



New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

FIRE FOCUS



Excellence in Public Safety

Division of Fire Safety Secures Copa America 2024 As New Jersey Prepares to Welcome the World

From June 25 through July 9, 2024, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety staff worked in tandem with New Jersey State Police as MetLife Stadium hosted the 2024 Copa America soccer tournament.

After months of planning and preparation, three matches were held safely and successfully. Out of thirteen venues nationwide, MetLife Stadium was the Copa America's most well-attended.



In addition to conducting fire and life safety inspections on the premises, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety staff were involved in the command-level operations – as they are with all major events at the Meadowlands. The Office of Fire Department Preparedness (OFDP) is fully integrated with the State Police's command operations, resources, and response. This includes the American Dream Mall and the New Jersey State Fair, which happened simultaneous with the Copa America matches.

"We work with all of our law enforcement and event partners at all levels to provide information sharing in real-time," said Ben Berkman, OFDP's Event Leader. "This ensures the safety and well-being of everyone attending these major events."



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Division of Fire Safety Secures Copa America 2024 As New Jersey Prepares to Welcome the World (cont.)



Although prestigious in its own right, the Copa America tournament is just a preview of the tremendous crowds and excitement that the FIFA World Cup will be bringing to the State of New Jersey. Scheduled for June-July 2026, the World Cup will see EIGHT high-stakes international soccer matches at MetLife Stadium. This includes the FIFA World Cup Final on July 19, 2026. East Rutherford will be joining the likes of Rome, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Berlin, and Paris as cities to have hosted this landmark global event.

New Jersey Division of Fire Safety staff has already held numerous planning meetings with its partner agencies in anticipation of the 2026 World Cup. In addition to matches at MetLife Stadium, numerous venues in New Jersey (in both the Philadelphia and New York areas) will host practices and team events.

Although the event is almost two years away, the NJDFS is already preparing to ensure the event is safe and enjoyed by all who attend.

“Our most important purpose with these high-profile events is to assist with evacuations in an emergency,” added OFDP Unit member Gene Iandolo. “Our job is to make sure everyone gets out of the stadium safely should any problems arise.”



Office of Fire Department Preparedness Unit's Ben Berkman, Gene Iandolo, and Vince Campagna secure the scene at field level. MetLife Stadium hosted more than 209,000 fans over three matches - including a sold-out semifinal between Canada and eventual champions Argentina.



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STATE FIRE MARSHAL MESSAGE

As the summer season kicks into high gear, we all look forward to enjoying warm weather, barbecues, and festive fireworks displays. However, it's crucial to keep safety at the forefront of our minds. Here are some essential tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for everyone:

Fireworks Safety:

- *Leave it to the Professionals: The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend public displays conducted by trained professionals.
- *Legal and Safe Use: If using legal non-aerial consumer fireworks, always purchase them from licensed vendors and follow all local regulations.
- *Adult Supervision: Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- *Safe Distance: Light fireworks one at a time, and then move back quickly. Maintain a safe distance from the fireworks.
- *Water Ready: Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case of fire or other mishaps.
- *Disposal: After fireworks complete their burning, or if they malfunction, douse them with plenty of water before discarding them to prevent a fire.



Barbecue Safety:

- *Location: Place grills well away from any buildings, deck railings, and overhanging branches. Never use grills indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- *Supervision: Never leave a lit grill unattended. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.
- *Starter Fluid: If you use a charcoal grill, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never ADD charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- *Gas Grill Checks: Before using a gas grill, check the gas tank hose for leaks. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose - any propane leak will release bubbles.
- *Cleaning: Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and trays below.

By following these simple guidelines, we can enjoy the pleasures of summer without unnecessary risks. Stay safe and have a wonderful summer!

Richard J. Mikutsky, State Fire Marshal



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Bayonne's Nicholas Oresko School Captures 2024 NJ FIRE Bowl Title

On May 23, 2024, the 17th Annual New Jersey FIRE Bowl program culminated at Kean University's STEM Building with four teams answering questions on stage for the state championship. In a close-fought four-team tournament competition, the team from Bayonne's Nicholas Oresko School edged out Helen A. Fort Middle School of Pemberton in the final round.

The 2024 edition of the FIRE Bowl proved to be the most competitive ever, with over 30 teams of 7th- and 8th-graders battling throughout the spring to see which school knows the most about all things fire-related.



New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Deputy Commissioner Kate McDonnell and State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky set the stage for the first-ever FIRE Bowl State Championship Tournament.

The program, which began as a partnership between the NJ Division of Fire Safety and Dr. Frank Field to promote the "Fire Is" educational videos, continues to grow each year. The goal is to instill life-long fire safety practices through spirited competition. In addition to studying fire prevention, students study fire science, firefighting operations, the history of fire/firefighting, as well as fire in current events.

Since 2006, over 2,000 middle school students have participated in the New Jersey FIRE Bowl, several of whom have gone on to pursue careers in the fire service.



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NJ Division of Fire Safety Hosts 20th Annual Homeland Security Conference

On June 6, 2024, State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky and NJ Division of Fire Safety staff hosted the 20th Annual Homeland Security and Fire Safety Conference. A capacity crowd of 250 attendees gathered at Kean University to hear Keynote Speaker Col. Patrick Callahan from NJ State Police discuss two decades of law enforcement and fire service standing shoulder-to-shoulder to protect New Jersey and the nation. Col. Callahan focused on the evolution of the threats we have faced over the past 20 years, and always meeting those challenges with teamwork and resilience.



Just like New Jersey's law enforcement and fire service communities, Colonel Patrick J. Callahan and State Fire Marshal Richard J. Mikutsky stand side-by-side at the 20th Annual New Jersey Homeland Security Conference.

The NJDFS also welcomed back an old friend, former State Fire Marshal Larry Petrillo. Mr. Petrillo reflected on the Division's

longtime partnership with Kean University, forged during his tenure. This collaborative effort has moved New Jersey's fire service into the future and continues to develop and train the country's most qualified firefighters for the benefit of everyone in our State.

ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT SURVEYS NEEDED!!

Each calendar year, all fire departments are required to submit their Annual Fire Department Survey to the NJ Division of Fire Safety. If your department is not compliant for 2024 - or if you are unsure if your department has submitted a survey - contact Lenny Inzerillo: Leonard.Inzerillo@dca.nj.gov



Excellence in Public Safety



NJDFS Selects State Winners of 2023-2024 Fire Safety Poster Contest



Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, artistic students from around New Jersey created original artwork to promote fire safety messages in their schools. Using the past year's Fire Prevention Week theme - "Cooking Safety Starts With You. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention" - young artists from kindergarten to 12th grade submitted thousands of entries into the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest.

The contest is a collaborative effort between the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and the New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association. The winners shown below will be featured in the 2025 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendar:



Tatyana Baldwin
Central Regional High School
Bayville, NJ



Mateo Pacheco
Martin Luther King Jr. School - P.S. #11
Jersey City, NJ



Benjamin Gailindo
Horace Mann Community School
Bayonne, NJ



Marissa Blazas
Brookside School
Monroe Twp., NJ



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2023-2024 Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners (cont.)



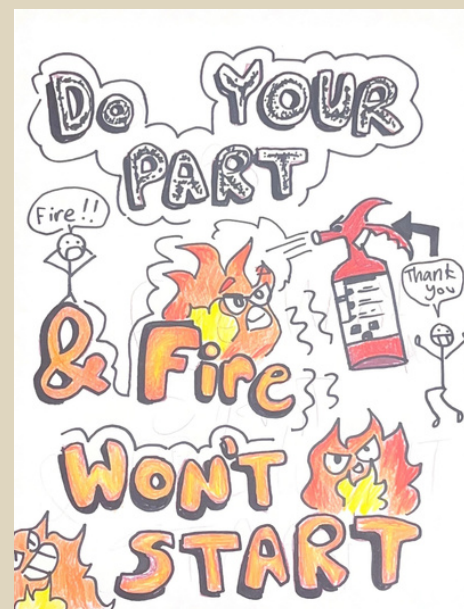
Anika Manubarthi
Woodland Elementary School
Warren, NJ



Erin Wang
Berkeley Twp. Elementary
Bayville, NJ



Khady Diahite
Liberty High School
Jersey City, NJ



Emma Bracer
Deerfield School
Union, NJ



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2023-2024 Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners (cont.)



Aza Chang
Central Middle School
Stirling, NJ



Destinee Gomez
Central Regional High School
Bayville, NJ



Elizabeth Wallace
Angelo L. Tomaso Elementary
Warren, NJ



Nassamate Sadik
Martin Luther King Jr. School - P.S. #11
Jersey City, NJ



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SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

As the seasons change here in New Jersey, so do the hazards that could potentially cause fires. Here are some tips that your fire department, or fire prevention bureau, can promote in your towns this summer season:

Fireworks

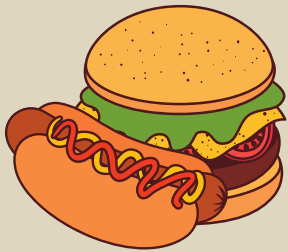
***To enjoy fireworks this summer, the best way is to see a public show put on by professionals.**

***Be aware of how dangerous even simple fireworks are at home. Sparklers can reach 1,200 degrees F and cause 3rd degree burns.**

***NEVER allow young children to handle fireworks.**



Grilling



***Before you barbecue, make sure all elements of your gas grill are working properly and not leaking gas.**

***Keep your grill well away (at least 10 feet) from your home or anything that can burn.**

***NEVER leave the grill unattended. Closely monitor what's cooking.**

Campfires / Fire Pits

***Build campfires at least 25 feet away from tents, shrubs, and anything that can burn.**

***Use fire pits OUTDOORS ONLY. Put them on a flat, level surface.**

***Fires for recreation should never be lit on balconies, underneath eaves or overhangs, and away from railings or siding.**



As with all seasons, focus on having and practicing fire escape plans and stress the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

If we're all fire smart, Jersey is *shore* to have an amazing summer!

*Save
the
Date*

October 10, 2024

FIREFIGHTER'S GALA



Celebrating 20 years of

Friendship, Loyalty & Education



For more information on how to be part of the
event please contact kgrant@exchange.kean.edu



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NJDFS F.I.R.E. Bowl

NJ Fire Safety Commission

NJDFS/ NJFPPA Poster Contest

NJDFS Fire Focus Quarterly

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