCA's Division of Fire Safety, as it has since 1999, will assist firefighters in distributing the smoke alarms to eligible residents in the station's viewing area, which includes North Jersey and much of Central Jersey, at no charge.

"The DCA wants all New Jersey residents to have access to life-saving equipment, like smoke detectors, regardless of their ability to pay for them. Money should never be a barrier to protecting your home or loved ones from a fire," said Acting Commissioner Constable.

"This year's campaign will help our Division of Fire Safety reach the two most vulnerable segments of the population - children and senior citizens - who we have a moral obligation to care for and protect," he added.

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 hundreds of thousands of smoke detectors to individuals who otherwise couldn't afford them.

"The Division of Fire Safety is happy to once again partner with the *Operation 7 Save a Life* campaign, which is an outstanding program that helps protect some of our neediest citizens from fire," said Division of Fire Safety Acting Director William E. Kramer, Jr.



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ACTING DCA COMMISSIONER CONSTABLE SECURES 2012 ABC7 SAVE A LIFE ALARMS



WABC7 NEWS ANCHOR BILL RITTER MAKES THE ALL IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT THE BATTERIES

Since its inception over 10 years ago the program has seen the distribution of nearly 700, 000 smoke alarms to those living under economic hardship.

"This campaign does save lives. In fact, it is one of the most effective fire safety education outreach programs we have in New Jersey," Kramer adds.

Kramer also notes that New Jersey Division of Fire Safety smoke alarm coordinator Charles Luxton will be contacting individual fire departments throughout the northern and central counties who have expressed an interest in securing the alarms and whose targeted populations meet the criteria.

The smoke detectors are donated by Kidde. WPVI-TV, Channel 6 – the ABC-affiliated station in Philadelphia – conducts a similar campaign for communities south of Burlington County.

"As Acting Commissioner Constable has said we would like the alarms to go to the needy and naturally the most vulnerable to fire, that includes the elderly and the very young," says Division of Fire Safety smoke alarm distribution coordinator Charles Luxton.

Luxton adds that interested departments should email the Division first describing the need they have. Every effort will be made to accommodate requests as supplies permit.



ACTING DCA COMMISSIONER CONSTABLE SECURES 2012 ABC7 SAVE A LIFE ALARMS



ACTING COMMISSIONER RICHARD CONSTABLE III JOINS WABC7 ANCHOR BILL RITTER AND FDNY COMMISSIONER SAL CASSANO IN SHOWING THE SORT OF 'JERSEY STRONG' SUPPORT OPERATION 7 SAVE A LIFE CAN EXPECT FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HUDSON RIVER IN 2012.

Last year, the National Fire Protection Association, the nation's leading fire safety think tank produced a statistical analysis showing that the state ranked among the safest in per capita instances of fire related injury and deaths. The state, though the nation's most densely populated, has one of the lowest fire death rates in the nation, falling far below the national average, even in those with less people per square mile .

National fire safety experts attribute New Jersey's great track record in fire safety to the most stringent fire code and fire code enforcement in the nation, with Kean University, a comprehensive firefighter training, certification and continuing education program, and finally its effective array of grass roots public education outreach.

The Division has sponsored for nearly 25 years, along with the NJFPPA, and, now the state chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Coalition, the *Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest*. The Division created the annual *Scholastic Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E) Bowl* competition, held for New

Jersey middle school students statewide at Kean University. Finally the Division is a charter coalition participant in the on-line school based student fire safety education program founded by Dr. Frank Field, "*Fire Is..*" The program, in cooperation with the Fireman's Mutual Benefit Association of New Jersey (FMBA) starts its first full academic year as the only online and schools based educational access channel fire safety education program of its kind for middle school students this year.

Along with active on-line and email public fire and life safety education advocacy among local fire departments and fire officials throughout the state via the Fire Department Services Bureau of the Division, *Operation 7 Save a Life* takes its place among the wide variety of public education outreach conducted by the Division of Fire Safety statewide.

SMOKE ALARM INQUIRIES

**MISS THE SPECIAL?
WATCH IT ONLINE HERE**



NJDFS FIREFIGHTER FATALITY AND SERIOUS INJURY REPORT SERIES NOW POSTED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On Monday, July 27, 2009, at approximately 1920 hours, the Hampton Township, Sussex County Fire Rescue (HTFR) was conducting a training drill on the campus of the Sussex County Community College. The training drill involved shuttling water that was drafted from a pond on the campus, pumped into fire department water tenders and then transported to the other side of the pond. At the end point of the water shuttle, the contents of the tenders was dumped into above ground portable tanks where it would have been utilized to fight an actual fire had there been one at that location.

At the college campus the water was being drafted out of the pond by Engine 4862 (E-4862) and then pumped through a five inch diameter hose that terminated on the other end into a large diameter hose (LDH) appliance commonly referred to as a manifold. This manifold was used to convert the one five-inch hose that was feeding it into a maximum of four 2.5" hose discharges. Each discharge was equipped with a valve that could control the flow of water. On the night of the drill however, there were only two 2.5" hoses attached to the manifold. Each of these 2.5" hoses were then used to fill the water tenders. When a particular tender was full of water, the valves on the manifold would be closed, the hoses disconnected from the full water tender and then connected to the next tender to begin the process again. After two such fill cycles, Firefighter Rebecca Crawford was instructed to close the valves on the manifold as the third tender being filled was full. FF Crawford leaned over the manifold and began closing the valves simultaneously. With the valves approximately halfway closed, FF Crawford stated she heard a loud sound and just after that the manifold ruptured. The manifold roughly split in two with the top piece coming up and striking FF Crawford between the upper thighs and lower abdomen. The force of the object striking her lifted her off the ground and knocked off her fire boots and helmet. She was knocked unconscious for a short time and was treated by EMTs who were on location. She was ultimately transported by NJ State Police NorthStar helicopter to Morristown Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety / State Fire Marshal were promptly notified after the incident and within one hour had an investigator on location. The remains of the manifold were impounded by the investigator for future analysis.

[FULL REPORT](#)

NJDFS-ABC7 OPERATION SAVE A LIFE IN SYNCH WITH NFPA SMOKE ALARM REPORT

A National Fire Protection Association report based upon United State Fire Administration statistics gathered by fire departments nationwide through the USFA National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) shows that in the selected period 2005 through 2009 almost all households in the U.S. have at least one operable smoke alarm.

However, smoke alarms were present in less than three-quarters (72%) of all reported home fires and operated in half (51%) of the reported home fires. ("Homes" includes one- and two-family homes, apartments, and manufactured housing.) The figures show there may be a huge public education disconnect on smoke alarm use and post purchase maintenance.

More than one-third (38%) of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, while one-quarter (24%) resulted from fires in homes in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection. Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries.

These estimates are based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) annual fire department survey.

-ALL HOME FIRE DEATHS-

38% NO SMOKE ALARM AT ALL

24% ALARM NOT WORKING

[FULL NFPA REPORT](#)

PFRS MEMBER FIREFIGHTERS OFFERED RECORD LOW MORTGAGE RATES

To further boost the positive upswing in the state's housing market, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) has announced a new, fixed interest rate mortgage of 3.75 percent (est. APR 3.86 percent) with a 30-year term and no points for qualified first-time homebuyers and Urban Target Area borrowers. The new interest rate, is the lowest rate ever offered by the HMFA. The Agency has \$170 million to lend at this historically low interest rate, which will fund approximately 1,000 conventional mortgages.

"There has never been a better time to buy a home in New Jersey. These new attractive mortgage interest rates coupled with plenty of quality housing in the state's inventory create a perfect scenario for those contemplating their dream of home ownership," said Acting Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III, who is Chair of the HMFA.

"You've heard about the "Jersey Comeback"; along with creating jobs, improving our schools and fostering thriving communities is providing housing opportunities. Home ownership is a critical part of the Jersey Comeback and we are confident these new rates will jump start the real estate markets."

March is traditionally the start of the critical spring home buying season, especially for families with young children who need to purchase and move into a home before the September start of the school year. According to U.S. economic figures, the housing market is up, ahead of the spring buying season and the trend is clearly upward. Sales of previously occupied homes are at their highest level since May 2010.

More first-time homebuyers are making purchases. And the supply of homes fell last month to its lowest point in nearly seven years, which could push home prices higher. Sales have now risen nearly 13 percent over the past six months, according to U.S. economists. While they are still well below the 6 million that economists equate with a healthy market, the gains have coincided with other changes in the market that suggest more sales are coming.

"The HMFA's core mission is to provide funding for affordable home ownership and housing opportunities for New Jersey residents. This includes offering affordable home mortgages for first-time home

buyers and encouraging owner-occupied housing growth as a means to stabilize urban neighborhoods," said HMFA Executive Director Anthony L. Marchetta. "This new, low interest rate achieves both goals. We are so pleased to offer this opportunity to people who might otherwise not be in a position to buy a home and to contribute to the "Jersey Comeback"."

HMFA loans are made even more affordable because HMFA borrowers can take advantage of the Agency's very attractive Smart Start down payment/closing cost program. Accumulating the funds for down payment and closing costs of purchasing a home is a common barrier for potential homeowners.

The Smart Start Program is available to participants in the HMFA's Home Buyer Program who are purchasing homes in Smart Growth areas. The program helps these families by offering a second mortgage for down payment and/or closing costs in an amount up to 4 percent of the first mortgage. **More information:**

[NJ HOUSING AND MORTGAGE FINANCE AGENCY](#)

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE OFFERS POST IRENE RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS



**ACTING NJDFS DIRECTOR
KRAMER WITH THE GOVERNOR**

Governor Chris Christie addressed the audience at Trenton's War Memorial Building in an effort to extend a formal thank you on behalf of the state, to first responders in the wake of Hurricane Irene and the October snowstorm.

The Governor had praise for the predominate volunteer response to both events and noted in a moment of silence that one who had answered the call, EMT Michael Kenwood, of the Princeton Township Rescue Squad Swift Water Rescue Team had made the ultimate sacrifice.

NJDFS Emergency Preparedness Unit worked shoulder to shoulder with fire departments statewide coordinating deployment of resources.



2011 JUVENILE FIRESETTER CONFERENCE THINKS LOCAL AND ACTS GLOBAL



This year's annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference (left to right): Conference Coordinator, Charles Luxton NJDFS, Judith Okulitch, Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, Rachel Lind, New Zealand National Fire Service and William E. Kramer, Jr. Acting Director, NJDFS.



It's "Gangs 101: Fatal Choices" and Edwin Torres, SCI Special Investigator, has riveted the attention of 2011 NJDFS Juvenile Firesetter Conference students with his encyclopedic knowledge of New Jersey gang culture.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, the Kean University Fire Safety Training program, along with the International Association of Arson Investigators, New Jersey Chapter, combined forces to present the ninth annual edition of the Juvenile Firesetter Conference recently.

This year's Conference featured an acknowledgment of the "global" reach of the problem of juvenile firesetting, as Rachael Lind, National Trainer Fire Awareness & Intervention Program (NZFAIP) of the New Zealand Fire Service, addressed attendees in a plenary session who were drawn from as far away as Massachusetts and Maryland, for the two day NJDFS conference, held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, in Sayreville.

Acting Director, William E. Kramer, Jr. opened the conference by challenging session attendees to take back what they learned in the individual and plenary sessions to their local jurisdictions and to make it a permanent part of a multi-faceted public outreach and education program. Kramer stressed the importance of intervention with youth who have exhibited the sort of behaviors the conference sessions were designed to address, noting that it was the only conference of its type in the state that encourages the interaction of public safety and mental health professionals in a professional, peer to peer setting.

The Conference was keynoted by Judith Okulitch, Coordinator for the Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program at the Office of the State Fire Marshal in Oregon. Ms. Okulitch stressed in the opening session the relatively slow adoption by the fire service of social media as an instructional tool for public education purposes, noting that a fire safety education messages must appear there for them to reach the very young people who are most at risk to firesetting behaviors.

Edwin Torres, Special Agent of the State Commission of Investigations, gave a compelling insight into the world of criminal gangs, such as the Crips, Bloods, Latin Kings, and M13. Torres stresses that arson is among the tools criminal gangs use to either destroy rival gangs or to destroy crime scenes.

2011 JUVENILE FIRESETTER CONFERENCE THINKS LOCAL AND ACTS GLOBAL

"Fire is just another tool in the arsenal of weapons criminal gangs typically use to achieve their nefarious purposes," said Torres, noting the current roster of some gangs outnumber the police force in major New Jersey cities. Increasingly Torres noted that it is not just the cities such as Trenton and Newark that host gang activity.

"Tagging" or marking a building or location is a way a gang may use graffiti to define their territory now commonly appears on buildings not only in our major urban centers but also somewhat rural communities now like Bridgeton or Pemberton, he added. A signal that gangs are operating well outside their traditional "turf."

Passaic County Prosecutor's office detective Nancy Petrara-Stafyleras (*shown right*) gave an enlightening presentation on so-called "Female Gangs" and their prevalence in the state, as well as, their own reputation for using fire as a weapon against other gangs, and of course unfortunately innocent civilians, who are victimized by such crimes.

cluxton@dca.state.nj.us



I am sorry to report that our friend Don Rimer, Retired Police Officer from Virginia Beach passed away on Saturday, January 21, 2012. Don presented at our Conference for many years. He was 67 years old. Don presented his program "Ritual Crimes and the Occult" this year at our 9th Annual Conference at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. He was scheduled for back surgery the following Wednesday at home in Virginia Beach. Unfortunately, he developed blood clots. He went through another procedure to remove the clots and suffered a massive stroke. He was removed from life support on Saturday, January 14, 2012 and died on Saturday, January 21, 2012 in a hospital in Virginia Beach with his wife at his bedside.

Charles Luxton
Conference Coordinator

NJDFS 'LIVE TREE BURN' SENDS A HOLIDAY SAFETY MESSAGE STATEWIDE



Dempster Fire Training Center-Mercer County Fire hosted what may become an annual New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Holiday tradition. Acting Director William E. Kramer, Jr. took the opportunity to impart specific Holiday tree safety cautions. Just days before, unattended Holiday candles were tagged as the cause of a house fire in nearby Monmouth County

Dempster Fire Training Academy Executive Director James McCann, along with Deputy Director Dave Gayley, provided for the use of the Academy facilities, including Burn Building "A." Media coverage included a dramatic video of a live tree ignited by a space heater shown on television station WZBN-TV and NJ.com.



NJDFS 'LIVE TREE BURN' SENDS A HOLIDAY SAFETY MESSAGE STATEWIDE



Special thanks to Chief Michael Oakley of Lawrenceville's Slackwood Volunteer Fire Company and "Southside Mutts" crew from Station 21 who ably provided the standby fire services for the event .

"In Ominia Paratus"

Dramatic evidence of what the combination of a dry evergreen and the less than three feet proximity from an active heat source, (portable space heater at left) can do to a "living room" during the celebration of the Holidays.



New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Acting Director, William E. Kramer, Jr. tells Sibile Morency of WBZN-TV Channel 25 news that the demonstration was not meant to frighten anyone, but in fact to draw a dramatic parallel to the specific fire prevention measures that residents should take not only during the holiday season but all year long.

[SEE VIDEO](#)

(Ed. Note: Post a link to it on your FD or FD website)

NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE TO NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
Stanley Sickels



FIRE SUPPRESSION INDUSTRY
Kevin Bellew



VOLUNTEER FIRE ORGANIZATIONS
Kevin Krushinski



The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, formed in 1983, is comprised of fire service stakeholders who make recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, on matters of state fire policy. Six (6) Advisory Councils meet regularly to make those recommendations.

The most recent appointments fill vacancies in the organizations represented on the Commission.

[NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION ONLINE](#)





EMMITSBURG, MD — The United States Fire Administration (USFA) reports that there were 81 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2011. This represents an almost seven percent decrease from the 87 fatalities reported for 2010. The 81 fatalities occurred in 33 states, one U.S. territory, and one overseas U.S. military facility. Texas experienced the highest number of fatalities (seven). North Carolina experienced six firefighter deaths and was the only other state with five or more firefighter fatalities.

"In 2004 at the initial Life Safety Summit, a number of fire service leaders did not believe we would complete a calendar year with less than 100 firefighter on-duty deaths," U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell said.

"We broke through that perceived barrier in 2009, 2010, and now in 2011! We salute and congratulate our fire service family and pledge to continue working closely with the entire fire service community and its partners to maintain and even accelerate this downward trend in on-duty firefighter deaths."

Heart attacks were responsible for the deaths of 48 firefighters (59%) in 2011, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (60%) in 2010. Ten on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires since 1996. Fifty-four percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Only three firefighters were killed in vehicle collisions. 2011 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2011. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July 2012.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety issues an annual report on fire statistics from which the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), draws its New Jersey data. The final report "Fire In New Jersey" is compiled throughout the year for the previous year's data. NJDFS will issue its report for 2011 statistics in the fall of 2010. The statistics for 2010 are available on the NJDFS website at the link below. In 2010 two members of the New Jersey Fire Service lost their lives in the line of duty.

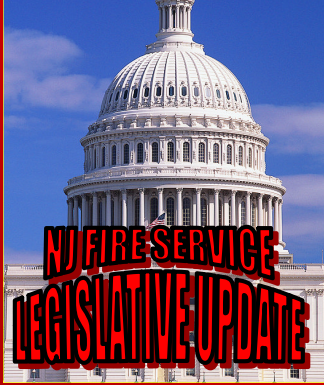
[NJDFS 'FIRE IN NEW JERSEY' 2010](#)

AT ISSUE:

FUNDING FOR THE FIRE SERVICE DOWN BY 2 BILLION FOR FY '12

A-3278 NOW A-1570

**S-553 SEEKS TO REIMBURSE
FIGHTERFIGHTER FUNERAL COSTS**



The Senate has approved H.R. 2055, a \$915 billion spending package for Fiscal Year 2012. The bill, which includes funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was approved by the House on December 16, 2011.

The spending measure makes significant cuts to DHS, funding the department at \$39.4 billion, a decrease of \$2 billion from FY11 and \$8.6 billion less than was requested by the Obama Administration. The Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program are funded at \$337.5 million each, down from \$405 million each in FY '11.

FIRE and SAFER were not the only grant programs to be significantly cut in the bill. H.R. 2055 creates a funding pool of \$1.35 billion for a dozen grant programs, including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHGP). These programs will be funded at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security. The United States Fire Administration is funded at \$44.038 million, down \$1.5 million from FY11. The Bill now goes to President Obama for his signature.

The New Jersey Residential Sprinkler Bill (A-3278) was reintroduced before the NJ Legislature as Bill (A-1570) for the 2012 session, a partner Senate bill is expected. The Bill, sponsored by the Chair of the New Jersey State Fire Safety Commission, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, (D-Middlesex), requires fire suppression sprinklers in all one and two family homes. In August 2010, the then Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs affirmed the Christie Administration's policy on residential sprinklers:

"...Ultimately the decision in this matter came down to a question of timing. In the current economic climate, it is paramount that State agency policies be sensitive to their impact on our economic recovery. The imposition of additional cost that might impede recovery of the residential construction sector, however desirable the result might be, is a step that cannot be taken at this time."

Senate Bill (S-512) which was formerly (S-553) advances in the new session. The Bill sponsored by Senator Donald Norcross (D-Camden) directs the state to reimburse the families of first responders killed in the line of duty up to 10,000 dollars for funeral expenses.

To track the progress of any piece of legislation or to contact a legislator directly by email concerning any aspect of fire service legislation please visit:

www.njleg.state.nj.us

NIOSH FIREFIGHTER INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM REPORT A MUST READ

(Editor-Producer note: NJDFS Fire Focus believes it important to present the New Jersey Fire Service with access to timely firefighter-first responder health and well-being information. The following detailed National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health report should serve as a cautionary lesson for all.)

On July 29, 2011, a 53-year-old career lieutenant (the victim) died from injuries he received after a vehicle he was performing maintenance on crushed him. The victim had lifted the vehicle with a portable floor jack. While on a creeper, the victim positioned himself under the vehicle and was preparing to remove the oil drain plug when the vehicle came down on him. Fire fighters within the station came to check on the victim and discovered that the jack was no longer supporting the vehicle and the victim was motionless under the vehicle. The fire fighters quickly repositioned the jack and attempted to raise the vehicle but the jack failed to support the vehicle's weight. The fire fighters had to use hydraulic spreaders to raise the vehicle off of the victim. The victim later died at the hospital from injuries sustained during the incident:

[FULL NIOSH REPORT](#)

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING DUE ON GEL FUEL FIREPOTS AND DEVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In an effort to prevent further injuries and deaths resulting from the use of gel fuels in firepots, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has voted to publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) aimed at improving the safety of gel fuels and firepots.

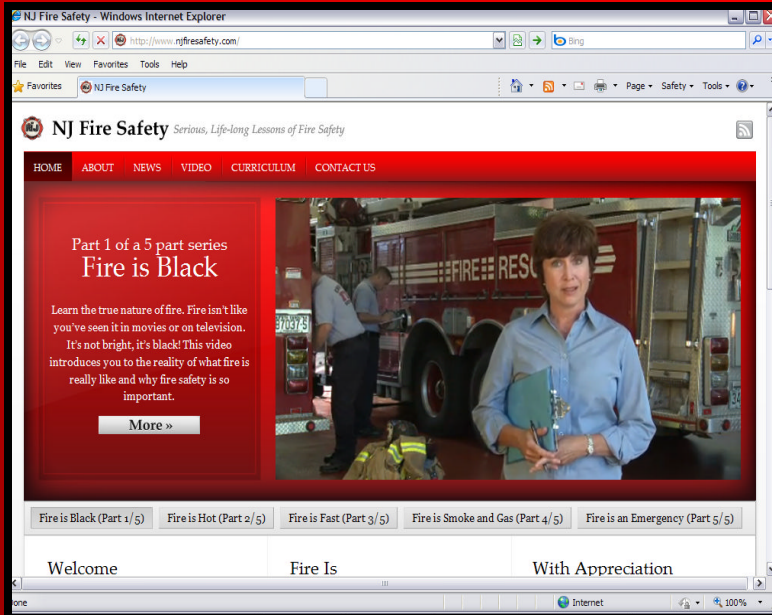
The ANPR was prompted by the number of serious injuries and deaths that have occurred to consumers using these products. CPSC is aware of 65 incidents between April 2010 and September 2011, which have resulted in two deaths and at least 34 victims who were hospitalized with second and third degree burns of the face, chest, hands, arms or legs. The ANPR invites written comments from the public regarding the risks of injury associated with gel fuels and firepots and ways to address these risks. Following publication of the ANPR in the Federal Register, the public will have 60 days to provide comments to the Commission. Comments can be submitted at:

www.regulations.gov

The Division of Fire Safety has developed a brochure on Fuel Gel hazards available for download or by request at:

fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us

“FIRE IS...” EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SECURES MAJOR MCDONALDS SUPPORT



A graphic titled "FIRE IS..." with a dark background and white text. The text reads: "FIRE IS BLACK • FIRE IS HOT • FIRE IS FAST FIRE IS SMOKE & GAS • FIRE IS AN EMERGENCY". Below this, there are two "FACT:" statements. The first states: "Most fire deaths in the United States occur in residential homes. Fire drills save lives." The second states: "Most families have never practiced a fire drill or even discussed what to do if a fire were to occur in their own home." To the left of the text, there are "Basic Fire Safety Tips" including: "It's a fire occurs in your home, every second counts.", "Working smoke detectors on every level of your home are the first line of defense. Test them regularly and change the batteries twice a year.", "Always sleep with bedroom doors closed. They are a substantial barrier to toxic smoke and superheated gases (the leading killer in a house fire).", and "Have a fire safety plan and practice it with your family at least once a year." Below the tips, it says "For information provided by Dr. Frank Field, Scientist." and "Contact your local school to learn about Fire Is an exciting new program for middle school students and their parents." At the bottom, there are logos for McDonald's, Safe Kids, and FEMA, along with the slogan "i'm lovin' it!".

THE MENU TRAY THAT THOUSANDS OF NEW JERSEY MCDONALDS RESTAURANT PATRONS SAW LATE LAST YEAR



The “Fire Is...” program representing a coalition including; the New Jersey Fireman’s Mutual Benevolent Association, Safe Kids, The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, The New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, The New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the Jersey Access Group received major underwriting from the McDonald’s Corporation, representing many of its restaurants in New Jersey.

Thousands of the familiar meal tray liners were seen by McDonald’s patrons in the last quarter of 2011. Plans for a similar support in 2012 are in place. “Fire Is...” may very well be perhaps the best scholastic fire education program available today.

Are YOU hosting the program in your community?

www.njfiresafety.com

SPACE HEATERS AND GOLF CARTS TOP LIST OF 2012 FIRE HAZARD RECALLS BY CPSC

Product	Recall Press Release	Hazard	Photo
Meijer Touch Point Oscillating Ceramic Heaters (13,000 units)	11-277	The oscillating mechanism in the heaters can short out, posing a fire hazard to consumers.	
Flow Pro, Airtech, Aloha Breeze & Comfort Essentials Heaters (2.2 million units)	11-089	The heaters can malfunction resulting in overheating, smoking, burning, melting and fire.	
Lasko Portable Electric Heaters (107,500 units)	11-121	An electrical connection in the base of the unit can overheat, causing it to melt and expose the electrical connection, posing a fire hazard to consumers.	
Honeywell Electric Baseboard and Fan Heater Thermostats (77,000 units)	11-289	The thermostats can overheat, causing them to melt and smoke. This poses a burn hazard to the consumer.	
GE Zoneline Air Conditioners and Heaters (90,800 units)	11-247	An electrical component in the heating system can fail, posing a fire hazard to consumers.	

Recalled Precedent Golf Cars	
Model	Serial Number Range
CF	CF1139-233925 - CF1147-250173
PR	PR1139-233918 - PR1147-249958
PY	PY1144-244648

GOLF CARTS

-CLICK LINK-



CITRONELLA

-CLICK LINK-



CHILDREN'S PAJAMAS

-CLICK LINK-



CHILDREN'S ROBE

-CLICK LINK-



GEL FUEL

-CLICK LINK-

CLICK LINK TO SUBSCRIBE TO ALL CPSC FIRE HAZARD RECALLS

SPACE HEATERS AND GOLF CARTS TOP LIST OF 2012 FIRE HAZARD RECALLS BY CPSC



PORTABLE GAS GRILLS

-CLICK LINK-



TOASTERS

-CLICK LINK-



LED FLASHLIGHTS

-CLICK LINK-



BATTERY CHARGER

-CLICK LINK-



GAS RANGE

-CLICK LINK-

Brand	Model Number Begins With:		And Serial Number Begins With:
Monogram®	LP Model	Natural Gas Model	AS, AT, AV, DS, DT, DV, FS, FT, FV, GS, GT, GV, HR, HS, HT, HV, LR, LS, LT, LV, MR, MS, MT, RR, RS, RT, SR, SS, ST, TR, TS, TT, VR, VS, VT, ZR, ZS, ZT
	ZGU364LRP	ZGU364NRP	
	ZGU484LGP	ZGU484NGP	
	ZGU486LRP	ZGU486NRP	



NFPA REPORT LISTS NEW JERSEY AS BOTH THE MOST POPULATED BUT MOST FIRE SAFE

New Jersey is ranked among the most fire safe states in the nation, according to a report released late last year by the National Fire Protection Association. The report findings show that New Jersey has the 10th lowest number of fire deaths per one million people in the U.S.

New Jersey's fire death rate between 2003 and 2007 is 7.1, according to the report. The average fire death rate among all 50 states for that same time period is 10.9. Citing a positive trend, the report findings say that nearly every state in the nation shows a long-term trend toward lower fire death rates relative to population. However, given New Jersey's demographics, dense population and older housing stock, the low fire death rate is particularly noteworthy.

The report cites effective programs such as universal public fire and life safety education, wider use of home fire protection systems, and strong consensus codes with strong enforcement as reasons that reduced fire death rates change over time in any state.

Among states in the Northeast, New Jersey ranks third best. Only New Hampshire (6.4) and Massachusetts (6.0) fared slightly better.

The report shows that between 1980 and 1984 the fire death rate was 22.9 with an average of 170 New Jersey residents being killed by fire annually. The report also shows that 56 New Jerseyans lost their lives due to fire between 2003 and 2007. That is a 67 percent reduction over the past quarter century.

"New Jersey's excellent ranking is a testament to the statewide fire codes, and effectiveness of local and state enforcement," said New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Acting Director William Kramer. "We have one of the best fire code enforcement programs in the country. Nowhere in New Jersey is the fire code not being administered."



The Division of Fire Safety issues an annual report "*Fire in New Jersey*" of fire statistics in New Jersey.

The latest report for 2010 can be found on the DCA website at

www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dfs/

The entire NFPA report can be viewed through the National Fire Protection's website at

www.nfpa.org.

The Division of Fire Safety serves as the central fire service agency in the State. The Division is responsible for the development and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Code, arson investigations utilizing a canine corps, as well as implementing and assisting in local level fire safety public education and county based firefighter training programs.



National Fire Protection Association
The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

USFA ESTIMATE SUMMARY SERIES OF 2010 SHOWS CLUES TO FIRE CAUSE

EMMITSBURG, Maryland — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued the 2010 Fire Estimate Summary Series which presents basic information on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The data summary series was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with the American public, fire departments, and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

Individual summaries are issued as part of the Fire Estimate Summary Series and address the size of a specific fire or fire-related issue as well as highlight important data trends. As part of this series, 17 summaries have been issued presenting basic information on the leading causes of residential building and nonresidential building fires, deaths, injuries, and dollar losses for 2010 and highlighting overall trends in these leading causes for the 5-year period of 2006 to 2010. Additional new and updated fire estimate summaries will be periodically released under this series as future year data become available.

[USFA NATIONAL FIRE ESTIMATES](#)

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE SEEKS AWARD NOMINEES

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) announced that it is now accepting nominations for its 2012 national awards program. These awards honor both individuals and organizations for excellence in leadership. With the generous support of corporations and organizations committed to public safety, CFSI is able to recognize leaders who have made major contributions to our nation's fire and emergency services. CFSI is seeking both individuals and organizations deserving of recognition for outstanding leadership in the advancement of firefighter health and safety and the delivery of emergency medical services.

For additional information on how to nominate worthy candidates for any of our three awards, please visit our website and click the tab for Leadership Awards. The awards presentations will take place on April 26th at the 24th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner in Washington, DC.

WWW.CFSI.ORG

SENTRIX TRACKING UNIT ACCOUNTS FOR ALL PERSONNEL ON THE FIREGROUND



Firefighter Ray Hodgson hits the talk button on his walkie-talkie:

I have fire showing, possibility of a rescue on the third floor. Engine 35, initiate a rescue group. Also back him up with a hose line.

A fire has been set in a three story building at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, where firefighters hone their skills and test equipment. In this case they're testing a device they hope will save firefighters' lives. Everyone taking part in the drill knows how difficult and dangerous it is to locate a missing firefighter in a smoky inferno.

"When you go into a burning building, you don't really see anything. You can't see your hand in front of your face; you're going on instincts. It's almost a surreal experience," says Matt Leonard, a firefighter in the District of Columbia and a deputy chief in Prince George's County, Md.

"We've had instances where we've lost firefighters in a building and had a hard time finding them. It's very frustrating," says Hodgson, a firefighter for 44 years. He knows firsthand the sinking feeling of hearing the dreaded words that one of his colleagues is missing. That's why this team of experienced firefighters is taking time to test out a new type of sensor that can track their whereabouts deep inside buildings, where standard GPS units often don't work.

"This has been a need for a long time," says Carol Politi, CEO of TRX Systems, the company developing the sensor. "Sept. 11 was widely publicized and there was not even an understanding of whether certain firefighters were actually in the buildings at the time of that tragedy."

With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), electrical engineer Politi and her team at TRX Systems are developing a portable device called the Sentrix Tracking Unit. It straps on like a belt and consists of a suite of sensors. "The sensors include accelerometers and gyroscopes. Those are sensors similar to what you have in your Wii for example-- pressure sensors ranging sensors. It allows us to create a picture of what a user has done," says Politi.

"The sensors monitor the movement of the user," explains Ben Funk, vice president of Engineering at TRX. "So when the user moves forward or backwards, left or right, it determines how far a person moved in each direction."

During the fire drill the sensors create a map of the building as the firefighters move through the smoke.

Twenty-eight-nineteen, we have a mayday on the third floor from the rescue group. Initiate a search.



SENTRIX TRACKING UNIT ACCOUNTS FOR ALL PERSONNEL ON THE FIREGROUND



During the demonstration, Hodgson assumes the role as incident commander as the others move through the burning building in teams of two. One of the firefighters, outfitted with a sensor, crawls through the smoke and purposely gets lost. The Sentrix Tracking Unit maps his location at every twist and turn, sending the data to a nearby base station--in this case, the incident commander's laptop. The system can transmit via a variety of different radio-waves to accommodate different receivers.

The tracker advises they're on the back Delta Charlie quadrant in the back bedroom.

In minutes the firefighter is located by a member of his team. Hodgson relays the good news:

Command to all units on 28-19, I have a confirmation. They have found the victim on the back quadrant and they're coming out with him. We can step down.

"If my firefighters get in trouble and need help, it's going to cut my time down to about a tenth of what it takes right now to go in there and do a blind search," says Hodgson.

In addition to firefighters, Politi says the Sentrix System can

benefit other first responders, such as the police, FEMA or the Red Cross, as well as the military and miners.

"First responders, firefighters, they're the most difficult [to track]," explains Funk, "because of the types of motions that they're performing. They're crawling; they're going up and down stairs, forward and backwards."

According to Politi, the system incorporates all signals of opportunity, such as GPS and WiFi. It also incorporates RF signals.

"Combining these with inertial and any available, or inferred, map information will allow locations to be tracked even in difficult applications," she explains.

Before making the system broadly available to first responders, Politi says they are delivering the system for training and tracking applications in less adverse environments.

"These early adopters are helping to mature the system and ready it for more critical life safety applications," she notes. The goal is pinpoint precision--to keep a watchful eye through the smoke and flame.

(Ed. note: The article is from the National Science Foundation)



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM NJDFS KEAN FIRE SAFETY TRAINING



WORLD-CLASS
EDUCATION

Eligible Organization Meetings 2012

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 10 AM

Date/Time	Location	Address	Telephone
4/27/2012	Mercer County Fire Academy	350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648	609-799-3245
7/27/2012	Ocean County Fire & EMS Training Center	200 Volunteer Way, Waretown, NJ 08758	800-723-2088
10/26/2012	Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center	53 Academy Drive, Westampton (Mt. Holly), NJ 08060	609-702-7157 ext 3900

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

JUNENILE FIRESETTER INTERVENTION SPECIALIST 1

PRESENTED BY: NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY AND THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY



April 11&12, 2012

WWW.STATE.NJ.US/DCA/DIVISIONS/DFS/ and WWW.KEANFIRESAFETY.COM

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NEW JERSEY WEEKEND AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

PRESENTED BY: NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY



APRIL 28-29, 2012

WWW.STATE.NJ.US/DCA/DIVISIONS/DFS/ and WWW.KEANFIRESAFETY.COM



SAVE THE DATE!

NJDFS F.I.R.E BOWL
(FIRE INFORMATION AND RESCUE EDUCATION)
LITTLE THEATER-KEAN UNIVERSITY



FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012

SPECIAL F.I.R.E. BOWL PREVIEW DAY AT MIDDLESEX FIRE ACADEMY

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

FIREPREVENTION@DCA.STATE.NJ.US

2012 SAFER GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 2/24/12 1700 HOURS EST

The FY 2011 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants application period will open on Monday, January 30, 2012 and run until Friday, February 24, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. EST.

The goal of the SAFER Grants is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, assuring communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

The FY 2011 SAFER Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit are posted on the [AFG website](#). All SAFER applicants should read the new FY 2011 [SAFER Grants Program Guidance](#) (PDF) to understand the FY 2011 award criteria, funding priorities, and important special application instructions for completing the application.

GAMEWELL FIREBOXES ANSWER THE LATEST “LAST CALL” IN BLOOMFIELD

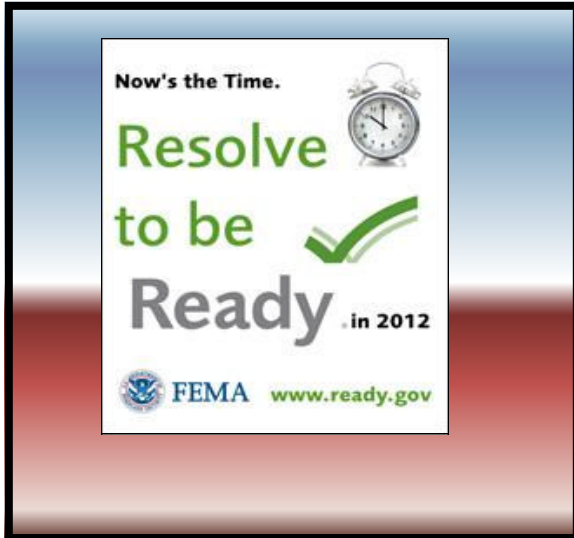


In 1859 James Gamewell purchased the full regional rights and later the patent on the “Electromagnetic Fire Alarm Telegraph for Cities.”

By 1890 they were serving as the first alarm call in over 500 cities in the country. By 1910 Gamewell had secured nearly 100 percent of the market share for the “fire box.” New York City has over 15,000 and as true as it was during 9/11, their independent power supply keeps them running when cell and landline service are disrupted. However the systems are costly to maintain.

As with Bloomfield, many municipalities are deactivating the systems. The boxes though live on as items up for bid on Ebay.

PREPARING TO PREVENT DISASTER A KEY THEME OF RESOLVE TO BE READY IN 2012



WASHINGTON - As 2011 - one of the most active years for disasters in recent history - came to a close and Americans began the new year, the Federal Emergency Management Agency encouraged all Americans to *Resolve to be Ready* in the by making a new year's resolution to be prepared for emergencies in 2012

As a recent report by the National Climatic Data Center highlights, 2011 has seen more billion-dollar natural disasters than any year on record. This year alone, the U.S. experienced its first hurricane landfall since 2008, the most deadly series of tornadoes since the 1950s, significant earthquakes and severe flooding - hazards that impacted every region of the country.

All of these events have served as important reminders that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere, and being prepared is one of the most effective things we can do to protect our homes, businesses and loved ones.

FEMA *Resolve to be Ready* in 2012, which urges Americans to make preparedness a priority during the holiday season by making a new year's resolution to be ready for disasters or by thinking about preparedness tools for last minute gift ideas.

"One of the most important lessons we can take away from this year is that disasters can impact all of us, no matter what part of the country we live in," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "While we can't control where or when they might hit, we can take steps in advance to prepare for them - efforts that can go a long way toward protecting our families, homes and business. Resolving to be Ready in 2012 could be the most important pledge you make this year."

By making a resolution to take a few simple steps in advance, Americans can minimize the impact of an emergency on their families, homes or businesses. To take the pledge, visit www.ready.gov/resolve or www.listo.gov, which includes free information, checklists, and guidelines about how to put together a kit, make a plan, and stay informed.

Resolve to be Ready in 2012 is a nationwide effort to increase awareness and encourage individuals, families, businesses, and communities to take action and prepare for emergencies in the New Year. This effort is led by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council. For more information, visit Ready.gov and CitizenCorps.gov or follow the campaign on Twitter using the hashtags #ready2012 and #resolve.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

If you are local fire official or firefighter in New Jersey it would assist the effort greatly if you took advantage of the many free resource materials . Placing a web banner on your municipal page or fire department website is a great way to remind folks that they need always to "Be Ready"

Download the entire resource "toolkit" below!

[RESOLVE TO BE READY TOOLKIT DOWNLOAD](#)



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