

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS

Lori Grifa, Commissioner
William E. Kramer, Jr., Acting Director
Summer 2011 Posting

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety
Volume 5 Issue 2

FIRST-TIME FINALIST JERSEY CITY PREVAILS AT SIXTH ANNUAL F.I.R.E. BOWL CONTEST

The middle school students of Primary Prep of Jersey City prevailed at this year's New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E) Bowl, defeating the tenacious team of Carteret Middle School, two time F.I.R.E Bowl finalists, by a respectable margin. It was Primary Prep's first appearance in the annual state-wide competition that tests and also instructs middle school students on aspects of fire safety and fire prevention.

It fell though to William Kramer, named recently as NJDFS Acting Director, to put the participation of nearly 20 New Jersey middle schools in this year's competition into specific perspective:

"As with most contests we will have a winner today, but I can confidently say if our student contestants learn one new thing about keeping themselves, their families and their friends safe from fire then we all win, don't we?"



Kean University



"...we have seen a 70 per cent decrease in fire deaths in the state of New Jersey"

William E. Kramer, Jr. Acting Director



IN THIS POSTING...

2011 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL

WILLIAM E. KRAMER, JR. NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

NJDFS-NJFPPA 2011 POSTER FINALISTS

SUMMIT ON VOLUNTEERISM

362 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR!

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

Summer Fire Safety

Safety tips for outdoor cooking and campfires



WILLIAM E. KRAMER, JR. NAMED AS ACTING DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Lori Grifa announced that William E. Kramer, Jr. former Chief of the Bureau of Fire Department Services has been named Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

Bill was hired as a Fire Inspector in September, 1983 by the State Fire Marshal's Office which at that time resided within the New Jersey State Police. Shortly thereafter, Public Law 1983, Chapters 382 and 383 establishing the New Jersey Uniform Fire Safety Act, as well as the Bureau of Fire Safety and the Fire Safety Commission and transferring the State Fire Marshal's Office to the Department of Community Affairs was signed into law. In 1993, Public Law 1993, Chapter 218, formally elevated the Bureau to the Division of Fire Safety. Bill has served in many capacities during his career with the Division including Chief of the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement, Chief of the Bureau of Fire Department Services, and Deputy Director.

During Bill's tenure, he has witnessed a number of historic tragedies that led to many changes. Starting in 1984 the Great Adventure Fire that took the lives of 8 children led to some of the most stringent carnival amusement ride requirements in the country. In 1988 five firefighters were killed in Hackensack when a bow string truss roof collapsed during a fire that led to the Truss Emblem requirements. In 1992 two recruit firefighters were seriously burned during a live burn training evolution that led to fire service instructor and incident management certification requirements.

In 1993, the World Trade Center bombing led to the development and delivery of training programs aimed at teaching firefighters how to respond to potential acts of terrorism.

In 2000 the deaths of three college students at Seton Hall University led to the requirement that all dormitories, sorority and fraternity houses be retrofitted with fire sprinkler systems within four years.



In 2001 the World Trade Center attack led to the Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act which places fire service personnel and assets under the aegis of the Statewide Fire Coordination System, one of the most comprehensive emergency management plans in the nation.

In 2002 the deaths of three firefighters in Gloucester City led to legislation requiring the Division to investigate any firefighter injury or fatality that occurs in the line of duty. And in 2003 the Station Night Club fire in Rhode Island led to the upgrading of fire safety equipment in all night clubs and casinos in New Jersey.

The result of those tragedies but especially of two-during the winters of 1980 and 1981-resulted directly in the deaths of over 70 people, was the passage of the Uniform Fire Safety Act. Action arising out of that law has resulted in a reduction in statewide civilian fire fatalities by over 70%. A startling result in view of New Jersey's status as the nation's most densely populated state.

Bill has also seen the establishment of a state program of line firefighters and officers certification and in-service training. The Division in cooperation with one of the state's leading educational institutions Kean University, oversees a comprehensive academic training and testing program in cooperation with county fire academies.

During Bill's tenure, the Division acquired and deployed state-of-the-art Thermal Imaging Cameras and Automatic External Defibrillators, (AEDs) to every fire department, career and volunteer, throughout the state.

The Division has also seen during that time, the inception and maintenance of a statewide Firefighter Recruitment program, the establishment of a statewide Arson Investigation Unit and the first time use of special Arson canines.

WILLIAM E. KRAMER, JR. NAMED AS ACTING DIRECTOR OF DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Post 9/11, the Division set-up the Office of Fire Department Preparedness, which in cooperation with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness conducts a critical interface among New Jersey's hundreds of individual career and volunteer departments in the event of terrorist attack or natural disaster.

Also post 9/11, the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety placed into service three large caliber water/firefighting foam delivery systems that exist nowhere else in the country, to ensure protection to the many petrochemical facilities in both the northern and southern parts of the state. Included is over 60,000 gallons of firefighting foam concentrate in 14 foam tenders and trailers distributed statewide.

In addition to his full time task with the Division, Acting Director Kramer, as with many of the employees of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety, serves as a volunteer firefighter. Chief Kramer leads the Cinnaminson Fire Department, a combination department of 50 career and volunteer firefighters, a riverfront community located on the Delaware River directly across from Philadelphia.

Chief Kramer works closely with the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, a 23 member advisory body established by the 1983 state statute to guide the Commissioner of Community Affairs on setting state fire safety regulatory policy.

FIRE CORPS CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominate an outstanding Fire Corps program for the 2011 [Fire Corps Award of Excellence](#). Sponsored by the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Fire Protection Publications, this award honors a Fire Corps program whose remarkable achievements in the fire and emergency services and the community exemplify outstanding performance. The Award recipient will be presented with this distinguished honor at the 2011 National Advisory Committee Meeting in the greater Washington, DC area later this fall.

Nominations must be received by the Fire Corps national office no later than Friday, August 12, 2011.

Visit www.firecorps.org/award for more information, including nomination forms, criteria, requirements, and past award winners. If your community volunteer program is not currently registered with Fire Corps, register for free at www.firecorps.org to be eligible to nominate your program for the 2012 Fire Corps Award of Excellence.

Award Sponsors

The mission of IFSTA is to identify areas of need for training materials and foster the development and validation of training materials for the fire service and related areas. IFSTA is an association of fire service personnel who are dedicated to upgrading fire-fighting techniques and safety through training. Fire Protection Publications, a department of Oklahoma State University, is the headquarters for IFSTA. Fire Protection Publications' primary function is to publish and disseminate training manuals as proposed and validated by IFSTA.

(From Fire Corps)

**FIRST-TIME FINALIST JERSEY CITY PREVAILS
AT SIXTH ANNUAL F.I.R.E. BOWL CONTEST**



Tony Caputo, News 12 NJ –Host



Charles Lavin, Contest Coordinator



**NJDFS Acting Director,
William E. Kramer, Jr.**



**DCA Deputy Commissioner,
Betty Lou De Croce**

FIRST-TIME FINALIST JERSEY CITY PREVAILS AT SIXTH ANNUAL F.I.R.E. BOWL CONTEST



Photos: Karina Leon-Kean University

The Little Theater Kean University



Primary Prep, Jersey City



Carteret Middle School

(Editor/Producer Note: It is our e-newsletter policy not to identify children in any posted photographs)

**2011 NJDFS STATE F.I.R.E. BOWL CHAMPIONS
PRIMARY PREP JERSEY CITY**

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS...



PRIMARY PREP TEAM MEMBERS JOIN, (LEFT TO RIGHT) DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BETTY LOU DECROCE, FORMER NJDFS DIRECTOR AND F.I.R.E. BOWL FOUNDER, LAWRENCE PETRILLO, ACTING NJDFS DIRECTOR WILLIAM KRAMER, AND JERSEY CITY FIRE DIRECTOR ARMANDO ROMAN.

SIXTH ANNUAL F.I.R.E. BOWL CONTEST PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Henry E. Harris

Coach—Aric Hall

Arya Castro

Sean Dolan

Michael Said

Jordan Pratkanis

Philip G. Vroom

Coach—Kim Simko

David Soprano

Amir Masoud

Nicole Metro

Bishoy Rofail

Midtown Community

Coach—Joyce DiPasquale

Alexis Bailey

Matthew Piskura

Ahmed Elzokm

Jesse Wollon

Washington Community

Coach—Rose Abeal

Danica Lichavco

Pierre Ibraheem

Kiran Ali

Mariam Chaudry

Veteran's Memorial MS

Coach—Keith Edwards

Christopher Cordoro

Cassandra Whitehouse

Ayonna Stone

Jonathan Aponte

Arianna Santana

Amanda Sanabria

Eisenhower School

Coach—Meghan Campion

Coach—Bonnie Hohenshilt

Matt Ostrazewski

Shannon Walsh

Lucas Mazingo

Sarah Shelley

Daniel Grom

Madison Davis

Aliya Khoblall

Colin Korzemba

Carteret Middle School

Coach—Jessica Albert

Tuflah Davies

Nathanael Herrera

Casey Novellino

Savanna Cartagena

Alexis Pollinator

Amanda Julie

Catherine Zappy

Lucy One

Dr. Walter F. Robinson

Coach—Patricia Niland

Michael Zawistowski

Nelson Lopez

Edwin Chung

Beshoy Shokralla

Mary J. Donohoe

Coach—Marisa Pacilio

Jeremiah DeGuzman

Casey Harrigan

Taeka Hayashi

Monika Hyrnkiewicz

Woodrow Wilson

Coach—Larissa Drennan

Izhar Jafar

Haroon Hashmi

Larendra Nayakrit

Michelle Chuek

John M. Bailey

Coach—Kristy Martin

Israa Moustafa

Matthew Hart

Amy Carrera

Kyle Necklen

Lincoln Community

Coach—Jolan Tadros

Paige Rutan

Kaytlin Barbieri

Kimberly Aguilar

Justin Deutsch

Nicholas Oresko School

Coach—Barbara DeBenedictis

Thomas Lyga

Kenny Tatantino

Alexis Konn

Alexis O'Callahan

Horace Mann

Coach—Kelly Anne Lake

Madison Sanderlin

Christine Jimenez

Shady Khalil

Alla Abovelkeir

Academy I

Coach—Joe Osenenko

Coach—Denise Cecchini

Mussab Ali

Hamza Qureshi

David Guirgis

Shyam Patel

Primary Prep

Coach—Meaghan Hoffman

Coach—Taryn Rudolph

Lauren Russell

Mamadou Ndiaye

Yasmine Raouf

Veronica Saleeb

Belleville Middle School

Coach—Joe Rotunda

Neil Veintimilla

P.J. Gencarelli

Malcolm Forrest

Nelson Pichardo

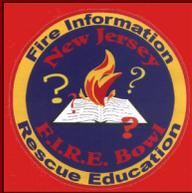
Karen Wong

Angelynn Pawaan

Marissa Cabrera

Vincent Abanilla

CONGRATULATIONS 2011 NJDFS F.I.R.E. BOWL RUNNER-UPS!



~Individual Awards~

3rd Place Individual Awards

Alexis PolICASTRO
Carteret Middle School
(Carteret, NJ)

Alexis KONN
Nicholas Oresko School
(Bayonne, NJ)

2nd Place Individual Awards

Alexis BAILEY
Midtown Community School
(Bayonne, NJ)

Sarah SHELLEY
Eisenhower Middle School
(Freehold, NJ)

1st Place Individual Awards

Hamza QURESHI
Academy I Middle School
(Jersey City, NJ)

Veronica SALEEB
Primary Prep
(Jersey City, NJ)

~Team Awards~

3rd Place Team Awards

Eisenhower Middle School
(Freehold, NJ)
Madison Davis, Aliya Khoblall,
Colin Korzemba, Daniel Grom

Nicholas Oresko School
(Bayonne, NJ)
Thomas Lyga, Alexis O'Callahan,
Kenny Tarantino, Alexis Konn

2nd Place Team Awards

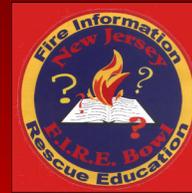
Belleville Middle School
(Belleville, NJ)
Neil Veintimilla, P.J. Gencarelli,
Malcolm Forrest, Nelson Pichardo

Academy I Middle School
(Jersey City, NJ)
Mussab Ali, David Guirgis,
Shyam Patel Hazmel Quershi

1st Place Team Awards

Primary Prep
(Jersey City, NJ)
Lauren Russell, Mamadou Ndiaye,
Yasmine Raouf, Veronica Saleeb

Carteret Middle School
(Carteret, NJ)
Lucy Ona, Catherine Zappia,
Amanda Julve, Alexis PolICASTRO



SIXTH ANNUAL F.I.R.E. BOWL CONTEST SUPPORT TEAM MEMBERS

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

Chief 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

- Bayonne:** 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*
- Belleville:** Peter Giunta, *Principal, Belleville Middle School*
Ralph Castellano, *Belleville Fire Prevention Bureau*
- Camden:** Dr. B. LeFra Young, *Superintendent of Schools*
Dr. Davida Coe-Brockington, *Assistant Superintendent*
Paul Mulle, *Director of Science*
- Carteret:** Mary Spiga, *Principal, Carteret Middle School*
Chief Brian O'Connor, *Carteret Fire Department*
Capt. Robert Magella, *Carteret Fire Department*
- Freehold:** Dianne Brethauer, *Principal, Dwight D. Eisenhower School*
Meghan Campion, *FIRE Bowl Coordinator, Coach*
Bonnie Hohenshilt, *FIRE Bowl Coach*
- Jersey City:** Armando Roman, *Director, Jersey City Fire Department*
Grace Moriarty, *Principal, Academy I*
Maureen Hoffman, *Founder/Director, Primary Prep*
Paula Christen/Constance Piatkowski, *Primary Prep*

F.I.R.E. BOWL CHARTER SPONSORS



GABRIELLE GIFFORDS SHOOTING INCIDENT FOCUS OF HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

"DOMESTIC INCIDENTS AFFECTING FIRST RESPONDERS" was the title and the theme for the 8th Annual NJDFS Kean University Homeland Security Conference, which drew nearly 350 participants from among the state first responder corps, to hear first hand accounts of the January 8, 2011 shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the 2003 Washington DC Metro subway accident which killed nine people.



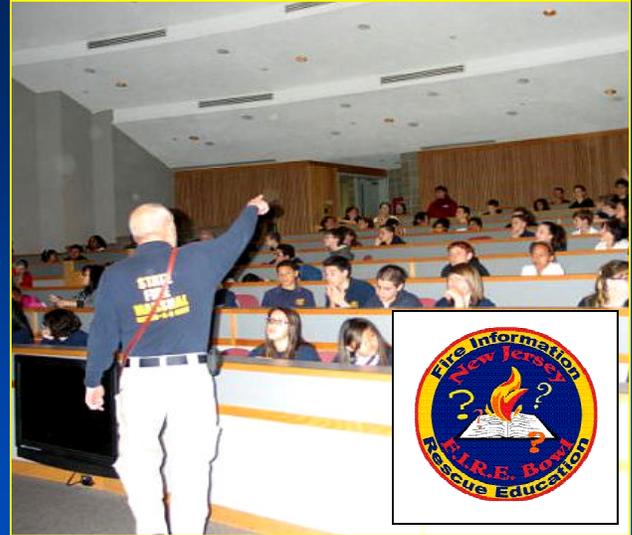
Gary West, Division Chief Northwest Fire District, Tucson, Arizona gave his on-scene account of the shooting of Congressional Representative Gabrielle Giffords, which shocked the nation. Chief West who has served with the Northwest District for nearly 20 years recounted that the decision to set-up on-scene triage was vital to saving victims of the shooting, as was the gunman's being subdued by civilian bystanders responsible for saving many more potential ones of the rampage.

Deputy DCA Commissioner Betty Lou DeCroce noted the importance of the Conference in allowing the state's first responders to hear accounts of major incidents first hand, to perhaps gain insights that may be very useful in facing the prospect of a similar incident in New Jersey.



Former Washington, DC Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin gives his first-hand account of the Metro crash that took the lives of nine people, which though a terrible tragedy could have been much worse were it not for the fact that the crash happened along an above ground portion of the system.

**'SCOUT' THE ARSON DOG A FEATURE OF 2011
F.I.R.E. BOWL PREVIEW DAY**



Scout wears a badge as a sworn member of the NJDFS Arson Investigations Unit

NJDFS Arson Unit Investigator Jeff Silver takes a question that “will be on the final exam.” He and Arson Unit member, “Scout” assist this year’s Fire Information and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E) Bowl students on what possible questions concerning how Scout and the state Arson Unit team use CSI-like procedures to find the cause for the fire may appear in the final round of the 2011 F.I.R.E. Bowl at Kean University.

In fact, Silver uses that exact phrase, said in a high pitch, to cue Scout to begin his search for the “source” of a fire, typically an accelerant, that Silver had hidden in the auditorium beforehand.

Scout, much to the delight of the audience remained focused on the task and found the source quickly, leaving time for him to continue to “play” a key part of the approach to the training of these highly skilled human assistants.

**F.I.R.E. BOWL PREVIEW DAY
LUNCHEON SPONSORS**



NJDFS-NFIRS DATA SHOW COOKING IN RESIDENTIAL ONE AND TWO FAMILY HOMES AS LEAD CAUSE

(From USFA)

Emmitsburg, MD — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings. The reports, [One- and Two-Family Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 779 Kb) and [Multifamily Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 775 Kb), were developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. One- and two-family residential buildings include detached dwellings, manufactured homes, mobile homes not in transit, and duplexes. Multifamily residential buildings consist of structures such as apartments, townhouses, row houses, condominiums, and other tenement properties.

An estimated 248,500 fires in one- and two-family residential buildings occur each year in the United States. Annually, these fires are responsible for 2,135 civilian fire deaths, 8,550 civilian fire injuries, and 5.9 billion dollars in property loss. Additionally, there are an estimated 103,000 fires that occur in multifamily buildings each year resulting in 390 deaths, 4,050 injuries, and 1.2 billion dollars in property loss.

The reports are part of the Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2007 to 2009. According to the reports:

Cooking is the leading cause of both one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings fires, followed by heating.

Fire incidence in both types of residential properties peaks during winter months partially because of increases in heating and holiday-related fires.

Fires peak over the evening dinner hours in one- and two-family and multifamily residences when cooking fires are prevalent.

Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in 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. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration,

www.usfa.fema.gov.



▶ **248,500 one and two family residential buliding fires**



▶ **2,135 fire deaths**



▶ **8,550 fire related injuries**

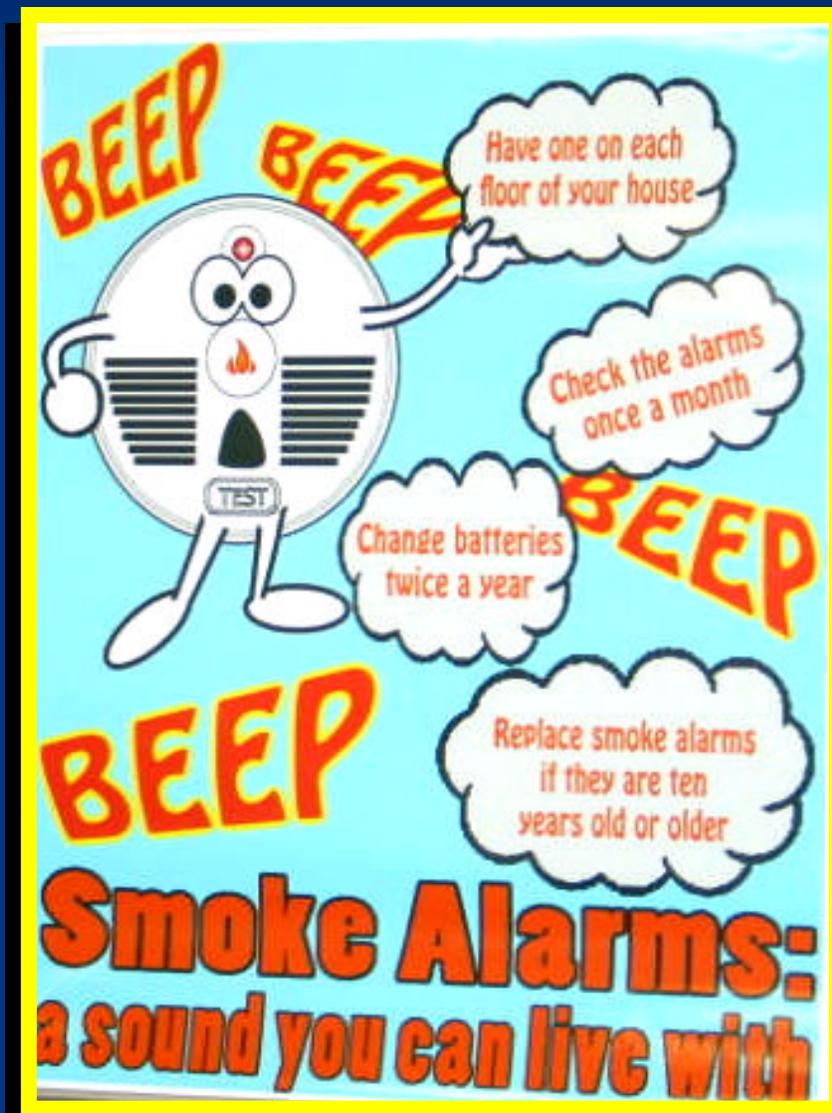


▶ **\$5.9 Billion dollars in property loss**

(click for source) [One- and Two-Family Residential Building Fires](#) [Multifamily Residential Building](#)

**2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA FIRE PREVENTION
POSTER CONTEST**

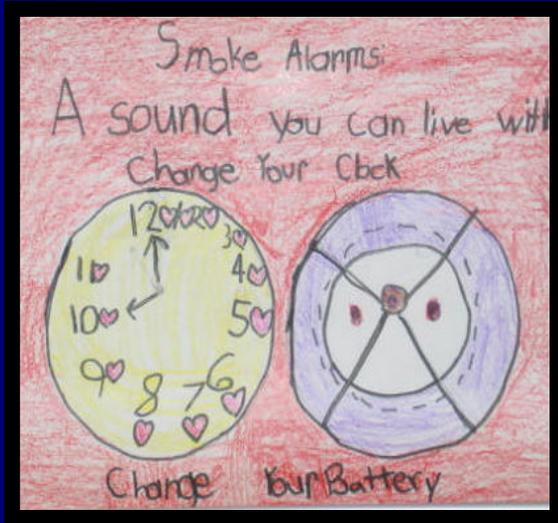
OVERALL WINNER



**Jessie Tredinnick
Morris Knolls High School
Morris County**

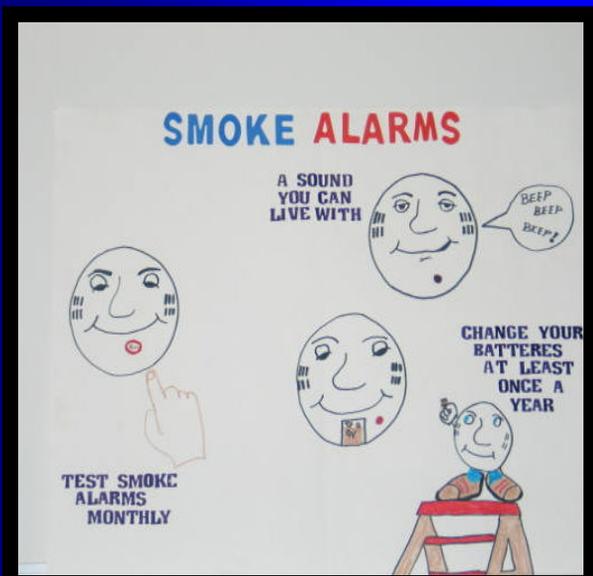
2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

DIVISION ONE



Jessica Salvia
Lanes Mill Elementary
Ocean County

DIVISION TWO

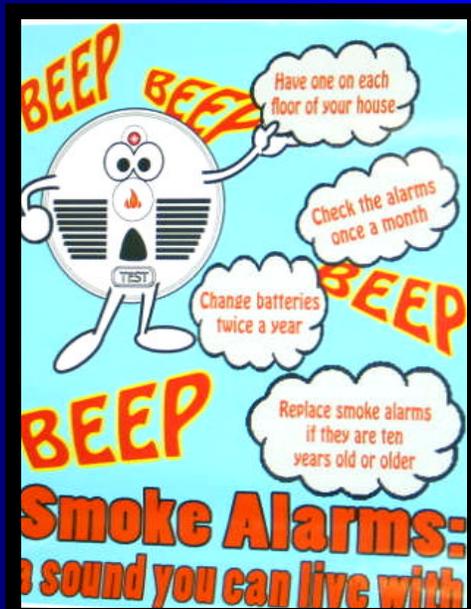


Colin Gelak
Thomas Richards School
Camden County

**2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA FIRE PREVENTION
POSTER CONTEST**



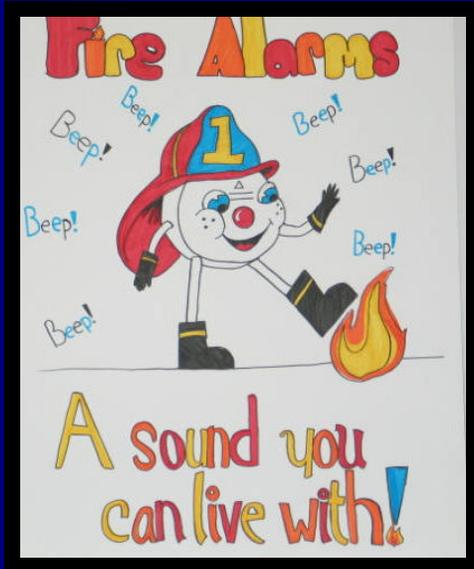
**Larssa Portillio
Dr. William Hoprton School
Essex County**



**Jessie Tredinnick
Morris Knolls High School
Morris County
*-overall winner-***

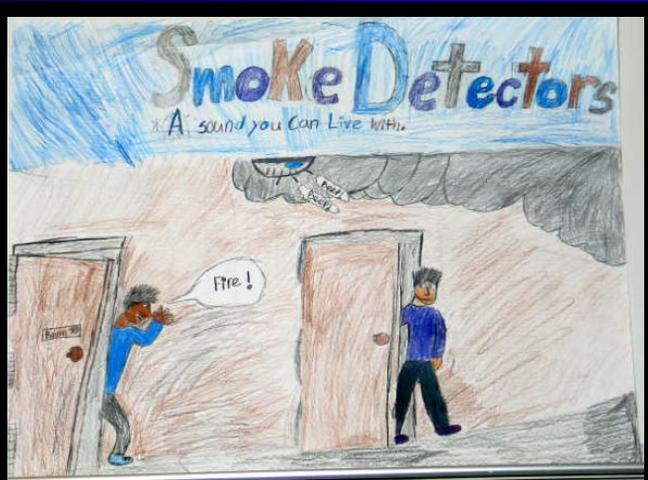
**2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA FIRE PREVENTION
POSTER CONTEST**

DIVISION FIVE



**Dominica Brown
Institute of Technology
Burlington County**

DIVISION SIX



**Jackson Maddox
Brookside School
Middlesex County**

2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST

DIVISION SEVEN



**Taylor Foster
Vo-Tech High School
Union County**

OUR MAJOR SPONSORS!



**NAFED
NJ
CHAPTER**

NJ Chapter



2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA FIRE PREVENTION POSTER CONTEST



..and the winners are!

The 2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA Fire Safety Poster Contest sponsors join this years Division winners in a celebratory moment at the annual NJDFS-NJFPPA Fire Safety Poster Contest.

(Editor Producer Note: It is our editorial policy not to identify children in any posted photographs)

The 2011 NJDFS-NJFPPA Fire Safety Poster Contest Division winners have been selected from hundreds of submissions state-wide. Each Division winner will be awarded a laptop computer and printer. The annual Awards Luncheon took place recently at the Forge Inn in Woodbridge.

The contest enjoys the sponsorship of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, The New Jersey Chapter of the American Sprinkler Association, the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors, and Atlantic City Electric

The overall winning poster is re-printed and distributed state-wide by Atlantic City Electric to all public assembly areas in the state. It serves as the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety official Fire Safety Poster for 2011, in keeping with this year's theme promoted by the National Fire Protection Association.

Information on the poster contest and for details on how to get your local school involved please go to www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/

Questions?
fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us



**THE NJDFS-NJFPPA
"WALL OF DELLS"
FOR DIVISION WINNERS**





THE ISSUES:

FIRE SERVICE FUNDING CUTS RESTORED!

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS EXEMPTION

LATE BREAKING FIRE SERVICE NEWS...

The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to adopt an amendment to the FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations Act restoring \$320 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. The amendment, which the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) supported and sent a Capwiz Action Alert to our members about earlier in the day, was offered by Congressmen LaTourette (R-OH) and Pascrell (D-NJ) and increases funding for AFG and SAFER from \$200 million and \$150 million, respectively, to \$335 million each. The amendment was approved by a [vote of 333-87.](#)



2010 NJDFS UASI EXERCISE WITH FDNY 343



VOLUNTEERS TAKE NOTE...

At the end of 2010, an exemption from income taxation on incentives that many local communities provide to their volunteer firefighters and EMTs as a reward for their service expired. As a result, thousands of volunteer emergency responders across the country will have to pay higher taxes this year without Congressional action. Fortunately, Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME) have introduced the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (S. 933), which would extend a law was enacted in 2007 with the support of the NVFC and took effect in 2008 exempting all property tax benefits and up to \$360 per year of other types of benefits that volunteers receive as a reward for their service. S. 933 would increase from \$360 to \$600 the amount of "other benefits" exempt from income taxation per year.

Contact your Senators today and tell them to co-sponsor S. 933 rather than raising taxes on volunteer emergency responders!

THE TOTAL ANNUAL NATIONAL COST OF FIRE

\$ 362 BILLION

\$42.4 THE HUMAN COST

\$20.1 ECONOMIC COST

\$15.2 INSURANCE

\$62.7 FIRE PROTECTION

\$39.7 PAID FIREFIGHTERS

\$138.2 PAYING VOLUNTEERS

(Source: NFPA "The Total Cost of Fire in the United States")

-click link for full report-

USFA REPORT BREAKS DOWN RESTAURANT FIRES ACROSS THE US

An estimated 5900 restaurant fires occur annually in the US

75 serious injuries and an average each year of 175 million in property losses

59% of all fires are cooking caused. 91% of those are in confined areas.

Electrical malfunction is the leading cause in nonconfined restaurant buildings

41% of nonconfined restaurant building fires start in cooking areas or kitchens

Causes of ignition in non-confined restaurant building fires

Deep fryers 9%

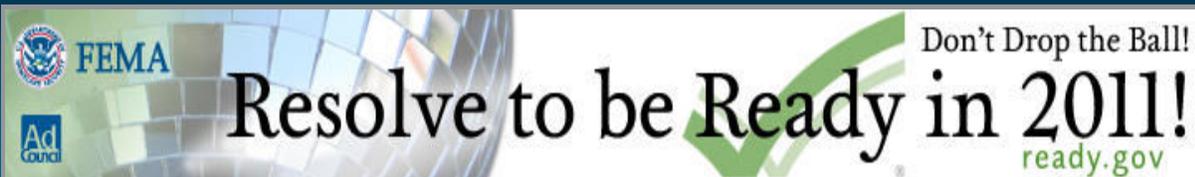
Ranges 7%

Other miscellaneous equipment 5%

44% of non-confined restaurants had smoke alarms present

47% had suppression systems, mainly sprinklers*

**Source: [USFA Topical Fires Report Series](#) (click link for full report)*



**It is officially Hurricane Season along New Jersey's 132 mile coastline.
Get your Toolkit and Resolve to be Ready in 2011**

[RESOLVE TO BE READY TOOLKIT](#)

NJDFS NFIRS ANNUAL DATA ARGUE FOR SUMMER BARBECUE GRILLING CAUTION

Home Fires Involving Grills

In 2004-2008, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 7,700 home¹ fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 3,200 structure fires and 4,500 outside fires. These 7,700 fires caused annual average of 13 civilian deaths, 120 reported injuries, and \$70 million in direct property damage.

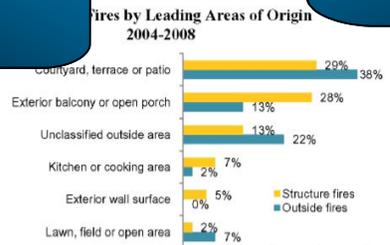
- Almost all the losses were reported throughout the year.
- July was the peak month for grill fires.

Gas vs. Solid-Fuel

Four of every five grill fires involving grills (81%) were fueled by gas while 17% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

Gas grills were involved in an average of 6,200 home fires per year, including 2,400 structure fires and 3,800 outdoor fires annually.

Leading Areas of Origin



FOUR OUT OF FIVE 81% GAS FUELED...

2004-2008—7,700 HOME FIRES REPORTED WITH GRILLS INVOLVED...

29% BEGIN ON PATIO OR TERRACE...

In 2009 17,700 ER VISITS ARE GRILL RELATED...

9,400 OF THOSE WERE THERMAL BURNS...

Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

In 2009, 17,700 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.²

Roughly half (9,400) of the injuries were thermal burns.

- > Children under five accounted for almost one-quarter (22%) of the thermal grill burns. These were typically contact burns rather than thermal burns.

Most injuries were burns incurred while lighting the grill.

Over one-quarter of the thermal grill burns were in roughly one-quarter of the charcoal or wood burning grill burns.

¹ NFPA, "Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment," NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, November 2010.

² NFPA, "Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment," NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, November 2010.

Source: *Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment*, Marty Ahrens, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, November 2010



(Source: NFPA Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment- CLICK LINK)

REQUEST NJDFS 'GRILL SAFETY'

fireprevention@dca.state.nj.us



STATE "SUMMIT ON VOLUNTEERISM" SUGGESTS GOALS FOR FIRE AND EMS

Over 100 leaders of local volunteer fire departments and first aid squads from all parts of the state attended the NJ Summit on Volunteerism in the Emergency Services, held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, recently. The Summit was sponsored by the NJ Fire and Emergency Medical Services Institute with the support of the NJ First Aid Council and the NJ State Fire Chiefs Association.

Carl Christensen, President of the Institute, opened the program. In addition to his welcome, he read a letter from Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno expressing the support of State government for volunteerism

Christensen then introduced David Matos, Jr., Institute Executive Director, who reviewed some of the successes of the Institute, particularly creation of the NJ Legislative Fire Services Caucus, publication of the Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines and the adoption of the 'Move Over' law. He then stated that the goal of Summit is to come up with an action plan to start to rebuild the tradition of volunteerism in fire and EMS in New Jersey. He reviewed the agenda for the day and vowed that the Institute will aggressively promote the action plan.

Mr. Matos then moderated a panel of distinguished speakers who discussed the current state of volunteerism in New Jersey.

Rowena Madden, Director of the Governor's Office of Volunteerism provided a statewide overview of volunteerism. New Jersey doesn't rank high among the states in rates of volunteerism. There are many groups actively promoting volunteerism in the state, including VOAD/COAD, Citizens Corps, and AmeriCorps (there are 700 members in New Jersey working in 60 agencies), with most counties also having an Office on Volunteerism. She concluded, "Want your recommendations on how we can help."

Panelist George Fosdick, Mayor of Ridgefield Park, observed why volunteerism is important from the municipal government

view point. Fosdick is also a former Fire Chief in his town. He expressed a theme which came up repeatedly during the Summit: that emergency services aren't doing an adequate job explaining what we do.

Questions persist such as, "Why do you need so many fire companies?", "Why do you need an aerial when there are no high rise buildings in town?" The volunteer fire department saves towns a lot of money; but how much?

Mayor Fosdick discussed the savings provided to municipalities by volunteer firefighters and EMS. Pointing out one example, in Palisades Park, Bergen County, the police budget comprises \$800 in a typical household tax bill; the fire budget portion for the same household is \$89. A career fire department would cost about \$800 per household.

Fosdick suggested meeting with local clubs, editorial writers, and others and inform them about volunteer fire and EMS services, organizations and the advantages we provide. Panelist Barbara Aras, President of the NJ State First Aid Council noted

that on September 11th, 80% of the responders from New Jersey were volunteers. The NJ State First Aid Council represents 27,000 responders. They answered 380,000 calls in 2009, providing 2,700,000 hours of service and \$650 million in savings to New Jersey taxpayers.

Aras noted that highly trained EMTs are available around the clock and provide tax relief as volunteers. Problems facing EMS today include inflexibility in mandated training requirements. Leadership training and a retention plan for volunteers are needed. Many squad members leave the service because of internal conflicts in their local organizations. She also called for greater efforts to educate the public on the nature and benefits of volunteer emergency services.

The final panelist to speak was Jeffrey Betz, First Vice President of



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the NJ State Fire Chiefs Association. He described volunteer fire-fighters as having much “passion” for their work. Today, fire departments are responding to more alarms which taxes the individual’s time, while the average age of volunteers is increasing. He noted that a national volunteer recruitment effort, “1-800-FIRELINE”, received over 6000 calls in 2009.

Next, Linda Czipo, Executive Director of the Center for Non Profits, facilitated a plenary session. The mission of the Center for Non Profits is to strengthen nonprofit organizations.

Participants shared their responses to two questions:

“What is your ideal vision for a strong volunteer community in fire and EMS?”, and,

“What is working well currently in advancing that mission?”

The following ‘vision’ was developed through the statements of many of the Summit attendees.

New Jersey will have strong emergency services organizations whose purposes and needs are well known and appreciated by the communities they serve and by the general public. Local fire departments and first aid squads are well staffed by highly qualified volunteers who respond to all types of emergencies during daytime and nighttime hours. Volunteer emergency responders are highly trained because progressive training opportunities are readily available. Their organizations have strong leadership and good internal and external communications. Volunteers are valued by their communities for their contributions and sacrifices. There is significant coverage of their activities by local media, and the organizations are regularly approached by members of the community to offer support and to become involved. Incentives are available to promote volunteerism in such areas as insurance, tax and tuition benefits; and to businesses that release employees during the workday to respond to emergency calls.

Among the things that are working well to promote achieving the ‘vision’ are junior and cadet programs, the use of mentors to support new volunteers, encouraging a ‘family’ atmosphere within the organization, getting new volunteers involved immediately, and providing in-service training opportunities.

At this point, the Summit was divided into four breakout groups. Each group was asked to address three questions within the context of their topic: (1) What are some of the obstacles to volunteer recruitment and retention? (2) What are some key steps to eliminate them? (3) What are the important next steps?

The following are the results of each group’s work:

Public Relations and Outreach

Short term activities

- Assign responsibility for public relations to a specific individual or a committee
- Target specific elements of the community for outreach such as students, returning military veterans or senior citizens
- Bring the organization to centers of community activity such as meetings of local governmental bodies or civic groups
- Establish relationships with local media

Long term activities

- Develop a statewide public awareness/volunteer recruitment campaign that can be individualized for use by local organizations
- Develop more effective training for volunteers responsible for public relations/communications

Strategic Partnership with Local Government

and Communities

- Make high quality presentations (short term)
- Use existing groups such as the League of Municipalities to deliver the message; prepare an article for the League magazine
- Provide ‘links’ for the community to fire and EMS volunteer organizations such as kids nights, pancake breakfasts, pa-

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rades, etc.

- Educate local elected officials on your operations and needs; let them educate you regarding their processes and needs (long term)

- Develop an advocacy agenda

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

Activities

- Determine if training requirements are too burdensome on volunteers
- Make it easier to demonstrate competency
- Allow 'testing out'
- Decentralize training delivery to make opportunities more locally accessible
- Provide more online and daytime training
- Volunteer fire and EMS must develop a stronger, united voice on policy issues
- Make efforts to better inform legislators and government officials
- Develop better understanding of legislative/governmental processes
- Explore additional incentives for volunteers such as tax, housing, employment and health insurance benefits

- Need to develop accurate, accessible data on fire and EMS volunteers in New Jersey that will document the benefits provided by volunteer emergency service organizations and to enable good planning to meet future community needs.

Volunteer Management

Activities

- Provide mentors for all new volunteers
- Share best practices
- Choose officers based on assessment of competency and qualifications
- Have a formal, defined officer development process in your organization
- Develop a strategic/business plan for your organization

In closing remarks, David Matos thanked everyone for attending, offering special recognition to the Center for Non-profits, the panelists and the group facilitators. He also acknowledged the participation of State Senator Diane Allen and of Karen Halupke, Director of the NJ Office of Emergency Medical Services, who attended the session.

IFMA/NFPA SUMMER 2011 REGIONAL FIRE CODE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

To encourage greater fire service participation in the NFPA Codes and Standards Making System, NFPA and IFMA has established four Regional Fire Code Development Committees. The members of these committees are from the fire service in your area, go to www.nfpa.org for a complete list of committee members. These committees have responsibility for developing proposals for changes to NFPA Codes and Standards, reviewing the Report on Proposals (ROP) and developing comments on proposed changes, and act as a liaison to their regions fire service for inputting changes to NFPA Codes and Standards.

Go to www.nfpa.org click on Codes and Standards then Regional Fire Code Development Committees for updated information and for a partial list of the Codes and Standards the committee with be acting on at their next meeting. We would encourage you or a representative to attend, if you are not able to attend and have comments please contact a committee member from your area.

Northeastern August 30, 2011, Sheraton Providence Airport, Warwick, RI, 8am-5:00 pm.

Source: International Fire Marshal Association

NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION



The regular business of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission paused for a special awards presentation recently as the Commission's Chairman, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, was given the "Elected Official of the Year" award by the International Codes Council (ICC). The award was presented by Steven Jones, of Millburn Township and Sara C. Yerkes, Senior Vice President of Government Relations at the International Codes Council. Yerkes noted Assemblyman Wisniewski's rigorous support of the fire service and the sponsorship of much pro-fire safety legislation. Assemblyman Wisniewski thanked the ICC and the members of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission for their help in educating him on the important issues of fire safety and guiding him towards the pieces of legislation that have saved lives and property throughout the state.

Defibtech Lifeline and ReviveR Automated External Defibrillators Recall Software Defect

(From: US Department of Health and Human Services)

ISSUE: Devices subject to this recall include Model DDU-100 series with software version 2.004 or earlier, sold under the brand names Lifeline and ReviveR. AEDs using software version 2.004 or earlier may cause the device to cancel shock during the charging process. Failure to provide appropriate therapy may result in failure to resuscitate the patient.

BACKGROUND: AEDs are used on victims of sudden cardiac arrest when the patient is unconscious, unresponsive and not breathing.

RECOMMENDATION: Defibtech will provide customers with a free software upgrade. Because the conditions that may lead to a canceled shock occur rarely, it is recommended that customers keep their AEDs in service during the software upgrade process. Full instructions and recommendations are being mailed to affected customers. Defibtech is responsible for contacting all end users unless a distributor has agreed to contact their accounts directly regarding this field correction.

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:

- Complete and submit the report Online: www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm
- [Download form](#)¹ or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on the pre-addressed form, or submit by fax: 1-800-FDA-0178



FCC "D" BLOCK STILL NOT A REALITY FOR STATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS



In 2008, the FCC tried to auction some radio spectrum (the "D" block) with the condition that the block had to be used specifically for public safety. No bidder was willing to pay enough to meet the FCC's reserve price.

The spectrum is part of the 700 MHz band, a highly prized piece of radio spectrum that used to be allocated for TV channels, but is no longer needed for TV due to the transition to digital broadcast TV. In the 2008 auction, the FCC sold off some of the 700 MHz band for \$ 19,592,420,000 mostly to big cell phone companies.

However the big operators kept their wallets shut for the D Block. It seems that no operator felt comfortable enough with the conditions attached for D Block users. As a result the D Block is still unallocated today.

Since D Block didn't sell, the FCC is free to license off the band for non public safety uses, something it could do next year. This July, the FCC is planning to auction off some remaining licenses in the 700 MHz band that didn't sell in 2008. However, the D Block is NOT part of this auction.

Interest groups representing public safety users want the FCC to save the band for their use. These users do not want to rely on commercial networks for their services.

For example, the Public Safety Alliance (www.psafirst.com) is working to build support for exclusive use of the D-Block. Their message is "The allocation of the D-Block spectrum and funding to public safety is critical to building a nationwide wireless broadband network that provides the capacity needed to transmit mission critical real-time high-resolution video, voice and data. Unless Congress passes legislation this year to allocate the D-Block spectrum to public safety, the FCC will auction the spectrum early next year for commercial services."

Bills in the US senate and congress that would allocate the D-Block to public safety are being promoted by the Public Safety Alliance.

The Public Safety sector already has 10 MHz of spectrum reserved for its use. This additional D Block would provide a second 10 MHz of spectrum. The extra spectrum would come in very hand for applications like video which are bandwidth hungry.

However, utility companies would like access to this spectrum too. They also argue for the need for non commercial spectrum reserved for their use in the Smart Grid. The Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) filed a request with the FCC to seek shared use of the same D-Block spectrum.

Whatever solution the FCC comes up with – there will have to be rules and technology to allow the spectrum to be cooperatively used. The Smart Grid can't be put on hold because there is a public safety emergency, and vice-versa. It is not clear how this cooperation will happen. But even if the spectrum is just reserved for public safety, similar rules for cooperation will be needed.

(From: vinsecurityjournal.com)



STUDY SAYS HEALTH AND WELLNESS VITAL TO REDUCING FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

Researchers at the University of Georgia (UGA) recommend greater emphasis on health and wellness programs within fire departments, including pre-employment screening and annual medical exams, to reduce the number of firefighter line of duty fatalities from cardiac events.

Cardiovascular events accounted for the largest single cause of line of duty deaths among firefighters between 2004 and 2009, according to a study published in the May issue of *Accident Analysis & Prevention*. The study examined 189 firefighter fatality investigations conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) from 213 deaths. The study found that 87 of 99 medical fatalities were caused by cardiovascular events, while 114 fatalities investigated were caused by trauma, including vehicle crashes, burns and building collapses.

With its annual budget of approximately \$2 million, NIOSH investigates about 40 to 50 firefighter fatalities per year and uses the findings to make recommendations to improve firefighting in general. One of the goals of the UGA researchers was to determine if NIOSH investigations were representative of the fire service as a whole. "What we found is that basically the NIOSH investigations were pretty representative," said David DeJoy, one of the researchers involved in the study and a professor at the UGA College of Public Health. "The one exception is that they tend to under-represent fatalities involving volunteer firefighters as opposed to professional firefighters."

That's a finding Rich Duffy, assistant to the general president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), disagrees with. "Even though there may be less of them investigated," Duffy said, "a lot of the incidents that involve volunteer firefighters are very similar — especially in the cardiovascular issues."

In addition to urging continued emphasis on fitness and wellness programs, the UGA study examined more than 1,100 recommendations from NIOSH investigations and grouped them into four buckets: under-resourcing; inadequate preparation for adverse events during operations; incomplete adoption of incident command procedures; and suboptimal personnel readiness.

The study noted that these four underlying causes of firefighter fatalities could be tied to the culture of firefighting.

Thomas Hales, who leads the medical investigations portion of NIOSH's Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program, noted that those four areas accompany deaths from traumatic causes while deaths from medical causes are generally traced back to lack of fitness and wellness programs.

DeJoy's sense from the literature the researchers reviewed and discussions with firefighters is that those in the profession may be taking more risk than they need to. But it's unclear from this study if firefighters take more risk today than they used to, he said. "I think firefighters have probably always taken more risk than would be necessary," DeJoy said. "I don't think that situation is necessarily getting any worse."

But concluding that, which isn't unique to the UGA study, contradicts the reason many firefighters may be drawn to the job, Hales said.

Duffy said blaming the professional culture for line of duty deaths is an excuse and not a cause. "The event was caused because they were either poorly trained, poorly resourced, poorly staffed and so forth," he said, "and that is always quite clear in almost all investigations."

The study also pointed to the need for better pre-employment health screening of firefighters as well as annual medical evaluations, measures Duffy said the IAFF has observed reduce deaths due to cardiovascular events in departments that implement them.

Affordability is fire departments' biggest obstacle to implementing health and wellness programs, Duffy said. However, that may be the short view. "After the initial capital cost, which may be significant for fire departments, it's a money saver," he said. "You get back in cost in injuries, cost of forced retirements, costs of backfilling people because people get hurt and so forth. So there's significant savings in these programs. Plus, it enables people to save people's lives."

STUDY SAYS HEALTH AND WELLNESS VITAL TO REDUCING FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

One of the clearest examples of that is in New York City, Duffy said.

The IAFF worked with the New York City Fire Department and nine other cities to implement a health and wellness program, an effort he said saved the lives of firefighters who survived the response to 9/11. "It obviously didn't save lives when the buildings collapsed," he said. "But it certainly saved many hundreds of not just lives but firefighters' jobs because they had immediate access to medical records to these firefighters and were able to intervene immediately in treating the firefighters for significant issues."

Hales acknowledged that the health and wellness program developed by the IAFF and NIOSH can be viewed as a "Cadillac" by some departments, but the institute will work with departments to implement the program with the resources they have. "We try and tailor programs that they can take the elements of, but find ways to not have them cost so much money," said Hales. "Try to find volunteers and do some of it themselves."

A map on the [NIOSH website](#) shows the incidence of firefighter fatalities by state with fewer fatalities occurring in the northwest and north-central U.S., but Hales cautioned drawing conclusions from the map. One question, he said, is one of sampling, since NIOSH investigators are more concentrated in the East.

An informal study by Hales' group indicated that the West and northwest had half the rate of line of duty deaths than the South and East, with the Midwest in between. "If you can look at the cardiac cases I think there is, at least in my travel, more attention and more compliance with the wellness and fitness in the west than there is in the South and northeast or the East," he said. Now that's very crude and it's an observation, it's not a scientific publication."

A [2009 report](#) by the U.S. Fire Administration found that the number of fires decreased 2.7 percent between 2003 and 2007, while the dollar loss of those fires increased 8.1 percent.

The administration's data also shows firefighter deaths increased slightly during that same time period. However, that data may be skewed because it represents the percentage of firefighter deaths compared to the general population as opposed to the percentage of firefighter fatalities compared to the total firefighter population. That latter statistic is hard to establish, Hales said, because of variations in who is considered a volunteer in different communities.

"Even though there are fewer fires, the fires are larger," Duffy said. "The fuel load of fires that you see today is much different than they were decades ago because they have more synthetic materials that are burning. What you see in your office today was not something that was there 20 to 30 years ago."

Green buildings, better sealed buildings, better windows, more insulation and roofs that are no longer able to be penetrated because they are covered in rubber, gardens and electrical infrastructure, Duffy said, all make fires harder to fight because such measures make it more difficult to enter buildings. Older cities with narrower streets, older, taller buildings and older houses and apartment buildings without sprinkler systems packed closely together may also contribute to making firefighting more dangerous.

(From [emergencymanagement.com](#))



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STAFF MEMBERS

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

**William E. Kramer, Jr.
Acting Director**

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE	609-633-6106
INSPECTIONS UNIT	609-633-6132
LEGISLATIVE UNIT	609-984-1947

CHIEF REGULATORY OFFICER	
ANDREW J. KONDOR, ESQ.	609-984-0039

<u>ARSON UNIT</u>	609-633-8161
<u>CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT</u>	609-984-7860
<u>FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS UNIT</u>	609-292-4109
<u>NFIRS UNIT</u>	609-984-3476
<u>PUBLIC EDUCATION UNIT</u>	609-633-9722
<u>SMOKE ALARMS</u>	609-633-6432
<u>TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT</u>	609-633-6315

ARSON-K9 UNIT
CHRISTOPHER ECKERT **SUPERVISOR**
 Stephen Letts K-9 Investigator/North
 Rod Meyer K-9 Investigator/South
 Jason Spiecker Investigator/South
 Jeff Silver K-9 Investigator/North

CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION UNIT
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 Kim Lake Technical Assistant

BUREAU OF FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES
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DIVISION FISCAL UNIT
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FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UNIT
HEATHER PUSKAR **SUPERVISOR**
 Fred Connin NFIRS Representative
 Steve Hearn NFIRS Representative
 Sonia Salva Technical Assistant

PUBLIC EDUCATION UNIT
 Charles Lavin Public Information Assistant
 New Jersey Fire Safety Commission
 NJDFS F.I.R.E Bowl-NJDFS Poster Contest
 Jerry Clark Public Information Assistant
 FD/LEA Local Public Education Assistance
 NJDFS Fire Focus-State Fire Marshal Message

PUBLICATIONS Marylain Kemp

**DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
STAFF MEMBERS**

BUREAU OF FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

LOUIS KILMER **BUREAU CHIEF**
609-633-6131

(TEAM 1-NORTH)
JOSH LAZARUS **SUPERVISOR**
609-633-6741

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

Charles Wian-(NW) **Peter D'Amore (SW)**
609-633-6132

(TEAM 2-SOUTH)
GLENN SMYTH **SUPERVISOR**
609-633-6103

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

Steve Speicher (SE) **Bob Kozlowski (SW)**
609-633-6132 609-984-1478

FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPAREDNESS

RICHARD FARLETTA **SUPERVISOR**
609-633-6315

Shore Region **609-292-2705**
Craig Augustoni Regional Fire Coordinator

Delaware River Region **609-943-4726**
Mike Gallagher Regional Fire Coordinator

Southern Region **609-292-7419**
John Honer Planner

Northern Region **609-292-3502**
David Hughes Planner

Northwest Region **609-292-5148**
Timothy Weiss Regional Fire Coordinator

RIOC-SEOC **609-947-7468**
James McFadden Planner

UASI Region **609-324-7411**
Bruce Tynan Regional Fire Coordinator

**DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
STAFF MEMBERS**

JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM
SMOKE ALARM DISTRIBUTION

Charles Luxton **609-633-6432**
Coordinator

FIRE CODE LOCAL ASSISTANCE
PAUL ALLEN **SUPERVISOR**
609-633-6111

NORTHERN [CTY CODE 07-10-11-16-18-19-21]
George Cramer **609-633-6112**

NORTHERN [CTY CODE 02-09-14-20]
Paul Elenio **609-633-6147**

CENTRAL [CTY CODE 01-05-12-13-15]
Frank Clark **609-633-6738**

SOUTHERN [CTY CODE 03-04-06-08-17]
George Beckett **609-826-5551**

OFFICE OF TRAINING AND
CERTIFICATION

609-777-3552
Main Number

KENT NEISWENDER **SUPERVISOR**
609-341-3473

Gregory Kirkham **609-633-6424**

Debra Jones-Stevenson **609-633-6424**

Teresa Lockhart **609-633-6731**

Marge Jones **609-777-1461**

NJDFS TELEPHONE HOTLINES

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
1-800-FIRELINE

JUVENILE FIRESETTER
1-800-357-5230



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fireprevention@state.nj.us