

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

# FIRE FOCUS

**Excellence in Public Safety**

Charles A. Richman, Commissioner  
Louis Kilmer, Acting Director-Acting State Fire Marshal  
Spring 2017

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety  
Volume 13 Issue 1

# 2017



Joining NJDFS Acting Director Lou Kilmer at the 2017 Operation Save A Life kickoff breakfast at the 3 West Club in Manhattan are (L to R) : Tim Weiss, James Mudd, Rick Farletta, Lucille Ventres and James McFadden.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety recently joined WABC, Channel 7 and Kidde in New York City for the kick off breakfast for the 19th annual edition of "Operation Save A Life." The program has seen the distribution of well over 100,000 smoke alarms to the needy and disabled in the state. The Division coordinates with dozens of local fire departments to get the vital, life-saving devices into the hands of those who need them most each year.



## IN THIS POSTING...

**WINGSPREAD IV REPORT**

**23,315,600 RESPONSES IN 2014**

**NATURAL GAS LEAK GUIDELINES**

**SPECIAL VISION 20/20 REPORT**

**SPRING COURSE GUIDE PREVIEW**

**FIRE IN THE UNITED STATES**

**IN MEMORIAM**

# **US FIRE ADMINISTRATION NOTES MORE THAN 23 MILLION RUNS IN 2014**



Look no further than the latest US Fire Administration report to see the shifting mission of fire departments of not only those across the country, but in New Jersey as well. Our own Fire in New Jersey statistics show that 70 percent of fires are residential.

These topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information.

## **Findings**

- In 2014, fire departments responded to 23,315,600 reported incident calls.
- Almost two-thirds (64 percent) of the reported calls to fire departments required Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and rescue services.
- Only five percent of all reported fire department runs were fire related.
- Fire departments responded to more severe weather calls reported on Wednesdays than any other day of the week.
- Over half (53 percent) of the reported calls were to residential properties. Only 3 percent of these were fire related.
- Approximately 8 percent of reported runs involved mutual or automatic aid.

*(from USFA)*

Though the post office has laid claim to a legendary dedication to duty it should be noted that firefighters responded to more than 23 million calls for help in every possible weather situation 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, as noted in the USFA Report.



*Click below for the full report*

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v17i8.pdf>

# GOOD LUCK JEFF



*...and to Scout and Torch*



Arson Investigator Jeff Silver's retirement from state service was recognized by the Governor, DCA Commissioner Charles Richman and by Jeff's fellow investigators and colleagues, including Arson Unit Supervisor Jason Speiker. Jeff, as in the tradition of the Arson Investigation Unit, retires with his fellow state servants Scout and Torch. They also retire at the end of their canine service to the citizens of New Jersey.

*Good luck to all!*





NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



## **AWARENESS ALERT**

PO Box 809, Trenton, NJ 08625-0809 (609) 633-6106 AWARENESS ALERT 17-1

**New Jersey Statewide Safety Team  
Natural Gas Leak Response Awareness for Emergency Responders  
For Immediate Distribution to All Emergency Responders  
Issued January 9, 2017**

**Message:**

Ground frost during the winter season increases the risk of natural gas migrating into buildings where explosive levels of natural gas can accumulate. Based on observations from recent gas leak exercises, the New Jersey Statewide Safety Team recommend the following precautions, beyond the normal gas leak protocols be taken to protect emergency responders and the public:

- When responding to a gas leak call
  - Limit potential ignition sources by:
    - Parking away from manholes, storm drains and valves boxes
    - When alerting residents, knock on doors, DO NOT ring door bells
    - Do not use electronic devices unless intrinsically safe
  - Park away from the suspected leak & walk into the area – be aware for signs of gas leaking
    - odor, sounds - gas blowing / hissing or signs of gas vapor
  - When signs of a gas leak are detected especially gas in structures, evacuate immediately
    - When in doubt, evacuate and secure the area for 330 feet (a football field)
- When evacuating buildings
  - Instruct building occupants to evacuate immediately and not to smoke, use electric devices (e.g. switches, automatic garage doors) or electronic devices (cell / smart phones)
  - Move them at least 330 feet (a football field) away from the building with the gas leak
  - Evacuate surrounding structures – note: multiple buildings may have gas leaking
  - Secure the area, establish the hot zone and plan for the arrival of additional responders
  - Manage the evacuees – collect contact information and do not let them back into the area until safe readings are obtained with gas detection equipment

***Miss the email? Print out and post on station bulletin board.***

# **IMPORTANT**

# **NJDFS**

# **ALERTS**

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



## **AWARENESS ALERT**

PO Box 809, Trenton, NJ 08625-0809 (609) 633-6106 AWARENESS ALERT 17-2

**New Jersey Statewide Safety Team  
Overheated Boiler/Furnace Response Awareness for Emergency Responders  
For Immediate Distribution to All Emergency Responders  
Issued February 16, 2017**

**Message:**

An "Overheated Boiler, AKA-Runaway Boiler" is a condition created when a heating unit reaches an exceedingly high temperature and pressure, and the appliance will **Not Shut Off**. This condition may lead to a fire or explosion. Carbon Monoxide hazards may also be associated with an overheated boiler.

- When responding to an overheated boiler call,
  - Limit potential exposure (a potential explosion) by:
    - Evacuating the building immediately
    - Being aware of carbon monoxide indications and hazards (**monitor for CO**)
  - Park away from the front of the building
- When evacuating buildings
  - Instruct building occupants to evacuate immediately
  - Move evacuees at least 330 feet (a football field) away from the building
  - Secure the area and establish the hot zone
  - Manage the evacuees – the time for the boiler to cool down to a safe level may take 8 to 24 hours
- Call the appropriate fuel company to assist with the boiler / furnace shut down
- **Use distance and shielding to protect emergency responders**
  - Plan for, and have a contingency plan for a boiler explosion and carbon monoxide hazard
    - Keep responders at least 330 feet away from building with the overheated boiler
    - Use large vehicles to shield responders from potential explosion / blast zone
      - Keep command post and staging areas shielded, uphill and up wind
    - Turn-on and zero Carbon Monoxide Meters before entering the building

# NJDFS HELPS DCA CELEBRATE 50 YEARS



Department of  
**Community Affairs**



Contributing to the  
Making of a Modern State

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs publicly celebrated its 50th year of service to the citizens of New

Jersey. Joining the agency initially as a Bureau of the New Jersey State Police, the Division has itself provided support services for over 30 years to the men and women of the state firefighting corps, including guidance for local fire officials enforcing the state's Uniform Fire Code, conducting ongoing training for firefighters, investigative services through its Arson Unit and canines, and community risk reduction public education outreach.

*A DCA Museum was specially constructed for the event featuring historical artifacts.*



# WINGSPREAD VI REPORT

Like many successful conferences that have had a lasting importance to the nation's fire service such as the Williamsburg '70 Conference, the Stonebridge Conference, the Rockville Report, etc., the name often associated with such meetings and their post-conference reports refer to the location where a given conference was held, be it a city or the name of the conference center itself. Such was the case with the original Wingspread Conference.

The report and conference are named for the Wingspread Conference Center. Located in Racine, Wisconsin, the Center was designed in 1938 by Frank Lloyd Wright and is owned by the Johnson Foundation. Originally a house for the Johnson Wax family, the house was converted into a conference center in 1960, and it has been host to thousands of conferences of national and international significance. The original Wingspread Conference Reports on Fire in America are among the most valued and respected products of the Wingspread facility.

The original Wingspread Conference was held February 1966 at the Wingspread Conference Center and was sponsored by the Johnson Foundation. Eleven people participated in the event. This Conference was instrumental in leading to the establishment of the Fire Academy.

Wingspread II was held at the Wingspread Center after the publication of *America Burning* in 1973 and the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) in 1974. The National Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Academy.

Wingspread III was held in October of 1986, again at the Wingspread Conference Center. It was sponsored by The Fire Service Institute of Iowa State University. Twenty-one people participated in the conference.

Wingspread IV was held in Dothan, Alabama in 1988. It was held to address emerging issues of national importance to the fire service. Twenty-one people participated in the conference.

Wingspread V was held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1990. It was held to address emerging issues of national importance to the fire service. Forty-two people participated in the conference.

Wingspread VI was once again held at the Wingspread Conference Center. The location was selected to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire service and a return to the site of the 1966 and 1976 Conferences.

The statements of each Wingspread Conference are available on the website.

The participants at Wingspread VI overwhelmed the organizers. This decision was based on the request of the participants.

## WINGSPREAD VI

Statements of National Significance to the United States Fire and Emergency Services



Click link for full report: <http://thenfhc.org/resources/2016Wingspread.pdf>

A WINGSPREAD CONFERENCE REPORT



# SPRING COURSES NOW AVAILABLE



## Spring 2017 Training Courses

*for Fire Officials, Fire Inspectors, Fire Instructors and Firefighters*

Presented by:

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs,  
Division of Fire Safety in cooperation with Kean University



The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, in cooperation with Kean University, offers perhaps the most comprehensive professional development program in the country, much of it free of



charge for the men and women of the state suppression and prevention corps.



This year is no different with a multiplicity of course offerings covering every aspect of fire service operations in the state.



A trained suppression and prevention force is vital in the battle waged against the scourge of fire in our state.

**CLICK ABOVE GRAPHIC FOR FULL COURSE CATALOGUE**

# WAIT...FIREFIGHTER EXOSKELETONS?

*(NIST blogger Bill Billotte looks at the development of the technology for firefighters.)*

Although it's not really bionics, the research community and private sector are focusing on the related area of exoskeletons. Exoskeletons are passive or active robotics that can enable the wearer to move limbs or hold objects with greater strength and stamina. Exoskeletons are not wired directly to the human body like the bionics Steve Austin had, so the biological interface issues are slightly different, but still challenging.

Today, there are more than 80 exoskeletons on the market. Despite rapid progress in the marketplace, however, there is only an incomplete patchwork of standards to govern their safety and performance. One of my roles as program manager for NIST's [National Security Standards program](#) is to help NIST figure out the measurement infrastructure that exoskeleton manufacturers will need to prove their safety and describe their capabilities, specifically with regards to helping first responders and industry.

In [January 2017](#), NIST brought together, for what may be the first time, the developers, researchers, and users of the exoskeleton technology community. Over 100 organizations, including 44 from industry, 35 from government, and 19 from academia, participated. Users representing the military, industry and medical communities were there to pass along what they were looking for from this technology. We were there to dream, but what was amazing to me was that, no matter the community, everyone said that they wanted

this technology to help them perform normal human feats—not necessarily give them superhuman abilities. For instance, Chris Tagatac from the [Christopher Reeve Foundation](#) said he wants the technology to help him walk again. He's been fortunate enough to use many kinds of exoskeletons in several medical trials. He sees exoskeletons as a transitional device to keep paralyzed individuals fit while they wait for a real cure for spinal injuries. Jim Key from the [United Steel Workers](#) said his 850,000 members want this technology to help them do their jobs. His mem-



bers see exoskeletons as a way to perform at their peak levels in a safe manner. Captain Brian Giroux from the [U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence](#) told us that the increasingly heavy loads soldiers are carrying are leading to injuries in the back, knee, and other parts of the body. Like the steel workers, they want exoskeleton technologies to help soldiers do their jobs more safely and effectively. But in order to

use them in the field, they need to control the weight, increase battery life, and have the ability to maintain the machines far from their bases.

While everyone was enthusiastic about exoskeletons' potential, we all agreed that we need standards and test methods so that we have a common frame of reference and can communicate better about this disparate technology area and determine what is safe and effective. I think this type of work will help bring exoskeletons to market sooner and bring us closer to having "the technology" to make humans better ... stronger ... faster.



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SPECIAL REPORT:



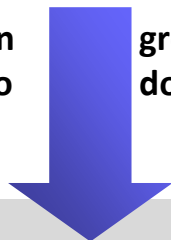
The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety "[Fire in New Jersey](#)" 2015 identified nearly 80 percent of fire that occurred that year involved single and multifamily residences. The 2016 report is still being compiled but the early results shows 50 civilian fatalities and six firefighter Line of Duty Deaths. Our large property loss fires aside, the scourge of fire continues to occur in large part where people live.

It is clear that the state fire service must redouble its efforts to educate the citizens it serves both about the nature of fire and about what actions they can take to prevent it.

No one else has the credentials to perform this task. If you want to know about fire, ask someone whose job it is to deal with it.

Traditionally, that education occurred in when there were personnel available to

group settings and always and only do it.



# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

## SPECIAL REPORT:

Time and thankfully technology has changed all that. According to the Pew Research Center the following is true:

**“Today, 68% of U.S. adults have a smartphone, up from 35% in 2011, and tablet computer ownership has edged up to 45% among adults, according to newly released survey data from the Pew Research Center. Smartphone ownership is nearing the saturation point with some groups: 86% of those ages 18-29 have a smartphone, as do 83% of those ages 30-49 and 87% of those living in households earning \$75,000 and up annually”**

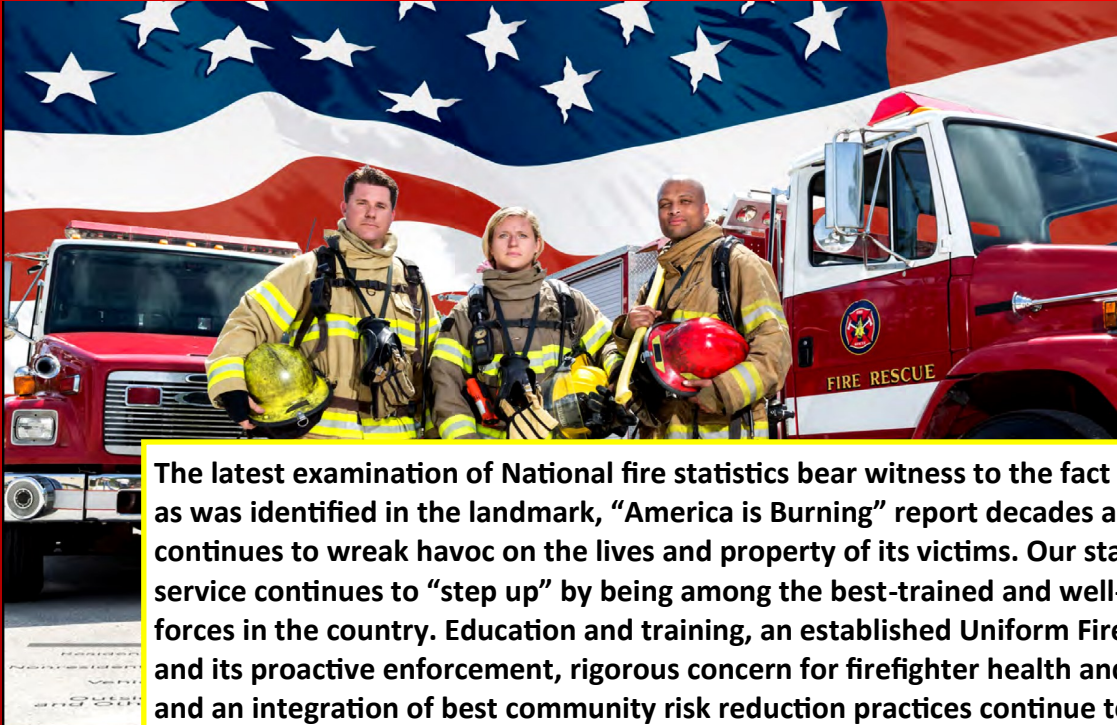
The impact of technology on the fire service continues, from the early thermal imaging cameras to now using drones as part of search and rescue. The most dramatic may be in the device you may be holding to read this and the fact that you now can turn it into the most effective fire safety education tool ever invented.

Vision 20/20 analysis shows that coupled with Home Safety Visits, and a new smartphone app the ease and reach of your community risk reduction efforts can now go further into your community than you ever imagined.

Click on the link below to find out more about how this incredible app may very well save lives in your increasingly diverse community. Do it now!

**[Using the Home Safety Visits App](#)**

# FIRE IN THE UNITED STATES



The latest examination of National fire statistics bear witness to the fact that fire, as was identified in the landmark, “America is Burning” report decades ago, continues to wreak havoc on the lives and property of its victims. Our state fire service continues to “step up” by being among the best-trained and well-organized forces in the country. Education and training, an established Uniform Fire Code and its proactive enforcement, rigorous concern for firefighter health and safety, and an integration of best community risk reduction practices continue to show the way as we address the harm fire does each and every day in our state.



U.S. Fire Administration

## Fire in the United States 2005-2014

18th Edition

January 2017



FEMA

*Click report cover for full report*



# **FIRE IN THE UNITED STATES**

- ◆ **The elderly remain at high risk of death from fire.**
- ◆ **The focus for fire injury prevention should be on adults ages 20 to 64 and those 85 or older.**
- ◆ **African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives remain at a higher risk of death from fire than the general population.**
- ◆ **Outside/Wildland fires.**
- ◆ **Data challenges still exist: Many records submitted to NFIRS by participating fire departments provide either incomplete or no information in some of the fields. Additionally, in preparing this report, it is assumed that participating fire departments have reported 100 percent of their fire incidents; however, this is not always the case.**
- ◆ **The completeness of all the information in the NFIRS modules will contribute to the refinement and confidence level of future analyses.**

# Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Manager May 3 and 4, 2017

Middlesex County Fire Academy  
1001 Fire Academy Drive  
Sayreville, NJ 08872  
[www.keanfiresafety.com](http://www.keanfiresafety.com)

This two-day course covers the job performance requirements of a Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist II as detailed in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1035. The course is designed for the person who is responsible or will be responsible for leading a Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Program.

**Material covered:**

- The difference between the titles Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist I and Youth Firesetting Prevention and Interventions Specialist II
- Summarize the job performance requirements as detailed in NFPA Standard 1035
- Develop a youth firesetting prevention and intervention program in their own community
- Demonstrate how to evaluate a youth firesetting prevention and intervention program

**Instructors:**

**Captain Helge Nordtveit (Ret.)**

Cranford Fire Department & Middlesex County Firewatch Program

**Joe Ehrhardt**

Middlesex County Firewatch Program

Fire and Life Safety Educator, Hamilton Township Fire District #7

**Cost:** \$60.00 - To cover Instructor Fees and Materials

**Time:** 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

**Please complete registration forms and mail to:**

Kean University  
Fire Safety Training Program (L-145)  
1000 Morris Ave  
Union, NJ 07083  
Attn: Jolene Steele  
908-737-3064 [jsteele@kean.edu](mailto:jsteele@kean.edu)



Acting Director and Acting State Fire Marshal Louis Kilmer took the first opportunity presented in the new year to introduce himself as such at the state County Fire Coordinators meeting held in the auditorium of the Middlesex County Fire Academy on Saturday, January 21.



County Fire Coordinators play a critical role in the deployment of local fire resources, including the mobile water tenders in areas underserved by water utilities.

The group also presented a commemorative award to former Acting Director William Kramer, Jr. who was unable to attend in person due to a prior commitment.



Douglas Rue, Somerset County Fire Coordinator with Essex County Fire Coordinator, John D' Ascensio (standing) notes the dedication on the officer's bugle once used to command those on the fireground, a fitting tribute to Bill.





# HEART HEALTHY TIPS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

According to the [American Heart Association](#), heart disease is the leading cause of death in both men and women in the United States. While this is a serious issue, there are many ways heart disease can be prevented. One key lifestyle change to prevent the onset of heart disease is proper nutrition and diet.

Eating healthy can still mean eating delicious meals throughout the day. If you are in need of assistance, or unsure where to start, we encourage you to use the [Benefit Finder](#) to locate information on programs you may be eligible to receive. Visit our [food/nutrition](#) page to view more information on benefits available in your state. You can also find hundreds of quick, easy, and healthy [recipes](#) that are great for your heart and your wallet, thanks to the American Heart Association. Watching what you eat may seem like a small piece of your daily routine, but little things do add up, and your body will thank you for it! A few tips to keep in mind for heart healthy nutrition are:

- **Watch your sodium intake:** High levels of sodium intake increase the chances of developing heart disease. You can season your food with ingredients other than salt (herbs, fresh onions, garlic, and lemons). This approach can add rich flavors to your food and help prevent high blood pressure, which is linked to heart disease. You can also cook with unsalted butters and vegetable cooking oils. As an additional tip, if your food comes with a seasoning packet, use only part of the packet. This will lower the amount of sodium in the food.
- **Load up on fruits and vegetables:** All fruits and vegetables are great for your body, but some are especially good for your heart. Fruits such as apples, bananas, and oranges, and vegetables

such as, spinach, tomatoes, and broccoli, are delicious additions to your daily diet that can help you to pinpoint nutrition required to create a healthy heart. Incorporating a few of these into each meal will not only help maintain cholesterol levels, but will give you great amounts of energy too.

- **Stay away from processed food:** Processed foods usually contain more sodium than fresh food options. When eating canned fruits and vegetables, make sure to get items packed in water with “low sodium” and/or “no sugar added.”
- **Check the Nutrition Facts label:** Using the Nutrition Facts label to compare different brands is a secret that many people overlook. Be sure to purchase items with a 5% daily value (dv) or less of sodium. Look to purchase items with high levels of potassium and protein, and low levels of saturated fat. In addition, when purchasing fresh meats and poultry, be sure they are labeled with “no added sodium.”

Caring for your heart through a healthy lifestyle is critical to preventing heart disease. In addition to healthy eating habits, it is also recommended that you check your blood pressure regularly. You can also manage stress levels and talk with your primary care physician about routine heart screenings. Regular heart screenings can be found under commonly covered benefits through [Benefits.gov](#) provides many other opportunities to find information on your health and nutrition needs. Be sure to use these tips and resources during annual American Heart Month, and every month thereafter to help prevent heart disease, and encourage your friends and family to do the same!

*(from Benefits.gov)*

# NFPA SURVEY SAID?



In January, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) mailed the Survey of Fire Departments for United States Fire Experience During 2016 to 20,490 fire departments throughout the country.

The results of this survey are used to compile the U.S. Fire Department Profile report that the NFPA publishes every year.

This report is important because it tracks a number of critical data points, including the number of volunteer and career firefighters in the United States, the number of volunteer, combination, and career fire departments, the population protected by each department type, age and demographic data about career and volunteer firefighters, and the amount of money spent on fire protection services in the United States, just to name a few.

Because the report is published annually the data in it can be used to identify trends in the fire service. Organizations like the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and National Volunteer Fire Council use this data and the National Fire Information Reporting System (NFIRS) to provide statistical support to back up legislative efforts, assist the volunteer provide input and guidance in the development of key fire service and Fire Code initiatives, and provide critical information to the public via media outreach efforts.

*The more departments that complete the survey, the more accurate and meaningful the data in the report will be.*

It is particularly important to have a large number of respondents from smaller fire departments so that NFPA has a representative sample to draw from.

Fire departments can complete and return the paper survey by May 2, 2017, or the survey can be done online at [www.nfpa.org/FSurvey2016](http://www.nfpa.org/FSurvey2016).

In order to take the survey online, an NFPA Code and Password is required. This can be found on the paper survey that fire departments receive.

If a fire department does not have this information and wishes to complete the survey, they can contact the NFPA:

[nfesurvey@nfpa.org](mailto:nfesurvey@nfpa.org) or 1-800-343-8890.





# AT ISSUE:

## *SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE UPDATE*



As you know, we have a new Administration which means a lot of new faces - over 4,000 in fact by the time the Trump Administration completes the transition. This includes the cabinet secretaries, the White House staff and many important deputies within every federal agency. The only political position at the United States Fire Administration is the Fire Administrator. As of January 20th, Dr. Denis Onieal holds the title of Acting Administrator and will remain in this position until the President appoints a full-time Administrator.

Many changes also occurred on Capitol Hill as a result of the November elections. There were 55 newly elected members in the House of Representatives and seven in the US Senate. While the Republicans retained control in both chambers, there were important changes in the committee leadership assignments. Whether it was due to retirements, defeats or term limitations for committee chairmanships, many of the committees now have new chairpersons and ranking members.

Change is part of the political system in Washington, DC - whether in the Administration or Congress. Those who can adapt to the changes the fastest have much to gain. This explains why we selected "Forging New Relationships" as our theme -- and it's why you need to consider attending the National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner Program. 2017 is going to be a challenging year for the fire service on Capitol Hill.

As many of you know, the Assistance to Firefighters and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program will expire at the end of the year unless Congress can reauthorize both programs. As important as this issue is, we have others to consider. Funding for the United States Fire Administration is of paramount concern. We cannot expect "our" federal agency to perform its four core missions - data collection, training, public education, and research - without the proper financial resources. While Congress has authorized funding for the agency at \$76.4 million, the agency receives a far less amount -- \$44 million in Fiscal Year 2016.

Complacency in Washington, DC puts you at the back of the line for federal dollars. With pressure mounting to curb federal spending, it's incumbent of the fire service to work collectively to engage our elected representatives in discussions about supporting federal fire service programs.

The fire service can exert pressure on our lawmakers by converging on Washington, DC for the annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner on April 5th and 6th. Having fire service leaders walking through the halls of the congressional office buildings and engaging their elected representatives in discussions about our issues can have a resounding impact on our work - work that benefits all fire and emergency services personnel.

*(from CSFI)*





# AT ISSUE:

## **FIRE LEGISLATION BEFORE THE 115th CONGRESS**



**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT**  
S. 2944 was introduced by Senator Charles Grassley (IA) on May 18, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation improves the timeliness and transparency in the Justice Department's processing of PSOB death, disability, and educational assistance claims.*

### **NATIONAL MITIGATION INVESTMENT ACT**

H.R. 5177 was introduced by Congressman Carlos Curbelo (FL-26) on May 10, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation incentivizes states to adopt state-wide model building codes and creates a grant program to assist states and localities in enforcing those building codes.*

### **HONORING EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICERS (HERO) BENEFITS REFORM ACT**

H.R. 5123 was introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) on April 29, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation improves timeliness and transparency in the Justice Department's processing of PSOB death, disability, and educational assistance claims, and clarifies that fire police and fire investigators are public safety officers for the purposes of the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program.*

### **FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY ACT**

H.R. 4625 was introduced by Congressman Richard Hanna (NY-22) on February 25, 2016.

S. 2799 was introduced by Senator Robert Menendez (NJ) on April 14, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation creates a specialized national registry to provide researchers and epidemiologists with the tools and resources they need to improve research collection activities related to the monitoring of cancer incidence among firefighters.*

### **PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS TO EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS ACT OF 2016**

H.R. 4365 was introduced by Congressman Richard Hudson (NC-8) on January 12, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation clarifies existing law to allow EMS providers to continue dispensing controlled substances under "standing orders".*

### **FISCAL YEAR 2016 CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT**

H.R. 2029 was originally introduced as the Fiscal Year 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act by Congressman Charles Dent (PA-15) on April 24, 2015.

*Summary: The bill fund programs and activities of the federal government for Fiscal Year 2016. Note: H.R. 2029 was signed into law on December 18, 2015.*

### **FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT**

H.R. 3591 was introduced by Congressman Tom Reed (NY-23) on September 22, 2015.

S. 2068 was introduced by Senator Susan Collins (ME) on September 22, 2015.

*Summary: The legislation amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler systems as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler systems as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.*

### **NICHOLAS AND ZACHARY BURT MEMORIAL CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION ACT**

S. 1250 was introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) on May 7, 2015.

H.R. 4701 was introduced by Congresswoman Anne McLane Kuster (NH-02) on March 3, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation establishes a federal grant program to assist states in carrying out CO education programs.*

### **JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT**

S. 928 was introduced on April 14, 2015 by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY).

H.R. 1786 was introduced on April 14, 2015 by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-12).



# AT ISSUE:

## **FIRE LEGISLATION BEFORE THE 115th CONGRESS**



### **SAFE BUILDING CODES INCENTIVE ACT**

H.R. 1748 was introduced on April 13, 2015 by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25).

*Summary: The bill provides additional funding for post-disaster grants, under a program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to states that adopt and enforce state-wide building codes.*

### **PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT**

S. 420 was introduced on February 20, 2015 by Senator Pat Toomey (PA).

H.R. 2658 was introduced on June 4, 2015 by Congressman Lou Barletta (PA-11).

*Summary: The legislation ensures that volunteers are not counted as full-time employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.*

### **VOLUNTEER RESPONDER INCENTIVE PROTECTION ACT**

S. 609 was introduced on February 27, 2015 by Senator Charles Schumer (NY).

H.R. 2752 was introduced on June 12, 2015 by Congressman John Larson (CT-1).

*Summary: The legislation exempts from federal income tax any property tax benefit and up to \$600 per year of any other type of benefit that a state or local unit of government provides to volunteer emergency responders as a recruitment or retention incentive.*

### **VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT**

S. 616 was introduced on February 27, 2015 by Senator Susan Collins (ME).

H.R. 1171 was introduced on February 27, 2015 by Congressman Peter King (NY-2).

*Summary: The legislation modifies the federal tax code to*

*make it easier for fire departments and local governments to provide recruitment and retention incentive to volunteer emergency response personnel through length of service award programs (LOSAPs).*

### **FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS FAIRNESS ACT**

H.R. 1035 was introduced on February 24, 2015 by Congresswoman Lois Capps (CA-24).

*Summary: The legislation amends federal law to create a rebuttable presumption that heart disease, lung disease, specified cancers and infectious diseases contracted by federal firefighters are job-related and contracted in the line-of-duty for purposes of worker's compensation and disability retirement.*

### **FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT**

H.R. 723 was introduced by Congressman Peter King (NY-2) on February 4, 2015.

S. 2755 was introduced by Senator Roy Blunt (MO) on April 6, 2016.

*Summary: The legislation allows the Representative of the immediate family of a deceased public safety officer who died in the line of duty to provide the family, at their request, with a Capitol-flown flag, together with a certificate, signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative providing the flag, which contains an expression of sympathy for the family. NOTE: S. 2755 was signed into law on May 16, 2016.*

*(From CFSI)*





# AT ISSUE:

*Pending Fire Service Bills*

*<click bill number to search>*



## ASSEMBLY



## SENATE

[A141](#)  
[A177](#)  
[A191](#)  
[A250](#)  
[A319](#)  
[A377](#)  
[A440](#)  
[A493](#)  
[A536](#)  
[A606](#)  
[A678](#)  
[A702](#)  
[A769](#)  
[A815](#)  
[A856](#)  
[A893](#)  
[A948](#)  
[A1090](#)  
[A1097](#)  
[A1304](#)  
[A1337](#)  
[A1539](#)  
[A1604](#)  
[A1611](#)  
[A1634](#)  
[A1674](#)  
[A1675](#)  
[A1696](#)  
[A1702](#)  
[A1772](#)

[A1815](#)  
[A1821](#)  
[A1873](#)  
[A1900](#)  
[A1972](#)  
[A1980](#)  
[A2048](#)  
[A2157](#)  
[A2446](#)  
[A2463](#)  
[A2525](#)  
[A2597](#)  
[A2707](#)  
[A2741](#)  
[A2747](#)  
[A2756](#)  
[A2769](#)  
[A2834](#)  
[A2845](#)  
[A2894](#)  
[A3071](#)  
[A3087](#)  
[A3132](#)  
[A3202](#)  
[A3257](#)  
[A3258](#)  
[A3334](#)  
[A3349](#)  
[A3533](#)  
[A3541](#)

[A3564](#)  
[A3578](#)  
[A3570](#)  
[A3773](#)  
[AR43](#)  
[A3957](#)  
[A4204](#)  
[A4213](#)  
[A4251](#)  
[ACR193](#)  
[AR20](#)  
[AR36](#)  
[AR43](#)  
[AR72](#)

[S70](#)  
[S91](#)  
[S109](#)  
[S138](#)  
[S140](#)  
[S209](#)  
[S284](#)  
[S353](#)  
[S563](#)  
[S592](#)  
[S592](#)  
[S735](#)  
[S806](#)  
[S875](#)  
[S923](#)  
[S984](#)  
[S1000](#)

[S1004](#)  
[S1107](#)  
[S1114](#)  
[S1135](#)  
[S1176](#)  
[S1178](#)  
[S1205](#)  
[S1253](#)  
[S1357](#)  
[S1360](#)  
[S1380](#)  
[S1441](#)  
[S1492](#)  
[S1498](#)  
[S1522](#)  
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