



SECTION B

NEW JERSEY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE RESOURCES



OUTLINE

- New Jersey Government
- New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
- Other State Resources



OBJECTIVES

- Describe the responsibilities of the Division of Fire Safety.
- Explain the relationship between Departments and Agencies of the State of New Jersey.
- Explain the responsibilities of the various bureaus and units within the Division of Fire Safety.
- Describe who enforces the Uniform Fire Code in municipalities.
- Describe the make-up of the membership of the Fire Safety Commission.
- List and explain the three co-equal branches of the State of New Jersey government.



NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT

The government of the State of New Jersey, like that of the United States, is divided into three coequal branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. The principal function of the Legislature is to enact laws. The Executive Branch (the Governor and State agencies) carries out the programs established

by law. The Judiciary (the Supreme Court and lower courts) punishes violators, settles controversies and disputes, and is the final authority on the meaning and constitutionality of laws.

There are a variety of departments and agencies that comprise the State Government, Figure B-1.

More information about the State and Local governments of New Jersey and the departments and agencies that make up state government can be found at <http://www.nj.gov>



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Within the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is the Division of Fire Safety. The Division of Fire Safety is the central fire service agency in the State, responsible for the development and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Code, public education programs, and firefighter training programs, Figure B-2. The Division of Fire Safety includes two bureaus: the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement and the Bureau of Fire Department Services. Director Lawrence Petrillo, who also functions as the State Fire Marshal, leads the Division of Fire Safety.

The following section outlines the various programs of the Division of Fire Safety and their purposes

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New Jersey State Government Departments and Agencies

Departments

- Agriculture
- Banking & Insurance
- Commerce
- Community Affairs
- Corrections
- Education
- Environmental Protection
- Health & Senior Services
- Human Services
- Labor
- Law & Public Safety
- Military & Veterans Affairs
- Personnel
- State
- Transportation
- Treasury

Agencies

- Administrative Law, Office of
- Board of Public Utilities
- Building Authority
- Casino Control Commission
- Clean Air Council
- Cancer Research, Commission on
- Commission on Higher Education
- Commission on Science and Technology
- Council on Local Mandates
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Economic Development Authority
- Election Law Enforcement (Campaign and Lobbying Disclosure)
- Executive Commission on Ethical Standards
- Garden State Preservation Trust
- Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Health Care Facilities Financing Authority
- Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
- Homeland Security
- Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
- Information Technology
- Interstate Environmental Commission
- Lottery
- Motor Vehicle Commission
- New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
- New Jersey Network (NJN)
- New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA)
- New Jersey School Construction Corporation
- New Jersey Transit
- Pinelands Commission
- Professional Boards and Advisory Committees
- Public Defender, Office of the
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- Ratepayer Advocate
- State Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
- State Commission of Investigation
- State Employment and Training Commission
- State Parole Board
- State Police
- Turnpike Authority
- Urban Coordinating Council
- Victims of Crime Compensation Board
- Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor

Figure B-1 New Jersey state government departments and agencies.

and functions. For further information regarding the Division of Fire Safety's programs, please call the telephone number listed for each particular program, call the main telephone number at (609) 633-6106, or visit

the web site at www.nj.gov/dca/dfs. The mailing address for the Division of Fire Safety is: New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety, PO Box 809, Trenton, NJ 08625-0809.



Figure B-2 The Division of Fire Safety oversees a variety of programs, including training programs for firefighters.

Division of Fire Safety Programs

Fire Safety Commission

Type of Assistance: Advisory.

Description: Works closely with the Division of Fire Safety to promote fire safety in the State. The commission comprises 23 members, including state legislators and citizens with expertise or interest in fire safety. It was created by law to assist and advise the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs on all matters of fire safety.

Assistance Provided To: State government, the fire service and the general public.

Other Information: Meets five times each year to consider fire safety issues, amendments to the Uniform Fire Code, new fire safety programs and to hear comments from the public on matters of fire safety.

Contact: (609) 633-6139

Legislative and Regulatory Services

Type of Assistance: Technical and Advisory.

Description: Provides guidance regarding local enforcement of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and State Fire Prevention Code; oversees local agency operations and conducts

routine monitoring; develops and amends program rules; provides assistance to Peer Review Committee to assess sanctions against certified officials; undertakes appropriate corrective or enforcement action for violations of the Act and Code; maintains quarterly registry of agencies having jurisdiction within each municipality in the State.

Assistance Provided To: Municipalities, fire services or private individuals.

Contact: (609) 984-1947

Volunteer Emergency Service Organization Loan Program

Type of Assistance: Financial—Loans.

Description: Provides loans to fire departments and ambulance/rescue squads.

Funding Source: State Appropriation, Special Revenue.

Award Period: July 1 to June 30.

Assistance Provided To: Volunteer and partially-paid fire companies, first aid squads and rescue squads.

Other Information: Two percent interest, 10-year repayment, maximum loan: \$50,000.

Procedure for Applying: Request for proposals mailed annually. Submission of an application.

Contact: (609) 984-1903

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Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Program

Type of Assistance: Advisory and Programmatic.

Description: Provides guidance, visual aids and assistance to local volunteer fire departments and first aid, ambulance and rescue squads trying to recruit new members and retain current members.

Other Information: A toll-free, 800-telephone line answers calls from the public regarding recruitment. Callers are referred to their local volunteer organization's recruitment officer by Division staff.

Assistance Provided To: Volunteer fire departments, first aid, ambulance and rescue squads.

Contact: (609) 633-6121, 1 (800) FIRE-LINE

Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement Programs

Fire Code Services

Type of Assistance: Technical and Advisory.

Description: Provides technical assistance to fire officials/fire inspectors involved in the enforcement of the Uniform Fire Code and Regulations for Fire Code Enforcement.

Assistance Provided To: Local enforcing agencies and private individuals.

Contact: (609) 633-6132

Inspections

Type of Assistance: Technical.

Description: Enforces the Uniform Fire Code in municipalities that do not elect to establish local enforcement agencies; responsible for the inspection of high-rise and life hazard use buildings/structures when the Department has retained direct enforcement authority, Figure B-3.

Assistance Provided To: Any municipality that has not established an enforcement agency for the Uniform Fire Code.

Contact: (609) 633-6132



Figure B-3 The Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement provides programs on inspections.

Life Hazard Use Registration

Type of Assistance: Technical and Advisory.

Description: Life hazard use is defined as the use of a building or structure that may constitute a potential risk to human life, public welfare or firefighters. The program registers high-rise and life hazard use buildings/businesses to inspect and enforce the Uniform Fire Safety Act. Records of these structures are maintained and lists are distributed to local enforcement agencies. The program collects fees from life hazard use owners and establishes criteria to disburse funds to local agencies enforcing the Uniform Fire Code and Regulations.

Assistance Provided To: Any fire service, local enforcement agency or individual.

Contact: (609) 633-6144

Local Assistance

Type of Assistance: Technical.

Description: Assists municipalities to establish local enforcing agencies in accordance with the Uniform Fire Safety Act; makes recommendations to the local enforcing agencies regarding daily operations; provides interpretations of the Uniform Fire Code.

Assistance Provided To: Municipalities and local enforcing agencies.

Contact: (609) 341-3258

State Building Fire Safety Inspections

Type of Assistance: Technical.

Description: Supervises fire prevention and protection programs in all state-owned, state-leased and state-occupied structures.

Assistance Provided To: Mandatory for all state-owned or state-leased properties.

Contact: (609) 633-6132

Bureau of Fire Department Services Programs

Fire Coordinator's Program

Type of Assistance: Technical.

Description: Administers the New Jersey Fire Coordinator System. This system is part of the State's emergency management system and manages the deployment of fire service resources requested beyond contiguous municipalities. There is a County Fire Coordinator assigned to each of the State's 21 counties.

The system is designed to deploy Division staff to the Emergency Operations Center at State Police Headquarters in West Trenton. From there, Division staff coordinate the deployment of fire service resources, particularly during a declared state of emergency.

County fire coordinators are responsible for maintaining resource lists, including apparatus, specialized equipment, and available staffing, and working with the Division staff to have them readily available.

Contact: (609) 633-6071

Fire Department Programs

Type of Assistance: Technical and Advisory.

Description: Investigates serious injuries or deaths of firefighters in the line of duty and publishes the findings in a formal report. Additionally, this unit works with the Juvenile Firesetter Committee to research and develop a statewide policy for preventing juveniles from setting fires and for educating the public and the fire service about the problem.

Other Information: In cooperation with the Department of Treasury, the program develops specifications for firefighters' protective clothing and equipment for inclusion on the State Cooperative Purchasing Contract, Figure B-4. This ensures that protective clothing meets the standards established in the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Assistance Provided To: Fire service organizations, emergency medical services, state, county or municipal governments and anyone dealing with the problems of a juvenile firesetter.

Contact: (609) 633-6071;
1 (800) 357-5230

Fire Incident Reporting System

Type of Assistance: Technical.

Description: Administers a statewide fire incident reporting system that also serves as a central depository for the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Participating fire departments report emergency incidents in a standardized format that is passed on to the U.S. Fire Administration to be included in national statistics and analyses. The unit also analyzes statewide data to identify trends and publishes an annual report titled "Fire in New Jersey."

Assistance Provided To: Any fire service organization or interested individual.

Contact: (609) 633-6324



Figure B-4 The Bureau of Fire Department Services deals with issues related to protective clothing and equipment.

Fire Protection Installers/ Maintenance Certification Program

Type of Assistance: Technical and Advisory.

Description: Establishes a comprehensive, mandatory licensing procedure for contractors who sell, install, repair, inspect and maintain fire protection equipment. Determines whether an application is complete and if all requirements have been met. The appropriate license is issued to the applicant in each field for which the qualifications are met.

Other Information: Currently, there are six license classifications established within this program: Fire Protection Equipment; Fire Sprinkler System; Special Hazard Fire Suppression System; Fire Alarm Equipment; Portable Fire Extinguisher; and Kitchen Fire Suppression System. Businesses that provide any type of service on fire safety equipment must obtain an annual business permit.

Contact: (609) 633-6121

Office of Training and Certification

Type of Assistance: Technical, Advisory and Training.

Description: Provides statewide educational and training programs

relating to fire protection, fire prevention, fire safety inspection, and to certify fire officials/fire inspectors who enforce the Uniform Fire Code. The office also develops training standards for various positions within the fire service and provides training programs leading to certification in those positions. Continuing education programs are also available to individuals holding certain certifications. This program also offers National Fire Academy Training courses covering all aspects of firefighting.

Assistance Provided To: Fire service training academies, any fire service organization or private individual.

Contact: (609) 633-6117

Persons with Disabilities or Oxygen Use Emblem Program

Type of Assistance: Technical.

Description: Issues a person with a disability or who uses oxygen one of two identification emblems. The disability emblem is affixed to a window of a residential dwelling and alerts firefighters, medical, rescue or law enforcement personnel, when responding to an emergency situation, that a person with a disability may be



Figure B-5 The Bureau of Fire Department Services offers public education assistance and materials.

present therein and may require special assistance. The oxygen emblem is also affixed to a window of a residential dwelling to warn firefighters that oxygen is in use within that dwelling. A person with a disability or who uses oxygen may apply for an emblem by contacting the Division.

Contact: (609) 633-6121

Public Education

Type of Assistance: Technical and Advisory.

Description: Increases public awareness of fire safety by developing educational fire safety materials such

as brochures, flyers, posters and booklets for distribution to schools, fire departments and the general public; develops specific fire safety programs for schools, preschools and senior citizens, Figure B-5; publishes a newsletter for members of the fire service and other individuals and organizations interested in fire safety; and helps coordinate an annual fire safety poster contest for school children throughout the State.

Assistance Provided To: Municipalities, schools, fire departments and the general public.

Contact: (609) 633-6071

Other State Resources

- There are a variety of other state resources that may be beneficial to firefighters. Below is a partial listing of some of these resources as well as contact information.
- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Codes and Standards,
<http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/>
- New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Emergency Medical Services,
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems/index.html>
- New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Highway Traffic Safety,
<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/hts/index.html>
- New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of Counter-Terrorism,
<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/oct/index.html>
- New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development,
<http://www.nj.gov/labor/lsse/lspeosh.html>
- New Jersey Homeland Security,
<http://www.njhomelandsecurity.com/>

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Describe the main responsibilities of the Division of Fire Safety.
2. Review the list of the departments and agencies within the State of New Jersey government.
3. What are the names of the two bureaus within the Division of Fire Safety?
4. Which bureau is responsible for the Fire Incident Reporting System and Office of Training and Certification?
5. An important part of the Department of Community Affairs is the Fire Safety Commission. Describe the membership that comprises this commission.
6. Name the co-equal branches of the State New Jersey government.
7. Enacting laws are the principal function of which branch of government?
8. Which branch of government has the principal function of carrying out the programs established by law?
9. The final authority on the meaning and constitutionality of law is the principal function of this branch of government.