

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Excellence in Public Safety

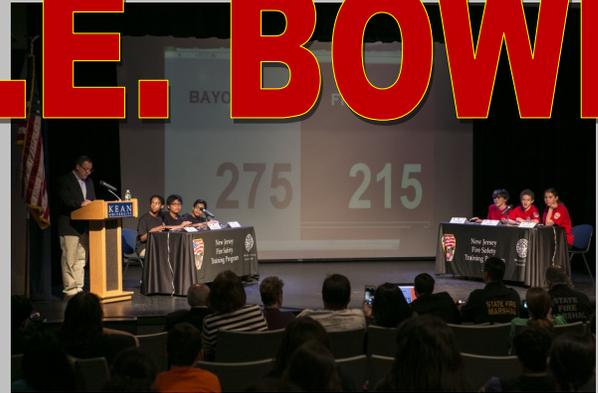
Charles A. Richman, Commissioner
William Kramer Jr., Acting Director
Spring-Summer 2016

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 12 Issue 2

2016 F.I.R.E. BOWL



News 12 Tony Caputo asks the questions, Bayonne and Freehold provide the answers in the highly contested 2016 F.I.R.E. Bowl.



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A Comprehensive Resource for Fire Safety Educators

2016 F.I.R.E. BOWL STATE CHAMPIONS!



THE 2016 F.I.R.E. BOWL CHAMPIONS TAKE THE STAGE AT KEAN UNIVERSITY

(L to R FRONT) **Afran Ali, Yash Parikk, Teodulfo Reyes, Matthew Rezek**, ADVISOR
(L to R REAR) Charles Lavin NJDFS, Tony Caputo News 12, Deputy Chief Bayonne, Dan DeTrollo
Commissioner, NJ Fire Safety Commission, William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director NJ State Fire Marshal,
Mark Kiempisty President, Joshua Marcus Group

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Division of Fire Safety announces that middle school students from the Nicholas Oresko School in Bayonne, NJ have been crowned the 2016 Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E) Bowl champions. The annual middle school competition held at Kean University, challenged students from across New Jersey on their knowledge of fire prevention and safety in a way that not only tests that knowledge, but imparts it to both them, their parents, teachers and school administrators as well.

2016 F.I.R.E. BOWL

“The F.I.R.E. Bowl addresses the critical need to educate our youngsters and their parents on fire safety and prevention,” said William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and State Fire Marshal. “The students immerse themselves in what firefighters and EMTs have to know, along with basic fire safety concepts, which play out in a fun and exciting competition. We can proudly say that no F.I.R.E. Bowl contestant has ever lost.”

Students under the guidance of their faculty coaches begin their studies well in advance of the final and it’s those preliminary rounds that determine who ultimately will wear the F.I.R.E. Bowl state champion crown. All participants are on hand for the competitive final at Kean, which is hosted by News 12 New Jersey personality Tony Caputo.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety F.I.R.E. Bowl has been a critical part of the Division’s community risk reduction efforts for more than ten years, directing important fire safety information to middle school age students who are often overlooked as receptive to personal safety messages. The effort has received the endorsement of the National Association of State Fire Marshals and has achieved the distinction in the Federal Emergency Management 2015 Individual and Community Achievement “Community Preparedness Heroes” Awards.

ATTENTION FIRE OFFICERS AND FIRE OFFICIALS-GET YOUR LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOLS TO JOIN YOU IN COMMUNITY-WIDE RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS. JOIN US FOR THE 2017 FIRE INFORMATION AND RESCUE EDUCATION BOWL.

**EVERYONE WINS AT THE ANNUAL NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL!
CONTACT CHARLES LAVIN.**

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Acting NJDFS Director William Kramer, Jr.



Charles Lavin



News 12's Tony Caputo

2016 F.I.R.E. BOWL



The NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl sports a full panel of fire safety experts to make certain each team is giving the correct answer. Following closely are (l to r) James McFadden, Chris Michallis and Charles Lavin, 2016 F.I.R.E. Bowl Coordinator .



As Acting Director Kramer notes each year the purpose of the F.I.R.E. Bowl is for all participants to learn life saving fire safety principals. To reinforce this idea, each student receives an award not only to note their efforts, but to recall how important keeping themselves and their families safe from fire really is.



Also in the audience for the F.I.R.E. Bowl are the teams who competed in the earlier rounds. They continue their involvement by observing the final round of competition and taking away lifelong learned lessons about personal fire safety for themselves, their peers and their parents.

Remembering the Fallen



A somber, but moving tribute returned to NJDFS New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy this year, giving the 200-plus members of the New Jersey Fire Service in attendance a moment to note those who had given up their lives in service to others. The placing of a memorial wreath at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the grounds of the Academy capped the ceremony.



ORLANDO MASS CASUALTY EVENT PROPELS FREE TRAINING BY FF SUPPORT FOUNDATION

The Firefighters Support Foundation's (FSF) newest training program is now available. **Mass Violence Post-Response Operations** addresses the preparation for and execution of the operations that need to happen in the days, weeks, and months that follow a mass-violence event.

While much of the focus of training and preparation is on the event itself, these events are usually over within minutes, while the post-operations can stretch on for months.

The program consists of a one-hour video presentation and an accompanying 49-slide Power Point. The presenter is August Vernon, a recognized emergency management trainer. Covered topics include:

- ◆ Pre-incident planning for post-operations.
- ◆ The role of ICS and the command center.
- ◆ Lessons from past events .
(both positive and negative)
- ◆ Forward command centers.
- ◆ Common mistakes.
- ◆ Post-event facilities and staffing.
- ◆ The coordinated roles and responsibilities of law enforcement and the fire service.

The program is free to all members of public safety and emergency management agencies.

Choose a download site:

Fire Engineering.com

JEMS.com





13th Annual Homeland Security & Fire Safety Conference



Fire service personnel from the tri-state region gathered at Kean University for the 13th Annual New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Homeland Security and Fire Safety Conference staffed and hosted by the Division's uniformed officers. (left to right) Tim Weiss, Jim McFadden, Rick Farletta, Bill Kramer, Acting Director, Kent Neiswender, Bruce Tynan, David Hughes and Craig Augustoni.



Kean's STEM facility proved a fitting setting for some of the hi-tech topics touched upon including the critical role the fire service plays in acts of domestic terrorism, such as the incident that recently took place in Orlando.



FIRE FOCUS: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY



NJDFS Preparedness Unit 's David Hughes, speaking as Intel Officer for the New Jersey Fire Terrorism Task Force, leads off the Conference with an update on the seat the Division now holds at the table for the New Jersey fire service component of a possible domestic terrorism event.



Chief Kramer makes a point with PSE&G Emergency Preparedness representatives.

Acting Director Kramer joins Captain Hughes in welcoming other anti-terrorism experts assembled for the 13th annual Conference among them; Scott Alee, FBI/Newark, Mike Reed, NJTTF, Michael Polodak, NJ Office of Homeland Security, Michael Lychock, NJOHS/SAR, Scott Nawrocki, WMD Coordinator, FBI/Newark, Kevin Carr and Michael Weber, PSE&G Emergency Preparedness.



ADD HEARING LOSS TO THE LIST OF POTENTIAL ON-THE-JOB HAZARDS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Nearly **50 million** Americans experience hearing loss



Ringing in the ears (tinnitus) affects **20%** of Americans, and hearing loss occurs in **90%** of those cases

1 in 5 teens has hearing loss



60% of veterans returning from Iraq & Afghanistan come home with hearing loss and tinnitus



Those with even mild hearing loss are twice as likely to develop dementia



Source: Hearing Health Foundation 2016

Firefighters both career and volunteer have an increased chance of hearing loss due to the nature of the task.

However certain pre-emptive actions can reduce that threat. Find out what they are and what the research has shown what are the long term hazards.

[READ THE RESEARCH](#)



“Fire fighting in the United States has many scenarios that involve high levels of noise exposure including sirens, diesel engines, air horns, power saws, and power ventilators. While these noises are intermittent and often unpredictable, it seems intuitive that personal exposure monitoring using noise dosimeters should indicate exposures that are quite high.

However, most noise evaluations at fire departments (Tubbs, 1995) report 8-hour time-weighted averages (TWAs) much less than the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 90 dBA (CFR, 2003). For many evaluations, once noise has been measured at levels that do not exceed OSHA regulations, then nothing further is done.

If city government decision makers had used only the noise data, then hearing conservation programs for fire fighters would never have happened. Thankfully, they did wait for the other set of data on fire fighter hearing loss before making these decisions and, today, hearing conservation programs are found in many departments.”

*(Time Weighted Averages and Fire Fighter Hearing Loss
Randy Tubbs, PhD. NIOSH, CAOHC Update Summer, 2004.)*

NEW NFIRS STATE PAGES PROVIDE SNAPSHOT OF FIRE FACTS AND FIGURES FOR NJ FIREFIGHTERS

The screenshot shows the U.S. Fire Administration website. The header includes the logo and tagline "U.S. Fire Administration Working for a fire-safe America". Navigation links include "About USFA", "Hotel/Motel", "Contact Us", "Search", and "Email subscriptions". A secondary navigation bar lists "Training & Professional Development", "Fire Prevention & Public Education", "Operations Management & Safety", "Data Publications & Library", and "Grants & Funding". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Data, Publications & Library / Statistics / By State / New Jersey". The main content area features the title "New Jersey fire loss/fire department profile" with social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. The text below the title reads: "This page presents a snapshot of New Jersey fire losses reported through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in 2014." and "Also included is information about New Jersey fire departments and firefighter and home fire fatalities in 2016."

The US Fire Administration has made a welcome addition to its National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) by breaking out incidents and statistics for each state. The reports give a quick review of reported incidents, especially useful for public presentations requiring a “big picture” view of what the New Jersey fire service is facing, as the most densely populated by area state in the nation.

The data rich pages are in no small part owed to the work that the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety NFIRS Unit does in compiling it from the state’s 800 or so fire departments. The Unit has proudly seen a nearly 90 percent compliance rate in securing this critical information, so important to policy makers and legislators who rely on it to formulate the way forward for both civilians and firefighters in the Garden State.

Click the graphic above to visit the New Jersey page.

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY SUMMIT



It was fitting for the first NJDFS-Kean Firefighter Health and Safety Summit to begin with a special presentation given by Fallen Firefighter Foundation advocate Tony Correia and NJDFS Acting Director William Kramer, Jr., to Donna Buscio, the founding force behind the Deborah Heart and Lung Center’s “A Gift from Captain Buscio” program in memory of her late husband and Jersey City Fire Captain Dominick Buscio.



Cindy Ell, former firefighter, EMT and Founder, President of the International Firefighter Cancer Foundation, notes how early detection can stem the increasing instances of firefighter cancer arising from environmental hazards.



FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY SUMMIT



Dan Kerrigan takes participants through what would be necessary components of any stationhouse fitness for firefighter program and how that is inseparable from job performance for firefighters.



Part of the session included interactive discussions among stakeholders. Acting Director Kramer leads a discussion about what are possible solutions at

Firefighter Health and Safety Summit co-facilitator and NFFF advocate Greg W. Collier exhorts participants in the conference not to let what was discussed end in the room, but to take the messages back to their local fire service organizations and make firefighter health and safety a signal issue for the entire fire service.



The discussion does continue via a *Linked In* discussion group and a special *Dropbox* access account for NJDFS-Kean Firefighter Health and Life Safety materials. Please reach out to Tony Correia: acorr1954@gmail.com

WINDOWLESS BASEMENT FIRE HAZARD ADDRESSED BY 2016 CODE AMENDMENT



On February 16, 2016 a change to N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(h) became effective. The change provides an additional option to comply with the windowless basement protection requirements for buildings of *Use Group R-2* with basements 3,000 square feet or less in area. The updated text for your LEU red book has been forwarded to your attention.

Compliance with the new requirements will allow a basement in an R-2 use not exceeding 3,000 square feet to be within the Code without having to install a monitored alarm system. Again, the code change is effective immediately.

Windows referenced in the new provision **MUST** be breakable. Laminated, hurricane resistant or wired glass is not acceptable in addition heavy mesh or screens that would prevent effective ventilation is unacceptable. The ramp or stairway to the basement must be open to the sky. No overhead obstructions of any type are permitted. "Bilco" type basement doors do NOT meet this exemption.

Existing protective systems that were installed to comply with windowless basement requirements in these buildings must remain in-place and operational, pending an approved removal. In order to remove the existing monitored alarm system, that approval must be obtained from both the Fire Subcode Official and Fire Official in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 901.4.2. The change was effected due to the imminent life hazard the construction poses to civilians and especially firefighters.

Louis Kilmer
Chief of Inspections, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

F.I.R.E. BOWL ORIENTATION AT MIDDLESEX FIRE ACADEMY



Each year in preparation for the NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl the contestants visit Middlesex Fire Academy for a briefing on possible questions that may appear in the preliminary rounds. Students are given a guided tour of the facility followed by a luncheon underwritten by Hartz Mountain Industries.



DCA TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY



NJDFS PERSONNEL PLAY HOST EACH YEAR FOR THE NATIONAL TAKE OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY.

RICK FARLETTA HELPS TRENTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE CO 3 GET SITUATED FOR AN APPARATUS TOUR.



JEFF SILVER, (below) INVESTIGATOR AND ARSON CANINE HANDLER, INTRODUCES TORCH TO AN AUDIENCE EAGER TO MAKE AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH HIM.



NJ AMERICAN WATER VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND EMS GRANT PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONDER GRANT PROGRAM



New Jersey American Water applauds the men and women who volunteer for and support our community's fire departments. You provide an invaluable service to the community through enhanced fire protection. As a fellow partner serving the community, we thank you for your hard work and dedication. As a show of our appreciation, New Jersey American Water launched a Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Responder grant program, to provide support for our local fire departments in the communities we serve.

About the grant program

New Jersey American Water Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Responder grants are intended to provide financial assistance to fire and emergency organizations serving communities in the company's designated service areas. Grants will be awarded to cover the costs associated with purchasing personal protective gear, communications equipment, firefighting tools, water handling equipment, training and related activities/materials that will be used to support community fire protection.



New Jersey American Water has many employees who are active in their local volunteer fire departments. Above are just a few.

Reimbursement for specific fire training classes, including the cost of training manuals and student workbooks, is eligible.

Individuals are not eligible to receive grants. Only uniformed volunteer fire departments serving New Jersey American Water's service territory are eligible to receive funding. Regional or countywide applications are encouraged to maximize the number of fire and emergency organizations that would benefit from the grants. The maximum grant amount is \$1,000.

How to Apply

Fire department representatives should send a letter of application, which includes the following information:

- Contact information, including name and phone number
- Description of the organization(s) seeking support, including fire company name, address of fire company and county in which the fire company is located
- Overview of the specific project to be funded
- Grant amount requested
- Problem/challenges that the project will address
- Timeframe for implementation of the project
- Summary of other sources being approached for support of the project
- In addition to the letter of application, a project budget should be included.

An internal New Jersey American Water team, which will include fire company volunteers, will review the applications, and applicants will be notified within one month whether the grant is approved and amount of funding.



Where to Send Completed Applications

By mail:
Susan Barton
New Jersey American Water
1025 Laurel Oak Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043

By email:
Susan.barton@amwater.com

By fax:
856-782-2481

Deadline for Entries

March 4, 2016

Winners to be Announced

Winners will be announced by the end of March.

For More Information

Susan Barton
P: 856.782.2318
susan.barton@amwater.com

01-2016

www.newjerseyamwater.com

MT. BETHEL FIRE COMPANY IN WARREN COUNTY WAS A RECENT GRANT RECIPIENT. THE GRANT WILL BE USED TO UPDATE EMERGENCY LIGHTING TO LED.



AT ISSUE:

PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICER'S BENEFIT PROGRAM UPDATE



The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing to examine the need for more timeliness and transparency in the program The Public Service Officer Benefit Program pays death and education benefits to the families of emergency responders who die in the line of duty, as well as disability benefits to those catastrophically injured in the line of duty. At the start of the hearing, Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) expressed concern that of the 693 death benefit claims currently pending at the Department of Justice (DOJ), 61 percent were filed more than a year ago.

One of the witnesses at the hearing was Sheriff Jay Langenbau from Hanlontown, IA. Sheriff Langenbau's wife, Shelly Lair-Langenbau, was a volunteer firefighter who died on January 2, 2013, while working as a flight nurse on a helicopter that crashed. Sheriff Langenbau filed a PSOB application in March 2013 that is still pending.

"This nation set up the PSOB benefit to help those in the emergency services profession. "It would be helpful for me to be able to tell colleagues that they can expect to receive assistance from the PSOB office within a few months rather than 3 plus years in the event of a tragedy," Langenbau testified.

In July 2015 the Inspector General (IG) for the DOJ published the results of an audit of the PSOB program that reviewed 2,510 claims. The IG found three primary factors contributing to significant delays in processing claims:

Claimants filing incomplete applications, which the audit attributed in part to inadequate application

guidance from the PSOB Office. Claimants and agencies being unresponsive to PSOB Office requests for additional information.

Since the IG report there have been several positive developments within the PSOB program. Between August and November of 2015 DOJ made 110 determinations, including 102 awards, on pending line-of-duty heart attack and stroke death benefit cases. To put that in perspective, since heart attack/stroke was made eligible for PSOB as part of the Hometown Heroes Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 2003 there had been 1,037 claims filed and 817 determinations made as of November 27, 2015.

DOJ is also developing a web-based portal for accepting and processing applications that is scheduled to go online in November. Deputy Attorney General Karol Mason referenced the portal in testimony that she delivered on behalf of the DOJ at the April 26 hearing.

"OJP (the Office of Justice Programs) is implementing a new automated case management system, referred to as 'PSOB 2.0' to modernize the PSOB Program in an entirely paperless environment," Mason said. "This will include a secure web-based portal that will enable the claimant, claimant's family/beneficiaries, and/or the public safety officer's agency to submit and track the status of an application, receive communications from BJA, and submit inquiries."

(From NVFC)



AT ISSUE:

Pending Fire Service Bills

<click bill number to search>



ASSEMBLY



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“Your influence counts, use it.”

Deputy Fire Marshal Anthony R. Braig Ret.

Deputy Fire Marshal Anthony R. Braig Ret. began his career with the Camden County Fire Marshal's Office in May of 1984. Andy known for his role in supporting the Health and Welfare of children also maintained his duties, which included working in the fire investigation unit and code enforcement for Camden County.

Andy lost his battle with diabetes on Saturday, June 25, 2016. He will always be remembered for his leadership in the Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention program in Camden County, bringing the fire service, law enforcement, courts, schools, parents, government and mental health agencies together for this common problem.

This program was endorsed by the Camden County Freeholders as the first in the State of New Jersey, and would eventually become the model program that many counties use today. Andy continued his foresight and helped organize the New Jersey Juvenile Firesetters Task Force, which he taught state-wide educational programs and specialized classes at the National Fire Academy.

Recognized nationally as a leader in his field of work, Andy was requested to assist the London Fire Brigade and flew to England to help organize an International Firesetters Program. Andy taught many overseas first responders world-wide through hosting conferences sponsored by the Camden County Fire Marshal Office and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

In addition to his regular duties with the Camden County Fire Marshal Office, Andy was a member with the New Jersey Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, and spent numerous weeks on site of the World Trade Center disaster in 2001 working with the New Jersey / New York Port Authority and the Fire Department of New York.

Andy began his career in the fire service when he became a volunteer with the Erial Fire Company in Gloucester Township, New Jersey. Andy remained a member of many organizations including the New Jersey Association of County Fire Marshal's, the Camden County Firemen's Association and the Camden County Fire Chief's and Fire Officer's Association.

Andy leaves behind his wife Roxanne, daughter Allison, step-daughters Jamie and Donna and his grandchildren.

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Please send material c/o Jerry Clark, Content Producer, Public Information Assistant, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, Community Risk Reduction Unit to: jerold.clark@dca.nj.gov

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