### The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

# FIRE FOCUS

Richard E. Constable III, Commissioner William E. Kramer Jr., Acting Director SUMMER 2012 Posting New Jersey Department of Community Affairs New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Volume 7 Issue 2

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION WINS AGAIN AT 2012 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL



The annual event aimed at middle schools statewide serves the specific Division cause of educating middle school students about fire prevention, using the fun and informative game show format as seen on TV.

Flanked by News 12 newsman Tony Caputo, New Jersey Fire Safety Commissioner Daniel De Trolio and Bayonne firefighter Chris Czuba are State NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl champs from Nicholas Oresko School: Alexis Konn, Kenny Tarantino, Gerry Konn, Althea Ato and Team Coach Barbara DeBeneditis.

Students from the Nicholas Oresko School of Bayonne are state *NJDFS F.I.R.E.* (Fire Information Rescue Education) *Bowl* champions. The 7th annual competition was held at Kean University's Little Theater Auditorium recently, capping a rigorous classroom preliminary round, which pitted middle school students from across the state in an all out test of fire safety knowledge.



#### IN THIS POSTING...

2012 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL RESULTS!
HOMELAND SECURITY AT KEAN U.
NJDFS-NJFPPA POSTER CONTEST

"WORLD'S BIGGEST FIREBOAT?"

USFA 'TOPICAL SERIES' HOME FIRES

**INSPECTOR MARGARET KINIGHT...HERO** 

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS QUARTERLY INTERVIEW:



Judy Okulitch Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION WINS AGAIN AT 2012 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL



Henry E. Harris Coach — Aric Hall Arya Castro Sean Dolan Nicolette Troglio Michael Nolan

Philip G. Vroom Coach - Kim Simko **Bryant Davis Amir Masoud Brianna Rodriguez Bishov Rofail** 

Dr. Walter F. Robinson Coach —Patricia Niland Omid Najmi **Kayla Feathers Rames Asham** 

Mary J. Donohoe Jeremiah DeGuzman **Monika Fanous Shehab Marzouk** 

**Lincoln Community** Coach—Joseph Bellia Alyson Kosakowski Jovanka Miranda Krystal Renta

Coach—Kelly Anne Lake **Madison Sanderlin Shady Khalil** Alla Abouelkeir

#### Midtown Community

Coach -Joyce DiPasquale **Alexis Bailey** Adam Soure Cassidy Svercauski Kirtika Sharad

#### Washington Community

Joseph Fracasso **Anthony Crincoli** 

#### Woodrow Wilson

Coach—Larissa Drennan Michelle Chuek

Coach —Kristy Martin Fabricio Lombeyda Matthew Hart Kyle Necklen

Nicholas Oresko School

Althea Ato Kenny Tarantino Alexis Konn

Salman Rizvi



**Belleville Middle School** 

Coach—Cory Koransky Farah Abdel-Hafez **Arian Richardson** Elena Amadeo Jessica Jacho **Kimberly Grande** Kenya Pringle Marissa Cabrera **Metin Yuksel** Krishna Amin

Coach—Jessica Albert Zeeshan Zahid Frankie DiNozzi **Shyanne Boisse** Rebecca Juskey **Raven Smith** Abdur Sajid **Sarpreet Kaur** 

**Coach**— Meghan Campion **Chris Hanley** Lauren Carter Michelle Jasko **Russell Herbert** Gina Mitaritonna

Jessenia Hernandez Tysheeka Walker **Princess Tidwell Arianna Santana** 

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION WINS AGAIN AT 2012 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL









Photos courtesy Kean University

This year students from the Nicholas Oresko School of Bayonne competed with the students from Primary Prep, also of Bayonne, for the state title. Ultimately, it was the team from Nicholas Oresko, comprised of: Alexis Konn, Gerry Konn, Kenny Tarantino, and Althea Ato, that took the title of state *NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl* champions.

"It is pretty awesome to see how hard these young folks work on the competition. They become quite conversant in the very principles of fire science, that we ask the men and women of the New Jersey Fire Service to know in order to obtain their state firefighter certifications. Most importantly, they discuss with their peers and take home to their families a notion of what being fire safe is all about because of their participation, "says William E. Kramer, Jr. Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

The annual NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl remains a firm part of the Division's public education outreach. The annual event is aimed at middle schools statewide and serves the specific cause of educating young people about fire prevention. The competition challenge occurs first on site at participating schools and culminates in the annual event held at the University.

Preparations for the NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl for 2013 are now underway. If you think your school is up to the competition standards established by this year and previous year winners, please contact NJDFS F.I.R.E Bowl Coordinator Charles Lavin:

charles.lavin@dca.state.nj.us

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION WINS AGAIN AT 2012 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL

#### State F.I.R.E. Bowl Committee Members

William Kramer, Acting Director,
NJ Division of Fire Safety
Charles Lavin, Fire Safety Commission
Public Education
Karen Grant—Kean University
Clarence Turner—Kean University

#### **Local FIRE Bowl Committees**

<u>Bayonne</u>: Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Patricia Dziubek, Vice Principal, Midtown Community School

Deborah J. Whitney, Educational Media Specialist

Joyce Lynch, Fire Prevention Bureau

<u>Belleville</u>: Peter Giunta, Principal, Belleville Middle School

Ralph Castellano, Belleville Fire Prevention Bureau

<u>Camden</u>: Dr. B. LeFra Young, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Davida Coe-Brockington, Assistant Superintendent

Paul Mulle, Director of Science

<u>Carteret</u>: Mary Spiga, *Principal, Carteret Middle School* 

Chief Brian O'Connor, Carteret Fire Department Captain Robert Magella, Carteret Fire Department

Freehold: Dianne Brethauer, Principal, Dwight D. Eisenhower School

Meghan Campion, FIRE Bowl Coordinator/Coach

Jersey City: Armando Roman, Director, Jersey City Fire Department

Grace Moriarty, Principal, Academy I
Maureen Hoffman, Founder/Director, Primary

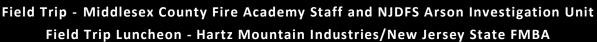


#### **Sponsors and Donations**

Team Shirts - I.M.T.T. Bayonne

Trophies and Certificates - Joshua Marcus Group

Participation Medals - Joshua Marcus Group





#### **Hosted by Kean University**

\*\*F.I.R.E. Bowl logo design created by Daniel Ruiz

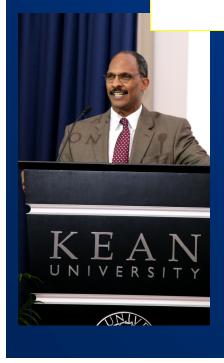


## NJDFS-HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE FOCUS: COUNTER MEASURES AGAINST CYBER THREATS



THE NINTH ANNUAL NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY-KEAN
HOMELAND SECURITY AND FIRE
CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON THE VERY
REAL THREAT OF A SO-CALLED
"CYBER PEARL HARBOR" REFERRED
TO BY DEFENSE SECRETARY LEON
PANETTA IN TESTIMONY BEFORE A
SENATE PANEL IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR.
BRENDAN MONAHAN INTELLIGENCE
ANALYST FOR PSE&G REFERRED TO
THE STATE-WIDE POWER GRID AND
THREAT MITIGATION MEANT TO
FORESTALL THOSE THREATS.







NJDFS ACTING DIRECTOR WILLIAM KRAMER, JR. IS JOINED (LEFT TO RIGHT) BY CONFERENCE SPEAKERS EDWARD DICKSON, DIRECTOR NJ HOMELAND SECURITY, BRENDAN MONAHAN, PSE&G AND THEOPHILUS JOSEPH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE (FEMA)



Content Producer Note: The most recent NJDFS-IAAI Juvenile Firesetter Conference allowed NJDFS FIRE FOCUS QUARTERLY the opportunity to sit down with Judy Okulitch of the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office and keynote speaker at this year's NJDFS-IAAI Conference to explore in depth some of the issues she raised in her address, especially with emphasis on social networking as a tool for both prevention and intervention.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Judy, first upon the behalf of our DCA Commissioner Richard Constable III, Acting **Director of the New Jersey Division of Fire** Safety Bill Kramer, Conference Coordinator Charles Luxton, and the IAAI, we would like to thank you again for providing the keynote at this past year's 9th Annual NJDFS-IAAI Juvenile Firesetter's Conference. You raised some very timely issues in your presentation and we would like to examine some of what you raised in detail. One thing we can agree on, that whether it's the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office or our own, there is a great deal of commonality to the issues we deal with, including your area of expertise Juvenile Firesetting.

First, for those who could not attend this year's Conference, could we hear a little about your background, and why you decided to pursue this particular career path? You didn't just arrive, right?



No, I did not. I have been in fire prevention education and intervention for over twenty years. The relationships and friendships I made with people who have a

passion for working with kids who misuse fire has been my greatest joy. Youth firesetting is such a fascinating field because it involves so many disciplines: fire service, law enforcement, mental health, juvenile justice, schools and child welfare. Networking with these groups on the state and national level has been an exciting life journey.

I am most proud of my research with the Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior at the University of Oregon that resulted in a new screening tool for fire professionals to use to identify the needs of youth misusing fire. I coordinated two decades of *Hot Issues*, the first and longest running publication on juvenile firesetting.

Two bound volumes of *Hot Issues* reside in the library at the National Fire Academy that document the evolution of the field of juvenile firesetting intervention in the U.S. I served on two national committees that resulted in major changes on how we train fire professionals.



I served on the team that wrote the first version of the NFPA 1035 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I and II and the IAAI Youth Fire Investigation class. Lastly, with the support of the Oregon State Fire Marshal, I spearheaded the movement in state legislatures to ban toy-like lighters.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Judy that is quite an impressive record of accomplishment. From that perspective you now stress the importance of social media as an effective way of reaching young adults. Could you expand upon that?

Social media and networking sites, such as, Facebook, YouTube, My Space and Twitter, have become increasingly popular in the last few years. In fact, these sites have become the major sources of social interaction for young adults. These sites have become the platform for sharing content, experiences, stories and even videos with each other.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: How have those methods impacted both the way prevention and intervention are conducted by the fire service and how might that change going forward?



Communication is moving in the digital direction. If the fire service is going to effectively communicate fire safety, prevention and fire survival messages, then we must move in that direction

The days of providing hard copy brochures on fire safety may be going away. Today, we have to engage the public through innovative social media techniques, like blogs and instant messaging, to reach more audiences. Our communication with the public must be interactive and instantaneous.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Our public institutions especially those at the state and local level have been slow to adopt those sort of technological and social media strategies. Why is that?

Government agencies always are behind the private sector in adopting new practices. It takes time to develop definitions, procedures and policies around the use of any technology. This is especially true for social media. Governments must comply with a variety of federal and state statutes and so it is important to establish terms of use so all employees are knowledgeable and comply with the rules of the agency and the law.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Agreed!



NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: I know that from your perspective you find it ironic that the lead emergency response agency in the country FEMA has utilized every aspect of social media and electronic outreach, yet state agencies, such as own here in New Jersey, lag behind in the commitment to 21st century public education methods.

Several years ago, we were not allowed to use the Internet during work hours. Now it is common practice. *Facebook, Twitter* and *LinkedIn* receive more than 2.5 billion visitors in one month.

Social media isn't going away and if we are going to communicate with our customers, both internal and external, public agencies will need to change and adapt. The fire service has witnessed the value of *Twitter* during an emergency response, now we need some successes to see the value of social media in our fire prevention messages.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: We can agree that utilizing social networks would greatly enhance our ability to convey fire safety information, what is the game changer with respect to convincing state policy makers to include it?



I think one of the reasons is that many agencies do not have the personnel to dedicate to updating social media sites or responding to blogs or instant messaging. This becomes both a

budgeting issue and a recruitment issue. The fire service agencies that I know of that have been successful with social media have dedicated units with personnel highly trained in technological communication and public relations. The folks best suited for this work are Generation Z (Generation I or Text Generation) who have grown up with social media.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Of course we recognize that social media can be a double edged sword. On one hand Facebook and You Tube host images of inappropriate behaviors and on the other, a side by side live burn show unequivocally the effectiveness of residential sprinklers. That in mind, can prevention and Intervention afford not to be there?

Very simply, no. We live in a digitized world. The social web has changed the way citizens communicate with each other, make purchasing decisions, seek information and engage in business and in recreational activities.

We need to determine how best to use it to reach our audiences with fire prevention and



safety messages and for intervention. Our audience is no longer just the local community or state that we serve. Our audience is everybody with access.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Tell us a little bit about the way the Oregon State Fire Marshal approaches the needs of the local fire service needs in Oregon.

The Office of State Fire Marshal serves over 300 fire departments in Oregon. About 80% of the departments are volunteer departments. Many of the departments are in the rural areas of our state. We have thirteen deputies regionally based to assist departments with education, inspection and fire investigation. My unit, youth fire prevention and intervention, provides training, research and development, communication, technical assistance and resource development for fire departments and community partners in public education and youth involved with fire interventions.

We have an emergency response unit that



coordinates training in hazardous materials, provides the equipment for thirteen hazardous materials response teams and coordinates mobilizations for wildfires and national disasters.

We also have a licensing unit that regulates card lock facilities, fireworks, novelty lighters and propane permits and installation. We have many stakeholders and work in partnership with local fire departments to respond to their needs.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: The area of your specific expertise is youth fire setting. Are there any promising developments you see on the horizon which might better predict or even provide a solution for these aberrant behaviors someday?

I think we already have good research on the risk factors for youth involved in misusing fire or using fire in dangerous or risky ways. One of the best developments in the field is the way mental health and juvenile justice are stepping up and developing best practice assessment and treatment models to work with these youth.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: As with our Fire Prevention Tetrahedron we have the three pillars of the fire service, Suppression, Inspection and Public Education, in which order of priority do we need to place them going forward?



You know that you are asking a fire educator this question and that I am very biased. I would prioritize them this way: education, inspection and suppression.

Fire education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must use new approaches to meet the generation of youth that are media savvy. These kids are texting, using social media like *Facebook*, and conveying concepts much differently than previous generations.

I think we should be teaching about how media and technology influences their attitudes about fire, how culture impacts their behavior, how family and peers value fire and how they can make good decisions about their own fire safety. Every time we work with school groups, we should be asking: What are we teaching? What is our message? How does it change their attitudes and behavior about fire safety?



I also believe that we have spent too much time trying to teach fire safety to children in the hopes that they would teach their parents and caregivers. The responsibility for home fire safety lies with the parents

and caregivers.

Most fire education stops in the elementary school. I think the apathy that adults have regarding fire prevention is based on the fact that they think it is a kid issue rather than a fire and life safety issue for them. I think we need to do more to teach adults about their responsibility for keeping their homes and families safe from fire and burn injury.

NJDFS FIRE FOCUS: Judy, thank you for taking the time with us today. We sure enjoyed having you as our keynote this year. Should anyone want to contact you they can do so at Judy.Okulitch@state.or.us.

We would also like to remind our readers that the 2012 Juvenile Firesetters Conference, our 10th annual, has been scheduled for this year November 29 and 30th, 2012 at the Middlesex Fire Academy in Sayreville.

A "Save the Date" will be forthcoming from Kean Fire Safety Training about the event.

Information will also be available on the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety DCA webpage:

www. state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs/

### NJDFS ON HAND TO WELCOME NATIONAL FIRE DOG MONUMENT TO MEREDITH HAVEN FIRE MUSEUM

DCA Division of Fire Safety Acting Director William Kramer recently joined Trenton Fire and Emergency Services Director Quareeb Bashir at the Meredith Haven Fire Museum, adjacent Fire Headquarters on Perry Street, to formally welcome the Fire Dog Monument and tour to the City of Trenton.

Trenton played host to the final stop on the National Fire Dog Monument's eleven city, 2000-mile national tour that began over a month ago in Denver, Colorado. The tour ends in Washington, DC this

month, where it will be dedicated as a permanent memorial to the enduring relationship between firefighter investigators and their arson canine assistants.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and its Arson Unit, headed by Major Christopher Eckert, itself deploys three arson canines regionally

throughout the state. As the monument depicts, the arson canines are not the fire apparatus Dalmatian often seen in historical fire service depictions, but their modern Golden Labrador Retriever counterparts, whose keen smell sense is used to detect minute traces of chemical accelerant typically present in cases of suspected arson. The fact that the breed is familiarly associated with water-based activities makes it perfectly suited to its post fire scene role.

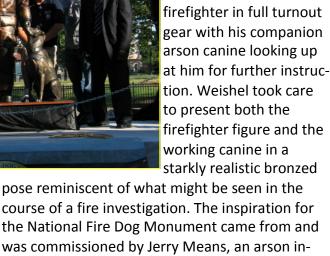
Arson canines are generally Golden Labrador Retrievers as rendered in the National Fire Dog Monument, and as are those the New Jersey

Division of Fire Safety employs. All arson canines are specifically trained to indicate to their handlers when they detect traces of petroleum products such as gasoline or lighter fluid that may have been used as an accelerant to speed a fire.

Ironically, Austin Wiesel the 24-year-old Colorado volunteer firefighter who sculpted the 470 pound, seven foot tall Monument, named his creation "From Ashes to Answers."

That, for Rodman Meyer, the Division of Fire

Safety canine handler of the Division dog "Ashes," is a notable and interesting coincidence. The Monument depicts a firefighter in full turnout gear with his companion arson canine looking up at him for further instruction. Weishel took care to present both the firefighter figure and the working canine in a



course of a fire investigation. The inspiration for the National Fire Dog Monument came from and was commissioned by Jerry Means, an arson investigation agent with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation whose own arson dog "Sadie" received national attention for winning the 2011 American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards™ in the category of Law Enforcement/Arson Dog. Sadie served as the model depicting the arson canine in the sculpture.

www.nationalfiredogmonument.com

### USFA RELEASES 'TOPICAL REPORT SERIES ON ONE AND TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL FIRES FOR 2008-2010

240,000 ONE/TWO FAMILY HOMES BURN ANNUALLY

2,050 DEATHS AND 8,350 INJURIES

5,8 BILLION DOLLARS IN PROPERTY LOSS

COOKING NUMBER ONE CAUSE\*

\* Source United States Fire Administration 'Topical Report Series'

The United States Fire Administration has released another in its series of topical fire reports culled from data submitted from all 50 states, including that collected by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety's NFIRS Unit, which describes the nature and character of fire in the nation.

The most recent report shows that residential one and two family homes remain the most susceptible to fire and that the use of open source flame for household meals contributes to the yearly scourge of fire across the land.

Not only does fire continue to ravage property to the tune of billions of dollars yearly but tragically over 2,000 citizens a year die as a result.

A hurricane of less magnitude sets in motion national disaster preparedness mandates. There is no similar national fire prevention mandate, nor even in the face of these awful statistics, does there seem to be one on the horizon.

The full report:

One and Two Family Residential Building Fires (2008-2010)

## 2012 NJDFS-NJFPPA POSTER CONTEST AWARDS LUNCHEON CELEBRATES CREATIVE FIRE SAFETY

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III congratulated Alissa May Garilao of Bayonne as the grand prize winner of the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest for the 2011-2012 school year. The poster contest is cooperatively organized by the DCA's Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association.

"The goal of the poster contest was to encourage fire safety awareness in the home and Alissa's poster accomplishes that," said Commissioner Constable. "Her wonderful artwork and the important message behind it will now be seen in public buildings around New Jersey. I congratulate her on a job well done."

Garilao, who is in the seventh grade at Henry E. Harris School in Bayonne, beat out approximately 10,000 other contestants and six other division winners from across New Jersey. Her poster will now be distributed throughout New Jersey carrying the message of "Protect Your Family From Fire," which was the theme of the 2011-2012 contest.

About 5,000 copies of the winning poster will be printed, compliments of Atlantic City Electric and its Emergency Services Partnership Program. Other major sponsors include the New Jersey Chapter of the American Fire Sprinkler Association, Fire Safety Systems Co., National Restoration, and the Joshua Marcus Group. The contest's seven division winners received laptop computers and printers.

"Our student artists have once again combined their creativity with a solid fire prevention message to remind everyone that preventing fire is the best way to protect loved ones," said William Kramer, State Fire Marshal and Acting Director Division of Fire Safety.



Parents and art teachers alike gather at the Forge in Woodbridge to celebrate student achievement



NJFPPA President and NJ Fire Safety Commission member Stanley Sickels and NJDFS Acting Director William Kramer, Jr. present the NJDFS-NJFPPA Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest "Overall Winner" plaque to Alissa May Garilao of Bayonne



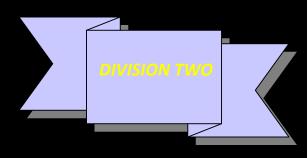
Major sponsors of the NJDFS-NJFPPA 2012 Scholastic Fire Safety Poster Contest join the Garilao family in a post luncheon celebration



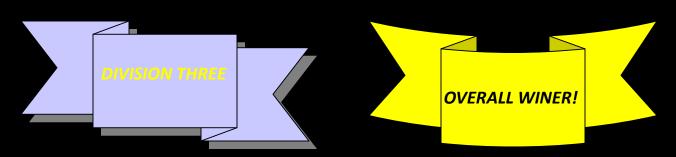


Xavier Marquez
John M. Bailey School
Bayonne



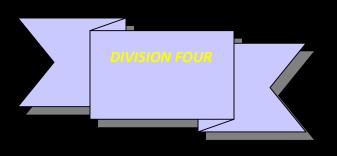


Jasmine Barraza
Robert L Craig School
Moonachie



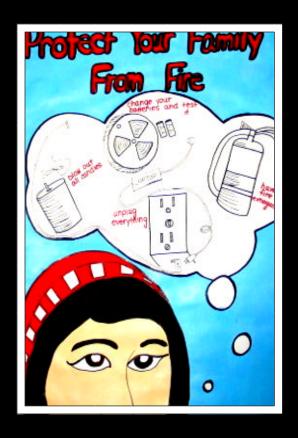


Alissa May Garilao
Henry E. Harris School
Bayonne



Morgan Zygmund-Murphy Holy Family Academy Bayonne

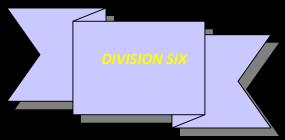




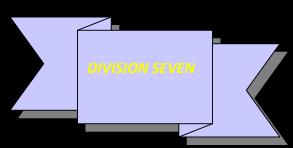


Halie Burns
Union County
Vo-Tech
Scotch Plains





Christian Zapata
Public School # 11
Jersey City



Taylor Foster
Union County
Vo-Tech
Scotch Plains



## F.I.R.E. BOWL 'PREVIEW DAY' 2012 AT THE MIDDLESEX FIRE ACADEMY







Before the final competition, F.I.R.E. Bowl contestants are treated to both a demonstration by the NJDFS Arson Unit, featuring a "live" source trace demonstration by NJDFS Arson Unit canine "Scout" and Investigators Steve Letts and Jeff Silver, followed by a tour of Middlesex Fire Academy's outdoor firefighter training facilities, led by Frank Della Famina of the Academy staff. Team members are encouraged to watch and listen carefully as many of the items discussed invariably appear as point scoring possibilities during the actual F.I.R.E. Bowl competition









A Special Thanks to Our Luncheon Sponsors The Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association of NJ and Hartz Mountain Industries



## ATISSUE

HOUSE APPROVES HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING FOR FY '13 REPRESENTATIVE RUNYAN (RNJ-3) RESTORES PREVIOUS CUT



The House has approved <u>H.R. 5855</u>, the Fiscal Year 2013 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, by a vote of <u>234-182</u>. The bill funds the programs and activities of the Department of Homeland Security through September 30, 2013.

The bill, as originally introduced, made a slight cut to the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program. Initially the measure allocated \$5 million less than the Fiscal Year 2012 level of \$675 million (split equally between the two programs).

An amendment to restore the programs to the FY12 level was offered by Congressman Jon Runyan (NJ-3) and Congressman Larry Kissell (NC-8) and approved by the House by voice vote on Wednesday, June 6th. The Senate version of the FY13 spending bill, <u>S. 3216</u>, also funds FIRE and SAFER at the FY12 level.

The House approved another amendment by voice vote offered by Congressman Michael Grimm (NY-13) and Congressman Gerald Connolly (VA-11) to restore a portion of the funding cut from the Urban Search and Rescue Response System (US&R). The bill originally allocated \$27,513,000 for this critical program (in FY12, the program was funded at \$41,250,000). The Grimm/Connolly amendment increased funding to \$35,180,000, the same amount contained in the Senate bill.

Unfortunately, H.R. 5855 funds the United States Fire Administration (USFA) at \$42,460,000, a reduction of \$1.578 million below the FY12 level of \$44,038,000. The Senate bill funds USFA at \$44,020,000, nearly the same level as the current fiscal year.

The Senate is expected to address the spending bill later this summer. CFSI will continue to provide updates throughout the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations process.

(FROM CFSI)



## ATISSUE

A3278 REINTRODUCED AS A1570 HOME
SPRINKLER REQUIREMENT FOR ALL NEW HOMES

A266, A1382, A1452, S291 MOVE OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION BY FULL ASSEMBLY



### **ACTIVE LEGISLATION:**

A266-SOLAR PANELS
A1382 UTILITY BILL CREDITS
A1452 FF HOME BUYER
S921-SURPLUS VEHICLES

<Click link for details>

Each Assembly Bill usually has an identical partner
Senate Bill for the current session

A141-FC CHARITABLE REGISTRATION FEES EXEMPTION

A145-DISTRICT VOTING ON GENERAL ELECTION DAY

A184-LAYOFF REINSTATEMENT

A528 -FIREFIGHTER EMT TRAINING CREDIT

A664 -FIRST RESPONDER TAX DEDUCTION

A1149- FIRE DISTRICT FINANCIAL PLANS

A1187- SCHOOL VEHICLE FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS

A1306 - FIREFIGHTER/COUNTY SURROGATE ASSISTANCE

**A1553 - EXPERIENCED FF TRAINING EXEMPTION** 

A1555 - FIRE WARDEN-LOCAL CHIEF INTERFACE

A1606 -TIME OFF TO FIGHT FIRES

A2120 -ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER FAMILIES ACT

**A2149 -VOLUNTEER PARKING SPACES** 

A2243 -TENURE FOR FIRE OFFICIALS-INSPECTORS

A2282 -FIREFIGHTER STEROID SCREENING

**A2334 - CERTAIN PAID CHIEFS** 

**A2344 -RESIDENCY TEST CREDITS** 

**A2348- MEDICAL SERVICES BY FIRE DISTRICT** 

A2349- FIREFIGHTER DEATH BENEFIT

A2509-FIREFIGHTER-CANCER WORKER COMP

**A2593- FIRE COMMAND STRUCTURE** 

A2596- FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENT REPEAL

A2600 - DUTY REDUCTION FOR EXEMPT FIREMAN

A2679 -LODD ROADSIDE MEMORIALS

**A2720 - NJDFS TO LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY** 

**A2756 -LODD SURVIORSHIP BENEFIT** 

**A2823 - FURNITURE FIRE SAFETY** 

**A2911 - FIRE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION** 

AJR24 -FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH-OCTOBER

For the resolution of all fire service active and pending legislation for the current session please visit:

www.njleg.state.nj.us

## TWO NATIONAL STUDIES ON FIREFIGHTER SAFETY: APPARATUS VISIBILITY AND FIREGROUND WINDS



Emmitsburg, MD.
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), supported by the U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

It is in partnership with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association's (CVVFA) Emergency Responder Safety Institute, has initiated a study of emergency vehicle markings, lighting, and design to recommend best practices for increased visibility to approaching motorists.

"USFA is committed to reducing emergency vehicle crashes and responders being struck on the roadway," said U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell.

"We are grateful for DOJ's support of this important study which will benefit both the fire service and law enforcement."

The goal of this study is to develop best practices in the application of various chevron patterns, creative use of reflective decal markings, new arrangements of warning lights and other innovative designs, all with the intent of increasing the visibility of the emergency vehicles to motorists approaching them. The study will focus on emergency vehicles not covered by existing standards in this area.

"Through effective emergency vehicle safety projects such as this, we are committed to reducing deaths and injuries from crashes and being struck by vehicles. CVVFA is pleased to work with both USFA and NIJ on this project to enhance the safety of emergency responders," said CVVFA President Michael Sullivan.

See the study goals:

EMERGENCY VEHICLE AND ROADWAY

RESEARCH INTIATIVES

NIST STUDY EXAMINES
CHARACTERISTICS OF WIND
DRIVEN FIRE WITH
FIRE DYNAMICS SIMULATOR



#### Abstract

(FDS) to examine the effect of wind on the thermal and fire conditions in a single-story residential structure and to provide a visualization of fire behavior representative of what members of the Houston Fire Department of the thermal contract the houston, Texas. FDS simulations were developed that represented the building geometry, material thermal properties, and fire behavior based on information and photographs from the investigation report from the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office, information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) fire fighter fatality investigation report, a detailed floor plan provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and additional photos, video and dimensional measurements collected during a site visit by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) staff. The results from the simulations are provided in this report.

This report describes the results of calculations that were performed using the Fire Dynamics Simulator

## NEPTUNE UNIT SHOWS UTILITY AS TACTICAL MARINE BASED FIREFIGHTING ASSET









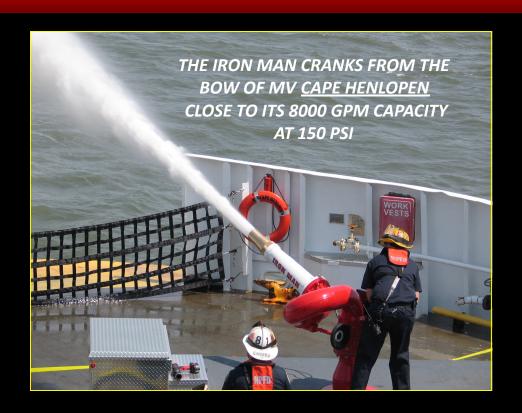
WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE THE CAPE MAY FERRY WITH ONE OF THREE NJDFS "BIG FLOW" NEPTUNE UNITS? AN AWESOME DEMONSTRATION OF MARINE BASED 'SOAKING POWER."

AS PART OF A GLOUCESTER COUNTY COORDINATED DRILL FIREFIGHTERS FROM SEVERAL SOUTH JERSEY DEPRTMENTS TRANSFORMED THE MV CAPE HENLOPEN FOR A DAY INTO THE WORLD'S LARGEST FIREBOAT.

"The potential benefit of our shared resource Big Flow is obvious on land. Putting the Neptune on the Cape May Ferry showed us that we can bring a potentially huge asset to bear in the event of an incident, in cooperation with the DRBA and our fire department partners, as part of a larger strategic disaster plan for South Jersey."

Rick Farletta, NJDFS Preparedness Unit Chief

## NEPTUNE UNIT SHOWS UTILITY AS TACTICAL MARINE BASED FIREFIGHTING ASSET





## NEPTUNE UNIT SHOWS UTILITY AS TACTICAL MARINE BASED FIREFIGHTING ASSET





THE CAPTAIN OF THE MV CAPE HENLOPEN REPORTED
THE NEPTUNE STREAM WAS AT POINTS POWERING
HIS VESSEL, WHICH IS 320 FEET LONG AND
DISPLACES 2100 TONS

### DIVISION PURSUES HIGH VISIBILITY FIRE SAFETY PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

January 17, 2012 - DCA Partners with ABC Channel 7 and Kidde in 14th Annual Operation 7 Save A Life

DCA Partners with ABC Channel 7 and Kidde in 14th Annual

Operation 7 Save A Life Campaign

May 24, 2012 - Grill Safely This Summer Season GRILL SAFELY THIS SUMMER SEASON

DCA and DHSS Experts Advise Following Precautions to Ensure Safe Cookouts

Division of Fire Safety Receives 1. Househ

TRENTON, N.J. - New Jersey Departm Channel 7 and Kidde as part of the televicampaign, which kicked off at The Pierre Safety will help distribute the free smoke

detectors, regardless of their ability to pay campaign will help our Division of Fire Saf-

Operation 7 Save a Life seeks to increas distribute hundreds of thousands of smok station in Philadelphia - conducts a similar

The Division of Fire Safety will send a not vailable, and departments that choose t

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety under the leadership of Acting Director William Kramer, Jr. has as adopted an aggressive approach to fire safety public education by issuing regular and timely press information and follow-up TV interviews.

WPVI-TV Channel 6

"Not every fire department or fire official has perhaps the time nor perhaps the access to the state print and electronic media we may have. We feel though that every jurisdiction is assisted in their respective public education efforts, since as of the Internet, the idea of fire prevention getting very wide digital distribution and it may go a long way to possibly saving lives."

Acting Director Kramer with Fox 29 Reporter Jeff Coles

end, New Jersey Department of Constable, III and Department of commend that residents review tips rv this summer

d if people take the necessary ks hefore using it for the first time this n a grill hasn't been used lately or when

mergency rooms. Of these injuries. ind 3,701 were injuries from gas or liquid

your family and quests safe by cooking

at meat is cooked to a safe

eck for leaks. Instead, apply a thick ion between the propane cylinder and

s Winner of 2012 Fire

IRE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

proximately 10,000 Entries



Richard E. Constable III today joined the Nev change their clocks to Daylight Savings Time present or weren't working

March 9, 2012 - DCA Divis

Residents to Check Smoke

Batteries during Change to DCA Division of Fire Safety Remind and Replace Batters

"Preparation is key to protecting our families critical difference that saves lives," said Acti

the earliest possible warning to evacuate the home

Having properly installed, working and maintained smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are the first line of defense against fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. The alarms can be either hardwired into a home's electrical current or battery powered. People should install smoke and arbon monoxide alarms, at minimum, on each level of a home, including the basement. Fire safety experts also recommend the alarms be placed outside and inside sleeping areas.

After replacing the batteries, alarms can be checked by pressing the test button. People should eplace any smoke alarms older than 10 years and any carbon monoxide alarms older than five years. Basic smoke alarms generally cost between \$6 and \$20

make to protect loved ones from harm," said Acting Division of Fire Safety Director William Kramer, Jr. "If cost is an issue, programs are available that can furnish new alarms to eligible

Richard E. Constable. III today announced that Alissa May Garilao of Bayonne is the grand prize winner of the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest for the 2011-2012 school year. The poster anized by the DCA's Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association

important message behind it will now be seen in public buildings amund New Jersey 1. congratulate her on a job well done."

approximately 10,000 other contestants and six other division winners from across New Jersey. Her poster will now be distributed throughout New Jersey carrying the message of "Protect Your Family From Fire," which was the theme of the 2011-2012 contest

## RESPONDER SAFETY LEARNING NETWORK OFFERS VITAL ROADWAY RESPONSE TRAINING...FREE!



Hagerstown, MD:
The Emergency
Responder Safety
Institute (ERSI) is
now releasing
free training
modules on
The Responder
Safety Learning

*Network*. The network is accessible directly from <u>www.respondersafety.com</u> and it will soon be mobile ready for tablets and smartphones.

The addition of *The Responder Safety Learning Network* to the established Responder Safety website has created the single largest online hub for roadway emergency responder training and resources. Responder Safety Learning Network, created with a Fire Prevention & Safety Grant from the United States Fire Administration (USFA), is a model of interagency cooperation and public-private partnership to provide vital, expert-vetted safety education that will save responder and civilian lives.

Stephen P. Austin, project manager, notes, "This network is the culmination of over 13 years of hard work by ERSI to educate highway incident responders about the dangers of working in moving traffic and the negative impact traffic congestion has on secondary accident frequency, commerce, and the American way of life."

The Network has garnered enthusiastic support from valued partners, including the USFA, Department of Justice, and the Federal Highway Administration. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Near Miss Program have also provided extensive assistance.

Once registered, users can access free modules with video, interactive knowledge checks, user progress tracking, and completion certificates for those in pursuit of professional development goals.

"This outstanding, no cost program, will provide firefighters, officers and chiefs the training tools necessary for our own survival while operating on roadways and highways," says Deputy Fire Chief Billy Goldfeder, EFO.

The Network's learning modules are developed and vetted by interdisciplinary groups of experts from all roadway responder groups — fire, police, EMS, DOT, and towing and recovery — at the federal, state, local, private sector, non-profit, and association levels. The development of the Network is the National Unified Goal in action: creating and delivering, often for the first time, training that takes into account the perspectives, needs, and procedures of all responder groups.

Even prior to the launch, the response to the Network has been overwhelmingly. Federal agencies, NGOs, professional associations, state agencies, local fire departments, and private companies have all reached out to offer content expertise, financial assistance, networking, and publicity contacts. The Network has already been embraced by multiple states as a way to support their own training needs. The Fire Department Safety Officer's Association will grant CEUs earned by completing the modules toward Pro Board accredited safety officer's programs. For additional information:

www.respondersafety.com

## NJDFS PROVIDES LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL METRO STRIKE DRILL AT NEWARK FIRE ACADEMY

The annual Metro Strike Team exercise took place at the Newark Fire Department Training Academy.

The drill brought 11 different departments and nearly 100 firefighters from Essex, Morris, Middlesex, Union, Hudson Passaic and Bergen counties.

The participants engaged in a collapsed parking garage scenario not unlike the one they actually responded to at the Prospect Towers high rise in Hackensack nearly two years ago.

NJDFS Preparedness Unit personnel serve a broad role in the annual exercise but typically unify both fire personnel and resources for a coordinated response.



NJDFS Preparedness Unit Northwest Region
Coordinator and former Chief of Department for East
Orange, Tim Weiss discusses the morning's drill with
Newark Chief of Department John Centanni and
Metro Strike disaster scenario author and
NFD Battalion Chief Arthur Mauriello

Dave Hughes NJDFS Northern Region Planner looks on with a critical eye as the "garage pancake" drill unfolds





The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Logistics Vehicle lines up with North Hudson, Paterson and Bayonne Urban Search and Rescue Units for the annual Metro Strike Team exercise at the Newark Fire Department Training Academy

## NJDFS PROVIDES LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL METRO STRIKE DRILL AT NEWARK FIRE ACADEMY



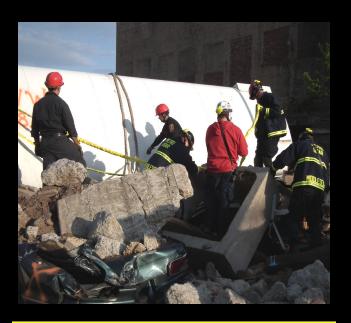
NFD applies some "leverage" to the rescue effort.



Various units are deployed for the drill with the sort of heavy duty rescue capability required for a large scale disaster. The next time the tools and equipment are deployed it may be for just such a disaster somewhere in the state.



Its not just civilian victims who fall under the accountability ledger but rescue personnel as well.



'Working the pile."

## CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION RECALLS NOTE ASSOCIATED FIRE HAZARDS



**Meijer Touch Point Fans** 



<u>Farm Glass Tea Light Holder</u> <u>Christmas Tree Shops</u>



STOK Gas Grills/One World Technologies



POST THESE ITEMS TO YOUR FD OR FO WEBSITE

Gem 3100 Pressure Transducer





**KOHL's Toy Truck Given with Boy Size Shirts** 

<Click links for details>
All Consumer Product Safety Commission Fire Hazard Recalls

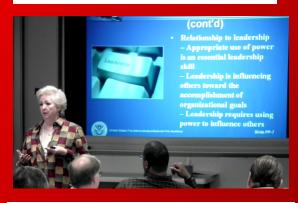
### NEW JERSEY WEEKEND AT NETC IN MARYLAND MORE POPULAR THAN EVER WITH FIREFIGHTERS



**NJDFS Acting Director Bill Kramer** 



New Jersey Weekend traditional Friday night orientation



The leadership course at NETC shows off the diverse academic staff.

New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy (NETC) was a tremendous success again this year.

A record setting 212 registrants for the 2012 edition assures that the annual event hosted by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will remain a fixture on the New Jersey Fire Service event calendar for some time to come.

"We are happy to continue to offer career and volunteer fire service members alike an opportunity to secure training credit away from the busy firehouse. The beautiful Maryland countryside in June gives us a peek at what we see a few weeks later in New Jersey and its easy to learn in such a relaxing and professionally convivial atmosphere."

William E. Kramer, Jr. Acting Director NJDFS



For many years now the check-in by the Cape May county fire contingent— including longtime fire service member and WWII B-24 crew member Al Beers—signaled the start of New Jersey Weekend.

2013 NJW DATES JUNE 8-9 MARK YOUR CALENDAR



## MG FIREFIGHTER STU



### **BETWEEN 73 AND 88% ARE DEFINED AS OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE**



### MANY DO NOT MEET MINIMAL PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS

The National Volunteer Fire Council has issued a report describing the overall physical fitness of the fire service in the nation, based upon data collected from New Jersey and other states. The study describes firefighter obesity as occurring at a rate higher than the general population. The study does note however that it is the very nature of the occupation that may contribute to the startling figures.

For more information: www.nvfc.com

Fore specific questions about the study: keithhaddock@hopehri.com



### **SLEEP DISRUPTION**



**SHIFTWORK** 



### UNHEALTHY FIREHOUSE EATING PATTERNS

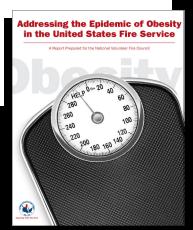


### ABSENCE OF PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS













In 2011, a total of 61 on-duty firefighter deaths occurred in the U.S. This is the third consecutive

year that the number of deaths has dropped sharply and is, for the second year in a row, the lowest annual total since NFPA began conducting this annual study in 1977.

In the previous three years, the totals were 73, 82 and 105 deaths, respectively. The average number of deaths annually over the past 10 years is 91.

\*[The report excludes the 343 firefighter deaths at the World Trade Center in 2001.]

Of the 61 firefighters who died while on duty in 2011, 35 were volunteer firefighters, 21 were career firefighters.



Three were employees of state land management agencies, and two were employees of federal land management agencies.

In 2011, there were three double-fatality incidents. Two firefighters were killed during interior operations at a structure fire; two firefighters were killed when overrun by fire at a wildland fire; and two were killed when a silo exploded during a fire.

Analyses in this report examine the types of duty associated with firefighter deaths, the cause and nature of fatal injuries to firefighters, and the ages of the firefighters who died. They highlight deaths in intentionally-set fires and in motor vehicle-related incidents Finally, the study presents summaries of individ-

ual incidents that illustrate important concerns in fire-fighter safety.

**FULL REPORT** 



## DIVISION INSPECTOR MARGARET KNIGHT CITED FOR CONSPICIOUS BRAVERY

"Officer Simon tried to stop a vehicle on Princeton Avenue. The vehicle took off on him. It was actually a stolen vehicle. Ms. Knight saw what was happening and followed. It turned into a foot chase through some backyards with the officer running after the suspect. Ms. Knight stayed with him the entire time and had parked her vehicle on Ohio Avenue. The suspect came out and saw the [fire inspector's] vehicle and tried to take the ride. He couldn't get it started. Ms. Knight came up to help Officer Simon and the two of them were able to apprehend the gentleman. He was eventually charged with several crimes. She did a wonderful job, in something that was high-stress and moving along very quickly."

From the Township Commendation for New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Inspector Margaret Knight actions in assisting Lawrenceville Township Police Officer Steve Simon in apprehending a stolen vehicle suspect.



(L to R) William E. Kramer, Jr. Acting Director, Charles Luxton, Juvenile Firesetter Coordinator, Marina Periera NJDFS, Lou Kilmer Bureau Chief, Margaret Knight, Inspector, Barbara Fortuna NJDFS ret., Richard Farletta, Supervisor, NJDFS Preparedness Unit, Cindy Johnson NJDFS, Glen Smythe, Supervisor, Bureau of Inspections.

CONGRATULATIONS "MAGGIE" FROM ALL OF US AT THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY!





# THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY 101 SOUTH BROAD STREET TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

### William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director

william.kramer@dca.state.nj.us

Acting Director 609-633-6106 Inspections 609-633-6132 Legislative Affairs 609-984-1947

#### REGULATORY OFFICER

**SMOKE ALARMS** 

ANDREW J. KONDOR, ESQ. 609-984-0039 andrew.kondor@dca.state.nj.us

 ARSON UNIT
 609-633-8161

 CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT
 609-984-7860

 FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS UNIT
 609-292-4109

 NFIRS UNIT
 609-984-3476

 PUBLIC EDUCATION UNIT
 609-633-9722

#### NJDFS TELEPHONE HOTLINES

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT 1-800-FIRELINE

JUVENILE FIRESETTER 1-800-357-5230

### STAFF MEMBERS

**ARSON-K9 UNIT** 

Kim Lake

CHRISTOPHER ECKERT SUPERVISOR

Stephen Letts

K-9 Investigator/North

steve.letts@dca.state.nj.us

Rod Meyer

K-9 Investigator/South

rod.meyer@dca.state.nj.us

Jason Spiecker Investigator/South

iason.spiecker@dca.state.nj.us

Jeff Silver K-9 Investigator/North jeff.silver@dca.state.nj.us

#### **CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT**

Chris Michallis Senior Investigator CC&E Unit

chris.michalis@dca.state.nj.us Technical Assistant kim.lake@dca.state.nj.us

BUREAU OF FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Patricia Persico Technical Assistant

patricia.persico@dca.state.nj.us

<u>DIVISION FISCAL UNIT</u>

AIDA JONES SUPERVISOR

aida.jones@DCA.state.nj.us

FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UNIT
HEATHER PUSKAR SUPERVISOR

heather.puskar@dca..state.nj.us

Fred Connin NFIRS Representative <a href="mailto:fred.connin@dca.state.nj.us">fred.connin@dca.state.nj.us</a>
Steve Hearn NFIRS Representative

steve.hearn@dca.state.nj.us

**PUBLIC EDUCATION UNIT** 

Charles Lavin Public Information Assistant

New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Liaison NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl Coordinator

charles.lavin@dca.state.nj.us

Jerold Clark Public Information Assistant

FD/LEA Local Public Education Assistance Content Producer

NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly

NJDFS State Fire Marshal Message: FP-FFS

jerry.clark@dca.state.nj.us

**PUBLICATIONS** Marylain Kemp

marylain.kemp@dca.state.nj.us

609-633-6432

609-633-6315

### DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY STAFF MEMBERS

**BUREAU OF FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT** 

LOUIS KILMER
| Du.kilmer@dca.state.nj.us | BUREAU CHIEF |
| Ou.kilmer@dca.state.nj.us | 609-633-6131 |

(TEAM 1-NORTH)

JOSH LAZARUS SUPERVISOR josh.lazarus@dca.state.nj.us 609-633-6741

[CTY CODE: 02-07-09-10-12-13-14-16-18-19-20]

Charles Wian-(NW)

charles.wian@dca.state.nj.us

Peter D'Amore (SW)

peter.damore@dca.state.nj.us

609-633-6132

(TEAM 2-SOUTH)

GLENN SMYTH SUPERVISOR

glenn.smyth@dca.state.nj.us 609-633-6103

[COUNTY CODE: 01-03-04-05-06-08-11-15-17]

Steven Speicher (SW)

steve.speicher@dca.state.nj.us

609-984-1478

Robert Kozlowski (SE)

robert.kozlowski@dca.state.nj.us

609-633-6132

FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS UNIT

RICHARD FARLETTA SUPERVISOR richard.farletta@dca.state.ni.us 609-633-6315

Shore Region 609-292-2705

Craig Augustoni Regional Fire Coordinator

craig.augustoni@dca.state.nj.us

Delaware River Region 609-943-4726

Mike Gallagher Regional Fire Coordinator

mike.gallagher@dca.state.nj.us

Northern Region 609-292-3502

David Hughes Planner

david.hughes@dca.state.ni.us

Northwest Region 609-292-5148

Timothy Weiss Regional Fire Coordinator

tim.weiss@dca.state.nj.us

RIOC-SEOC 609-947-7468

James McFadden Planner

im.mcfadden@dca.state.nj.us

UASI Region 609-324-7411

Bruce Tynan Regional Fire Coordinator

brruce.tynan@dca.state.nj.us

### DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY STAFF MEMBERS

JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM

**SMOKE ALARM DISTRIBUTION** 

**Charles Luxton** 609-633-6432

charles.luxton@dca.state.nj.us

Coordinator

**FIRE CODE LOCAL ASSISTANCE** 

PAUL ALLEN SUPERVISOR paul.allen@dca.state.nj.us 609-633-6111

**NORTHERN** [COUNTY CODE 10-11-16-18-19-21]
Paul Allen 609-633-6111

NORTHERN [COUNTY CODE 02- 07-09-14-20]

Paul Elenio Representative 609-633-6147

paul.elenio @dca.state.ni.us

**CENTRAL** [COUNTY CODE 01-05-12-13-15]

Frank Clark Representative 609-633-6738

frank.clark@dca.state.nj.us

**SOUTHERN** [COUNTY CODE 03-04-06-08-17]

George Beckett Representative 609-826-5551

george.beckett@dca.state.nj.us

OFFICE OF TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Main Number 609-777-3552

KENT NEISWENDER SUPERVISOR

kent.neiswender@dca..state.nj.us 609-341-3473

Gregory Kirkham 609-633-6424

greg.kirkham@dca.state.nj.us

Debra Jones-Stevenson 609-633-6424

debra.stevenson@dca.state.nj.us

Teresa Lockhart 609-633-6731

teresa.lockhart@dca.state.nj.us

Marge Jones 609-777-1461

marge.jones@dca.state.nj.us



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Please send material c/o Jerry Clark, Content Producer, Public Information Assistant, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety,
Public Education Unit to:

fireprevention@state.nj.us